

Historical Marker - S737 - Meridian-Base Line Initial Point / Meridian-Base Line Dual Initial Points (Marker ID#:S737)



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Front - Title/Description

Meridian-Base Line Initial Point

The 1785 Land Ordinance organized the system of surveying land in regular square six-mile units called townships and square one-mile subunits called sections. Surveyor General Edward Tiffin set the Michigan Meridian (north-south line) using the 1807 Treaty of Detroit land cessions. On September 29, 1815, Benjamin Hough began surveying north from Fort Defiance, Ohio. Alexander Holmes began surveying the meridian from a point 78 miles west of Detroit. Wet land caused him to turn east then north before starting the base line east. He quit that fall, but Hough completed the meridian and marked the initial point in 1816. Tiffin suspended surveying in 1816 as he believed the land was "poor," unfit for military purposes, and not "worth the expense of surveying it."

Back - Title/Description

Meridian-Base Line Dual Initial Points

Michigan Territory Governor Lewis Cass directed surveys near Detroit to resume in 1817. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 increased industry and settlement, contributing to the need for further land surveys. In 1824, Joseph Wampler reran the last twelve miles of the meridian north to intersect the base line he had extended west about eighteen miles. For unknown reasons, he marked a second initial point 935.88 feet south of the first mark. Since land had already been surveyed and sold using the first point, surveyors used both initial points: the northern point for land east of the meridian and the southern point for land westward. The Michigan survey continued through 1856, based on the dual initial points near here, where Jackson and Ingham Counties meet.

Significant Date:

Revolution and War (1760-1815)

Registry Year: 2015 ***Erected Date:*** 2015

Marker Location

Address: Meridian Road

City: Pleasant Lake

State: MI ***ZipCode:***

County: Jackson

Township:

Lat: 42.42311100 / ***Long:*** -84.35620700

Web URL: