

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1999 Curry, D.C.
Feast of the Dead: Aboriginal Ossuaries in Maryland.

Library ID No: 00007531 Catalog/Shelving ID: E78.M3C87

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Sites examined:

18CA88 others

Project Details:

Project Justification:

This work is an accumulation of data on ossuaries in Maryland. It pays particular attention to recurring attributes and data categories in order to facilitate broad-scale comparison and synthesis.

Project Objectives:

-Form a comprehensive, well-organized compendium of archeological reference data for use by professional archeologists studying late prehistoric societies, and ossuaries in particular.

-Introduce the general public to a unique Native American cultural and religious practice and, ultimately, to the benefits of modern archeology.

MAC Accession: 1989.022

Research Potential:

Thomas (18CA88), also called the Gilpin Point Indian Burial Site, is the site of an aboriginal ossuary. The Thomas ossuary is one of only a handful of this site type identified in the Choptank Drainage. Unfortunately, the site was severely disturbed before a salvage operation was initiated. Fortunately, it appeared that all of the human remains were recovered. As the site no longer exists, no further investigation is warranted for the immediate area. However, there is always the likelihood of a related hamlet site in the vicinity of the ossuary. The relationship between ossuaries and settlement should be a consideration if further earthmoving activities occur in the general location.