

ABSTRACT

G-IIA-262

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(217) 1767 (mound only)  
Markleysburg, Pennsylvania vicinity  
Public/private

Milestone No. ---(217) is a small mound of stones and silt known as Guard's Mound, and is believed to be the remains of an original Mason and Dixon cairn of 1767 when erected to mark their 193rd 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. Left unmonumented in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, it is now a loosely strewn mound, scarcely measurable (rising a roughly estimated 1½ feet high by about 6 feet in diameter), and has a large dead tree stump in the middle and a multiple property boundary corner spike driven into the ground at the base of the west side of the stump. If found to be the correct mound, when / <sup>this site is</sup> Resurveyed by a civil engineer, it will be significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining the West Line. Locally, as one of the some 42 markers along the present Garrett/Somerset-Fayette county boundary it will also be significant symbolically for its relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties (if identified visually), and as a multiple property corner survey point.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LIN (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) West Line

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. ---(1900-03 Resurvey No. 217)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off the east side of Guard Road/T-878

CITY, TOWN

Markleysburg  VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 22

STATE

Pennsylvania

COUNTY  
MD: Garrett / PA: Fayette

**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** (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

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

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

COURTHOUSE, LIBER #:  
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-IIA-262 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

This marker is a small mound of <sup>and silt</sup> stones/only, <sup>known as Guard's Mound,</sup> is believed to be the remains of an original Mason and Dixon cairn of 1767 when erected to mark their 196th mile west of the "Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field" (193 miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line). It is still distinguishable as a mound, but has been heaved by a large tree (now a dead stump) growing out of the center, and silted from the hillside wash over time, now leaving it <sup>loosely</sup> a strewn, unmeasurable mound, rising about 1½ feet by a roughly estimated 6 feet in diameter. As a multiple property boundary survey corner, it is also marked by an iron spike driven in <sup>to the ground</sup> near the tree stump on the west side. (\* see below)

The area here is the west <sup>wooded</sup> slope of an unnamed hill rising between Reason Run to the east and Guard Road to the west, with only <sup>sparsely</sup> scattered settlement along the road. The site is within Election District 2 of Garrett County, MD, and Henry Clay Township of Fayette County, PA; about 1¼ miles northeast of the scattered settlement of Asher Glade, MD, and about 2 miles southeast of the village of Markleysburg, PA; at a point about 90 feet south of the old pipeline and about 50 feet east uphill from Guard Road. It cannot be seen from the road, but is the most likely candidate for the mound on the entire hillside at the Line, and can be distinguished when closeby.

The 1900-03 Resurvey notes (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, pp.99-100) describe the site a a "Small mound of stones with a good sized tree growing in it, on the east side of the road .... It was intended that a monument should be set in this mound and one was sent here for that purpose, but owing to the difficulties presented by the tree with its numerous spreading roots, the assistant who was charged with the duty of setting it concluded that it would make too long and expensive a job and he therefore placed the monument on the next ridge to the westward, where it was noted under the next number."

\* It should be noted here that although we were quite sure this site was the correct one (as shown on the 1900-03 Resurvey engineer's map, Plate LXXI), only a civil engineer can verify this through a resurvey. In the meanwhile, the original records will be traced at the National Archives during the Phase II of the Mason-Dixon Line boundary marker project, n additional information <sup>round</sup> will be forwarded for the Trust's and Maryland Geological Survey files.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for further descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon cairns and list of sites noted by them in their journal)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 (cairn only)

~~UNDEVELOPED~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small mound of stones with a large dead/<sup>tree</sup>stump in the middle is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile English provincial boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This site was originally surveyed and marked by a cairn in 1767, and the remains left unmonumented at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of some 42 markers along the present Garrett/Somerset-Fayette county boundary, the mound, even though deteriorated, is also significant symbolically for its relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties, and as a multiple property corner survey point.

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: Friendsville (Maryland-Pennsylvania-West Virginia), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1947 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

NOTE: site not shown on quadrangle; see 1900-03 Resurvey engineer's map, Plate LXXI

UTM reference (approx.): zone 17, easting 63534, northing 439778

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Garrett

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Fayette

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

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

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey 9/7/81 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

14308 Mount Avenue (301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Phoenix 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.

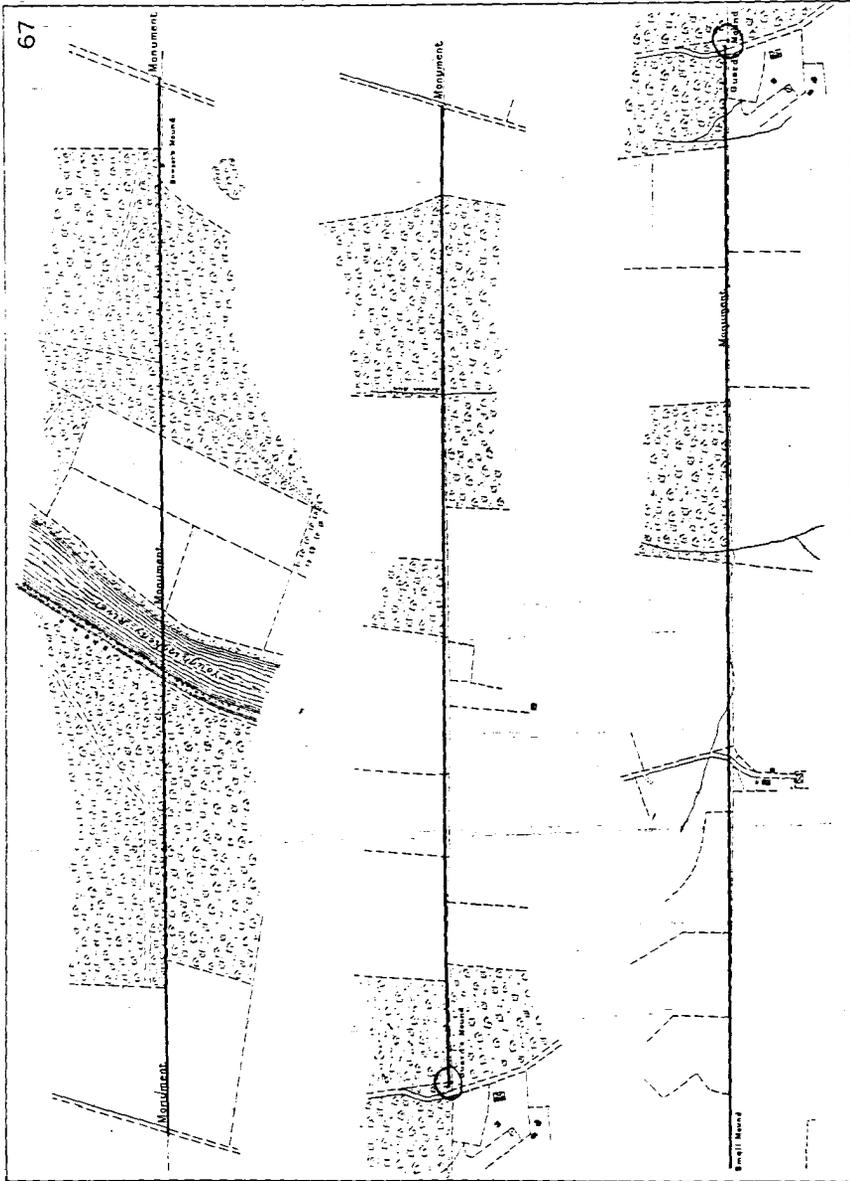
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

RESURVEY OF MASON-DIXON LINE.

PLATE LXXI.

no. 215  
→



SCALE: 1" = 1000'  
N

MASON EDIXON WEST LINE BOUNDARY MARKERS: 11111EDIXONE

6-TM-262

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

FRIENDSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA  
WEST VIRGINIA

3163 IV SW  
(OHIO/PYLE)

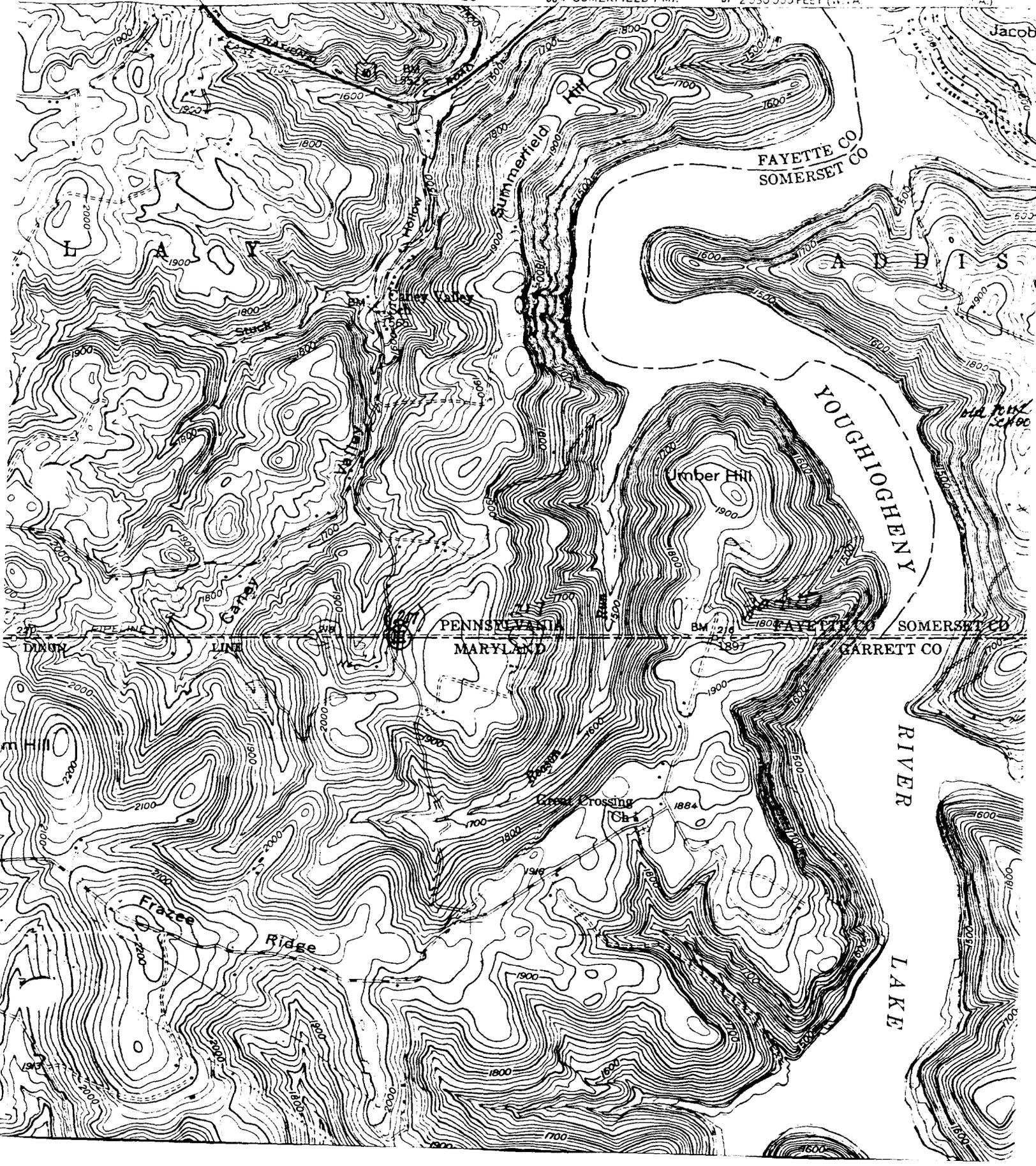
UNIONTOWN 23 MI.  
0.6 MI. TO PA. 281

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

GRANTSVILLE 16 MI  
SOMERFIELD 1 MI.

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOG)  
1947 PHOTO REV. 1974

2940 000 FEET (M.S.L.)



PENNSYLVANIA  
MARYLAND

FAYETTE CO  
SOMERSET CO  
GARRETT CO

DIXON LINE

Frazee Ridge

Jamber Hill

Grass Crossing

YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER  
LAKE

FAYETTE CO  
SOMERSET CO

A D B I S

Jacob

Mid. Penn. School

BM 4214

1897

1884

635

25

636

637

2 030 000 FEET (M.S.L.)

2940 000 FEET (M.S.L.)





MAT

6-77A-262

MASON EDINOR WEST LINE; MILESTONE — (217)  
MOUND OF STONES ONLY MARKING MED 193<sup>ED</sup>  
MILE FROM MARYLANDS NE CORNER  
VIEW NE OF MOUND

PHOTO: ALICE HARRIS (1956-29 25A)



447

S-2A-26

MASON-DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (217)

MOUND OF STONES, ONLY

MARKING M: D 193<sup>RD</sup> MILE FROM MARYLAND'S  
NE CORNER

VIEW SW OF MOUND, LOOKING TOWARD BOARD RD

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN ? ? ? (1981) 27A

BOARD ROAD