

OLD MARKER FOUND

District Boundary Stone Lost
for Nearly Sixty Years.

LOCATED AT JONES' POINT

Imbedded in Sea Wall Near Light
Keeper's Home.

ENGINEERS MAKE DISCOVERY

Disintegration Has Completely Ob-
literated Inscriptions—Future
Preservation Is Planned.

After having been lost to sight for nearly sixty years, during which period its exact location has been the subject of more or less doubt and dispute, the southernmost boundary stone of the ten miles square comprising the original District of Columbia has just been found by the engineers engaged in improving the navigation of the Potomac river. The stone was erected at Jones point, on the Potomac, just below Alexandria, April 15, 1791, with considerable ceremony, in which several Masonic lodges, Daniel Carroll, Maj. Samuel Ellicott and Dr. David Stewart took part. It was the first of a total of forty similar stones placed on the four sides of the District to mark its boundaries within the states of Virginia and Maryland. Most of these markers are in a bad state of preservation, some of them having lost entirely all the original inscriptions. The Jones point stone, however, was the only one of the whereabouts of which there was any doubt. All the others were found where they belonged, but the marker at Jones

point, the senior of them all, up to a few days ago, had foiled the persistent efforts of all searchers.

Covered by Masonry.

It now transpires, however, that the long-missing stone is exactly where it was supposed to be—imbedded in the sea wall directly in front of the entrance to the house occupied by the keeper of the lighthouse at Jones point. The lighthouse at that point was built in 1855 and a few years later a sea wall was built around the base. The boundary stone happened to be on the line of that wall and in the economy of the time was used as part of the structure. The result was that it was completely covered by the masonry above and around it. Steps were placed in front of it to enable the lighthouse keeper to get down to the beach from his dwelling.

For a great many years the fact that the marker was within the wall was not generally known, but in 1884 the army engineers engaged in triangulation work in that vicinity found a mark on the wall which was supposed to indicate the location of the boundary stone. But no absolute verification of that belief was obtained until a few days ago, when the engineers engaged in filling in Battery Cove, nearby, with material dredged from the river channel, took down a section of the wall at the point indicated and found the long-lost stone.

About a Foot Square.

It was about two feet back from the face of the wall, which is built at the foot of a small hill, and about eighteen inches from the top of the wall. Like the other boundary stones, it is about one foot square and two feet high with pyramidal top. Being of soft sandstone it has become somewhat disintegrated, especially at the edges, through the ravages of time and the original inscriptions are completely obliterated. It has retained its general conformation, however, and is in fairly good condition. Col. Langfitt, the engineer officer in charge, has given orders that the stone shall not be disturbed, and has taken steps to secure its preservation intact. Inasmuch as the removed section of sea wall has to be replaced without injury to the historic marker, it has been decided to inclose the marker in a box of concrete with an opening in front for observation purposes, and another at the top for triangulation work in making of surveys.

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