Weather-Beaten Stone Is Protected by Fence; Placed in 1792.

Just off Southern Avenue in Randle Highlands stands a small gray stone pillar, weather-beaten, and worn, with old-fashioned lettering chiseled on its sides. It is one of the original boundary stones of the District of Columbia, and was put there in 1792 by George Washington himself.

In addition to being a boundary stone, it also served as a mile post on the Southern byway. The stone is but two miles from the eastern corner of the ten mile square which originally was incorporated in the District in 1791 by a high iron fence which surrounded the city.

The authenticity of the stone is vouched for by this organization, since it is a relic of the original Federal boundary.

The stone is protected by a fence, and the pillar is placed in a fenced area.

The District of Columbia, was laid out in 1792 as a result of a compromise between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. Jefferson, a Virginian, & Hamilton, a New Yorker, had to divide the country into the two parts of the young republic. He proposed to Jefferson that he would chose his ob- jection to having the Federal Gover- nment located in the District of Col- umbia. Hamilton would agree to locate the Capitol City in both of these sites. The site chosen had the advantage of being close to Mount Vernon, home of the President.

The area originally laid out included both the present city of Wash- ington and what is now Alexandria County. This was given back to Virginia in 1789, when it was agreed that the part of the city on the Maryland side of the Potomac would never fill its boundaries. Alexandria County originally belonged to the city of Alexandria after the session. The stone is at the corner of Southern Avenue and Mitchell ave- nus in Bradley Heights. Mt. Graft- on of Southern avenue has opened the street somewhat, so that it is now on a much higher level than the level of the roadway.

Only on the north side of the rid- gle has the latter disappeared, ap- parently through the effects of wash- ing. On the other sides it is still clear and deep. The stone is op- erated by the postal service and is on- trolled to an extremely dark color.