

ABSTRACT

WA-I-488

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 107(111)

1767 (reset 1902)

Cearfoss, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 107(111), <sup>an original of 1767</sup> marks Mason and Dixon's 107th 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 a squared oolitic limestone post, quarried and carved in England, now standing about 18 inches above ground, measuring about 12 inches square, <sup>unaltered but</sup> in only fair condition from weathering and <sup>disfiguring</sup> /chipping, <sup>and</sup> believed at its original site as reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, but no longer firmly in place. It is significant on the national and state levels 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, 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.

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, 107th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 107 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 111)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off southwest side of Cearfoss Road (MD 58/PA 416)

CITY, TOWN

Cearfoss

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

\_\_\_ 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 & 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-488 entered 2/24/81

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE  
Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

Survey No. WA-I-488

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. 107(111) marks Mason and Dixon's 107th 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, and though it doesn't seem firmly set is probably at its original site, and, if so, where it was reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is rolling, sparsely settled farmed lands, interspersed with patches of deciduous woodlands. The site is within Election District 13 of Washington County, MD, and Montgomery Township of Franklin County, PA; about 2 miles northwest of the settlement of Cearfoss, MD; about 1 mile southeast of the settlement of Nova, PA; at a point about 400 feet west of the junction of Wishard Road with Cearfoss Road (MD 58/PA 416) and about 400 feet south of the McCauley tenant farmhouse on the north side of Cearfoss Road; in the middle of an unfenced level farmed field. It is unmarked but visible from both roads when vegetation is dormant, is not protected in any way from farming machinery damage, and may have been broken below ground level.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post, with (what is left of) a low pyramidal top, was quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone, and originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4½ feet long, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins, 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. It appears to stand as reset in 1902: about 18 inches above ground (on the north side, but 11 inches on the south side), and measures close to 12 inches square. But it has been greatly disfigured by farm machinery chips: most of the letter P and circle panel is gone, and some of the M and circle panel; bits of fluting but no margins remain; huge chunks have been chipped out of the northeast, northwest and southeast vertical edges; all other edges and top corners are chipped; all surfaces are very weathered; and the top is nearly flat, much of it cemented-over when the US Coast and Geodetic Survey disk was set into the apex (Reference Mark No. 2, 1939, BM 111).

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of **CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

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) boundary surveying
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1767 (reset 1902) · ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No.107(111) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one 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 appears to remain in place as reset 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. 107(111) 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)

**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: Mason-Dixon (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), 1953 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 25958, northing 440040

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

2/28/81 (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-488

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
5443 IV SE  
(WILLIAMSON)



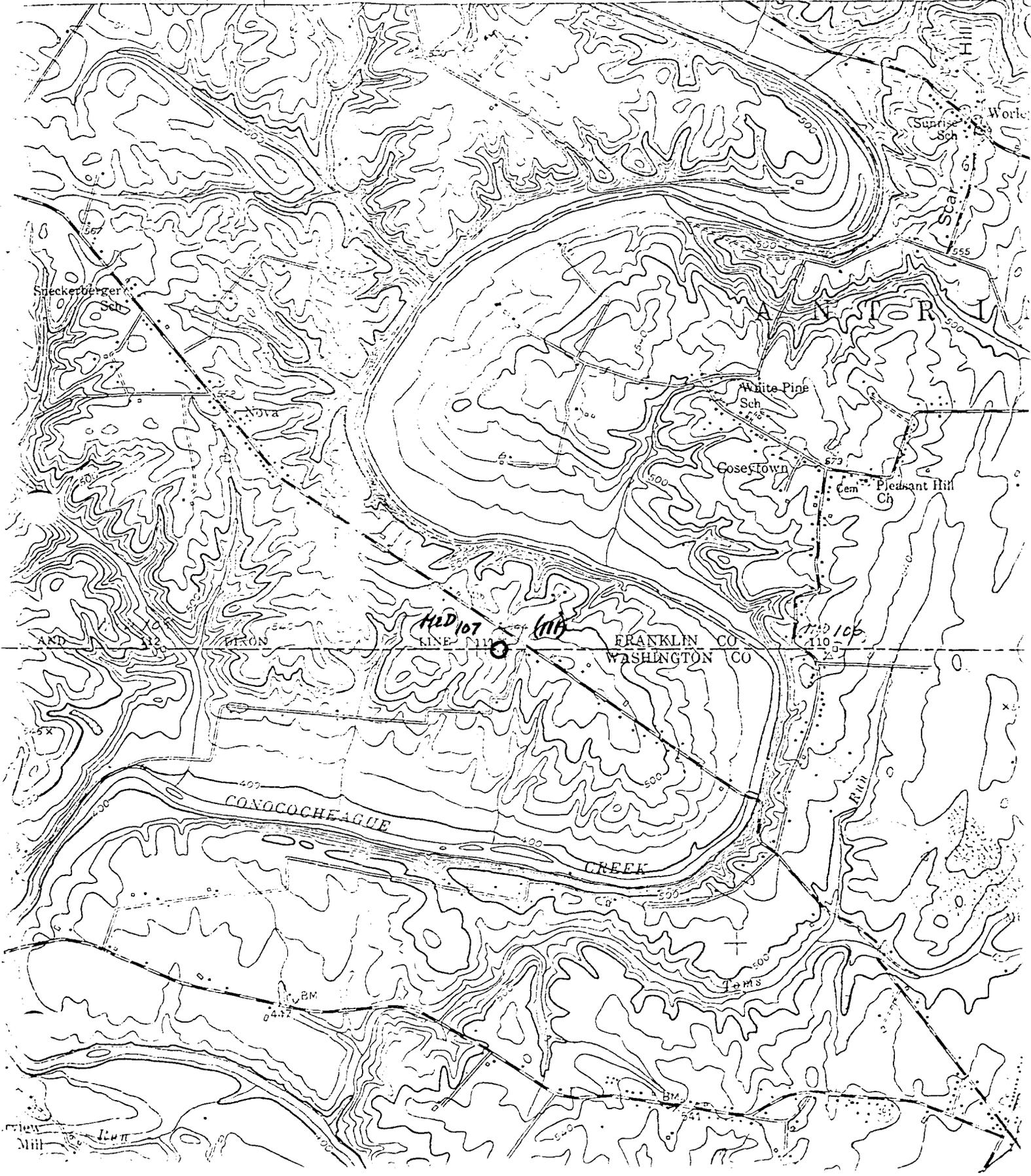
MASON-DIXON WEST LINE, MILESTONE NO. 107 (111)  
MASON-DIXON QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTO REV. 1971  
47°30' 261 580 000 FEET (MD)

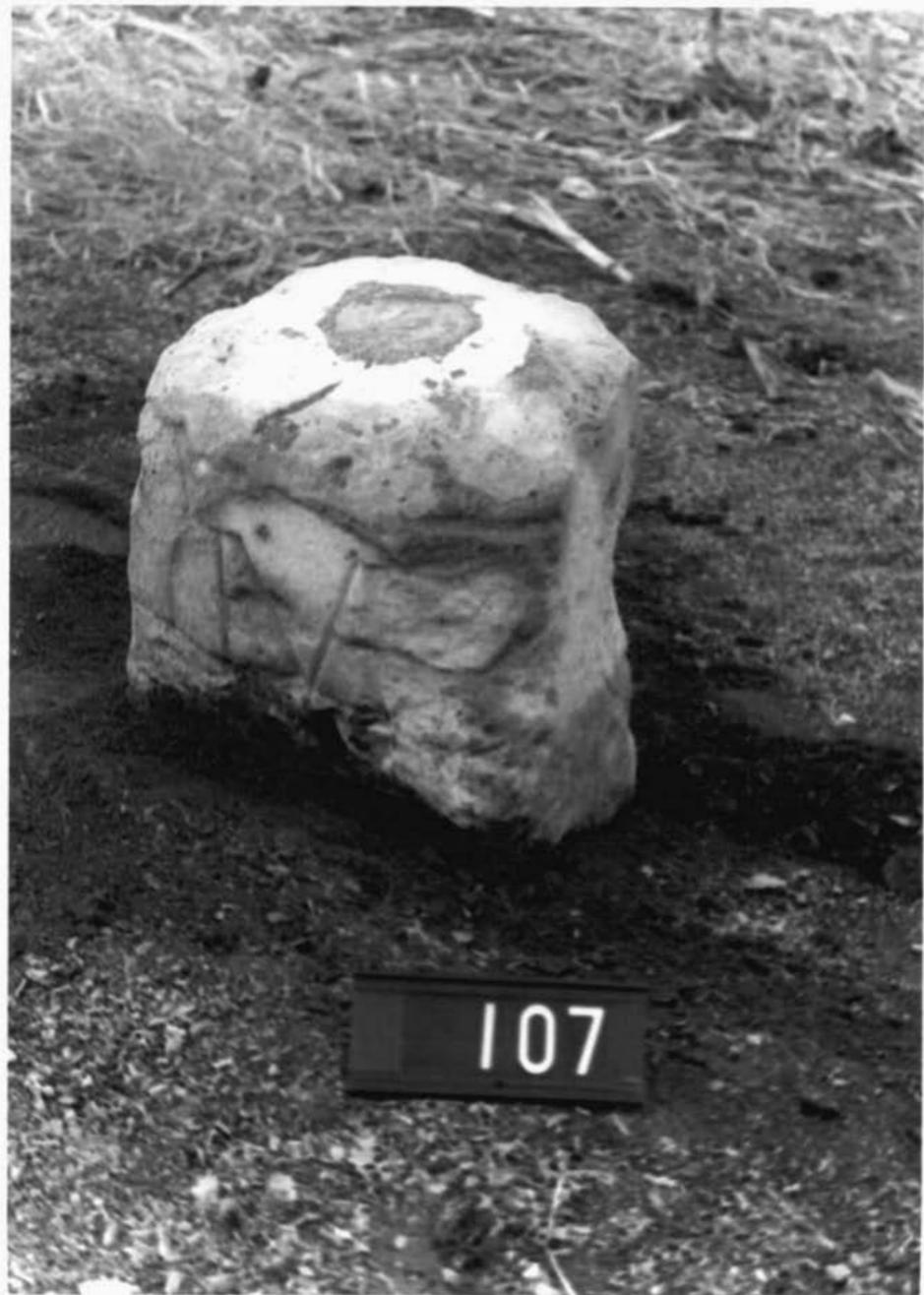
258

260

261

580 000 FEET (MD)





MHT

LA-I-488

MASON DIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE 107 (111)

2 COPIES (14-), ORIGINAL (1767)

NOTE: AUCE MARTIN (1971.6-15) 2/28/81



1547

2-1-488

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 1ST (11)  
NW CORNER (P1-), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1981.6 10) 2/28/81