

ABSTRACT

F-6-38

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 89(92)
Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania/Maryland
Public/private

1767 (first set 1902)

Milestone No. 89(92) is believed an original milestone of 1767, brought from Washington County in 1902 and set at the original site as a replacement, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 89th 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 is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a 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/a ^{the center of} plain shallow circle panel near the top. When first set in 1902, it presumably stood about 1½' above ground; and presently stands about 15" high, measuring close to 12" square. It is in good condition, with most embellishments clear and remaining, though with large chips along all edges and the top corners. The P may have been recut, and the top planes are unusually high and converge at a squared (rather than pointed) apex. The monument had been recently broken through at ground level, but remained in place, in danger of being removed and the survey point lost. On the national and state levels, No. 89(92) 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, 89th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON
 Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 89 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 92)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)
 STREET & NUMBER off northeast side of MD 550 and W.M.R.R.

CITY, TOWN Blue Ridge Summit CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6 / PA: 9
 VICINITY OF
 STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY MD: Frederick/PA: Franklin

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
	<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)

COURTHOUSE.
 LIBER #:
 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-6-38 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 (redetermined)
<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. 89(92) marks Mason and Dixon's 89th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is a replacement of the original believed set here in 1767, a monument "obtained in Washington County" ^{presumably one of the original milestones of 1767,} and set at a redetermined site in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in good condition although broken through at ground level, propped up in place on its base, standing about 15" high. There is an uncharacteristic squared apex and a different capital P, as though the carving might have been ^{recarved or} altered.

The area here is the southeast corner of the town of Blue Ridge Summit, in a high level strand between two ^{wooded} higher tops of South Mountain. The site is about 500' northeast of MD 550 and the Robert Fox house, in a marshy thicket, close to a board marking their property corner but otherwise unmarked. It cannot be seen from the road of the house, but fairly easily when closeby. Because of the break, the monument is greatly endangered and should be repaired as soon as possible (or removed to prevent its being lost).

If this is one of the original Mason and Dixon milestones, as the 1900-03 Resurvey notes would indicate (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 89), it was originally quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, measured about 12" square by about 4½' long, had a low pyramidal top, and was distinguished by vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, with ^{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 shallow plain circle panel near the top. By the time of the 1981 field inspection, the stone was still in good condition, with most embellishments clear and remaining, though with noticeable large chips along all edges and top corners. The P had been reworked (or recut) and the ^{top planes were much higher than most other monuments, converging at a} squared apex, and more weathered than any of the other surfaces. The source and history of this particular stone should be ^{and verified} researched at the National Archives during Phase II of the Mason-Dixon/^{West Line} boundary marker project.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (first set 1902) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 89(92) 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 ^{according to the 1900-03 Resurvey (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 89):} preliminarily surveyed in 1765, and a milestone ^{was} presumably placed at this point by Mason and Dixon, but no trace of it could be found. The position was redetermined and a monument obtained in Washington County was placed here " (in 1902), where it remains, although broken completely through at ground level. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), No. 89(92) 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 acre

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

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 28866, northing 439946

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Frederick

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Franklin

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

2/15/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472

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



MASON EDWINA WEST LINE: 423-713 8' 1/2" 32'
SE CORNER (M-)

FRONT LINE MASON (423-2-3) 2' 5' 8"



F-6-38

MAGNIFIED DIVER WEST SIDE: MILESTONE 89 (92)
NW 22 OVER (P/-)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1981.6-6) 2/5/81