## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Netional 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 any 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.

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1. Name of Property
historic name Robinson House
other names AA-130, Old Stone House
2. Location
street & number 102 Evon Ct.
city or town Severna Park
state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21146
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this I nomination I 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 I does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant I nationally statewide locally. (I See continuation sheet for additional comments).         Image: State or Federal agency and bureau         In my opinion, the property I meets I does not meet the National Register criteria. (I 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 this property is: I entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. Determined not eligible for the National Register. contend not eligible for the National Register. contend the National Register. contend the National Register. contend the National Register.

Robinson House, AA-130 Name of Property Anne Arundel County, Maryland County and State

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Ownership of PropertyCategory of Property(Check as many boxes as apply)(Check only one box)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
🛛 private	🛛 building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing		
public-local	district	1	1	buildings	
public-State	🔲 site			sites	
public-Federal	structure structure	2	2	_ structures	
	object			_ objects	
		3	3	_ Total	
Name of related multiple pro	perty listing	number of contrib	uting resources pre	viously	
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	of a multiple property listing)	listed in the Nation	nal Register		
N/A		0			
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6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	)	Current Functions (Enter categories from inst	tructions)		
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Domestic/single dwelling		Domestic/single dwelli	ng		
Domestic/outbuilding	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Domestic/outbuilding			
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7. Description					
Architectural Classificatio		Materials			
		Materials (Enter categories from ins	tructions)		
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### Narrative Description

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

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

A Property is associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad pattern of our

history.

- **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C 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.
- **D** 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:

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

#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on files (NPS):

<ul> <li>previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> <li>designated a National Historic Landmark</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey</li> </ul>	Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other f repository:
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Anne Arundel County, Maryland County and State

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	Primary location of additional data:
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#### **10. Geographical Data** Round Bay, MD quad Acreage of Property Approximately 1 acre **UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) 8 3 7 6 3 3 1 1 6 6 4 3 2 3 Easting Northing Northing Zone Easting Zone 2 4 See continuation sheet **Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet) **Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet) 11. Form Prepared By Stephen E. and Patricia J. Hittle name/title Organization date October, 2004 street & number 102 Evon Ct. telephone 410-544-1861 MD zip code 21146 city or town Severna Park state 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			· ····
street & number		telephone	
city or town	state	zip code	

Paperwork Reduction 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 the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burder 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

AA-130 Robinson House Name of Property

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### **Description Summary:**

Constructed ca. 1740, the Robinson House is a stone, 1-1/2 story, gambrel-roofed building located on the old Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard (MD Route 648) in northern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The house originally commanded a parcel of over 700 acres, fronting on the Magothy River, but twentieth-century residential development has intervened between the house and the river. Its relationship to the road, the historic thoroughfare linking the cities of Baltimore and Annapolis, remains undisturbed. Its form and plan are typical of mid-eighteenth century vernacular domestic architecture in the Chesapeake Tidewater, but the material and method of its construction – red sandstone masonry – is highly unusual in a region largely characterized by frame or, to a significantly lesser extent, brick construction. The interior is organized in a two-room, hall-parlor plan; architectural evidence indicates that a board partition formerly created a center passage, but it is unknown whether this was an original feature or an early addition. The resource retains a high degree of integrity. Also on the property are an early nineteenth century frame outbuilding and a stone-lined well.

## **General Description:**

The walls are constructed of native red sandstone, locally known as ironstone, roughly squared and coursed in lime mortar. The building measures forty feet wide by twenty-four feet deep, and is oriented along a north-south axis, presenting east and west facades to the Magothy River and Baltimore-Annapolis road, respectively. Both facades are identical, three bays wide and symmetrically arranged with a central door flanked on either side by a single window. On the lower slope of the gambrel roof, three gabled dormers define the bays. Windows on both levels are Victorian-era two-over-two sash set in beaded frames with wooden sills. Below the water table, the east side has three basement windows while the west side has only one. The basement windows are protected with wooden bars.

The end walls have a central interior chimney with a brick stack extending above the roofline. The north end has one door and originally had no windows, though at present it has a small square window that was inserted when a bathroom was added. This small window replicated the five such original windows located on the south end, one on the first floor, two on the second, and two in the attic level flanking the chimney. The falling grade exposes the basement on the south end, and double doors at the southwest corner provide access. A brick patio measuring 8' x 20' was constructed at the south end of the house ca. 1985.

The interior of the basement is whitewashed, while the first- and second-floor walls and ceilings are finished in plaster. Flooring on the upper level is currently oak, laid over the original pine.

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The first-floor plan comprises two spaces, with a living room on the south and a smaller dining room to the north. A partition which had created a central passage was removed in the first half of the twentieth century, and it is unknown whether that partition was an original feature or an early addition. A narrow stair occupying a closet located to the west of the fireplace in the north room provides access to the basement and to the second floor; this stair was likely added in the nineteenth century. The principal stair is located in the larger south room; it has a closed string, and the newel, handrail, and balusters reflect a late nineteenth century renovation. On the second floor, a master bedroom occupies the space to the north of the stair passage, and the area to the south is divided into two smaller chambers.

In the attic, early pine floorboards are secured with wrought nails. The common rafters measure 3" x 4" and are mortised at the ridge. Some are marked with roman numerals. Sections of early chair rail are reused as railing for the attic stairs.

The basement is divided into two unequal-sized rooms by a stone bearing wall. The two rooms are separated by an original four-foot-wide pine batten door hung on wrought strap hinges. The smaller room, on the north side, contains a brick-arched fireplace. The larger south room has a cooking fireplace with a wooden lintel sixteen inches in diameter and over eleven feet long. On the left side at the rear of this fireplace, a brick arch provides evidence of a former oven.

A substantial foundation wall about two feet thick and four feet high projects outward twenty feet from the northwest corner of the house. It represents the remnant of a 20' x 24' 1-1/2 story stone addition that was razed in the late 1880s. This addition's construction date is unknown, but it was likely constructed prior to Mary Robosson's death in 1815, and may have been built by Col. Elijah Robosson shortly after the Revolutionary War. During that period, travel and commerce between Baltimore and Annapolis increased significantly, and the former addition may have been related to expanding use of the building as a tavern.

A photograph from about 1886 reveals considerable architectural information about the house in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The photo shows John Lewis Tydings with his wife, three children, and servants, in front of the eastern façade of the house. It shows the northern addition shortly before its demolition. It also reveals that the windows on the first floor were originally nine-over-six sash and that the dormers were originally shed-roofed and not aligned directly above the first-floor openings.

Architectural fabric provides additional evidence for the house's early configuration. An attic floorboard was found to be a reused section of a beaded vertical-board partition, which retained ghosts of chair rail and baseboard; the present dormers also incorporate elements of reused

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vertical-board paneling in their construction. Apparently J. L. Tydings removed the two old shed dormers seen in the 1880s photograph and constructed three gabled dormers with paneling salvaged from the first floor interior. Box locks on several interior doors are dated 1888, suggesting that the remodeling was carried out in the late 1880s.

A 12' x 16' timber-framed outbuilding located northeast of the house appears to date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The door may have been reused from an earlier structure. The structure rests on stone piers. Located between this structure and the house is a hand-dug, sandstone-lined well. Three other frame outbuildings date to the twentieth century and do not contribute to the significance of the resource: a rectangular frame studio clad in beaded shiplap siding on a block foundation; a small square shed covered in shingles on brick piers; and a three-sided shed-roofed garage.

The Robinson and Tydings family graveyard is now separated from the house by mid-twentieth century suburban development, and is not included in this nomination. Situated on a slight knoll northeast of the house, the 70' x 70' plot is enclosed with a Victorian-period cast iron fence. The graves of Elijah Robinson, d. 1796, and his wife Mary, d. 1815, are located in the front of the lot, and seven marked Tydings graves, dated 1848 to 1923, are in the rear. There are eleven other grave sites, marked by uncarved headstones and footstones.

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**Summary Statement of Significance:** 

The Robinson House is significant under Criterion C for its architecture, as a rare example of a type of house constructed in the Chesapeake Tidewater region in the mid-eighteenth century. Its 1-1/2 story, gambrel-roofed form is characteristic of the domestic vernacular architecture of the period in the region, but its stone construction is highly unusual; most examples of its type were executed in frame or brick. According to the 1798 Federal Direct Tax for Anne Arundel County, only two per cent of the dwellings standing in the county at the end of the eighteenth century were constructed of stone.

The period of significance, ca. 1740-ca. 1880, begins with the presumed original construction date of the house, and extends through a late nineteenth century renovation, during which period the resource substantially achieved its present form and appearance. A timber framed outbuilding and a hand-dug well also were constructed during this period.

## **Resource History and Historic Context:**

The historical record of the Robinson House, locally known as "The Old Stone House," begins in the late seventeenth century with the granting by Charles, Lord Baltimore, of land patents for three adjoining parcels. The first, for 200 acres known as "Gibbs, His Folly," was granted on June 1, 1685 to William Gibbs and subsequently acquired by Richard Beard on August 10, 1685. The second parcel, known as "The Pound" and consisting of 68 acres, was granted on October 1, 1687 to Richard Beard. Four days later, on October 5, 1687, Lord Baltimore granted to Richard Beard 1,611 acres called "Huckleberry Forest."

Richard Beard established a grist mill just north of the present location of the house, on Old Man's Creek, or Beard's Creek. This creek demarcated the southern boundary of Baltimore County until 1726. The mill's location was near where the present road passes over the creek, as the mill pond borders the west side of Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard there. A 1947 newspaper article reports that two millstones, set at the foot of the exterior steps to the house, were taken from the nearby mill.

"Gibbs, His Folly" and "The Pound," along with a 438-acre portion of "Huckleberry Forest" – a total of 706 acres – were conveyed to Thomas Robinson by Richard Beard on October 29, 1702 for the sum of 10,490 pounds of tobacco. Thomas Robinson was married to Richard Beard's niece, Rachel. Oneal Robinson inherited the property from his father, Thomas, in 1714. Architectural evidence suggests the house was constructed ca. 1740, during the period of Oneal Robinson's ownership.

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Oneal was the first family member to adopt the spelling *Robosson*, as evidenced by the signature on his will dated April 1768. Elijah, Oneal's son, inherited the house and farm in 1768. Elijah apparently was a prominent member of the community; he served as Justice of the Peace and Orphan's Court, and held the rank of Colonel in the Severn Batallion of the Militia during the Revolutionary War. His name appears in a 1783 tax record for Allegany County, then on the edge of the frontier, implying that he may have been a land speculator. His only son, Elijah Jr., eventually settled in Western Maryland, and his grandson, Thomas, a tavern keeper, was murdered there in 1838. Like his father, Elijah apparently preferred to spell his name Robosson, although it was sometimes spelled Robinson and even Robertson.

The obituary of Elijah's third wife, Mary Warfield Robosson, appeared in the <u>Maryland Gazette</u> on April 27, 1815. It reads:

Mrs. Mary Robosson died Sunday morning last [April 23], relict of Col. Elijah Robosson, in her 62<sup>nd</sup> year. Her venerable mansion, situated on the public line from Severn ferry to Baltimore was always a receptacle for the wearied traveler; it was under her roof they found repose.

The Robinson/Robosson house evidently was an important landmark and center of its community, and may have functioned as a tavern. Elijah's estate inventory, dated January 13, 1797, lists ten bedsteads, one trundle bed, and fourteen chairs, suggesting accommodations for more than the immediate family.

Upon Elijah's death, Martha Robosson, the youngest of his four children, inherited the house and farm. She married Beale Randall, a Lt. Colonel in the War of 1812, in November 1815, and they had a son whom they named Thomas. Upon Martha's death, the property passed to her husband and son. On October 9, 1837, the house and 500 acres were conveyed by Beale and Thomas Randall to John Tydings for the sum of \$2000, thus ending five generations of Robinson family ownership.

John Tydings died in 1843. His will conveyed the property to his widow, Rachel, to be held until her death, at which time the dwelling and 100 acres passed to John Lewis Tydings, the eldest of their seven sons.

On February 14, 1870, John Lewis Tydings married Laura Robinson in the Old Stone House. Laura Robinson was a direct descendant of Thomas Robinson, the only brother of Oneal. John

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Lewis and Laura had three children, all daughters, in 1871, 1872, and 1874. A late 1880s photograph shows John Lewis, Laura, and their daughters standing in front of the house.

For a short period the house was also utilized as a school. The Maryland State School Board report for 1872 lists 25 students under the tutelage of Laura Robinson Tidings.

Laura's daughter Estelle died in 1923; while attending her daughter's burial, Laura contracted an illness that developed into pneumonia, and she died two weeks later at the age of 83. The property passed to her youngest daughter and sole surviving heir, Laura Tydings Garcelon. Mrs Garcelon died in 1955, and indicated in her will that the house and its fifty acres were to be sold to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Evitt, who had occupied the property since 1928.

Wilson Evitt was a manager of the Annapolis Dairy for many years. The blacksmith employed by that dairy custom made the three matching sets of hand-wrought andirons in the house. Elsa Evitt, a graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, was celebrated for her artistic ability; two of her copper plate etchings survive in the house. The Evitts developed the forty waterfront acres of the farm into the residential subdivision known as Berrywood. William Evitt, their only child, sold the house and its remaining ten acres in 1980 to create Berrywood West. The Robinson House occupies three lots in that subdivision.

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## **Major Bibliographical References:**

Molton, Nelson J., <u>An Illustrated History of Severna Park, Anne Arundel County, Maryland</u>. Severna Park, MD; by the author, 1969.

Orlando Ridout IV, "The Old Stone House – A Traditional Home for Modern Living," [Glen Burnie, MD] <u>County Chronicle</u>, October 31, 1947.

Ware, Donna M. <u>Anne Arundel's Legacy: The Historic Properties of Anne Arundel County</u>. Annapolis, MD: Anne Arundel County Office of Planning & Zoning, 1990.

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### **Verbal Boundary Description:**

The nominated property comprises lots 20, 21, and 22 of the Berrywood West subdivision, recorded among the land records of Anne Arundel County in Plat Book 75, Page 26, dated March 26, 1980.

### **Boundary Justification:**

The nominated property encompasses the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource.

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### Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Name of Property: Robinson House Location: Anne Arundel County, Maryland Photographer: Peter E. Kurtze Date: January 23, 2008

Photo captions:

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0001.tif West facade

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0002.tif View from southeast

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0003.tif View from southwest

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0004.tif South room, first floor, facing north: view of stair

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0005.tif South room, first floor, facing southeast: view of fireplace

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0006.tif North room, first floor, facing north: secondary stair in corner

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0007.tif North room, second floor, facing north: fireplace, closet, door to stair

MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0008.tif South room, basement, facing south: fireplace

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MD\_AnneArundelCounty\_RobinsonHouse\_0010.tif Frame outbuilding, view from southwest



AA-130, Robinson House, Anne Arundel County, Maryland Plat, Berrywood West; nominated property comprises Lots 20, 21, and 22



First floor plan



Second floor plan

AA-130, Robinson House, Anne Arundel County, Maryland not to scale