

WA-I-526, World War I Doughboy Monument
Washington County
Capsule Summary

The World War I Doughboy Monument in Williamsport stands in the parking lot outside of the doorway of the American Legion building near Route 68 on American Legion Avenue. Facing east, the life-sized bronze sculpture is posed in a running stance on top of a granite pedestal, its profile aligned with bronze plaques on the north and south sides of the pedestal.

The World War I Doughboy Monument in Williamsport, dedicated July 7, 1926, is significant for its commemoration of those who served and died in the war. Copyrighted by sculptor John Paulding and cast by the American Art Bronze Foundry of Chicago, it is representative of the stock Doughboy monuments erected after the First World War and until the Great Depression.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form



Survey No. WA-I-526

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic World War I Doughboy Monument

and/or common

2. Location

street & number American Legion Potomac Post No. 202
400 American Legion Avenue not for publication

city, town Williamsport vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Washington

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 type="checkbox"/> other: commemorative

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

name American Legion Potomac Post No. 202

street & number 400 American Legion Avenue telephone no.: (301) 223-7087

city, town Williamsport state and zip code MD 21795

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

postitory for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WA-I-526

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair

- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved

date of move

1953; 1977

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. WA-I-526

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 1926 **Builder/Architect** American Art Bronze Foundry, Chicago

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. WA-I-526

Hagerstown Daily Mail. 8 July 1926.

Harsh, Adam J. "The World War I Monument." The Community Sentinel, 30 March 1978.

Shapiro, Michael Edward. Bronze Casting and American Sculpture, 1850-1900. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name USGS Williamsport 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"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

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

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the monument consists of a 10' square 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
DHOP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
514-7648

WA-I-526, World War I Doughboy Monument
Washington County
7.1 Description

The World War I Doughboy Monument in Williamsport stands in the parking lot outside of the doorway of the American Legion building near Route 68 on American Legion Avenue. Facing east, the life-sized bronze sculpture is posed in a running stance on a granite pedestal which carries bronze plaques on the north and south sides.

The Doughboy is posed with a rifle in his left hand at his side, his right hand high above his head, left knee in front and right foot behind and off the ground, supported by a modeled tree stump. The sculpture stands on a rectangular bronze plinth which carries the manufacturer's identification on the lower right corner of the north side:

AMERICAN ART BRONZE FOUNDRY
J. PAULDING SC. © 1921 CHICAGO

The granite pedestal is rectangular in plan, its transverse oriented east toward the front of the parking lot. The inscription die has smooth longitudinal north and south faces which carry the plaques; the narrow east and west sides are rock-faced. Above the die is a hipped cap with rock-faced sides and an ogee profile at the lower edge. Below the die is a two-level stepped base with rock-faced sides. The monument stands on a platform, presumably of concrete, covered with outdoor carpeting.

The bronze plaque on the south side of the pedestal reads:

HONOR ROLL
ERECTED AND DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF THE BOYS FROM
THE WILLIAMSPORT DISTRICT
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES OR THEIR SERVICES
IN THE WORLD WAR
1914 1918

(77 names listed)

*KILLED IN ACTION †DIED IN SERVICE

There are two names marked with a star and one name marked with a cross.

WA-I-526, World War I Doughboy Monument
Washington County
7.2 Description

The plaque on the north side of the pedestal carries the same inscription and lists eighty-three names. One of the names is marked with a star. The last two names on the list are designated "(COLORED)."

Carved on the front side of the granite base below the die block are the dates, "April 6, 1917-November 11, 1918." Carved on the north and south sides of the base below each plaque is the designation, "W.W. I."

In October 1992 the sculpture was in fair condition, with a mottled and streaked surface of light green, brown and gold. The surface was a dull matte. According to staff at the American Legion, the sculpture had at one time been sandblasted and then lacquered. The bayonet was missing. The granite was in good condition, although soiled. Mortar joints appeared to be sound. In September 1994 the monument was cleaned with water and a non-ionic detergent, the bronze was further cleaned with walnut shell air abrasive and waxed. A replacement bayonet was fabricated and installed in 199.

A flag pole stands directly behind the monument and flies the U.S. and Maryland flags. A light is mounted on the rear of the platform and directed toward the flags. Aligned on the east and north sides of the monument, at the edge of the carpeted platform, is a continuous plinth which forms a right angle. The east and north faces of the plinth are carved with insignia of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Six granite stones, three to a side, are arranged on the plinth. The three on the east side begin with the same inscription:

IN RECOGNITION OF ALL
VETERANS WHO MADE
THE SACRIFICE FOR
FREEDOM:

Reading from south to north, the first states:

WORLD WAR II
DEC. 7, 1941-DEC. 31, 1946

WA-I-526, World War I Doughboy Monument
Washington County
7.3 Description

The second:

KOREA
JUNE 25, 1950-JAN. 31, 1955

The third:

VIETNAM
DEC. 22, 1961-MAY 7, 1975

The three stones on the north side of the plinth all carry the inscription:

IN HONOR OF ALL
VETERANS WHO GAVE
SO FREELY FOR GOD
AND COUNTRY:

Reading east to west, the first stone adds:

LEBANON/GRENADA
AUG. 24, 1982- JULY 31, 1984

The second adds:

PANAMA
DEC. 20, 1989-JAN. 31, 1990

The third stone had no designation as of October 1994.

WA-I-526, World War I Doughboy Monument

Washington County

8.1 Significance

The World War I Doughboy Monument in Williamsport is significant for its commemoration of those who served and died in the war. It is also representative of the stock Doughboy monuments erected after the First World War and until the Great Depression.

The monument was dedicated by Governor Albert C. Ritchie on July 7, 1926, in a ceremony that also featured speakers Mayor William D. Byron and Major Joseph C. Byron. Three airplanes showered flowers onto the crowd.¹ The \$3,200 cost of the monument was raised from 1922 through 1926 by community festivals, an ox roast and personal solicitations. The original setting for the monument was the center of West Potomac Street, in a traffic island, with a concrete sidewalk from the street to the monument. Street lights were placed at either end of the island, in front and in back of the monument.²

In 1953 the State Roads Commission had the town move the monument to Byron Memorial Park. The monument was moved a third time, to the American Legion Post 202, and rededicated on November 11, 1977.³

The sculptor John Paulding copyrighted at least three styles of Doughboy sculptures and sold these stock monuments around the United States; eighteen of these are found in the Smithsonian Institution's Inventory of American Sculpture.

The most popular Doughboy sculpture of the time was "The Spirit of the American Doughboy," fabricated of sheet copper and copyrighted by E. M. Viquesney of Spencer, Indiana. Although similar in pose, the Williamsport Doughboy differs from the Viquesney sculpture in its more active pose.

Of the seven Doughboys identified in the state, the Williamsport Doughboy is the only bronze; three are of sheet copper, one of granite and two of marble. Examples of the Viquesney sculpture stand in Crisfield and Emmitsburg; the Doughboy in Funkstown, leaning well forward with the rear leg extended, is another actively posed Doughboy. The granite and marble Doughboy statues in the state are posed in the quiet, Sentinel

¹ Hagerstown Daily Mail, 8 July 1926.

² Adam J. Harsh, "The World War I Monument," The Community Sentinel, 30 March 1978, 18.

³ Ibid.

WA-I-526, World War I Doughboy Monument
Washington County
8.2 Significance

stance, more closely allied in spirit with the Civil War era common soldier statues.

The American Art Bronze Foundry of Chicago was known as the American Bronze Company in 1888 and as the American Bronze Foundry Company in 1898.⁴ Another bronze statue found in the state cast by the American Bronze Company is the Union soldier statue in Cumberland, erected in 1895.

⁴ Michael Edward Shapiro, Bronze Casting and American Sculpture, 1850-1900, (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1985), 165.

WA-I-526, World War I Doughboy Monument
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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Geographic Organization: Western Maryland

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

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

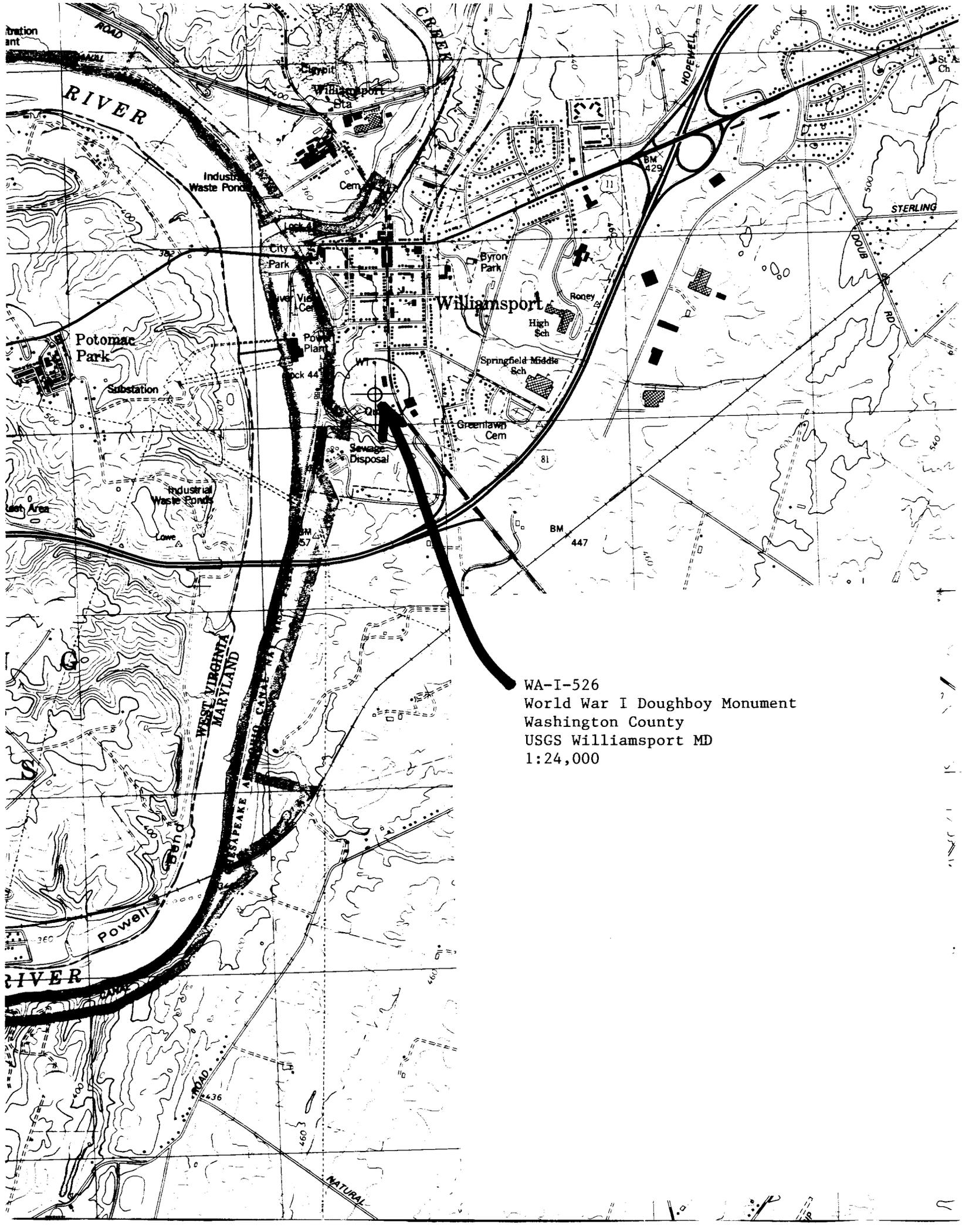
Resource Type:

Category: Object

Historic Environment: Town

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

Known Design Source(s): John Paulding; American Art Bronze Foundry,
Chicago, 1921



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USGS Williamsport MD
1:24,000