

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 INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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

Survey No. PG-79-19-70

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street & number Courthouse, 14735 Main Street  not for publication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"/> 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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 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

**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/
<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** 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



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7.1 Description

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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:

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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.

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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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> The memorial was completed in July 1920.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> Miller

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

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 10 October 1919.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 2 July 1920.

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

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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.

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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: 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)



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USGS Upper Marlboro MD

1:24,000