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VIRGINIA - MARYLAND - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DATE VISITED: February 17, 1997

ACCESS ROUTE: Congress, in 1790 established the District of Columbia. In 1791, President Washington issued a proclamation defining the bounds of the District. The starting point for the defined area was at Jones Point on the Virginia side of the Potomac. Originally 100 sq. miles in area, it was reduced to 68 sq. miles in 1846 when the portion west of the Potomac was ceded back to Virginia. The boundary between the District and Virginia was finally set at the mean low water mark on the Virginia side of the river and following the pierhead alignment shown on the map. This is the same situation as MD - WV - VA where all of the Potomac River is claimed by Maryland. However, in this case, it is a double tri-point since DC has both a northern and a southern junction with VA and MD.

The northern tri-point is on a very steep bank above the Potomac rapids. Access is by permission from home owners, and descending the steep bank to the river. This was not attempted, but permission was obtained to take pictures of the gorge in this area.

Access to Jones Point, the southern tri-point is very easy since it is in a public park. From exit 1 off I 95 just W of the Woodrow Wilson bridge, go N into Alexandria, VA on US 1 a short distance. Turn R on Franklin St. then R on S. Lee St. Follow around under the Woodrow Wilson bridge to a parking area. From there a short walk will bring you to the marker. The actual tri-point is about 200 feet NE of the marker in the river.



Northern tri-point from about 100 feet above the Potomac River which is about 200 ft. wide here.

Jack Parsell at the southern marker which is inscribed, "DC - VA BOUNDARY 1947."