

B-65, Francis Scott Key Monument
Baltimore City
Capsule Summary

The Francis Scott Key Monument by the French sculptor Jean Marius Antonin Mercie stands on Eutaw Place at Lanvale Street. Dating to 1911, the monument is a fountain composed of a sculptural tableau of bronze and marble within a granite-walled basin. The bronze figure of the poet Key stands in a marble boat with a seated bronze sailor, as they return from the British ship on which Key had been held during the bombardment of Ft. McHenry. The figure of Key presents his manuscript to the bronze figure of Columbia, who stands, flag upraised, high atop the stepped roof of a marble temple which rises from the center of the pool. Square in plan and with four Doric columns, the temple shelters a circular marble basin.

The Francis Scott Key Monument, unveiled in 1911, is significant for its commemoration of the writing of what would become the national anthem by Francis Scott Key after the defense of the City of Baltimore by Marylanders on September 12, 1814. It is a work of one of the leading sculptors of the Nineteenth Century French School, Jean Marius Antonin Mercie. The monument also represents the response of the Bolton Hill neighborhood to the City Beautiful movement.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-65

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Francis Scott Key Monument

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Eutaw Place at Lanvale Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Maryland county

3. Classification

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

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

name Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

street & number City Hall, 100 N. Holliday St. telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date federal state county local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town 100 Community Pl., Crownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. B-65

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date of move _____

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

See 7.1 Description

8. Significance

Survey No. B-65

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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911 **Builder/Architect** Jean Marius Antonin Mercie, sculptor

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.

See 8.1 Significance

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-65

Craven, Wayne. Sculpture in America. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1984.
Rusk, William Sener. Art in Baltimore: Monuments and Memorials. Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Company, 1924.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acreQuadrangle name USGS: Baltimore West, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Kurtz, Monuments Survey Administratororganization Maryland Historical Trustdate 30 September 1998street & number 100 Community Placetelephone (410) 514-7648city or town Crownsvillestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

B-65, Francis Scott Key Monument
Baltimore City
7.1 Description

On Eutaw Place at Lanvale Street stands the Francis Scott Key Monument by the French sculptor Jean Marius Antonin Mercie. Dating to 1911, the monument is a fountain composed of a sculptural tableau of bronze and marble within a granite-walled basin. The bronze figure of the poet Key stands in a marble boat with a seated bronze sailor, as they return from the British ship on which Key had been held during the bombardment of Ft. McHenry. The figure of Key presents his manuscript to the bronze figure of Columbia, who stands, flag upraised, high atop the stepped roof of a marble temple which rises from the center of the pool. Square in plan and with four Doric columns, the temple shelters a circular marble basin.

The inscription die below the temple exhibits bronze tablets on the east and west sides depicting scenes from Ft. McHenry. On the south side of the die is the incised inscription:

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY
1780-1843

On the base below the die on the same side is carved:

PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF BALTIMORE BY
CHARLES L. MARBURG

According to William Sener Rusk, the bronze figures were originally gilded.¹ Since 1984 the bronze components of the monument have been washed and maintained with wax by the City of Baltimore. The marble exhibits copper staining below the bronze elements and gypsum crusts on the protected areas beneath the entablature and cornice. The local group, Friends of the Francis Scott Key Monument, has had lighting reinstalled and is seeking funds for repair of the fountain.

¹ William Sener Rusk, Art in Baltimore: Monuments and Memorials (Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Company, 1924), 52.

B-65, Francis Scott Key Monument

Baltimore City

8.1 Significance

The Francis Scott Key Monument, unveiled in 1911, is significant for its commemoration of the writing of what would become the national anthem by Francis Scott Key after the defense of the City of Baltimore by Marylanders on September 12, 1814. It is a work of one of the leading sculptors of the Nineteenth Century French School, Jean Marius Antonin Mercie. The monument also represents the response of the Bolton Hill neighborhood to the City Beautiful movement.

Lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) had been detained on a cartel ship after attempting to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes, a physician from Upper Marlboro, who had been arrested by the British. From the ship, Key watched the bombardment at Ft. McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore and wrote verses on the back of a letter to the music of "To Anacreon in Heaven," later to become the national anthem.

At the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, Jean Marius Antonin Mercie studied with and continued the style of Jean Alexandre Joseph Falguiere; they collaborated on the Lafayette Monument in Washington, DC (1891). Mercie taught a number of American sculptors at the Academie Julian, including Daniel Chester French, Olin Levi Warner, John Gutzon Borglum and Frederic Wellington Ruckstuhl, sculptor of the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Mount Royal Avenue (1903).²

The Key Monument was a gift of Charles L. Marburg, head of the Marburg Brothers tobacco firm. Marburg, who died in 1907, established the Municipal Art Society in 1896, and believed that monuments were a way to achieve the "City Beautiful."³ A result of the Beaux-Arts ideal made popular after the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1892-93, the City Beautiful Movement sought to improve urban areas by integrating parks, monuments and sculpture with public and private buildings. The monument is prominently sited on a major avenue into the Bolton Hill neighborhood, a National Register Historic District.

² Wayne Craven, Sculpture in America (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1984), 396, 406, 488, 477.

³ Maryland Institute, College of Art and Peabody Institute of the City of Baltimore, The Rinehart School of Sculpture: 75th Anniversary Catalogue 1896-1971 (Baltimore: Maryland Institute, College of Art, 1971), 27.

B-65, Francis Scott Key Monument
Baltimore City

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

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): Jean Marius Antonin Mercie



B-65
Francis Scott Key Monument
USGS Baltimore West, MD
1:24,000
Baltimore City

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: **The Key Monument**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **of the Francis Scott Key Fountain**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **In the middle of the street between the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Eutaw Place**

CITY OR TOWN: **at the intersection with W. Lanvale St., Baltimore**

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **19** COUNTY: **Baltimore City** CODE: **0050**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: **Mayor and City Council of Baltimore**

STREET AND NUMBER: **City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: **Baltimore** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **19**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Dept. of Legislative Reference**

STREET AND NUMBER: **City Hall, (address)**

CITY OR TOWN: **Baltimore** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **19**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Bolton Hill Historical and Architectural Preservation District**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1967 - 1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation**

STREET AND NUMBER: **402 City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: **Baltimore** STATE: **Md.** CODE: **19**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

DM & Rog
MHT
1969

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A circular basin surrounds the body of the monument. In it is a stone boat with the bronze figures in it--a barefoot sailor and Francis Scott Key. The latter, in the stern, with a cloak hanging over his left arm, holds out a manuscript to Columbia, who stands at the top, on a structure of Tuscan columns and architrave enclosing a fountain basin, holding the banner aloft. (1.)

On one side of the base of the central monument is a panel of gilt bronze showing the bombardment of Fort McHenry; another shows the fort itself.

This fountain monument is situated in the middle of the intersection of Eutaw Place and West Lanvale Street at the crown of the hill and commanding the vista north along the park in the center of Eutaw Place.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

#9 (1.) (Summarized from William Sener Rusk's Art in Baltimore: Monuments and Memorials, Baltimore, 1929)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1911

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Key Monument, unveiled in 1911, the gift of Charles L. Marburg, is the work of Jean Marius Antonin Mercie.

In what has been called "the Monumental City" this fountain monument is significant because:

1. It combines sculpture^{ture} and a fountain.
2. Its situation on a hilltop at the intersection of a street and a major avenue makes it visible for a great distance. *& the visitor may grasp its meaning at this distance.*
3. It is work by a well known French sculptor in the period when heroic sculpture flourished.
4. The design ~~theoretically~~^{theatrically depicts} puts across the theme. The patriotic American (poet and sailor both) dedicates himself to the ideal, personified by the goddess-like Columbia (the ideal America). The movement is upward to the flag on high.
5. The appropriateness of the boat in the water (the dramatic situation in 1814 took place when Key was interned on the British vessel in Baltimore harbor during the night-long bombardment, and at dawn, when he saw that the flag was still flying over Fort McHenry, he composed the verses of the Star Spangled Banner. Later, he was released and was freed by rowing in a small boat.)

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

re write for sign. comp. first

away

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William Sener Rusk, Art in Baltimore: Monuments and Memorials, Baltimore, 1929.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE _____ CODE _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Question # 8. Significance (Key Monument "Con't.)

6. ^{quick} ~~The scale of the monument allows the viewer to grasp the meaning at~~
a distance.

⑥ Plans have been made, and funds appropriated by the city to reactivate
water into the
the fountain.



The Key Monument
Eutaw Place at
West Lanvale St.
Bolton Hill Preservation
District
(from the north)

Photo by Roger Miller, 1969