



# Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18QU962

Site Name: Cray House

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP # QA-259

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Early 19th century frame house

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 5

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9850

Longitude -76.3243

Physiographic province Eastern Shore Coastal P

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available  Maritime site

### Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Thompson Creek

#### Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 111 m

#### Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

### Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

### Topography

Floodplain  High terrace

Hilltop/bluff  Rockshelter/cave

Interior flat  Hillslope

Upland flat  Unknown

Ridgetop  Other

Terrace

Low terrace

### Ownership

Private

Federal

State of MD

Regional/county/city

Unknown

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Archaic site

MD Adena

Early archaic

Early woodland

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

Late archaic

Late woodland

Unknown prehistoric context

Contact period site  ca. 1820 - 1860

ca. 1630 - 1675  ca. 1860 - 1900

ca. 1675 - 1720  ca. 1900 - 1930

ca. 1720 - 1780  Post 1930

ca. 1780 - 1820

Unknown historic context

Unknown context

### Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Hispanic

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

### Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

### Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

### Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

### Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

### Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

### Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

### Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

### Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

### Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	11	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	2	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	2			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	47	Activity item(s)	12
Glass (all)	100	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	202	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	113
Arms	4	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	3	Misc.	175
Personal items	8	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> coal, plastic

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	brick-lined fire pit, brick piers	
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 2:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 3:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Sample 4:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 5:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 6:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Sample 7:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 8:  +/-  years BP Reliability  Sample 9:  +/-  years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Cray House Site (18QU962) is a ca. 1809 post-and-plank building. It is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP #QU-259). The Cray House lies on a relatively narrow but deep lot fronting onto Cockey's Lane in Stevensville, Queen Anne's County. The property is currently owned by the Kent Island Heritage Society (KIHS). The house is placed close to the lane, with a picket fence enclosing the south, east, and part of the north sides of the lot. Directly north of the house, on another lot owned by the KIHS, is a hard-packed gravel and shell drive that is used for parking by Cray House docents and local residents. The ground slopes gently down to the west in the rear of the house. Two flower beds lie to the immediate rear of the house, and a well lies along the southern property line behind the house. Farther back on the lot are two outbuildings that were moved to the property. Also farther back from the road, on the Kent Island Heritage Society lot to the north, is the Stevensville Train Station, relocated from its original site elsewhere in town. Several lengths of railroad track parallel the lot and lie between the station building and the Cray House lot.

The Cray House is a post-and-plank structure built most likely by John Denny around 1809. The two-room house was constructed of hand-sawn logs mortised and tenoned into vertical corner posts. In subsequent years, the house was owned by several people. Mary Legg presumably enlarged the house around 1842. At that time, the existing roof was raised and a new gambrel roof was installed across the entire structure. The house then went through various ownerships until being acquired at auction by Mrs. Nora Cray in 1914. The heirs of Katie Cray Ewing gave the property to the Kent Island Heritage Society in 1976. It was used as a museum until the 1990s, when it was closed for renovations.

The proposed renovations of the building included raising it off the existing foundation which would require ground disturbance to a shallow depth for 10 m from the rear of the structure, potentially disturbing the upper levels of archeological features in the rear yard. Construction activities could also impact foundation trenches and other features related to the construction of the building. In addition, the insertion of steel support beams for raising the structure required excavation of narrow trenches beneath the structure, thereby disrupting possible deposits in the crawl space within the building's footprint. Because the Maryland Historical Trust has an easement on the Cray House, archeological investigation was necessary for approval for restoration activities. Archeological fieldwork was conducted at the site in late 1998 in order to facilitate the renovations and restoration. Goals of the fieldwork were to perform a general assessment of the archeological resources around the house, to determine the extent that past landscaping and regrading might have compromised cultural resources, especially in the rear yard, to determine the character of a non-extant wing that was at one time attached to the northern gable end of the house, and to determine the nature of the foundation in the front of the house.

A grid point (N200/E200) was established at the northwest corner of the house. Grid lines were then extended in the four cardinal directions of the primary datum. Once the grid was established excavation units were laid out. The placement of the units was in part designed to avoid obviously disturbed areas. A total of 10 units (Units 1-10) were laid out; Units 1-3 and 5-10 were 1 m<sup>2</sup> in size and Unit 4 measured 1 m by 2 m. Units 1-3, 6, 7, and 10 were located to the rear of the house, Units 4 and 5 were placed to the north of the house to investigate the wing that once stood there, and Units 8 and 9 were placed along the east and west walls of the building respectively. Stratigraphic levels and features within the excavation units were recorded as loci. Units 1 and 10 were not fully excavated due to time constraints and their position at the extreme western end of the project area. The results of excavations at Units 1 and 10 were not detailed in the original report, which is only a preliminary, not final, report.

The four units placed to the rear of the house (Units 2, 3, 6, and 7) failed to find any evidence of outbuildings associated with the early 19th century occupation of the house. The only feature encountered was a small semi-circular brick feature (Locus 5) located in Unit 2. Locus 5, a small hearth or fire pit feature, cut into Loci 2, 3, and 4. The mixed nature of most stratigraphic levels and the large amounts of architectural debris and metal in the units suggested a high degree of disturbance in the backyard. Strata may be severely disturbed by renovation of the house and/or demolition of the north wing.

The two units placed to the north of the house (Units 4 and 5) failed to find significant evidence related to the north wing. Negative evidence suggested that the wing rested on piers, as no evidence of subsurface foundations or associated installation trenches was found. Recent deposits of brick and mortar were likely related to repairs of the north chimney and exterior fireplace. Unit 5 did encounter an intact surface at a lower level, with shards from a chamber pot lying flat on the surface. There was a clear demarcation between the surface and deposits to the east which suggested a distinction in interior and exterior deposits associated with the non-extant north wing.

The two units placed against the front and rear of the house (Units 8 and 9) had mixed results. The unit at the front revealed that the front of the house is underlain by a continuous brick foundation (along the original section at any rate), and repairs to that foundation were visible. The lower levels appeared to contain material culture consistent in date with the reported construction of the house. No substantial foundation trench was found. The unit in the rear likewise failed to find installation trenches related to the older support piers of the house. The lowest levels, however, again showed early material culture, including pipe stems and a straight pin with a wire-wrapped head.

As only a preliminary report was available at the Maryland Historical Trust library (it is not known if a final report was ever completed), no detailed artifact inventory was provided. Therefore, the artifact totals are minimum estimates. In all, an estimate of 630 artifacts was tallied. There were 12 activity items (1 horseshoe fragment, 2 clay marbles and 1 other marble, 2 pieces of non-electrical wire, 2 clothes pin springs, 2 pieces of chain link fence, and 2 car parts). There were 202 architectural items (65 brick fragments, 5 cut nails, 58 wire nails, 6 unidentified nails, 22 fragments of mortar, 15 shards of window glass, 22 pieces of other flat glass (probably also window glass), 1 spike, a 19th c. door lock fragment, 1 door latch part, 2 bolts, 2 hinges, 1 part of a faucet, and 1 washer). There were 3 clothing items, all straight pins – 1 with a wire-wrapped head. There were 221 kitchen-related items (55 fragments of container and bottle glass, 6 fragments of table glass, 2 pearlware sherds, 2 later porcelain sherds, 5 earthenware sherds, 11 whiteware sherds and 27 other unidentified ceramic sherds, 2 aluminum pop tops, 3 bottle caps, 2 fish bone and 20 animal bone fragments, and 86 oyster shell fragments). There were 175 miscellaneous items (2 pieces of melted glass, 35 fragments of unidentified metal, 28 miscellaneous modern 20th c. artifacts, 3 pieces of plastic, 2 flecks of green paint, 2 pieces of fabric, 2 fragments of fabric or wallpaper, 92 pieces of coal, 2 pieces of ash, 7 pieces of charcoal, and 2 rocks). There were 8 personal items (5 fragments of an ironstone chamber pot, 1 modern hair band, and 2 glass beads). Five kaolin pipe stem fragments constituted the tobacco category. There were 4 arm items (2 shotgun shells and two .22 caliber casings).

The Cray House (18QU962) is one of only a handful of surviving vernacular Maryland structures known as post-and-plank buildings. As a result of the field investigations, it was determined that the planned restoration activities at the Cray House would not have an adverse impact upon any significant cultural resources outside the house, and that no further archeological investigations should be required around the exterior prior to restoration. It was recommended,



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however, that disturbances at the north end of the house be minimized wherever possible, and that the contractors working on the restoration of the house be advised in general as to the need to minimize impacts around the site and limit ground disturbance.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00007629