

F-3-159, Francis Scott Key Monument
Frederick County
Capsule Summary

The Francis Scott Key Monument stands inside the main entrance to the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick. Facing east, and marking the grave of Key and his wife, Mary Tayloe Lloyd Key, the monument features a bronze statue of Key atop a tall, cylindrical granite pedestal. At the base of the pedestal is an allegorical group of three bronze figures. A bronze tablet on the rear of the pedestal is inscribed with all four verses of the Star Spangled Banner.

The Francis Scott Key Monument, which commemorates the author of the Star Spangled Banner, is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of the work of sculptor Pompeo Coppini (1870-1957). The monument was dedicated August 9, 1898. The total cost of the monument was \$25,000, paid for with funds contributed by school children and others from around the country, and a \$5,000 allocation from the State of Maryland in 1897.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
Maryland Historical Trust HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-3-159

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Francis Scott Key Monument

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Mount Olivet Cemetery, 515 S. Market St. not for publication

city, town Frederick vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

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 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:commemorative

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

name Mount Olivet Cemetery

street & number 515 S. Market St. telephone no.: (301) 662-1164

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-3-159

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. F-3-159

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/ 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

Builder/Architect

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. F-3-159

- Delaplaine, Edward S. Doyle and Coppini: Sculptors of the Francis Scott Key Monument.
Frederick:Frederick News-Post, 1987.
- Hendricks, Patricia D. and Becky Duval Reese. A Century of Sculpture in Texas, 1889-1989. Austin:University of Texas Press, 1989.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acreQuadrangle name USGS Frederick MDQuadrangle scale 1:24,000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Kurtz, Monuments Survey Administratororganization Maryland Historical Trustdate 1 October 1998street & number 100 Community Placetelephone (410) 514-7648city or town Crownsvillestate MD 21032

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

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7.1 Description

The Francis Scott Key Monument stands inside the main entrance to the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick. Facing east, and marking the grave of Key and his wife, Mary Tayloe Lloyd Key, the monument features a bronze statue of Key atop a tall, cylindrical granite pedestal. At the base of the pedestal is an allegorical group of three bronze figures. A bronze tablet on the rear of the pedestal is inscribed with all four verses of the Star Spangled Banner.

The statue of Key stands 9'-5" in height. The figure stands with arms raised, the manuscript of the National Anthem in his left hand, his right hand pointing to a nearby flag. The contrapposto stance, the gestures and the sweep of his coat create a dynamic composition. On a raised, square plinth set into the base of the pedestal sits the figure of Columbia. She holds a flag at her side and is flanked by a youth on her left, who rests his arms on the hilt of a sword and symbolizes Defense, and a child holding a lyre on her right, symbolizing Music and Song. On the front of the plinth below the figural group is a bronze relief composed of the Maryland Seal set in a wreath of laurel and backed by a palm frond.

The granite pedestal is circular in plan, and 16' in height. Around the edge of the top of the cylinder, just below the figure of Key, is the raised inscription:

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Below the inscription is a cornice enriched with torus molding; below the cornice is an encircling band of raised stars. The pedestal is supported by a tall plinth, which rests on a broad circular base of three levels.

The monument occupies a prominent position between the main gate of the cemetery and the chapel, in a landscaped island separate from the rest of the graves. The bronzes were removed and completely refinished by the Karkadoulis Bronze Art Foundry of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1987; the work was funded by the Francis Scott Key Memorial Foundation and the Board of Managers of the Mount Olivet Cemetery.

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8.1 Significance

The Francis Scott Key Monument, which commemorates the author of the Star Spangled Banner, is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of the work of sculptor Pompeo Coppini (1870-1957).

The monument was dedicated August 9, 1898. The total cost of the monument was \$25,000, paid for with funds contributed by school children and others from around the country, and a \$5,000 allocation from the State of Maryland in 1897.¹

Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was born in Frederick, now Carroll, County. While practicing law in 1814, he was detained on a British ship in Baltimore harbor during the Battle of Baltimore. From his position on the ship he was able to observe the bombardment of Fort McHenry and was inspired to write the verses to the Star Spangled Banner, which became the National Anthem in 1931.

The monument was designed by Pompeo Coppini, an Italian immigrant who had studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence. Coppini was an assistant to Alexander Doyle of New York. Doyle entered the competition sponsored by the Key Monument Commission, for which Coppini submitted the pen and ink sketch and model. Coppini had also worked for Roland Hinton Perry on the Court of Neptune Fountain for the Library of Congress.² In 1901 Coppini was employed by Frank Teich of San Antonio to complete the commission for the Confederate Monument in Austin, sculpting the figure of Jefferson Davis and four servicemen figures. Settling in San Antonio, Coppini received commissions for other Confederate monuments around the state, including the equestrian monument to Terry's Texas Rangers; he also sculpted the Joanna Troutman Memorial in the Texas State Cemetery and figures for the Littlefield Fountain at the University of Texas in Austin. He maintained a studio in New York to save on shipping costs to the Roman Bronze Works Foundry, the company that cast the Littlefield Fountain.

In 1941 Coppini received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Baylor University. He served for two years as head of the art department at Trinity University in San Antonio. With his colleague Waldine Amanda Tauch, he founded the Academy of Fine Arts in San Antonio in 1945.³

¹ Mount Olivet, Frederick, Maryland. Cemetery pamphlet, undated.

² Edward S. Delaplaine, Doyle and Coppini: Sculptors of the Francis Scott Key Monument (Frederick, Maryland: Frederick News-Post, 1987), 4-10.

³ Patricia D. Hendricks and Becky Duval Reese, A Century of Sculpture in Texas, 1889-1989 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1989), 19-29.

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

Historic Period Theme(s): Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Object

Historic Environment: Town

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

Known Design Source(s): Pompeo Coppini and Alexander Doyle

