

ABSTRACT

HA-1544

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 28(30)

1766 (reset 1902)

Cardiff, Maryland/Delta, Pennsylvania vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 28(30) marks Mason and Dixon's 28th mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning point of their 230.228-mile West Line, the longest of their survey lines run and marked to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The monument, first set in 1766, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, originally measuring about 12" square by about 4½' long, and cut to stand about 3' above ground. Reset/<sup>more securely</sup>in its original site in 1902, it now stands about 1' above ground, is in very good condition, unaltered. Although the capital letter M on the south (Maryland) side has been chipped, the letter P on the north (Pennsylvania) side and other embellishments are clear and intact except for minor chips along all edges and top corners, and the surfaces are comparatively unweathered. On the federal and state levels, this monument is primarily significant as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments standing along the West Line, commonly known since Civil War times as the Mason-Dixon Line, notable for its historical impact, and/<sup>the</sup>innovative boundary survey methods utilized. Locally, No. 28(30) is also significant as one of 17 original monuments marking the present Harford/York county boundary, amongst a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to our colonial and Civil War heritage.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. HA-1544

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, 28th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 28 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 30)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off west side of Ridge Road (PA T-596)

CITY, TOWN

Cardiff/Delta  VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MD: 1 / PA: 19

STATE

Maryland/Pennsylvania

COUNTY  
MD: Harford / PA: York

**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 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

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** N/A

(see surrounding property ownership list)  
COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

TITLE Harford County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

HA-1544 entered 2/25/80

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE  
Maryland

NA-1544

# 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
<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. 28(30) marks Mason and Dixon's 28th horizontal mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning point of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1766, in very good condition, unaltered, and at its original site (although reset in 1902).

The area here is still rural, with scattered houses along the main roads, but at the east edge of a <sup>wooded</sup> unusual slate ridge, part of an area "worked as early as 1750 for local use," by <sup>the</sup> Welsh, and continuing there as late as 1957. (Note <sup>the</sup> Slate Ridge identified on Mason and Dixon's map.) The site is located in Harford County's Election District 5, Peach Bottom Township of York County; about 1 mile east of the point along Main Street where the two towns of Cardiff, Maryland, and Delta, Pennsylvania meet; <sup>about 1400'</sup> off the west side of Ridge Road (PA T-596); about 1000' west of the George Roberts house; near the top (south edge) <sup>hill covered by a young</sup> of a deciduous woods, about 40' north of a woodland path. It cannot be seen from any road, nor readily from closeby; and is protected by this seclusion.

The monument, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished, oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, and was quarried and carved in England. Originally measuring about 12" square by about 4½' long, cut to stand about 3' above ground, <sup>it</sup> was reset <sup>more firmly</sup> in 1902, at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, to stand about 1½' above ground, with the remainder of the stone surrounded by a collar of concrete below ground. It remains about 12" square, but about 1' high, and with the concrete foundation a little exposed. The <sup>capital</sup> letter P on the north (Pennsylvania) side is intact and clear; but the capital letter M on the south (Maryland) side and its circle panel are chipped; otherwise most of the fluting and margins remain on all four sides, and the top planes rising to a centered apex are clearly defined. There are small chips along all edges and the top corners, but comparatively little weathering of surfaces.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for 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			
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 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 1766 (reset 1902) ~~MILITARY/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 28(30) is significant on the federal and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments still standing along their <sup>230.228-mile</sup> West Line, commonly known since Civil War times as the Mason-Dixon Line, notable for its historical impact and innovative boundary survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and monumented the following year, where it remains to this day, although reset more securely in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Individually, and as one of 17 original monuments marking the present Harford/York county boundary, No. 28(30) is also significant locally as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to our colonial and Civil War heritage.

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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 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: Delta (Maryland-Pennsylvania, USGS 7.5 minute series)  
scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 38706, northing 439743

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY York

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason-Dixon Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION	DATE	(site surveyed by
Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey	4/17/80	Jean Ewing)
STREET & 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

HA-1544

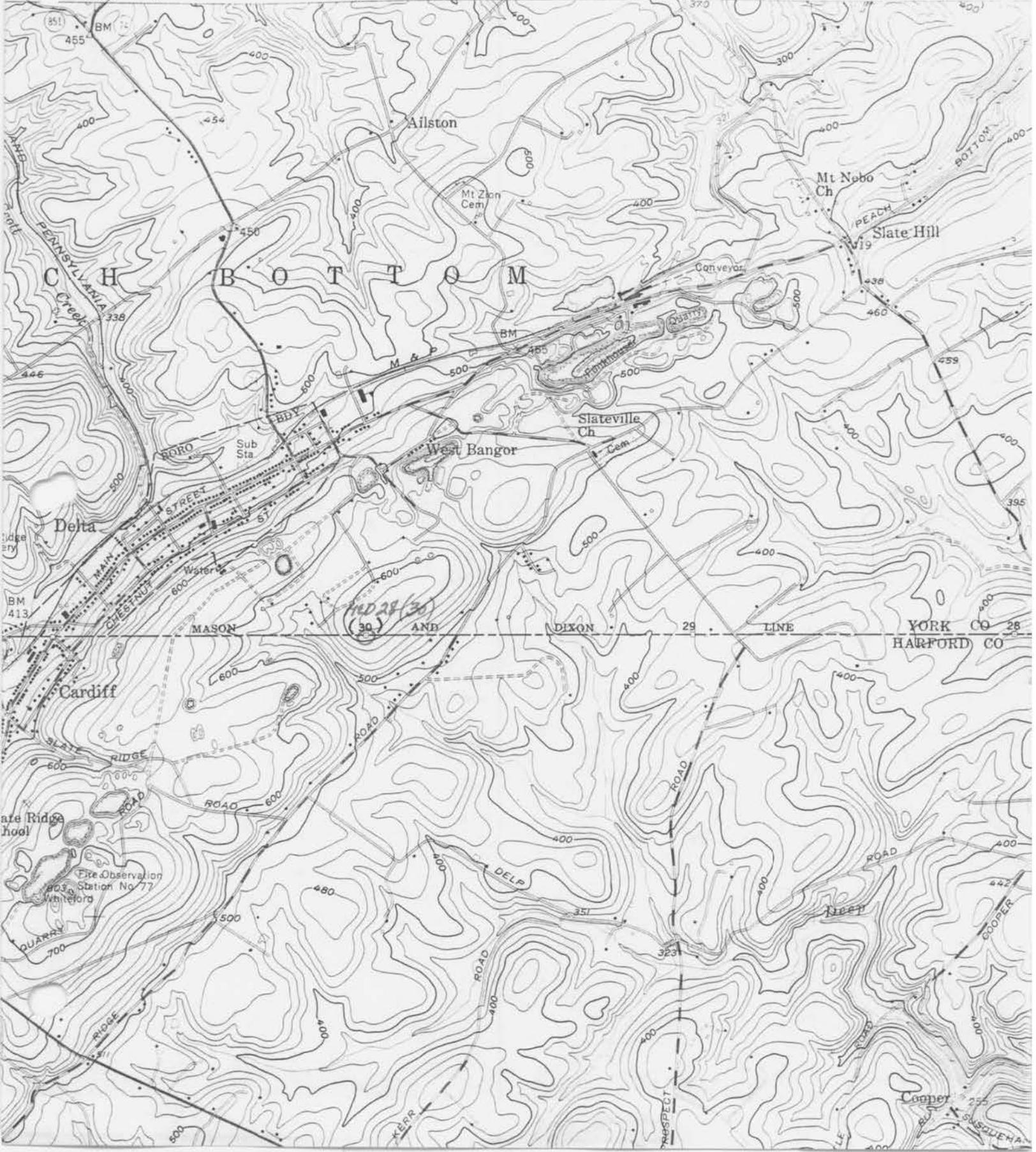
MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 28 (30)  
DELTA QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1956 PHOTO REV. 1994 SCALE: 1" = 2000'



YORK 27 W  
CASTLE F...

5763 IV SE  
(HOLTWOOD)

17'30" 1:000,000 FEET (MD.)



386 387 388 389 390  
20' 30' 40' 50' 60' 70' 80' 90' 100' 110' 120' 130' 140' 150' 160' 170' 180' 190' 200' 210' 220' 230' 240' 250' 260' 270' 280' 290' 300' 310' 320' 330' 340' 350' 360' 370' 380' 390' 400' 410' 420' 430' 440' 450' 460' 470' 480' 490' 500' 510' 520' 530' 540' 550' 560' 570' 580' 590' 600' 610' 620' 630' 640' 650' 660' 670' 680' 690' 700' 710' 720' 730' 740' 750' 760' 770' 780' 790' 800' 810' 820' 830' 840' 850' 860' 870' 880' 890' 900' 910' 920' 930' 940' 950' 960' 970' 980' 990' 1000'



MHT

HA-1544

Mason & Dixon west line: marker # 25 (30)

SE CORNER (14 1/2)

PHOTO: JEAN  
Li wing

Frame 30



Mason & Dixon west line: marker #28(30)

North-West sides (PF)