

AA-22, St. John's College World War I Monument  
Anne Arundel County  
Capsule Summary

The monument to St. John's College alumni who served and died in World War I stands in front of McDowell Hall along College Avenue in Annapolis. Facing southwest toward a brick walkway and perpendicular to the road, the monument consists of a bronze relief panel on a limestone stele and stands on a circle of hexagonal brick paving. The lifesized allegorical figure of Alma Mater on the bronze panel is by the sculptor Hans Schuler.

The World War I Monument, erected in 1920, is significant for its commemoration of alumni who served and died in the Great War. It is also an outstanding example of the work of the Baltimore sculptor Hans Schuler, and is representative of the monumental stele memorial.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

STATE AND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. John's College World War I Monument

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number St. John's College, 60 College Ave.  not for publication

city, town Annapolis  vicinity of  congressional district 4th

state MD  county Anne Arundel

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 St. John's College

street & number 60 College Ave. telephone no.: (410) 263-2371

city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber

street & number Church Circle folio

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. AA-22

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<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 monument to St. John's College alumni who served and died in World War I stands in front of McDowell Hall along College Avenue in Annapolis. Facing southwest toward a brick walkway and perpendicular to the road, the monument consists of a bronze relief panel on a limestone stele and stands on a circle of hexagonal brick paving.

The lifesized allegorical figure of Alma Mater on the bronze relief panel is by the sculptor Hans Schuler. She stands with sword held down at her right side, her left elbow resting on a shield which lists twenty-four names and graduation dates of those who died in the war. Above the names is the college crest; below the names is an eagle; around the border of the shield is written: "ST. JOHANNIS C ANNAPOLE IN MARYLANDIA SIGILLUM COMMUNE COLLEGIUM." Foliage fills the background of the relief panel from shoulder level down. In the "sky" area above the figure are the words: "FOR CIVILIZATION LIBERTY COUNTRY."

The figure panel is framed along the top and sides by a modeled bronze rope knotted at the upper corners. The narrow ledge of bronze upon which the figure stands carries the inscription "SCHULER 1920" in the lower left and "J. ARTHUR LIMERICK CO. FOUNDERS BALTIMORE" in the lower right.

The figure, classical in stance and dress, bows her head toward the shield. The artist has created a muscular, masculine anatomy within an active surface of textures: a crinkly gown, a mail breastplate, a background of foliage, and a writhing palm frond draped over the shield. Taut arms and neck, toes braced in the corner of the composition, the tilt of the shield, all create tension and the sense of a figure caught in a momentary attitude of repose.

The bronze relief panel is mounted in a limestone stele designed to appear to be constructed of nine stacked blocks. The top section is set off by a deeply incised joint and is carved with a Greek key frieze. Below the bronze panel along its full width is a limestone block inscribed with a large "1920." Cove molding flanks each side of the date stone; below the date stone ogee molding extends horizontally around the four sides of the stele above a smooth, gray granite base.

On the reverse of the stele is an inscription panel of limestone, framed by cove molding, and corresponding in size to the bronze relief on the obverse. The panel is carved with the inscription:

# 8. Significance

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** 1920 **Builder/Architect** Hans Schuler, sc.;J. Arthur Limerick Co.

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 at St. John's College is significant for its commemoration of alumni who served and died in the Great War. It is also an outstanding example of the work of a prominent local sculptor, Hans Schuler, and is representative of the monumental stele memorial.

The monument, erected in 1920, is dedicated to the 452 alumni who served and the twenty-four who died in the war. They died at different times, not as the result of one engagement. The Alumni Association has determined that most were from Maryland and many were from Anne Arundel. Some were called out of school to serve. The association could find no local descendents of the twenty-four who are listed by name and graduating class date.<sup>1</sup>

The bronze sculpture was cast by the J. Arthur Limerick Company of Baltimore. The sculptor Hans Schuler, a native of Lorraine, was the first Rinehart scholar from Maryland. According to William Sener Rusk, author of Art in Baltimore, Schuler's "versatility, his rapid, yet conscientious, technique, and his conceptions, marked by a strength peculiarly sculptural, account for his position as Baltimore's most popular sculptor."<sup>2</sup>

In the two years preceding erection of the St. John's College memorial Schuler sculpted a group of three memorials for the Baltimore Sun lobby to employees who died in the Great War. Schuler executed a number of memorials in Baltimore from the first decade of this century through the 1940s. Major commissions include the Fallsway Fountain of 1915, the Samuel

<sup>1</sup>Conversation with Annapolis Alumni Association president Jack Ladd Carr.

<sup>2</sup>William Sener Rusk, Art in Baltimore:Monuments and Memorials (Baltimore: the Norman, Remington Company, 1924), 20.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-22

Rusk, William Sener, Art in Baltimore: Monuments and Memorials. Baltimore, Norman, Remington Company, 1924.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name USGS Annapolis, 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"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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

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 18 November 1994

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~~

MARKED BY NANCY KURTZ  
B-100-100-00  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

AA-22, St. John's College World War I Monument  
Anne Arundel County  
7.1 Description

ERECTED BY  
THE ALUMNI OF  
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
TO THEIR FELLOW ALUMNI  
WHO IN THE WORLD WAR  
GAVE THEIR ALL.  
FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO  
OF OUR MEN  
ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL.  
THERE IS NO RECORD  
THAT ONE FAILED  
IN HIS DUTY.

Below the inscription is a limestone block corresponding to the date block on the front and carrying a bronze plaque with the following text: " · THE SYMBOLISM OF THE BRONZE TABLET · THE FIGURE IS THE ALMA MATER WITH DRAWN SWORD AND WITH HEAD BOWED WITH THE LAUREL, BOWED IN MOURNING OVER THOSE OF HER ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE INSCRIBED ON THE SHIELD. THESE SHE CROWNS WITH THE PALM AS A TOKEN OF ETERNAL PEACE. HER SHIELD IS AN ADAPTATION OF THE COLLEGE SEAL ON WHICH IS EMBLAZONED THE HONOR ROLL. THE ARBOR VITAE, OR TREE OF LIFE, IS INTRODUCED AT THE RIGHT TO SYMBOLIZE THAT THE NAMES ON THE SHIELD WILL FOREVER REMAIN ROOTED DEEP IN THE MEMORY OF THE ALMA MATER. THE ALMA MATER IS DEPICTED STANDING IN ARMOR TO SIGNIFY THAT THE COLLEGE WAS ACTIVE IN THE WAR AND BEFORE RESUMING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAS ENSHRINED HER HEROES IN A FIELD OF GLORY. THE ALMA MATER WAS FOUNDED IN 1696. THIS MEMORIAL ERECTED IN 1920."

In the fall of 1992 the monument was in fair condition. The bronze exhibited light green corrosion on areas of highest relief and around scratches. Bird guano was observed on two areas of the shield. The bronze panel was missing caulk at the top and sides where it joins the stone. The limestone stele carried a great deal of organic growth on the upper portion and especially on the reverse (northeast) and sides. Limestone around and below the bronze panel and plaque had cupric stains. Only minimal repointing was needed. Some of the hexagonal bricks were missing from the surrounding paving.

AA-22, St. John's College World War I Monument  
Anne Arundel County  
8.1 Significance

Smith Monument of 1918 in Federal Hill Park, the Hopkins Monument of 1935 at Johns Hopkins University, the Martin Luther Monument of 1936, now at Hillen Road and 31st Street Northeast, and the Pulaski Monument at Patterson Park. Schuler also sculpted the James Buchanan Memorial of 1930 in Washington, D.C.<sup>3</sup>

The World War I Monument at St. John's College embodies the characteristics of the monumental stele, descended from the ancient Greek gravestone, which became popular during the City Beautiful era. One similar example is the World War I Memorial in Upper Marlboro, sculpted by J. Maxwell Miller in 1920. Another example of a monumental stele by Miller, but sculpted in high relief, is the Monument to French Soldiers and Sailors of the American Revolution, also at St. John's College, erected in 1911.

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid., 133.

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Anne Arundel 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:

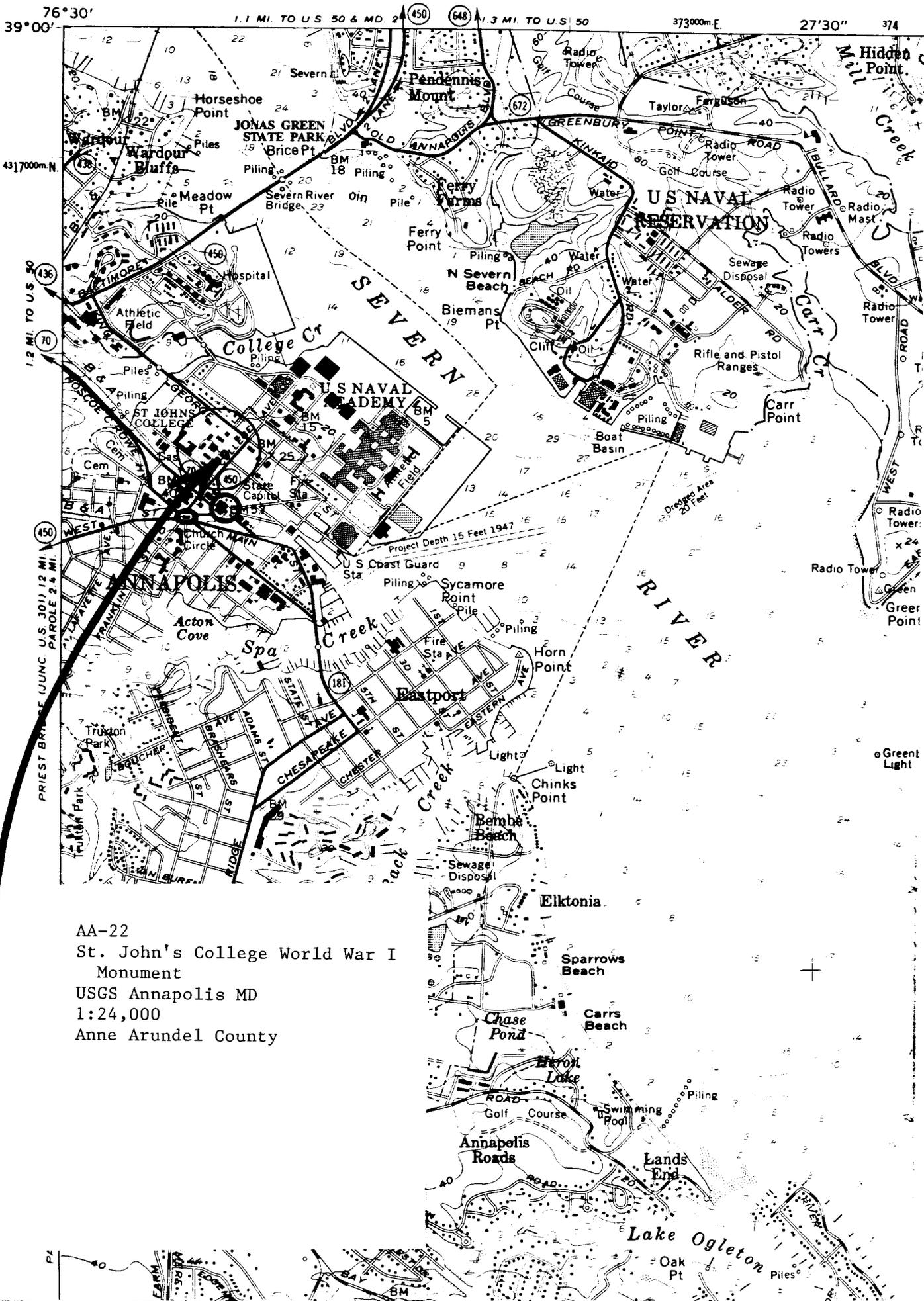
Category: Object

Historic Environment: Urban

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

Known Design Source(s): Hans Schuler (Sculptor), J. Arthur  
Limerick Co., Baltimore (Foundry)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



AA-22  
St. John's College World War I  
Monument  
USGS Annapolis MD  
1:24,000  
Anne Arundel County



AA-22

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE WWI MONUMENT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

N. KURTZ

10/92

NEG - MD S&PO

S. ELEV,

1/2

ERECTED BY  
THE ALUMNI OF  
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
TO THEIR FELLOW  
ALUMNI WHO IN  
THE WORLD WAR  
GAVE THEIR ALL

THEY ARE ALL HERE

AA - 22

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE WWI MONUMENT

ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD

N. KURTZ

10/92

NEG - MD SAPO

N. ELEV.

2/2