

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

572

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 24 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Peace Cross
Other names/site number: PG: 69-16
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Annapolis Rd. (MD Route 50) and Baltimore Ave. (US Route 1)
City or town: Bladensburg State: MD County: Prince George's
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

	<u>7.16.15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Maryland Historical Trust (MD SHPO)</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Peace Cross (PG: 69-16)
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper

9/8/2015

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____ 1 _____	_____	objects
_____ 1 _____	_____ 0 _____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: commemorative monument

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: commemorative monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

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Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Peace Cross, located at the intersection of Annapolis Road (Maryland Route 450) and Baltimore Avenue (U.S. Route 1) in Bladensburg, is a cast polychrome concrete monument constructed 1919 -1925. The cross is forty feet high with arms extending five feet from the center. The Peace Cross stands on a traffic island; the traffic island is a small green space at this busy juncture of roads; planting beds surround the monument, and a flagpole is located adjacent to it.

Narrative Description

The forty-foot Peace Cross is a memorial to residents of Prince George's County who lost their lives during World War I (1914-1918). The monument is constructed of cast concrete with exposed aggregate selected for its color and distribution. The body is a tan color comprised of chipped flint material aggregate, embellished with inlaid decorative accents of chipped deep pink granite. A wide, centrally placed band of the pink granite runs along the north and south sides of the cross. The east and west sides have a narrow inlay of pink granite aggregate outlining the shape of the cross, located a few inches from the perimeter of the structure.

The arms of the cross extend five feet from the center on each side and are supported by unadorned, arched concrete brackets; the arms also have arched brackets on top, suggesting the form of a Celtic cross. Contrasting gold, red, green, and blue aggregates were used to form medallions on the crossings. The two medallions display a gold star within a green laurel wreath that is set on a blue background. "U.S." is written in the center of the star with a dark red

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aggregate. The bottom of the cross has an inscription on each side: "endurance" on the south, "valor" on the west, "devotion" on the north, and "courage" on the east.

The Peace Cross is set on a base of cast concrete in a tan aggregate, matching the cross itself. The base has a bronze tablet on the south side of the base. The tablet states, "This memorial cross is dedicated to the heroes of Prince George's County, Maryland who lost their lives in the Great War for the liberty of the world." The bronze tablet then lists the names of the forty-nine soldiers from the county who lost their lives during the war. After the list of names, the tablet reads, "The right is more precious than peace. We shall fight for the things we have always carried nearest our hearts. To such a task we dedicate our lives (Woodrow Wilson)."

INTEGRITY

The Peace Cross retains a high level of integrity. The monument is unaltered with the exception of restoration work undertaken during the 1960s by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Improvements made to the intersection of the major roads surrounding the Peace Cross have not affected the monument's integrity of feeling, setting, location, or association. The design, materials, and workmanship of the Peace Cross have not been compromised. Thus, the Peace Cross has sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a work of John Earley and a memorial to soldiers who lost their lives during World War I.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ART
MILITARY

Period of Significance

1919-1925

Significant Dates

1919
1925

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Earley, John J., designer

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Peace Cross, erected 1919 to 1925 as a monument to Prince George's County residents who lost their lives serving in the United States Armed Forces in World War I, meets Criteria Consideration F and is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The monument derives significance under Criterion A for its association with the nationwide trend to erect community memorials to fallen soldiers after World War I. It is significant as an expression of the post war era's shared perception of the noble character and valor of the veterans and their cause. In addition, it derives significance under Criterion C as an example of the work of John J. Earley (1881-1945), a Washington, DC area artist and contractor who innovated a process involving decorative use of concrete aggregates. Beginning in 1916, Earley developed and refined the medium of "concrete mosaic" or exposed aggregate which transformed the construction trade by allowing for factory fabrication of precast polychrome concrete building panels. Earley's career included notable buildings and monuments in the Washington area and throughout the country. Washington area examples include the "polychrome houses" in Silver Spring and Meridian Hill Park and the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, D.C. The Peace Cross, with its use of exposed aggregates of various colors, is an early example of the process which Earley developed and popularized. The monument meets National Register Criteria Consideration F inasmuch as its design, age, tradition, and symbolic value have invested it with its own exceptional significance.

The Period of Significance, 1919-1925, represents the time during which the monument was under construction, and ends when it substantially achieved its present form and appearance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

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RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Peace Cross is located in Bladensburg, which was established in 1742. Bladensburg was an important port town during colonial times and the site of the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812 in 1814. The port at Bladensburg was established to cater to tobacco growers on the Eastern Branch (Anacostia River) of the Potomac River. At the time, the mouth of the Anacostia River was one mile wide and twenty to forty feet deep, which made the port at Bladensburg the most well protected port in the region. Bladensburg was "one of the safest and most commodious harbors in America, being sufficiently deep for the largest ships for about four miles above its mouth."¹ Bladensburg retains several eighteenth century residences and commercial buildings, as well as a nineteenth-century church, which illustrate the town's colonial and Federal periods. The town's residential areas are located east of Annapolis Road, which is the commercial corridor in the community. The residential area was platted in sections as Decatur Heights in 1914 and 1917; the area has a high concentration of early-twentieth-century buildings.²

The former Bladensburg Port landing, which was the center of economic and social life in Bladensburg well into the nineteenth century, was chosen as the location to construct the Peace Cross. The Prince George's Memorial Committee was formed after World War I for the express purpose of raising funds to erect a monument to the county's war dead.³ Ground was broken for the cross in September 1919 at the same time the new road between Bladensburg and Annapolis was dedicated.⁴

John J. Earley designed the forty-foot cast concrete Peace Cross. Earley, an artist, artisan, and contractor, maintained a studio in Washington, D.C. and was best known as a master of concrete technology. At a young age, John Earley came to know Basil Taylor, a man with whom he would become closely associated with in business for the next forty years. Earley and Taylor became known in business as a plaster and stucco firm. They received both private and government work, with one of their commissions being the remodeling of the interior of the White House during President Roosevelt's first term.⁵

Remembered as the "Man Who Made Concrete Beautiful,"⁶ Earley innovated and promoted the use of exposed concrete aggregate. Earley achieved his "architectural concrete" by incorporating aggregate in various colors, creating polychrome effects in the finished surface. Notable other works associated with John Earley include: the Baha'i Temple of Light in Wilmette, Illinois, Meridian Hill Park in Washington, DC, and the Replica of the Athenian Parthenon in Nashville, Tennessee.⁷ The colored concrete used in the Peace Cross exhibits the uniform appearance Earley pioneered with his architectural concrete.

Construction of the Peace Cross began in 1919 but insufficient funds halted construction in 1922. In February of that year, the Commissioners of Bladensburg resolved to convey the site of the Peace Cross to the Snyder- Farmer Post of the American Legion, which promised to complete the project.⁸ The Legion was able to raise enough funds, and the project was completed on July 12, 1925 at a total cost of \$10,000. A parade preceded the unveiling ceremony, which featured a keynote address from Representative Stephen W. Gambrill.⁹

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During the 1950s, the State Roads Commission made several improvements to the intersection where the Peace Cross stands. A longstanding controversy over ownership of the parcel of land where the cross stands was resolved in 1956 by a Circuit Court ruling. The court ruled that title should be vested to the State of Maryland.¹⁰ In 1960, the State of Maryland deeded the land to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which has owned and maintained the site since.¹¹ A small ceremony hosted by the Snyder- Farmer-Butler Post of the American Legion was held in July 1975 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the monument's dedication.¹²

Peace Cross Context

The Peace Cross expresses the importance of the First World War through its aesthetic values. Its design underscores the perception in the community of a great loss, and recognizes the sacrifices of individuals in pursuit of a larger ideal. With its cruciform simplicity and bronze tablet inscribed with the names of the forty-nine county citizens who died in the war, the Peace Cross honors the loss of the individuals.

The Peace Cross was designed as a massive masonry structure that overlooks the landscape in a style of stripped-down classicism. With its embellishment limited to flat details of colored aggregate, its design anticipated the simplified and stylized Art Deco and Art Moderne styles that came about between the wars. It stands apart from the popular stock soldier statues and the bronze allegorical figures derived from the Beaux-Arts tradition which had preceded it and which continued to fill public squares and courthouse lawns after the First World War. In its massing, simplicity, and dominance over the landscape, it relates to one of the most important World War I memorials of the time, the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri (1921-1926), a monumental limestone shaft of simplified Beaux-Arts classicism, now designated the National World War I Museum of the United States.

John Joseph Earley's innovative use of concrete with exposed colored aggregate was a departure from the typical monuments of the time. The shift away from carved stone to cast concrete recalls the use of concrete by the ancients. Its modern use, popular for the time period, sought to allow for durable, cost effective construction.

Monument Building in the US -- Summary

The first era of monument building in America followed the Revolutionary War, with the building of shaft-style monuments of columns and obelisks, ranging to 50 feet in height, to mark important battle sites. By the mid nineteenth century approximately fifty such had been raised on the major battlefields. Marble was the most popular stone for monument building.

By 1850 the technology of bronze casting was developing in the United States, enabling sculptors to create works at home rather than abroad, as was required for those who worked in marble and employed the skilled stone cutters of Florence and Rome. The scattered production of portraits and equestrian sculptures of the nation's founding fathers led the trend of figurative monuments, the demand for which grew after the Civil War. The common soldier monument became prevalent, in recognition of the loss of some 600,000, most of whom were privates and

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non-commissioned officers, and as a symbol of the democratic ideal of the individual. Almost without exception, Western sculpture had celebrated the generals, the great, and the famous until the first American statue of the common soldier by Randolph Rogers, designed in 1863 and dedicated in 1865.

Stock or generic soldier and sailor figures became available after the war, although some communities ordered custom sculptures modeled after local heroes. The statues were produced in stone, bronze, sheet copper and zinc. Larger and more prosperous communities ordered multi-figure monuments, often a central shaft topped by a soldier or allegorical figure with two to four soldier or sailor figures at the base. By the 1880s, in recognition of the deterioration inherent in marble and the availability of pneumatic stone cutting tools, granite became the most practical stone of choice. The National Military Parks System, run by the War Department at the time, had largely banned the use of marble for monuments by the end of the nineteenth century. Art historian Michael Panhorst has estimated the building of from 2,500 to 2,800 memorials after the Civil War, installed by most county seats that participated in the war. Civil War memorials, in later years commemorating the survivors as well as the dead, continued to be raised after the First World War.

The City Beautiful movement, spanning the last decade of the nineteenth century into the early decades of the twentieth, created a demand for public sculpture that was often incorporated into designs meant to enhance urban centers and uplift the masses. From the mid nineteenth century, the first generations of American sculptors who studied in Europe were centered in Italy; by the end of the century, the center of the art world had shifted to Paris. From there, the Beaux-Arts aesthetic brought the classical lexicon to memorial architecture, along with the incorporation of figurative sculpture, typically in bronze. Sculptors who had studied in Paris returned to the United States in the early twentieth century to find a demand for figural bronze sculptures for public art, monuments, and private memorials. Classical and allegorical figures were popular, the vocabulary for which was well understood at the time. The exedra, a screen-style form, was an important development and served to integrate sculpture into the landscape. The stele, descended from the Greek gravestone, was used within larger compositions, frequently backing bronze figures or reliefs, or was inscribed and used alone as an economical memorial. Marble continued to be popular, despite its lack of durability, for its traditional and classical associations.

Allegorical figures in bronze and classical-inspired architecture remained popular commemorative schemes after the First World War. A typical example is found in the World War I Memorial in front of the courthouse in Calvert County, Maryland, a bronze high relief figure of War set into a vertical limestone stele. In communities across America the Doughboy statue, often a stock figure of pressed copper, marble or granite ordered from a catalogue, was the direct descendant of the Civil War common soldier. Suppliers included the Friedley-Vorshardt Company of Chicago and the W. H. Mullins Company of Salem, Ohio. The sculptures were available posed in quiet contemplation at parade rest, or in action, with rifle, fixed bayonet, and grenade, as found in the most popular, "Spirit of the American Doughboy," by sculptor Ernest Moore Viquesney. In some quarters there arose a backlash to the proliferation

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of monuments, with the American Magazine of Art in 1919 lamenting the "plague of war memorials now sweeping over the land."

John Joseph Earley's innovative use of concrete with exposed colored aggregate for the Peace Cross was a departure from the more typical monuments of the time. Cruciform in design, it would have been read by the majority of citizens of the county at the time as symbolic of everlasting life, hope and peace. It was placed at the intersection of U. S. Route 1 and the recently-completed National Defense Highway connecting the national capital with the Naval Academy in Annapolis. An example of the European wayside cross, it is one of only three known Celtic cross type war memorials in Maryland. One of these, the Wayside Cross World War I Memorial in Towson, also was placed at a key route through the community "so that all who pass may be reminded of the patriotic and devoted service" of individuals who have served in the United States Armed Services.

The Great Depression marked the decline of the prodigious building of monuments. The Peace Cross anticipated the simplified and stylized Art Deco and Art Moderne styles that came about between the wars. By the mid 20th century, traditional sculptural memorials were still produced, but a host of factors such as changing aesthetics, the introduction of abstract and non-representational art, plus a trend toward useful monuments such as stadia and civic buildings, all contributed to diminish the demand for figurative sculpture and monuments.

Notes:

1 Town of Bladensburg, "The Port O' Bladensburg,"

<http://www.bladensburg.com/html/history.html#Port> (accessed July 2, 2007).

2 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Planning Department, Historic Sites and Districts Plan (1992), B-16.

3 Shirley Baltz, "Peace Cross," (PG: 69-16) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1985). Records of the Snyder-Farmer-Butler Post #3 American Legion.

4 Shirley Baltz, "Peace Cross," (PG: 69-16) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1985).

5 EHT Traceries, George Washington University Plan Sites (2006).

6 Cron, Frederick W. The man who made concrete beautiful : a biography of John Joseph Earley. Ft. Collins, CO : Centennial Publications 1977.

7 EHT Traceries, George Washington University Plan Sites (2006).

8 Commissioners of Bladensburg to the Snyder-Farmer American Legion Post, Prince George's County Land Records, 421:381.

9 Washington Post, "Legion Dedicates Bladensburg War Memorial Cross," page 14, July 13, 1925.

10 Prince George's County Records, Law #7755.

11 Prince George's County Land Records, 2511:99.

12 Shirley Baltz, "Peace Cross," (PG: 69-16) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1985).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See endnotes, Section 8, page 11

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PG: 69-16

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.33 acre

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.9393057 | Longitude: -76.9403133 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The 0.33 acre parcel on which the monument stands is shown as Parcel 67 of Prince George's County Tax Map 50, and described in the Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland in Liber 2511, folio 99.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the entire property historically associated with the resource.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Elizabeth Breiseth and Paul Weishar, Architectural Historians
organization: EHT Traceries, Inc.,
street & number: 1121 5th Street NW
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: _____
e-mail _____
telephone: 202.393.1199
date: October 2007; revised January 2015 with additional contributions by Nancy Kurtz,
Maryland Historical Trust

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Peace Cross (PG: 69-16)

City or Vicinity: Bladensburg

County: Prince George's

State: Maryland

Photographer: EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: July 2007

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

MD_PrinceGeorgesCounty_PeaceCross_0001.tif --
Peace Cross, view of east elevation, looking west.

MD_PrinceGeorgesCounty_PeaceCross_0002.tif --
Peace Cross, view of west elevation, looking east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



COURAGE



VALLOE

VALLOE BOWLING



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Peace Cross
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MARYLAND, Prince George's

DATE RECEIVED: 7/24/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/24/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/08/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/08/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000572

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/8/2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C
REVIEWER Patrick Ardun DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 9/8/2015

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Maryland Department of Planning

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

David R. Craig, Secretary
Wendi W. Peters Deputy Secretary

March 25, 2015



Ms. Elizabeth Hughes, Acting Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE RECOMMENDATION

State Application Identifier: MD20150204-0072

Applicant: Maryland Historical Trust

Project Description: HISTORIC NOMINATION: Peace Cross, Bladensburg, Md

Project Location: Municipality(ies) of Prince George's-Town of Bladensburg

Approving Authority: U.S. Department of the Interior DOI/NPS

CFDA Number: 15.914

Recommendation: Consistent with Qualifying Comment(s)

Dear Ms. Hughes:

In accordance with Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Code of Maryland Regulation 34.02.01.04-.06, the State Clearinghouse has coordinated the intergovernmental review of the referenced project. This letter constitutes the State process review and recommendation based upon comments received to date. This recommendation is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter.

Review comments were requested from the Maryland Department(s) of Natural Resources, Transportation; Prince George's County; and the Maryland Department of Planning.

The Maryland Department(s) of Natural Resources and Planning; and Prince George's County found this project to be consistent with their plans, programs, and objectives.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stated that, "DNR supports the preservation of this important W.W. I memorial."

The Maryland Department(s) of Transportation found this project to be generally consistent with their plans, programs, and objectives, but included certain qualifying comments summarized below.

The Maryland Department of Transportation stated, " as far as can be determined at this time, the subject has no unacceptable impacts on our plans or programs."

The State Highway Administration, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division (SHA/RIPD) stated the following:

- "There are currently no projects planned that pose an impact to the Peace Cross memorial. However, the SHA has been engaged in ongoing coordination with Prince George's County staff to explore various strategies and improvements to improve the pedestrian safety at this location.

Ms. Elizabeth Hughes

March 25, 2015

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State Application Identifier: **MD20150204-0072**

- As part of an effort to provide better accommodation to pedestrians visiting the Peace Cross memorial, we propose a 5-foot buffer be placed around the island that is not a part of the historic designation. The buffer would be used for the installation of future pedestrian accommodations when funding becomes available.
- For more information regarding bicycle/pedestrian accommodations on State roadways, please feel free to contact SHA Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator, Mr. Dustin Kuzan, at 410-545-5656 or via email at dkuzan@sha.state.md.us. You can also contact SHA Regional Planner – Prince George's County, Mr. David Rodgers, at 410-545-5670 or via email at drodgers1@sha.state.md.us.

Any statement of consideration given to the comments(s) should be submitted to the approving authority, with a copy to the State Clearinghouse. The State Application Identifier Number must be placed on any correspondence pertaining to this project. The State Clearinghouse must be kept informed if the approving authority cannot accommodate the recommendation.

Please remember, you must comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations. If you need assistance or have questions, contact the State Clearinghouse staff person noted above at 410-767-4490 or through e-mail at myra.barnes@maryland.gov. **Also please complete the attached form and return it to the State Clearinghouse as soon as the status of the project is known. Any substitutions of this form must include the State Application Identifier Number. This will ensure that our files are complete.**

Thank you for your cooperation with the MIRC process.

Sincerely,



Linda C. Janey, J.D., Assistant Secretary

LCJ:MB

Enclosure(s)

cc: Greg Golden - DNR

Tina Quinichette - MDOT

Kathleen Herbert - PGEO

Peter Conrad - MDPL

15-0072_CRR.CLS.doc

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT/NATIONAL REGISTER
RECOMMENDATION FORM

Property Name: Peace Cross

Location: Annapolis Road (MD Route 50) and Baltimore Avenue (US Route 1)

County: Prince George's County

CLG Name: Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Nomination recommended Nomination not recommended

Please check the applicable National Register criteria and/or considerations (exceptions) used in decision:

Criteria: A B C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

Justification of decision: (type in the text box below, use continuation sheet if necessary)

Criteria Considerations: The Peace Cross is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria Consideration F, a commemorative property. It is significant under Criterion A for its association with the nationwide trend to erect community memorials to fallen soldiers after World War I and is an expression of the post war era's shared perception of the noble character and valor of the fallen veterans and their cause. The property is also eligible under Criterion C as an example of the work of John J. Earley, a Washington, DC area architect and contractor who developed a process involving the decorative and structural use of concrete aggregates.


Signature of Commission Chairman

4/21/15
Date

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission
Name of Commission

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION

I concur with the opinion of the historic preservation review commission.

I do not concur with the opinion of the historic preservation review commission.
(Please justify disagreement on a separate sheet.)


Signature of Chief Elected Official

May 18, 2015

Date

Prince George's County Executive
Title



Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

David R. Craig, Secretary
Wendi W. Peters, Deputy Secretary

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**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

July 23, 2015

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 I (eye) St., NW
Mail Stop 2280
Washington, DC 20005

RE: THE PEACE CROSS
Prince George's County, Maryland

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is documentation for nominating the Peace Cross, Prince George's County, Maryland to the National Register of Historic Places. The enclosed photos are more than two years old, but still depicts with accuracy, the monument at present. The state review board and the owners concur in my recommendation for listing. Should you have questions in this matter, please contact Peter Kurtze at (410) 514-7649.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hughes
Acting Director-State Historic
Preservation Officer

cc: State Clearinghouse #MD20150204-0072
Enclosures: NR form and 8 continuation sheets
1 USGS map
2 - 5x7 b/w prints
1 - CD

Correspondence: letter, Janey to Hughes, 25 March 2015
CLG recommendation form, 18 May 2015