

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-026

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 125(129)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 125(129) is an original crownstone of 1767, in excellent condition, unaltered, and at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year and reset ^{more securely} in 1902 at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 125th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, longest of the survey lines run and marked during their 1763-68 commission to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. ^{is an embellished limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England} It presently stands about 1 foot above ground, measures about 12½ inches on the north and south sides, and about 11 inches on the east and west sides. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides; and ^{near the top,} the stylized shields of the Penn family coat of arms on the north side facing Pennsylvania and that of the Calvert family on the south side facing Maryland. All embellishments are unusually distinct and intact, although there is a large chip out of the top northwest corner. On the national and state levels, No. 125(129) is significant primarily as one of 135 original monuments (of which only 24 are crownstones) in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), it is also significant as an excellent example of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, 125th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 125 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 129)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER

off the west side of Timber Ridge Road No. 1/PA 928

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington / PA: Fulton

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE WA-VI-026 entered 2/24/81

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland 21401

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 125(129) marks Mason and Dixon's 125th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original crownstone of 1767, in excellent condition, unaltered, standing about 12 inches above ground at its original site, ~~preliminarily surveyed in 1768, monumented the following year, and reset more~~ /preliminarily surveyed in 1768, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is Timber Ridge, sparsely settled, with fruit orchards along the eastern slopes and ~~woodlands~~ ^{deciduous} woodlands along the western slopes. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Thompson Township of Fulton County, PA; about 2½ miles northeast of the town of Hancock, MD; on the west slope of Timber Ridge, east of Tonoloway Creek; at a point about 1500 feet west of Timber Ridge Road No. 1/PA 928 at the Line; in a brambly old wire fencerow/hedgerow between the old Columbia Gas Pipeline (about 15 feet to the north) and an open field to the south. It cannot be seen from any road, and not easily from closeby, thus ^{is} somewhat protected (as well as neglected).

The crownstone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and said to have originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4 feet or more in length, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the stylized shields of the Penn family coat of arms on the north side facing Pennsylvania and that of the Calvert family on the south side facing Maryland, both near the top. Reset in 1902 presumably to stand about 1½ feet high, this monument now stands about 1 foot above ground, ^{actually} measures about 12½ inches on the north and south sides, about 11 inches on the east and west sides. The shields, top planes and most fluting and margins remain unusually distinct and intact. There is a large chip out of the top northwest corner; a bullet-chip near the top edge of the east side; and minor chips along most edges and the other top corners.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) boundary surveying
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 125(129), a crownstone of 1767, is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments (of which only 24 are crownstones) in the thematic group series of some 248 markers defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical and geographical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monument set the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 125(129) is also significant as an ^{excellent example} of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Hancock (West Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1951, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74489, northing 440062

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Fulton

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey 3/29/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

14308 Mount Avenue

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Phoenix

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

for MHT

WA-VI-026

MASON EDIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 125(129)



NORTH SIDE (PENNSHIELD) PP2. 98.1



SOUTH SIDE (CALVERT SHIELD) PP2. 98.6

PHOTOGRAPHER: DR. A. L. TRUSSELL 10/17/48 (contact photo & negatives in MHS collection PP2)



VIEW: NORTH SIDE + MISS ELSIE MARSDEN PP2. 98.4



PP2. 98.114

SE CORNER + DR. TRUSSELL

MASON & DIXONS WEST LINE; MILESTONE
HANCOCK QUADRANGLE

WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA

WGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(1951 PHOTOREV. 1971)

NW 1/4 HANCOCK 15' QUADRANGLE

PLUM RUN 1.8 MI.

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

5363 1 SE
BIG COVE, TANNERY
WASHINGTON CO. (20)

(129) M & D 125: CROWNSTONE
CRIB.

(130) M & D 126: CRIB

1 MORE 7.2 MI
1 743

2 380 000 FEET (W.VA.)

78°07'30"
39°45'

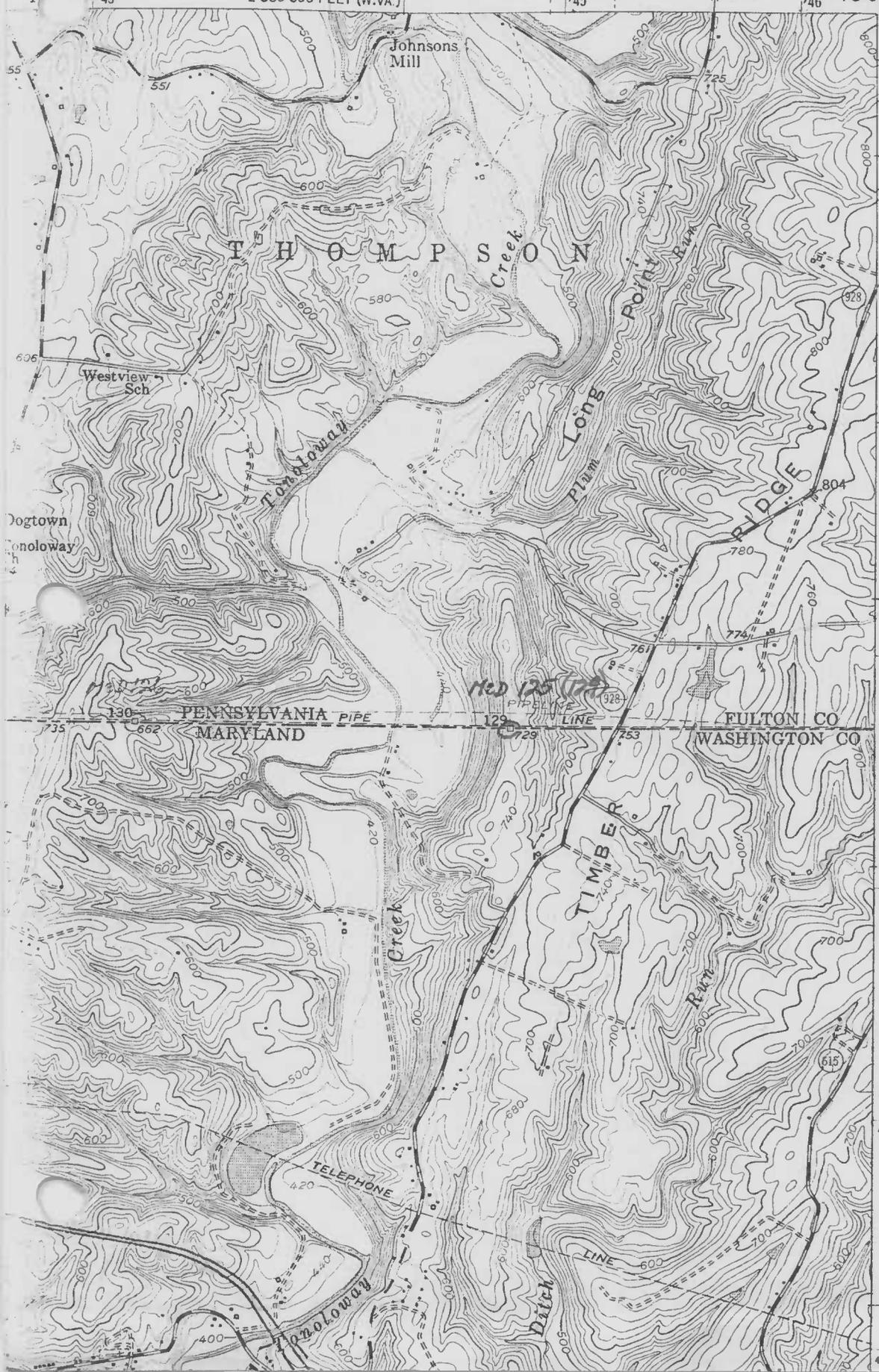
DICKEY'S MOUNTAIN 4.3 MI

450 000 FEET
(W.VA.)

42'30"

4399

4398



PENNSYLVANIA PIPE
MARYLAND

FULTON CO
WASHINGTON CO

T H O M P S O N
Creek

Long
Plum

T I M B E R
Run

TELEPHONE
LINE

Ditch

Creek

Tomoloway

Johnsons
Mill

Westview
Sch

Dogtown
Tomoloway

MED 125 (129)

129

328

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753

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MHT

WA-VI-026

MASON EDIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 125 (129)
SW CORNER (— / CALVERT COAT OF ARMS)
ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.12.35)



125

1147

UA-TT-026

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 125 (129) - ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767)

NE CORNER (— / PENN COAT OF ARMS)

OFF W/S TIMBER RIDGE ROAD #1/PA 928, HANCOCK, MD VICINITY
WASHINGTON CO, MD / FULTON CO., PA

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.12.33)