

ABSTRACT

G-IB-177

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(179)

1767 (mound), 1902 (monument)

Finzel, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. ---(179) and its <sup>small</sup> mound of earth and stones on Big Savage Mountain ridge mark Mason and Dixon's <sup>easternmost mile mound and</sup> approximate 166th mile from the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, the 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. It is in very good condition, unaltered, firmly set in the center of the mound; measures about 10 inches square by about 17 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 the area was surveyed and cairn erected), and 1902 on the west side (when the <sup>new</sup> monument was set). The mound was originally a wood post marked W on the west side with earth heaped around it, and now <sup>is covered with stones in good condition</sup> measuring about 6 feet in diameter by about 2 feet high at the center, with the monument substituting for the wood post, long since gone. On the national and state levels, this monument and mound are significant primarily as 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 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, "Post Marked W on the West Side" and "Heap of Earth" marking 168 Miles and 76 Chains "from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field"

AND/OR COMMON MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 179)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off the northeast side of Sampson Rock Road, Big Savage Mountain ridge

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"/> OBJECTS | <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 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 & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

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

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. Folio #: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET & 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-177 entered 9/4/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

# 7 DESCRIPTION

Survey No. G-IB-177

| CONDITION   |                                       | CHECK ONE  | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT                  | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (monument) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (mound) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (monument) | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (mound)    | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (mound)    | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monument added (19__) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                       |                                       |  |   |

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

Milestone No. ---(179) and its mound on <sup>the western edge of</sup> Big Savage Mountain ridge mark Mason and Dixon's 168th mile and 76 chains "from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field" or 165.959 miles from the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their West Line. The monument was new when set into the center of the mound in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is a very plain, dressed Cockeyville marble post with a low pyramidal top; is in very good condition, firmly set, unaltered; measures 10 inches square by about 17 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 <sup>1767</sup> when this area was surveyed and mound erected) on the east side, and 1902 on the west side (when monument first set). The mound, described by the Resurvey (MGS, Vol. 7, p. 96) as <sup>a "mound of earth" and</sup> "the most eastern of these mile mounds," is now a small mound of earth <sup>covered with</sup> stones, and marks Mason <sup>and Dixon's</sup> approximate 166th mile; is in good condition; is only about 6 feet in diameter by about 2 feet high, and may have been altered by the addition of stones at the time of monumentation.

The area here is the remote, very rough, stony, windswept, <sup>densely</sup> forested ridge of Big Savage Mountain (elevation at the site about 2880 feet). The site is within Election District 13 of ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD, and <sup>marks</sup> the southern corner of Southampton and Greenville Townships of Somerset County, PA; about 1 1/4 miles northeast of the village of Finzel, MD; about 2 1/2 miles southeast of the settlement of Pocahontas, PA; about 250 feet west of the preceding marker, (No. ---(178); about 2650 feet east of No. ---(180); in a young deciduous thicket about 240 feet south of the old pipeline. It cannot be seen from any road, and <sup>is</sup> difficult to spot from the pipeline. This remoteness and obscurity seem protective of both monument and mound.

The monument, as with the 1902 monuments set west of Sideling Hill by the Resurvey, was quarried and carved in Cockeyville, MD, originally measured about 10 inches square by about 4 1/2 feet long, cut to stand about 1 1/2 feet high with the remaining 3 feet for setting into the ground or mound. The letters and numbers are blocky, without serifs, V-sunk, and horizontally aligned as a band near the top. These <sup>and the top planes and apex</sup> are clear and intact, as is the entire stone except for a large chip out of the top southwest corner and chips along the southeast and southwest vertical edges.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of the Resurvey monument additions and original Mason and Dixon cairns)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

Survey No. G-IB-177

| 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 (mound) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
 1902 (monument) SURVEYORS

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(179) and its mound are significant on the national and state levels primarily as among the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile <sup>provincial</sup> boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This part of the Line was surveyed in 1767; the site marked with a cairn November 11th, 1767; and a new Cocksylvia marble monument set in the remains of the cairn in 1902, during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 42 markers along the present Garrett/Somerset-Fayette county boundary, <sup>and its mound</sup> No. ---(179) are also significant for their identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

**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: Frostburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series,  
(topographic), 1949 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 67870, northing 439885

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

10/18/81 (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

6-18-177  
HASON & DIXON WEST LINE (MD-PA) BOUNDARY MARKERS:

MILESTONE -- (179)  
FROSTBURG QUADRA  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLV  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOG  
NW/4 FROSTBURG 15 QUADRAN  
1949 PHOTOREV 1974  
81 1270 000 FEET IM

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

263 IV SW  
TENBERG) 677

DEAL 1.3 MI 55'

679

680





MASON EDIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE — (179)  
STONE MONUMENT (1902) IN MOUND OF EARTH & STONES MARKING  
APPROX. MID 166<sup>TH</sup> MILE WEST FROM NE CORNER OF MARYLAND  
SW CORNER (1902/179)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 10/18/81 (1981-494)



MHT

G-IB-177

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE — (179)

STONE DISPLACEMENT (1902) IN MOUND OF EARTH & STONES MARKING  
APPROX. MID 1665 MILE WEST OF NE CORNER OF MARYLAND  
NE CORNER (1767/P)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 10/18/81 (1981.49.2)  
neg. u in focus