

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-034

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(137)

Forest Park, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

mound (1767), crownstone (1767  
first set 1902)

Milestone No. ---(137) is an original crownstone of 1767, brought from the vicinity of Clear Spring, Maryland, in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary and added to the center of the remains of an original cairn erected by Mason and Dixon in 1767 to mark "The Top of Sidelong Hill," an important point for <sup>their</sup> survey purposes though only about 1800 feet west of the preceding and westernmost of the milestones, <sup>set along the West Line</sup> No. 132(136). The crownstone, an embellished oolitic limestone post quarried and carved in England, is firmly in place, stands about 12 inches above <sup>measures about 12 inches square; and</sup> the mound, <sup>is in comparatively good</sup> condition though very weathered. The monument and mound are significant on the national and state levels primarily as being among the 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments and 42½ original mounds 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. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments (10 crownstones, 38 milestones) and 2 mounds marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, this crownstone and mound are also significant as among the 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, <sup>in the line on</sup> Point / "The Top of Sidelong Hill"  
 (marking 135 miles and 29 chains from the Post Marked West)  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 137)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  
 STREET & NUMBER off the east side of Mountain Road/T-308, Sidelong Hill ridge  
 CITY, TOWN Forest Park X VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6 / PA: 9  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY MD: Washington / PA: Fulton

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	N/Aa	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 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 and mound of stones, only; see Thematic Group National Register 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-034 entered 2/24/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust  
 CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	1902)
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	(first set
<input checked="" 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. ---(137) is an original crownstone of 1767, brought from the vicinity of Clear Spring, MD, in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, and added to the center of an original 1767 Mason and Dixon large mound of stones, <sup>(a wood post with a pile of stones heaped around it)</sup> remains of the first cairn/west of the last monument set, but actually the last cairn erected on the West Line (November 1767). The crownstone is in good condition, unaltered, <sup>firmly set, and</sup> stands about 1 foot above the mound, both of which mark an irregular <sup>of about 1800 feet (rather than a mile)</sup> distance/ from the preceding Milestone No. 132(136),

The area here is the rugged, <sup>remote,</sup> rocky, rattlesnake narrow ridge of densely forested Sideling Hill. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and marks the division between Bethel and Union Townships of Fulton County, PA; about 1 1/4 miles northeast of the scattered settlement of Forest Park, MD; at a point about 1500 feet uphill <sup>and</sup> east of Mountain Road/T-308 and about 500 feet south of the new Columbia Gas pipeline (about 50 feet south of an old <sup>metal</sup> abandoned oil pumping station). It cannot be seen from any road, and not easily <sup>nearby</sup> from the <sup>stone</sup> overgrown old trail following the <sup>ridge</sup>. The obscurity and snake seem to protect it well. This point marked 135 miles and 29 chains from Mason and Dixon's Post Marked West, in Mr. Bryan's field (2.991 miles east of the <sup>the crownstone, as with</sup> northeast corner of Maryland). <sup>Replacing the centered wood post, long since gone,</sup> it presumably stands as first-set in 1902; about 1 foot above the top of the mound of stones, and still measures about 12 inches square. The entire monument is very weathered: the shields are discernible, <sup>but</sup> but no fluting or margins remain except on the west side; the shape of the pyramidal top is visible, but no fluting; all edges and top corners have minor chips. The stones in the mound are so loosely strewn, it would seem to be only in fair condition. (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments, the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them; and the several kinds of original mounds)

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 (mound) ~~MONUMENT ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
 1767 (monument, first set 1902) SURVEYORS

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Milestone No. ---(137), <sup>a crownstone</sup> and the mound of stones into which it was set in 1902 are significant on the national and state levels primarily <sup>being</sup> among the 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments and 42% original mounds 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, marked with a cairn the following year, and the crownstone set in the stone mound during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments and 2 mounds marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, this crownstone and mound are significant as <sup>being among</sup> 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)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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 acreQuadrangle name: Bellegrove (Maryland-Pennsylvania-West Virginia), USGS 7.5  
minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 73300, northing 440030

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 5/31/81 (site surveyed)

DATE

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

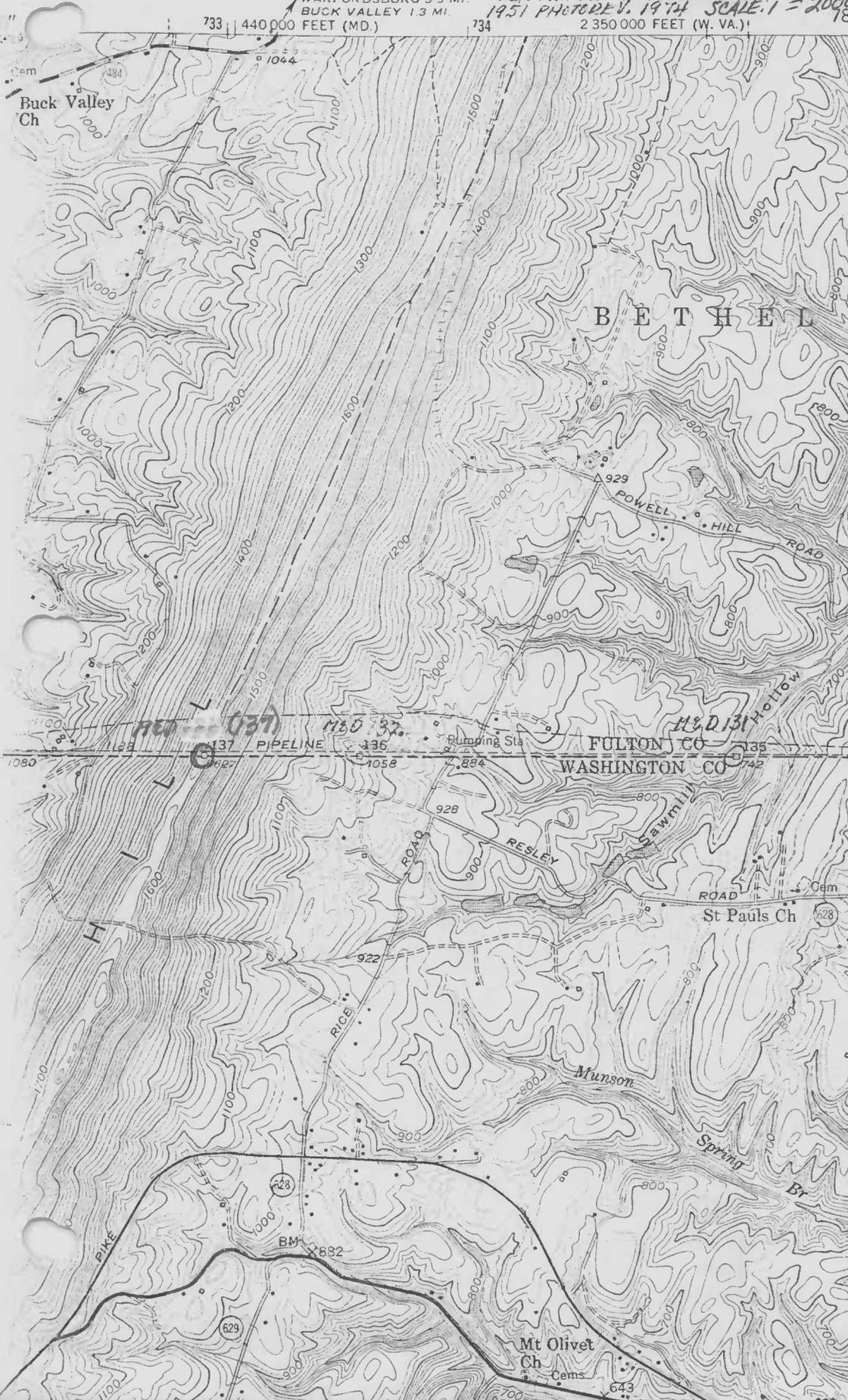
MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE:  
MILESTONE NO. --- (137)

BELLEGROVE QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA-WEST VIRGINIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

WA-VI-034  
5363 1 SW (NEED MORE)  
WASHINGTON CO. + ALLEGANY CO. (21)

WARFORDSBURG 5.5 MI.  
BUCK VALLEY 1.3 MI.

NE 1/4 PAW PAW 15' QUADRANGLE  
1951 PHOTOREV. 1974 SCALE: 1" = 2000'  
2 350 000 FEET (W. VA.)



39°45'  
700 000 FEET (MD.)  
(135) MED 131: ORIG  
4403  
(136) MED 132: ORIG  
4402  
(137) MOUND OF STONES + (REPL - ORIG MED CROWNSTONE from clipping)  
450 000 FEET (W. VA.)  
4401  
4400  
4399  
42°30"  
ANCOCK (UNCL. U.S. 522) 4 MI. AGERSTOWN 32 MI.



(137)

MHT

WA-VI-034

MASON DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE — (137)

SE CORNER (CALVERT COAT OF ARMS/-)  
ADDITION (1902) WITH ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767  
FROM VICINITY OF CLEARSPRING) TO ORIGINAL MASON  
EDIXON LARGE MOUND OF STONES (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/31/81 (1981.19.12)



(137)

MHT

WA-VI-034

MASON & DIXON SOUTHWEST LINE; MILESTONE — (137)

NW CORNER (PENN COAT OF ARMS / —)

ADDITION (1902) WITH ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767)

FROM VICINITY OF CLEAR SPRING TO ORIGINAL

MASON & DIXON LARGE MOUND OF STONES (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/31/81 (1981.19.8)