

ABSTRACT

F-6-36

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 87(90)

1767 (repaired/reset 1902)

Sabillasville, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 87(90) is an original milestone of 1767, ~~with its top stone~~ <sup>re-carved and reset</sup> in 1902 at its original site, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 87th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, longest of the 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 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 in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. At present, this milestone remains in fairly good condition; <sup>measures about 11½" square;</sup> stands about 14" above ground; is firmly in place; with the letters and circle panels noticeably recut, and the M defaced by chipping. Most <sup>other</sup> embellishments are clear and fairly intact though weathered, and with large chips at all top corners. On the national and state levels, No. 87(90) 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.

## 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, 87th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON  
 Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 87 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 90)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off east side of Sunshine Trail/LR-01024

CITY, TOWN Sabillasville  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 & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code  
 VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list) Liber #:

COURTHOUSE, Folio #:  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

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-6-36 entered 6/23/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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. 87(90) marks Mason and Dixon's 87th 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 most of the above-ground portion was re-carved, repaired and reset in 1902, during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in <sup>fairly</sup> good condition, with the top 12" altered ("dressed to the same pattern as the original"); firmly set, standing about 14"; with most embellishments remaining; and in a comparatively protected site.

The area here is at the north end of the <sup>broad</sup> Harbaugh Valley between South Mountain on the west and Raven Rock Mountain on the east, in rolling open farmland, sparsely settled. The site is within Election District 10 of Frederick County, MD, and Liberty Township of Adams County, PA; about 2 miles northeast of the village of Sabillasville, MD; about 1½ miles south southeast of the settlement of Fountain Dale, PA; about 1000' east of Sunshine Trail (Road)/LR-01024; on the southwest slope of Raven Rock Mountain; about 250' into the deciduous woods bordering an open unfenced cultivated field; on the north side of an east-west barbed wire fence. It cannot be seen from any road, or easily from nearby, and is protected by this obscurity and the fence.

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, 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 in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. According to the 1900-03 Resurvey (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 89): "The upper part of this monument had been broken nearly squarely off. The upper end of the remaining fragment was dressed to the same pattern as the original, with the letters P and M, as usual. After being so repaired, the monument was reset." Presumably reset to stand about the height it remains now: about 14". Until the original records of the Resurvey for this monument can be reviewed, it is impossible to determine the extent of the re-carving. The stone is about 11½" square, with a break (repaired) line visible parallel <sup>and close</sup> to the ground; the letters and circle panel are noticeably recut and the M defaced by chipping; most embellishments remain, but with large chips into the top corners, and weathering of the top and east side.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of  
**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 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 (repaired/reset 1902) ~~BY MASON & DIXON~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 87(90) 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 monumented two years later, where it remains, although a re-carving and repairing of the top and a resetting of the stone was necessary 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. 87(90) 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 29191, northing 439927

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

3/15/81 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

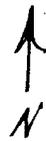
Maryland 21131

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 ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS



F-6-36  
MASON & DIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE 87 (90)  
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTO REV. 1971 SCALE: 1" = 2000'

5563 IV SW  
(IRON SPRINGS)

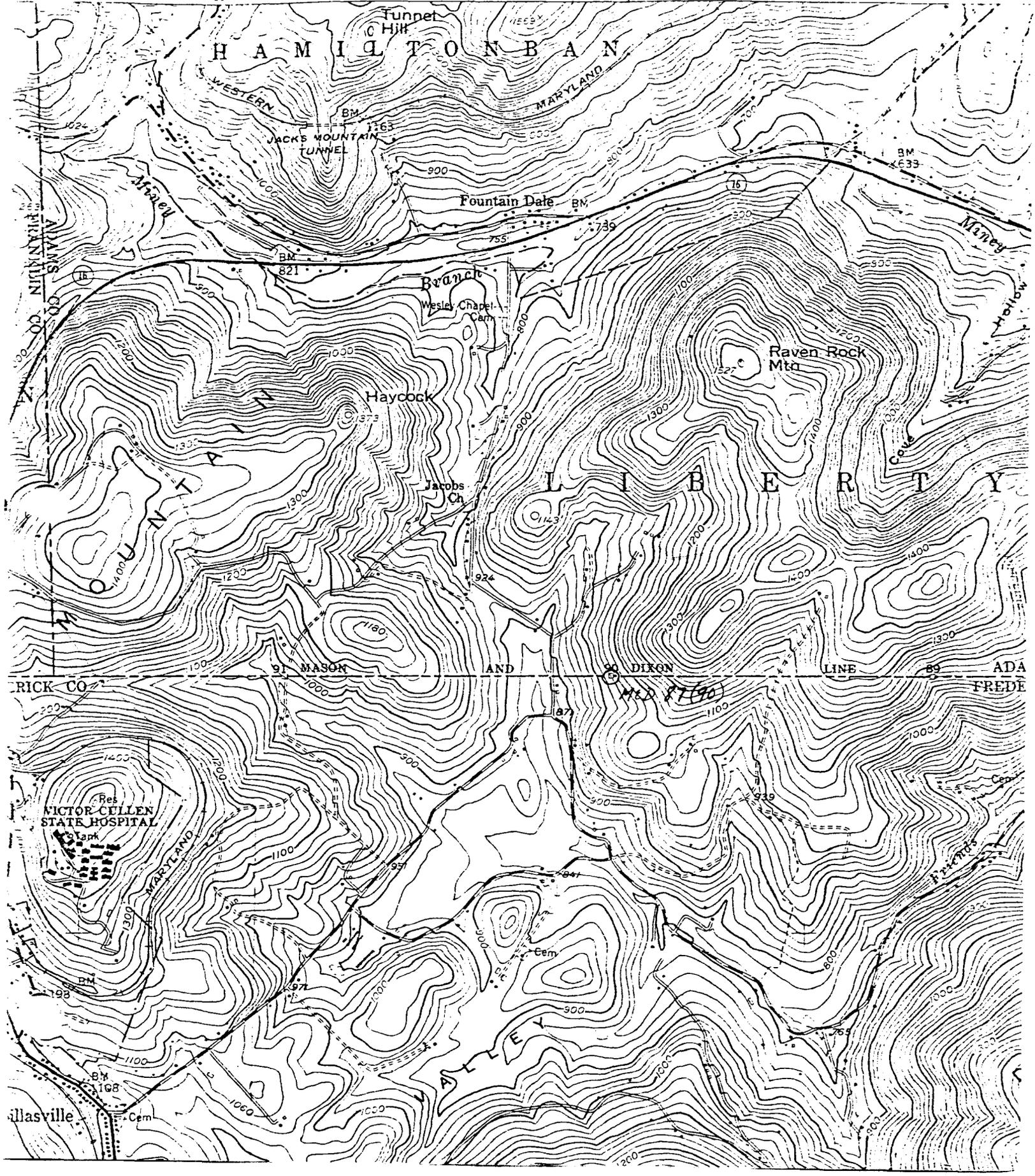
7'30"

290

292

25'

294





F-6-36

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/5/81 (1981.11.14)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/5/81 (1981.11.14)



87

F-6-36

MASSON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 8<sup>th</sup> (45)  
NW CORNER (P/-)

PHOTO ALICE MARTIN B/15/R1 (1986.10.18)