

ABSTRACT

F-6-33

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 84(87)

1767 (reset 1902)

Emmitsburg, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 84(87) is an original milestone of 1767 at its original site, reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 84th 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, 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 were 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 carved near the top. In 1902 this milestone was presumably reset to stand about 1½' above ground and by then had "suffered unusual damage from vandals and preserves little of its form" (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 88). By the time of the 1980 field inspection, it was ^{in deteriorated condition,} a chipped, ^{dome-shaped} badly weathered lump 13" high and about 11" wide at its widest; no letters were discernible; only faint patches of fluting remained. Nevertheless, No. 84(87) is significant on the national and state levels 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.

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, 84th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 84 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 87)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off west side of Riffle Road/Ranch Road

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	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
	X 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 Frederick County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE F-6-33 entered 6/23/81 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

F-6-33

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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. 84(87) marks Mason and Dixon's 84th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is the original crownstone set at this site in 1767, although reset more securely in 1902 during the Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in deteriorated condition due to excessive chipping and weathering; but is unaltered, firmly set, and presently stands about 13" above ground, protected for the moment by its remoteness; but ^{is also} potentially endangered by its improbable, unrecognizable shape.

The area here is in the eastern foothills of Derr Hill and other heavily forested mountains, sparsely settled and in limbo as to its future development. The site is within Election District 5 of Frederick County, MD; Liberty Township, PA; is about 2½ miles northwest of the center of the town of Emmitsburg, MD; about 400' west of Riffle Road/Ranch Road; about 200' south of the southernmost east-west (unmarked) road in the "Charnita" development (an unsuccessful housing subdivision, with roads laid out but few houses, and by 11/16/80 in receivership). It is on a northeast slope of ^{base of the} the mountain, in deciduous woods, about 15' east of an enormous old dead tree still standing, nestled on the north side of a fallen dead tree parallel to the slope (otherwise unmarked and almost unrecognizable). It cannot be seen from any road and finding it is almost impossible, which is protective until the land is developed.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this milestone was 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 were 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 carved near the top; and the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides. By 1902, No. 84(87) had "suffered unusual damage from vandals and preserves little of its form," but was reset more securely. By the time of the 1980 inspection it was dome-shaped, scarcely recognizable as a Mason and Dixon monument; no letters were discernible, only faint patches of fluting; measured 11" at its widest, and was not much more than a lump 13" above ground.

(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
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) ~~SURVEYORS~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 84(87) 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 the 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. 84(87) 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 DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Emmitsburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series
(topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 29676, northing 439915

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 and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

11/16/80 (site surveyed)

STREET & 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

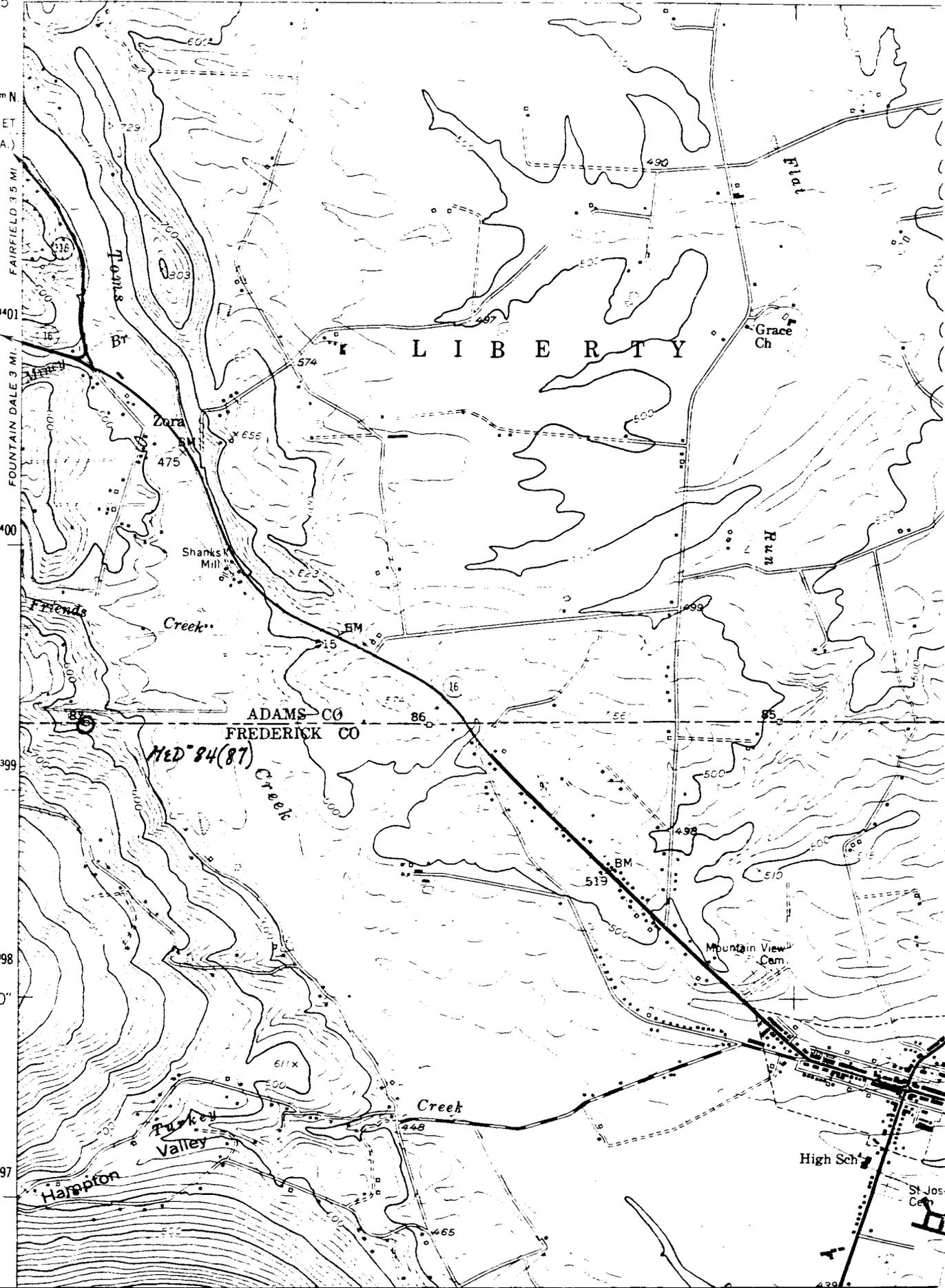


F-6-33
MASON EDINON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 84 (87)

EMMITSBURG-QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1953 PHOTOREV. 1971 SCALE: 1"=2000'

77°22'30" 297000m E 2110000 FEET (PA.) 298
39°45'

4402000m N
150000 FEET
(PA.)



(SEE DRAWINGS)



4-
11-20
NE 31 EDIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 124 (57)
SE CORNER (- (20000) LOCATED ON 124 sec)

PHOTO: LUCE MARTIN (PRO. EX. 15) 11/6/80



MAGNETIC WEST LINE: MILESTONE 84 (87)
SW CORNER (-/Migone) LOCUS: 2001 422 NE

ONE 3/4 ACRE MAP (1945) 33.17 11/6/80