

ABSTRACT

WA-I-483

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 96(99)

1767 (reset 1902)

Rocky Forge, Maryland

Public/private

Milestone No. 96(99) marks Mason and Dixon's 96th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, and remains in fair condition, unaltered, at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1765, set two years later, then reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It now stands only about 6 inches above a brushy mound, measures a little over 12 inches square, and the top is badly disfigured and weathered. <sup>What can be seen of</sup> the distinguishing embellishments indicates some remains: vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on only two sides (none exposed on north or east sides), and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, <sup>still fairly clear</sup> each V-sunk in the center of shallow plain circle panels (no longer discernible). On the national and state levels, No. 96(99) is significant primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), this milestone is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 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, 96th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 96 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 99)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET &amp; NUMBER off south side of Lyons Road (T363)

CITY, TOWN

Rocky Forge VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6/PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington/PA: Franklin

**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** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; 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,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

TITLE

Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

WA-I-483 entered 2/24/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY 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. 96(99) marks Mason and Dixon's 96th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is the original milestone set at this site in 1767, reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in only fair condition, though unaltered; is firmly in place but stands only about 6 inches above ground.

The area here is <sup>rural</sup> very sparsely settled open farmland, gently hilly, with fringes of trees following the East Branch of <sup>Little</sup> Antietam Creek to the north and <sup>Little</sup> Antietam Creek a short distance west. The site is at the eastern edge of a scattered settlement called Rocky Forge, MD; about 2 miles southwest of the center of the town of Waynesboro, PA; within Election District 9 of Washington County, MD, and Washington Township of Franklin County, PA; at a point about 2200 feet east of MD 60/PA 316 and about 1200 feet due south of Lyons Road (T363), about 1500 feet south southwest of the Foster's house; <sup>protected by the Fosters,</sup> in a scraggly small mound of earth in the middle of an open, unfenced cultivated field. The site cannot be seen from any <sup>public</sup> road, but the brushy mound with its several posts can be easily spotted from the <sup>private</sup> gravel road leading to the house south of the Fosters.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, and initially measured about 12 inches square by about 4½ feet long with a low pyramidal top, cut to stand <sup>as a post</sup> about 3 feet above ground, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all <sup>four</sup> sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a shallow plain circle panel near the top. In 1902 it was presumably reset to stand about 1½ feet high; and by the 1979-82 field inspection <sup>the top</sup> was exposed only about 6 inches above the mound. The letters appeared to be fairly intact and clear; some fluting and bits of margins remained; the top was very disfigured and weatherworn, badly chipped <sup>(particularly the northwest)</sup> at the corners and edges, scarred from linear cuts and two pits. And measured a little over 12 inches square.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full 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 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 (reset 1902) ~~BUILDING/ENGINEERING~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 96(99) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original/<sup>Mason and Dixon</sup> monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and the milestone set two years later, where it remains in place, although reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 96(99) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually 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: Smithsburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 27733, northing 439973

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Franklin

**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

11/22/80 (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

WA-I-483

1000000 NO. 99 A ORG

MASON - DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 96 (99)

5463 / SW  
(GREENCASTLE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



SMITHSBURG QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTO REV. 1971 SCALE: 1" = 2000'  
0.5 MI. TO PA. 16

77°37'30"

39°45'

2 040 000 FEET (PA.)

277000m E.

278

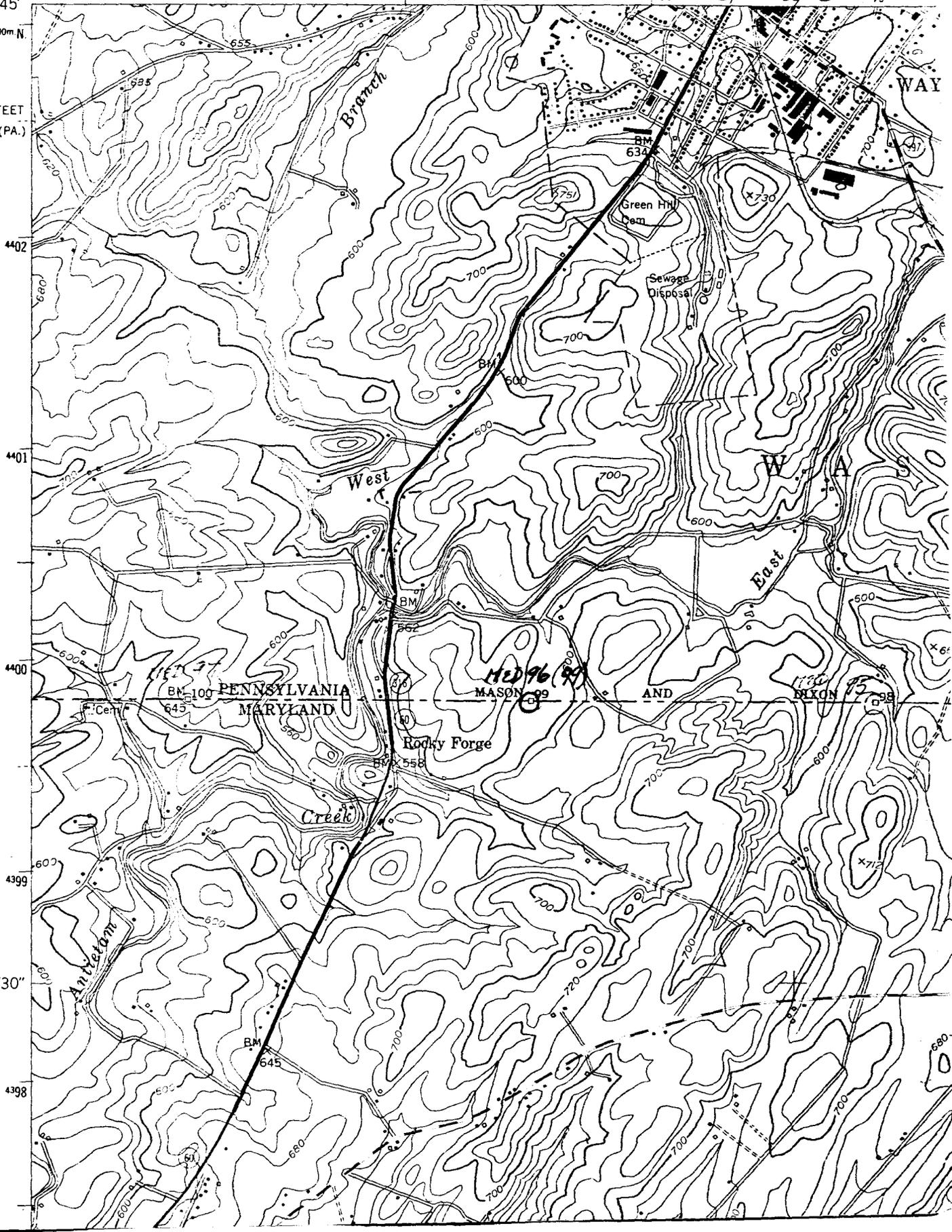
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279

4403000m N.  
150 000 FEET  
(PA.)



4402

4401

4400

4399

42'30"

4398

WAY

W

E

PENNSYLVANIA  
MARYLAND

MED 96 (99)  
MASON 99

AND

DIXON 98

Rocky Forge

Creek

Antietam

Cem

Green Hill  
Dam

Sewage  
Disposal

Branch

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MHT

5.2

MASON/DIXON WEST LINE 1 NESTOR 9/2 29  
NW CORNER (P/-)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1950-39-26) 1/25/80



