

CE-1455, World War I Doughboy Monument
Cecil County
Capsule Summary

The World War I Monument in Elkton stands on the lawn in front of the Maryland National Guard Armory, facing south toward Railroad Avenue. The white Vermont marble monument, of a straight exedral form, is composed of a lifesized Doughboy standing upon a pedestal which rises from the center of flanking walls. A marble platform supports the pedestal and walls for its full length and descends three steps to the lawn. At each end of the steps on the front corners of the platform are obelisks topped by lamps.

The Elkton monument is significant for its commemoration of the men and women of Cecil County who served or died in war. It also is a representative example of a free-standing Doughboy monument, only seven of which are known to exist in the state (two of marble, one of granite, and four of bronze or sheet copper).

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Cecil County

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Geographic Organization: Eastern 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): Commemorative

Known Design Source(s): None

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CE-1455

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic World War I Doughboy Monument

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Maryland Guard Armory, 101 Railroad Ave. not for publication

city, town Elkton vicinity of congressional district 1st

state MD county Cecil

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: commemorative

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

name Mayor and City Council of Elkton, Maryland

street & number Town Hall, PO Box 157 telephone no.: (410) 398-0970

city, town Elkton state and zip code MD 21921

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Elkton state MD 21921

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CE-1455

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move <u>1940</u>
<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 World War I Monument in Elkton stands on the lawn in front of the Maryland National Guard Armory, facing south toward Railroad Avenue. The white Vermont marble monument, of a straight exedral form, is composed of a lifesized Doughboy standing upon a pedestal which rises from the center of flanking walls. A marble platform supports the pedestal and walls for its full length and descends three steps to the lawn. At each end of the steps on the front corners of the platform are tapered shafts topped by lamps.

The Doughboy stands with left knee bent, rifle held barrel-up on the ground before him. The carving of the marble figure is especially fluid, with skill shown in the modeling of the fabric in the uniform. The central pedestal is carved with the inscription:

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY
THE PEOPLE OF CECIL COUNTY,
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF
THE SERVICES OF MEN AND
WOMEN OF THIS COUNTY, WHO, ON
LAND OR AT SEA, SERVED THEIR
COUNTRY, IN THE GREAT WORLD
WAR - 1914-1918 - AND IN ES-
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE OF THE
MEN OF THIS COUNTY, WHO, IN
THAT WAR, "LAID DOWN THEIR
LIVES THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE."

Above the inscription is a relief carving of an eagle with crossed standards. Below the inscription on the pedestal is a bronze plaque which reads:

DEDICATED
TO THOSE
WHO MADE THE
SUPREME SACRIFICE
IN WORLD WAR II

A second bronze plaque below the first reads:

AND TO
VETERANS
OF ALL WARS

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7.1 Description

Seventeen names of those killed in the First World War are carved on the walls flanking the pedestal. The last two names on the lower right side have had the word "colored," once carved after each, removed. At the end of these names there are now blank oval panels incised in the stone.

The walls drop from the central pedestal in a curve, straighten out, and are stepped at each upper corner. An incised band outlines each wall. The faces of the shafts are recessed panels, creating more outlines. The streamlined walls and the zigzagged steps on the upper corners anticipate the Art Deco style of the next decades. The date 1921 is carved on the base of the right light shaft.

The monument stands on the grounds of the Maryland National Guard Armory, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as one of a thematic group. The Doughboy monument has been determined eligible for listing as a contributing resource to the armory. Erected in 1921 in front of the Elkton court house, the monument was moved to its present location in 1941 after the court house was demolished. In 1994 the Elkton monument was in a deteriorating state. Probably due to its having been moved, the wall and platform were cracking and exhibited previous patching which had failed. Water entry and freeze-and-thaw cycles had accelerated the deterioration. The statue was in good condition, but with considerable soiling and organic growth in recessed areas and especially on the rear (north) side. Gypsum crusts had formed under the hat and around the eyes of the statue.

In summer 1994 the monument was washed with water, stones in the platform were reset, and the joints were repointed. Injection grouting was used at the rear of the central pedestal where the cracked stone was starting to bulge. Replacements for the missing rifle end, bolt, and bayonet scabbard were carved from marble and glued in place. A portion of the nose which had dissolved in the cleaning was replaced with Jahn Restoration Mortar.

8. Significance

Survey No. CE-1455

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 1921 **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.

The World War I Monument in Elkton is significant for its commemoration of the men and women of Cecil County who served or died in war. It also is a representative example of a free-standing Doughboy monument, only seven of which are known to exist in the state (two of marble, one of granite, three of sheet copper and one of bronze).

In a meeting of 20 January 1919 it was resolved, "that a memorial be created to the soldiers and sailors of Cecil County who have taken part in the Great War." An executive committee was appointed, consisting of a man and a woman from each of the nine districts of the county. Suggestions for a suitable memorial were offered, including a maternity annex to the hospital, a tablet in the new courthouse, a tablet in the armory, a public library, a school fund for the soldiers and sailors, or a monument. In March 1919 the committee agreed to wait until most had returned from the war to decide on a suitable memorial.¹

By November 1920 it had been decided that a monument would be built and donations were solicited; the next month an announcement was made that it would be built on the southwest corner of the Court House yard and "it is in contemplation to erect, with the monument, a drinking fountain for man and beast." By mid-January 1921 donations had amounted to \$5,218, and the committee decided to raise its original goal of \$7,500 to \$10,000. By 26 March the design for the memorial had been selected and \$9,400 had been raised. In April it was announced that "an association had been formed, and it will be incorporated, to take care of the monument and a permanent fund will be raised - a part of it has already been raised - to provide for the care for it, for all future time." Ground was

¹The Cecil Democrat, 11, 25 January, 29 March 1919.

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Cecil County
8.1 Significance

broken on 6 June, and the monument was erected with the cornerstone set by 22 October. Joseph H. Sloan of Elkton Marble and Granite Works had the contract for erecting the monument. The monument was dedicated on 11 November 1921, and paid for with \$10,000 contributed by Cecil countians. The original lights were described as having bronze fittings and photographs show they were designed with one central globe above four smaller dropped globes. A marble drinking fountain was also built along Main Street in front of the memorial.²

In 1940 a new court house was completed on Main Street to the west of the old court house, which was jointly owned by the town and the county. The county turned over its half interest in the old court house to the town. In 1941 the main part of the building was torn down, the monument was moved to the armory, and the old court house plaza was lowered to street level.³

After World War I the American monument industry produced a variety of Doughboys, the demand for which lasted only through the 1920s. The Elkton Doughboy is posed as a Parade Rest or Sentinel figure; this quiet pose is directly descended from the most popular choice of memorial figure following the Civil War, which saw the first use in America of statues of common soldiers.⁴ The exedral form of monument became popular during the City Beautiful movement and reflects the influence of Beaux-Arts design and its reliance on classical monument forms.⁵

Although the Elkton Doughboy is an example of a mass-produced war monument, there is found a great deal of variation in the type. According to art historian Michael Panhorst, about a dozen companies manufactured large numbers of statues from the 1880s through the 1920s, with variation from company to company,

²Ibid., 11, 18 December 1920, 15 January, 26 March, 9 April, 11 June, 22 October, 12 November 1921.

³The Cecil Democrat, 15, 20 June 1940, 21 December 1940; Cecil Whig, 20 March, 15 May 1941.

⁴Michael W. Panhorst, "Memorial Art and Architecture in a Vernacular Mold: Mass-Produced War Monuments in the United States, 1861-1929" (unpublished paper presented at the Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference, Staunton, Virginia, 1988), 2.

⁵Michael W. Panhorst, "Brief History of Outdoor Sculpture and Monuments in the United States of America," in SOS! Handbook, ed. Paula R. Peters (Washington, DC: National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property, 1992), 45-46.

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8.2 Significance

and between figure types from within the same company. Smaller firms made multiple copies from their own originals.⁶

Among stock monuments carved from stone there is found a greater degree of variation from the original model than is found in cast sculpture, due to the nature of carving. Facial features, clothing details and military insignia could be modified according to requirements of the patron or skill of the carver. Panhorst believes that there are few exact copies of a common original.⁷ The Elkton Doughboy, although a Sentinel figure type, is most likely one-of-a-kind. Of the three stone Doughboys in the state, all Sentinel figures, there is variety in pose and modeling skill.

⁶Panhorst, "Memorial Art," 6.

⁷Ibid., 6-7.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Panhorst, Michael W. "Memorial Art and Architecture in a Vernacular Mold: Mass-Produced War Monuments in the United States, 1861-1929." Unpublished paper presented at the Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference, Staunton, VA, 1988.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name USGS Elkton, 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
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

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 Administrator

organization Maryland Historical Trust

date 29 March 1995

street & number 100 Community Place

telephone (410) 514-7648

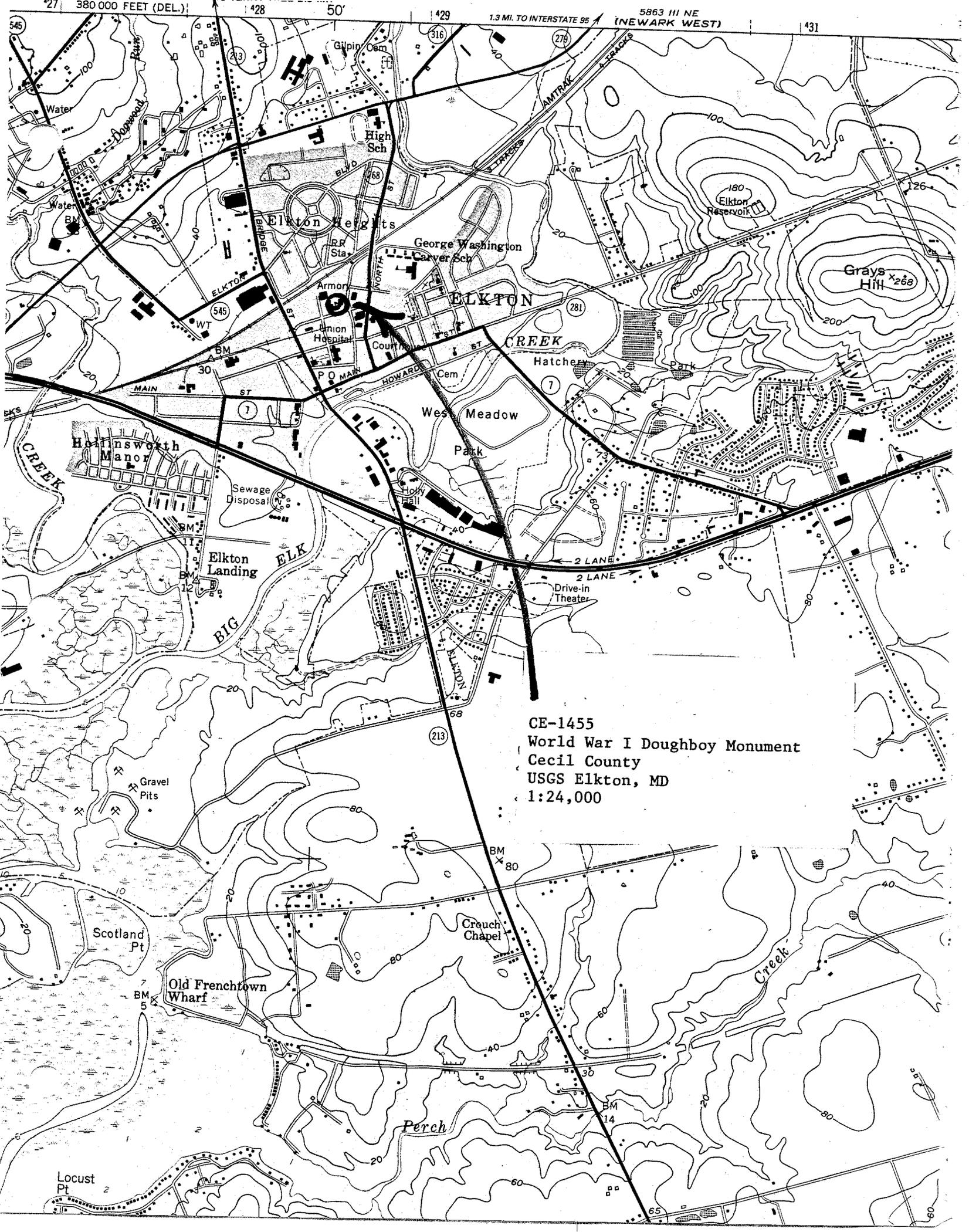
city or town Crownsville

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
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21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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USGS Elkton, MD
1:24,000

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