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NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY STUDY:  
MILESTONE, CONCORD PIKE, DELAWARE

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MILESTONE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY STUDY

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## MILESTONE CONCORD PIKE, DELAWARE

by

*Historic Preservation Group  
Kise Franks & Straw  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

prepared for

*Delaware Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways  
Location and Environmental Studies Office*

19 November 1990

## ELIGIBILITY STUDY OF CONCORD PIKE MILESTONE

This eligibility assessment was undertaken to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The entire project was to perform an architectural/historical investigation to identify resources eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This resource was investigated because it may be impacted by road improvements proposed by the Delaware Department of Transportation. The milestone is approximately 130' north of the intersection of Concord Pike (Route 202) and Rockland Road (SR #232), on the west side of Concord Pike (see Figure 1 and accompanying maps on the survey card). The road improvements, with regards to the milestone, consist of shifting Concord Pike to the west. However, the marker has been moved in the past as the result of improvements and widening of the road over time.

The criteria used in determining the National Register eligibility of these resources were those set forth in 36 CFR 60.4.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

This study was undertaken by a team of architectural historians having extensive survey experience in Delaware. The eligibility assessment consisted of on-site visual analysis and photographic documentation. This was supplemented by primary and secondary research to gather the historic context of the areas examined. Among the references examined were historic atlases and written histories, as well as a comparison with other markers in the New Castle County area. The resource was then profiled in Delaware BAHF survey forms.

### CONCORD PIKE MILESTONE

A granite milestone, situated on Concord Pike (Route 202), has the inscription "2 To W," informing past travelers that they were two miles from Wilmington. The

Wilmington and Great Valley Turnpike, known today as Concord Pike, received its charter in 1811, and the Delaware portion was completed prior to the Pennsylvania portion. The entire roadway, which connected West Chester, Pennsylvania and the Great Valley with the port of Wilmington, was completed in 1818. The exact date of erection of the milestone is unknown. Apparently, it was placed next to the new roadway between 1811-1818. As such, the historic milestone is a rare visual vestige of the development of Wilmington and its turnpike system and appears eligible for the National Register.

Such markers as the one located near Rockland Road on Concord Pike were addressed in Section 17 of the Act to Incorporate the Wilmington and Great Valley Turnpike Company on January 23, 1811:

SECTION 17: And be it enacted, That the said company shall cause posts to be erected at the intersection of every public road falling into and leading out of the said turnpike road, with boards and index hands pointing to the direction of such road, on both sides thereof shall be inscribed in legible characters, the name of the town or place to which such road leads, and the distance thereof in measured or computed miles; and shall also cause mile-stones to be placed on the side of the road to designate the distance to and from the principal places thereon, and also shall cause to be affixed on the gates to be erected for information of travellers and others using the said road a printed list of the rates of toll, which from time to time shall be lawfully demanded.

## CONCLUSION

The circa 1815 granite milestone, as a rare surviving object of Wilmington's post-Revolutionary turnpike system, as well as an example of one type of sign delineation used on toll roads and turnpikes, appears eligible under Criterion A of the National Register. The above analysis and conclusion was presented to representatives of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), and the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (BAHP) in a slide format presentation. The BAHP concurred with the eligibility assessment concerning the milestone.



CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY  
CONSTRUCTION DATA FORM

FORM CRS-1

CRS no.	<u>N-12684</u>
SPO Map	<u>10-11-36</u>
Hundred	<u>Brandywine</u>
Quad	<u>Wilmington N.</u>
Zone	<u>5</u>
Acreage	<u>small plot</u>

1. ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: Concord Pike (Route 202) Milestone

2. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1815

3. STYLE/FLOOR PLAN: \_\_\_\_\_

4. ARCHITECT/BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_

5. INTEGRITY: a) original site \_\_\_\_\_ b) moved x \_\_\_\_\_  
c) if moved, when and from where as Concord Pike has been widened  
d) list major alterations and dates (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

6. CONDITION: good x \_\_\_\_\_ deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_  
remarks: The stone is in good condition, however, it is not upright, and needs to be re-set.

7. DESCRIBE THE RESOURCE AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE:

- a) Overall shape  
stories not applicable  
bays  
wings
- b) Structural system
- c) Foundation  
materials  
basement
- d) Exterior walls (modern over original)  
materials  
color(s)
- e) Roof  
shape; materials  
cornice  
dormers  
chimney location(s)

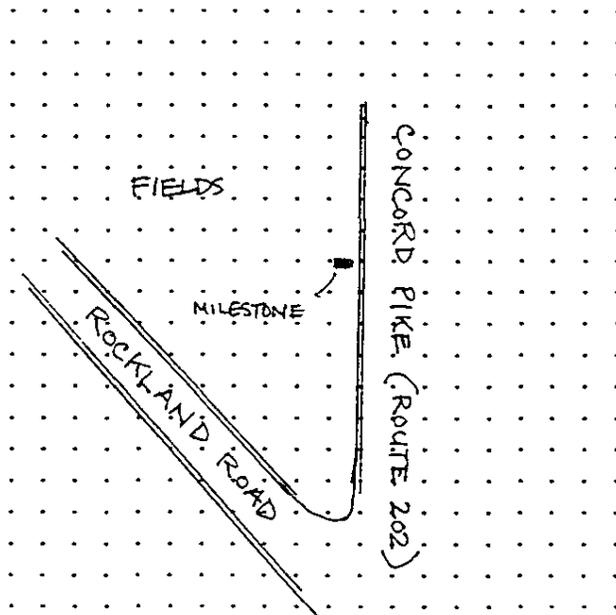
f) Windows  
spacing  
type  
trim  
shutters

g) Door  
spacing  
type  
trim

h) Porches  
location(s)  
materials  
supports  
trim

i) Interiors details (if accessible)

SKETCH MAP (provide north arrow)



8. Surveyor: Bower / Abbot Date of Form August 1990



CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY  
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION FORM

FORM CRS-3

CRS no.	<u>N-12684</u>
SPO Map	<u>10-11-36</u>
Hundred	<u>Brandywine</u>
Quad	<u>Wilmington N.</u>
Zone	<u>5</u>
Acreage	<u>small plot</u>

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: \_\_\_\_\_

2. STREET LOCATION: Concord Pike Milestone, NW of Concord Pike and Rockland Road intersection

3. OWNER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

4. TYPE OF LOCUS: a) building \_\_\_\_\_ b) structure \_\_\_\_\_ c) site \_\_\_\_\_

d) object x e) district \_\_\_\_\_ f) other \_\_\_\_\_

5. SURROUNDINGS OF LOCUS: (check more than one if necessary)

a) fallow field \_\_\_\_\_ b) cultivated field x c) woodland \_\_\_\_\_

d) scattered buildings \_\_\_\_\_ e) densely built up x f) other \_\_\_\_\_

6. FUNCTION: original milestone present milestone

7. LIST ADDITIONAL SHEETS USED

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

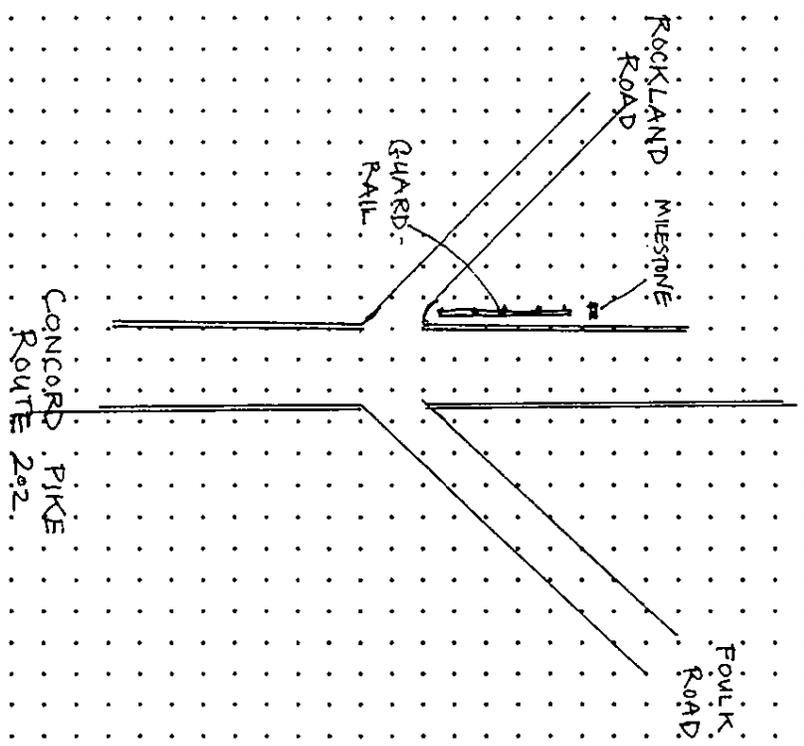
8. YOUR NAME: Mark A. Bower / Martin B. Abbot # \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR ADDRESS: 219 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 # (215) 561-1050

ORGANIZATION (if any) Kise Franks & Straw DATE August, 1990

8. SKETCH MAP

Please indicate position of locus in relation to geographical landmarks such as streams and roads.



INDICATE NORTH ON SKETCH

9. CONTEXT

Consider the following:

- a) relationship to setting
- b) associated traditions or stories
- c) noteworthy features
- d) comparison with others in area
- e) threats

The Concord Pike milestone is made from granite and has the inscription "2 To W" on its face, informing travelers that the distance to Wilmington was two miles. The Wilmington and Great Valley Turnpike, known today as the Concord Pike, received its charter in 1811, and the Delaware portion was completed prior to the Pennsylvania portion. The entire roadway, which connected West Chester, PA and the Great Valley with the port of Wilmington, was completed in 1818. The exact date of the erection of the milestone is unknown. Apparently, it was placed next to the new roadway between 1811-1818. As such, the historic milestone is a rare visual vestige of the development of Wilmington and its turnpike system and appears eligible for the National Register.

10. Comprehensive Planning:

- a. Time Period(s) 1770-1830
- b. Cultural Concept Landscape

11. Evaluation and Eligibility

List area(s) of significance and criteria  
National Register criterion A

12. Certification

Survey: Name/Title Bower/Abbot Date August 1990  
BAHP: Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_