

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-029

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 128(132)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 128(132) marks Mason and Dixon's 128th 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; is in deteriorated condition, unaltered; firmly in place, standing/^{only}about 8 inches above ground;/^{and}at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, 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 Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 of these 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

Survey No. WA-VI-029

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, 128th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON
 MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 128 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 132)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)
 STREET & NUMBER off east side of Reed Road

CITY, TOWN Hancock X VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6 / PA: 9
 STATE Maryland COUNTY MD: Washington / PA: Fulton

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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, 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-VI-029 entered 2/24/81 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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. 128(132) marks Mason and Dixon's 128th 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 deteriorated condition, unaltered, firmly in place, standing about 8 inches above ground, at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is very hilly, mostly forested, sparsely settled. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Bethel Township of Fulton County, PA; about midway between Cove Ridge on the east and Tonoloway Ridge to the west; about 1½ miles north-northwest of the town of Hancock, MD; about ¾ mile west of I-70; about 1100 feet east off a right-angle bend in Reed Road, about 200 feet west of a small stream, on an east slope of a hill, in the north edge of a hedgerow/wire fence separating a pasture on the south side from the old Columbia Gas pipeline/pasture on the north side. It/cannot be seen from any road, and only with luck when closeby. It is protected by this obscurity, but with continued neglect, may also disappear because of it.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, ^{said to have} originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4 feet or more long, cut to stand about 3 feet high 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 shallow plain circle panel near the top. Reset in 1902 presumably to stand about 1½ feet high, it is ^{now} only about 8 inches above ground, though still measures almost 12 inches square. It has been disfigured by ^{extreme weathering and} chipping: the whole north side has been broken away; the M is discernible but the entire ^{and the apex is now a depression} south side has been mutilated by chipping; the top is dome-shaped from chipping ^{along the top edges and corners;} and all surfaces are unusually weathered (and it may be in the flood plain). There are no margins left, and only bits of fluting on the south and west sides.

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

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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) ~~BUNDEZARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 128(132) 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 1766, the milestone 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. 128(132) 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 DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Hancock (West Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74005, northing 440048

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Fulton

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 5/30/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

DATE

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-III-029

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 128 (132)

HANCOCK QUADRANGLE

WEST VIRGINIA - MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC),
1951 PHOTO REV. 1971

SCALE: 1" = 2000'
NEEDMORE 7.2 MI.

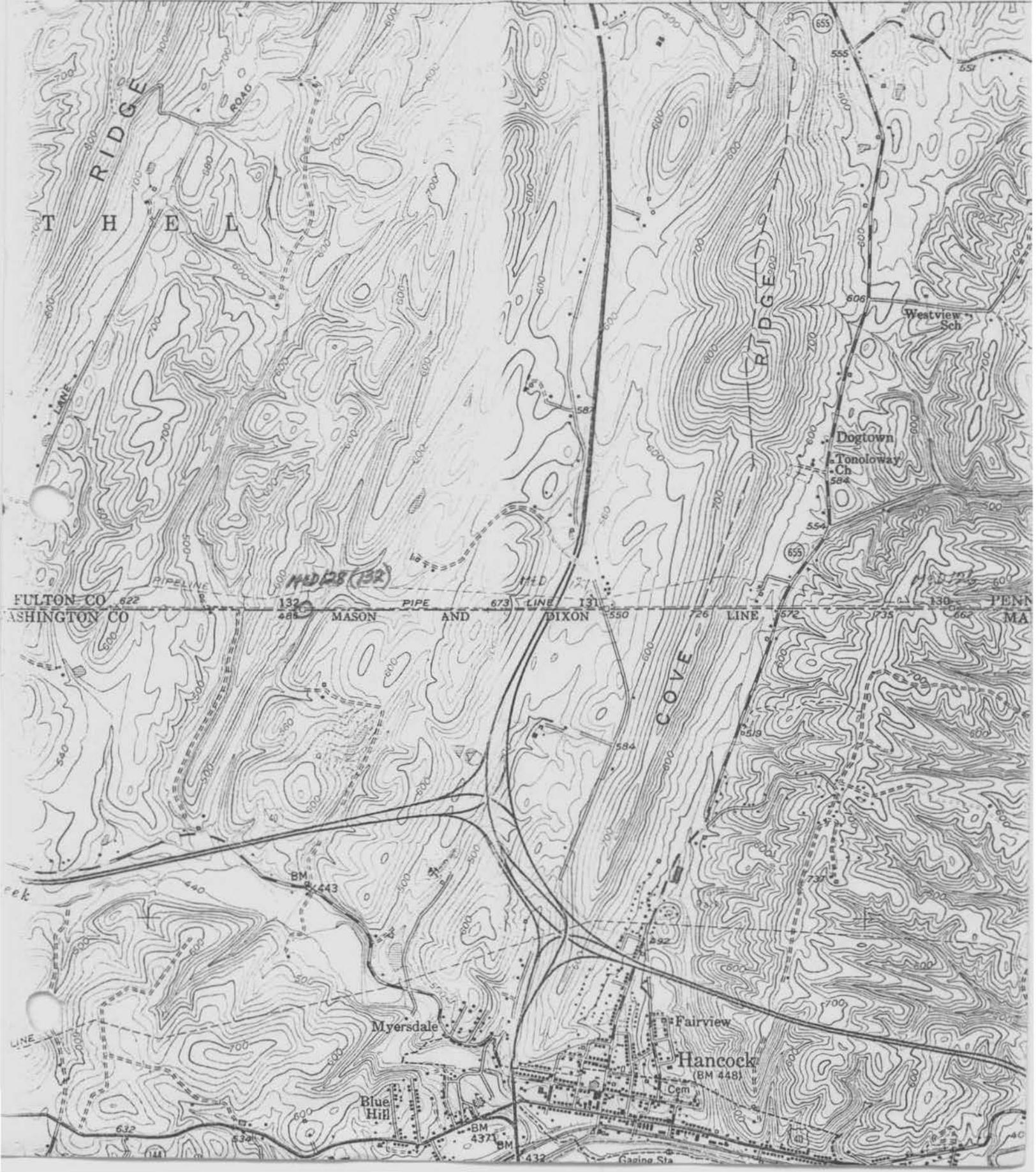


1 870 000 FEET
(PA.) 12'30"

5363 / SW
(NEEDMORE)

522 70 WARFORSBURG 5.2 MI

10' 743



FULTON CO
WASHINGTON CO

MASON PIPE AND DIXON LINE

PENN
MA

Myersdale

Fairview

Hancock
(BM 448)

Blue Hill

Cem

Gatine Sta



MHT

10A-VI-029

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 128 (132)
SW CORNER (-14), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/30/81 (1981.18.9)



MHT

WA-VI-029

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 128 (132)
NE CORNER (-/P), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/30/81 (1981.18.11)