

ABSTRACT

F-6-34

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 85(88)

1767 (reset 1902)

Emmitsburg, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

in good condition, unaltered, and Milestone No. 85(88) is an original crownstone 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 85th 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 crownstone 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 stylized shields of the Penn coat of arms on the north side facing Pennsylvania and that of the Calverts on the south side facing Maryland, carved near the top. In 1902 this crownstone was apparently reset to stand about 1½' above ground, which it remains today, and still measures about 12" square. The shields are clear and intact but weatherworn, as are most of the fluting and margins; but there are many chips along all edges and large chips <sup>three of</sup> at the top corners; and the top planes and fluting are very weatherworn. No. 85(88) is significant on the national and state levels 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.

## 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, 85th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 85 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 88)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET &amp; NUMBER off north end of Friends Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Emmitsburg

 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: 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** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)COURTHOUSE.  
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-6-34 entered 6/23/81

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 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. 85(88) marks Mason and Dixon's 85th 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, preliminarily surveyed in 1765, and reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in good condition, unaltered, standing about 1½' above ground, firmly in/<sup>place</sup> and protected by the surrounding property owner.

The area here is very sparsely settled, only along the valley following Friends Creek and its tributaries, which winds between two <sup>heavily forested</sup> high/mountains (Raven Rock/<sup>to the northwest</sup> with an elevation of 1527' and Derr Hill/<sup>due south</sup> of 1414'). The site is within Election District 5 of Frederick County, MD; Liberty Township of Adams County, PA; about 3½ miles northwest of the center of the town of Emmitsburg, MD; about 800' northeast of the Colgate <sup>and end of Friends Creek Road</sup> property entrance gateposts; about 200' north of Friends Creek; and about 73' northeast of the Colgate tenant house, in the middle of its/<sup>level</sup> mowed back yard. It cannot be seen from any public road, but easily from the 2-story white frame tenant house and the Colgate's private drive by the barn.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this crownstone 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, 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 stylized shields of the Penn coat of arms on the north side facing Pennsylvania and that of the Calverts on the south side facing Maryland, carved near the top. When it was reset in 1902 it was still in good condition and presumably set/<sup>more securely</sup> to stand about 1½' above ground, as it remains today, as well as the approximately 12" square. The shields are clear and intact but weatherworn and there are large chips at the top corners, smaller chips along all edges; most other embellishments remain, though the top is very weatherworn with fluting/<sup>and planes</sup> scarcely discernible.

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

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input 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) ~~BY MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 85(88), a crownstone of 1767, 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 crownstone set two years later, where it remains, 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. 85(88) 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 acre

Quadrangle name: Blue Ridge Summit (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 29510, northing 439920

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 &amp; Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

12/2/79 (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-6-34

1953 PHOTOREVISED 1971 MASON EDIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 85 (88)

SCALE: 1"=2000'

BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 EMMITSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

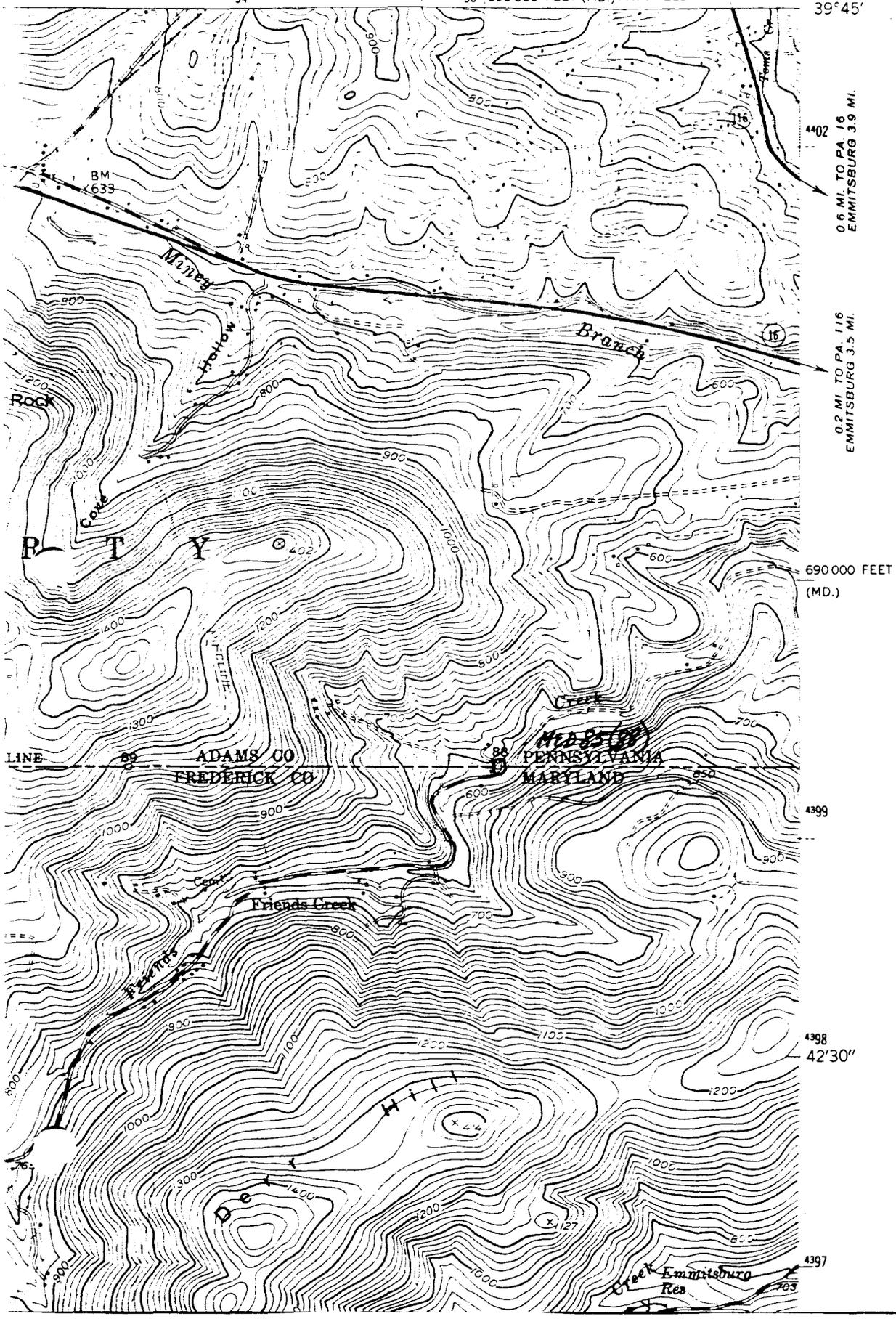
GETTYSBURG 10 MI. 77°22'30"  
FAIRFIELD 2.8 MI.



294

295 690 000 FEET (MD.) 39°45'

5563 IV SE  
(FAIRFIELD)



0.6 MI. TO PA. 116  
EMMITSBURG 3.9 MI.

0.2 MI. TO PA. 116  
EMMITSBURG 3.5 MI.

690 000 FEET  
(MD.)

4399

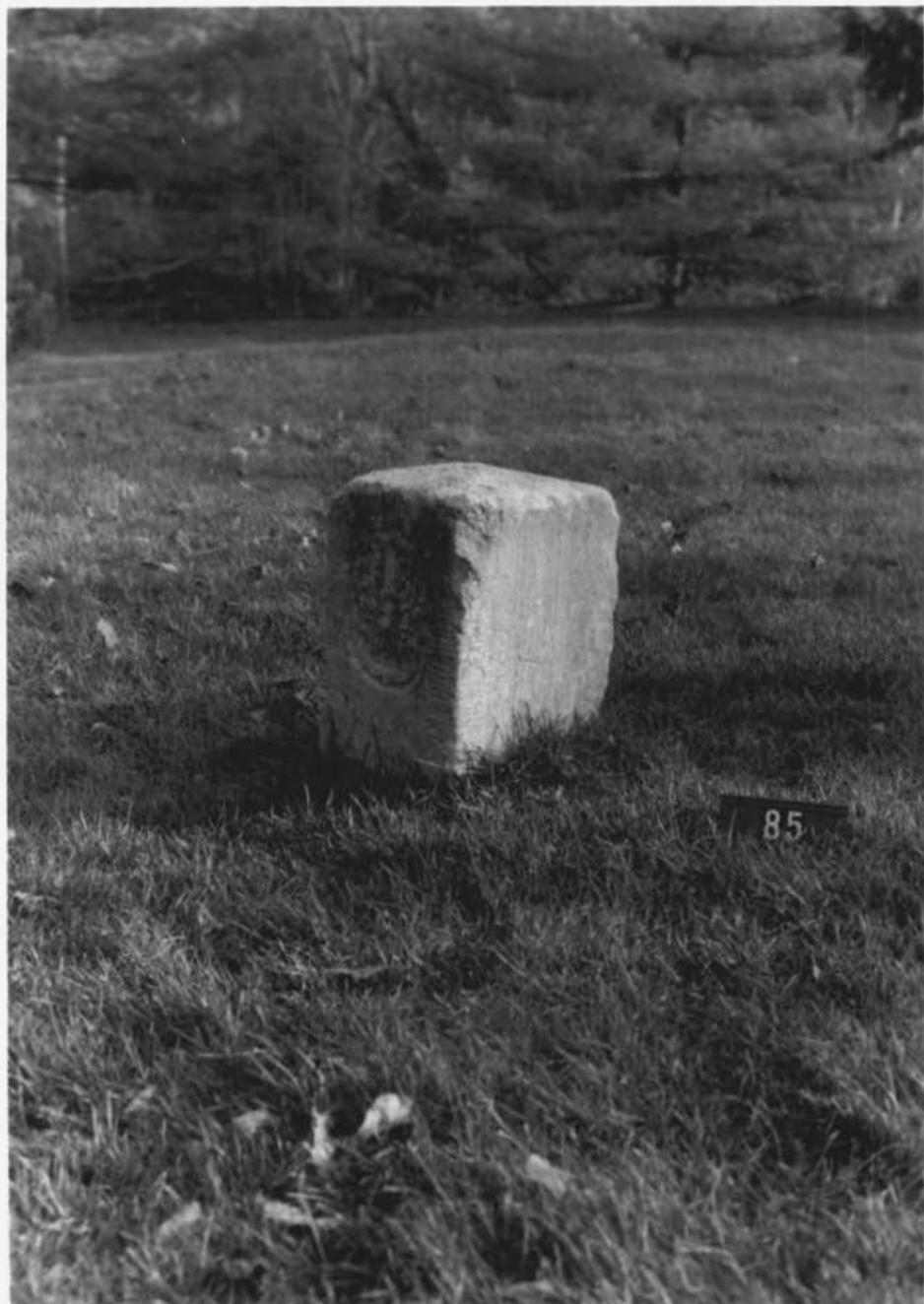
4398  
42'30"

4397



HASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE NO. 85 (88)  
ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767)  
SOUTHEAST CORNER (CALVERT SHIELD) - )

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 12/2/79 (1979.10.34A)



MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 85(88)

ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767)

NORTHWEST CORNER (PENN) SHIELD / - )

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 12/2/79 (1979.10. 31A)



MHT

F-8-34

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 85 (88)  
VIEW SOUTH: OF CROWNSTONE IN  
RELATION TO COLGATE TENANT HOUSE

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 12/2/79 (1979.10.35A)