

ABSTRACT

WA-I-485

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 98(101)

1767 (reset 1902)

Leitersburg, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 98(101) marks Mason and Dixon's 98th 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, in fair condition, unaltered, and 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 about 1 foot above ground, measures about 11 inches square, is very chipped along all edges and top corners (with a big chunk out of the southeast vertical edge); all surfaces are very weathered; no top planes remain. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four 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 plain shallow circle panel near the top. Only the letters and patches of fluting remain; no margins and indistinct circle panels. On the national and state levels, No. 98(101) 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), it 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; 98th Mile Stone  
 AND/OR COMMON MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 98 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 101)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  
 STREET & NUMBER off south end of Peaceful Oak Drive  
 CITY, TOWN Leitersburg  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 & NUMBER  
 CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code  
 VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)  
 COURTHOUSE, LIBER #: Folio #:  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
 STREET & 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-485 entered 2/24/81  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. 98(101) marks Mason and Dixon's 98th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in fair condition, unaltered, at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1765, monumented two years later, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here <sup>farmed land, sparsely settled,</sup> is hilly; ~~mostly~~ open fields with some scattered patches of deciduous woods, and a number of orchards to the east along Iron Bridges Road. The site is within Election District 9 of Washington County, MD, and Washington Township of Franklin County, PA; about 2 miles north-northwest of the town of Leitersburg; at a point about 1 mile east of the Leitersburg Road (T-359) at the Line; about 30 feet south off the end of Peaceful Oak Drive (a circle drive platted <sup>and staked</sup> for housing development), on the south side of (against) an old east-west wire fence in a narrow, stoney, scraggly hedgerow. The hedgerow but not the site can be seen from the circle drive, all seasons. Because it is among other stones and unmarked, it will be endangered as soon as construction begins, but is protected at this point.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, and originally measured about 12 inches square by about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet long with a low pyramidal top, cut to stand as a post 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 four 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 plain shallow circle panel near the top. Presumably reset in 1902 to stand about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet above ground, it now stands about 1 foot high; measures about 11 inches <sup>all top corners and</sup> square; is very chipped at / along all edges, <sup>with a</sup> particularly large chunk out of the southeast <sup>vertical</sup> edge. All surfaces are very weathered and nicked; no top planes remain; the letters are clear but the M is chipped; only patches of fluting and margins remain.

(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"/> 400-1499	<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 (reset 1902)    ~~BOUNDARY SURVEYORS~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 98(101) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon 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 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. 98(101) 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: Hagerstown (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 27400, northing 439985

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 &amp; Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust &amp; Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

10/13/80 (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

HAGERSTOWN QUADRANGLE SURVEY

MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 HAGERSTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

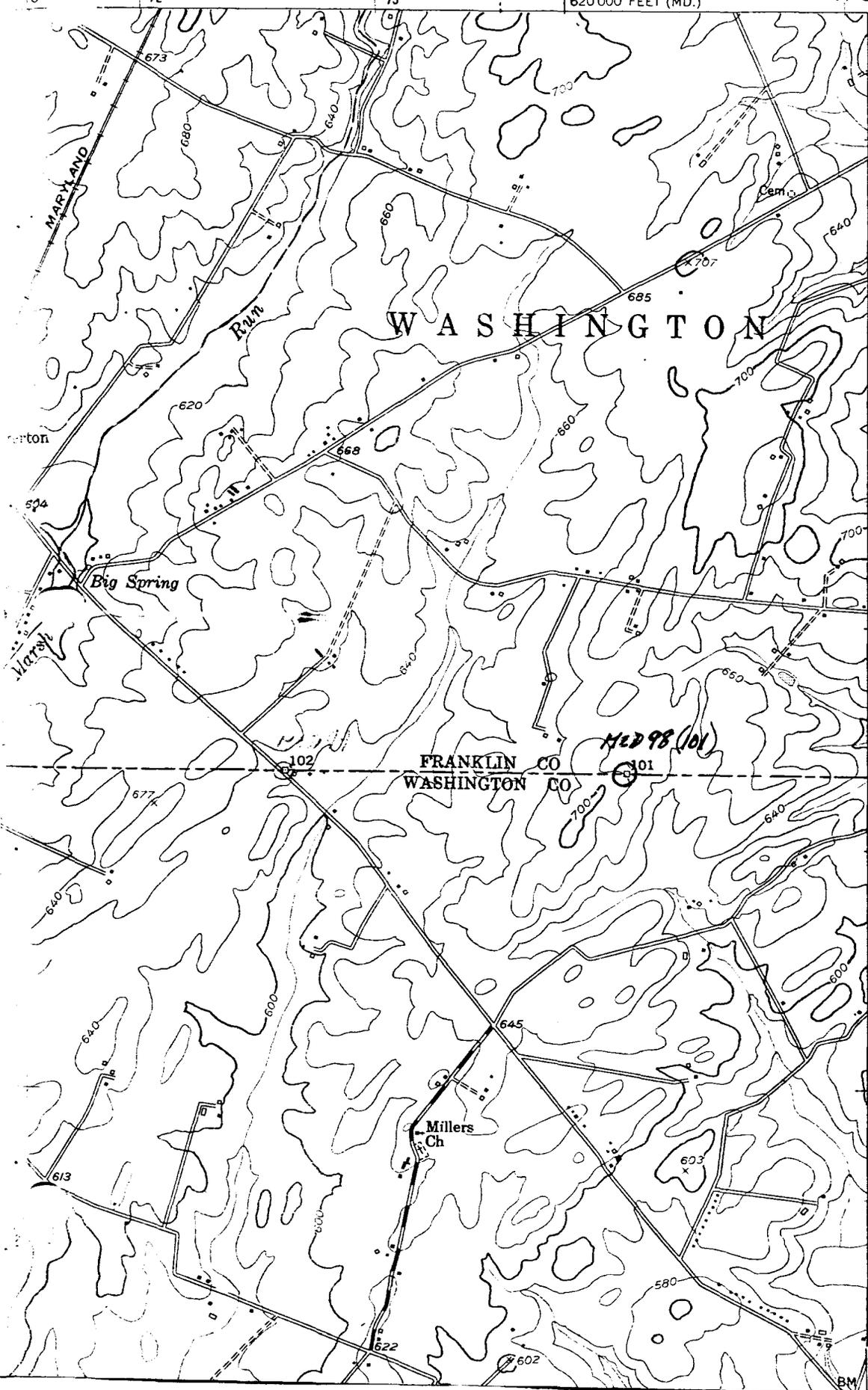
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

1953 PHOTO REV. 1971

620 000 FEET (MD.)

WA-I-485  
WAYNESBORO  
(101-107) MED 98-104  
WASHINGTON CO. (16)

40' 272 273 39°45'



4403  
(101) MED 98: 0216

690 000 FEET (MD.)

FRANKLIN CO  
WASHINGTON CO

MED 98 (101)

42'30"

4398

1 MI.  
1/4 = 0.2 MI.



98

WA-I-485

MASON & DOUGA'S BEST LIFE MILESTONE 98 (101)  
SEE S/S PEACEFUL CAR DRIVE LETTERS 200, 10, 10, 10, 10  
SW CORNER (-1M) ORIGINAL (1767)  
PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1980-27-7A) 10/13/80



WA-1-485

MASON BRICKWALL ESTABLINE: MILESTONE 91 (101)  
OFF S/S PEACEFUL OAK DRIVE, LETTERSFURG, MD VICINITY  
NE CORNER (-1 P)

ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1980.27.5A) 10/13/80