

HALF MILE POST = 1/4 CORNER

Appendix V

HALF-MILE POSTS, ALABAMA AND FLORIDA

376. All lost interior quarter-section corners will be restored by single proportionate measurement between the adjoining section corners, after the section corners have been identified or relocated.

In the early practice in parts of Alabama and Florida, so-called "half-mile posts" were established at distances of 40 chains from the starting section corner; the term was applied where the line might be more or less than an exact 80 chains in record length, and where by later methods the latitudinal lines have been run as "random and true". The practice contemplated that in some cases these subdivisional lines be run in cardinal directions to an intersection, where the next section corner would be placed, and either or both lines might be more or less than 80 chains in length. In some cases the section corners were placed across the township at intervals of 80 chains on one of the cardinal lines, and the other lines would be run on random only. On the first plan the "half-mile post" would not be at mid-point unless the line turned out to be 80 chains in length; on the second plan the "half-mile post" on the lines first run would be in true position for the quarter-section corner, but on the lines last run they would usually not be on true line, nor at mid-point.

In both cases, in order to meet the objection that the position of the "half-mile post" did not satisfy the legal requirements for the subdivision of a township, field notes were supplied which gave a true line direction and the mid-point distance for a quarter-section corner, which was called for, but without actually running the true line or constructing a monument at that point. In these cases only the true line field notes need be regarded if the evidence of the "half-mile post" has disappeared; but where the latter can be identified the point must be given proper weight for control as indicated in section 359. Each set of field notes requires its individual consideration, as the practices were not uniform even in the same surveying district.

The applicable rules for the restoration of the true line mid-point positions for the quarter-section corners in the above practices are derived from the act of February 11, 1805 (R. S. sec. 2396), which requires that "The corner of half and quarter sections not marked shall be placed as nearly as possible equidistant from those two corners which stand on the same line".

The rules may be stated specifically as follows:

1. In case the "half-mile post" and quarter-section corner are recorded as being at a common point, the identified "half-mile post" will be restored as the quarter-section corner.
2. If there is evidence of the position of the section corners in both directions, and if the record leaves doubt as to the establishment of the "half-mile post" on the true line, the quarter-section corner will be monumented at mid-point on the true line, disregarding the record of the "half-mile post".
3. In the absence of evidence at one or both section corners and where the record leaves doubt regarding the running and marking of the true line, the "half-mile

post" will be employed on a north and south line for the control of the latitude of the quarter-section corner, or on an east and west line for control of its position in departure, using the record correction for distance. The alinement of the section boundary and the position of the quarter-section corner on the true line will be adjusted to the location of the two section corners after the double proportionate measurements have been completed.

4. Where the field notes show proper location for alinement and record correction for distance, the "half-mile post" will be employed for the full control of the position of the quarter-section corner, and for the restoration of the lost section corners. The position of the quarter-section corner in latitude on a north and south line, or in departure on an east and west line, will be ascertained by making use of the record correction for distance from the "half-mile post". The alinement from the position of the "half-mile post" to the point for the quarter-section corner will be determined by the position of the section corner to the south, if the record correction for distance is to be made to the north; the section corner to the north will be used if the record correction for distance is to be measured to the south; and similarly on east and west lines.

5. The evidence of the "half-mile post" will not be destroyed.