

ABSTRACT

HA-1546

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 31(33)

1766 (reset 1902)

Graceton, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 31(33) marks Mason and Dixon's 31st horizontal 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' in length, cut to stand about 3' above ground. Reset in 1902 to stand about 1½' high, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, it remains in fair condition, unaltered but badly chipped on the northeast and northwest corners, with much of the east and west faces gone. The capital letter P on the north (Pennsylvania) side is distinct but chipped; the letter M on the south (Maryland) side is clear and intact, and with patches of fluting and margins remaining. There are chips along all edges and the top corners, and noticeable weathering of the top planes. The significance of this monument federally and on the state level is primarily as one of the series of 135 original monuments still standing along the West Line, commonly known as the Mason-Dixon Line since Civil War times, and as a reminder of this survey's impact a century earlier. Locally, it is significant as one of 17 original monuments marking the present Harford/York county boundary, amongst the few and diminishing number of objects and structures still visually identifiable with our colonial and Civil War heritage.

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, 31st Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON
 Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 31 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 33)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)
 STREET & NUMBER off south side of Line Road (PA LR-66068)

CITY, TOWN Graceton VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 1 / PA: 19
 STATE Maryland 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE		<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 _____ STATE, zip code _____
 _____ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see surrounding property ownership list) ^{N/A} 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 Harford County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE HA-1546 entered 2/25/80 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 31(33) marks Mason and Dixon's 31st horizontal mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the betinning point of their 230.228- mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1766, in fair condition, unaltered, at an original site where it was reset in 1902 at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is rolling, open farmland, with occasional patches of woods, often bordering ^{in Harford County's Election District 5, York County's Peach} property lines. The site is/in the middle of a cultivated field, about ½ mile east of the cluster of houses comprising Graceton, Maryland; about 2 miles west of Delta, Pennsylvania; about 800' south of Line Road (PA LR-66068); about 500' southwest of the Steve Balach's new house. It cannot be seen from the road, but easily from the Balach house when vegetation is dormant.

The milestone, quarried and carved in England, is an embellished oolitic limestone ^{with a low pyramidal top} post, originally measuring about 12" square by about 4½' in length and cut to stand about 3' above ground. Reset more firmly in 1902 to stand about 1½' high, it has gradually been filled around to stand only about 9" high, and has been badly chipped, particularly on the ^(Pennsylvania) north/side, where the capital P is clear but nicked and the face misshapen from chunks out of the northeast and northwest top corners almost to the ground. Most of the east and west faces are gone; but the south side facing Maryland is fairly intact, with the capital letter M and its circle panel clear, and bits of fluting and margins remaining. The top planes are still discernible but badly weatherworn, with a pit in the apex. There are small chips along all edges and the top corners. It has been unprotected from farm machinery for many years, but the Balachs have been leaving it in an island of uncultivated grass, hoping to preserve it.

(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			
<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 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)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT SURVEYORS Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 31(33) is an original milestone of 1766, reset at its original site in 1902. It 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 West Line, commonly known since Civil War times as the Mason-Dixon Line, notable for its historical impact and innovative boundary survey methods. Locally, it is significant as one of 17 original monuments marking the present Harford/York county boundary, and among the 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 DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Delta (USGS 7.5 minute series, Maryland-Pennsylvania)
scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 38229, northing 439750

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 Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey DATE 2/14/80 (site surveyed by Jean Ewing)

STREET & 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

HA-1546

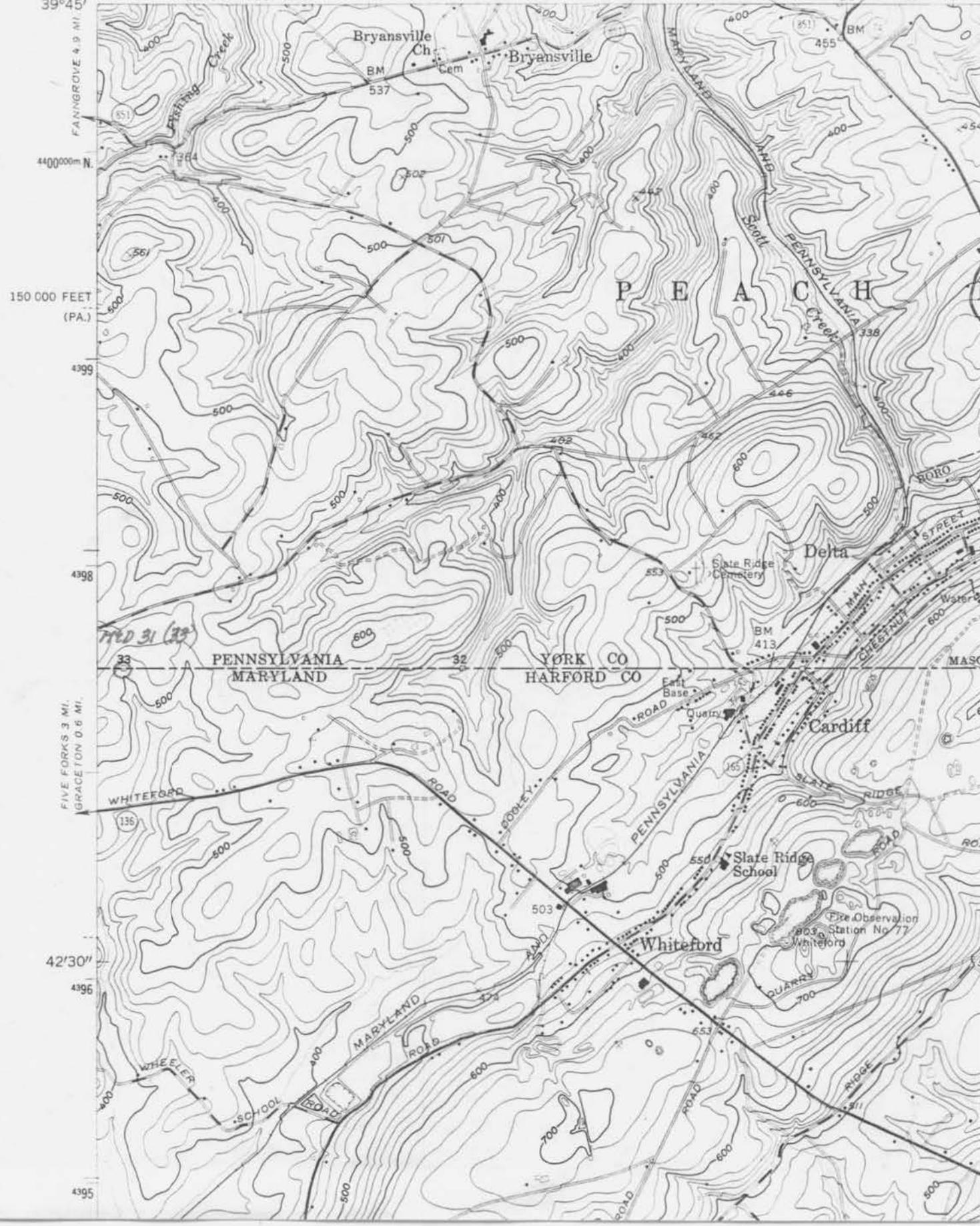
MASON & DRON WESTLINE MILESTONE 31 (33)
DELTA QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1956 PHOTO REV. 1974 SCALE: 1"=2000'

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



2702 IV SW
(AIRVILLE)

76°22'30" 2 390 000 FEET (PA.) 384000m E 0.5 MI 20' 386



39°45'
FANNING CREEK 4.9 MI
4400000m N

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

4399

4398

FIVE FORKS 3 MI.
GRACETON 0.6 MI.

42'30"

4396

4395

MILESTONE 31 (33)

PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

YORK CO
HARFORD CO

WHITEFORD

MARYLAND

Whiteford

Cardiff

Delta

Bryansville Ch.
Bryansville

Scott
Creek

MAIN STREET
CHESTNUT

Slate Ridge
School

Fire Observation
Station No. 77
Whiteford

QUARRY

RIDGE

RIDGE

RIDGE



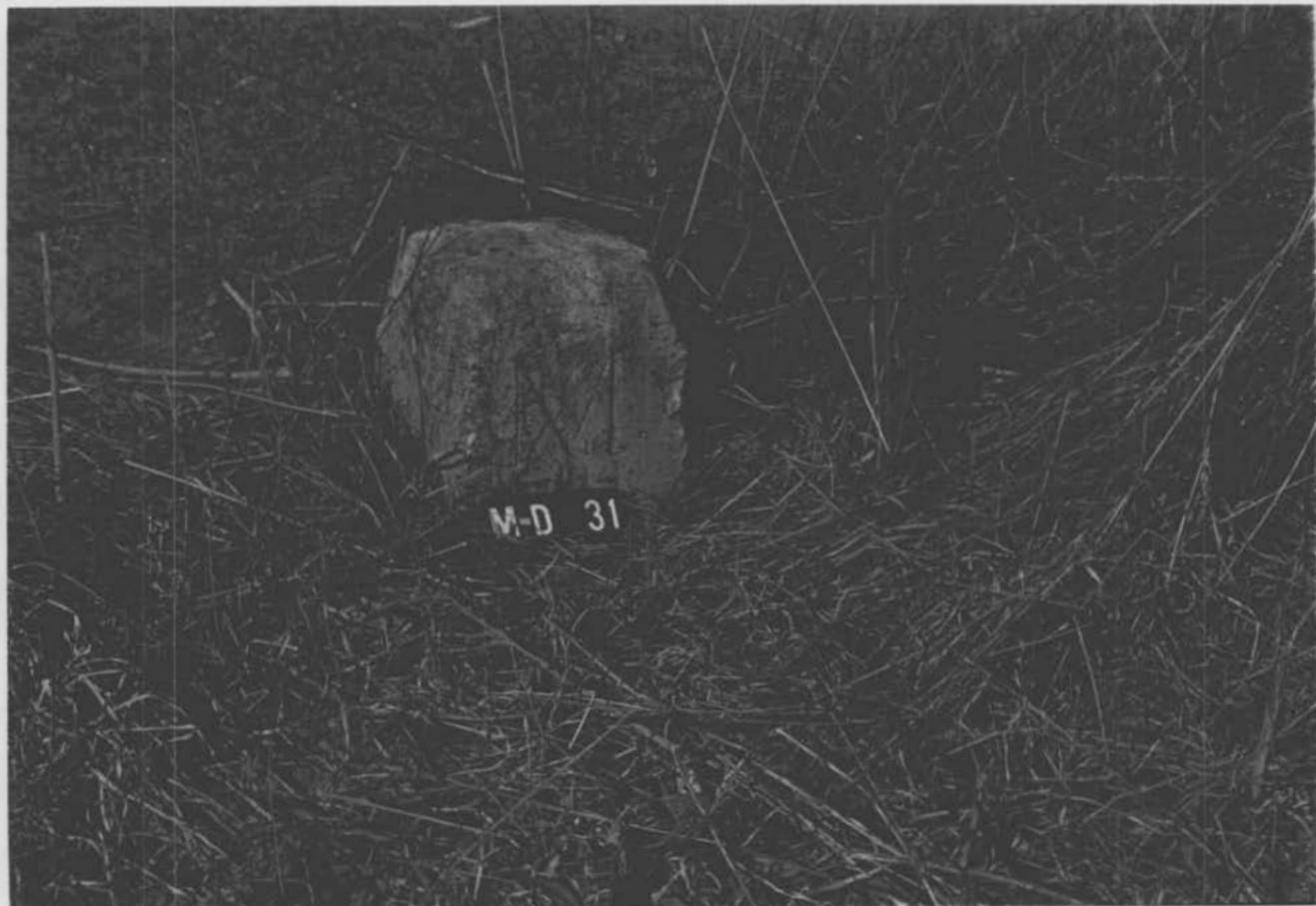
HA-1546 Mason Dixon #31

Mason & Dixon west line, ^{MILE} stone 31
(33)

PHOTO: JEAN EWING 2/12/80 (NEG #11)

North & East faces
(P)

Balach property



M-D 31

MHT

HA-1546

WEST & SOUTH (M) FACES

Mason & Dixon west line; ^{MILE} stone #31 (33)

Southwest faces

Balach property

PHOTO: JEAN
Ewing 14 Feb 80 (REC #8)