

Boundary
**Old Stones
Mark D.C.
Boundaries**

By Sara E. Hansard
Washington Post Staff Writer

Behind a century-old, deserted lighthouse at Jones Point, Alexandria, a decaying, moss-covered stone rests in a niche in the seawall. On it a few letters are barely discernible.

What they spelled clearly when the stone was placed there on April 15, 1701, was "Jurisdiction of the United States" on one side, and "Virginia" on the other, for it marked the dividing line between the District of Columbia and the state.

Authorized by Congress at George Washington's request, 40 such sandstone markers were placed at one-mile intervals around the 10-mile square that comprised the capital in 1791 and 1792. Today, with one stone missing, 26 of them still mark the dividing line between the city and Maryland. The land on the southern side of the river was ceded back to Virginia in 1846, and now constitutes all of Arlington County and most of Alexandria.

The first of the stones was set in place at Jones Point, the southern corner of the old city, by local dignitaries amid a Mason-sponsored parade and other ceremonies.

Maj. Andrew Ellicott, who surveyed the capital's boundaries and whose fa-

ther founded Ellicott City, Md., headed northwest from Alexandria with a crew to set the other 39 stones. They had been floated up the river by barge from a quarry below Alexandria, and then dragged by horses or mules through the woods.

Illustrative of the fate of many of the other stones, the Jones Point marker was covered by a seawall built in 1881 to protect the lighthouse erected a few years earlier.

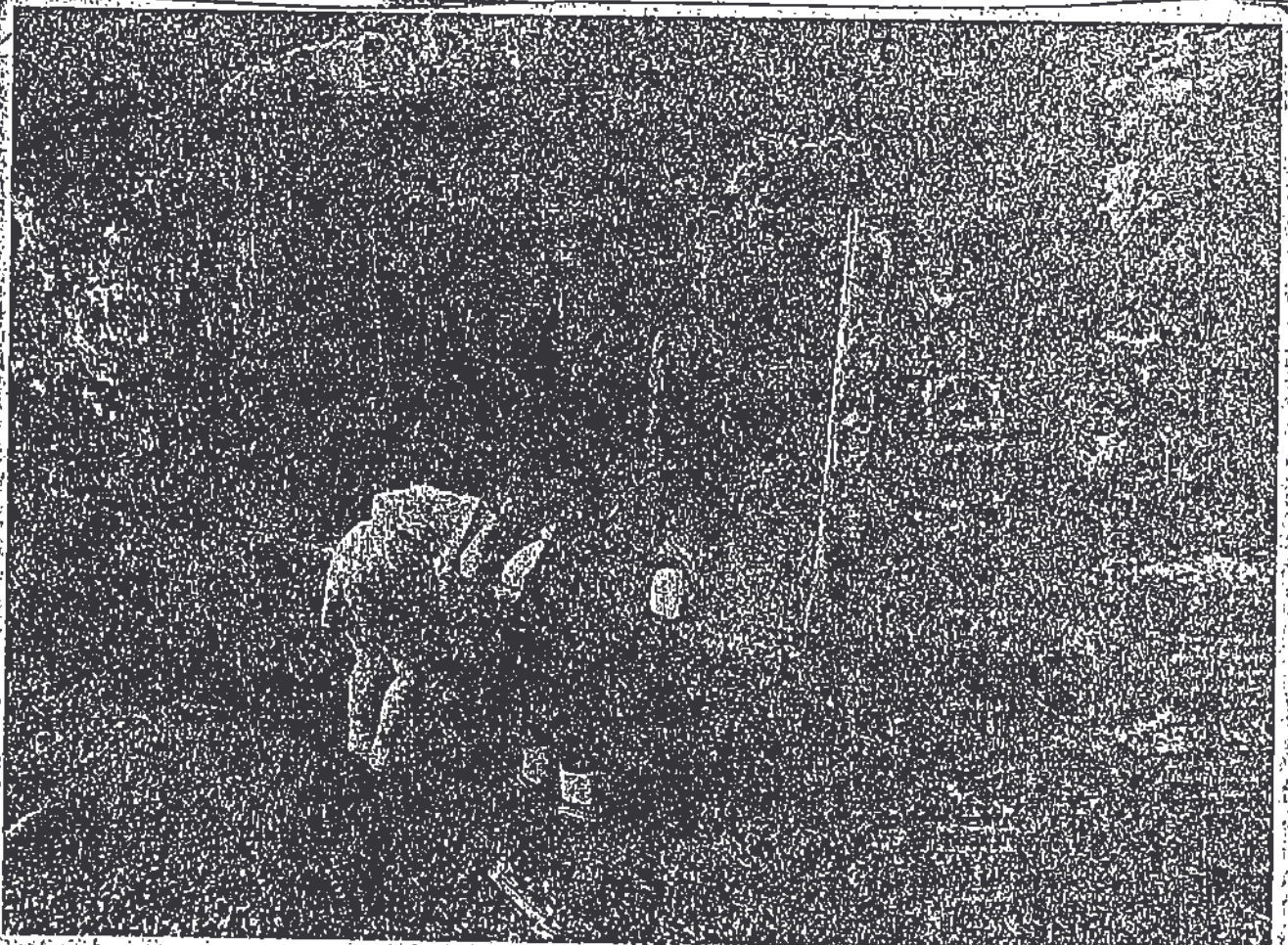
In 1912, Fred E. Woodward, the brother of the de-

partment store owner, persuaded the U.S. Corps of Engineers to carve the niche in the wall so the historic stone would be visible.

Woodward also interested the Daughters of the American Revolution in the stones and the DAR has acted as

their custodian ever since, helped by the National Capital Parks Service, which had maintained the stones marking the line between D.C. and Maryland, and by the National Capital Planning Commission.

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Youngsters find it's not easy to read the inscription on the boundary marker at Jones Point, in Alexandria.

By James A. Parcell—The Washington Post

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26 Stones Carved in 1791 Mark District's Boundaries

BOUNDARIES, From B1

The American Society of Civil Engineers is working to preserve the stones and the District of Columbia's Bicentennial Office is involved in a project to refurbish one of the stones in honor of Benjamin Banneker, a free black man who assisted Ellicott's survey in 1791.

Nine of the stones are now on private lawns and one thing Martin J. Rody, director of special projects for the National Capital Planning Commission, would like resolved is exactly who owns the stones.

"Most of the ones on private property are better cared for, since not as many people can get to them," he said.

A voluminous report on the history and condition of each stone prepared by the commission suggests the U.S. government buy all the properties on which the stones lie. Property surrounding the West stone was bought by Fairfax Arlington and Falls Church all of whose boundaries it marks and is now Boundary Park.

One of the property owners with a marker in her front yard, Adeline Giovanetti, of 4345 Southern Ave., says she would like to sell her home to a history-conscious buyer. The stone, with an iron picket fence, the DAR had put around most of the stones in 1917, has flowers and other shrubs planted around it.

After living in the house

for 30 years, Mrs. Giovanetti says she likes having the marker in her lawn, although "A lot of people think it's a gravestone."

"The house is too big for me now and I would like to sell it, but I want to sell it to the right people," she said, mentioning the DAR as a possible candidate.

Many of the stones are hard to find, set in woods or partly buried, although some people have found them all. The commission's report mentions two, Marcus Backer, who hiked the entire 40 miles in three summers around 1897, and Woodward, who took two summers in 1906-7 to do it. The commission staff found them all last year, and an Alexandria man, Kenneth D. Lawrence, was credited with completing the trip in 1949.

The stone one mile northeast of the South stone, called the Fox Ferry stone, has spent much of its life in the river. The report says it has since been moved to higher ground.

One mile northwest of the South corner marker, children play around the fenced-in stone at the corner of Wilkes and S. Payne Streets in Alexandria. This stone remains legible and is in good condition.

Other stones have not survived unscathed. Eloise Jenkins, who has been in charge of the stones for the DAR, said, "The other day someone called me about the one at South Capital Street and Southern Avenue. It's been knocked over by a car. It'll take \$400 or \$500 to restore it."

She said she didn't know whether the DAR would donate the money.

The stone that is in the best condition, she said, is at 901 Southern Ave. in the neatly trimmed front yard of the Henry B. Gilpin Co. The wholesale drug company has erected a plaque nearby which tells the stone's history.

The boundary markers are located at the following sites:

South Stones: Jones Point lighthouse; S. Payne and Wilkes Streets, Alexandria; East side of Russell Road near King Street, Alexandria; parking lot, First Baptist Church of Alexandria; Wakefield and Kings Streets, Alexandria; 100 feet east of Route 7 on Walter Reed Drive; median of Jefferson Street, 300 feet south of Columbia Pike; 20 feet east of path leading to athletic field from Carlyle Spring Road and Old Street; edge of parking area, 100 feet from water tower, behind apartment building at John Marshall and Wilson Boulevards; park at 14th and Van Buren Streets.

West Stones: West side of Meridian Street, 200 feet south of West Street, Falls Church; backyard of 3407 Powhatan Street; sidewalk of 5278 Old Dominion Drive; backyard of 3013 Tazewell Street; Fairfax; behind director's residence, 100 feet from B and O Railroad Georgetown spur in Dalecarlia military reservation.

One quarter mile southwest of Westmoreland Circle; Western Avenue and Fessenden Street, NW; 5400 Western Ave.; 50 yards into Rock Creek Park; down path from Western and Oregon Avenues.

North Stones: 20 feet south of East-West Highway, one-tenth mile west of 16th Street, NW; 100 feet north of Carroll Avenue on the west side of Maple Avenue; Takoma Park; Eastern and New Hampshire Avenues; Eastern Avenue and Sargent Road; 4609 Eastern Ave., NE; 3501 Eastern Avenue and 34th Street, NW; along fence between Fort Lincoln Cemetery and Fort Lincoln; new town, 100 feet south of equipment storage building; 700 yards northwest of intersection of Eastern and Kanilworth Avenues; 919 Eastern Ave.

East Stones: 50 yards southeast of intersection of Eastern and Southern Avenues; East end of D Street, 100 yards beyond 5th Street, SE; 245 Southern Ave.; 3908 Southern Ave.; Naylor Road and the district line; 400 yards southwest into woods across Oxon Hill Run from Mississippi and Southern Avenues; 901 Southern Ave.; South Capitol and Southern Avenue.

Three boundary stones are missing.