NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   □ District □ Building □ Site □ Structure □ Object
   □ Public □ Private □ Private Residence □ Religious
   □ Park □ In Process □ Transportation □ Other (Specify)
   □ Public Acquisition □ Being Considered □ Natural Gas Co. (Consolidated)

   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
   COUNTY: Monongalia
   CODE: 061

4. 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
   STATE: West Virginia
   CODE: 54
   COUNTY: Monongalia
   CODE: 061

5. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: U.S. Geological Survey, Osage Quadrangle, West Virginia-Pennsylvania
   DATE OF SURVEY: 1958
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   U.S. Geological Survey
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN: Washington
   STATE: District of Columbia
   CODE: 11
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.
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).
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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Approximate Acreage of Nominated Property:

State: West Virginia
Code: 54
County: Monongalia
Code: 061

State: Pennsylvania
Code: 42
County: Greene
Code: 059

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

State: West Virginia
Code: 54
County: Monongalia
Code: 061

State: Pennsylvania
Code: 42
County: Greene
Code: 059

11. Form Prepared By:

E. L. Kemp, (Professor and Chairman, Department of Civil Engineering)

Organization for the West Virginia Antiquities Commission

Date: September 1972

Street and Number:

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

City or Town: Morgantown

State: West Virginia
Code: 26506

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: 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 Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date