

PG-79-19-70, World War I Monument
Prince George's County
Capsule Summary

The Prince George's County World War I Monument stands in the front courtyard of the old courthouse in Upper Marlboro. The limestone and bronze stele monument faces west from the east side of the yard, at the end of a brick walk which runs longitudinally through the courtyard. On the front of the stele is a bronze low relief of a life-sized Doughboy. On the reverse of the stele is a bronze dedicatory plaque.

The Prince George's County World War I Monument, erected in 1919, is significant for its commemoration the citizens of the county who served and died in the war. A collaboration of Baltimore sculptor Joseph Maxwell Miller and architect William Gordon Beecher, the monument is a representative example of the stele memorial type and of the common soldier Sentinel or Parade Rest figure, first made popular during the Civil War. The bronze was cast by the J. Arthur Limerick Foundry in Baltimore.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic World War I Monument

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Courthouse, 14735 Main Street not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Prince George's

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"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 Prince George's County, c/o Office of the County Executive

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive telephone no.: (301)952-4131

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code MD 20772

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. PG-79-19-70

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. PG-79-19-70

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 1919 **Builder/Architect** J. Maxwell Miller, sc.; Wm. G. Beecher, arch.

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. PG-79-19-70

Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser. 29 August and 12 September 1919.

Rusk, William Sener. William Henry Rinehart, Sculptor. Baltimore: Norman T.A. Munder, 1939.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name USGS Upper Marlboro MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the monument consists of a rectangle 6' wide and 3' deep centered on the monument.

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 Administrator

organization Maryland Historical Trust

date 1 October 1998

street & number 100 Community Place

telephone (410)514-7648

city or town Crownsville

state 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

PG-79-19-70, World War I Monument
Prince George's County
7.1 Description

The Prince George's County World War I Monument stands in the front courtyard of the old courthouse in Upper Marlboro. The limestone and bronze stele monument faces west from the east side of the yard, at the end of a brick walk which runs longitudinally through the courtyard. On the front of the stele is a bronze low relief of a life-sized Doughboy. On the reverse of the stele is a bronze dedicatory plaque.

The limestone stele is a 12' high shaft, 5 1/2' in width, framing a bronze relief sculpture. The bronze depicts a Doughboy standing at Parade Rest, with rifle held barrel-up on the ground in front of him. The design is of a memorial within a memorial: the composition depicts a Doughboy standing in front of another stele which carries a flame at the top and a swag above an inscription. At his feet is a large palm frond which breaks out of the frame to overlap the limestone. The flame at the top of the depicted stele also breaks out of the composition to overlap the limestone stele. The Doughboy's arm overlaps a few letters of the inscription, which reads:

THIS MONUMENT
PERPETUATES THE MEMORY
OF THE
SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
WHO
TRUE TO THE TRADITIONS
OF THEIR COUNTY
AND THE TEACHINGS
OF THEIR FOREFATHERS
SERVED THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE GREAT WAR
OF 1917-1918
TO THE SPIRIT OF THAT
SERVICE
TRIBUTE IS HERE PAID
BY A GRATEFUL PEOPLE

The lower proper left corner of the bronze is inscribed:

J. M. MILLER SC
W. G. BEECHER ARCH

The lower proper right corner of the bronze is inscribed with the name of the foundry:

PG-79-19-70, World War I Monument
Prince George's County
7.2 Description

**J. ARTHUR LIMERICK CO. FOUNDERS,
BALTIMORE**

Carved into the limestone stele above the bronze relief are the words:

THE RIGHT WILL PREVAIL

The top of the stele is carved center front and back with a shell design flanked by scrolls, all above a cornice of cavetto and ogee molding. The base of the stele on the front carries a small bronze spout above a parged basin now covered with a concrete slab.

The rear of the stele has a flat, recessed panel which carries a smaller bronze tablet, inscribed:

**THESE MEN
FROM
PRINCE GEORGE'S
COUNTY
MADE THE SUPREME
SACRIFICE
DEFENDING
THE LIBERTY OF
MANKIND
ROLL OF HONOR
(47 names)
ERECTED
1919**

In 1997 the monument was cleaned and the bronzes were waxed by the Maryland Military Monuments Commission.

PG-79-19-70, World War I Monument

Prince George's County

8.1 Significance

The Prince George's County World War I Monument, erected in 1919, is significant for its commemoration the citizens of the county who served and died in the war. A collaboration of Baltimore sculptor Joseph Maxwell Miller and architect William Gordon Beecher, the monument is a representative example of the stele memorial type and of the common soldier Sentinel or Parade Rest figure, first made popular during the Civil War. The bronze was cast by the J. Arthur Limerick Foundry in Baltimore.

The monument, originally called the Memorial Fountain, is a cultural expression of its time; it symbolizes the shared perception of the noble character and valor of the veterans and their cause. The traditional town well or fountain on the courthouse green, which, according to architect Beecher, had "long been a mecca to which the larger portion of the population is daily drawn," was seen as an appropriate feature to incorporate into the memorial. The contractor was Corbin C. Cogswell for the Cogswell, Koether Company; G. Krug and Son worked on the iron fence, which was moved back to provide a setting for the memorial. The cost of \$7500 was raised by subscription from the districts of the county by the Executive Committee on the Memorial to the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of Prince George's County, chaired by Judge Beall.¹

The fountain was dedicated and the cornerstone laid by the Masonic Lodge on October 7, 1919. The bronze tablet, inscribed with the names of the forty-seven who died, was unveiled. The dedication ceremony drew 6,000, a record number of visitors to Upper Marlboro. Associate Justice Fillmore Beall was the presiding officer, and Senator Blair Lee and Charles Benedict Calvert spoke. After the ceremony, dinner was served on the lawn of the Marlboro Hotel to all the returning servicemen by the ladies of the county.² The memorial was completed in July 1920.³

Joseph Maxwell Miller (1877-1933) studied at the Maryland Institute in Baltimore and, as a Rinehart scholar at the Academie Julien in Paris, was a student of Verlet. He served as Director of the Rinehart School of Sculpture from 1923 and was also Visiting Critic at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington. According to art historian William Sener Rusk, Miller's finest work was found in his reliefs; some of these include plaques at Gilman Memorial Hall at Johns Hopkins University, the Baltimore City College High School War Memorial, and the Monument to French Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution in Annapolis.⁴ Miller

¹ Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser, 29 August and 12 September 1919.

² *Ibid.*, 10 October 1919.

³ *Ibid.*, 2 July 1920.

⁴ William Sener Rusk, William Henry Rinehart, Sculptor (Baltimore: Norman T. A. Munder, 1939), 92.

PG-79-19-70, World War I Monument
Prince George's County
8.2 Significance

also sculpted the Confederate Women's Monument on University Parkway at Charles Street the Star Spangled Banner Centennial Monument in Patterson Park.

The Prince George's monument embodies the characteristics of the monumental stele, a form descended from the ancient Greek gravestone, and the use of which was popularized by the Beaux Arts style. The monument reflects the response by the county to the City Beautiful Movement, a planning and beautification effort which developed after rapid growth between the turn of the century and World War I and fostered the integration of parks, monuments and sculpture with architecture.

The Doughboy figure is descended from the Sentinel and Parade Rest statues, common soldier figures first popularized during the Civil War in recognition of the contributions made by the thousands of men and boys who died in that war. There are seven free-standing Doughboy sculptures found in the state; this is the only life-sized Doughboy relief sculpture found thus far in the state.

PG-79-19-70, World War I Monument
Prince George's County

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

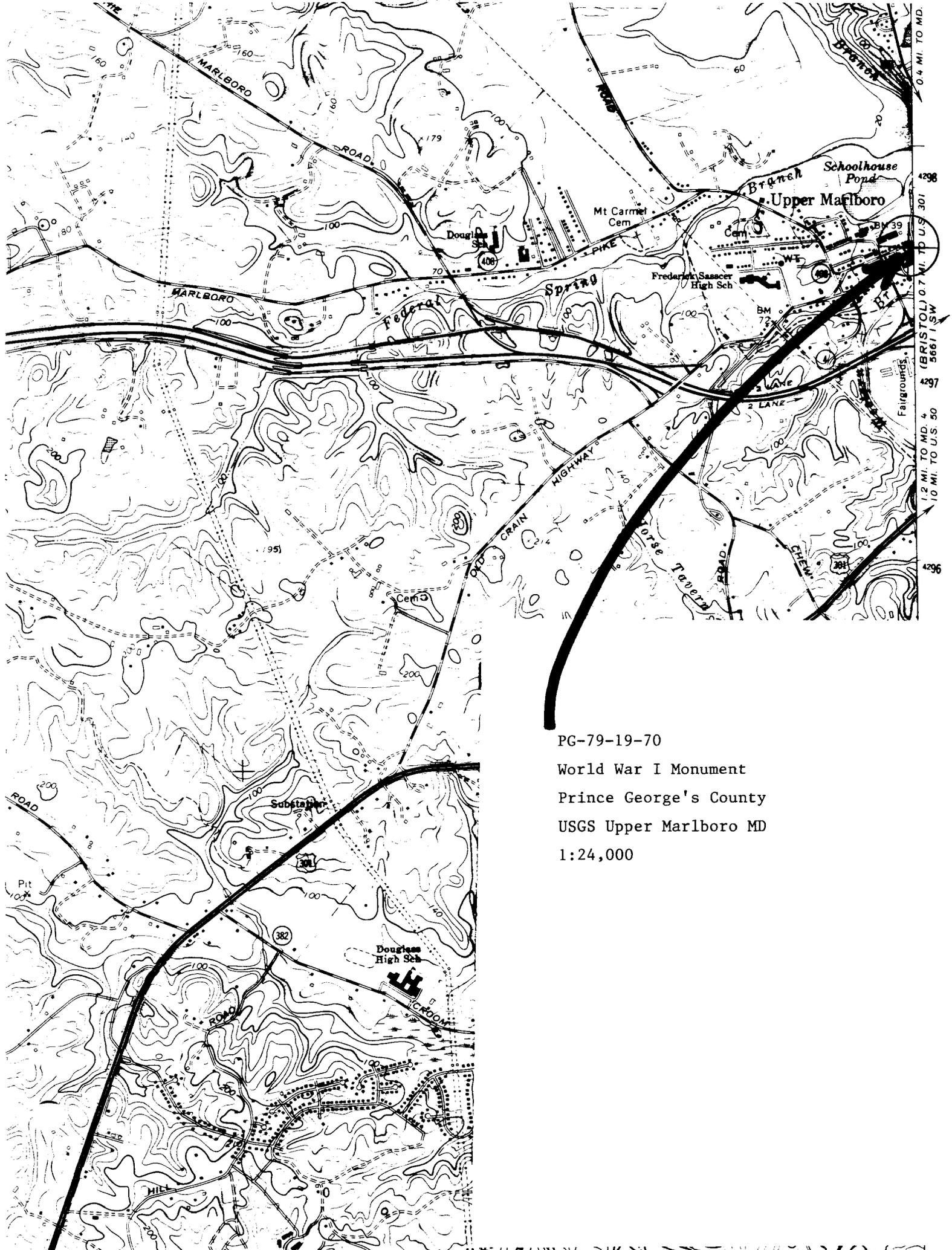
Resource Type:

Category: Object

Historic Environment: Village

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

Known Design Source(s): W. C. Beecher (Architect); J. Maxwell Miller (Sculptor); J.
Arthur Limerick Co. (Foundry); G. Krug and Son; Cogswell, Koether Co. (Contractor)



PG-79-19-70
World War I Monument
Prince George's County
USGS Upper Marlboro MD
1:24,000