

ABSTRACT

G-IB-179

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(181)

1767 (mound), 1902 (monument)

Finzel, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. ---(181) and its mound of earth, on the west slope of Little Savage Mountain, mark Mason and Dixon's 167th mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 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 very good condition, unaltered, firmly set; measures about 10 inches square by about 18 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 site was surveyed and marked with a cairn), and 1902 on the west side (when this <sup>new</sup> monument was added to the mound during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary). The mound of earth is a small low one, <sup>in very good condition, and</sup> measures about 9 feet in diameter by about 1½ feet high at the center, with the monument replacing the former <sup>original</sup> wood centerpost. On the national and state levels, No. ---(181) and the mound are significant primarily as <sup>being</sup> 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 and Heap of Earth marking 167th  
 mile (from the northeast corner of Maryland)  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 181)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  
 STREET & NUMBER off the north side of Sampson Rock Road  
 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input 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 & 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURT HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ Folio #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
 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-179 entered 9/4/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust  
 CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED (monument & mound)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (mound)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (monument & mound)	<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. ---(181) and its small mound of earth mark Mason and Dixon's 167th mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. The monument was new in 1902 when added to the center of the mound during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Of Cockeysville marble, it is a very plain post with a low pyramidal top; is in very good condition, firmly set, unaltered; measures 10 inches square by about 18 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 site was surveyed and marked <sup>presumably</sup> with a cairn), and 1902 on the west side. The mound, now measuring about 9 feet in diameter by about 1½ feet high at the center, is presumably the remains of the original cairn; is also in very good condition, and <sup>seems</sup> unaltered except for the substitution of the monument for the original wood post long since gone.

The area here is <sup>hilly</sup> farmed land on the west slope of Little Savage Mountain surrounded by woodlands, sparsely settled. The site is within Election District 9 of Garrett County, MD, and Greenville Township of Somerset County, PA; about 1 mile northeast of the small village of Finzel, MD; about 2 miles southeast of the settlement of Pocahontas, PA; at a point about 600 feet east of Sampson Rock Road at the Line and about 200 feet north of the Road <sup>at its bend</sup>, about 50 feet east of an old north-south split rail fence and open field, in the west edge of a mixed deciduous-hemlock woods. It cannot be seen from any road <sup>or pipeline</sup>, nor easily from closeby, and seems protected by this obscurity.

The monument, identical to 65 other monuments of 1902 set west of Sideling Hill to visually re-establish the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, was quarried and carved in Cockeysville, MD, of a white, fine-grained marble called saccharoidal dolomite or magnesian limestone. It was originally cut about 10 inches square by about 4½ feet long, intended for setting about 1½ feet above ground, with the remaining 3 feet for setting into the ground. 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, except for chips at the top corners and vertical edges (especially on the west side). The mound also seems intact.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of the various kinds of monuments added to this part of the West Line, and the original 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"/> 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) ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(181) and its small 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 site was surveyed and (presumably) marked by a cairn in 1767, and the Cockeysville marble monument set in the center of the mound 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. ---(181) and 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: Frostburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), 1949 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 67709, northing 439882

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

FROSTBURG QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1949 PHOTOREV. 1974

STATE OF MARYLAND  
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

G-IB-179  
HASON & DIXON WEST LINE (MD-PA) BOUNDARY MARKERS:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

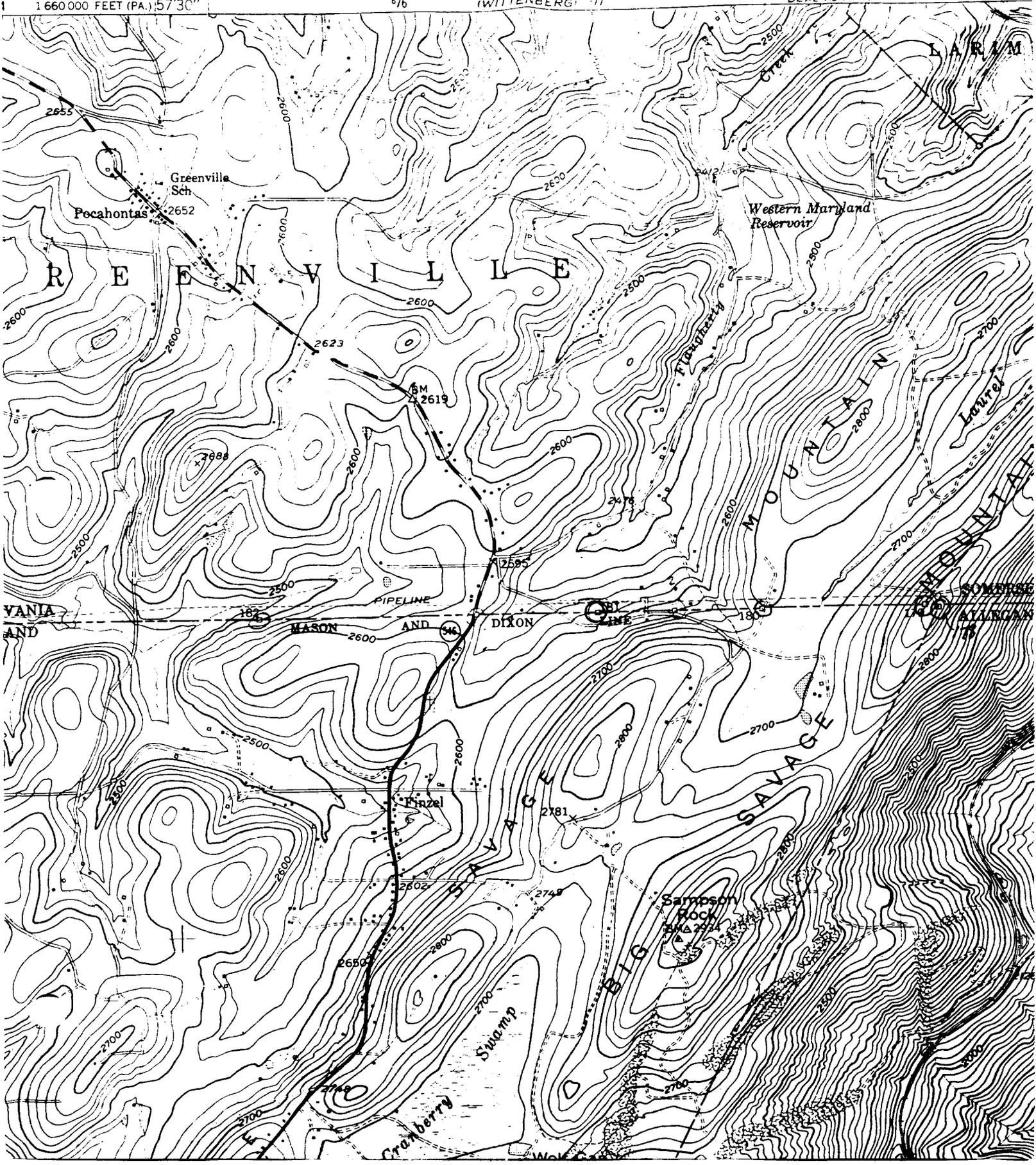
1 1660000 FEET (PA.) 57'30"

676

5263 N SW  
(WITTENBERG) 677

DEAL 13 MI 455

679





MHT

87-3-128

MASON EDIXON WEST LINE; MILESTONE — (181)  
STONE MONUMENT (1902) IN MOUND OF EARTH  
MARKING 16<sup>TH</sup> MILE WEST OF NE CORNER  
OF MARYLAND  
SW CORNER (1902/4)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 10/18/81 (1981 46-26A)



1442

S. 7 B-179

HASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (181)

STONE MONUMENT (1902) IN MOUND OF 1.11<sup>th</sup> 1/2<sup>nd</sup>  
MARKING 167<sup>th</sup> MILE WEST OF NE CORNER  
OF HANGLAND

NE CORNER (1767/0)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 10/18/81 (1981.46. 30A)