

HO-84  
Linden Grove  
Private  
Columbia

Circa: 1817

Linden Grove stands on a portion of land once belonging to New Year's Gift, a survey purchased by Caleb Dorsey of Hockley from the son of Charles Carrol, the signer. The land finally passed on September 10, 1817 to Captain John Worthington Dorsey, great-grandfather of Dr. Caleb Dorsey of Baltimore and Howard County. He and his wife, Mary Ann Hammond Dorsey moved from Gambrills in Ann Arundel County and built the south wing of Linden Grove. This is a five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story gabled roof brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) structure with brick chimneys centered into its east and west walls, and central north and south entrances. The building features flemish bond brick on its south wall, a double paneled rectangular central south entrance surmounted by a segmental arch fan light and brick lintel, two gabled roof dormers on the south, flat arched stretcher brick lintels, and an older stone north wing which forms an L plan. This latter is faced with brick and appears to have been constructed in two earlier time frames. An open shed and pump house have been remodeled to form a single large one story high gabled roof, recreation room, three bays wide and one room deep which blends harmoniously with its surroundings.

A peg barn, hay crib and garage lie east of the house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Linden Grove

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
New Year's Gift

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5970 ~~8933~~ Tamar Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
Columbia,

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Howard

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
James E. Nelson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5970 ~~8933~~ Tamar Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: Maryland 21045

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Howard County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City STATE: Maryland 21043

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map 36 p/o p.355 Par (B) Lots D-1, D-3 p/o Lot 15, Sec 1

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory /Ar 6 7.36 Acres 634-659 and 672-184

DATE OF SURVEY: 1977  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland 21401

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncluttered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Linden Grove is composed of two wings, a north and south wing which form an L. Plan. The south wing is a five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story gabled roof (running east-west) brick structure built on a stone foundation into which the horizontal rectangular cellar windows are set. Brick chimneys are centered into its east and west walls. A brick (laid in running bond) stoop composed of 5 steps and landing flanked by wrought iron railing leads to the central rectangular double paneled south entrance door which is surmounted by a seven lite segmental arch transom  decorated by a stretcher brick segmental arch lintel. Fenestration is rectangular, double-hung with six-over-six lites, vertically aligned and proportionally scaled, decorated with stretcher brick flat arched lintels, projecting flat stone sills and dark brown shutters. One lite cellar windows decorated with stretcher brick flat arched lintels lie under the four first floor windows of the south facade, and the two first and second floor windows of the west wall.

The east wall holds no apertures but a cellar door while the north wall holds two first and second floor windows in the first two east bays. The central bay of the north wall holds a similar window at the staircase landing between the 1st and 2nd floors and a horizontal rectangular double-hung window at the staircase landing between the 2nd floor and attic.

A three bay wide, (facing east) four bay wide, facing west and one room deep, two story, gabled roof (running north-south) brick structure lies against the two west bays of the north wall, creating an L plan. (See Plan)

- The two north bays of the west wall hold rectangular first floor windows with six-over-six lites, decorated with flat stretcher brick lintels. It is this west elevation that is most indicative of the early construction of this part of the house which is presently the den. The windows in the two south bays match those of the 1817 south wing.
- The north wall of this wing holds an almost central rectangular second floor window with six-over-six lites and a smaller three-over-three lite rectangular window west of it. The original door of this section now enters into the new recreation room addition.

This addition is a one story high, one room deep, gabled roof (running north-south) frame structure three bays wide which is attached to the north wing. Its east wall holds a rectangular entrance door with 9 lites in its south bay and 12-12 lite rectangular casement windows north of the door. A single 12-12 lite casement window rests in the west wall. Four sky lites, two on the east and two on the west give added lite to this cheerful room which replaces an open shed built at different stages for different needs & open to the elements. The north end of the room covers two wells, one in the north east and the other in the north west corner the pump house for Linden Grove's water supply. A two-step seating area has been built over this pump house to create adequate work space while leaving the additional room open and integrated. A flat-roofed one story open porch lies along the east facade of the north wing supported by three doric columns thought to have originally supported a portico over the south entrance door.

Two gabled roof dormer windows are placed in the roof of the south elevation and hold slightly bowed double-hung windows with six-over-six lites.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Linden Grove  
Description  
Cont.

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The interior holds original fireplaces in den (oldest structure) and kitchen (connector between oldest structure and newer 1817 south wing).

The house holds original mantles in the 1817 south wing. Particularly noteworthy is the mantle in the living room which is flanked by two fluted doric full columns and the mantle above in the master bedroom which contains a similar mantle piece flanked by a single fluted doric full column. The interior of the upper stories feature random width Georgia pine floors, cross and open-bible paneled doors and woodwork.

A large center hall is connected by north and south entrance doors and holds a lovely staircase featuring a fine cherry bannister and side paneling.

The brick bond throughout the exterior of the house is English garden wall brick bond with flemish bond on the south or front facade of the house.

A garage, hay crib and large barn lie east of the house with a lovely pond to the south. (See Site Plan)

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)** Circa 1817

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** Linden Grove

Linden Grove stands on a portion of land once belonging to New Year's Gift. Caleb of Hockley originally purchased it from the son of Charles Carrol, the signer and deeded a life interest in the property to his son John known as Brick Church John as it was he and his father who deeded two acres of this tract to the Old Brick Church, now known as Christ Church, Queen Caroline parish. (An act of the legislature was needed to break the entail on the property to accomplish this). John had a son Caleb, known as Wild Caleb who inherited New Year's Gift and divided the property into five parts for each of his five sons. George who inherited the fifth on which Linden Grove now stands moved to West Virginia and sold his fifth to Dr. Caleb Dorsey's great, great-grandfather, Caleb Dorsey, son of Thomas Beale Dorsey, youngest son of Caleb Dorsey of Hockley. At that time it consisted of some three hundred acres, which Caleb (of Thomas) deeded on September 10, 1817, to his son, Captain John Worthington Dorsey, great grandfather of Dr. Caleb Dorsey.

Captain John Worthington Dorsey married Mary Ann Hammond whose father owned an extensive tract of land in Gambrills, Maryland called Hammond's Adventure and now used by the Naval Academy. A double wedding took place in the frontparlor of the present house between John W. Dorsey and Mary Hammond and her sister Elizabeth and her espoused. Mary and John lived in a small cabin on the place. Mary Ann Hammond Dorsey often referred to these early days as the happiest days of her life. When John purchased a fifth of New Year's Gift from his cousin George, they relocated there and built the present house known as Linden Grove in 1817. One of their sons, Reuben Dorsey, later became a Judge of Howard County.

Before passing from the subject of Captain John Worthington Dorsey who built Linden Grove it should be noted that he was known as Timberlake John because he was so tall — 6'6". At the time he lived at Linden Grove, John C. Weems lived at La Grange. A severe argument over a property line occurred between these two men and Captain John Worthington Dorsey challenged Mr. Weems to a duel. As the challenged party, Mr. Weems had the right to select the weapons. He stated he would only fight according to the English Code of Dueling which prescribed a certain type of dueling pistol with a one ounce ball of lead, no more, no less. These prescribed pistols were no where to be found. Not deterred, Captain John Worthington Dorsey went to Baltimore, and took a ship to Liverpool, England where he bought a box of dueling pistols and returned by ship to Baltimore and from there to his home Linden Grove. In the interim, Mr. John C. Weems sold his home, now known as Blandair and went away. The dueling pistols were in the possession

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of Dr. Caleb Dorsey who has donated them to the Maryland Historical Society. They were used on loan to friends three times and in the last duel killed the last remaining son of Charles Sterrett Ridgely.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson in their restoration of the kitchen of Linden Grove in the north wing discovered that portion of the house is constructed in stone with brick facing, which seems to point to the fact that this north wing antedates the front part of the house and may have been inhabited by an overseer or worker on the property. Captain John Worthington Dorsey later bought Waveland from Larkin Dorsey and passed the property now known as Sewell's Orchards to his children.

It is interesting to note that the attic of Linden Grove was at one time completely opened with several spinning wheels there where slave women spun the thread which made the garments for the slaves. Mary Ann Hammond Dorsey spent much of her time here among the whirring wheels overseeing the very productive work effort in this part of the house.

Bounded on the north by Route 175, on the south by Old Montgomery Road, on the east by Tamar Drive and on the west by relatively dense residential development, Linden Grove remains as a reminder to the surrounding new town of Columbia of the original character of Old Howard County. It is particularly noteworthy for its association with the Dorsey family of Ann Arundel and Howard counties.

Architecturally it represents a transitional style in its blending of certain federal elements as the central doorway surmounted by a fan light and decorated with a segmental arched stretcher brick lintel and the interior fireplaces with the simple Howard County Georgian style.

Beautifully maintained by Egbert Hawkins who raised delicious canteloupe in the late 1960's, thoughtfully restored by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson and now well maintained and thoughtfully added to by present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson, Linden Grove is one of Howard County's loveliest landmarks and should be considered for inclusion to the National Register along with its sister properties, Waveland and Oak Hall. Further, it should be included in any future local landmark ordinance.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland. Baltimore, 1973.

Private papers and research of Dr. Caleb Dorsey, great-grandson of Captain John Worthington Dorsey, who built Linden Grove.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**Acreage Justification:**

Please see Attachment #1, Tax Map 36

p/o p. 355 Par (B) p/o lot 15 Sec. 1 Ar.6

7.36 A

634-659 and 672-184

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Comprehensive Planning Section	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Courthouse Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

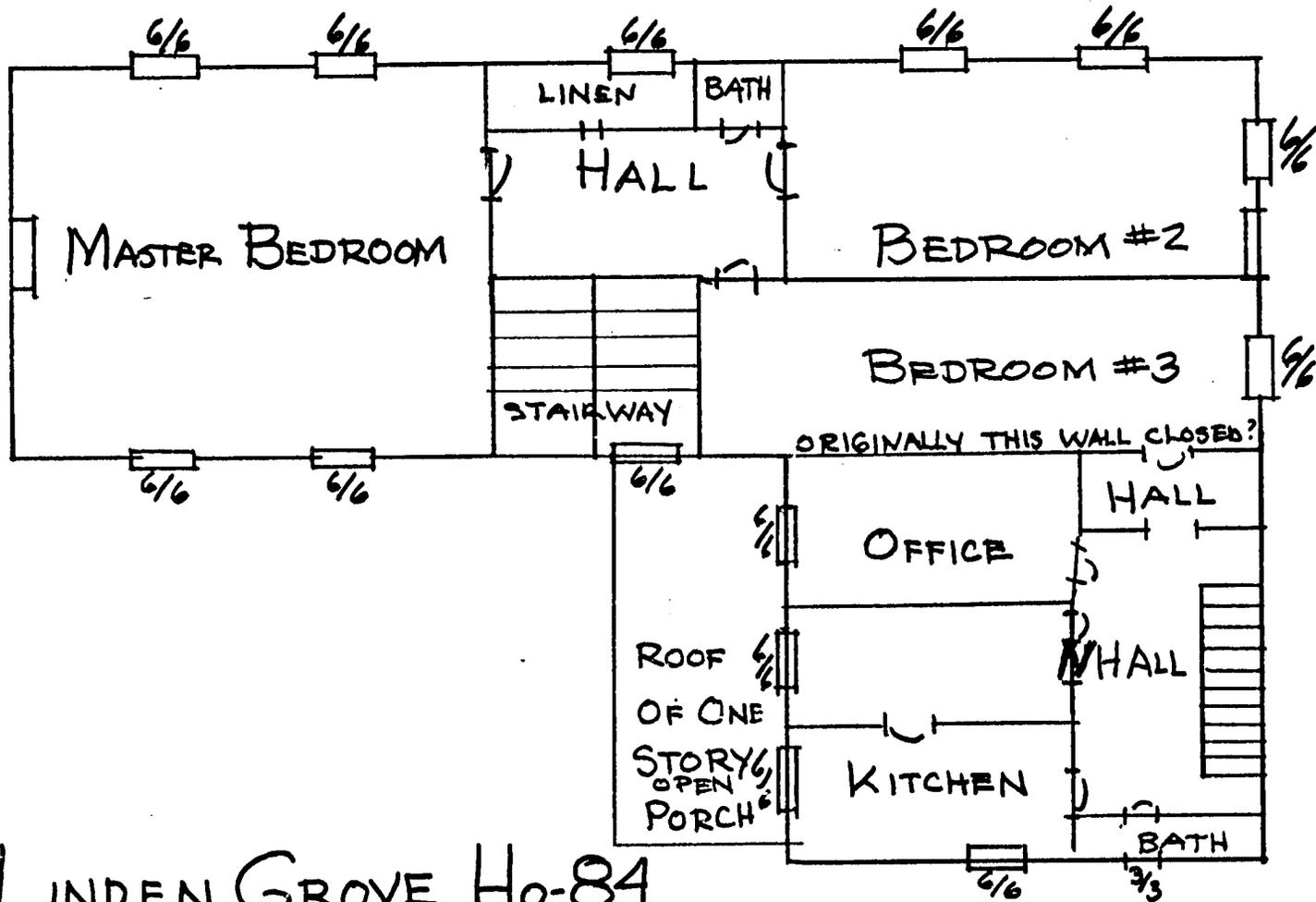
**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

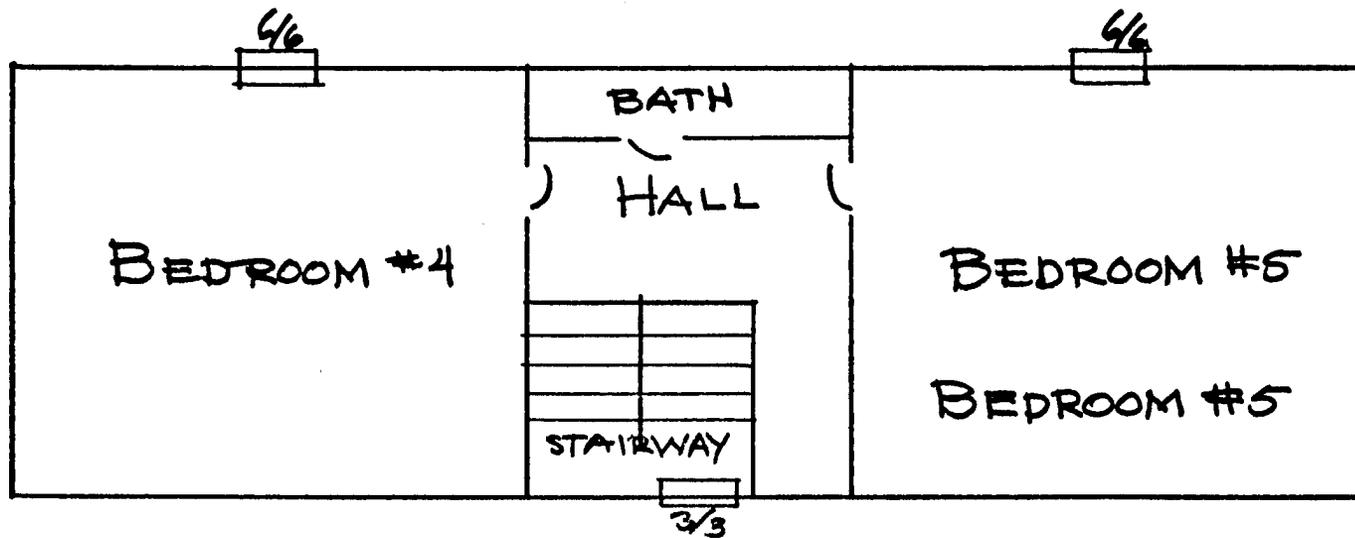
National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



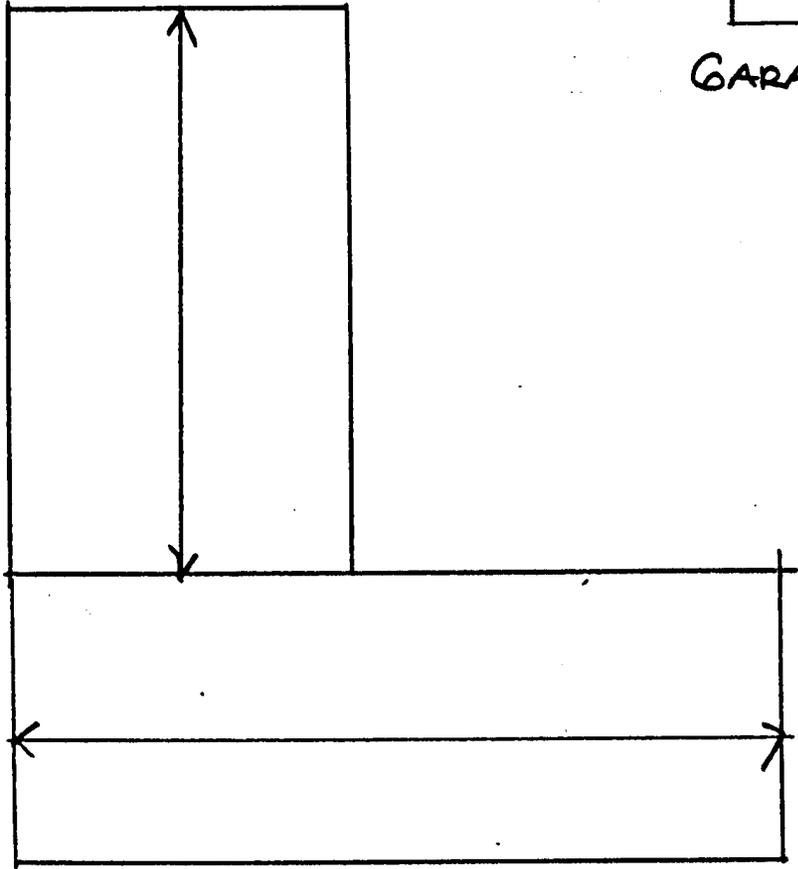


LINDEN GROVE HO-84  
 PLAN - 2ND FLOOR

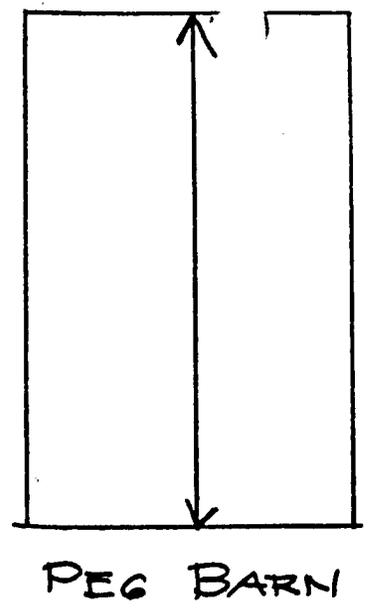
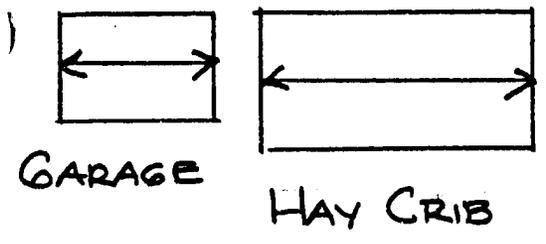


LINDEN GROVE Ho-84  
PLAN - ATTIC

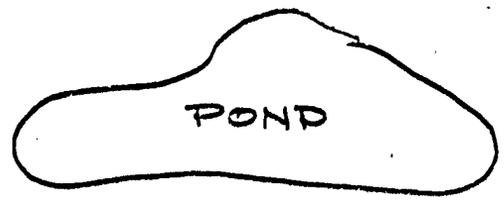
STAND OF EVERGREENS CREATING A BUFFER ZONE



MAIN HOUSE



LINDEN GROVE HO-84  
SITE PLAN



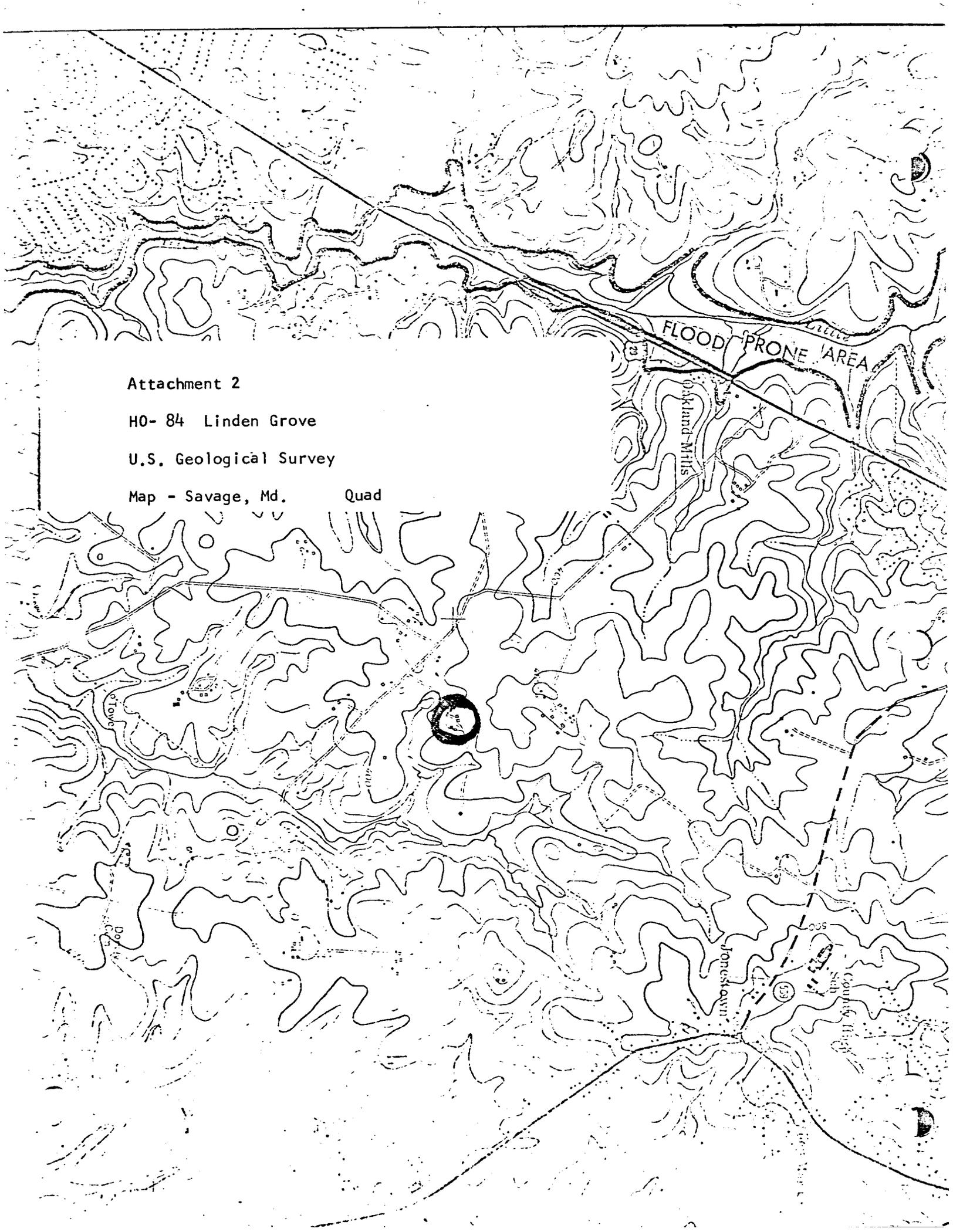


Attachment 2

H0- 84 Linden Grove

U.S. Geological Survey

Map - Savage, Md. Quad





4084

9130

Linden Grove

JS Apr 72



HO-84 LINDEN GROVE  
(SOUTH)  
CB THOMPSON, ARCHIVIST  
MAR, 77