

ABSTRACT

F-6-26

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 77(80)

1767 (reset 1902)

Harney, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 77(80) is an original monument of 1767 at its original site, marking Mason and Dixon's approximate 77th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, longest of their survey lines run and marked during their 1763-68 commission to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. As with all original West Line monuments, this milestone was an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, measuring about 12" square by about 4½' long, cut to stand about 3' above ground 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 Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk into a plain shallow circle panel near the top. In 1902, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, this milestone was reset to stand about 1½' high, as it still does today, though measures about 11½" on the east and west sides. Despite its proximity to Marsh Creek and periodic flooding, <sup>unaltered, firmly set and</sup> it remains in very good condition, with most embellishments clear and intact, though with chips along all edges, particularly the top southwest and southeast corners. On the national and state levels, No. 77(80) is significant primarily as one of the series of 135 original monuments still defining the West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), 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.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi No.

## 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, 77th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 77 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 80)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  
 STREET & NUMBER off south side of Mason-Dixon Road (LR-01003)

CITY, TOWN

Harney

 VICINITY OFCONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MD: 6 / PA: 19

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY  
MD: Frederick / PA: Adams**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 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 <sup>state</sup> boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)  
 NAME State of Maryland / Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** N/A  
 (see surrounding property ownership list)  
 COURTHOUSE. Liber #:  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)  
 TITLE Frederick County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

F-6-26 entered 6/23/81

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE  
Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<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. 77(80)/<sup>approximately</sup>marks Mason and Dixon's 77th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in very good condition, unaltered, and firmly set at its original site (short of the exact mileage because that point would have been in the middle of Marsh Creek), and was reset in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is almost entirely farmland, level, open, unfenced, with strands of deciduous woods following Rock and Marsh creeks, and occasionally elsewhere. The site is within Election District 5 of Frederick County, MD, Cumberland Township of Adams County, PA; about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles west northwest of the village of Harney, MD; about 4000' due south of Paul Waybright's house on Mason-Dixon Road (LR-01003); about 1000' due west of the Waybright brick/stone tenant house near the old ford; in a scraggly deciduous thicket, on the north bank of Marsh Creek, about 10' from the water's edge. It cannot be seen from any road, nor easily even when closeby; and is not only protected by this obscurity but also by the Waybright families who are interested in protecting and preserving these <sup>three</sup> monuments on their lands (Nos. 76, 77, 78).

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this milestone was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, about 12" square by about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' long with a low pyramidal top, and cut to stand as a post about 3' above ground with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. It is embellished with vertical fluting and horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, with the fluting carried up the top planes typically rising about 2" to a centered apex. The distinguishing decorative features are the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk into a plain shallow circle panel near the top. In 1902, this milestone was reset to stand about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' high, and remains nearly that today, although the east and west sides now measure about 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The letters and most embellishments are clear and fairly intact; <sup>but with chips along all edges and top corners, especially the southwest</sup> and despite its proximity to the creek, <sup>and its periodic flooding</sup> it remains in very good condition, firmly set.

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

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		boundary surveying

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902) ~~SIX DECK ANCHORAGE~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 77(80) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and the monument set in 1767, where it remains unaltered to this day, although reset more securely in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), No. 77(80) 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)

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: Taneytown (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 30814, northing 439884

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Frederick

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Adams

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason &amp; Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust &amp; Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

9/21/80 (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

F-6-26

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 77(80)

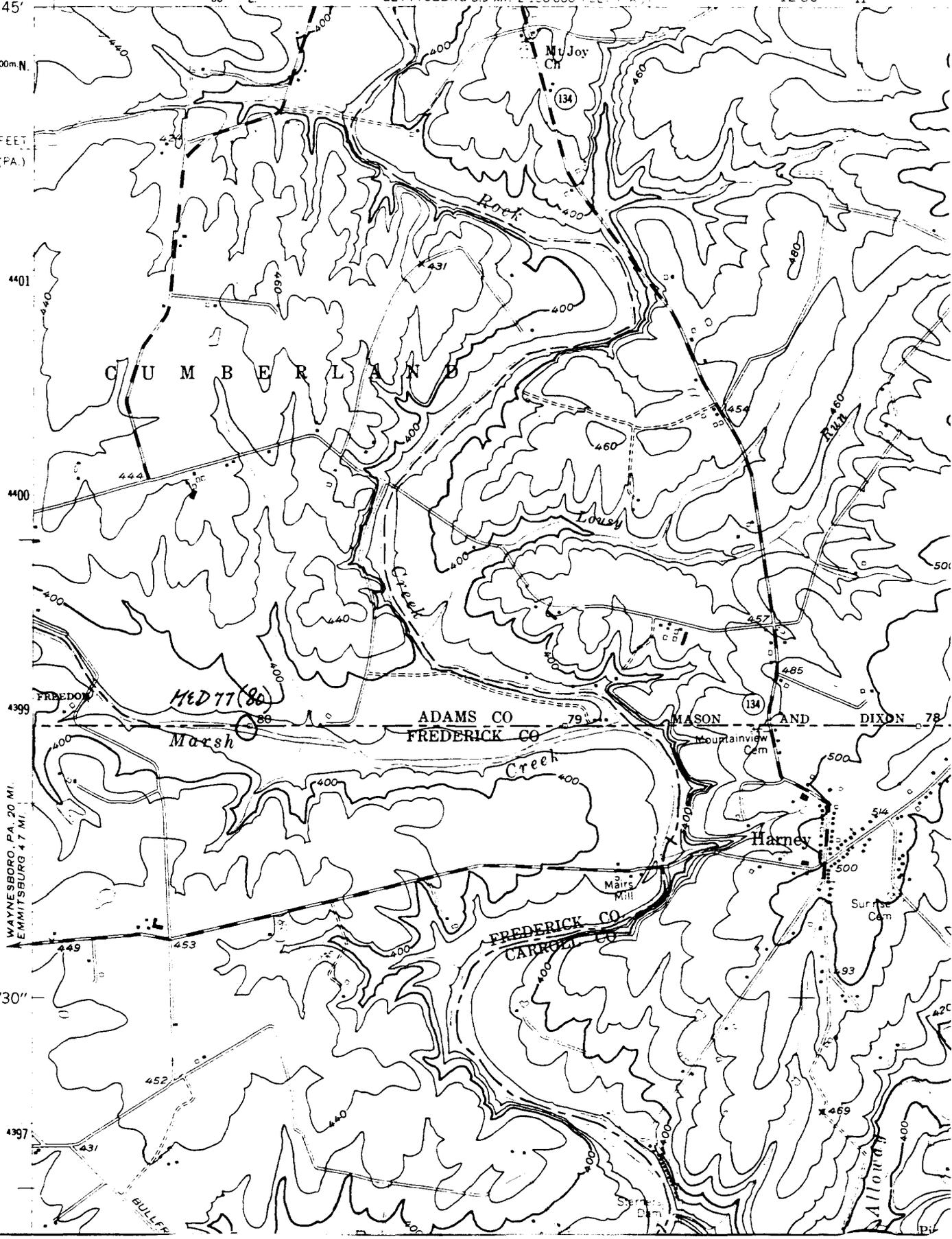
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TANEYTOWN QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTO REVISED 1971  
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

5593 IV SE  
(FAIRFIELD)

77°15' 398000m E 12'30" 911  
BIGLERVILLE 13 MI GETTYSBURG 5.9 MI. 2150000 FEET (PA.)

4402000m N  
150 000 FEET  
(PA.)



WAYNESBORO, PA. 20 MI.  
EMMITTSBURG 47 MI.

42'30"

4397

BULLER

ALTON



F-6-26

MASON-DIXON WEST LINE; MILESTONE 77 (50)  
OFF S/S MASON-DIXON RD. HARNEY, MD., VICINITY  
SE CORNER (M/-)  
PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1980. 28. 2A) 9/21/80