

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

2005

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions to How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Linden

other names/site number CT-811

2. Location

street & number 70 Church Street, MD Route 231 not for publication N/A

city or town Prince Frederick vicinity N/A

state Maryland code MD county Calvert code 009 zip code 20678

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2-15-00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall 3/24/00
Date of Action

Linden

CT-811

Calvert County, Maryland

Name of Property

site/inventory number

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 11, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic, Agriculture

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate, Colonial Revival, No style (vernacular outbuildings)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, walls wood, roof metal, other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

PLACE NARRATIVE ON CONTINUATION SHEETS

Linden

CT-811

Calvert County, Maryland

Name of Property

site/inventory number

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Law

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1868 - 1937

Significant Dates

ca. 1868

ca. 1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Gray, John B., Sr.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See End Notes in narratives, item 7 and 8.

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Calvert County Historical Society

Linden
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 4.3 acres +/-

UTM References Prince Frederick, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	3 6 4 6 2 0	4 2 6 6 7 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundaries are indicated on the accompanying property survey plat.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Architect and Consultant to

organization Calvert County Historical Society date February 1999

street & number 600 Craigs Corner Road telephone 410-879-6748
410-734-7980

city or town Havre de Grace state Maryland zip code 21078

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County, Maryland

street & number 175 Main Street telephone 410-535-1600

city or town Prince Frederick state Maryland zip code 20678

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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CR-811Description Summary

Linden is a two-story frame house, conservatively Italianate in style, 'L' shaped when first built, ca. 1868, with conservative Colonial Revival additions of ca. 1907 blending with the original, filling out the 'L' and adding a one-story porch across the southeast or principal front. The foundation is of rubble fieldstone. The walls are finished with weatherboards. The low-pitched gable roof is covered with tin shingles. Within, a central stair hall is flanked by two rooms on either side and the kitchen is in the rear wing. Nearly all original details remain in place, with only slight differences between the originals and those of the addition. Behind the house are 10 standing outbuildings, 7 dating from the 19th century, some or all approximately contemporary with the original house. These structures are on 4.3 acres with mature trees and a historic lane on axis with the house from Church Street, importantly sited on the edge of Prince Frederick. The house has not been occupied regularly since about 1987 but the property has not been vandalized. Only minimal decay in the house is apparent and the outbuildings are decayed but not ruinous.

General Description

The original portion of Linden¹ was built about 1868, close to the marriage of Henry Williams and Georgeanna Weems. A construction date has not³ been documented precisely by any known reference. Russell and Erwin² and C. J. Stewart³ locksets on original doors are consistent with the ca. 1868 date. The general design of the original house is of the 1860s era as are such details as the marble mantels, nearly identical to marble mantels in advertisements and in contexts of the Baltimore region datable to the 1860s. The original portion of Linden is in a very conservative Italianate style, of a design carefully studied for order and balance, with great simplicity.

About 1907⁴ the third owner added to the front of Linden, making it a symmetrical house with elements of the Colonial Revival style, both blending with and extending the original Italianate house. He apparently planted the Linden trees⁵ and was the first to call the property Linden.

Linden's principal front faces southeast, oriented to Church Street and Prince Frederick.

The dwelling house retains virtually all of its historic fabric in both periods of major construction -- except for the back door and one piece of its jamb's trim. Remarkably, except for two minor rear walls, it has never been covered with substitute or replacement siding.

Linden is a frame house, two stories in height with a low-pitched, multi-gabled roof. It stands on a low rubble stone foundation. The brick chimneys are finished with corbeling and pointed-arched caps of brick over individual flues.

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General Description (continued)

Originally 'L' shaped, with a one-story porch filling the corner formed by the 'L', Linden's ca. 1907 addition brought the house shape to a rectangle, making the facade symmetrical but precisely matching the original details. Only the use of wire nails in the addition's weatherboards, rather than cut nails as in the original structure, identifies the addition. Contemporaneous with the addition, a porch extends across the entire symmetrical front, its Tuscan order and its balustrade around its flat roof placing it in the Colonial Revival style.

A rear or kitchen wing was $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories in height, raised in this century to two stories and it has a cellar beneath it. The original eave cornices of the kitchen wing are outlined on the weatherboards of the main house.

A shed-roofed utilitarian porch of almost impermanent construction extends across the rear or northwest side of the kitchen wing, sheltering the back door at the kitchen's north corner. A northeasterly enclosed extension of the back porch is a pantry, finished with German siding.

A small gabled structure projecting from the southwest side of the kitchen shelters a stair to the cellar. Its window allows borrowed light into the kitchen but a 20th century window has been added beside it to increase light into the kitchen.

The lowermost weatherboard of the house is canted out to suggest a watertable. Cornerboards terminate the plain weatherboards at each corner. One at the original south corner marks the joint between the original house and its ca. 1907 addition. The wide eave and raking cornices project uniformly, void of ornament save a cyma recta crown moulding.

Windows, counterbalanced and double-hung, are tall, 6/6, to emphasize the vertical and they are fitted with louvered blinds hung on cast iron loose-joint hinges without a manufacturer's name, held open with thumb latches.

The front entrance centered in the principal southeast front is in a wall added with the addition of ca. 1907 but its materials appear to date from the original construction of the house. The four-panel door is flanked by sidelights having sliding sashes and a transom is between them above the door. A silver-plated knob and escutcheon remain in the jamb for a missing mechanical-action doorbell.

The front porch of ca. 1907 has wooden stave columns of the Tuscan order supporting a dentiled cornice, all original to the porch's construction. The thick narrow tongue-and-groove floorboards may also be original. Pilasters at each corner of the house appear to be from the original Italianate porch, reset, of course, to relate to the ca. 1907 porch. In the balustrade which protects the flat roof deck are square newels, replacements of the smaller originals which remain against the house. A few lengths of the original moulded rails and a few original plain balusters remain. The front porch shelters a matched pair of bay windows for each front room, each with three 9/1 double-hung counterbalanced windows. A central projection of the second story

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General Description (continued)

central bay enhances the newly-acquired symmetry. Its dentiled cornice and the small panes of glass in all these projecting additions further enhance the Colonial Revival statement. Steps to the porch are of concrete with brick treads, risers of greatly varying heights. Early photographs⁵ show plain wooden steps.

The remains of a lightning rod system include twisted copper band leads and clear glass ball ornaments on the tall air terminals. The system may be at least as old as the ca. 1907 addition but no patent date is in evidence.

Within the central hall-passage a wooden arch with pilasters marks the position of the original front wall and front entrance. Two original rooms are to the right or northeast, the front one being the parlor, and one original room, the dining room, is to the left or southwest. The small front room in the south corner of the house is part of the addition of ca. 1907. The original front porch occupied the space of the small south room and the extended portion of the central hall.

Except for a slight difference in door panel profiles, the woodwork of the addition is identical to that of the original house, suggesting that all was replaced with the addition, or the addition's woodwork was carefully matched to that of the original house. A paint study has not yet been made nor has there been an opportunity for the destruction investigation required to study nails.

Walls and ceilings throughout the house are finished with plain plaster over wooden lathing. Wooden trim includes baseboards with a separate ogee cap moulding and architraves at doors and windows with applied backbands. Except in the kitchen, door architraves rise from plinths which correspond to the baseboard height. Aprons of the first story windows are paneled except those of the kitchen which are plain.

Doors of the original house have four partially-raised panels with loose ogee mouldings in the first story, no moldings in the second. Doors are hung on cast-iron five-knuckle hinges and in the first story they are fitted with replacement mortised locksets of the early 20th century having sheet metal oval escutcheons and knobs. Second story doors of the original house retain the original Russell and Erwin rim locks with white porcelain knobs, and identical rim locks are in evidence on original first story doors.

Within the original portion of the central hall the open stair to the second floor, with an intermediate landing, dates from the original construction of the house. A moderately massive turned newel of walnut, and turned balusters of chestnut, two per tread, support an oval walnut rail. Applied scrolls decorate the step ends. Only the space beneath the lowermost few steps is enclosed, with paneling, and the enclosure of the space beneath the landing is modern, for the bathroom there.

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General Description (continued)

The easterly or front room of the two on the right or northeast side of the central hall was the parlor. Its marble mantel is the most elaborate in the house, a full arch with paneled spandrels and carved scrolled console keystone, a shelf with a moulded serpentine front edge. Formerly it was fitted with a Latrobe or Baltimore stove as indicated by the absence of a finished firebox corresponding to the mantel opening, and by the ornamental cast-iron grille into the flue in the second story. The chandelier consists of a moulded bowl of satin-frosted glass supported by three chains, a fixture dating from the initial installation of electricity earlier in the 20th century. Wooden bookshelves flanking the chimney also date from the 20th century. One probably conceals the handle of a bell pull on the side of the chimney breast, a feature found in other principal rooms of this house.

The large original room to the left or southwest side of the central hall was originally the dining room as suggested by the cupboard in its north corner, with shelves, by the passage to the kitchen, and the adjacent pantry, all original features. The white marble mantel consists of chamfered pilasters supporting a plain frieze with low raking soffit and a plain shelf. Its marble liner is fully arched indicating that it, too, was originally fitted with a Latrobe or Baltimore stove, further evidenced by the ornamental grille into the flue in the second story. The handle of a bell pull⁶ remains on the side of the chimney breast. The interior side of the door to the china cupboard retains its oak graining, covered with mahogany varnish, and the door is fitted with a rim lock deadbolt manufactured by C. J. Stewart in Baltimore. The early 20th century chandelier is like that of the parlor.

The north or rear room on the right or northeast side of the central hall probably was intended as a living room (a less-formal parlor), a library or a bedroom. Its white marble mantel is identical to the dining room's mantel and it, too, was originally fitted with a Latrobe or Baltimore stove. The closet beside the chimney is of the mid-20th century and on the side of the chimney breast within it is the former handle for the bell pull.

A short passage connects the dining room to the kitchen. The aforementioned china closet opening to the dining room, and a small closet opening to the kitchen passage are on the northeast side of the kitchen passage and a large pantry is on the southwest side of the kitchen passage. The door to the dining room has double-acting hinges but originally the door was hung on conventional hinges. The door to the kitchen has a transom for borrowed light in the passage. The door to the large pantry is fitted with a large deadbolt rim lock, not its original, manufactured by D. M. & Co. in New Haven.⁷

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General Description (continued)

Within the kitchen at its rear or northwest side is a plain fireplace, now closed, without a mantel. An enclosed stair in the east corner rises to the second floor of the kitchen wing. A short door in the east corner may have accessed an interior stair to the cellar.⁸ A flush board high across the southeast side of the kitchen appears to have been the mounting board for the several bells from the principal rooms within the original house and, perhaps, the front door. The back door is in the north corner beside the chimney. It is missing its door and one piece of jamb trim, virtually the only missing pieces of historic fabric of the entire house. A 20th century cupboard is built into the chimney alcove in the west corner of the kitchen.

The small south room of the ca. 1907 addition contains an arched mantel of slate painted in imitation of brown marble panels set in black stiles and rails, the whole set diagonally across its north corner, without a hearth. A stovepipe opening is within the arched surround. A wide opening, never with doors, opens into the original dining room and it is trimmed like all other doors and windows of the house. The door to the central hall has four panels with profiles slightly different from the originals in this house, and the hinges are loose-pin, revealing the early 20th century date of this feature.

The second story plan is similar to the first with a small central room created above the added portion of the hall beneath. Details throughout are similar but slightly simpler to indicate the hierarchy of detailing. Bedchambers above the parlor and dining room have fireplaces with wooden mantels original to the construction of the house, pilasters supporting a plain frieze and shelf. The north bedchamber never had a fireplace and its wooden mantel dates from the 1880s. All three bedchambers have or had ornamental grilles opening into the first story flues to receive heat from the Latrobe or Baltimore stoves below.

The east bedchamber closets are of the mid-20th century.

The southwest bedchamber, above the dining room, is the brightest of all the bedrooms and was the best, judging by its bell pull on the chimney breast. It has two large closets above the closets, pantry and passage below, all original features. In the larger closet is a wooden doorstop, the only one found in the house, probably original. The door to the smaller closet in the north corner (above the china closet) also has a deadbolt lock identical to its counterpart below, manufactured by C. J. Stewart of Baltimore.

A bell pull in the central hall served the other bedrooms.

No access is in evidence to the very low attic.

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General Description (continued)

The second story of the rear wing is accessed from the main stair landing and from the back stair in the east corner immediately within the rear wing. These accesses open to a small hall and a low partition of vertical beaded boards guards the back stairwell. A small room of similar size, now a bathroom, fills the remainder of the northeast side of the rear wing and a narrow bedroom occupies the southwest half of the rear wing. An enclosed stair in its west corner accesses the generous attic of the rear wing. Originally these probably were rooms for household servants.

In the plaster of the rear wing, against the main house and on both the northeast and southwest walls, is the outline of the original roofline and ceiling, springing from a top wall plate a few feet above the floor. The roof probably was raised to create a full second story when the bathroom was first installed.

The bathroom door and trim date from the early 20th century, probably later than the ca. 1907 date of the major front addition. Flanking the enameled cast-iron sink is a pair of early 20th century cabinets with paneled doors. A built-in mirror above the sink completes the lavatory ensemble and a crown moulding extends across the whole. The free-standing tub on paw feet appears to be contemporaneous with the lavatory ensemble, ca. 1930s. The water closet is of a more recent vintage.

The attic is unfinished. Within it is the corbeled former top of the chimney and the attic encapsulates the rear slope of the main house's roof, covered with weathered wood shingles. The rafters are the originals, re-used as evidenced by the marks of former lath and plaster.

To date the cellar has not been examined for it remains polluted with severely decayed asbestos from the insulation of the old boiler and its heating pipes. The crawl space is likewise polluted so no investigation has been made of either area.

Outbuildings, general

Numerous outbuildings were required to support rural and village life in the 19th and early 20th centuries, until the advent of modern utilities. Outbuildings were associated with the storage, preservation and preparation of food, the housing of livestock and its food, and the housing of slaves and/or servants and the labor to run the property.

Of the ten standing outbuildings, seven date from the 19th century as evidenced by their cut nails and other construction techniques and materials. Three of these seven are of log construction.

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Several conditions are common to all these standing outbuildings. Foundations are minimal or non-existent. All are sheathed externally in vertical board and batten siding, circular sawn and on the 19th century outbuildings, fastened with cut nails. All roofs (except the barn's) are covered with corrugated steel sheets but all the 19th century outbuildings had wood shingle roofs, as evidenced by the shingle lath with its many nails. Doors are of vertical boards on a 'Z' interior frame, the 19th century examples assembled with cut nails. Unless otherwise noted hinges are or were manufactured strap hinges. Windows are scarce or non-existent; where existing they are hastily installed single sashes not set in frames. All outbuildings have been whitewashed, within and without.

Nineteenth Century Outbuildings

Outbuilding 1 is of log construction, measuring approximately 16' x 16½'. The logs appear to be of chestnut. No foundation is in evidence and the floor is earthen. Several pit-sawn tie beams suggest a loft but neither floorboards nor stair are in evidence. On its northwest side is the outline of a low gabled roof of an ice house, also marked by an adjacent depression in grade.

Outbuilding 2 was a smokehouse, of frame construction, measuring approximately 10' x 12'. Its concrete foundation and floor appear to be later than the structure. The single door of the southwest side had a surface-mounted deadbolt lock with a wrought-iron case, now removed but in safe keeping.

Outbuilding 3 is of frame construction measuring approximately 8' x 10'. Of particular interest are the shingle laths, slim saplings flattened on their top sides, adzed to fit the rafters.

Outbuilding 4 appears to have been a dwelling for former slaves, servants or farm labor. Measuring approximately 14½' x 16½', this building is of log construction with corners supported on rough fieldstone or iron-bearing sandstone. The logs appear to be of pine. A wooden lower floor is on log joists. A gap in the logs of the southwest side suggests a former fireplace, not otherwise in evidence, and a stove pipe hole, charred, is through the upper logs near the extremely low ceiling. A steep stair rises in the north corner to the second floor within the roof space. The rafters are half-lapped and nailed at the ridge.

Outbuilding 5 is a framed corn house on brick corner piers. Its front or southeast facade is sheathed with vertical board and batten fastened with cut nails. The braced frame is exposed externally on the other three sides, of circular sawn oak with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. Within, narrow pine boards, fastened vertically with cut nails, create the corn crib. The door was locked with a surface-mounted deadbolt having a wrought-iron case, now removed for safe keeping. Door hinges are of plain hand-wrought iron.

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Outbuilding 6 is of log construction, measuring approximately 10' x 10'. The logs appear to be of pine, supported at the corners on fieldstones of iron-bearing sandstone. The rafters are of saplings, mitered and nailed at the ridge. The hinges of the single door are of ornamental hand-wrought iron.

Outbuilding 7 was a poultry house of impermanent frame construction measuring approximately 6½' x 24½'. Neither foundation nor floor is in evidence. Its corner posts are of cedar. Within, it is divided by rough board partitions into three rooms.

Twentieth Century Outbuildings

Outbuilding 8, the barn, dates from the 20th century as evidenced by its wire nails throughout. The roof is covered with tin shingles. Stables at each end flank a central space and the upper story was for hay storage. The rear shed addition at the northeast end extends over the property line. The ornamental hand-wrought iron hinges may have been salvaged from an earlier barn.

Outbuilding 9 is of light frame construction, assembled with wire nails. Measuring approximately 9' x 14' it was a tool house for the adjacent garden. No foundation is in evidence and the floor is a thin concrete slab.

Outbuilding 10 was a second poultry house built as almost a copy of the earlier one, Outbuilding 7, but with wire nails throughout. No foundation is in evidence.

The Site

The site of 4.3 acres (+-) is adequate for the intended interpretation and use of the property. Fortunately, the property boundaries help the site's interpretation. The species of all trees is identified and tagged, and a list of those trees is attached. An historic farm lane accessing the outbuildings and barns is entirely within the site.

The front or southeast side of the property is bounded by the public road, Church Street. Fortunately undeveloped land across Church Street is intended to be park land and its appearance should be advantageous to Linden.

The site is bounded on the southwest by a historic fence line with trees on both sides of the property line to screen it from a small modern housing development. The northeast edge is cleared and well maintained and it seems to follow a historic fence line documented by early photographs in the Gray family albums.

The site is bounded on the northwest and adjacent northeast sides by a dense growth of trees and underbrush. At the northeast side, toward the rear or northwest side of the property, is a deep drop in grade down to commercial property fronting on the highway (Maryland Routes 2-4). Commercial property with highway frontage is just beyond the northwest side, immediately adjacent to the barn, the rear extension of which projects over the property line on adjacent property. The dense growth of plant materials at and just beyond the property line helps the interpretation of Linden.

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General Description (continued)

End Notes

- 1 When the property was named Linden is not known but it probably acquired that name in the Gray family's ownership with the planting of the linden trees.
- 2 Russell and Erwin, New Britain, Connecticut, "570 Rural Case" locksets as illustrated in their Illustrated Catalogue of American Hardware of the Russell and Erwin Manufacturing Company, 1865, page 23f, reprinted by the Association for Preservation Technology, 1980. The "570 Rural Case" lock appeared in Russell and Erwin price lists and catalogues as early as 1853 and as late as 1877; information from the collection of Mr. A. J. Hoffman, 24731 Acropolis Drive, Mission Viejo, California 92691.
- 3 C. J. STEWART Listed as locksmiths at that address in the Baltimore
NO 3 LIBERTY ST City Directories from 1853. In the Directory of 1871
BALTO the name became C. J. Stewart and Sons.
- 4 Date derived from post card from Miss I. Marguerite Gray to Miss Mary T. Gray dated and posted 1907 still showing the house as originally built, but the grounds not meticulously maintained and without the linden trees.
- 5 Gray family albums in the Calvert County Historical Society.
- 6 Brass escutcheon and handle; no name nor patent date found; heavily painted and not dismantled for inspection.
- 7 D. M. & CO. Davenport, Mallory & Co., New Haven, Connecticut, partnership
NEW HAVEN 1861-1865 (Early Locks and Lockmakers of America by Thomas
F. Hennessy, 1976, American Lock Museum, Terryville, CT)
- 8 Now floored over as part of the bathroom under the landing; the cellar has not been inspected due to the asbestos pollution there.

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CT-811STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Linden¹ is twofold: under National Register Criteria B, the property has been the residence of three families of great importance to Prince Frederick (and thusly to Calvert County), all three heads of those families being lawyers; under National Register Criteria C, it is the sole surviving house of its period in Prince Frederick and Calvert County with identifiable architectural style; and it retains virtually all of its historic fabric from its two major periods of construction, with a significant inventory of its outbuildings.

Resource History and Historic Context

With the burning of Prince Frederick including the Calvert County Court House in 1882,² resulting in the loss of all court and land records, land research is difficult. Much of it is based on a slow reconstruction of land records when and as needed following the fire, and later, undocumented recollections, general references to earlier conditions, earlier ownerships. It is generally accepted that Henry Williams (1840-1916) built the original portion of the present dwelling about the time of his marriage to Georgeanna Weems, June 11, 1868. Georgeanna Weems was the daughter of Mason Locke Weems, founder and President of the Weems Steamboat Line, Baltimore. Henry Williams was the son of the Rev. Henry Williams, rector of All Saints' Parish, Calvert County, and Priscilla Chew Williams.³

Linden is on a tract in Hunting Creek Hundred, patented by Aaron Williams in 1747 as Williams Hardship, then consisting of 250 acres.⁴ An 1889 deed⁵ recites that Henry Williams had purchased the land from Thomas F. Moore.

Close analysis of the original portion of the house suggests it was built about 1868 in a studied but conservative Italianate style with spare use of ornament. It may have had an architect, as yet unidentified, or it may have been adapted from a published design, utilizing standard materials of the time, many of them undoubtedly shipped from Baltimore, a metropolis easily accessed by rail and water. By 1868 Baltimore was the usual source of manufactured materials such as doors, windows, stair balustrades and mantels. Baltimore was also the source of architectural services for the entire state.⁶ However, of all the Maryland counties, Calvert County is the only one where no attributions have been found to an architect. Thus a unique house with even conservative references to architectural style, built in an obviously studied design, has greater significance than it might have elsewhere.

Henry Williams was educated by private tutors and at Topping's School in Baltimore. He read law under Charles J. M. Gwinn, who later became Attorney General of Maryland. Henry Williams served in the Maryland House of Delegates during the Civil War and in 1871 was elected State Senator from Calvert County, maintaining his law practice in Prince Frederick with James T. Briscoe.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Linden, Calvert County, Maryland
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Statement of Significance (Resource History and Historic Context, continued)

Upon the death of his father-in-law in 1874, Henry Williams was called to manage the Weems Steamboat Company,⁷ then consisting of five working steamboats, numerous wharves along the Patuxent and Rappahannock Rivers, and in Baltimore, a hotel resort at Fair Haven on the bayside in southern Anne Arundel County, and nearly 200 employees from senior captains and agents to the lowliest of deckhands and stokers. In early 1875, Henry Williams, his wife and children, departed Prince Frederick to reside in Baltimore.⁸ Henry Williams became the lead attorney and agent for the Weems Steamboat Line, owned by his wife Georgeanna Williams and her sister Matilda Forbes. In 1891 the Weems Steamboat Company of Baltimore City was incorporated, with both Georgeanna Williams and Matilda Forbes as owners, Henry Williams President and General Manager. He and the firm continued to prosper under his leadership. The Weems Line was sold in 1905 but the business retained other activities including steamboat service to the coastal ports of the eastern seaboard and ocean-going vessels. Following his death in 1916, his sons and his wife's nephew continued the business and the firm was sold in 1929 to New York owners.

With Henry Williams' departure from Prince Frederick in 1875, Linden was acquired by Daniel Randall Magruder (1835-1915)⁹ through Henry Stickney who may have been an attorney representing Henry Williams. Born in Annapolis, Magruder's parents represented prominent Annapolis families: George Lee Magruder and Henrietta Sanford Randall Magruder. About 1840 the family moved to Illinois where they remained to about 1846 when Daniel Magruder was enrolled in the Preparatory School of St. John's College, Annapolis. He graduated from St. John's College with first honors in 1853 having just celebrated his seventeenth birthday. Upon graduation from St. John's he studied law under his uncles, Alexander B. Hagner of the District of Columbia Supreme Court and Alexander Randall, Attorney General for Maryland. He was admitted to the Bar at the age of 21 and moved to Calvert County where he established his practice in Prince Frederick, possibly with Joseph A. Wilson who would become his brother-in-law. With his family's political and financial connections, and his own considerable intellectual abilities, he encountered much success. Two years after his arrival in Prince Frederick, at the age of 23, he was elected to the House of Delegates where he served through the early years of the Civil War on several committees, chairing the Judiciary Committee. During those years he acquired much real estate in Prince Frederick and he became Associate Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit (Calvert and Anne Arundel Counties) in 1866. In 1867 he married Mary Sollers, the daughter of the Honorable Augustus Sollers, former Congressman representing the 5th District. The growth of his family and his fortune closely paralleled that of his colleague at the Bar, Henry Williams, the builder and first owner of Linden.

In 1881 Magruder was appointed Chief Justice to the Court of Appeals to serve out the term of his predecessor who had died, but later that year he failed to win the nomination as an elected candidate. He moved to Annapolis and re-established his law practice there. In 1882 the great fire of Prince Frederick destroyed the Court House

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12Linden, Calvert County, Maryland
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Statement of Significance (Resource History and Historic Context, continued)

with all its land and court records, and every building Magruder owned, except for Linden. After about five years of negotiation and litigation, all his verifiable properties were liquidated including Linden. In 1888 Linden with its 66 acres was auctioned to the highest bidder, John B. Gray, whose family would hold and enjoy it for nearly a century.

Magruder made no apparent changes to Linden.

On 11 June 1887, John B. Gray (1853-1937) purchased Linden at auction for \$2,500, the highest bidder.¹⁰ The property was described in the subsequent deeds as "being the land which Daniel R. Magruder obtained from Henry F. Stickney, which said Stickney obtained from Henry Williams, and which said Williams obtained from Thomas F. Moore." This is a typical reconstruction of a chain of title in Calvert County, the result of the destruction of the land and court records in the Prince Frederick fire of 1882 which also destroyed the court house.

John B. Gray seems to have been the first to call the property Linden and he probably planted the Linden trees. They do not appear in photographs which predate Gray's addition to the house.

John B. Gray was born in 1853 in Battle Creek, Calvert County, Maryland. He was educated in the public schools and graduated in 1875 from the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland. He married Kate Dorsey and they had six children.

He taught school in Calvert County for several years and studied law in the office of Joseph A. Wilson. Gray was admitted to the bar in 1882. He was a member and sometimes president of the State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He practiced before the Supreme Court of the United States. He also served as State's Attorney, Chairman of the Board of School Commissioners and he was counsel to the Board of County Commissioners.

He was active in the banking business of Prince Frederick and in his Episcopal church, St. Paul's, Prince Frederick. He was also a member and sometime master of the Prince Frederick masonic lodge. When John B. Gray died in 1937 he was generally recognized as the Democratic leader in southern Maryland. He is buried in St. Paul's churchyard which stands a short distance south of Linden.

John B. Gray made the only significant change the house has experienced, about 1907,¹¹ filling out the corner of the original 'L' and adding a new porch across the front, making an asymmetrical original house symmetrical, blending the Italianate original with the Colonial Revival of the addition. The conservatism of the original Italianate house allowed this blending or change of styles to seem perfectly compatible.

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Statement of Significance (Resource History and Historic Context, continued)

The last private owner of Linden was John B. Gray, Jr. (1894-1989). He was born at Linden. He graduated first in his class at the Maryland Agricultural College, later the University of Maryland, and he graduated from the University of Maryland Law School in 1917. (The three earlier lawyers who had owned Linden all read law under older practitioners.) Upon his return to Prince Frederick he entered the practice of law with his father. He married Aimee Atlee Truan.¹² He built his own home on Linden's land a short distance southwest of the old house.

During his distinguished legal career he was Assistant Attorney General for Maryland for the State Roads Commission, Circuit Court Judge of Calvert County, becoming Chief Judge of the Seventh Circuit in 1950, he served as Chairman of the Rules Committee of the Maryland Court of Appeals, President of the Maryland State Bar Association, he was one of the Founding Fellows of the Maryland Bar Foundation, serving on its Board of Directors, recipient of one of the first three awards made by the foundation for distinguished legal service. He retired from the judiciary in 1964 and served as Chairman of the Calvert County Zoning Appeals Board.

In his community he, like his father, was active in the local banking business and chaired the building committee for the county's new hospital with responsibility for its development and construction. He was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Parish, serving for many years as Senior Warden, and he is buried there.

Though John B. Gray, Jr. was the last private owner of Linden, he lived next door in a house of his own construction. Several of his siblings inherited Linden following the death of their father in 1937, including his two unmarried sisters Sarah and Marguerite, who had made their home there. Gray's final ownership followed in-family purchase of interest, and inheritances.

Linden is best and most fondly remembered today¹³ for its last residents, Miss Sadie (Sarah, 1888-1988) and Miss Marguerite Gray (1890-1987). They spent their entire lives there and both were accomplished, academically and socially. They maintained an active social life, particularly welcoming children and young people to teach them the manners and social graces of antiquity which were rapidly passing into obscurity in the late 20th century. They boarded young female teachers who came to the county. They served as unofficial hostesses to introduce visitors to the local residents and the Calvert County way of life. Their standards for hospitality and social service to their community has provided a legacy not only for their descendants but for the generations of persons still living who knew and were trained by them.

Miss Sadie survived Miss Marguerite by about a year. Her brother, John B. Gray, Jr., was her heir and near the end of his life he sold Linden for a nominal sum to his beloved church, St. Paul's.¹⁴ Nearly nine years later, 31 March 1998,¹⁵ St. Paul's Church sold Linden to the Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County, Maryland, for use by the Calvert County Historical Society, Inc. as a cultural heritage center.

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Statement of Significance (Resource History and Historic Context, continued)

In the 19th and early 20th century numerous outbuildings were required to support rural and village life. Eighteen outbuildings are remembered at Linden;¹⁶ ten remain.

To date no archaeology has occurred. Three of the seven remaining 19th century outbuildings are of log construction. These 19th century outbuildings may date from the original construction of the house. One, with its wooden floor and steep stair to its loft, may have been for former slaves. The small size of the barn suggests that its main purpose was to serve the dwelling for the household's livestock, and not a large farm.

The 4.3 acre site today provides an adequate setting for the historic house and the outbuildings associated with it. The historic house is approximately centered and the property boundaries follow the historic boundaries and fencelines of the house site. A generous and impressive inventory of mature trees enhances the setting, contrasting it from its modern surroundings. Nine trees are over three feet in diameter including four remaining Lindens of the five or six which have given the property its name.

Endnotes

- 1 The name Linden seems to have originated with the third owner John B. Gray who purchased the property in 1888 and apparently who planted the linden trees.
- 2 ". . . fourteen of the eighteen buildings which then composed the Town of Prince Frederick were burned, and among the lot was the Court House." Morris L. Radoff, The County Court Houses and Records of Maryland (Hall of Records, 1960) page 44.
- 3 Williams family information is from Geneological and Memorial Encyclopedia of the State of Maryland (American Historical Society, 1919); Tidewater by Steamboat by David C. Holly (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991); Hunting Creek Hundred by Ailene W. Hutchins (privately printed, 1992); all as supplied by Linda Collins, Curator, Calvert County Historical Society.
- 4 Hutchins, op. cit.
- 5 Deed J S liber 2 folio 60f
- 6 Research by the Historic Architects' Roundtable, Baltimore Architecture Foundation (11½ W. Chase Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201): documented works in Maryland by architects.
- 7 Weems family information is from Holly, op. cit.
- 8 At first in Waverly Terrace on Franklin Square, then 407 W. Lanvale Street (corner of McCulloh Street) and finally at "Woodcliffe" on 39rd Street near University Parkway.

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Statement of Significance (Resource History and Historic Context, continued)

- 9 Magruder family information is from research by Linda Collins, Curator, Calvert County Historical Society.
- 10 Gray family information is from research by Linda Collins, Curator, Calvert County Historical Society.
- 11 Date based on postcard dated and posted 1907 from Miss I. Marguerite Gray to Miss Mary T. Gray, showing the house in its original form and without the linden trees.
- 12 Now a small adjacent housing development called Gray's Inn Court.
- 13 Interviews with Virginia Bowen, president of the Calvert County Historical Society, 22 October 1998; and Frank B. Gray, son of John B. Gray, Jr., 24 October 1998 and 28 December 1998.
- 14 Interviews with Frank B. Gray 28 December 1998 and deed A.B.E. liber 490 folio 8 dated August 24, 1989.
- 15 Deed BK 01037 PG 003.
- 16 Sketch map (herein) by Frank B. Gray 1998; compare with survey, herein.

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Linden, Calvert County, Maryland
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Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural - Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Government/Law

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

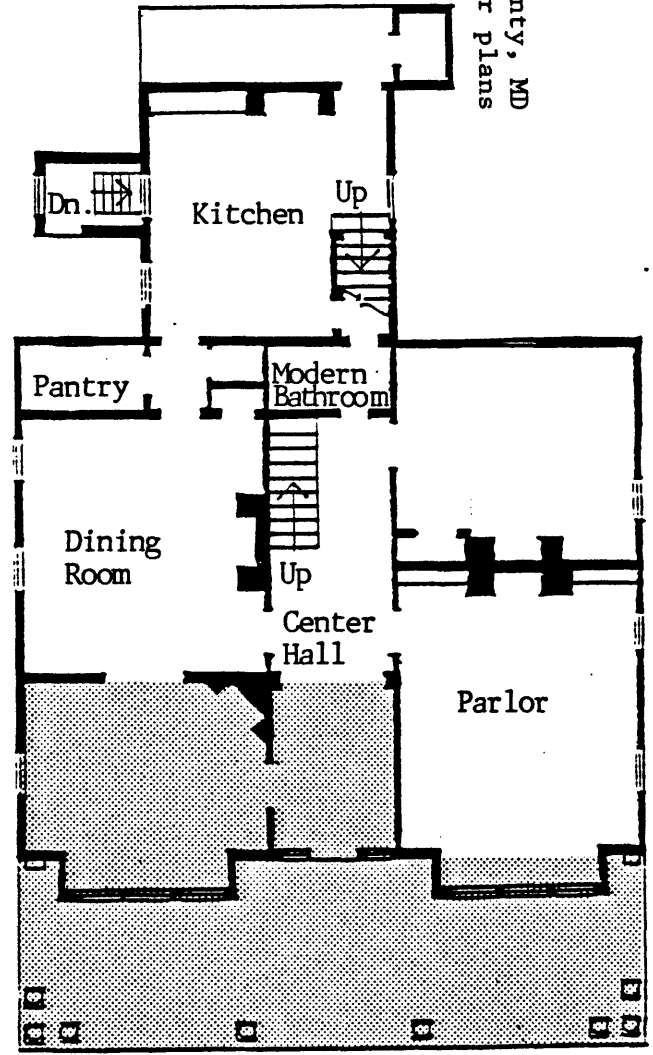
The nominated property is indicated as Tax Map 24, Grid 16, Parcel 167, recorded among the Land Records of Calvert County, Maryland in Plat Book ABE 490/8. A reduced copy of the referenced plat accompanies this nomination.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property, approximately 4.3 acres, comprises the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource.

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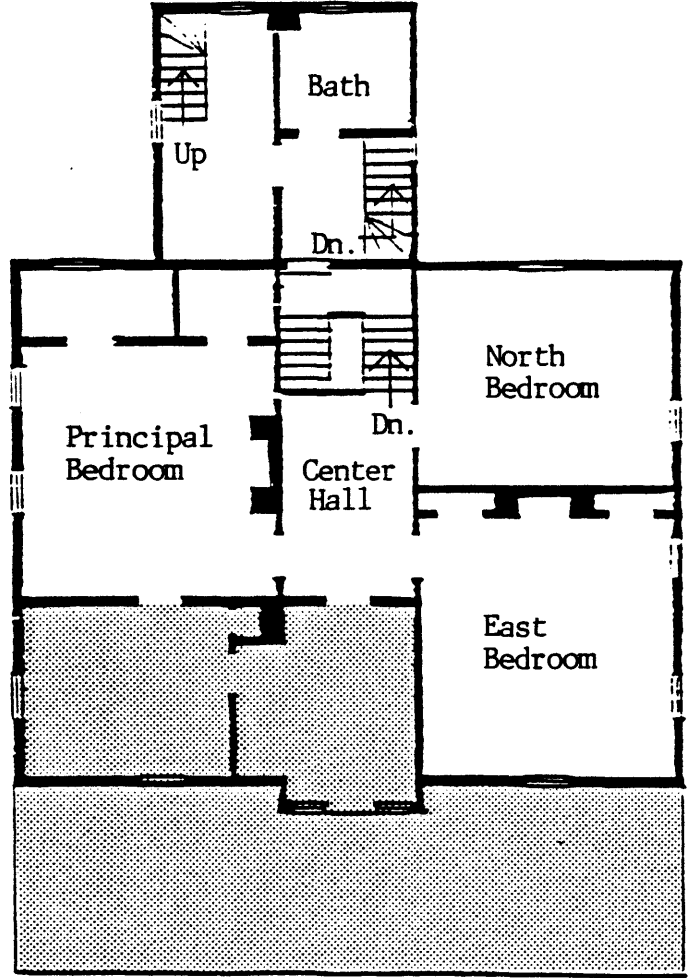
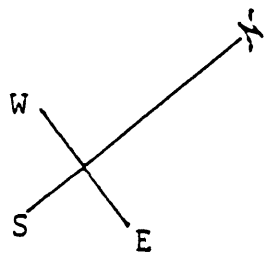
Linden
Calvert County, MD
Sketch floor plans



FIRST FLOOR



Addition of ca. 1907



SECOND FLOOR

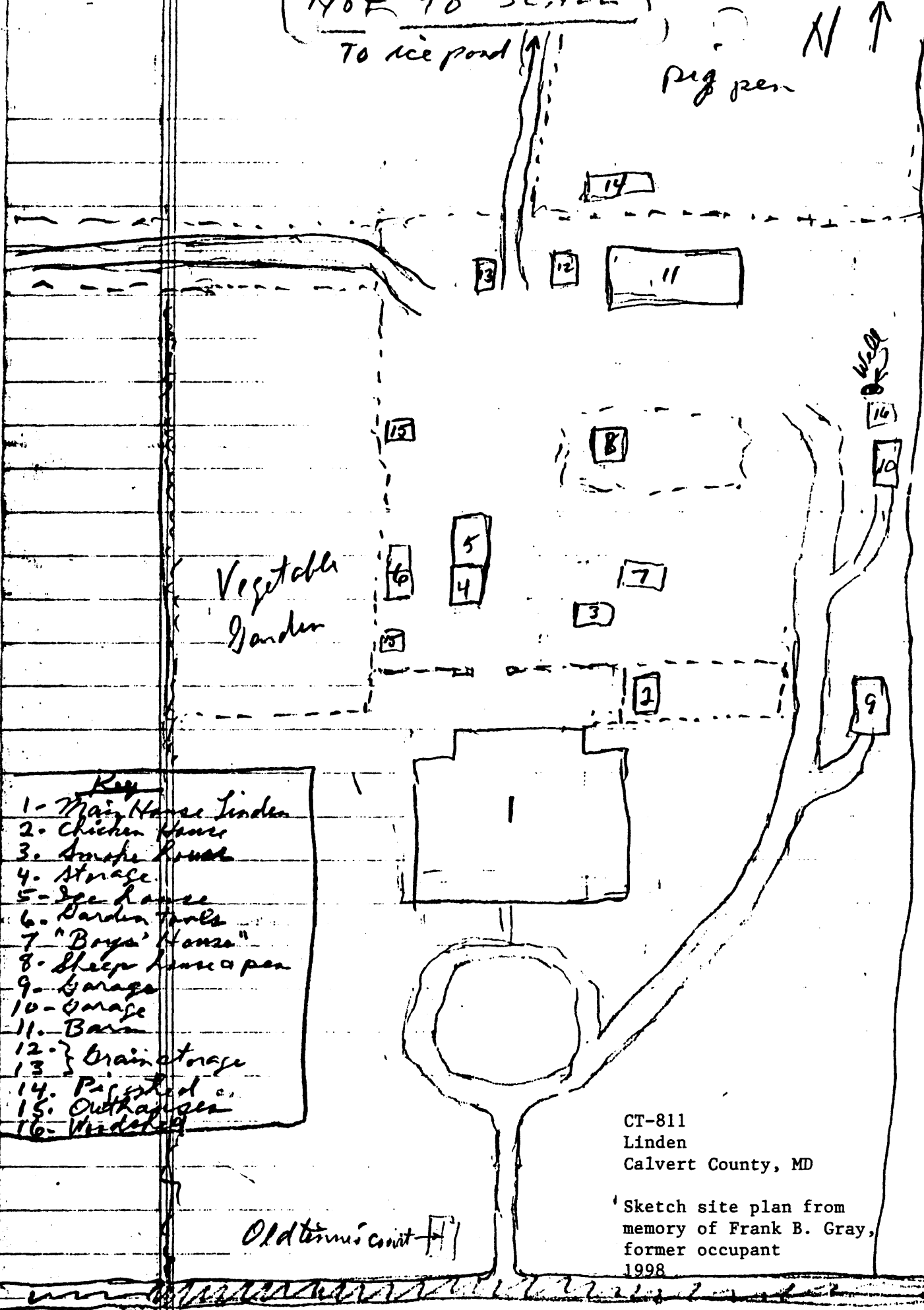
Sketch Plan furnished by the Calvert County Historical Society

NOT TO SCALE

10/28/

To ice pond

Pig pen



Vegetable Garden

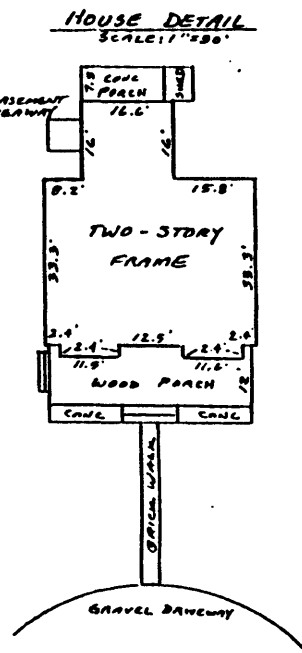
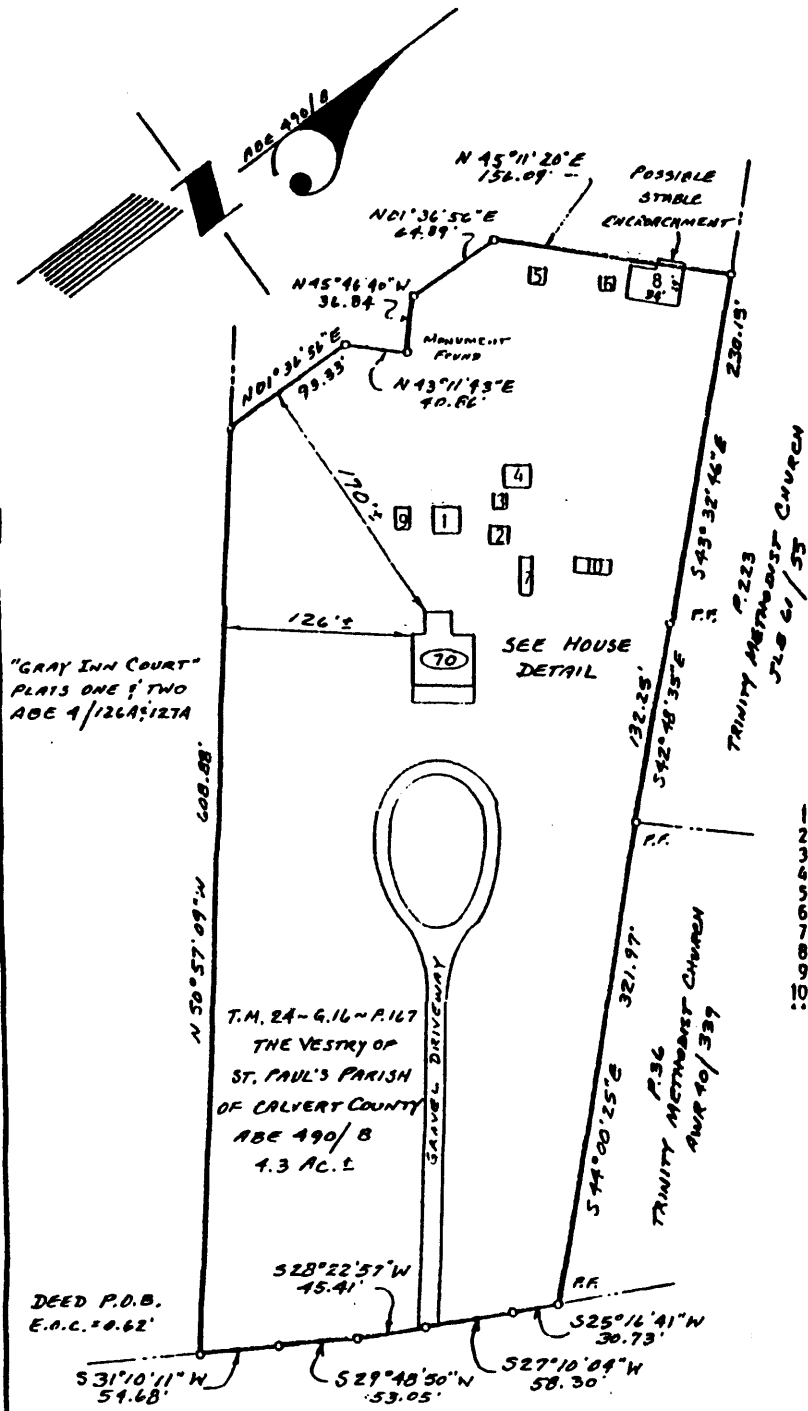
- Key
- 1- Main House Linden
 - 2- Chicken House
 - 3- Smoke House
 - 4- Storage
 - 5- Ice House
 - 6- Garden Tools
 - 7- "Boys' House"
 - 8- Sheep House/pen
 - 9- Garage
 - 10- Garage
 - 11- Barn
 - 12- } Brain storage
 - 13- }
 - 14- Pig pen
 - 15- Outhouse
 - 16- Well

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Linden
Calvert County, MD

Sketch site plan from
memory of Frank B. Gray,
former occupant
1998

Old tennis court

...hereon as shown or indicated by the location of fences and the existence of property corner markers can only be determined by a boundary survey. This plat does not provide for accurate identification of property boundary lines, but such identification may not be required for the transfer of title or securing financing or refinancing.



- OUTBUILDINGS**
- 1 Log outbuilding, 19th century
 - 2 Frame smoke house, 19th century
 - 3 Frame outbuilding, 19th century
 - 4 Log quarters, 19th century
 - 5 Frame corn house, 19th century
 - 6 Log corn house, 19th century
 - 7 Frame poultry house, 19th century
 - 8 Barn, 20th century
 - 9 Tool house, 20th century
 - 10 Frame poultry house, 20th century

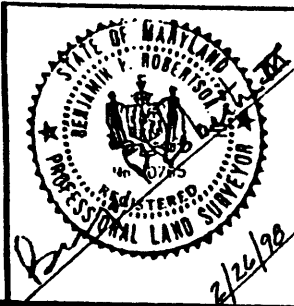
Level of accuracy of this Location Drawing: 1/4"

CHURCH STREET - MD. RTE. 231

The property shown hereon lies within Zone C-not a Flood Hazard Area per F. E. M. A. Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Panel #15, dated September 28, 1984.

This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the improvements indicated hereon are located as shown. This is not a boundary survey.

Note: No title research furnished to or done by this company.



RECORDED IN: ABE 490/8

LOCATION DRAWING	
TAX MAP 29 ~ GRID 16 ~ PARCEL 167	
LIBER ABE 490 @ FOLIO 8	
SECOND DISTRICT - CALVERT COUNTY - MARYLAND	
Job No. CA-6335	Scale: 1" = 100'

RDA
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.
ENGINEERS • LAND PLANNERS • LAND SURVEYORS
 P.O. BOX 1628
 65 DUKE STREET, SUITE 204, KAINE BUILDING
 PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678
 PHONE (410) 535-8600 (301) 855-8500

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 Linden
 Calvert County, MD
 National Register Boundaries
 Sketch site plan