

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia	
COUNTY: Monongalia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mason and Dixon Survey Terminal Point - Brown's Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Brown's Hill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On Brown's Hill on West Virginia-Pennsylvania state boundary

CITY OR TOWN:
2.25 miles northeast of Pentress, West Virginia (West Virginia Rt. 39)

STATE West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Monongalia	CODE 061
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Natural Gas Co.</u> <u>(Consolidated)</u>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Consolidated Gas Supply Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER:
445 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Clarksburg

STATE: West Virginia	CODE 26301
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Monongalia County West Virginia Court House
and Greene County Pennsylvania Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Morgantown
Waynesburg

STATE West Virginia	CODE 54
Pennsylvania	42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
U.S. Geological Survey, Osage Quadrangle, West Virginia-Pennsylvania

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
U.S. Geological Survey

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 terminal station established by Mason and Dixon on Brown's Hill on 19 October 1767 is described by Charles Mason as follows:
 "The Sector stood on the top of a very lofty Ridge, but when the Offset was made of 3 Chains 38 Links it fell a little Eastward of the top of the Hill; we therefore extended the true Parallel 3 Chains 80 Links Westward which fell on the top of said Ridge; there viz. at 233 miles 17 Chains 48 Links from the Post marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field, we set up a Post marked W on the West Side and heaped around it Earth and Stone three yards and a half diameter at the Bottom and five feet high. The figure nearly conical."

The mound was used as the starting point for the extension of the line to the southwest corner of Pennsylvania, five degrees in longitude west of Delaware Bay, following the Revolutionary War. This extension was accomplished by geodetic engineers from Virginia and Pennsylvania. In 1883, C. H. Sinclair, a geodesist with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, checked the border between the southwest corner of Pennsylvania and the northwest corner of Maryland and found that the center of the mound (probably an old post) was not more than 1.5 inches from the parallel of latitude through the southwest corner of Pennsylvania. He placed a red stone monument in the center of the old mound. On one side of the monument was inscribed the year of the survey (1883), and on the opposite side the distance to the southwest corner of Pennsylvania was given as 21 miles 769.1 feet. Over 200 years of eroding have removed most of the round of the mound, and the unfinished portion of the stone of 1883 is now in view.

The stone placed on Brown's Hill in 1883 in the mound of 1767 marks the westernmost point reached by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in delineating the common boundaries of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia (now West Virginia).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mason-Dixon Line was the most important boundary demarcation in Colonial America and is today the most celebrated boundary line in the United States. The survey determined the state boundaries between Pennsylvania-West Virginia, Pennsylvania-Maryland, Pennsylvania-Delaware, Delaware-Maryland, and effectively divided the Nation into North and South. The western terminus of the survey is an appropriate point to recognize the outstanding work of Mason and Dixon. Because of difficulties with Indians the survey was terminated on Brown's Hill rather than continuing to the present Southwest corner of Pennsylvania. This was to cause considerable difficulties in establishing the western boundary of Pennsylvania.

The monument marks the westernmost point reached by Mason and Dixon in their demarcation of the dominions of the Penns and the Calverts and the colony of Virginia (West Virginia).

The procedure employed in running the parallel of latitude, known as the "secant method," was delineated by the Reverend Nevil Maskelyne, fifth Astronomer Royal. The astronomical observations were based on star positions determined by a predecessor, the distinguished Dr. James Bradley, discoverer of the aberration of light. The excellence of the work herein considered is attested to by the fact that checks by modern methods reveal the determinations to be in close conformity, an ambient 2!3. This represents an outstanding example of 18th Century engineering.

The faithfulness and perseverance of the two geodesists when faced with extreme adversities such as sub-zero temperatures, rugged topography, and imminence of destruction by uncivilized natives, is an inspiration and incentive to which engineering and science may point with pride.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Report of the Joint Commission on the Boundary Line between Pennsylvania and West Virginia," Chas. H. Toney, State Printer, Wheeling, West Virginia, 1884.

"The Mason and Dixon Line," by H. M. Cummings, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1962.

"The Journal of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon Transcribed from the Original in the United States National Archives with an Introduction by A. Hughlett Mason," American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 43' 16".25"	80° 07' 05.80"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
West Virginia	54	Monongalia	061
Pennsylvania	42	Greene	059
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
E. L. Kemp, (Professor and Chairman, Department of Civil Engineering)

ORGANIZATION FOR THE: DATE
West Virginia Antiquities Commission September 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE
Morgantown West Virginia 26506 54

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Maurice Brooks
Maurice Brooks
Title State Liaison Officer

Date March 21, 1973

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Grant Brown's Hill

49031 SW
(OAK FOREST)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

80°07'30"
39°45'

KIRBY 4.2 MI.

976000 E

977

1 340 000 FEET (PA.) 978

WAYNESBURG 1
5/ KIRBY 4.

160 000 FEET
(PA.)

BRIDGE HILL
HILL
SOUTH TERN
HILL
MOUNTAIN
COP
4399000m N
UTM REFERENCE
17/512530/4399100



39° 43' 16.25" 4397

HUNDRED 21 MI.
FIFTY 7 MI.

42'30"

4395

1458

W W 1888

