

# Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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## REPORT INFORMATION:

2020 McKnight, M. & Z. Singer

Fieldwork report: a geophysical remote sensing survey of the Barwick's Ordinary site (18CA261), Caroline County, Maryland, July 2019-July 2020.

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## Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Historical Trust, Office of Archaeology  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032

## Sites examined:

18CA261

## Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

### Project Justification:

The MHT Office of Archaeology was first contacted about the site in the spring of 2019 by Ed Otter, of CRM firm Edward Otter, Inc., and Jok Walsh, President of the Caroline County Historical Society, who stated that the owners of the property, Joe and Cheryl Smith, had encountered colonial artifacts on their property. During a brief site visit on June 20, 2019, Mr. Smith relayed that a couple of years earlier, he had been making some landscaping changes on the property using heavy equipment. While digging a large pit near his vegetable patch, Mrs. Smith began signaling for him to stop as artifacts were coming out of the ground. After clean-up of this pit it was evident that semi-articulated brick remains had been exposed. At the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, MHT returned to the site in July of 2019, and again in June and July of 2020 to carry out a tripartite remote sensing survey at 18CA261.

### Project Objectives:

The primary objective of the 2019 and 2020 remote sensing surveys at Barwick's Ordinary was to obtain detailed imaging of the subsurface features believed to be yielding the surficial and plowzone artifact finds on the Smith property. The first stage of examination involved an effort to refine the extent of these features using a combination of magnetic susceptibility and fluxgate gradiometry (i.e. magnetometry). The second stage of examination involved an effort to obtain images of individual features in three dimensions using high resolution ground-penetrating radar (GPR). The data collectively provide a detailed picture of the architectural footprint of Barwick's Ordinary.

## Research Potential:

Examination of the property owners' artifact collection, coupled with detailed archival research on the property suggest that the buried complex of features might be associated with the colonial-era county seat of Caroline County. More specifically, a 1779 deed, and a 1783 patent all place the tavern and home of James Barwick at this precise spot on the landscape. 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 18CA261 represent. MHT will continue to work with the property owners, who are amenable to excavation work, to see that ground-truthing is carried out to determine if such features are intact and capable of answering significant research questions about Maryland's and Caroline County's early history.