BOUNDARY STONES
WASHINGTON LAID HERE STAND

Meridian and Jefferson Pier Stones Are Enumerated as Historical.

Washington, the Capital City, has been a mecca for tourists for many years; and practically everything of Historical value around it has been repeatedly described and displayed with pardonable pride by the people of the city. Yet it is only natural that intimated things dealing commissioners should hold the piece of honor in this category.

Some of the least-known remaining memorials to our founders are the original boundary stones laid in 1791 and 1793 under the act of Congress to bound the limits of the 10-mile square area to form the City, of which there are 26 still standing in the same situations.

On July 12, 1850, Congress passed an act designating points selected between the mouths of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River at cheesecakes, on the Potomac River, and authorized Commissioners to go to that point and place a stone. That would, under his personal supervision, lay a district from the mouth of the Capital of the Potomac at that time. It was thought that the point selected, the eastern boundary of the Capital City, would be similar and designated by this act, and Gen. Washington did not doubt that a part of the said district should be laid off and the signs established as an experiment, the southern point starting on the Potomac, and extending most directly south from Alexandria at Jones Point Light, and the southern corner to be near what is now Woodside, Md., 10 miles above the present Chesapeake Beach Junction, and the western line to be 10 miles long, thus marking the boundary for the Federal City.

Commissioners Named.

To take charge of this newly created territory, supervise its survey and attend to the legal aspects of the matter, Congress passed, on June 29, 1850, three commissioners. Thomas Johnson of Maryland, John Smith of Virginia, and Edward Stuart.

Two months later, March 28, 1851, Washington arrived in Georgetown from Philadelphia, the Secretary of the Navy, and the three commissioners were in the District in company with the three commissioners of the Federal City, Mr. Andrew Elliott and Maj. Peter Charles Egan, and Mr. Elliott then arranged that the commissionMr. and Maj. Egan to the commission and that the commission...
WASHINGTON'S BOUNDARY STONES STILL STANDING

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with 'Peace be within thy walls, O America—and prospectively within thy palaces.' Amiable it is for brethren to dwell in unity. It is more fragrant than any incense of garments! It is more refreshing than the dew on Hermon's Hill.

May these stones long commemorate the first survey of the country. The common events which have given America a name among the nations—under this stone, may jealousy and wrong vanish away. Forark this stone may a superstructure arise, whose glory, whose magnificence, shall astonish the world, and invite all to the wilderness to take shelter under its shade.

Banquet Was Served.

After partaking of some liquid refreshments, the company returned to the hotel, where a banquet was served and a number of toasts were offered, and the following, which was proposed to the company of the lodge, was received with every mark of approbation:

'Jealousy, that green-eyed monster, be buried deep under the green diamond of this day completed, never to return among the Federal district.' The surveyor was laid out their four lines with transit and chain bounding the city, which was cut through the forest and cemented with iron. The surveyor has a date 1971 on the Virginia and 1792 on the Maryland stones.

There were originally 40 of these stones in District 15, 15 in Virginia, and 10 in Maryland. A movement to remove them, due to the efforts of the American Revolution, whose effects can be seen in these stones, was erected, and iron was placed on proper placards, around them.

Meridian and Jefferson Stones.

There are several other stones in different parts of the city that are of historic and civic value, and the first of these is the Meridian Stone and the Jefferson Pier Stone.

The President's House, situated at the intersection of the lines at the north point of the District, is the only house which has remained since the Revolutionary War. It is the original from which New Hampshire is, and it is called the "Meridian Hill," to the intersection of the lines at the north point of the District. It is a block of New Hampshire stone, and on the Silver Spring, Md. Upon this line, the "Meridian Hill," Commodore David Porter had his station house, and it was the door which was due north of the house. The centerpiece of the house, on the south side of the house, was placed the meridian stone for the surveyor.

Seventeenth, when Sixteenth Street was cut through and graded, 1823, the stone was removed to the stone house, when it was used for years as a carriage step in front of 14th Street. The use of such a historical property raised a storm of protest

from the citizens, so the War Department stepped in and claimed the stone as Government property and raised it on a block of stone.

This aroused the ire of the contractor, who began work on the line of reprieve from the court. He built a 20-foot walled-in well and declared, with firmness, that he would not take the stone from 1823, and then on denied all knowledge of the stone. The石头 was erroneously thought for some time that this stone was used for a hitching post at the school before it was placed at Bladensburg Road.

Stone Is Photographed.

Some years ago Anton Hennig, a photographer on Washington, traced the history of these stones and purchased the same, and this is the first photograph ever made of them.

The line crossing the meridian at a right angle near the Washington Monument extends west across the Potomac 30 feet east to the east end of Fort Corcoran, and on to the intersection of the lines to a stone at the west point of the District, near West Falls Church. The line of the Capitol is cut through the Anacostia River, and on to the intersection of the diagonal lines to the stone at the corner of the District, about three miles east of the Monument.

At the crossing of these lines near the Washington Monument was located a stone that designate of the center of the District, and was called the Jefferson Pier stone.

It has been used as the basis for the north line of the city, the original horizontal line, and the original pier of Washington, all of which were taken from it. It was situated about 150 yards west of 15th Street, in the old Tiber Creek. It had a blue rock, the upper part being about six feet high on the creek side and a large flat stone on the side of the creek. The top of the stone was removed by orders of Gen. Babcock and his engineer, and on the back of the capstone was a line of masonry covered by several feet of mortar. After the capstone was removed, there was another stone close to the monument, that was used as a pivot for the next line due west of the end of the Capitol Building. This line seems to have been the line which Gen. Babcock and his engineer, on the basis of which the greatest distance of all was made.

Washington, after Congress passed the act to complete it. A board of Army engineers was appointed and the foundation of the Monument and examined the perpendicular of the structure.

After thorough tests they stated that the Monument shaft had sunk bodily at the bottom of the shaft, it had an inclination of one inch, and therefore it would not be advisable to add additional weight. The engineers had published the Monument, and the engineers decided that the shaft was to be taken away from the survey, and then the surveyor's report was taken, which was made in company of an officer of the survey, who had witnessed the survey of the original center stone and had found that a mistake had been made. The original Jefferson pier stone was re-covered and re-covered on December 28, 1889.