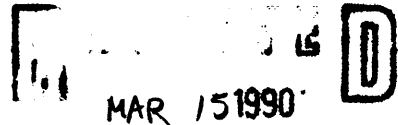


607

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Lindens
other names/site number CH-49

2. Location

street & number State Route 488 N/A not for publication
city, town Bryantown vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Charles code 017 zip code 20646

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u>2</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 3/9/90
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 4/23/90
 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:) _____
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

CH-49

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

foundation brick

walls wood

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Lindens is a second quarter nineteenth century Federal style frame house two stories high with a side passage, double parlor plan with Greek Revival mantels and an exterior double chimney with a two story flush pent at one end. Built on brick and fieldstone foundations enclosing a partial cellar, the exterior retains most of the original cladding of random width beaded clapboards on the northeast, southeast and southwest sides. Notable original interior details include a transverse arch in the lower stair passage supported by free-standing fluted columns, large folding doors between the dining room and front parlor, chairrails, bold window and door architraves with turned corner blocks, and Greek Revival style mantels typical of its date of construction. The main stair, rises in four flights to the attic and has simple, turned newels, and jigsaw patterned steps whose distinctive design continues across the facias of the landings. About 1880 the house was enlarged by a two-story, one-bay wide addition to its southwest end. Also of frame construction, it is set back from the front wall of the main block and is of a slightly lower height. The exterior retains original sheathing of German siding, and its gable covering of round-end shingles. The windows of the front of the house were also enlarged at this time, and a semi-hipped roof porch with turned and tapered columns added to the rear elevation. A one story frame wing at the northeast end of the house was added in the early 1950s. It was about the time the northeast wing was built that the exterior chimneys were painted. Approached by a tree-lined drive, the house is fronted by two European linden trees believed to have been planted when the central section of the house was built and from which the property derives its name. The rear of the house overlooks the lower fields of the farm and the Zekiah Swamp. There are no other surviving early buildings. Non-historic structures include two small frame dependencies east of the house, two tobacco curing barns, and a farm tenement, all of which were built in this century.

See continuation sheet for
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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CH-49

Section number 7 Page 7.1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Located on the south side of Maryland Route 488, approximately 1.7 miles southwest of its junction with Maryland Route 5, The Lindens was built in 1840 for John Francis Gardiner. A two-story, three-bay frame house, its architecture is a regional adaptation of the side passage, double parlor Federal style popularly built in this locality throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. At one end stands an exterior double chimney with a two-story flush pent, an especially characteristic feature of the domestic architecture of the lower southern Maryland counties. Built on brick and fieldstone foundations enclosing a partial cellar, the exterior retains most of its original cladding of random width beaded clapboards on its northeast, southeast and southwest sides. Notable original interior details include a transverse arch in the lower stair passage supported by free-standing fluted columns, large folding doors between the dining room and front parlor, chairrails, bold window and door architraves with turned corner blocks, and Greek Revival style mantels typical of its date of construction. The main stair, positioned at the southeast end of the hall, rises in four flights to the attic and features simple, turned newels, and jigsaw patterned steps whose distinctive design continues across the facias of The Lindens. In about 1880 the house was enlarged by a two-story, one-bay wide addition to its southwest end. Also of frame construction, the addition is set back from the front wall of the main block and is of a slightly lower height. Its exterior retains its original sheathing of German siding, and its gable covering of round-end shingles. Alterations to the main block contemporary with the addition include extensions of its roof eaves on all sides and a shingle cross gable on the southeast side of the roof that frames an arched window with keystone and imposts surmounted by a dentiled pediment. The windows of the front of the house were also enlarged at this time, and a semi-hip roofed porch with turned and tapered columns added to the rear elevation. A one story frame wing at the northeast end of the house was added in the early 1950s to replace a previous two-story structure. It was about the time the northeast wing was built that the exterior chimneys were painted. The north chimney stack has a date brick inscribed "J. F. G. 1840" several courses above the stepped weathering.

Approached by a private, tree-lined drive, the house is fronted by two European linden trees believed to have been planted when the central section of the house was built and from which the property derives its name. The rear of the house overlooks the lower fields

See Continuation Sheet No 7.2

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of the farm and the Zekiah Swamp. There are no other surviving early buildings. Non-historic structures include two small frame dependencies east of the house, two tobacco curing barns, and a farm tenement, all of which were built in this century. The southeast end of the property, bordering the Zekiah Swamp, is noted for encompassing an especially rich concentration of prehistoric artifacts, and is considered a contributing resource. The recorded history of the property indicates that it had been occupied by white settlers during Maryland's colonial period, but no discernable evidence of known or potential archeological sites survives above ground, although there is some suggestion that the foundations of the existing 1840 house remain from an earlier building.

The following building and site descriptions are keyed to the site plan on Continuation Sheet No. 7.6:

1. Main House - contributing

A three-part, clapboard frame structure, The Lindens represents three principal phases of construction, beginning as a two-story, three-bay building to which additions were made circa 1880 and circa 1950.

The central part of the existing house, erected in 1840 according to a date brick set in one of its exterior chimney stacks, was built on fieldstone and brick foundations. This masonry, which encloses a two-room cellar area below the two first floor rooms but which extend only partially into the area covered by the first floor passage, may remain from an earlier building, though the evidence supporting this theory is inconclusive. Oriented to face northwest, the most dominant exterior feature is a pair of exterior chimneys at one end that are joined at the first and second floor levels by a flush pent. The chimney stacks are built independent of the gable wall, and rise above single, elongated, stepped weatherings. In addition to the chimneys, now painted white, the building retains a significant amount of its original sheathing of random width beaded clapboards.

The interior of the 1840 structure remains essentially intact, including plastered walls, flooring, Greek Revival style mantels, door and window architraves and baseboards, as well as chairrails appropriate to its date of construction. The stair, positioned beyond a columned transverse arch bisecting the lower

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passage, rises in four flights to the attic and features a rounded rail, simple turned and tapered newels, and jigsaw patterned steps whose motif continues across the facias of the two landings. The first floor plan was repeated at the second floor and attic levels, but with an additional small room at the front of the stair passage. Toward the end of the 1800s a partition wall was built to provide a through passage between the two second floor bedrooms and the second floor rooms of a former northeast wing. The hall, and doors opening into the circa 1880 southwest wing, constitute the only alteration of the interior plan and appearance of the original house.

In about 1880 the house was enlarged by a shallow, one-bay wide addition to the southwest end. The wing, set back from the front wall of the main block and of a slightly lower height, retains its original sheathing of German siding and round end gable shingles and, on the interior, simple late Victorian style trim characteristic of its date of construction. Alterations made to the 1840 central block contemporary with the circa 1880 wing include a semi-hip roofed porch across the full width of the enlarged house, extensions of the roof eaves on all four sides, and a cross gable on the rear roof slope. Sheathed with round end shingles like the end gable of the wing, the cross gable frames an arched window with keystone and imposts surmounted by a dentiled pediment. Built on top of the original roof rafters, the cross gable had no physical effect on the interior of the building. It was also about this same time that the front windows of the house were lengthened and the exterior clapboards of this elevation replaced with siding matching that of the addition. The existing two-over-two and two-over-four pane sash of the front and rear windows were probably installed during this period as well.

It was about the time the southwest wing was built that a two-story addition of similar height and depth but of greater width was constructed at the northeast end of the 1840 house. The outline of this wing, which was removed when the house was renovated circa 1950, can be seen in the brickwork of the double chimneys and pent it once largely covered. The wing is said to have contained a kitchen and service rooms on the first floor, and storage and servants' rooms above.

In the early 1950s the main block and southwest wing were rehabilitated inside and out, though other than the installation of heat, wiring and plumbing, and the addition of a small, gable

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roofed entrance porch, no significant changes were made; however, the northeast wing, which had suffered extensive physical deterioration, was removed and replaced by the existing one-story, two-bay wide frame kitchen addition. The exterior chimneys of the main block were then painted to reduce the visual impact of scars in the masonry surfaces remaining from the former wing.

2. Shed - non-contributing

A small, one-bay wide clapboard frame structure with a wood shingled pyramid roof. Circa 1950s.

3. Shed - non-contributing

Identical to #2 above, but built about a decade later.

4. Tobacco barn - non contributing

A tobacco curing barn constructed of sawn timbers, with vertical board siding and a metal clad gambrel roof. Early twentieth century (probably by 1915).

5. Tenement House - non contributing

A small, gable roofed, one-story dwelling of masonry and frame construction built in the mid-twentieth century as a farm tenant's residence.

6. Tobacco barn - non-contributing

A center aisle, timber framed tobacco curing barn similar to #4 above and of about the same age.

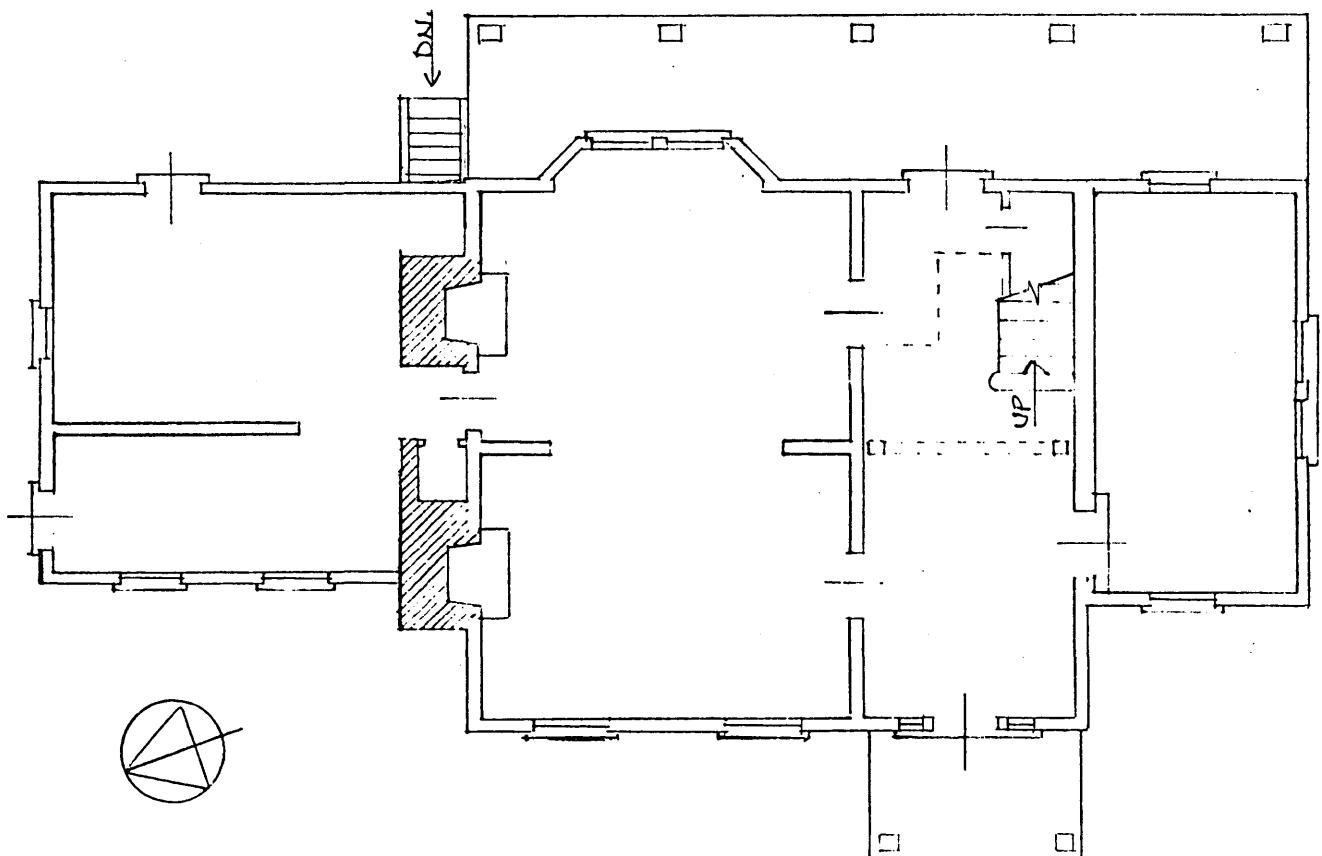
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—x— c.1850 —x— 1840 —x— c.1880 —x—

first floor plan, 1989
(not to scale)

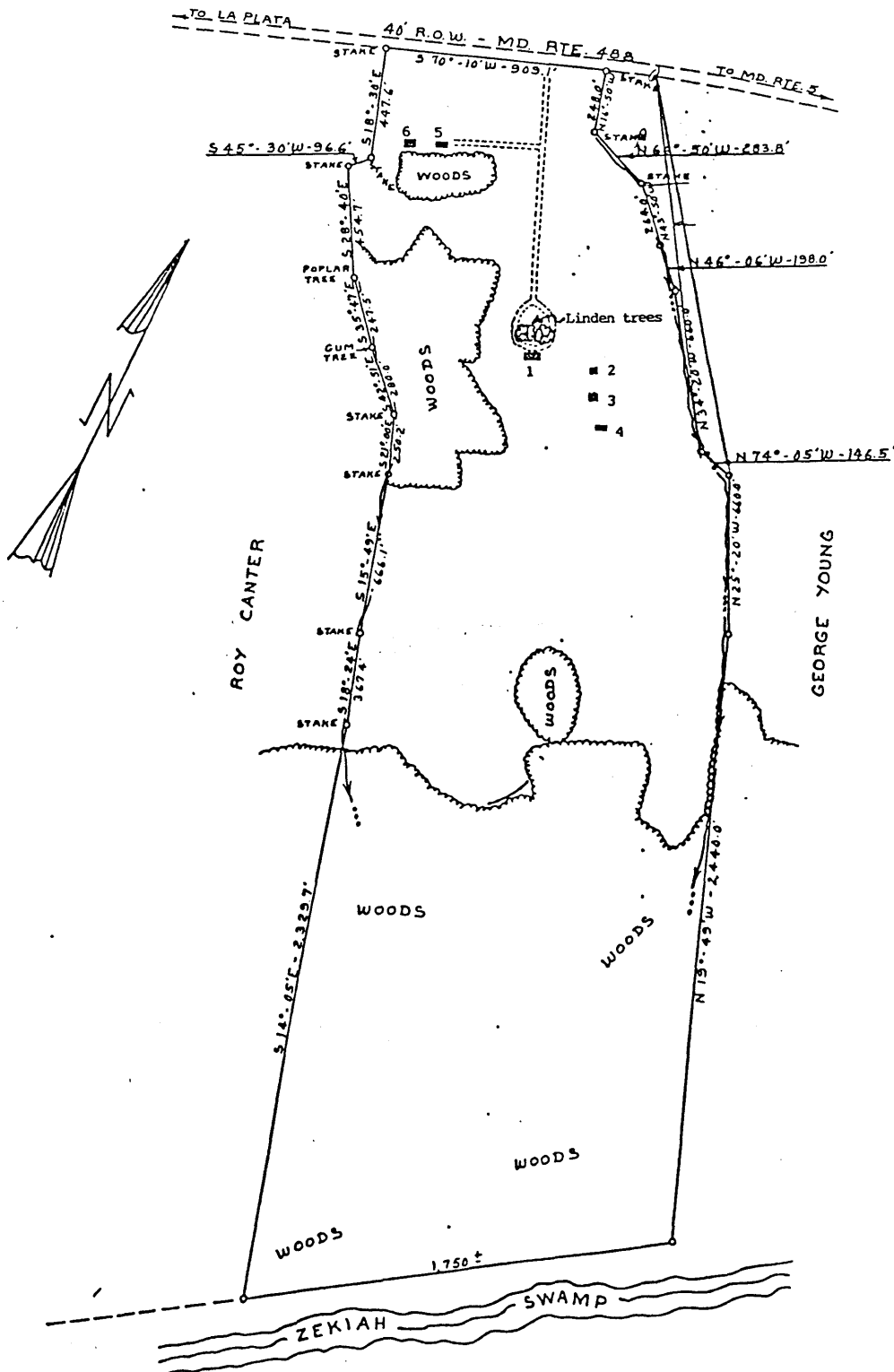
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SITE PLAN
and
BOUNDARY MAP
1989

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1840-1880

Significant Dates

1840

1880

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

One of Charles County's very few dated historic buildings, The Lindens is significant in a local context as an unusually late and architecturally distinctive example of the federal side passage, double parlor house style otherwise popularly built here during a period of relative economic prosperity in the first several decades of the nineteenth century. Its Greek Revival style interior woodwork is an especially notable and important feature, its quality being superior to that of most local houses built here between the 1830s and 1860. Other interior details of note include the stair and the unusual design of its fretwork decorations, the transverse arch of the lower passage, and the use of chairrails in combination with the bolder door and window architraves at a time when chairrails were no longer considered fashionable. Another significant architectural feature is the double exterior chimney and two-story brick pent. Chimneys of this design, while not uncommon to this section of Maryland, generally ceased to be built after about 1810. The alterations of circa 1880 enhance The Lindens' architectural significance. In Charles County, the half century following the Civil War were years of significant economic depression, and the local population declined to less than what it had been in the decade preceding the Revolution. Very little building activity took place here in the 1860-1900 period, and there are extremely few extant structures whose architecture reflects the dramatic changes in design and function that occurred in more prosperous regions of the state and nation. The circa 1880 wing and the changes made to the 1840 house at that time, while fairly simple in concept, possess elements of design that are significant in their own right when viewed in that context.

See continuation sheet for
HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PLAN DATA.

See endnotes for Section 8.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet No. 8.6

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 158 acres
USGS quads La Plata, MD and Hughesville, MD

UTM References

A

1	8	3	3	6	6	0	0	4	2	6	9	2	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

1	8	3	3	6	9	2	0	4	2	6	7	8	9	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

1	8	3	3	6	5	2	0	4	2	6	7	7	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

1	8	3	3	6	1	8	0	4	2	6	9	1	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are delineated on the Site Plan and Boundary Map.

See continuation sheet No. 7.6

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 10.1

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Richard Rivoire
organization Historical Architectural Consultant date August 1989
street & number Post Office Box 132 telephone (301) 932-1000
city or town La Plata state Maryland zip code 20646

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agriculture-Industrial Transition A. D. 1815-1870

Industrial Urban Dominance A. D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Uses: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: none

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

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HISTORIC CONTEXT: HISTORIC SETTING:

By 1840, the year the central part of The Lindens was built, Charles County was entering a period of slow economic decline that was in marked contrast to the relative prosperity, and growth, of the first three decades of that century. While nearly one-third of the county's inventoried historic buildings are contemporary with a regional "building boom" that occurred during the early nineteenth century, those dating from the circa 1835-1900 period are comparatively few, not only in number but in their level of architectural distinction as well. Of those houses built within that latter period, The Lindens is considered unique, not necessarily for its two-story, side passage, double parlor plan, which is well represented throughout the county, but for the unusually late date of its double chimney with two story pent--a combination of which ceased to be built locally after about 1810, its well above average interior woodwork, and the historical interest of its circa 1880 addition and alterations.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.3

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HISTORIC CONTEXT: RESOURCE HISTORY

The first several decades of the nineteenth century witnessed an improvement in economic conditions in southern Maryland, one result of which was a significant increase in building activity throughout the region as new homes were constructed and others renovated and enlarged. One of the most popular building forms to emerge during this period was the two-story, side passage, double parlor house based on the Adam style. Although a design visually better suited for an urban setting, it was clearly considered to be fashionably acceptable in a rural environment. The fact that more historic houses of this architecture survive in Charles and St. Mary's counties than any other attests to its extraordinary popularity.

When this style began to appear in Charles County, it often incorporated locally traditional features, such as a pair of exterior chimneys joined by a two-story flush pent, and interior ornamentations stylistically of an earlier period. Later, the design of such buildings assumed a much more straightforward and individualized form, and many of those built between about 1820 and 1840 are hardly distinguishable one from the other.

By the mid-1830s the great building boom of the previous decades began to rapidly decline as economic considerations became less favorable. While more than 35 examples of this architecture survive in Charles County, only six were built during the 1840-1860 period. Of these six only The Lindens reflects the carryover of traditional architectural features of a half-century earlier, and none of the others possess interior finishes of comparable calibre.

Viewed in this context, The Lindens is important as an altogether unique example of its architecture. Its overall form, above average interior woodwork, blend of traditional architectural features of an earlier period, and, of particular significance, its known date of construction, combine to provide a singularly valuable contribution to our knowledge and understanding of local architectural development during a critical phase in the county's socioeconomic history.

The Civil War brought an end to an agricultural system and social structure previously dependent on slave labor, resulting in a severely depressed local economy and an apathetic public attitude that endured throughout the balance of the century. The county's geographic isolation and stagnant economy served to maintain its sense of provincialism well into this century. As the building boom of the early nineteenth century reflected the relative prosperity of the 1810s, 20s and early 30s, conversely, a near absence of measurable building activity dramatized the hardships of the post-Civil War era.

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Of the mere handful of private homes and public buildings erected between the mid-1860s and 1900, only one, Cedar Grove, is considered a noteworthy example of architectural trends that prevailed nationwide at that time.¹ Almost without exception, those homes that were built within this period were erected by those few countians who had managed to remain financially solvent, usually the result of professional occupations, political careers, or astute, pre-war investments in the industrialized north. Even so, these buildings, while reflecting then current concepts of form and function are pared down versions of designs popularized by architectural pattern books then widely available. Thus, given the conditions of the times, and what little representation otherwise exists, additions or alterations made to those equally few older, pre-war buildings such as The Lindens, when these changes reflect an obvious attempt at improvement according to then current tastes, can be accorded a level of significance all their own. At The Lindens, the broad cross gable and the unusual design of its arched and pedimented window, the shingled gables, overhanging eaves and other details contemporary with the circa 1880 addition, are of historical interest when viewed in that context.

The recorded history of the property begins with a tract of 1,000 acres granted to Major William Boarman in 1699. Patented as His Lordship's Favor, and a subdivision of the 8,800-acre Zekiah Manor lands reserved for colonial Maryland's lords proprietor, the 1,000 acres were conveyed by Boarman to Hugh Teares that same year.² Teares died within months of acquiring the property, leaving as heirs his widow, and a daughter by a previous marriage.³ In 1705 a survey of division was made between the two women by which it was shown that the original patent description encompassed 250 acres more than the acreage named. This survey is of particular interest because the surveyor included on the plat a carefully drawn depiction of a house and several⁴ outbuildings standing on the part of the property then occupied by Teares' widow.

Over the next 60 years the property was divided into a number of smaller parcels. By 1783 most of the higher lands that comprised the original tract were improved. That part of His Lordship's Favor of which The Lindens is a part was described in the tax assessment records of that year as having on it a "middling good dwelling house, barn, kitchen, quarter (and a young) orchard."⁵ The foundations of the 1840 central portion of the existing house that appear to relate to a previous building on the same site, may be the foundations of the house referred to in 1783.

The means by which John Francis Gardiner acquired that part of His Lordship's Favor on which he built his house is not clear. His family, by purchase and through marriage, claimed ownership of several portions of His Lordship's Favor, as well as other contiguous lands, beginning in the early nineteenth century. It is therefore possible this particular acreage came into Gardiner's possession by inheritance. Another possibility is that it was through a lease-purchase arrangement. Although he is shown as "owner" of the property on an 1846 survey of a bordering tract owned by Richard Thompson, and which Gardiner purchased in 1857, he is not recorded as owning any real estate in the county's 1850 census.⁶

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John Francis Gardiner was a younger son of John F. Gardiner, Sr., and at the time of the latter's death in 1832 was living on a 600-acre farm near Newport in the southeast section of the county. It appears likely that John was born at Truman's Place (NR), an important Charles County landmark built by John's grandfather, and the dwelling plantation of his father.

Gardiner died intestate in 1878. The inventory of his personal estate, in addition to livestock, growing crops of tobacco, wheat, corn and rye, and various farm equipment, itemized many of the household furnishings according to the rooms they occupied. The inventory names a passage, parlor, dining room and four bedrooms, and suggests as well that the house was then heated by stoves. No mention is made of additional rooms, or furnishings other than those whose locations were identified.⁷

Following Gardiner's death the property passed in ownership to his son, Francis D. Gardiner, who was undoubtedly responsible for building the additions and altering the facade and roof of the 1840 house. Francis lived there until his death in 1915. His personal estate, including stocks and bonds, growing crops of wheat, tobacco and rye, and cash on hand, totalled \$7,232.06. The only item of furniture named was "one walnut table."

In his will, Francis Gardiner made minor bequests of money to a niece and grandniece, but named as his residual heir his nephew Joseph D. Gardiner, to whom he left all his real estate, including "His Lordship's Favor, being the farm on which I now reside," and the 600-acre Newport property, "all to remain in the Gardiner family as long as profitable." In 1949 Gardiner's widow and children sold 467 acres encompassing the house, of which 157 acres remain.¹⁰

The Zekiah, the largest hardwood swamp in Maryland and of unique ecological importance, is receiving considerable attention as a prehistoric archeological resource of considerable significance as well. However, few professional, site-specific surveys or studies have been yet undertaken within its 17,800-acre area, and there has been no identification made of those potential or known sites of greatest sensitivity. Interestingly, given the fact that the Zekiah, and the Wicomico River into which it empties, were the first areas of the county to be settled by English-speaking colonists, and that its adjacent lands encompass its highest concentration of known historic structures and archeological sites, only one bordering property, Timber Neck Farm, is currently listed in the National Register.

The Lindens, whose lower fields have yielded a remarkable number of prehistoric artifacts following each year's cultivation, bounds on the Zekiah, and is not far from the site of a fort erected in 1681 for the protection of local Indian tribes from the aggressive Senecas and Susquehannocks. Though other properties possessing comparable archeological potential exist in the same vicinity, many are currently being transformed into residential developments.

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The identification of significant or potentially significant prehistoric archeological resources in this especially critical area is, at best, in its infancy. The integrity of known sites is being increasingly compromised by encroaching development, the probable archeological importance of the property should be recognized.

Footnotes:

1. Cedar Grove, also known as Evergreen Farm, is located in the National Register listed Bryantown Historic District.
2. Patents: Liber WD, f. 500.
3. Ibid.
4. Deeds: Liber B#2, f. 193.
5. 1783 Tax Assessments, Charles County, District 3, Land. (The property was then owned by Joseph Lancaster.)
6. Court Proceedings: WM#1, f. 241. Deeds: Liber JS#1, f. 476. Jack Brown, et al, Charles County, Maryland: A History (n.p.: Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 356.
7. Inventories: Liber 1869-1878, f. 453.
8. *ibid.*, Liber
9. Wills: Liber CHP#19, f. 616.
10. Deeds: Liber PCM #88, f. 102.
11. Dennis Pogue and Michael Smolek, "An Archeological Resource Management Plan for the Southern Maryland Region," Maryland Historical Trust, 1985, p. 136. In discussing the Zekiah Swamp-Wicomico River area, the authors assert that "'with its adjacent terraces and uplands, [it] contains a remarkable array of archeological manifestations, a very high density of archeological sites, and a continuous occupation record from Paleo-Indian times through the early Historic period and later. Especially significant is evidence for substantial occupation there during the Early Archaic and Middle Archaic periods.'" Although many prehistoric sites in the Zekiah region are recorded, no professional determination of National Register eligibility has been made to date. This nomination evaluates the nineteenth century characteristics of the resource.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT: RESOURCE ANALYSIS:

Built in 1840 for John Francis Gardiner and enlarged and modified circa 1880 by his son, Francis D. Gardiner, The Lindens is a two-story, three-bay, side passage-double parlor farmhouse representing a local interpretation of the Adam or "Federal" style commonly built in this locality throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. While the basic design and plan of the 1840 house--now the central portion of a three-part structure--is fairly typical of other local examples, it possesses several unusual features that distinguish it from others built during the second quarter of the century. Of particular significance is its double chimney with a two-story pent. While other houses of this architecture having chimneys of similar design are known to have been built in this area, the combination had clearly become unfashionable after the end of the first decade of the nineteenth century. Only two out of six known local examples survive, Timber Neck Farm (MHT:CH-297; NR) and Mt. Air (MHT:CH-65; NR), the former built in the 1790s and the latter circa 1806. Mt. Air's chimneys were extensively altered in this century, and Timber Neck is now in deteriorated condition. Thus, not only are the chimneys of The Lindens unique for their 1840 date of construction, but they are a rare surviving example of their form in this locality. The 1840s portion of the house is also of historical architectural interest for the quality of its Greek Revival style interior woodwork, which is far superior to any other interior work of this same basic style in the county. This in spite of the fact that several of the county's National Register listed buildings (Maxwell Hall, LaGrange and Truman's Place) were extensively renovated on their interiors during the same period and in the same taste, as were other less important houses. Among other interesting interior details, the fully columned transverse arch of the lower passage is particularly noteworthy. While pilastered passage arches were frequently used in conjunction with this architectural type, they are found with less frequency in houses built after about 1820 and, with this one known exception, ceased in use altogether in this area after about the mid-1830s. Besides being of an unusually late date, the design of this particular example is altogether locally unique.

The Lindens was built during Maryland's period of Agricultural-Industrial transition (1815-1870), a phase in the historical development of the state that resulted in considerable change to less isolated counties but which had little impact on lower southern Maryland. By the early 1840s the more prosperous decades of the early part of the century had given way to a general economic decline. The impact of the Civil War on the local economy was particularly disastrous, and Charles County retreated into a period of economic stagnation and social provincialism lasting more than fifty years. Today, this is reflected in its near complete absence of noteworthy buildings dating from the late Victorian period in American architectural history, a fact that lends a measurable degree of significance to those few representa-

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tions of popular forms of architectural style, decoration and spatial function that appeared elsewhere during the second half of the nineteenth century. Though some changes were made to The Lindens in the 1880s this did not significantly impact on the integrity of the 1840 house, since little alteration of the original fabric actually took place. The design of the wing, the lengthening of the front windows, the eaves extensions and the cross gable are, in fact, of historical and architectural value given their original context of time and place.

Aside from modern amenities, and a new wing to replace a larger structure in the same location that had deteriorated beyond repair, no alterations were made to the house as part of the 1950 renovation, work that followed several decades of its occupancy and abuse by tenants. Though the chimneys were painted to camouflage previous damages to areas of its masonry this is not without local historical precedence, nor irreversible.

An additional aspect of historical importance associated with The Lindens is its two European linden trees directly in front of the 1840 central section of the house, and traditionally said to have been planted when the carpentry work was completed. These, together with a similar planting of trees at Linden (NR) and the early boxwood maze at Rose Hill (NR), constitute the only historic landscape features currently known to exist in Charles County.

Augmenting the significance of The Lindens is the likely existence of historical archeological features associated with the seventeenth and eighteenth century history of the property, and the known presence of a potentially highly significant prehistoric archeological site at the southeast end of the property, which has yielded artifacts dating as early as the middle Archaic period and possibly older. In Charles County, historic and prehistoric archeological sites have not yet been accorded the same attention typically given standing structure, and as a result many of the county's most important archeological resources are being destroyed or their integrity severely diminished in the face of its current rapid transformation from a rural agrarian landscape to that of urban suburban. It is extremely important that properties encompassing known or probable sites of potential archeological significance be recognized.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries are drawn to include the historic resources and maintain a setting historically associated with the property. The property is bordered on the east and west sides by land that historically was connected with The Lindens primarily as agricultural land but years ago was separated from The Lindens property. The Zekiah Swamp to the south is a natural border which defines land use and affects the environment and setting of the resource. The land also includes those areas which might contain archeological finds which would shed further light upon the use of the property during the period of significance.