

AA-22, St. John's College World War I Monument
Anne Arundel County
Capsule Summary

The monument to St. John's College alumni who served and died in World War I stands in front of McDowell Hall along College Avenue in Annapolis. Facing southwest toward a brick walkway and perpendicular to the road, the monument consists of a bronze relief panel on a limestone stele and stands on a circle of hexagonal brick paving. The lifesized allegorical figure of Alma Mater on the bronze panel is by the sculptor Hans Schuler.

The World War I Monument, erected in 1920, is significant for its commemoration of alumni who served and died in the Great War. It is also an outstanding example of the work of the Baltimore sculptor Hans Schuler, and is representative of the monumental stele memorial.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
STATE HISTORIC SITES

Survey No. AA-22

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's College World War I Monument

and/or common

2. Location

street & number St. John's College, 60 College Ave. not for publication

city, town Annapolis vicinity of congressional district 4th

state MD county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: commemorative

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. John's College

street & number 60 College Ave. telephone no.: (410) 263-2371

city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber

street & number Church Circle folio

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The monument to St. John's College alumni who served and died in World War I stands in front of McDowell Hall along College Avenue in Annapolis. Facing southwest toward a brick walkway and perpendicular to the road, the monument consists of a bronze relief panel on a limestone stele and stands on a circle of hexagonal brick paving.

The lifesized allegorical figure of Alma Mater on the bronze relief panel is by the sculptor Hans Schuler. She stands with sword held down at her right side, her left elbow resting on a shield which lists twenty-four names and graduation dates of those who died in the war. Above the names is the college crest; below the names is an eagle; around the border of the shield is written: "ST. JOHANNIS C ANNAPOLE IN MARYLANDIA SIGILLUM COMMUNE COLLEGII." Foliage fills the background of the relief panel from shoulder level down. In the "sky" area above the figure are the words: "FOR CIVILIZATION LIBERTY COUNTRY."

The figure panel is framed along the top and sides by a modeled bronze rope knotted at the upper corners. The narrow ledge of bronze upon which the figure stands carries the inscription "SCHULER 1920" in the lower left and "J. ARTHUR LIMERICK CO. FOUNDERS BALTIMORE" in the lower right.

The figure, classical in stance and dress, bows her head toward the shield. The artist has created a muscular, masculine anatomy within an active surface of textures: a crinkly gown, a mail breastplate, a background of foliage, and a writhing palm frond draped over the shield. Taut arms and neck, toes braced in the corner of the composition, the tilt of the shield, all create tension and the sense of a figure caught in a momentary attitude of repose.

The bronze relief panel is mounted in a limestone stele designed to appear to be constructed of nine stacked blocks. The top section is set off by a deeply incised joint and is carved with a Greek key frieze. Below the bronze panel along its full width is a limestone block inscribed with a large "1920." Cove molding flanks each side of the date stone; below the date stone ogee molding extends horizontally around the four sides of the stele above a smooth, gray granite base.

On the reverse of the stele is an inscription panel of limestone, framed by cove molding, and corresponding in size to the bronze relief on the obverse. The panel is carved with the inscription:

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1920 **Builder/Architect** Hans Schuler, sc.;J. Arthur Limerick Co.

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The World War I Monument at St. John's College is significant for its commemoration of alumni who served and died in the Great War. It is also an outstanding example of the work of a prominent local sculptor, Hans Schuler, and is representative of the monumental stele memorial.

The monument, erected in 1920, is dedicated to the 452 alumni who served and the twenty-four who died in the war. They died at different times, not as the result of one engagement. The Alumni Association has determined that most were from Maryland and many were from Anne Arundel. Some were called out of school to serve. The association could find no local descendents of the twenty-four who are listed by name and graduating class date.¹

The bronze sculpture was cast by the J. Arthur Limerick Company of Baltimore. The sculptor Hans Schuler, a native of Lorraine, was the first Rinehart scholar from Maryland. According to William Sener Rusk, author of Art in Baltimore, Schuler's "versatility, his rapid, yet conscientious, technique, and his conceptions, marked by a strength peculiarly sculptural, account for his position as Baltimore's most popular sculptor."²

In the two years preceding erection of the St. John's College memorial Schuler sculpted a group of three memorials for the Baltimore Sun lobby to employees who died in the Great War. Schuler executed a number of memorials in Baltimore from the first decade of this century through the 1940s. Major commissions include the Fallsway Fountain of 1915, the Samuel

¹Conversation with Annapolis Alumni Association president Jack Ladd Carr.

²William Sener Rusk, Art in Baltimore:Monuments and Memorials (Baltimore: the Norman, Remington Company, 1924), 20.

AA-22, St. John's College World War I Monument
Anne Arundel County
7.1 Description

ERECTED BY
THE ALUMNI OF
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
TO THEIR FELLOW ALUMNI
WHO IN THE WORLD WAR
GAVE THEIR ALL.
FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO
OF OUR MEN
ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL.
THERE IS NO RECORD
THAT ONE FAILED
IN HIS DUTY.

Below the inscription is a limestone block corresponding to the date block on the front and carrying a bronze plaque with the following text: " · THE SYMBOLISM OF THE BRONZE TABLET · THE FIGURE IS THE ALMA MATER WITH DRAWN SWORD AND WITH HEAD BOWED WITH THE LAUREL, BOWED IN MOURNING OVER THOSE OF HER ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE INSCRIBED ON THE SHIELD. THESE SHE CROWNS WITH THE PALM AS A TOKEN OF ETERNAL PEACE. HER SHIELD IS AN ADAPTATION OF THE COLLEGE SEAL ON WHICH IS EMBLAZONED THE HONOR ROLL. THE ARBOR VITAE, OR TREE OF LIFE, IS INTRODUCED AT THE RIGHT TO SYMBOLIZE THAT THE NAMES ON THE SHIELD WILL FOREVER REMAIN ROOTED DEEP IN THE MEMORY OF THE ALMA MATER. THE ALMA MATER IS DEPICTED STANDING IN ARMOR TO SIGNIFY THAT THE COLLEGE WAS ACTIVE IN THE WAR AND BEFORE RESUMING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAS ENSHRINED HER HEROES IN A FIELD OF GLORY. THE ALMA MATER WAS FOUNDED IN 1696. THIS MEMORIAL ERECTED IN 1920."

In the fall of 1992 the monument was in fair condition. The bronze exhibited light green corrosion on areas of highest relief and around scratches. Bird guano was observed on two areas of the shield. The bronze panel was missing caulk at the top and sides where it joins the stone. The limestone stele carried a great deal of organic growth on the upper portion and especially on the reverse (northeast) and sides. Limestone around and below the bronze panel and plaque had cupric stains. Only minimal repointing was needed. Some of the hexagonal bricks were missing from the surrounding paving.

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8.1 Significance

Smith Monument of 1918 in Federal Hill Park, the Hopkins Monument of 1935 at Johns Hopkins University, the Martin Luther Monument of 1936, now at Hillen Road and 31st Street Northeast, and the Pulaski Monument at Patterson Park. Schuler also sculpted the James Buchanan Memorial of 1930 in Washington, D.C.³

The World War I Monument at St. John's College embodies the characteristics of the monumental stele, descended from the ancient Greek gravestone, which became popular during the City Beautiful era. One similar example is the World War I Memorial in Upper Marlboro, sculpted by J. Maxwell Miller in 1920. Another example of a monumental stele by Miller, but sculpted in high relief, is the Monument to French Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution, also at St. John's College, erected in 1911.

³Ibid., 133.

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban
Dominance, A. D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Military and
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Object

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): RECREATION AND
CULTURE/monument

Known Design Source(s): Hans Schuler (Sculptor), J. Arthur
Limerick Co., Baltimore (Foundry)



AA-22

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE WWI MONUMENT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

N. KURTZ

10/92

NEG - MD STPO

S. ELEV.

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ERECTED BY
THE ALUMNI OF
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
TO THEIR FELLOW
ALUMNI WHO, IN
THE WORLD WAR
GAVE THEIR ALL

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ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE WWI MONUMENT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

N. KURTZ

10/92

NEG - MD SAPO

N. ELEV.

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