

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1999 Seidel, J.L.
Preliminary Report on 1998 Archaeological Investigations at the Cray House (18QU962),
Stevensville, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.
Submitted to Kent Island Heritage Society

Research Firm/Institution:

Washington College
300 Washington Avenue
Chestertown, MD 21620

Library ID No: 00007629 Catalog/Shelving ID: QU 39

Sites examined:

18QU962

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III



Project Justification:

Proposed renovations of the Cray House (18QU962) 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.

Project Objectives:

- Perform a general assessment of the archeological resources around the house
- Determine the extent that past landscaping and re-grading might have compromised cultural resources, especially in the rear yard
- Determine the character of a non-extant wing that was at one time attached to the northern gable end of the house
- Determine the nature of the foundation in the front of the house

Research Potential:

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, 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.