

AL-I-A-073

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 152

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-11-2003

ABSTRACT

AL-IA-073

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(152)

Pratt, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

1766/1767 (area surveyed/marked
with cairn)

1767/1902 (crownstone/first set)

Milestone No. ---(152) marks a point on Mason and Dixon's West Line 146 miles and 52 chains "from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field," **or about 143.659 horizontal miles west** of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. The large mound of stones was erected around a wood post marked W on the west side in 1767; and the original crownstone of 1767 first set ^{in 1902} as a replacement of that post, long since gone. As with all original monuments along the West Line, the crownstone is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top and was quarried and carved in England. ^{Though firmly set and unaltered,} ~~it is in only fair condition from extreme~~ weathering, with only the Penn shield barely discernible, none of the Calvert shield recognizable, no fluting except for a bit on the west side remaining, and the top planes nearly flat from the cementing of a USC&GS triangulation station disk into the apex. It now measures about 11½ inches square and stands about 2 feet above the top of the mound, which measures about 15 feet in diameter by about 4 feet high in the center and is in excellent condition. On the national and state levels, No. ---(152) is significant primarily as among the 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments and 42½ mounds in the thematic series of some 248 markers still visually defining their West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 37 markers (including only 8 original monuments and 9 mounds) still defining the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, this crownstone and mound are also significant as among the diminishing number of objects and structures with an ^{readily} identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

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: Artemas (Maryland-Pennsylvania-West Virginia), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1950 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 71480, northing 439975

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY AlleganySTATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Bedford**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

9/20/81 (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

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
X 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		boundary surveying

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (mound of stones) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon
 1767 (crownstone, first set 1902) SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(152), an original crownstone of 1767 in the center of an original large mound of stones of 1767, is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of ¹³⁵ original monuments and ^{42 1/2} mounds of the series of ²⁴⁸ markers still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Preliminarily surveyed in 1766, the site was marked the following year by a wood post surrounded by a pile of stones, and ^{the survey point} permanently marked in 1902 by one of the original monuments presumably brought from the excess stones left in the vicinity of Clear Spring, MD, during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 37 markers ^{including only} (18 original monuments and 9 original mounds) along the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, No. ---(152) is also significant as among the diminishing number of objects and structures with a readily 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

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☒ EXCELLENT (mound)	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED (mon.)	☒ ORIGINAL SITE (mound)
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED (mound)	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☒ FAIR (monument)	☐ UNEXPOSED		☒ mon. added 1902.

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. ---(152) marks a point on Mason and Dixon's West Line 146 miles and 52 chains "from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field" or about 143.659 horizontal miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. The crownstone ^{of 1767} is "the most western of the old monuments now on the boundary" (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 94), and was added in 1902 to an original large mound of stones (part of a 1767 cairn erected by Mason and Dixon) during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. The crownstone is in fair condition, ^{measures about 11½ inches square by about 2 feet high above the mound, is} unaltered, and presumably from the excess monuments found by the Resurvey in the vicinity of Clear Spring, MD. The mound is original, at a site preliminarily surveyed in 1766 and marked the following year with a wood post, ^{surrounded by} and ^{a pile of} stones securing it in place. Slightly rebuilt at the time of the Resurvey, ^{in order to set the crownstone} it now measures roughly 15 feet in diameter by about 4 feet high in the center.

The area here is the very remote ^{narrow ridge and} summit of Ragged Mountain (elevation 1642 feet at the site), densely forested, and with only one ^{hunting} cabin. The site is within Election District 3 of Allegany County, MD, and Southampton Township of Bedford County, PA; about 2¼ miles northeast of the small scattered settlement of Pratt, MD; about 1600 feet west of Elbinsville Road/T-310; at a point about 360 feet west of an old ^{following the ridge} road ^{leading to the} old pipeline and about 15 feet south of the old pipeline, in the north edge of the deciduous forest. It cannot be seen from any road, nor easily from closeby, and seems protected by ^{obscurity and} this ^{remoteness}.

The crownstone, 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 probably 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. When in good condition, the distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides and the stylized shields of the Penn family coat of arms on the north side facing Pennsylvania and that of the Calverts on the south side facing Maryland, ^{both} near the top. This monument is very badly weathered; the Penn shield is discernible but not the Calvert's; no fluting or margins remain except for a bit of fluting on the west side; the top planes are nearly gone, and a USC&GS triangulation station disk has been cemented into the apex (RAGGED 1941); and there are chips in all top corners and along all edges. However: the mound remains in excellent condition and the crownstone firmly set.

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. AL-IA-073

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, (wood) Post and Pile of Stones
 marking 146 miles and 52 chains from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field
 AND/OR COMMON MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 152)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)
 STREET & NUMBER off the west side of Elbinsville Road/T-310, Ragged Mountain summit
 CITY, TOWN Pratt ☒ VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6 / PA: 9
 STATE Maryland COUNTY MD: Allegany / PA: Bedford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☒ PUBLIC	☐ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ BUILDING(S)	☐ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☒ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
	☒ not applicable	☐ NO	☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER: state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument and mound 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 Allegany County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE AL-IA-073 entered 6/2/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland 21401

2

ARTHYAS GUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA-W. VIRGINIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1950 PHOTO REV. 1974 SCALE: 1" = 2000

78°30'
39°45'

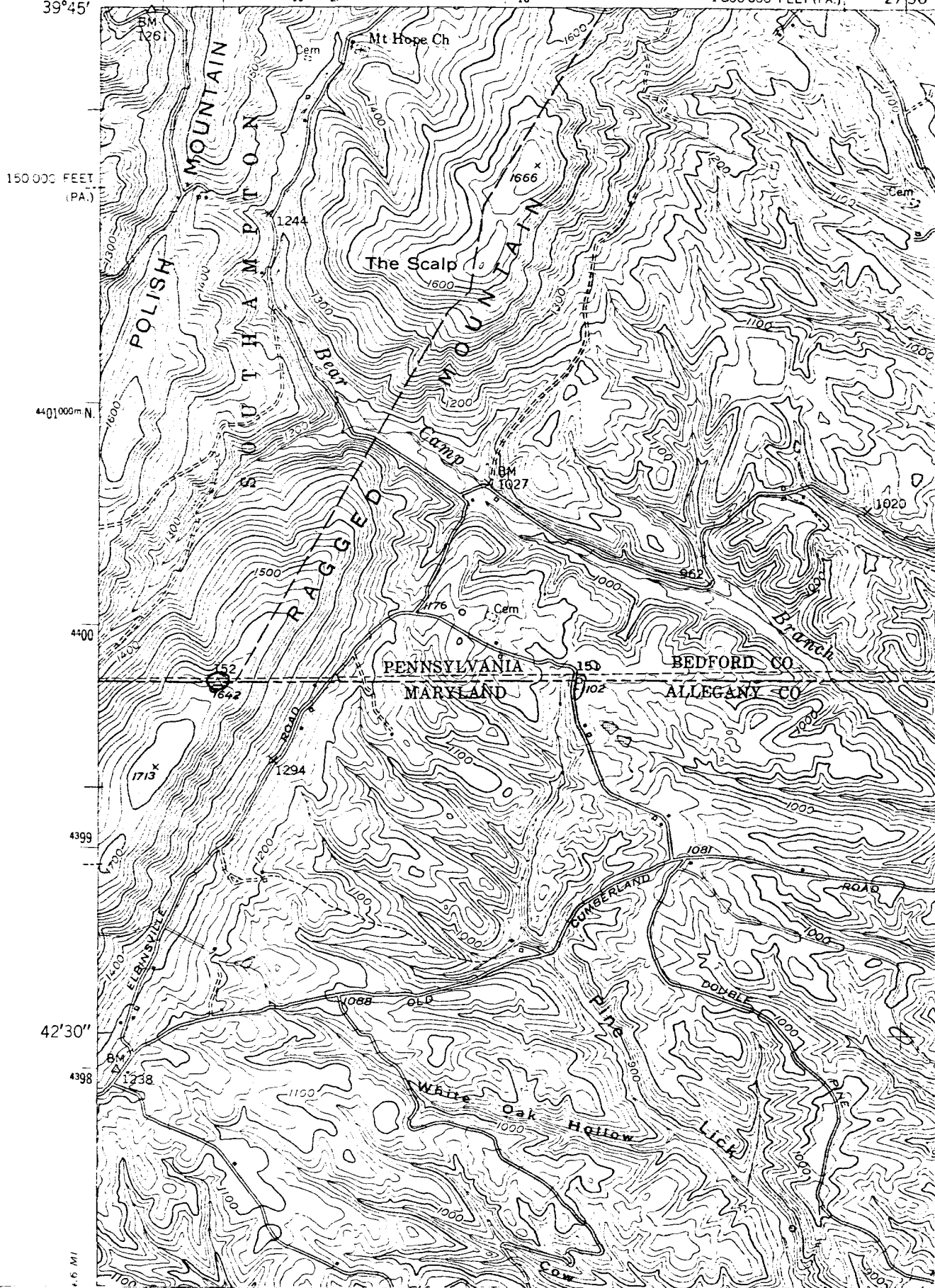
78°30'
39°45'

715000m.£

• 716

1 800 000 FEET (PA.);

27'30"





MAT

AL-IA-073

MAYON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE - (152)
ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767, FIRST SET 1902)

NE CORNER (—/PEND COAT OF ARMS)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 9/20/81 (1981.35.17)



MHT

AL-IA-073

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE - (152)
ORIGINAL CROWNSTONE (1767, FIRST SET 1962) IN
LARGE MED MOUND OF STONES (1767)

SW CORNER (- / CALVERT COAT OF ARMS)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 9/20/81 (1981.35.20)