

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: DELAWARE
 COUNTY: Kent, Sussex, & New Castle
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: 233 1 9 1975
 DATE:

1. NAME
 COMMON: Maryland-Delaware, Delaware-Pennsylvania boundaries and the "Post Marked West" site. Delaware, Pennsylvania
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Transpeninsular Line, Mason-Dixon Line, Tangent Line, The Arc, The 12-Mile Circle.

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: Not applicable state boundary lines between DE-MD/DE-PA
 CITY OR TOWN: Not applicable
 STATE: Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania
 CODE COUNTY: CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

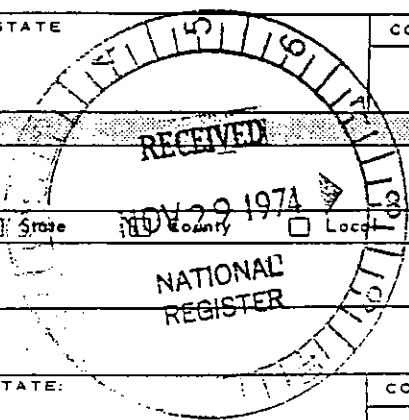
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: The States of Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania and the United States
 STREET AND NUMBER: Not applicable
 CITY OR TOWN: Not applicable
 STATE: Not applicable
 CODE: na

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Delaware Hall of Records, Maryland Hall of Records, etc.
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 STATE:
 CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Not applicable
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 STATE:
 CODE:

STATE: Delaware
 COUNTY: Kent, Sussex & New Castle
 ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 19 1975
 DATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Maryland-Delaware, Pennsylvania-Delaware, and Maryland-Pennsylvania boundaries have resulted from a complex series of events that included court cases, surveys, resurveys, and physical violence. The seeds of conflict were sown in 1631, when a Dutch settlement was established at Zwaanendael, the present site of Lewes. In the following year, Charles I issued the Maryland charter, granting to Lord Baltimore the land "hitherto uncultivated" between Virginia and the fortieth parallel. Although the British never recognized the validity of Dutch claims on the Delaware shore, it was later argued that the Dutch had "cultivated" the area before the Royal Charter was issued to Maryland. The Penn charter for Pennsylvania was similarly vague concerning the location of the fortieth parallel. At the same time he was granted Pennsylvania by the King, Penn received from the Duke of York (later James II), a charter for the town of New Castle and the land on the west shore of Delaware Bay; the Duke claimed these lands by right of conquest from the Dutch.

King Charles ordered Lord Baltimore to "make a true division and separation of the said provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania, according to the bounds and degrees of our said Letters Patents by setting a fixing certain Land Marks where they shall appear to border upon each other for the preventing and avoiding all doubts and controversies that may otherwise happen concerning the same" Since the wording of the charters was vague, and since the various charters contained geographical misconceptions, it was impossible to draw boundaries according to their provisions. Since the King could theoretically do no wrong, the courts were obliged to resolve the differences in accordance with the charters.

The two proprietary families finally reached an agreement in 1732, a century after the Maryland charter was granted. However, the map appended to this agreement contained the seeds for further controversy, since it identified the southern boundary of the Lower Counties as Cape Henlopen, but actually showed the Cape at Fenwick Island, 15 miles south of the actual location. In 1750, Maryland was ordered by the court to accept this line, and to draw her boundary with the Lower Counties along it. This transpeninsular line, drawn in 1751 and marked with monuments every five miles, was the first segment in the permanent boundary surveys. The definition of the middle point on this line was the subject of still more court debate.

Finally, in 1763, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, noted English astronomers, arrived to settle the dispute by mathematical means. They accepted the 1751 survey of the southern boundary of the Lower Counties, which had been marked by

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7. Description (continued)

crownstones every five miles and by a middle point marker. These crownstones bore the Penn and Calvert arms, and served as the model for Mason-Dixon survey markers at the five-mile points. In addition to the five-mile crownstones, Mason and Dixon placed on their line milestones marked with M and P.

The transpeninsular line today is marked by six monuments, exclusive of those at the middle point. The first monument, at Fenwick Island, stands on the grounds of the Fenwick Island Light House.

The north-south line between Maryland and Delaware begins from the middle point, where Mason and Dixon set their first crownstone, to a point where this line meets the twelve-mile circle around the town of New Castle. Since the point of tangency is somewhat south of the southern boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania, a wedge of disputed land was claimed by Pennsylvania until the present century. In 1849, the line from the point of tangency to the northeast corner of Maryland was resurveyed by Lt. Col. J. D. Graham, who set the present boundary stones along this portion of the line. There should now be 94 monuments along this line; 88 were still in place in 1950. The National Geodetic Survey is now resurveying and remonumenting the western and southern boundaries of Delaware.

The "Post Marked West" site, beginning of the line that became the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary, is now marked by a modern monument. The circle, or arc, line between Delaware and Pennsylvania is monumented by colonial markers as well.

The Maryland Board of Natural Resources Bulletin 4 (1951), contains the latest and most complete inventory of the markers along the Maryland portions of the colonial survey lines. A photocopy of the appropriate pages is attached.

For purposes of this registration, the boundary lines may be described as follows:

1. The southern boundary of Delaware, consisting of stones set every five miles, from Fenwick Island to the southwestern corner of the state, known as the "Middle Point", where three stones stand. This line is approximately 35 miles long, and is marked by six crownstones, exclusive of the three Middle Point stones.

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7. Description (second continuation)

2. The western boundary of Delaware, from the Middle Point to the Maryland-Pennsylvania border. The northern terminus of this line is a stone set by Colonel Graham, who monumented the line from the tangent stone northward to this point. Along this line there should, theoretically, be 94 monuments; 88 of these were found and photographed in 1950. Every five miles, this line is marked by crownstones, and every mile it is marked by simple M-P stones.

3. The northern boundary of Delaware, an arc of a twelve-mile circle measured from the spire of the Old Court House in New Castle. Along this line, stones survive at regular intervals. This is the only circular state boundary in America.

4. The "Post Marked West" site, in northwestern Delaware, the beginning point for the measurement of Pennsylvania's boundary with Maryland. This point has recently been marked by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

5. The west line, due west from the "Post Marked West", forming the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania and a very small portion of the boundary between Pennsylvania and Delaware.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon completed their boundary survey between the Penn and Calvert proprietaries, their report represented the most sophisticated mathematical work every accomplished on the North American continent to that date, 1768. The remarkable accuracy of their survey is testimony to the high development that had been reached by scientific instruments.

Politically, the boundary lines represent an important turning-point in the history of Delaware. Until the western boundary of the three lower counties (Delaware) was finally established, large tracts remained vacant for want of clear title. When the boundary was finally settled, the land in lower Delaware west of tidewater could be confidently developed.

Mason and Dixon's report, when it was accepted, resolved the long-standing conflict between the two proprietaries, and ended a court battle that had begun in 1682, with the issuance of William Penn's vague royal charter. Because both proprietors could construe their charters to include much of the same territory, both colonies claimed jurisdiction over Sussex County, Delaware, parts of the northern counties of Delaware, and the territory around the present Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The boundary markers survive today in a remarkably good state of preservation. Most of the original stones still are in place; at some points, they are preserved in public parks, but most can be found along hedgerows or in the woods. A very few of them have been mistreated, moved, or defaced. Others have been lost and replaced with newer markers. The historical societies of Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland have each preserved crownstones in their museums; these removed stones have been replaced with replicas.

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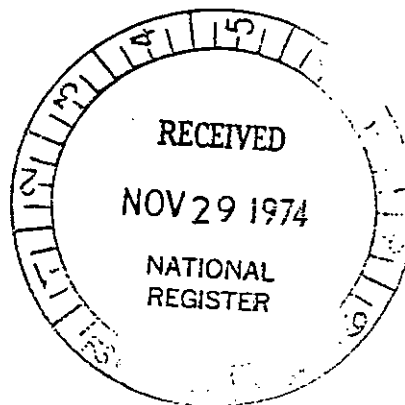
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8. Significance (continued)

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Mason-Dixon survey is its symbolic importance. Beginning at the "Post Marked West" in northwestern Delaware, the survey defines the southern boundary of Pennsylvania, a line that later became the symbolic division between slave and free states.

Even though the line is significant for historical, sentimental, and scientific aspects, it continues to serve a useful purpose as the boundary line for three states.

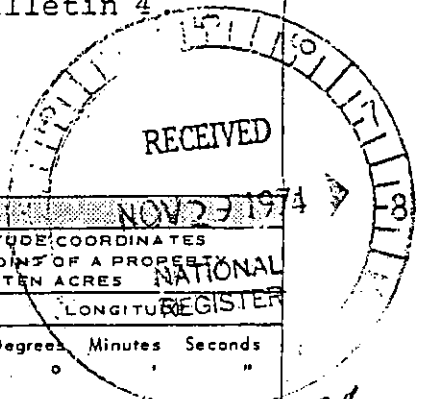


9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware ... Philadelphia: Richards, 1888.

State of Maryland, Board of Natural Resources. Bulletin 4
Annapolis, 1951.

Delaware Boundary Commission minutes, Hall of Records, Dover



SEE INSTRUCTIONS
M. UTM
HF

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: not applicable

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>Maryland</u>		<u>too numerous to mention</u>	
<u>Pennsylvania</u>		<u>too numerous to mention</u>	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Edward F. Heite, Historic Registrar

ORGANIZATION: Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs DATE: October 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: Dover STATE: Delaware CODE: 10

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Dr. Ronald M. Finch

Dr. Ronald M. Finch

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 11/25/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

W. R. Warkentin
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/18/75

ATTEST:
W. B. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-14-75

Form 10-200g
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE Delaware	
COUNTY	
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Boundary Lines, Description, coordinates

(In lieu of item 10, Geographical Data)

The following coordinates on the Delaware boundaries were determined by the Geological Survey in 1892. See their bulletin 817, second edition, 1930, page 126.

The tangent point, where the 12-mile circle intersects the east boundary of Maryland:

latitude $39^{\circ}38'56.95''$

longitude $75^{\circ}47'20.04''$

The northeast corner of Maryland, where the so-called Mason-Dixon Line (latitude $39^{\circ}43'19.91''$) intersects the north-south boundary between Maryland and Delaware in longitude $75^{\circ}47'20.03''$

The southeast corner of Pennsylvania, where the so-called Mason-Dixon Line (latitude $39^{\circ}43'19.91''$) intersects the 12-mile circle in longitude $75^{\circ}46'26.69''$.

The northeast corner of Delaware, on the east bank of Delaware River, where the states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey meet is:

latitude $39^{\circ}48'27.92''$

longitude $75^{\circ}25'31.53''$

The beginning point for the transpeninsular line is a stone on the grounds of the Fenwick Island Light House, a short distance from the Atlantic Ocean. According to the United States Coast Guard, this monument stands at:

latitude $38^{\circ}27'05''$

longitude $75^{\circ}03'20''$

At the southwest corner of Delaware stands the Middle Point marker, the beginning of the north-south line and the end of the transpeninsular boundary, halfway between the Delaware shore and Chesapeake Bay. The monument and its modern cover are maintained by the Delaware Department of Highways and Transportation. According to the Department, the location of the corner is:

latitude $38^{\circ}27'35.869''$

longitude $75^{\circ}41'38.456''$