

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR Listed: 8/21/1990
NRHP Listed: 2/1/1991

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Cornerstone

other names/site number West, Jurisdiction Stone

DHR File 00-22

2. Location

street & number West side Meridian St., south of Williamsburg Blvd. N/A not for publication

city, town Falls Church N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Arlington code 013 zip code 22213

Fairfax County (059); Falls Church City (610)

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Boundary Markers of the Original District of Columbia

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Debra C. Walker
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

19 Dec 1990

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: boundary marker

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: boundary marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

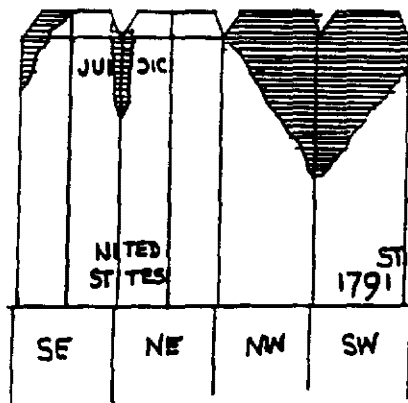
other Stone: sandstone

Metal: iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

WEST CORNERSTONE MARKER

Visible Parts of Inscription



sections of marker missing

The historical physical appearance is delineated in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Boundary Markers of the Original District of Columbia in Section F, Item II, Description.

Located 120' from the west side of Meridian Street, 200' south of Williamsburg Boulevard and ten miles northwest of Jones Point, the West Cornerstone Marker of Aquia sandstone is in one of the most attractive settings of all the boundary stones. A visible example of what can be accomplished when local jurisdictions cooperate on a restoration project, this lovely miniature

park was purchased jointly in 1956 by the city of Falls Church, Arlington County and Fairfax County. Surrounded by a wooden rail fence in a residential neighborhood with a walkway from Meridian Street and white bricks set in the ground to mark the southwest and northwest boundary lines, the stone is worn on the northwest and southwest sides from 23" down to 13" above the ground. Unlike the North and East Cornerstones, the West Cornerstone is unique because of its size and its horizontal inscriptions. On top it has grooves indicating that the center of the stone is the corner of the District of Columbia. A 7' X 8 1/2' rectangular iron fence painted brown is in excellent condition, the result of a 1989 rededication of the marker by Falls Church Chapter, VADAR.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Community Planning and Development
Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1791-1940

Significant Dates
1791

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The significance of the Boundary Markers as a group is stated in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Boundary Markers of the original District of Columbia, Section F, Item III, Significance. The justification of criteria and areas and periods of significance are stated in the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Boundary Markers of the original District of Columbia, Section E, Statement of Historic Contexts.

The West Cornerstone marker is significant because it marked the West corner of the District of Columbia, ten miles from the South Cornerstone at Jones Point. It is the second cornerstone located in Virginia.

It is, however, actually 10 miles and 230.6 feet from the South Cornerstone.

In the 1894-97² and 1906³ surveys, it was badly broken, but the pieces were lying together.

The marker is only two feet high, the size of the intermediate stones, not three feet high as the north and east cornerstones are. The cornerstones were supposed to have been marked "Jurisdiction of the United States" vertically on one side, in contrast to the intermediate stones where the "Jurisdiction of the United States" runs horizontally on one side of the stone.⁴ The stone lettering on the West Cornerstone is different, with the words "Jurisdiction of the United States" being carved horizontally around two sides of the stone. This is the only stone so marked. Now worn away, on two of its bevelled edges at the top, the "West Corner" was engraved, also unlike any of the other stones. Southeast #3 is a three foot stone, the size the East and North cornerstones are and the size that all the cornerstones were supposed to have been. It therefore appears that the present day West Cornerstone and the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 18 311570 4306900
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is that boundary stone in its small fenced area approximately 7' x 8½'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the stone and its fence.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara A. Hynak, Chairman, District V Boundary Markers Committee
 organization Virginia Daughters of the American * date July 9, 1990 *Revolution
 street & number 812 S. Courthouse Road telephone (703) 553-0065
 city or town Arlington state Virginia zip code 22204

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

West Cornerstone

The fence holds two bronze plaques. The first plaque reads: PERMISSION TO MARK/ GRANTED BY/ V.S.S. D.A.R./ VA. STATE SOCIETY 1952. The second plaque reads: ORIGINAL WEST CORNERSTONE/ DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1791-1792/ DEDICATION 1952/ REDEDICATION 1989/ FALLS CHURCH CHAPTER, NSDAR. The property is owned by the public; Arlington County owns 8,001 sq. ft.; Fairfax County owns 2,048 sq. ft.; and the city of Falls Church owns 1,800 sq. ft.. This stone was surveyed in October 1989 by Mrs. Lennart A. Gunnarson, Falls Church Chapter, VADAR, which assumed stewardship responsibility as permitted by the VADAR.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

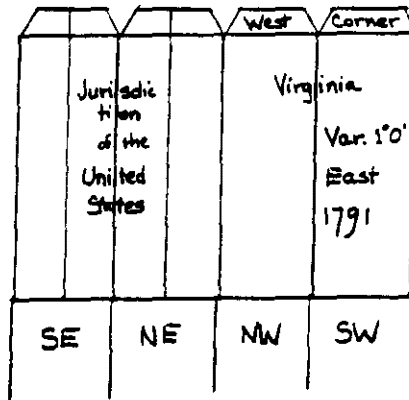
Section number 8 Page 1

West Cornerstone

Southeast #3 stone were mixed up in 1791. This would also account for the fact of the two-sided horizontal writing, as the smaller size stone used as the West Cornerstone couldn't accommodate the vertical writing that was to have been carved on the cornerstones.

The marker has grooves on the top, indicating that the center of the stone is the corner of the District of Columbia.

The following represents what the original markings were on the stone, this being different from any of the other stones:⁵



Criteria Consideration B is applied because the marker has been relocated. It is exceptional, however, because it is an integral component of this important group of rare surviving resources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 West Cornerstone

ENDNOTES

1. Fred E. Woodward, "A Ramble Along the Boundary Stones of the District of Columbia with A Camera," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 10 (1907): 63.
2. Marcus Baker, "The Boundary Monuments of the District of Columbia," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 1 (1897): 221.
3. Fred E. Woodward, "With A Camera Over The Old District Boundary Lines," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 11 (1908): 11-12.
4. Fred E. Woodward, "A Ramble Along the Boundary Stones of the District of Columbia with A Camera," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 10 (1907): 64.
5. Mark J. Terman, "The 'Jurisdiction Stones' and Cornerstone Park," Manuscript on file in Virginia Collection, Falls Church Public Library, (1972).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

West Cornerstone of the Original District of Columbia

Section number * Page 1
*Photographs

The following information is the same for all the photographs listed:

West Cornerstone of the Original District of Columbia
Arlington County, Virginia
Fairfax County, Virginia
Falls Church city, Virginia
Rufus W. Shivers
1989
Negative filed at VA State Library, Richmond, VA

1. View of stone and fence enclosure facing southeast
Negative No.
File No. 00-22
Photo 1 of 3

2. View of stone in closeup facing northwest
Negative No.
File No. 00-22
Photo 2 of 3

3. View of stone, fence enclosure and stones marking boundary
line facing northwest
Negative No.
File No. 00-22
Photo 3 of 3