

ABSTRACT

WA-V-215

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 115(119)

1767 (first set 1902)

Clear Spring, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 115(119) marks Mason and Dixon's 115th 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 crownstone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; brought from the vicinity of Clear Spring, <sup>in 1902</sup> as a replacement for the crownstone originally set at that site, which was formally given <sup>at that time</sup> to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in exchange for a Cockeysville marble replica provided by the Society and set as No. (169) in Ellerslie (Allegany/Bedford counties). It is in good condition, although now with a major crack through the stone, remains unaltered, and was <sup>redetermined</sup> set at the original site, during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. 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.

## 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, 115th Mile Stone

## AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 115 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 119)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET &amp; NUMBER off northeast side of A.T.&amp;T. Road, Bear Pond Hollow

## CITY, TOWN

Clear Spring  VICINITY OFCONGRESSIONAL 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-V-215 entered 2/24/81

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE  
Maryland

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. 115(119), a replacement crownstone of 1767, marks Mason and Dixon's 115th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is in good condition (although with a major break through the top), unaltered, and first set in 1902 at the original site as redetermined by the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. The crownstone originally set at this site by Mason and Dixon was formally given <sup>in 1902</sup> to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania <sup>for their museum</sup> in Philadelphia in exchange for a Cockeysville marble replica provided by the Society and set as Monument No.(169) in Ellerslie, Allegany/Bedford counties (which see).

The area here is densely wooded, remote, mountainous land--a high hollow (Bear Pond Hollow, elevation about 1100 feet) between Sword Mountain on the east and Two Top Mountain on the west. The site is within Election District 15 of Washington County, MD, and Montgomery Township of Franklin County, PA; about 4½ miles north-northwest of the town of Clear Spring, MD; in Bear Pond Hollow <sup>at a point</sup> about 250 feet east of Lanes Run, and about 500 feet northeast off the end of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area Road (Bear Pond Hollow Unit) <sup>which</sup> ~~leads~~ off the north side of the A.T.&T. Road. It is in the midst of a vast deciuous forest, in an area closed to the general public; cannot be seen from any road or trail, and is difficult to find even when closeby, though near yellow-banded trees and triangular metal signs marking <sup>the</sup> boundary.

This <sup>which had been brought from the vicinity of Clear Spring,</sup> crownstone, <sup>as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line</sup> monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4½ feet long, cut to stand about 3 feet above ground with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the stylized shields of the Penn coat of arms on the north side facing Pennsylvania and that of the Calvert's on the south side facing Maryland, near the top. It now stands about 1 foot high, and measures about 12 inches on the north and south sides, about 10 inches on the east and west sides. The shields are quite clear but the break through the top east half of the stone damages the Calvert shield. Most of the fluting remains, but only bits of margins; no planes or fluting are discernible on the top, now almost flat. All edges and corners are chipped and all surfaces noticeably weathered. There are iron clamps and an iron band at the ground level, indicating repair at the time it was set in 1902. The top was bound with light wire at the time the site was surveyed (10/3/81), as a temporary measure to keep the stone intact; but it is urgently in need of **CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** correct repair and protection. (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of the 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 (first set 1902) ~~ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 115(119) 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 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 1766, and the original crownstone set the following year (the monument formally given <sup>in 1902</sup> to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia). The present <sup>of 1767</sup> crownstone <sup>from the vicinity of Clear Spring</sup> was brought <sup>as a replacement and first</sup> set at the redetermined original site in 1902, where it remains in good condition (although with a major crack through the top), unaltered. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 115(119) is <sup>also</sup> 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: Clear Spring (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), 1955 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000UTM reference: zone 18, easting 24664, northing 440089 (if correctly located  
on quadrangle)

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

10/3/81 (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

MASON EDITED 1953 LINE MILESTAGE REVISION  
1953 PHOTO REV. 1971  
(equipment changed to HULT 500 ft  
replaced from dual Clear Spring)

WA-II-215

3  
INTERIOR  
VIEW

**CLEAR SPRING QUADRANGLE**  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTO REV. 1971  
SCALE: 1" = 2000'  
1940 000 FEET (F.A.)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
5463 IV SW  
(MERCERSBURG)

248 249









