

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

received FEB 4 1986

date entered MAR 21 1986

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Twin Oaks

and/or common Twin Oaks

**2. Location**

street & number 421 Twin Oaks Road N/A not for publication

city, town Linthicum Heights N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Anne Arundel code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Minta Hance Corporation, c/o Mr. Sweetser Linthicum

street & number 202 West Maple Road

city, town Linthicum Heights N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21090

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse

street & number Church Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

AA-113

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	Original and historic functions and uses: residential
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> objects	
<u>13</u>	<u>0</u> Total	

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Twin Oaks is located in the community of Linthicum Heights in north Anne Arundel County, and is situated on one of the highest elevations in the area. The centerpiece of the Twin Oaks property is a 2½ story brick dwelling constructed in 1857, with additions and Neo-Classical embellishments made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The final composition is an eclectic, Georgian Revival influenced dwelling. a Mid-to-late 19th century brick springhouse, frame barn, carriage house and harness shed are located behind the house, to the north. An elaborate Martin birdhouse, a metal aviary, a columned grape arbor, two free-standing concrete-cast columns, remnants of some statuary, and a wide variety of trees are surviving elements of the once beautifully landscaped grounds surrounding the house. All of these structures and objects contribute to the significance of the resource.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

AA-113

See Continuation Sheet No. 7, Footnotes

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 16 acres

Quadrangle name Relay, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	8
---	---

3	5	7	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	4	1	3	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	8
---	---

3	5	7	5	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	4	1	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
---	---

3	5	7	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	4	1	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	8
---	---

3	5	7	1	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	4	1	0	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 

1	8
---	---

3	5	7	1	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	4	1	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundaries are depicted on the attached map; the nominated property, approximately 16 acres, encompasses all elements of the resource within their immediate setting.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna M. Ware

Anne Arundel County Historic Sites Survey

organization Anne Arundel County Planning & Zoning date 1985

street & number Arundel Center telephone (301) 224-1270

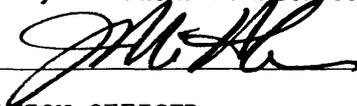
city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

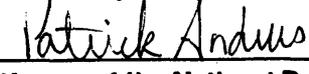
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  date 1-29-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

### For NPS use only

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

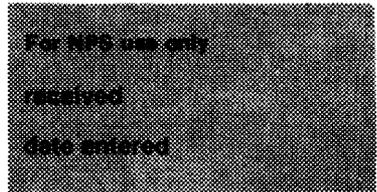
 date 3/21/86  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Twin Oaks Anne Arundel County, MD Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Twin Oaks dwelling commands a prominent position on one of the four hills within the town of Linthicum Heights. It faces south onto a large lawn which rolls gently towards Twin Oaks Road. The house consists of a 2-1/2 story brick main block which is based on a central passage, single pile plan, with a 2-story brick rear ell, both covered with gable roofs. Additions and Neo-Classical embellishments were made during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, resulting in an eclectic Georgian Revival influenced dwelling. A 1-1/2 story brick wing with a gambrel roof extends from the west gable end of the main block. From its west elevation extends a 1-story hip-roof enclosed porch. Another 1-story hip-roof enclosed porch of similar proportions extends from the east gable end of the main block. A 2-story frame service wing extends from the rear gable end of the ell. A 2-story brick polygonal wing extends from the rear of the house, filling the northwest corner formed where the ell meets the main block.

A 1-story hip-roof porch runs across the facade of the dwelling with a "porte-cochere" extending from the east end over the drive. The center of the porch is marked by a portico, supported by two Doric columns surmounted by an entablature with a dentilled cornice. Both ends of the porch are supported by Doric columns but the expanse between the portico and end columns is supported by narrow iron posts. The porch is embellished further with a turned balustrade.

The brick sections of the house are laid in common bond. The main block and brick ell have corbeled brick cornices. Wood modillions have been applied to the facade cornice of the main block, and wood dentils to the east elevation cornice of the ell. The exterior walls of all sections of the house are painted white, except for the second story of the service ell which is covered with brown shingle siding. The roofs of all sections are covered with asphalt shingles.

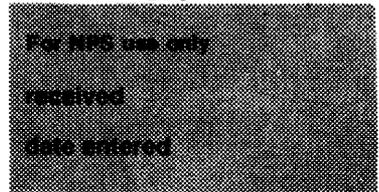
One of the most outstanding exterior features of the house is the Palladian window on the facade at the second story, directly over the entrance. This and other Neo-Classical treatments, both exterior and interior, were added in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, during the ownership of Congressman John Charles Linthicum.

Other windows are predominately 6/6 sash. Two pitched-roof dormer windows pierce the roof slope of the gambrel wing, one at the facade and the other at the rear. Two pitched-roof dormer windows also pierce the east gable slopes of the brick ell and service ell roofs.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

AA-113

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**



Twin Oaks

Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County, MD

Item number

7

Page

2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The main entrance is on the facade of the main block under the porch portico. The door is flanked by 4-pane sidelights and surmounted by a 5-pane transom. There are secondary entrances on all elevations of the house.

There are two interior gable end brick chimneys in the main block and one at the gable end of the brick ell. There is an interior brick chimney on the north elevation of the polygonal wing. Exterior brick chimneys are located at the west elevation of the gambrel wing and the west elevation of the frame service ell wing.

Interior:

The principal entrance of the house opens into a central passage containing the stair which rises against the east partition wall to the second and third floors. The stair has a mid-19th century turned newel post and a slender turned balustrade. The west room of the main block is accessed through a Palladian-influenced arched opening supported by Ionic columns. This room extends into the gambrel wing, creating a 32-foot by 20-foot room, which functioned as a formal entertainment room or salon. A fireplace, centered on the west wall, is embellished with a Neo-Classical mantel. Free-standing Corinthian columns support an entablature and moulded shelf decorated with urns and swags. Double doors of eight glass panes flank the fireplace and lead into the west enclosed porch. The door south of the fireplace has been blocked and filled with a built-in bookcase. A plaster ceiling medallion also embellishes this room.

At the foot of the stair, a door in the east partition wall leads into the east room of the main block. A fireplace with a white marble mantel is centered on the east wall. This mantel is possibly one of the original finishings of the main block (1857). Double doors of eight glass panes with a double-paned transom flank the fireplace and open into the east enclosed porch.

At the rear of the stair passage a door opens into the rear polygonal wing. A fireplace with an ornate Neo-Classical mantel is centered on the rear, north wall. Free-standing Ionic columns and ornate brackets support the moulded shelf.

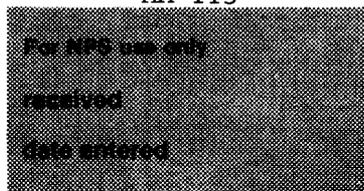
An elaborate mantel piece, which includes an overmantel, is located in the east room on the second floor. Free-standing Ionic columns support the moulded shelf of the overmantel, which is a beveled-glass mirror. A moulded shelf supported by brackets is placed over the fireplace opening, which is designed for forced hot air.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

AA-113

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Twin Oaks Anne Arundel County, MD Item number 7 Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The first and second floors in the main block and polygonal wing have narrow floor boards of oak in the salon and Georgia pine in the other rooms, with a contrasting band of darker wood running the perimeter of each room.

Ancillary Structures:

The springhouse, barn, carriage house and harness shed are located north of the house. The brick springhouse/icehouse is located just north of the service ell wing. It is set into the hill and has a deep overhanging gable roof on the principal facade (east elevation). The carriage house is a large 5 bay by 1 bay frame structure with a saltbox gable roof. It has been converted into apartments and the original German siding has been covered with aluminum siding. The barn is a heavy timber frame constructed bank barn with a shed across the south elevation. The original board and batten siding has been covered with wood shingles. The harness shed is a small rectangular frame structure with a gable roof. The exterior walls are covered with German siding. Until recently a circa 1900 brick pumphouse with a wood water tank stood at the rear of the property.

The grounds surrounding the Twin Oaks dwelling were lavishly landscaped during the ownership of Congressman John Charles Linthicum. Fountains and statuary, collected from his numerous trips abroad, were displayed on the surrounding lawns. Surviving elements of this past grandeur are a metal aviary, a columned grape arbor, free-standing columns, an elaborate birdhouse, and a few pieces of statuary. The aviary is made of strips of metal in an orb shape. According to family tradition, a nude female statue brought from Italy once graced the center of the aviary. Another interesting tradition holds that the aviary came from the top of the Bromo-Seltzer Tower in Baltimore. It was the structure which rested on top of the rotating Bromo-Seltzer bottle. When it was dismantled, Congressman John Charles Linthicum acquired it for his Twin Oaks property.

The Martin birdhouse is an elaborate three-tiered Victorian birdhouse. The Linthicums apparently had a fascination for birds; the neighboring Turkey Hill property (the Linthicum homestead) has a birdhouse patterned after Camden Station in Baltimore.

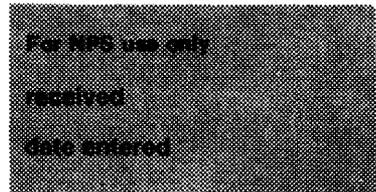
Pieces of statuary or sculpture include a large stone horse head which now rests against the east elevation of the barn. Two large ornate cast-iron flower urns now decorate the lawn near the barn. A stone pedestal column with the date "1857" inscribed on the top surface is situated on the west side of the driveway, just east of the house.

A wide variety of trees grow on the property. Two large oak trees, for which Twin Oaks was named, once graced the front lawn. These died several years ago; only the stumps mark their location.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

AA-113

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Twin Oaks

Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County, MD

Item number

8

Page

4

**HISTORY AND SUPPORT:**

Twin Oaks was built in 1857 by William Linthicum of nearby Turkey Hill, the Linthicum family homestead (listed in the National Register in 1979). Twin Oaks was built, presumably as a wedding present for his daughter, Mary Linthicum, upon her marriage to William H. A. Brian. On August 4, 1866, William Linthicum and his wife Elizabeth conveyed Twin Oaks and 130 1/2 acres surrounding it to Mary E. Brian with the condition that at her death (Mary Brian's), the property would go to her living children, or if there were no children, the property would become the property of all living brothers and sisters and their descendants.<sup>1</sup> A few weeks later, William Linthicum died and his eldest son, Sweetser Linthicum, inherited Turkey Hill.

In 1884, Mary Brian, a widow with seven children, petitioned the Anne Arundel County Court for permission to lease Twin Oaks for greater revenue. It was granted in 1885, and in 1890 Twin Oaks<sup>2</sup> was leased to Sweetser Linthicum, the brother of Mary Brian, for \$240.00 a year. Sweetser Linthicum assigned the lease to his son, John Charles Linthicum.

Born on November 26, 1867, at Turkey Hill, John Charles Linthicum was one of eleven children born to Sweetser and Laura E. Smith Linthicum. He attended public schools in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City, and on Saturday nights worked at his brother's fruit and produce stall at Lexington Market. In 1886, Linthicum graduated from the Maryland State Normal School and taught one year in the Anne Arundel County schools. In 1887, he became the principal of the Braddock School in Frederick County. He studied political history and economics at Johns Hopkins University during this time. In 1890 Linthicum graduated from the University of Maryland Law School. He opened<sup>3</sup> a law practice with his brother, Seth Hance Linthicum, Sr., in Baltimore.

In 1893, John Charles Linthicum married Eugenia May Biden. After her death in 1897, he married, in 1898, Helen A. Perry Clarke, the daughter of Dr. John L. Perry of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. No children resulted from either marriage.<sup>4</sup>

In 1903, John Charles Linthicum was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates from the Third Legislative District of Baltimore City. During the session of 1904 he "performed valuable service for the State and City" as the Chairman of the City Delegation and Elections Committee<sup>5</sup> and as a member of the Judiciary Committee and the Printing Committee.

In 1905, "after one of the most spirited Primary elections ever held in the City of Baltimore," Linthicum was elected to the State Senate, a position he held until 1911.<sup>6</sup> In 1907, he ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Baltimore. He served as the presidential elector on the Democratic ticket of Bryan and Kern for the election of 1908. From 1908 until 1911,<sup>7</sup> Linthicum served as the Judge Advocate General for Governor Austin L. Crothers.

B-113

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

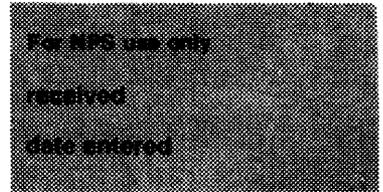
Twin Oaks

Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County, MD

Item number

8

Page 5



HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

In 1908, John Charles Linthicum, together with his four brothers, Seth Hance Linthicum, Wade Hampton Linthicum, Dr. G. Milton Linthicum and Sweetser Linthicum, Jr., formed the Linthicum Heights Company, a real estate development company. On family lands in north Anne Arundel County, settled by their great-grandfather Abner Linthicum in 1801, the brothers laid out the first streets of Linthicum Heights. This community grew around the Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Railroad Station, becoming a well-planned and convenient suburb of Baltimore.

John Charles Linthicum was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. House of Representatives, commencing with the 62nd Congress on March 4, 1911. In 1921, he became the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, in which capacity he became a strong supporter of the U.S. Foreign Service. In 1927, he succeeded John Phillip Hill as chairman of the organized anti-prohibition lobby.<sup>9</sup>

Linthicum is also well-known for sponsoring the bill which established "The Star-Spangled Banner" as our National Anthem. First introduced on April 10, 1918, the bill was finally passed in April 1930 as H.R. 14.<sup>10</sup> Linthicum lobbied long and hard for passage of The National Anthem bill. In a speech given before Congress on January 24, 1930, Linthicum read portions of a 40-page speech that he had prepared in 1912. His closing and stirring words were:

Contemporaneous with the victory at Baltimore was the appearance of Key's song, "The Star-Spangled Banner," the inspiring strains and popular melody of which brought it at once into unanimous favor. The country needed a national song to give expression to its patriotism. It wanted only the event to produce it, and that event was furnished in the attack on Baltimore. This song of Key's aroused the dormant patriotism of the Nation, for human nature could not withstand its irresistible appeal to the love of country. It lifted the national spirit from the vale of gloom and despair in which he had been floundering to the sunlit heights of confidence in victory. It heralded the dawn of a new day to our Federal Government.<sup>11</sup>

Mrs. Reuben Ross Holloway of Baltimore, a member of the Society of the War of 1812, assisted Linthicum in garnering public support for passage of the bill.<sup>12</sup> On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed it into law.

John Charles Linthicum was an active supporter of conservation measures, including the protection of fur seals and migratory birds. He was a proponent of a low tariff, a friend of the World Court, and a strong supporter of President Woodrow Wilson. Linthicum initiated and supported legislation to improve Baltimore harbor facilities.<sup>13</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

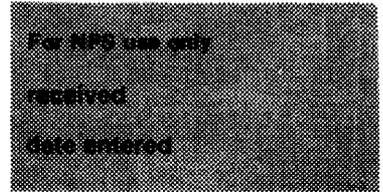
Twin Oaks

Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County, MD

Item number

8

Page 6



HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

On October 5, 1932, John Charles Linthicum died unexpectedly after complications caused by removal of a carbuncle on his neck. He suffered a blood stream infection which was compounded by his diabetic condition. At his death, Linthicum was a candidate for his twelfth consecutive term as a U.S. Congressman. He had represented Maryland in Congress longer than any other person in the history of the State. The Republican Secretary of State, Henry L. Stimson, gave the following tribute to Linthicum after his death:

"In the death of Hon. J. Charles Linthicum, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the American Foreign Service and the Department of State have lost one of their best friends and the Congress and the country as a whole have lost one of their most devoted servants.

"Mr. Linthicum was of great assistance in the drafting and enactment in 1924 of the bill for the improvement of the American Foreign Service. In the spring of 1931 Mr. Linthicum was coauthor and cosponsor with Senator Moses of the organic law under which the Foreign Service of the United States now functions.

"He was most helpful in securing the adoption of the act authorizing the acquisition of buildings abroad for the use of the Foreign Service and for several years gave patriotic and inspiring service as a member of the Foreign Service Buildings' Commission, in which capacity he traveled widely in South America and Europe to gather information and to aid the commission in reaching decisions as to the purchase and improvement of real estate for American Governmental buildings abroad.

"He had a rare appreciation of the needs of this country in respect to representation abroad, and his attitude toward this subject was peculiarly sympathetic and nonpartisan.

"The Department of State and the Foreign Service and I mourn with the entire country that the patriotic and unselfish leadership of Mr. Linthicum is ended."<sup>14</sup>

Helen A. Linthicum, the widow of John Charles Linthicum, inherited Twin Oaks and other Baltimore City properties at his death. At her death in 1944, Twin Oaks was devised to Fidelity Trust Company, as per her will. In that same year, the Fidelity Trust Company sold the Twin Oaks property to Land Homes Corporation, a company composed of members of the Linthicum family. In 1946, the company sold Twin Oaks to Seth Hance Linthicum, Jr., a nephew of John Charles Linthicum. He and his wife, M. Jane Linthicum, are the present owners.

113

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

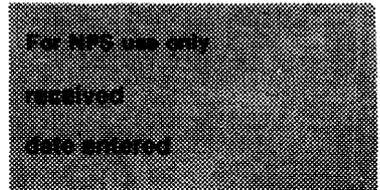
Twin Oaks

Continuation sheet Anne Arundel County, MD

Item number

8

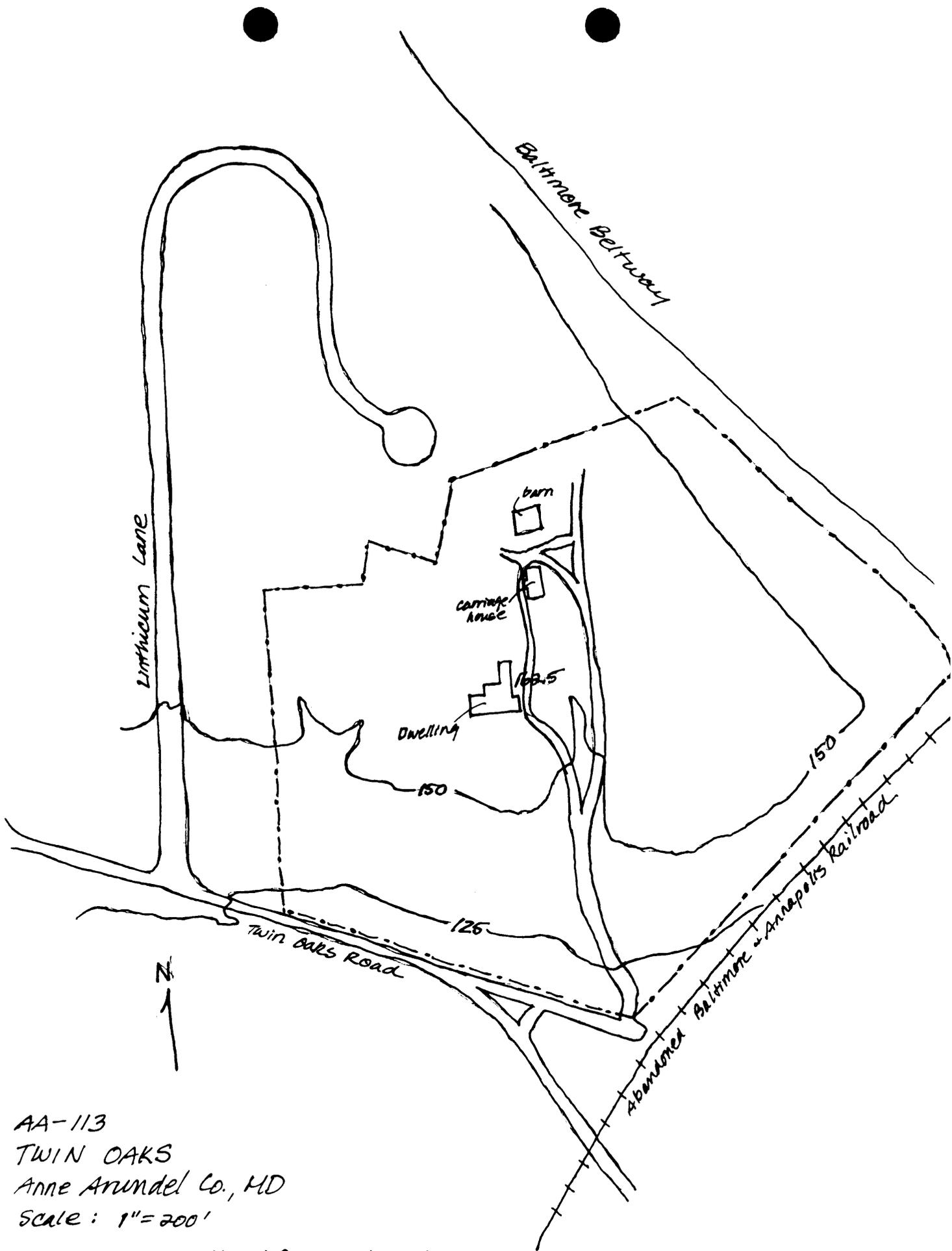
Page 7



HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Footnotes

1. Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber GEG No. 2, Folio 255.
2. Equity records, No. 977, February 13, 1884.
3. Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1949, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950), p. 1464; Anne Burton Jeffers, Maryland Manual 1904, (Baltimore, MD: William J. C. Dulany Co., 1904), p. 260; Report of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Maryland Bar Association, (Maryland State Bar Association: 1933), p. 46.
4. The Sun, "J. C. Linthicum Services Set for Saturday," Thursday, October 6, 1932, p. 22.
5. Maryland Manual 1905, (Baltimore, MD: William J. C. Dulany Co., 1905), p. 252.
6. Ibid.
7. Biographical Directory, p. 1464.
8. Interview with Sweetser Linthicum, February 8, 1984.
9. Biographical Directory, p. 1464; and The Sun, October 6, 1932, p. 22.
10. Congressional Record, 65th Congress, Vol. 56, p. 4941; and 71st Congress, 2nd Session, Vol. 72, Part 7, p. 5623.
11. Ibid., 71st Congress, 2nd Session, Vol. 72, Part 3, p. 2322.
12. Harold R. and Beta K. Manakee, The Star-Spangled Banner, (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1954), p. 22.
13. Congressional Record, 62nd Congress, Vol. 48, pp. 1821, 1824; 65th Congress, Vol. 56, pp. 6570, 7369; and Report of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Maryland Bar Association, p. 47.
14. The Sun, Oct. 5 and 6, 1932, p. 23 and 22, respectively.

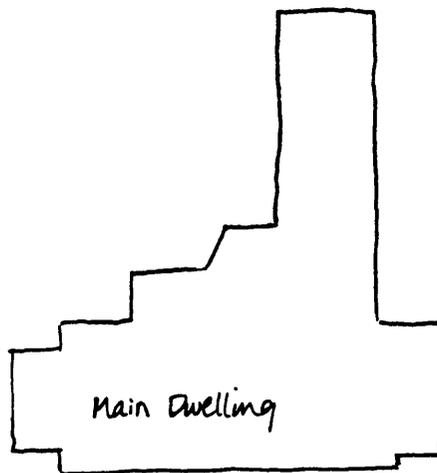
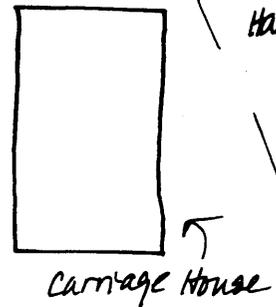
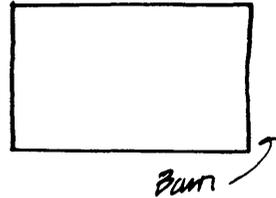
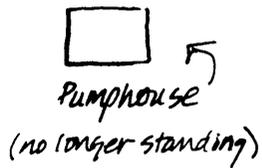


AA-113  
 TWIN OAKS  
 Anne Arundel Co., MD  
 Scale: 1" = 200'

--- National Register boundary  
 1/86

AA-113  
Twin Oaks  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

Site Plan - not to scale



Driveway →

← Driveway

AA-113

Twin Oaks

Anne Arundel County, MD

Scale: 1" = approx. 8'

