

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.

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Library ID No: 00007502 Catalog/Shelving ID: E78.M3C87

Sites examined:

18WO158 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: 1991.030.001

Research Potential:

A portion of the Gray's Cove Ossuary (18WO158) was damaged during backhoe trenching. No other utilities work was to be done in the immediate locale of the ossuary. After consultation with representatives of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, it was decided that the bones would be reinterred in the trench as close as possible to their original resting place. The ossuary, therefore, remains at least partially intact and is likely under a residential yard now.