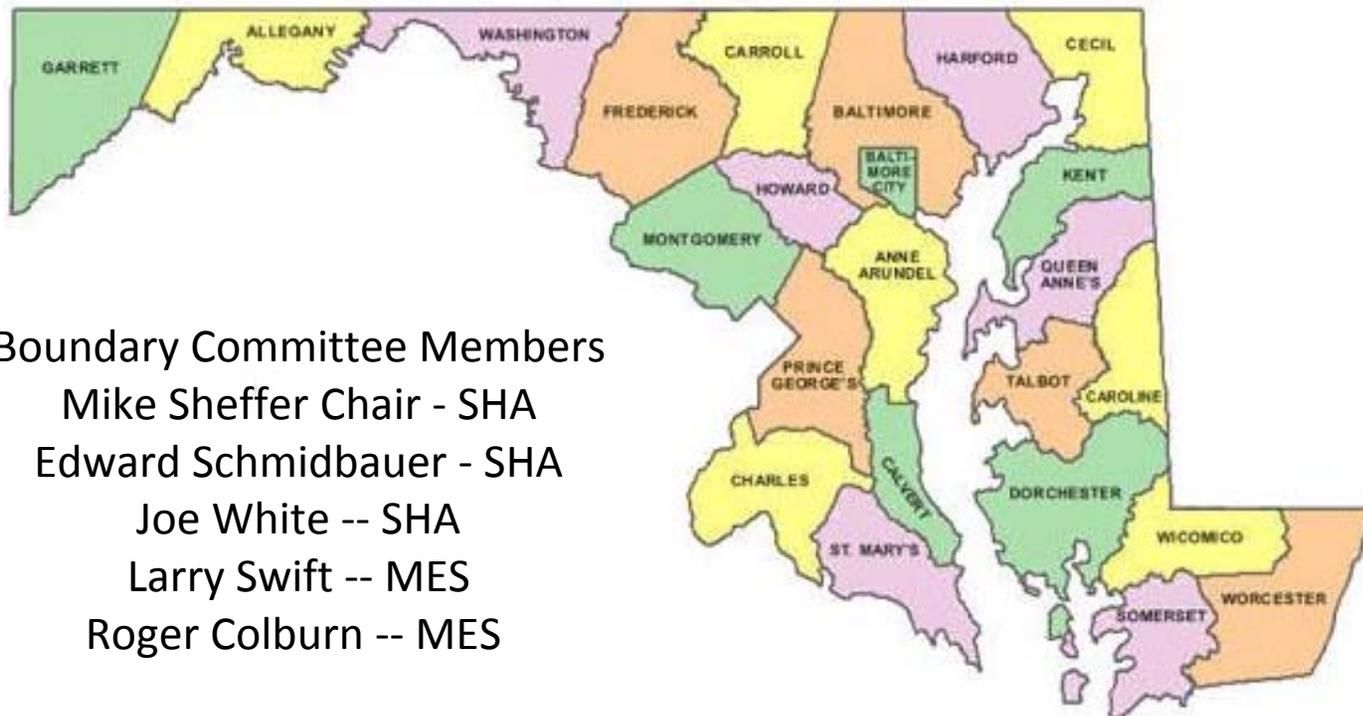




# *County Boundary Review Updates Through 2009*



## Boundary Committee Members

Mike Sheffer Chair - SHA

Edward Schmidbauer - SHA

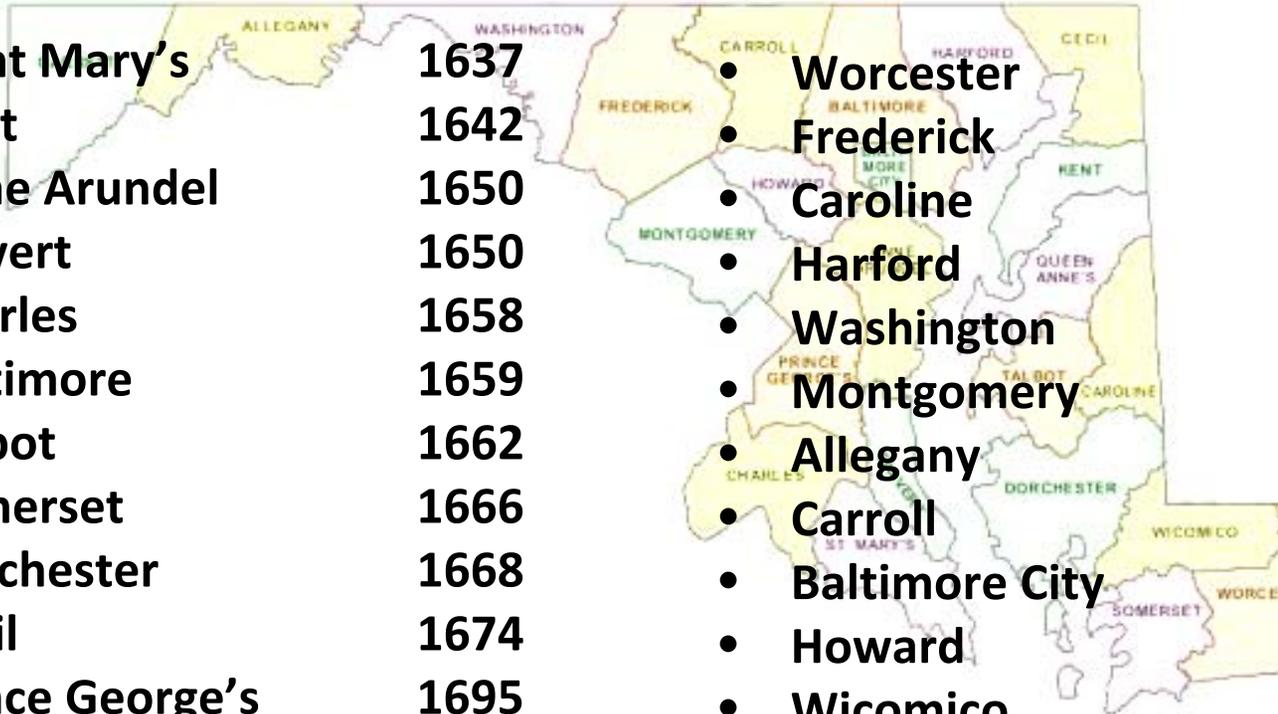
Joe White -- SHA

Larry Swift -- MES

Roger Colburn -- MES

# Formation Dates of the Counties

<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>
• Saint Mary's	1637	• Worcester	1742
• Kent	1642	• Frederick	1748
• Anne Arundel	1650	• Caroline	1773
• Calvert	1650	• Harford	1773
• Charles	1658	• Washington	1776
• Baltimore	1659	• Montgomery	1776
• Talbot	1662	• Allegany	1789
• Somerset	1666	• Carroll	1836
• Dorchester	1668	• Baltimore City	1851
• Cecil	1674	• Howard	1851
• Prince George's	1695	• Wicomico	1867
• Queen Anne's	1706	• Garrett	1872



# ***Study Background Information***

- **County Boundaries**

The Maryland Constitution vests the power to change county boundaries exclusively in the General Assembly.

Boundaries, as amended by the General Assembly, serve to delineate the political subdivisions within the State.

- **Administrative Boundaries**

Government agencies sometimes use a slightly different boundary to make service delivery easier or to achieve some other administrative efficiency or policy objective.

- **The County Boundary Review Committee's Role**

The County Boundary Committee was formed in the Winter of 2009 to review and document evidentiary material related to the establishment of the political subdivision boundaries.

- **What has been done to date**

The committee reviewed historical survey material, legal descriptions as well as the political boundary changes authorized by the General Assembly, and

Created a document describing Maryland county boundaries.

Next, the committee used the record material to develop an accurate GIS rendition of the records.

Then, the committee developed a plan to disseminate the map to MSGIC and others for comment.



# ***Study Background Information, Con't.***

## **Please note:**

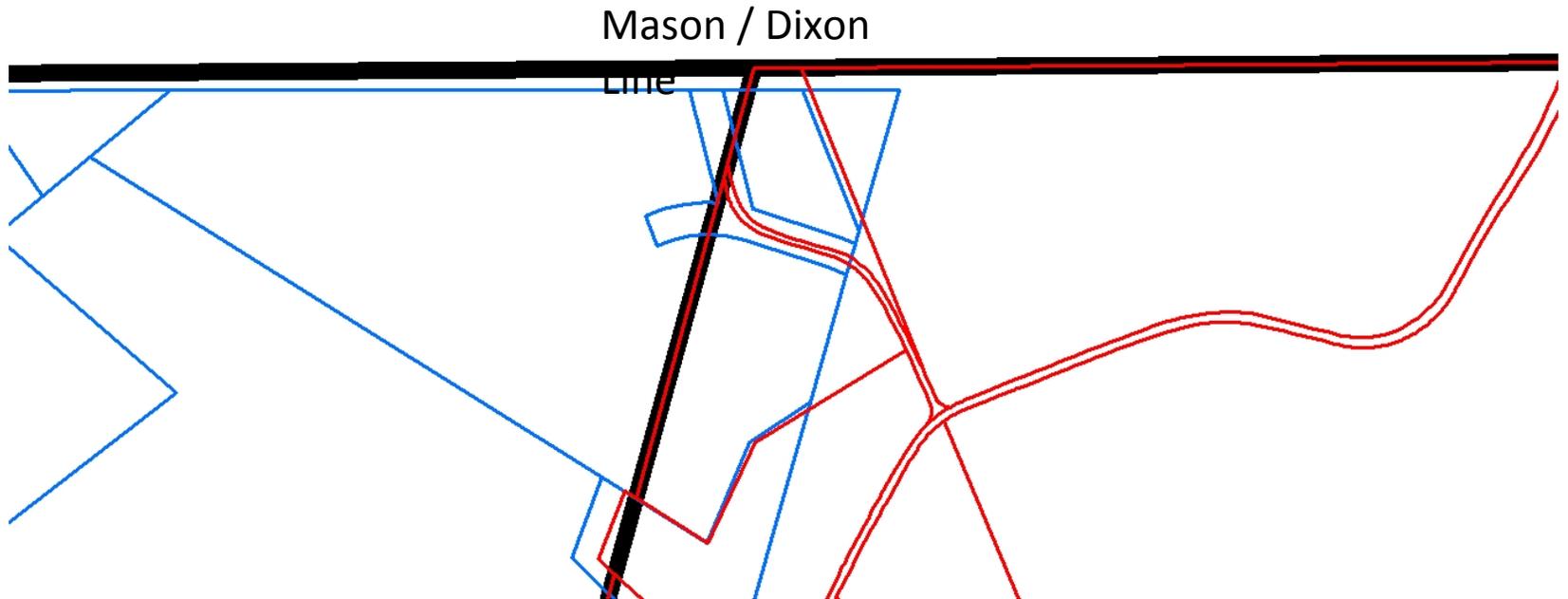
- Town Boundaries are not included in this study. SHA maintains an accurate set of maps, developed based on boundary changes passed by the Legislature, for Maryland's incorporated cities.
- Some of the official boundary descriptions refer to geographic points that no longer exist or cannot be located. These points include references to such things as trees or rocks or "rocks by the head waters" just to name a few.
- This study did not include a review of any "administrative boundaries" used by agencies of state or local government.
- This study did not include an exhaustive review of case law related to boundary disputes.
- This study did not include a comprehensive legal review of the "State" boundary.

# Boundary Examples

 County Boundaries

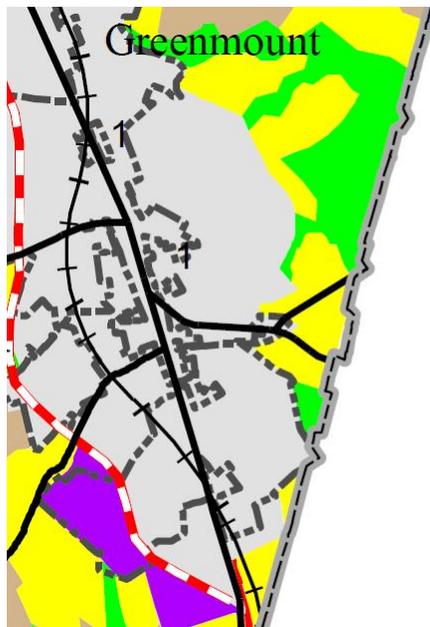
 Carroll County Tax Map

 Baltimore County Tax Map



# Boundary Examples

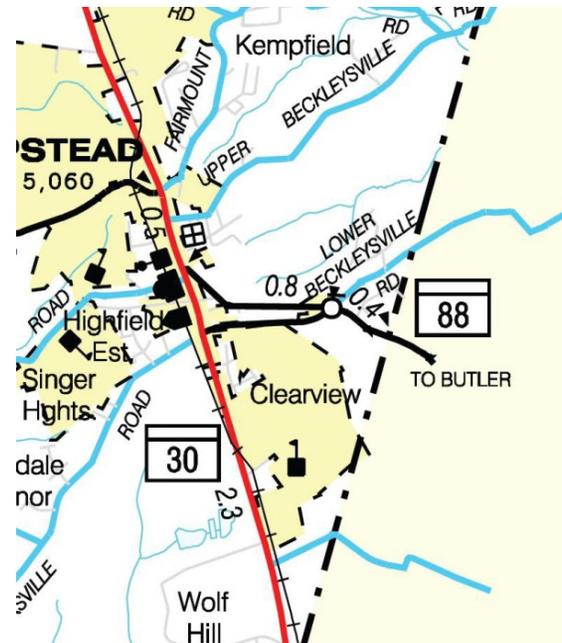
- *Administrative*



Carroll County / Baltimore County Boundary as shown on Carroll County 2000 Master Plan. See:

[http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/mapserver4/gis/webpage/images/WebMaps/CountyMasterPlan\\_110608.pdf](http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/mapserver4/gis/webpage/images/WebMaps/CountyMasterPlan_110608.pdf)

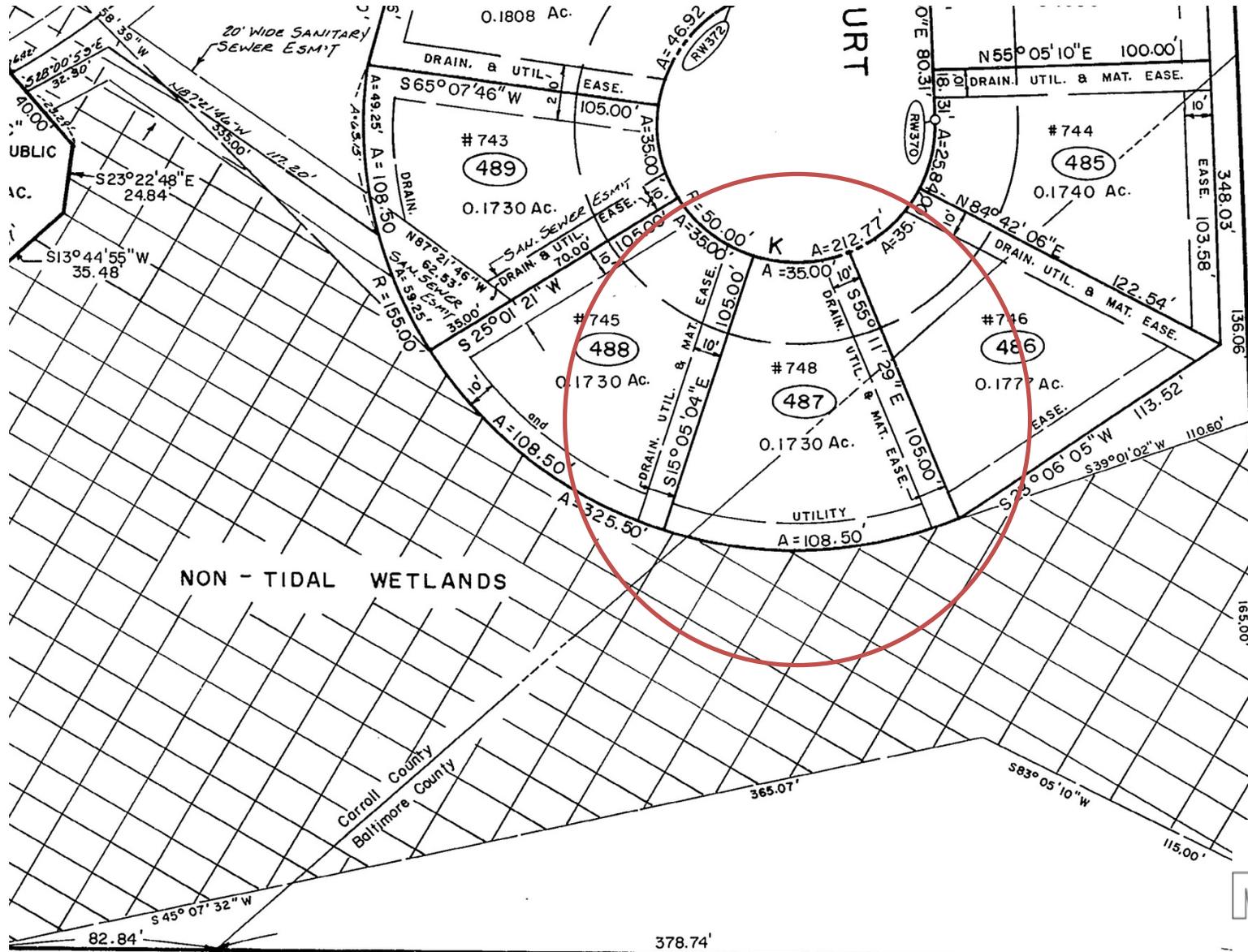
- *Political Boundary*



Carroll County – Maryland State Highway Administration map.



# Example of a Political Boundary



SEPH ALLENDER  
66-985

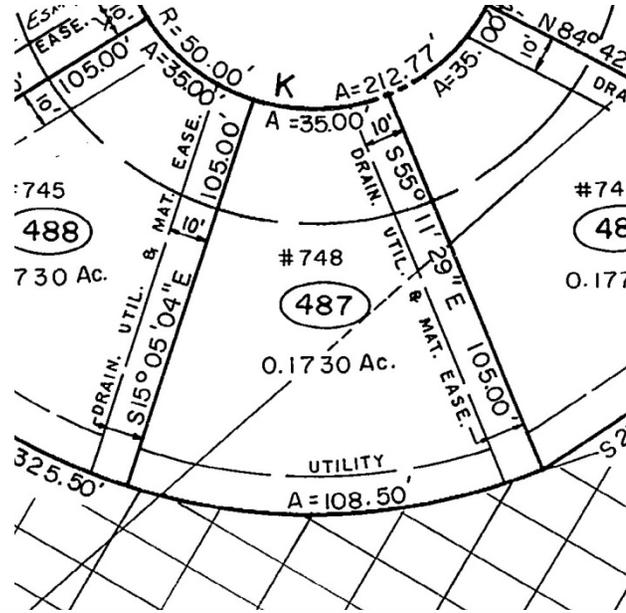
R  
ON BOXW  
8TH ELE



WILLIAM CLARENCE MIELKE

$S57^{\circ}40'27''W$  378.74' 461.58'

# One parcel, Two Political Jurisdictions, One Property Tax Account




**Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation**  
**CARROLL COUNTY**  
**Real Property Data Search** (2007 v14.36)
 
[Go Back](#)  
[View Map](#)  
[New Search](#)

<b>Account Identifier:</b>		District - 08 Account Number - 057788									
<b>Owner Information</b>											
<b>Owner Name:</b>		BROY GUARINO LESLIE				<b>Use:</b>		RESIDENTIAL			
<b>Mailing Address:</b>		748 SPOTTERS CT HAMPSTEAD MD 21074-3165				<b>Principal Residence:</b>		YES			
						<b>Deed Reference:</b>		1) / 1585/ 484 2)			
<b>Location &amp; Structure Information</b>											
<b>Premises Address</b>						<b>Legal Description</b>					
748 SPOTTERS CT HAMPSTEAD 21074-3165						LT 487- 0.1730 AC SPOTTERS CT 37-113/111 ROBERTS FIELD SC 2 PL D					
<b>Map</b>	<b>Grid</b>	<b>Parcel</b>	<b>Sub District</b>	<b>Subdivision</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Assessment Area</b>	<b>Plat No:</b>	<b>Plat Ref:</b>	
503	17	739B					487	2		37/ 113	
<b>Special Tax Areas</b>				<b>Town Ad Valorem Tax Class</b>							
								<b>Property Land Area</b>		<b>Count</b>	
<b>Primary Structure Built</b>				<b>Enclosed Area</b>				7,535.00 SF		000	
1994				1,742 SF							
<b>Stories</b>		<b>Basement</b>		<b>Type</b>						<b>Exterior SIDING</b>	
2		YES		STANDARD UNIT							



# ***Boundaries of Interest***

- **Eastern Boundary of the State of Maryland**

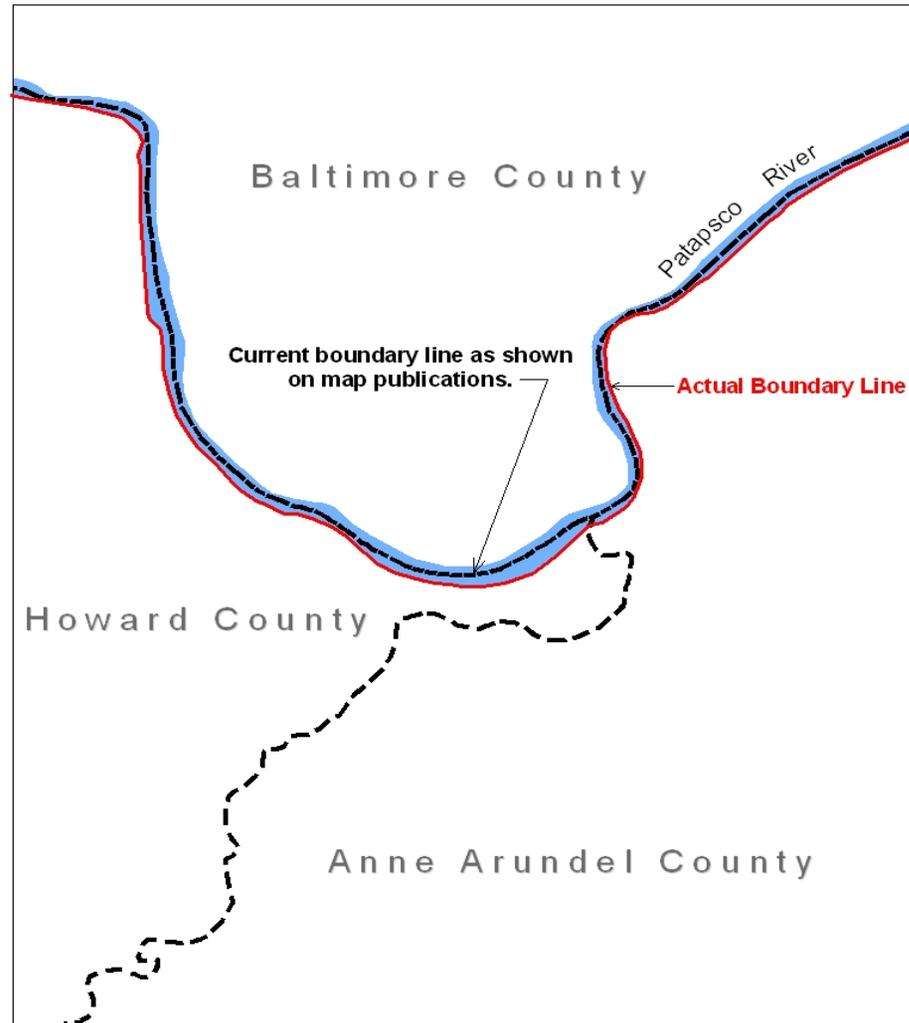
The eastern boundary of the State of Maryland was defined by the decree of Lord High Chancellor of England in 1750 when he settled the limits between Maryland and the Delaware counties of Pennsylvania. This line was marked by Mason and Dixon around 1765. It was described as a line drawn from the middle point of the eastern shore tangent to a circle of twelve miles radius drawn from about New Castle, Delaware.

- **Southern boundaries of Baltimore and Carroll County**

In 1726, control of the Patapsco River was ceded to Baltimore and Carroll County when the law designated the south side of the Patapsco River as the county boundary.



# ***Baltimore, Howard, and Anne Arundel Boundary Correction***



# ***Boundaries of Interest***

- **Ruling concerning the boundaries in the Chesapeake Bay and Adjacent Rivers**

In 1976, the Maryland Court of Appeals held that the boundary between two counties divided by a navigable river is the center of the channel of that river unless the boundary has been otherwise established by law (the channel being the deeper part of the river, where the main current flows, or which affords the best passage for vessels) whereas the jurisdictional limit of the counties bounded at any point by navigable waters other than rivers is the geographic center of those waters.



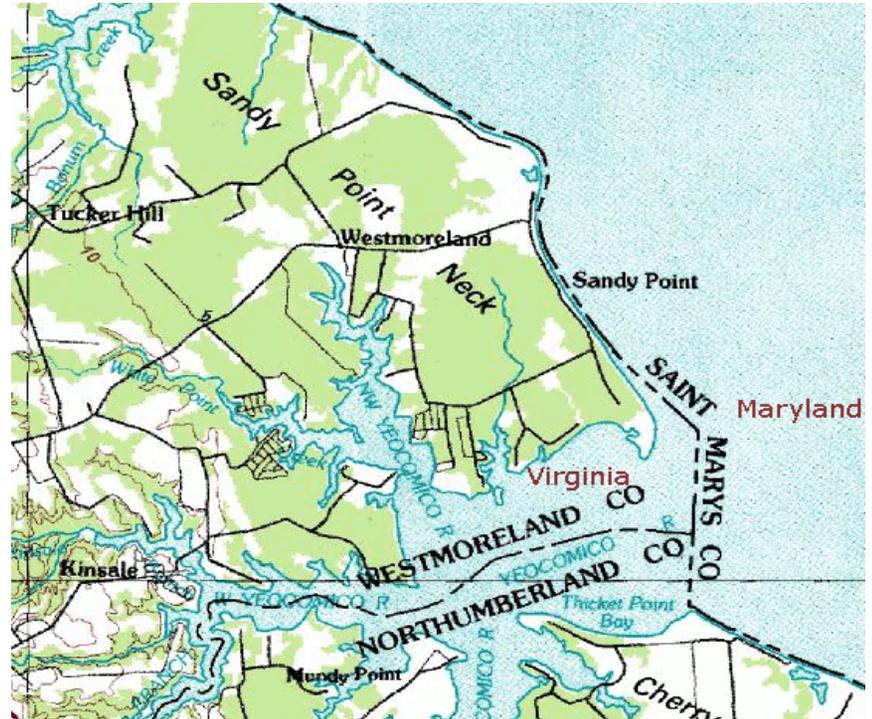
# Example of an Administrative Boundary

Assumed



Map published in 1795 by  
Wayland, Reid, & Smith

Actual



P/O U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map  
"Kinsale" 1982



# ***Boundaries of Interest***

## **Garrett - Allegany**

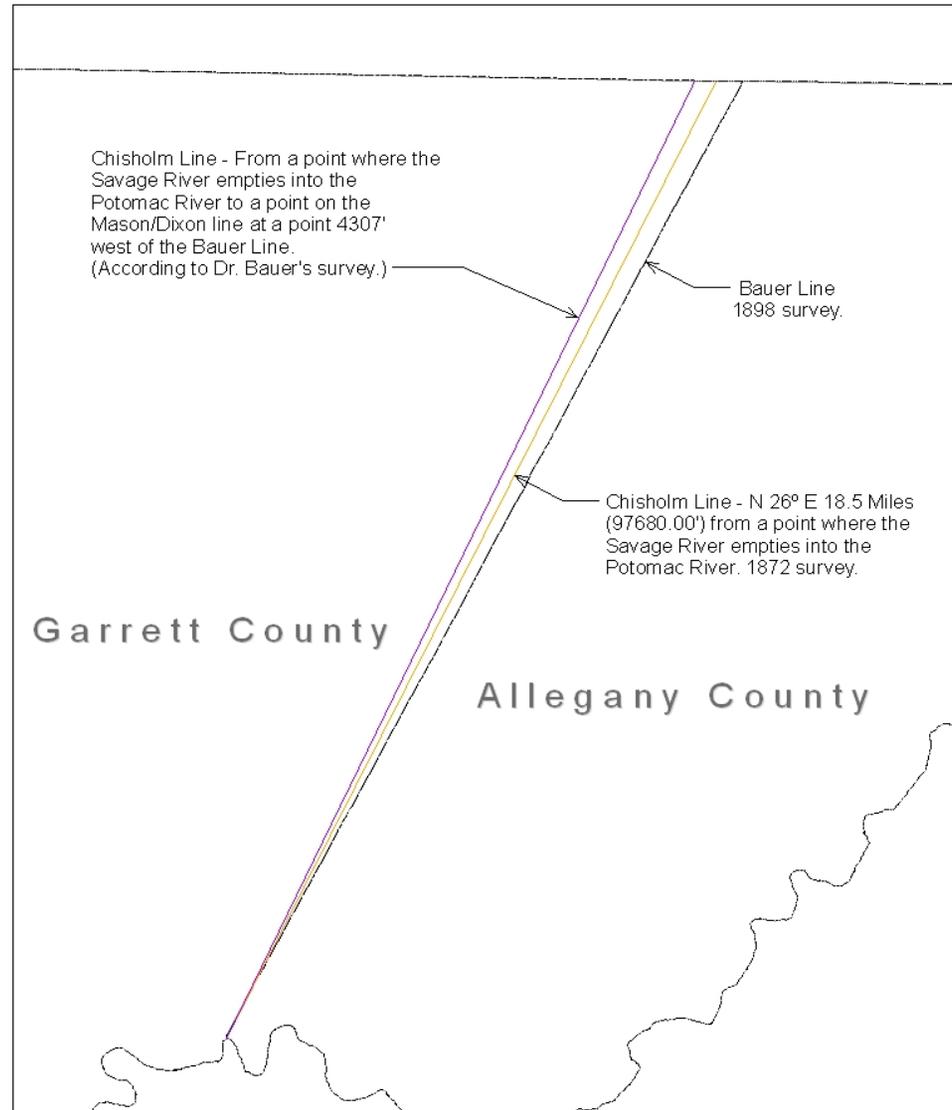
In 1955, the General Assembly established the “Bauer Line” as the official boundary between Garrett and Allegany.

On September 9, 2008, the Circuit Court for Allegany County found the Bauer line to be unconstitutional and established the so-called Chisholm line as the official boundary.

The Chisholm Line is described as beginning at the middle of the Savage River where it empties into the Potomac and runs North 26 Degrees East, 18 ½ miles to a point on top of Savage Mountain, between stones 180 and 181 on the Mason Dixon Line.



# ***The Bauer Line or The Chisholm Line? The Allegany – Garrett County Boundary***



# ***Boundaries of Interest***

- **District of Columbia and Baltimore City**

This document includes little information on the formation of the District of Columbia in 1791, Baltimore City in 1851 or the State of Maryland boundaries. Approved survey information was recovered at SHA and will be used to create an accurate boundary file. The resulting boundary file will be verified and compared to various sources during the review and comment phase of this project.

- **Anne Arundel - Calvert County Line**

House Bill 1632 was approved May 29, 1984 for the purpose of altering the boundary line between Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties under certain conditions. The conditions were: the Act was subject to a referendum of certain voters; requiring the Board of Supervisors of Elections for Anne Arundel County to provide for the referendum; providing for the rights and privileges of certain inhabitants of the affected area under certain conditions; providing for the implementation of this Act; providing that a certain prior enactment is null and void and generally relating to an alteration of the boundary line between Anne Arundel County and Calvert County.

This Bill includes a detailed description of the boundary based on a re-survey from 1976. The boundary is described in great detail using coordinates, distances and bearings. Based on notes associated with this document, it is believed that the referendum was passed. Additional research must be completed to confirm that it did pass.



# ***Boundaries of Interest***

- **Montgomery / Frederick County Line**

During the 1979 session of the Maryland General Assembly, House Joint Resolution #27 was passed instructing the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to direct the MGS to resurvey and remark certain segments of this boundary.

The survey took place over 1980 – 1981. Five of the original eleven stones were recovered. Six additional boundary markers were placed. All are believed to be locally recognized as the official county boundary markers. One of these six markers (HM Stone) is considered to be the stone marking the headwaters of the Patuxent River and therefore identifies a point on the Howard-Montgomery County Line.



# Boundaries of Interest

- **Montgomery / Prince George's County Line – Southern portion**

The City of Takoma Park once straddled the boundary between Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. On July 1, 1997 the Prince George's County portion of the city was annexed into Montgomery County following an act of the Legislature which put the matter to successful referendum.

- **Montgomery / Prince George's County Line – Northern portion near Laurel**

Two changes occurred to this boundary (near Laurel). The first was in 1968. This boundary line change was adopted by referendum and became effective June 1, 1969. It can be found in Chapter 725, 1968 Session Laws.

The second change was enacted during the 1990 Legislative Session. HB 925 was passed altering the boundary line and making a technical correction in the description of the boundary line. Like similar bills before, it too was put to referendum and was made effective the following year. The bill included detail about the line from the District of Columbia to the north most limit of the counties and established the metes, bounds and coordinates of the line.



# Observations

This document describes the political boundaries for each county as they exist today. These researched county boundaries in Maryland serve as the political unit of division within the State, approved by the General Assembly of Maryland.

Many of the comments received as a result of the publication of this research focused on matters relating not to the “political” boundaries as established by the State of Maryland, but rather to the “administrative” boundaries in use by some government agencies.

Copies of all the source material used in this study as well as an annotated bibliography about the source material can be found on the website:

[www.mappingmaryland.net](http://www.mappingmaryland.net)

Also posted on the website is the GIS data layer developed as a result of this project and all of the comments received from reviewers.

# *ArcView/ArcMap Demonstration*

