



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 96th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 125

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1979

No. 165

Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1979

By Mr. MATHIAS:

S. 2038. A bill to preserve, protect, and maintain the original boundary stones of the Nation's Capital; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

NATIONAL CAPITAL BOUNDARY STONES ACT

● Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, the question of a permanent site for the national seat of Government was debated by Congress from 1783 until 1791. In that year, President Washington signed into law an amendment to the Residence Act of 1790 expanding the site of the Nation's Capital to include the eastern shore of the eastern branch of the Anacostia River and including the Port of Alexandria, Va.

The site of our Nation's Capital was, thus, finally determined—a 100-square mile district, with boundary lines 10 miles on each of its four sides.

Perhaps because they feared the decision on a permanent site would somehow be abrogated, President Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson wasted no time in engaging a surveyor as well as private individuals to begin quietly purchasing property on behalf of the Government.

To survey and mark the boundaries of the new District of Columbia, Mr. Jefferson immediately commissioned Maj. Andrew Ellicott of Philadelphia.

Ellicott was a well-known surveyor possessing some of the most advanced surveying instruments in the United States at that time. Most of those instruments are now housed in the Smithsonian Institution.

Ellicott accepted the commission and quickly began looking for an assistant to make the astronomical observations upon which the survey lines and markers would be based. He turned to Benjamin Banneker, a free black man who was a friend and neighbor of his cousin in Ellicott Mills, Md.

Banneker, a self-taught astronomer, was over 60 at the time. He readily agreed to make the astronomical observations for the south corner stone while Ellicott and field crews did the actual surveying. Between February and April of 1791, Banneker made observations and mathematical calculations upon which the first stone marker was placed at Jones Point on the Potomac River in Alexandria, Va. Ill health forced him to return home in April.

Ellicott completed the survey and setting of markers—40 in all—by January 1793.

The 39-year-old surveyor described the marker stones, which were of sandstone quarried at Acquia, Va., as follows:

Lines are opened and cleared forty feet wide that is twenty feet on each side of the lines limiting the Territory, and in order to perpetuate the work I have set up square mile stones marked progressively with the number of miles from the beginning on Jones' Point to the West corner thence from the West corner to the North corner to the East corner and from thence to the place of beginning on Jones' Point; except in a few cases where the miles terminated on declivities or in waters; the stones are then placed on the first firm ground, and their true distances in miles and poles marked on them. On the sides of the stones facing the Territory is inscribed, "Jurisdiction of the United States." On the opposite side of those placed in the commonwealth of Virginia is inscribed "Virginia." And on those in the State of Maryland, "Maryland." On the third and fourth sides, or faces, inscribed the year in which the stone was set up, and the conditions of the Magnetic Needle at that place.

Those sandstone markers are now 186 years old. They have fallen on hard times with no one really charged with their maintenance and upkeep. Yet they are important testimonials to the history of the founding of the Nation's Capital, the work of Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker and the history of early surveying and civil engineering in the United States.

The stones are category II landmarks designated by the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the Nation's Capital. This local designation means they should be preserved or restored, if possible. They are not, however, on the National Register of Historic Places although I understand the State historic preservation officers of the District of Columbia and Virginia are prepared to nominate them to the register.

In 1914, a committee of the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution set about reclaiming the boundary markers. Over the course of the following 3 years, members of the DAR once again located the stones, secured "deeds" from affected property owners to place a fence, installed protective iron fences around them, marked them with a bronze plaque, and assigned continued maintenance responsibility for each stone to one of its chapters.

Were it not for this pioneering preservation effort by the Daughters of the American Revolution, it is very likely the boundary stones of the Nation's Capital would not have survived to today. But development, traffic, remote locations, and vandalism have all taken their toll. The DAR, while as committed as ever to continuing its stewardship role, can no longer assume the financial and personal burden necessary to assure the maintenance of these stones.

Thanks to the efforts of the National Capital section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, in cooperation with the DAR, and the National Capital Planning Commission, a conditions report was prepared on the stone markers as a bi-centennial project.

That report titled, "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital: A Proposal for Their Preservation and Protection" is a careful history of the survey of the District of Columbia and the current status of the markers.

There are several stones overgrown with weeds; a few are missing; some have been relocated; some badly weathered. Yet others are well cared for by concerned citizens.

There is a clear need to fix responsibility for the stones and their protection and maintenance. It is with this purpose in mind that I am introducing legislation today that assigns responsibility for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones to the National Park Service. Such continuing maintenance needs are to be identified by the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution and reported directly to the National Park Service Director for appropriate action. This arrangement, I believe, will continue the DAR's stewardship of those important historic markers and assure their continued maintenance.

A rough estimate of costs for surveying the stones, preparing a conditions report, and preparing a relocation, replacement and marker plan is \$40,000 according to the National Capital section of the Society of Civil Engineers. They estimate

that capital costs to replace protective fences, replace DAR markers, clean and protectively coat the stones against weathering, and trim the immediate area around those stones now neglected is \$200,000. Once these initial costs have been borne, annual upkeep should be about \$20,000.

The second purpose of my bill is to assure recognition for the two original surveyors of the Nation's Capital, and the history of their survey, its instruments and techniques. As I noted earlier, many of Andrew Ellicott's surveying instruments are held by the Smithsonian Institution. My bill directs the National Park Service in coordination with the Smithsonian to develop such a display, which I hope would be in one of the Smithsonian museums.

Mr. President, too often we find ourselves mourning the loss of some significant historical feature of our Nation. The boundary markers of the Nation's Capital are such endangered monuments of the history of the Federal City. Despite rather overwhelming odds these markers have survived 186 years. With just a little bit of care, they can be assured of preservation for decades to come.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that several letters supporting the purposes of this legislation, together with the text of the bill, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill and material were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2038

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "National Capital Boundary Stones Act."

Sec. 2. (a) Congress finds that because of the deteriorating condition and neglect of the forty original boundary stones delimiting the ten mile square first set aside by the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia as the "seat of government of the United States", there is a need to provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of such stones.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) assign responsibility for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones;

(2) assure perpetuity of these important historic boundary stones for future generations of Americans to view and enjoy;

(3) provide an adequate mechanism for ensuring that the boundary stones are protected and maintained; and

(4) to make available to the public information, data, and items involving or pertaining to the history of the original survey of the Nation's Capital, including the surveyors, and the instruments and techniques used in connection therewith.

Sec. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall have the responsibility for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones referred to in section 2 of this Act.

(b) Within the twelve month period following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Park Service shall prepare and submit to the Secretary for his approval a program for preserving, protecting, and maintaining such boundary stones. Such program shall include—

(1) a location and condition survey of each corner stone and boundary stone, conducted in consultation with the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution, which shall be referenced to the appropriate State Plane Grid Coordinate System with appropriate ties to property lines and which shall provide for the results to be shown on plats of survey in such form as may

be suitable for recording purposes;

(2) with respect to each boundary stone located at each of the four cardinal points of the compass at the corners of the ten mile square delineating the original site of the Nation's Capital a plan for preserving, protecting, and maintaining such corner stones;

(3) with respect to each of the other boundary stones, a plan to preserve, protect, and maintain each such boundary stone;

(4) a relocation, replacement, and marker plan for those boundary stones which have been moved or which are missing or which cannot be placed in the original location;

(5) alternative plans for the long-term care, protection, and maintenance of the boundary stones which may include agreements among private individuals, the Federal Government, local governments of areas within the State of Maryland or the Commonwealth of Virginia within which such boundary stones are located, and the governments of the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia;

(6) a schedule and financial plan for providing such preservation, protection, and maintenance of such boundary stones; and
(7) in coordination with the Smithsonian Institution, a plan setting forth a display on the history of the survey of the District of Columbia conducted during the years 1791 and 1792, the original surveyors, the instruments and techniques used by such surveyors in conducting the survey of the District of Columbia, and surveying methods and techniques currently in use.

(c) Within the twenty-four month period following the date of the approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the program pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service, shall, in consultation with the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution, implement such program and provide for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of such boundary stones.

Sec. 4. In carrying out the program approved pursuant to section 3 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire, by donation, purchase with appropriated or donated funds, exchange, or condemnation, such lands and interests therein (including easements), together with improvements thereon, as may be necessary to carry out such program.

Sec. 5. Whoever willfully damages or removes any boundary stone referred to in this Act shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

Sec. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D.C.

MR. CHARLES CONRAD,
Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CONRAD: We are pleased to comment on the revised publication entitled, "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital" a proposal for their preservation and protection prepared by the staff of the Commission. We applaud the document and look forward to your continued leadership in assuring that these historic properties receive appropriate preservation.

The National Park Service strongly supports the preservation of the stones for their historical value to the Nation's Capital. We believe that this office, with the necessary legislative authority, could assume this responsibility and provide for the continued preservation and interpretation of the stones subject to appropriated funds.

We are pleased to offer the following comments on the recommendations in order form.

1. We concur with the concept that the stones should be in the ownership of the U.S. Government. However, some of the stones are located within private residential homesites. Thus, we do not agree that access for public viewing of the stones should be a mandatory requirement. Possibly easement for maintenance may be in order in these cases.

2. We support the recommendation of placing the stones on the National Register of Historic Places.

3. We feel that a special Office of the Keeper of the Boundary Stones is not necessary. However, we recommend that the responsibility for the care of the stones be clearly identified through the legislative process. The National Capital Region could assume this responsibility pursuant to legislation. We would be happy to work with the staff of the Commission on a legislative proposal.

4. Additional lands must be identified and funds appropriated in order to implement the recommendation that four Cornerstone Parks be created. Presumably, these parks would be contained in the legislative proposal.

5. The subject of the future use of the lighthouse at Jones Point should be left open for future planning discussion between National Capital Planning Commission and the National Park Service.

6. We concur in this recommendation.

7. We concur in this recommendation.

8. We concur in this recommendation.

9. We concur in this recommendation.

10. We concur in this recommendation.

The National Park Service looks forward to working with you and your staff on this project.

Sincerely yours,

JACK FISH,
Regional Director,
National Capital Region.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D.C., August 15, 1977.

MR. MARTIN J. RODY,
Assistant Director, Special Projects Branch,
National Capital Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. RODY: Although I had reviewed the attractively produced Boundary Stone Report some time ago, I failed to submit my comments before departure on extended absence outside the country. I am including them herewith in the event that they are still of interest.

The boundary stones and mile markers of the ten-mile square should become the property of the U.S. Government and placed under the care of an appropriate agency, such as the U.S. Park Service. The agency responsible for them should also be able to physically care for the stones with its own staff. It probably would be necessary to have an appropriate agreement with the District of Columbia, and the states of Maryland and Virginia before transfer to the U.S. Government can be achieved. Such a plan would completely eliminate any role in the project for the Daughters of the American Revolution.

It will be necessary to distinguish between care of or ownership of the stones themselves, and that of the land on which they are. Therefore, a first step will be to review the history of the land on which the stones are found, particularly that which is now private property. If indeed the stones are located precisely on, or by today's survey near, the boundary line between D.C. and the two states, the problem may be complex. Thus, it may be desirable to treat stones on public versus private property separately.

STONES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

These stones, which include at least 23 of the total of 40 stones and a small portion of the land on which they are situated, should become the property of an appropriate U.S. agency. The land involved might be as small as three feet square.

Wherever possible and practical, the stones should be restored. Where the stone has deteriorated beyond recognition it should be replaced with a replica. A protective barrier, similar to those erected by the DAR earlier in this century, would be appropriate, together with a label at each site describing the stone and its significance. As feasible, each of the markers should be returned to its original site, or as close to the actual location as possible.

STONE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Although it may not be difficult to obtain U.S. government control of the physical stones, it is not clear at this time whether control of a small parcel of land on which the stones are situated could ever become the property of the U.S. government. The stones themselves should be restored or replaced as noted for those on public property.

It may be necessary to develop individual agreements with each of the owners of private property concerning the erection of erecting a protective barrier and concerning access.

It would be eminently desirable to establish a park at one of the four corners of the original ten-mile square. One would be adequate. The south stone site at the Jones Point lighthouse seems to be the most desirable location because of its prime role as the starting point of the survey and the site of Andrew Ellicott's base camp during the first phase of the boundary survey. Additionally, this site is already a park, on ground set aside for this purpose, and furthermore has a lighthouse structure of local and historical interest.

However, the South stone should be moved back from the water's edge to a safer location, with a replica on the actual site. Attractive outdoor displays could easily be erected to tell the history of the boundary markers.

Careful thought must be given to the practicality of establishing a museum facility at this location, or of converting the lighthouse to a museum. Although there is merit in having such a facility to preserve and display objects and documents associated with the boundary story, the physical location of a museum at any one of the four corner points removes it from proximity with local monuments and other national attractions by at least several miles, and the ratio of full-time museum staff required to the number of annual visitors may not be economically feasible. Of the four corners however, the South point remains the most desirable location for a museum, and its situation along the route between Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon is a factor in its favor.

One stone marker which is in good condition should be transferred to the Smithsonian or the Capital Park Service for pres-

ervation and display. The National Park Service operates a number of museum-type sites in the Washington area, and if they are to have the responsibility for maintaining the stones and their sites, it should be possible to include exhibits about the boundary surveys, including objects, into one of the museum locations currently under their jurisdiction, to supplement the outdoor displays at Jones Point.

It is recommended that all stones, that are removed from the ground as fragments thereof, be preserved even if the stone is not totally recognizable.

Any preservative steps taken to maintain the markers in site should be done only after consultation with experienced experts. The Conservation-Analytical Laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution is available for consultation to provide information for this and other aspects of preservation.

There appears to be no justification for establishing a separate agency or organization to oversee the preservation and maintenance of the boundary markers. This function appears to be clearly within the jurisdiction of the National Capital Park Service. The inclusion of all the stone markers in the National Register of Historic Places is eminently desirable, and should be pursued as soon as feasible.

Sincerely,

SILWO A. BEDINI,
Deputy Director.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
Washington, April 12, 1977.

HON. DAVID M. CHILDS,
Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHILDS: The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the draft National Capital Planning Commission report on District of Columbia boundary markers. In his presentation to the Commission, Mr. Rody pointed out the historical significance of these very special monuments of the Washington plan. The Commission generally approves the concept of protecting them and establishing cornerstone parks and treating the intermediate stones with some degree of protection. We particularly endorse the preservation of the Jones Point Lighthouse and park as one of the elements of the program and hope that the conditions on this site can receive the immediate attention they deserve. Though we realize the Planning Commission recommendations may take some time to implement, the Commission of Fine Arts hopes to assist you with design-related matters as the project moves forward.

Sincerely yours,

J. CARTER BROWN,
Chairman.

BOUNDARY MARKERS OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL,
A PROPOSAL FOR THEIR PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

(Report of the Joint Committee on Landmarks, April 31, 1977)

The Joint Committee is pleased to have the opportunity to review and comment on this handsome and informative report on the Boundary Stones of the District of Columbia, a Category II Landmark of the National Capital.

The Joint Committee is in general agreement with Recommendations Nos. 1 through 6 and 10, and particularly supports the proposed preservation and use of the Jones Point Lighthouse, a Category II Landmark of the National Capital.

The Committee is concerned by the proposals in Recommendations Nos. 7 and 8 that the best preserved marker (Southeast No. 6) be removed and given to the Smithsonian and that other damaged stones be replaced by duplicates. The Department of the Interior's regulations state that National Register properties "should be moved only when there is no feasible alternative for preservation. When a property is moved, every effort should be made to reestablish its historic orientation, immediate setting and general environment." Unless the National Park Service is convinced that the property's historical integrity has not been destroyed by the move, the property will be deleted from the National Register. In view of the fact that the significance of the Boundary Stones is based almost entirely on their location the Committee recommends that every possible alternative to moving any of the markers from its original site be meticulously explored.

The Joint Committee is also concerned by the proposal in Recommendation No. 9 that the markers be treated with a protective coating. While the Committee agrees that every effort should be made to preserve the markers in situ and to protect them from further deterioration, it feels that great care must be used in choosing a method of treatment. The Committee recommends that a professional conservator with expertise in the preservation of stone surfaces be consulted before any such action is taken. The Committee further recommends that alternative means of in situ preservation be explored.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS,
Washington, D.C., April 4, 1977.
Mr. CHARLES H. CONRAD,
Executive Director, National Capital Planning Commission, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CONRAD: I want to express appreciation, on behalf of the officers and Board of Directors of the National Capital Section, ASCE, and of our Bicentennial Committee, for distributing with your memorandum of January 17th the copies of the Commission's report on the "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital."

This report, both as to its format and substance, has been very well received by our membership and is a commendable production. Also, we have taken especial pleasure in reviewing it, for, as you will recall, it was at the instigation of our Bicentennial Committee that the National Capital Section wrote on August 18, 1975 urging the National Capital Planning Commission to take the lead in developing recommendations for the preservation of the boundary stone markers.

I am now pleased to advise that our Board of Directors at its March meeting resolved to support the Commission's recommendations and further to recommend that a draft of legislation be prepared to establish federal jurisdiction and implement the report's ten recommendations. Our representatives are available to cooperate in this drafting process at your convenience.

Sincerely,

L. G. BYRD,
President.

AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF CIVIL ENGINEERS,

Washington, D.C., September 18, 1979.

Senator CHARLES M. MATHIAS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MATHIAS: The Nation's Capital is truly a city that is unique to the history and heritage of our nation. It was established in 1788 as the Seat of Government and actually marked on the ground in 1792 by the placement of sandstone monuments.

The area so marked formed a ten mile square parcel of land which was ceded to the United States by the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Subsequently that portion ceded by Virginia was returned, but not before the stone marker had been placed. There were 40 stones installed and most of these still remain today.

Although they no longer serve as critical survey points, they do however serve as physical reminders of a significant part of our Nation's history and heritage. They remind us too of the work done by Benjamin Banneker and Andrew Ellicott in placing them. These stones should be protected and preserved for this and future generations, we believe.

The National Capital Section, after having worked with the staff of the National Capital Planning Commission and the Daughters of the American Revolution is of the opinion that the initiation of appropriate legislative action in the Congress could substantially enhance the establishment of a program of protection and preservation. With respect to this we have prepared and are enclosing A Prospectus For Preserving the Boundary Stone Markers of the District of Columbia.

This prospectus sets forth, in greater detail, background and support for legislation. There is also enclosed, as an attachment to the prospectus, draft legislation which would define an overall legal and formal responsibility for the stones as well as for the development of a program. The introduction of

an appropriate bill would significantly aid in assuring the preservation and protection of these historical markers.

While you may note that the prospectus has been prepared by our Committee on History and Heritage, it has also been unanimously approved by our Board of Directors on September 11, 1979. We appreciate, therefore, the opportunity of furnishing you with this prospectus and for any support which you may find appropriate respecting this legislative need.

Sincerely,

WALLACE J. COHEN,
President.

Enclosure.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION,
Washington, D.C., September 15, 1977.

Mr. MARTIN J. RODY,
Office of Special Projects,
National Capital Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. RODY: Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution concerning the Federal City

Boundary Stones which was passed on March 1, 1977 at the State Conference of the District of Columbia Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Please let me know if I should send copies to any one else.

The District of Columbia Society DAR appreciates your great help in having the Boundary Stone book printed. It has been well received by the members.

Sincerely,

Mrs. ARTHUR EDMON BROWN.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution was designated by the United States Government in 1914 as Steward of the Boundary Stones of the Federal City with supervision shared with Governmental Agencies; and

Whereas maintenance of these stones has been a heavy financial burden, and stones are placed on a long boundary and the often in areas difficult or dangerous to reach; and

Whereas after study, the National Capital Planning Commission has recommended that an Agency be created for maintenance of the stones and appropriate park areas, with Stewardship vested in the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution, which is to make annual inspections and reports;

Resolved that the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution cooperate with the National Capital Planning Commission in implementing the ten recommendations as set forth in the booklet entitled "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital"; and

Resolved that the District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution continue the care and stewardship of these important historic markers.

The above resolution was adopted at the 78th D.C. DAR State Conference, March 1, 1977.

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
September 5, 1978.

Mr. MARTIN J. RODY,
Assistant Director, Special Projects Branch,
National Capital Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. RODY: Thank you for sending the Draft of a Bill to preserve the District of Columbia Boundary Stones. You are to be commended on your effort to preserve these

historical markers. I sincerely appreciate your help in securing the printing of the Bicentennial book on the stones.

I continue to be terribly interested in the preservation of the Boundary Stones even though the present District of Columbia State Historian is now responsible for the Daughters of the American Revolution's care of the stones. The following are the names and addresses of the State Regent and the State Historian:

Miss Alice H. Wilson—D.C. State Regent—telephone 894-9049, 2118 Gaither Street, Hillcrest Heights, Maryland 20031.

Mrs. Richard Powell Taylor—D.C. State Historian—telephone 983-1999, 8801 Belmont Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854.

Again, sincere thanks for your assistance during the Bicentennial years.

Cordially,

Mrs. ARTHUR EDMON BROWN.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION,
Silver Spring, Md. March, 11, 1977.

RE: File No. 1502

Mr. CHARLES H. CONRAD,
Executive Director,
National Capital Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CONRAD: At our regular meeting held on March 10, 1977, the Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed your recently published report "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital."

As you requested we are reacting to the tentative recommendations of the National Capital Planning Commission beginning on page 31 of your report. Our Board approved the recommendations contained in the attached staff report for transmittal to your Commission.

We thought your report was very informative and well done.

Sincerely,

ROYCE HANSON,
Chairman.

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery County Planning Board.
From: Community Planning Staffs.
Re: Mandatory Referral from the National Capital Planning Commission re Boundary Markers Preservation and Protection.

NATURE OF REFERRAL

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved the circulation of a report, "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital—A Proposal for their Preservation and Protection." NCPC has invited comments and suggestions on the report which gives the history and background of the boundary stones and explains the present status of the stones and the problems now faced.

A background report provides a very informative review of the activities leading up to the selection of the present site of the District of Columbia as the Nation's Capital. It relates the state of surveying technology in the 1790's and the fact that Andrew Ellicott was engaged, along with a free black mathematician, Benjamin Banneker, to survey the 10-mile square Federal territory.

There has been a gradual deterioration of the boundary stones which were placed at each of the four corners and at each mile along the sides. Many have been buried or destroyed. In 1915 the Daughters of the American Revolution undertook to fence and preserve the stones but further effort on the part of the public is now felt to be necessary to preserve and protect the stones. The NCPC report is an attempt to create a public awareness of the problem and to suggest some actions to be taken.

COMMENTS ON NCPC RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are the general recommendations of NCPC and our staff reactions to them:

NCPC SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All boundary stones should be in the ownership of the U.S. Government.
2. The boundary stones should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
3. An appropriate land managing agency or agencies should be given specific responsibility for the preservation and maintenance of the boundary stones and fences. An "Office of the Keeper of the Boundary Stones" should be created.
4. A "Cornerstone Park" should be created at each of the four cornerstone markers.
5. Create a "Boundary Stone Museum" at the lighthouse at Jones Point in Alexandria, Virginia, site of the South Boundary Stone.

MCPB STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

While they do have historic interest, the boundary stones should not rank with buildings where historic events occurred and which have architectural merit. They should retain the Category II Landmark designation.

Rather than create a new office or agency, the National Park Service should be assigned responsibility for the boundary stones.

This would be especially appropriate for the North Cornerstone which lies just off East-West Highway in the west portion of Silver Spring at the western extremity of the Falkland apartment complex. Subject to consideration of safety, a highway turnout should be considered. An historical marker sign with explanatory text would be helpful to the visiting public. Ultimately a bikeway might provide additional access.

We agree with the general concept but raise a concern over the annual cost of maintaining what would amount to a limited-purpose visitor center which is in an unimportant location. Instead, we suggest that an exhibit be added to the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology current display on surveying the National Capital.

6. For historical integrity, all boundary markers that have been moved should, if possible, be placed in their original location. Otherwise, plaques should indicate relocations. Agree.
7. One of the mile markers should be acquired by the Smithsonian Institution for permanent preservation (probably S.E. No. 6). Agree: It could be part of the display recommended in our comment on item 5 above.
8. Each of the missing, badly decayed stones, or broken stumps should be replaced. Agree.
9. All of the stones should be treated with a protective coating. Agree.
10. The DAR's role in the stewardship of these monuments should be continued. Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Planning Board should approve the above comments for transmittal to NCP.C.

THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST,
Annapolis, Md., February 3, 1977.

Attention: Mr. M. J. Rody.
Re: NCP.C. File No. 1502.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION,
G Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. RODY: Please accept the thanks of the Maryland Historical Trust for the copy of "Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital". (National Capital Planning Commission, Summer 1976), an attractive publication.

The Maryland State Historic Preservation office is ready to cooperate with the nomination of the boundary stones to the National Register Historic Places. In fact, I had thought the National Capital Planning Commission staff had prepared such a nomination several years ago.

The recommendations for preservation on the whole, seem sound. I do wonder why a separate, new federal agency was suggested as a custodian. I feel an existing agency could handle the responsibility.

Sincerely,

JOHN N. PEARCE,
State Historic Preservation Owner.

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX,
Fairfax, Va., February 11, 1977.

MR. CHARLES H. CONRAD,
Executive Director,
National Capital Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHARLES: The Office of Comprehensive Planning has reviewed your report, Boundary Markers of the Nation's Capital—A Proposal for Their Preservation & Protection. We make the following comments and recommendations:

1. Since some of these stones are in privately owned yards on suburban streets, it will be difficult, and perhaps undesirable, to assure public access to all the stones. Perhaps all the stones should be publicly owned, but visitors should be directed to concentrate on certain selected stones, such as the proposed cornerstone parks.

2. This office would be happy to cooperate in preparation of a nomination to the National Register if that would be desirable. (We have already prepared inventory forms on the stones listed in Fairfax County.)

This office endorses the remaining recommendations.

We appreciate the opportunity to have commented on this report.

Sincerely yours,

D. WAYNE PUMPHREY,
Acting Director.

COMMITTEE OF 100 ON THE FEDERAL CITY,
Washington, D.C., September 21, 1979.

HON. CHARLES MATHIAS,
U.S. Senate,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MATHIAS: When you spoke to the Committee of 100 last June, you indicated you would consider introducing legislation to provide for the preservation of the original boundary stones marking the boundaries of the District of Columbia in 1792.

We understand that a draft of such legislation with supporting documentation has been completed recently by the American Society of Civil Engineers in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission and is now presented for your consideration.

At its meeting of September 20, the Committee of 100 voted to support this proposal and advise you on its interest in seeing that the legislation was introduced and approved by the Congress at an early date.

Sincerely,

Mrs. JAMES H. ROWE, JR.,
Chairman.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
Richmond, Va., October 10, 1979.

Re: D. C. Boundary Stones, Fairfax County
Mr. Marion Morris
Legislative Assistant
Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
358 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

DEAR MR. MORRIS: Thank you for sending the information on the D.C. Boundary Stones. The stones are a remarkable series of landmarks and I fully support the bill to guarantee their preservation. I trust you will keep me informed of action on the legislation and its implementation.

It is gratifying to know of Congress's interest in this matter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

TUCKER HILL,
Executive Director.

THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN
WHEELMEN, INC.,
Arlington, Va., January 30, 1977.

Re: NCP.C. File No. 1502

Mr. M. J. Rody,
N.C.P.C.
G Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. RODY: I find the boundary marker report to be excellent; a first class effort.

On page 27, picture No. 2 refers to S.W.-3 as an example of neglect. On page 28, SW-3 is said to be in good condition.

That's a minor comment; I'm proud of the report and I think N.C.P.C. did a terrific job.

Sincerely,

ALAN HIERSEN.

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, D.C., November 26, 1979.

HON. CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR.,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MATHIAS: It has come to our attention that you plan to introduce legislation to insure the preservation and maintenance of the remaining markers placed in the 18th century to identify the boundaries of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Robert L. Moore, the State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia, supports the proposed nomination of the boundary markers to the National Register of Historic Places. A copy of a report from Mr. Moore is enclosed.

We are ready to cooperate with the Maryland and Virginia State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Capital Planning Commission to find a workable solution to the preservation and maintenance of the boundary markers.

We appreciate your leadership in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

BARBARA C. WASHINGTON,
Assistant City Administrator
for Intergovernmental Relations

MEMORANDUM

To: Barbara Washington, Assistant City Administrator for Intergovernmental Affairs.

From: Robert L. Moore, State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia.

Subject: Preservation of the Original Boundary Markers of the District of Columbia.

It has come to my attention that there is growing concern and interest in the preservation of the remaining boundary markers set up by Andrew Ellicott during his 1791-1792 survey establishing the boundaries of the District of Columbia.

Thirty-eight of the original forty markers are extant, but many of them have been

damaged over the years. They are designated Category II Landmarks of the National Capital listed on the District of Columbia's inventory of historic places but are not listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The District's historic preservation office ought to work with the historic preservation offices in Maryland and Virginia toward the nomination and listing of the markers in the National Register.

As the National Capital Planning Commission's 1976 study showed, there are a number of possible steps which could be taken to insure the markers preservation. These possibilities ought to be studied further and a workable solution found before the markers suffer additional damage and deterioration.

I understand that Senator Mathias is going to introduce a bill calling for the markers preservation. The District of Columbia ought to assist Senator Mathias in anyway possible in this matter.☉