

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-030

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 129(133)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 129(133) marks Mason and Dixon's 129th 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 fairly good condition, unaltered; is firmly set, standing about 6 inches above ground, 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 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.

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, 129th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 129 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 133)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER off the west side of Green Lane Road/T-306

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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-VI-030 entered 2/24/81

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

Survey No. WA-VI-030

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. 129(133) marks Mason and Dixon's 129th 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; is in fairly good condition, unaltered; stands about 6 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 the eastern slope of Tonoloway Ridge, much of which is covered with fruit orchards, and other farmed lands, with very few houses. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Bethel Township of Fulton County, PA; about 2½ miles northwest of the town of Hancock, MD; on the broad eastern slope of Tonoloway Ridge, about 28 feet west of Green Lane Road/T-306 which parallels the Ridge, in a grassy fringe separating two unfenced cultivated farm fields, and marked by a spate of signs and poles/^{closeby} (utility pole B.T.Co. No.66, its supporting pole, guy wire; Washington-Fulton county sign). ^{protected by these and its grassy camouflage,} it is/ and is accessible from the road all seasons, but not readily seen.

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, and 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 plain shallow circle panel near the top. Reset in 1902 to stand presumably about 1½ feet high, it now only stands about 6 inches above ground, though remains close to 12 inches square. As far as could be determined from seeing so little: the letters are clear but nicked and their circle panels visible but chipped and weathered; some fluting remains on all four sides, but no margins except on the south side; the top planes are discernible but no fluting ^{and there is a small hole in the apex,} remains, /all edges and top corners are chipped and the top is very weathered.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of 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"/> 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. 129(133) 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, milestone set in 1767, 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. 129(133) 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 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 73844, northing 440044

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

DATE

5/30/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & 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

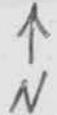
WA-VI-030

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 129

HANCOCK QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA - MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1951 PHOTO REVISION SCALE: 1" = 62,500 FEET
(PA.)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5363 IV SE
(AMARANTH)



78°15' 39°45' 450 000 FEET (MD.) 737 000m E 738 12'30"

4403000m N
150 000 FEET (PA.)

690 000 FEET (MD.)

4199
42'30"

SUMBERLAND 37 MI
BELLEGROVE 7.9 MI





129

MHT

WA-VI-030

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 129 (133), ORIGINAL (1767)
SW CORNER (-14)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/30/81 (1981.18.18)



129

MHT

WA -VI- a30

MASON & DIXON'S WESTLINE; MILESTONE 129 (133), ORIGINAL (1767)
NE CORNER (-/P)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 5/30/81 (1981.18.15)