

CAPSULE SUMMARY

PG: 69-005-16

Peace Cross

Annapolis Road and Route 1

Bladensburg, Prince George's County, Maryland

1919-1925

Private

The Peace Cross, constructed from 1919 -1925, is significant as a prominent public monument to Prince George's County residents who lost their lives in the line of duty during World War I. The Peace Cross is located near the eighteenth-century site of the Bladensburg Port landing, a significant location that served as the hub of colonial and early nineteenth century life in Bladensburg. The design of the Peace Cross is the work of master craftsman and contractor John J. Earley, founder of the Earley Process for concrete. The cross retains a high level of integrity, which conveys its significance as a monument and as the work of a master designer.

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 cross is constructed of cast concrete with exposed aggregate selected for its color and distribution; the cross is a tan color comprised of chipped flint material aggregate. Inlaid decorative accents of chipped deep pink granite embellish the Peace Cross. A thick, centrally placed band of the pink granite runs along the north and south sides of the cross. The east and west sides have a thin 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.