

PH 10-2 107

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 14 1972	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**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

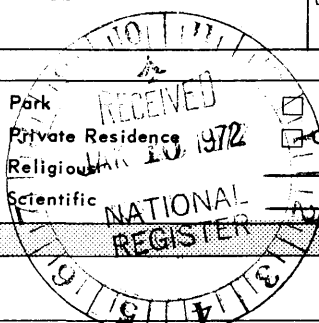
STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Allegany	CODE 001
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No 

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Rev. Irving G. Allen

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Oldtown

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

**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

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Allegany

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 14 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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.

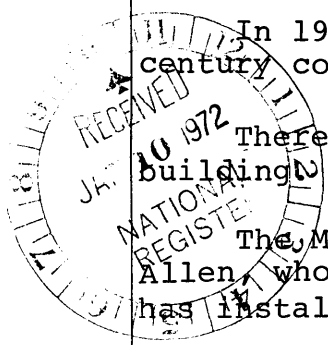
In 1970 a "passage" was discovered which contained 18th. century coins, sections of pipes and other artifacts.

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 and 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



**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) 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) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>frontier</u>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>development</u>                                  |
| <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.

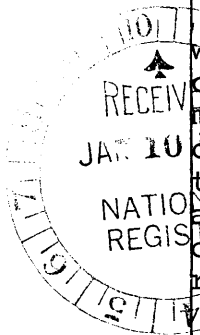
In 1741 Michael Cresap's father Thomas Cresap (c.1702-1790) a prominent frontiersman, founded Oldtown and built a fortified trading post and home. Until the establishment of Cumberland, Maryland, Oldtown was the only settlement in Maryland west of the Cononocheague Creek in Washington County.

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)

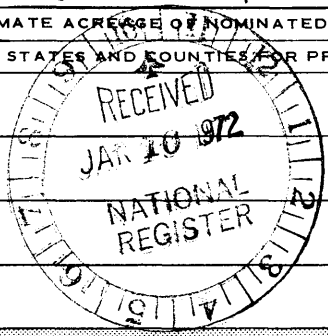
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 22' 30.5"	78° 36' 43"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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



NO 1000

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/14/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date: April 10, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 14 1972	

(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.

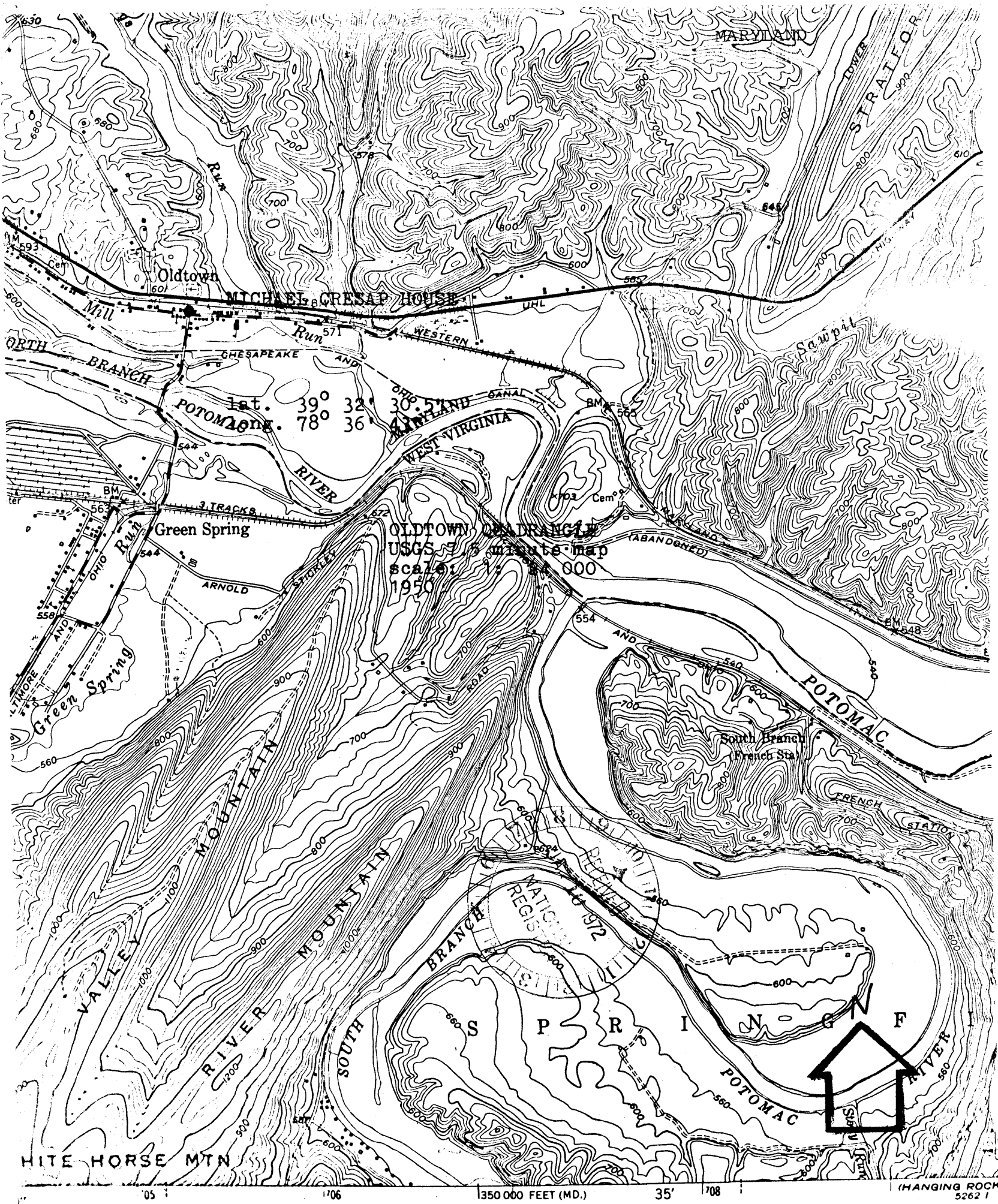
Frederick County Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

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

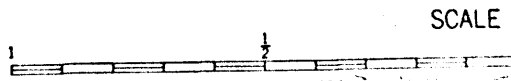
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Being a History of . . . 2 vols. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1882.

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





ped. edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 col by USGS and USC&GS  
 from aerial photographs by multiplex methods



MHT AL-18

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Allegany
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	APR 14 1972

**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

3. MAP REFERENCE  
STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Allegany  
CODE: 24  
CODE: 001

4. REQUIREMENTS  
SOURCE: USGS 715 minute map; Oldtown Quadrangle  
SCALE: 1: 24,000  
DATE: 1950

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS  
1. Property boundaries where required.  
2. North arrow.  
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

