

ABSTRACT

WA-V-217

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 117(121)

1767 (reset 1902)

Indian Springs, Maryland vicinity

Public/public-private

Milestone No 117(121) marks Mason and Dixon's 117th 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, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone, is in excellent condition, is believed unaltered,

and

is firmly in place at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset in 1902 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 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, 117th Mile Stone

## AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 117 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 121)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET &amp; NUMBER off east side of A.T.&amp;T. Road, Mountain

## CITY, TOWN

Indian Springs  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
	X not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument; 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-217 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-V-217

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Milestone No. 117(121) marks Mason and Dixon's 117th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone, in excellent condition; is believed unaltered, and remains at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the next year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

Wildlife Management Area. ←

The area here is high in elevation (about 1800 feet), remote, mountainous, covered with dense deciduous forests. The land south of the boundary is part of the Maryland Indian Springs. The site is within Election District 15 of Washington County, MD, and Montgomery and Warren Townships of Franklin County, PA; on the south slope of Cross Mountain, about 2300 feet south-southwest of the fire tower (now abandoned), at a point roughly estimated as about 900 to 1500 feet east of A.T.&T. Road and about the same distance west of Rattle Run, on a rocky ledge, in a comparatively open part of the woods. The site cannot be seen from any road, but quite readily when closeby, all seasons, because of the unusual height of the monument. Because of the remoteness of site and limited public access to this area, the monument seems well protected.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and probably originally measuring about 12 inches square by about 4 or more 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 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. Because of the underlay of rock, this monument was presumably reset in 1902 much as it remains today; firm but slightly out-of-plumb (leaning to north) standing almost 3 feet high; and measures about 12 inches on the north and south sides, about 11 inches on the east and west sides. The letters and circle panels are clear, but the M is chipped; most fluting and margins remain, although there are chips along all edges and the top corners; and the top planes, fluting and apex remain. There is some question as to whether or not the letters and circle panels were recut, and whether the quadrangle location is correct. This will be verified in Phase II of the Mason-Dixon Line boundary marker project.

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

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

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 117(121) 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, <sup>milestone</sup> set the following year, and 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. 117(121) 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: Clear Spring (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), 1955 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000UTM reference: zone 18, easting 24331, northing 440101 (if quadrangle location  
is correct)

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

10/5/81 (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

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MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; WA-X-217 MILESTONE 117(121)



Photo:

(c.1948-50)

BARRY  
MR. DOUB ESON

HARVEY  
MR. AMBROSE

(who had been a member of the original 1700-03 Resurvey party from Pt. Mar to the NW corner of Maryland)

original B&W print in collection of Maryland Geological Survey

