

— ABSTRACT

F-6-32

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 83(86)

1767 (reset 1902)

Emmitsburg, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 83(86) is an original of 1767 at its original site where it was reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 83rd 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 is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, said to have been originally about 12" square by about 4½' long, and 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 the center of a plain shallow circle panel carved near the top. Presumably reset to stand about 1½' above ground in 1902, it now stands only about 14" high, though <sup>is</sup> still about 12" square. <sup>Its condition is fair:</sup> /the letters are clear; but the P is chipped and there are large chunks out of the top northeast and northwest corners; the other corners and all edges are chipped; all surfaces <sup>are</sup> very badly weatherworn; some fluting remains but no margins; and the top has been defaced by the smeary cementing of a USC&GS triangulation station metal disk into the apex (No. 83, 1939). On the national and state levels, No. 83(86) is significant primarily as one of a 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, 83rd Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 83 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 86)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET &amp; NUMBER off west side of MD 140/PA 16

CITY, TOWN

Emmitsburg

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL 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: state 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.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

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-6-32 entered 6/23/81

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 83(86) marks Mason and Dixon's 83rd horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is the original milestone set at this site in 1767, although reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in fair condition, unaltered though considerably weatherworn and chipped, firmly in place, standing about 1' above ground, and protected by the site.

The area here is hilly, sparsely settled, and a mixture of open farmland and fruit orchards, interspersed with deciduous woodlands. The site is within Election District 5 of Frederick County, MD; Liberty Township of Adams County, PA; about 1½ miles northwest of the town of Emmitsburg; about 500' west of MD 140/PA 16; on the south side of an east-west barbed wire fence running between the Anatolin and Shank properties; on a gentle slope in a scraggly deciduous woods in back of (west of) the Shank tenant house. It cannot be seen from any road, nor easily from closeby, any season, and at present is protected by its obscurity and <sup>proximity to</sup> the fencing.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this milestone is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, said to have been originally about 12" square by about 4½' long, and cut to stand about 3' above 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 the center of a plain shallow circle panel/<sup>carved</sup> near the top. In 1902 this milestone was reset to stand presumably about 1½' above ground. At present it stands/<sup>only</sup> about 14" high, though still measures about 12" square; the letters are clear, but the P is chipped and the north side has large chips at the top corners and edges; the top has been defaced by the smeary cementing of the USC&GS triangulation station metal <sup>into the apex</sup> disk (No. 83, 1939). All surfaces are very badly weatherworn; <sup>some fluting but</sup> no margins remain (in part because of the chips along all edges).

(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			
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		<b>boundary surveying</b>

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902) ~~EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 83(86) 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, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and milestone set two years later, where it remains to this day, although reset more securely in 1902 during 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. 83(86) 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: Emmitsburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), scale 1:24000UTM reference: zone 18, easting 29831, northing 439909VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY FrederickSTATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Adams**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

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

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust & Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

11/16/80 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

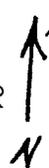
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

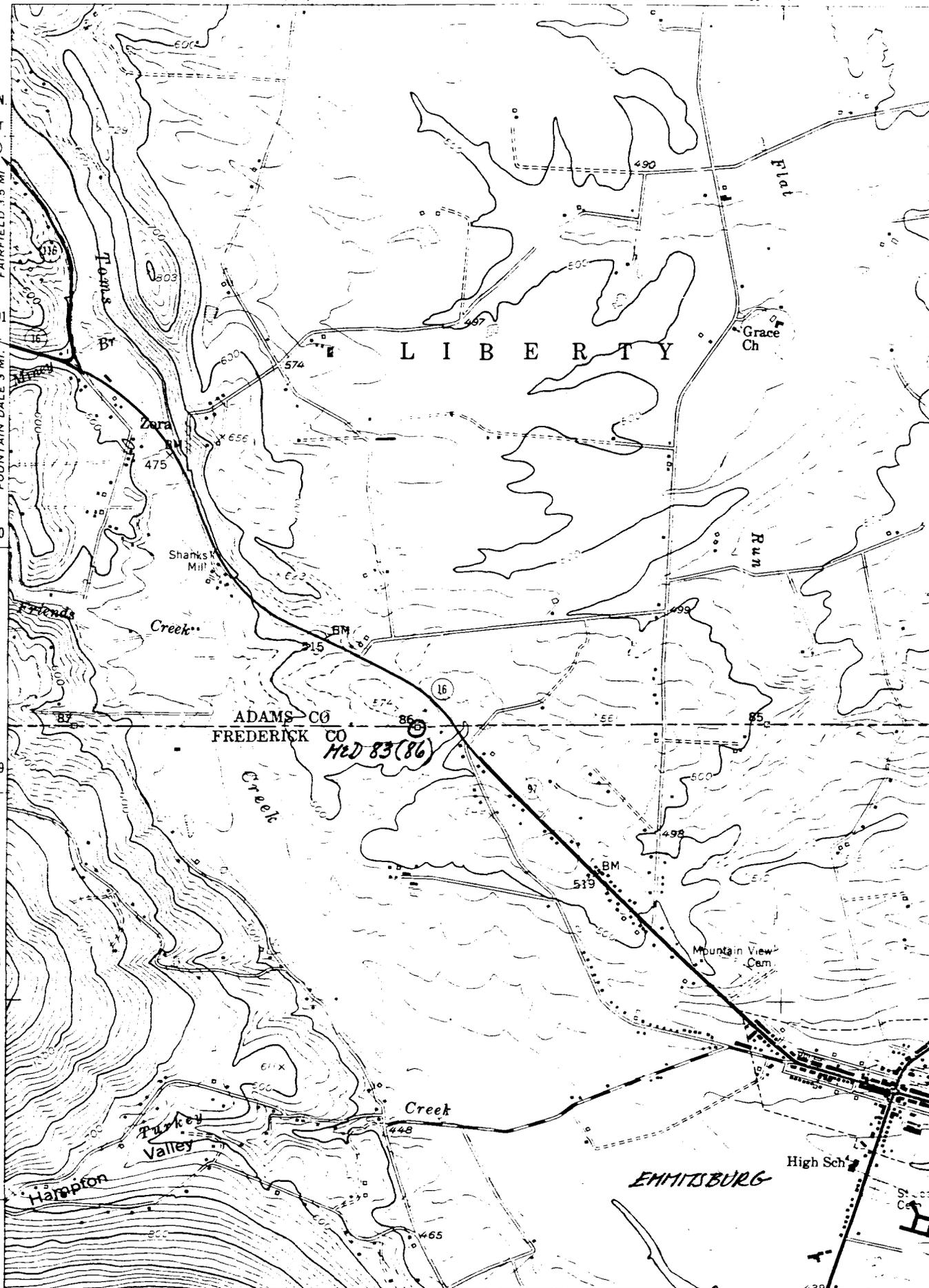
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

F-6-32  
HASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 83(86)  
EMMITSBURG QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTOREV. 1971 SCALE: 1" = 2000'



77° 22' 30" 297000m E 2 100 000 FEET (PA.) 298  
39° 45' '99 FAIRFIELD 3.5 MI '00 20'

4402000m N  
150 000 FEET  
(PA.)  
FAIRFIELD 3.5 MI  
4401  
FOUNTAIN DALE 3 MI  
4400  
4399  
4398  
42° 30'  
4397





MASON EDINSON WEST LIME MILESTONE 83 (16)  
2<sup>nd</sup> CORNER (14-) + USC 265 TRIANGULATION  
STATION DISK

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 1980-82. 3 11 2' 80



1201 2000 WEST 10E 1/28.500E S. 1/2 (12)

ORIGINAL 1/28

NW CORNER = U.S. CO. 35 TOWNSHIP 30 N. R. 15 W.

1/28

PLAT AREA 1201 11.630 (195.33.8)