

# Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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## REPORT INFORMATION:

2021 McKnight, M., C. Hall, & Z. Singer  
Skipton – The home of a rattle snake colonel: A geophysical remote sensing survey of the Oldtown I, Cresap's Fort Site (18AG9), Alleghany County, Maryland.

Research Firm/Institution:

MHT Archaeological Research Program  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032

Library ID No: 95008703      Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 111

## Sites examined:

18AG9  
NRHP Eligible:  **Y**  
[Justification](#)

## Project Details:

Phase I	Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
Phase II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See below.	See below.
Phase III		

## Research Potential:

Artifacts recovered from prior surveys at 18AG9, coupled with detailed archival research on the property suggest that the buried complex of features might be associated with Thomas Cresap's fortified home, known as Skipton or Oldtown, which dates to the mid-18th century. However, as is always the case with remote sensing data, these potential features are just that: potential features. Without archaeological ground-truthing through excavation it is not possible to conclude with absolute certainty what the various anomalies identified at Site 18AG9 represent. MHT will continue to work with the NPS to explore the potential for ground-truthing the anomalies to determine if such features are intact and capable of answering significant research questions about Maryland's colonial early history.

## REPORT INFORMATION:

2023 McKnight, M.  
Letter report: 18AG9, Cresap's Fort site, fieldwork conducted by the Maryland Historical Trust in October 2023, Alleghany County, Maryland.  
Submitted to National Park Service

Library ID No: 95009738      Catalog/Shelving ID: AG 112

## Sites examined:

18AG9  
NRHP Eligible:  **Y**  
[Justification](#)

## Project Details:

Phase I	Project Justification:	Project Objectives:
Phase II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To confirm the presence of features identified in November 2020 tripartite survey, and study their affiliation with Thomas Cresap's occupation of the land.	This work was conducted from October 16-19, 2023 with the aim of confirming the presence/absence of two rectilinear features suggestive of former structures: 1) a shallow GPR anomaly roughly 16 X 24 feet (4.9 X 7.3 m) in size suggestive of a packed earth living surface with an adjacent shaft anomaly suggestive of a cellar hole or subfloor pit, and 2) a roughly 15 X 15 foot (4.6 X 4.6 m) square shaft-like GPR and Gradiometer anomaly (suggestive of an in-filled cellar). An additional goal was to determine the approximate age of any cultural features identified.
Phase III		

## Research Potential:

Understanding that the NPS and CHOH have a responsibility to preserve these important resources for future generations, MHT recommends focusing future efforts primarily on plowzone removal with extremely limited sampling of sub-plowzone features. Future work should focus on:

- 1) Exposing the areal extent of Features 1 and 2 through the hand-excavation of 2 X 2 m plowzone test units;
- 2) Conducting limited sampling of Features 1 and 2 to determine their function through the excavation of 1 X 1 m sampling units while leaving the majority of each feature intact;

- 3) Confirming the presence of a palisade mentioned in historic descriptions of Skipton by expanding 2 X 2 m test units outward from Features 1 and 2 to locate palisade trenches;
- 4) Establishing isolated 2 X 2 units in other areas highlighted by remote sensing work such as the location of a possible 3rd structure west of Feature 2, and trench features to the south to confirm their presence, age, and possible function.

All of the above actions are likely to produce data that is helpful in both reconstructing the historic landscape of Skipton for public interpretation, and managing the resource responsibly for future archaeological endeavors that the NPS may wish to sponsor using yet undeveloped techniques.

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