

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Michael Cresap House

AND OR HISTORIC:
Michael Cresap House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
north side of Main Street at junction of Green Spring Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Oldtown

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Allegany	CODE 001
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rev. Irving G. Allen

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Oldtown

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. John's College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register

DATE OF SURVEY:
1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Allegany
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Michael Cresap House is located on the north side of Main Street and the junction of Green Spring Road, Oldtown, Maryland. It is just north of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac River and south of the Western Maryland Railroad track and Maryland Route 53.

The two-story fieldstone structure has a basement and an attic. The north elevation was built against an almost perpendicular slope in order to allow the original stream to flow through the basement. As a result of its position the north wall of the basement is underground and the first floor is at the hillside ground level on the north side. The south side first floor is the entrance into the basement. The building is three bays wide with a central door on the first and second stories of the north facade.

On the street (south) facade the basement may be entered from the yard level, while its back wall is underground, where the spring flows. A porch runs across the south facade of the first story, its floor gives shelter to the area over the basement doorway.

The west gable-end wall is blank. The short interior chimney juts out of the tin roof not quite flush with the west gable end wall.

Adjoining the house to the east is a two-story brick addition which is of 19th. century type materials.

There are iron bars on the basement windows on the south facade which date from the period when the basement was used as a jail. Some digging about this time in the interior of the west wall in the basement, into the foundations of the chimney stack revealed earlier masonry forms indicating an earlier fireplace and chimney.

On the upper floors, the present wood trim is of the late 18th. century or early 19th. century type, indicating that the principal rooms were remodeled. There is no interior doorway between the old house and the newer brick addition.

In 1970 a "passage" was discovered which contained 18th. century coins, sections of pipes and other artifacts.

There are two interior rooms on each floor of the main building. Finished in plain style, they have wide board floors.

The Michael Cresap house is owned by the Reverend Irving Allen, who purchased it in order to preserve the structure. He has installed a museum of period artifacts and maintains the

(see continuation sheet 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) circa 1764

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>frontier development</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Michael Cresap House was the home of the eighteenth century frontiersman, Michael Cresap, (1742-1775). It is reputedly the oldest extant building in Oldtown whose village history dates to the seventeenth century. A Shawnee tribe had an Indian village there.

In 1741 Michael Cresap's father Thomas Cresap (c.1702-1790) a prominent frontiersman, founded Oldtown and built a fortified trading post and home. Until the establishment of Cumberland, Maryland, Oldtown was the only settlement in Maryland west of the Cononocheague Creek in Washington County.

Michael Cresap followed his father's example by building the extant structure as a trading post-home and by exploring the wilderness in search of sites for future settlement. Cresap was one of the outstanding eighteenth century frontiersmen in the Ohio Valley although he is not as well known today as his contemporaries; Daniel Boone and George Rogers Clark. In 1774 Cresap led an expedition to clear bottom lands of the Muskingum River for occupation. Strained relations with the Indians compounded the difficulties of Cresap's frontier party. On at least two occasions he prevented his men from attacking. The murder of a peaceful Indian family, far distant from Cresap and his party, touched off Lord Dunmore's War (April-October 1774). Cresap served in the war as a captain in the Virginia militia; he was a signatory of the peace treaty.

His stature as a leader is attested to by the fact that western Maryland volunteers at the beginning of the Revolution chose Michael Cresap to command them. In 1775 Cresap led these men to join the Continental Army at Boston, Massachusetts, covering the 550 mile journey in twenty-two days--a remarkable twenty-five miles per day. Once in New England Cresap suffered a relapse of an earlier illness which forced him to resign his command. He died in New York City on October 18, 1775, en-route home.

Cresap's home in Oldtown became the property of his widow. After remarrying she conveyed it to Michael Cresap's son-in-law, (see continuation sheet 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Nancy Miller, Historian

Sources: Hinkel, Mrs. William E., Notes on Michael Cresap House, August 1970. Files at Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

Allegany County Land Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. (see continuation sheet 1)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
				39°	22'	30.5"	78° 36' 43"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: 11/6/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 11/11/71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#7. DESCRIPTION

building which attracts visitors from all over the nation.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE

Luther Martin (c. 1742-1826), first attorney general of the State of Maryland, and an eminent lawyer. Martin held the property for a short time; he sold it to his brother-in-law, James Cresap.

Luther Martin's association with Michael Cresap gained national notoriety in the 1790's. Thomas Jefferson in Notes on the State of Virginia published an account of the murder of the Indian family that touched off Lord Dunmore's War naming Cresap as the culprit. Through several letters published in newspapers Martin refuted Jefferson's story. The evidence completely exonerated Cresap although Jefferson never conceded.

#9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarkson, Paul S. and R. Samuel Jett. Luther Martin of Maryland. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1970.

Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1930, IV, 538-539; 1933, XII, 343-345.

Frederick County Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

"General Washington, What a Pleasant Surprise!" Hercules Mixer. Vol. II (1970), 33-35.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Being a History of . . . 2 vols. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

Works Progress Administration. Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State. New York: Oxford Press 1940

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

COUNTY
Allegany AL-II-B-002

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME
COMMON: Michael Cresap House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Michael Cresap House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
north side of Main Street at junction of Green Spring Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Oldtown
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Allegany CODE: 001

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Nancy Miller
DATE OF PHOTO: spring 1970
NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Md.

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

South elevation



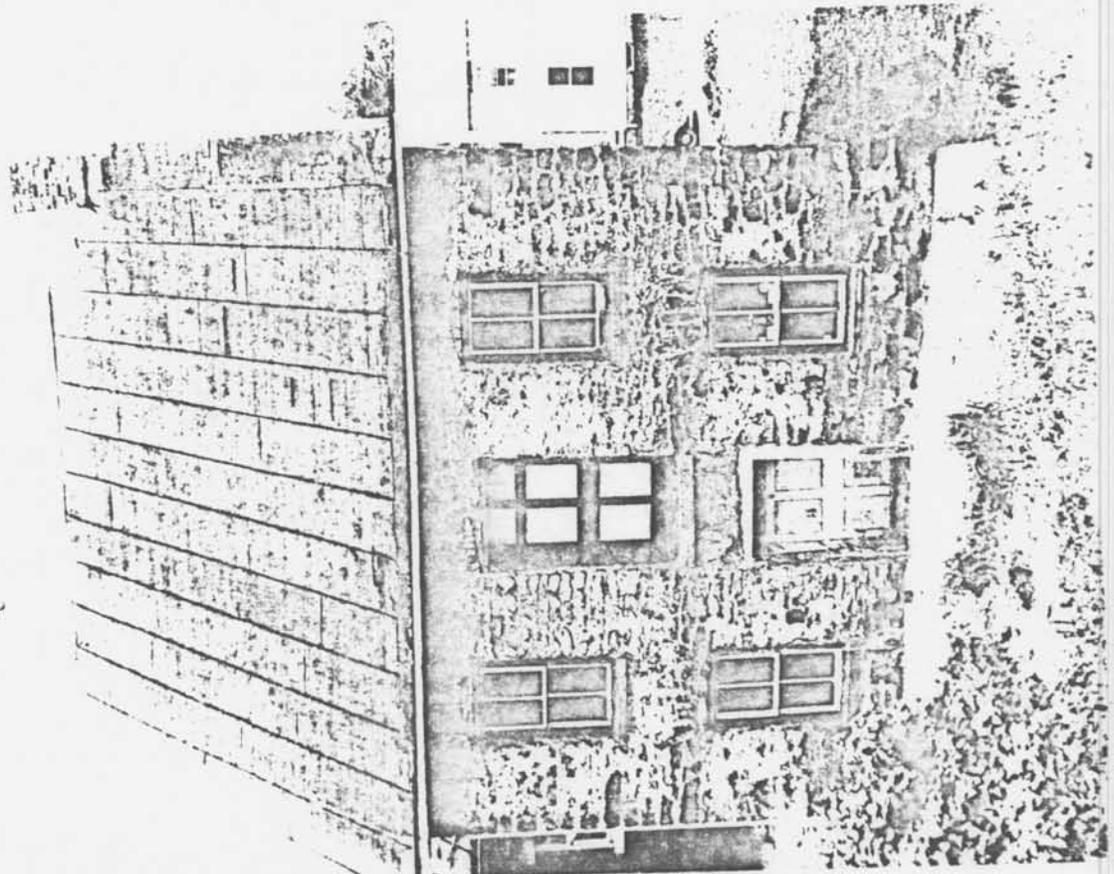
MHT
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany AL-II-B-002	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Michael Cresap House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Michael Cresap House	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: north side of Main Street at junction of Green Spring Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Oldtown			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Allegany	001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Nancy Miller	
DATE OF PHOTO:		spring 1970	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Md.	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North facade			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: "Oldtown House of History"

AND/OR HISTORIC: The Michael Cresap House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street... The Old Hanceock Road

CITY OR TOWN: Oldtown

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Allegany CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> _____
		Comments <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Irvin Allen

STREET AND NUMBER: Rt 1 Box 1

CITY OR TOWN: Oldtown STATE: Maryland CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Liber 342 Folio 174 LR Allegany Co Cumberland Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: COURTHOUSE

CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland STATE: Maryland CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Patent EI #6 Folio 268 from "Charles", LP, of the province of Md. to John Charlton, per Gov. Ogle Nov 13 1740

DATE OF SURVEY: 1740 - England Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: T. Cresap from J. Charleton (Deed) 1746
Land records EE Folio 39.40.41

STREET AND NUMBER: Hall of Records Annapolis and Pr. Geo. County Land Rec.

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The famous "Stone House Occupied by Michael Cresap over 200 years old still stands and is in good condition.

It is intact enough for living quarters although it is now used as a museum.

In 1780 a brick annex was attached "against" the stone house (three sides brick) and separate from The Stone house

Trenches and part tunnels had to be filled to protect the foundation, escape ramps and porches that were flimsy had to be removed. The windows are not the original but the rest is still pretty much the same as beginning.

The tin roof leaks slightly and this may not have been the original. As soon as enough is received maybe another roof will be put on.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1764

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The oldest house in the Oldest town in Allegany county Maryland. As Oldtown Md was an Indian "Town" on the trade route and trading recorded as early as 1561 between Indians and traders at the mouth of the Potomac river it is significant in being the histeric spot of that Town.

Hearth of the Famous Cresap Families headed by Thomas Cresap pioneer, and first white settler of this western Md. frentier.

House was a meeting place of the founders of this nation. Cresap, Washington, Jacobs, Asbury, and others....

America's first president --here many times
 America's first Methodist Bishop Asbury..here many times.
 America's first Troops to answer Washington's call met here in this house before hiking to Boston Mass.

Bottom room is the JAIL

Owned once by Cresaps son in law One of Md. first attorney General----Luther Martin

Seat of the Methodist socities of the 1700's

Numerous families have lived in this colonial home.

From time to time the old house surrenders more of its past and this air of mystery calls us to a part of it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for Major Bibliographical References]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Rev. Irvin G. Allen

ORGANIZATION: Oldtown's House of History DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rt 1 Box 1

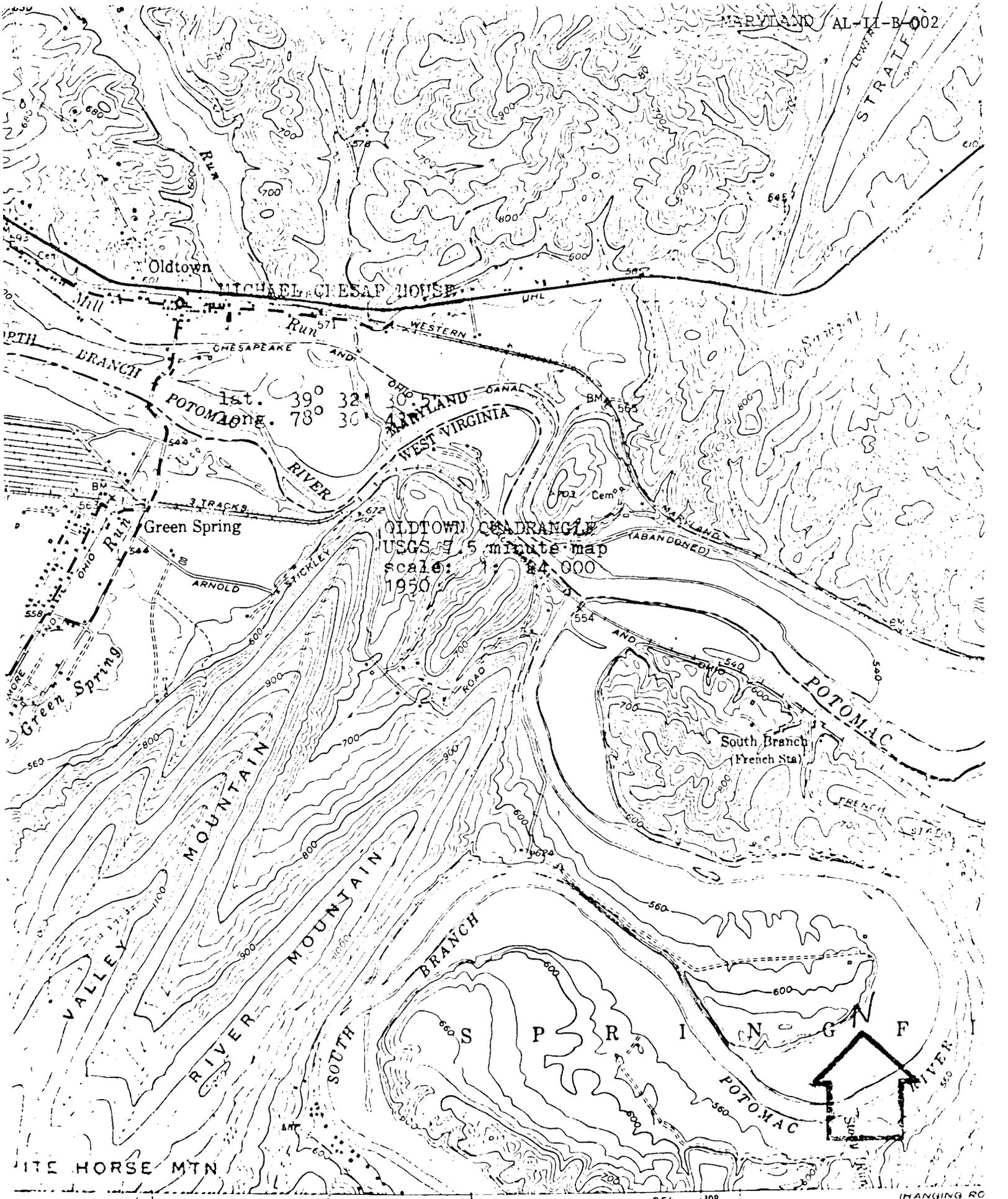
CITY OR TOWN: Oldtown STATE: Maryland 21555 CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



lat. 39° 32'
long. 78° 30'

OLDTOWN QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1:24,000
1950

1:24,000 FEET (MD.)





AL-11-B-002

Taken by Helen Straw Hinkle

011121