

ABSTRACT

G-IB-184

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(186)

1767 (mound), 1902 (monument)

Finzel, Maryland, vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. ---(186) and the remaining half of a large mound of earth mark a point on the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary close to 171 miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of Mason and Dixon's 230.228-mile West Line, the English provincial boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The monument is a very plain dressed marble post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in Cockeysville, Maryland; is in excellent condition, unaltered, firmly in place; measures 10 inches square by about 22 inches high above the mound; and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, the year 1767 on the east side (when this area was originally surveyed and marked), and 1902 on the west side (when this new monument was added to the mound by the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary). The mound appears to be <sup>the remains of</sup> an original cairn of 1767, although the north half has been graded away sometime since 1902. <sup>is still intact, in excellent condition and</sup> the south half <sup>measures about 15 feet in diameter</sup> by about 2 feet high at the center. On the national and state levels, No. ---(186) and its mound are significant primarily as being among the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining the West Line. Locally, as among the 42 markers along the present Garrett/Somerset-Fayette county boundary, they are also significant symbolically for their 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

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 186)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET &amp; NUMBER off the south side of T-307

CITY, TOWN

Finzel

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 12

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Garrett / PA: Somerset

**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 and mound only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

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.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE

Garrett County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

G-IB-184 entered 9/4/81

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT (monument & half of mound)	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (monument)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (mound)
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (mound)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED (half of mound gone)		

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

Milestone No. ---(186) and its half-mound of earth mark a point on Mason and Dixon's West Line about 3500 feet west of the preceding monument, No. ---(184), and <sup>close</sup> to 171 miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. The monument was a new dressed Cockeysville marble post with a low pyramidal top when added to the center of the mound in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in excellent condition, unaltered, firmly in place; measures 10 inches square by about 22 inches high above the mound; and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, the year 1767 on the east side (when <sup>this area was</sup> originally surveyed and marked), and 1902 on the west side. The mound, presumably erected by Mason and Dixon in 1767, measures about 15 feet in diameter by about 2 feet high at the center, <sup>is compact and unaltered on</sup> the south side but the north half has been completely graded away (sometime since 1902).

The area here is <sup>hilly</sup> high (elevation at the site 2657 feet), mostly cleared on the north side which serves as the Columbia Gas/Pipeline Salisbury Compressor Station headquarters; with a deciduous thicket of privately-owned property on the south side. The site is within Election District 9 of Garrett County, MD, and Greenville Township of Somerset County, PA; about 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles west-northwest of the village of Finzel, MD; about 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles southwest of the small settlement of Pocahontas, PA; <sup>on the top of a hill</sup> about 1150 feet south of T-307; about 300 feet southeast of the Station building and about 1 foot south of an old barbed wire east-west fence, near one of the <sup>wood</sup> fenceposts. It cannot be seen from any road, but easily from the Compressor Station, and <sup>the monument (though not the mound)</sup> seems adequately protected by the fencing.

The monument, identical to 65 other monuments of 1902 set west of Sideling Hill to visually reestablish the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, was quarried and carved in Cockeysville, MD, of a white, fine-grained marble called saccharoidal dolomite or magnesian limestone; was originally cut about 10 inches square by about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, intended for setting about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet above ground, with the remaining 3 feet for setting into the ground, thus eliminating the need for a concrete foundation. The letters and numbers are blocky, V-sunk without serifs, and are horizontally aligned as a band around the stone near the top. These, and the top planes and apex are all clear and intact, and the stone in near-perfect condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for descriptions of the various 1902 monuments and Mason/Dixon mounds)

**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"/> X_1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X_OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION			<b>boundary surveying</b>	

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (mound) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
 1902 (monument) SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(186) and its half-mound of earth are significant on the national and state levels primarily as being among the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile provincial boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This part of the Line was surveyed and marked by cairns and additional wood posts in 1767, and the new Cockeysville marble monument added to the center of <sup>(what appears to be)</sup> the remains of a cairn in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as among the 42 markers along the present Garrett/Somerset-Fayette county boundary, No. ---(186) and the partial mound are also significant symbolically for their 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: Avilton (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), 1947 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 67084, northing 439863

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Garrett

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Somerset

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

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

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

10/12/81 (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

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE (MD-PA) BOUNDARY MARKERS!  
MILESTONE

G-1B-184



AVILTON QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5263 IV SW  
TWITTENBERG NO. — (186)  
GARRETT CO (27)

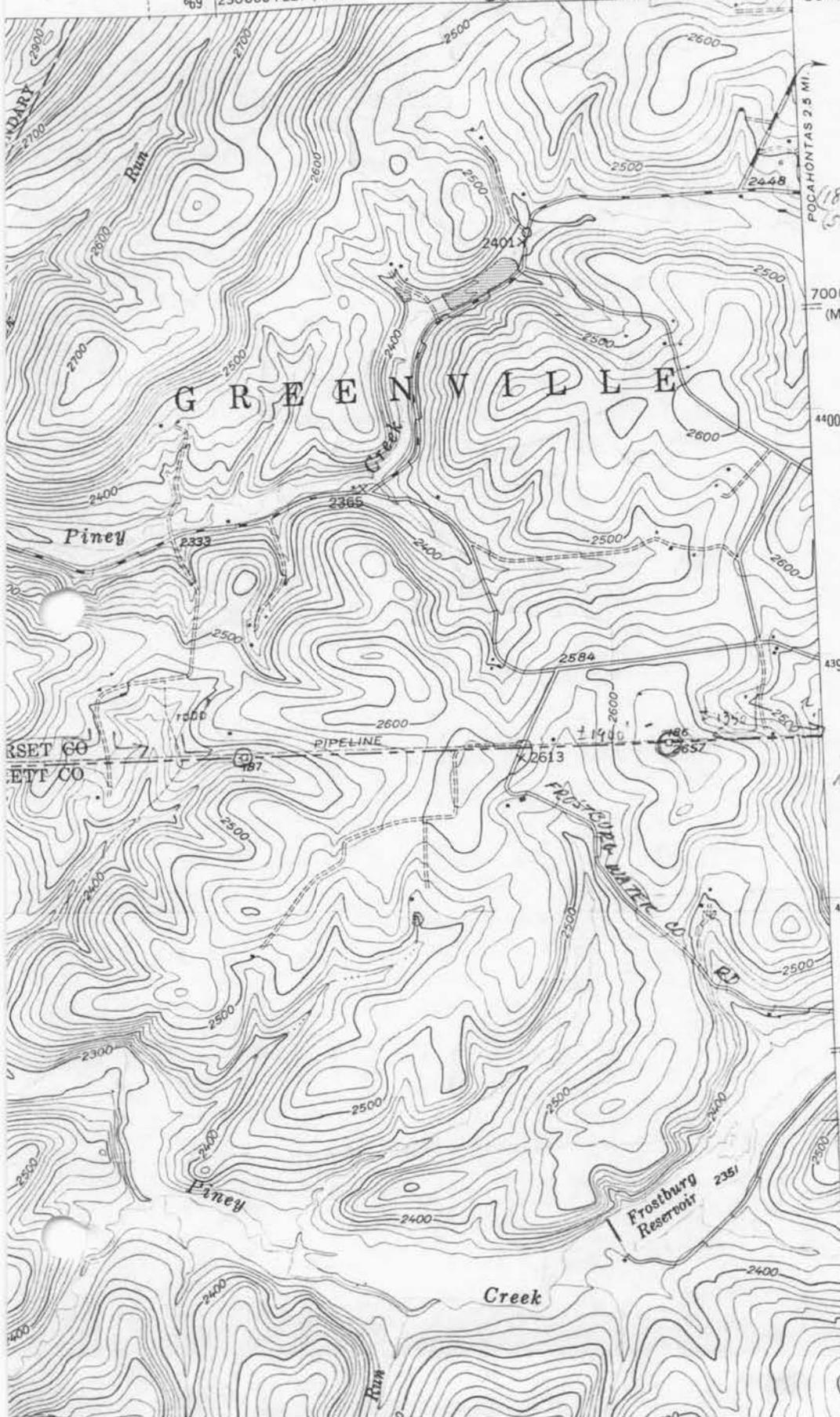
669 230000 FEET (MD.)

1947 PHOTO REV. 1974  
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

671

79°00'

39°45'



POCAHONTAS 2.5 MI.

(SUSPENDED) MALL  
(187) 112 175' HOUND OF 2 ACRES  
(STAKE NON-FIRST SET IN 1902)

700000 FEET  
(MD.)

4400

4399

— (186) LARGE EARTH  
MOUND

STAKE FIRST SET 1902

4398

42'30"

4397

4396



M-7

2-27-27

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE --- (186)

STONE MONUMENT 1902 IN LARGE MOUND OF EARTH

SE CORNER (M/T 07) & VIEW N. TOWARD OLDE  
NEW PIPELINE SWATH + VALLEY RIVER COMPRESSOR STATION

PHOTO ALICE MARTIN 10/2/81 (781-3-27)



MM

S-7B-124

MASON EDISON WEST LINE MILESTONE --- (196)  
STONE MONUMENT (1902) IN LARGE MOUND OF EARTH  
N.W. CORNER (2/1902)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 13/2/81 192 23 24