

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-028

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 127(131)

1767 first set 1902

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 127(131) marks Mason and Dixon's 127th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; is in good condition, with a slightly altered letter P on the north side; is firmly in place, standing about 14 inches above ground at a redetermined site, where it was first set in 1902 as a replacement for the original milestone set here

which by then had disappeared. On the national and state levels, it is significant primarily as one of 135 original <sup>Mason and Dixon</sup> monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 <sup>of these</sup> original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, it is also significant as one 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, 127th Mile Stone  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 127 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 131)

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER off east side of Warfordsburg Road (MD 523)/PA 484  
 CITY, TOWN Hancock X 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 STATE, zip code  
 VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)  
 COURTHOUSE, LIBER #:  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. 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-028 entered 2/24/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust  
 CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

# 7 DESCRIPTION

Survey No. WA-VI-028

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	? <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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. 127(131) marks Mason and Dixon's 127th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is a replacement original milestone of 1767, in good condition, slightly altered, firmly set about 14 inches above its foundation, presumably at the original redetermined site, <sup>which had been</sup> preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year (but original monument gone by 1902), and replacement <sup>in 1902</sup> set/during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is <sup>a</sup>comparatively level/<sup>and open</sup> part of the valley between Cove Ridge on the east and Tonoloway Ridge to the west, sparsely settled, almost entirely one of many Hepburn planted <sup>as</sup>apple orchards. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Bethel Township of Fulton County, PA; about 1½ miles due north of the town of Hancock, MD; about 1 mile south-southeast of the scattered settlement of Warfordsburg, PA; about 850 feet east of I-70; about 20 feet east of Warfordsburg Road/PA-484, in a grassy, level mowed "island" cluttered with assorted posts, pipes and signs (about 2 feet east of utility pole No. 63) and somewhat protected by them. It can be easily seen from the road all seasons.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an 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 long, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. According to the 1900-03 Resurvey (MGS, Vol. 7, 1908, p. 92): "The monument placed here by Mason and Dixon had disappeared and no trace of it could be found by digging.... Another monument was supplied...." (presumably from those found in the vicinity of Clear Spring, and first set in 1902)./ the M remains in only a suggestion of its circle panel; the P has been crudely reworked and its circle panel is no longer distinguishable; all surfaces are very weathered, so much so that little else of the embellishments remains (now margins, some fluting barely discernible on the east and west sides and top planes); there is a large chip out of the southeast edge; and small chips along all other edges and top corners.

on the east and west sides; by about 10 1/2 inches

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 first set 1902 ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 127(131) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year with a milestone that had disappeared by 1902, and the present milestone then set ~~as a replacement~~ <sup>of 1767</sup> brought from the excess original monuments/recovered from the vicinity of Clear Spring 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. 127(131) is also significant as one 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 DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Hancock (West Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74156, northing 440053

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

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

3/29/81 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

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

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE NO. 127 (131) WA-VI-028

HANCOCK QUAD

WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (T)

(1957 PHOTO REV. 1971)

NW 1/4 HANCOCK 15' QUAD

PLUM RUN 18'



SCALE: 1" = 2000'

2 380 000 FEET (W.VA.)

NEEDMORE 7.2 MI

10' 743

1 SW (MORE) 522 70

WARFIELD 5.6 MI 0.2 MI





PHH

WA-VI-028

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 127 (131)

NE CORNER (-/P)

REPLACEMENT & RELOCATION (1902) WITH ORIGINAL  
MILESTONE (OF 1767 FROM VICINITY OF CLEARSPRING)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.12.14)



MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 127 (131)

SW CORNER (L/M)

REPLACEMENT & RELOCATION (1902) WITH ORIGINAL  
(1767 FROM VICINITY OF CLEARSRING)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.12.15)