

BA-314

Linfields' Log House  
North side of Stringtown Rd.  
west of Yeoho Rd., Butler  
Not accessible  
Pre-1798

This is the earliest log structure to be found in the district, having survived since the end of the 18th century. It appears on the 1798 Federal Tax as the home of George Ensor. Log structures, once the least expensive form of construction, are rare today and one as unaltered and as old as this, with its wrought-iron nails, is unique.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC  
 AND/OR COMMON  
 Linfield's Log House

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 North side of Stringtown Road West of Yeoho Road  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Eutler \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 5  
 STATE  
 Maryland COUNTY  
 Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Storage

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME  
 Wayne S. Linfield Telephone #: 771-4853  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 Stringtown Road  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Sparks \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code  
 Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
 Baltimore County Courthouse Liber #: 3999  
 Folio #: 400  
 STREET & NUMBER  
 Washington Avenue  
 CITY, TOWN  
 Towson STATE  
 Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE  
 None  
 DATE  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
 CITY, TOWN  
 \_\_\_\_\_ STATE  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7 DESCRIPTION**

70 510

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Linfield's Log House is a two storey, gable-roofed log house, two bays in length (with the second storey expressed as one large bay) with an interior stone chimney in its east end. Exterior dimensions are approximately 14 by 18 feet and it dates from before 1800. Exterior walls have been sheathed with weatherboarding later in the 19th century but much of this material is missing. Interior walls and ceilings have never been refinished. Chinking is of small flat stones laid diagonally in mortar but some courses include much chinking of longish pieces of wood (oak).

A wide opening was cut in the south front wall, now filled with several windows. A doorway is in the westerly bay of the north wall, its door unhung but remaining inside: a beaded board ledge door with wrought clinched nails, a wrought Norfolk latch and cast-iron butt hinges. A window is in the easterly bay of the north wall. In the second storey a small window is approximately centered in the south and north walls and a small window is in each gable end in the attic. While these locations and overall sizes are probably original, existing narrow beaded window frames are probably coeval with the later weatherboarding, the sash even more recent.

A single room is in each storey. Interior walls are of whitewashed logs and the hewn joists and upper floorboards are exposed and whitewashed in both storeys. A beaded baseboard sur-

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

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SPECIFIC DATES                      Unknown                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Unknown

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house, located on the Linfield property on the north side of Stringtown Road west of Yeoho Road, is the only log house still standing in the district which has been identified on the 1798 Tax Assessment. The fact that such an early log structure has survived is exceedingly rare.

George Ensor built the 18 by 14 foot dwelling on a tract of land which he patented in 1796 as Addition to Hit or Miss. (This was the father of George Ensor who built Spring Garden now owned by Robert Lewis (q.v.).)

In 1804, the log house was left to Ensor's son, George, and his heirs. It remained in the family until the 1870's when it was sold to James Quinn. In 1941, Quinn's widow sold the property and, following several short ownerships, Wayne Linfield bought it in 1962.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Federal Direct Tax of 1798.

Patent to Addition to Hit or Miss: Patent Book IC#L folio 144, at Hall of Records, Annapolis.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 1/4 acres ±

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Question #7 continued

rounds each room, installed with wrought-iron nails. A large stone fireplace is in the first storey, a smaller one above, all roughly plastered with mortar and whitewashed. A simple wood mantel surrounds the lower fireplace but stored materials prevent its inspection. A cupboard with vertical beaded board doors occupies the recess north of the chimney in the first storey and an enclosed winding stairway occupies the space to the south. Doors and boards which enclose the stair are of vertical boards, boldly beaded, fastened with wrought-iron nails. Door hardware matches that on the north door, described above.

The stair rises to the second floor and thence to the attic. A wide single shutter is reinstalled internally over the north window of the second storey; it is of vertical beaded boards with wrought-iron strap hinges and hook.

Gables are framed with log studs, attached with cut nails. Very wide horizontal boards once sheathed the gables, now covered externally with the narrower later siding. The log rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. A small hole in the chimney indicates the installation of a stove in the attic, thus making it a useful room.



BA - 819

LINFIELD'S LOG HOUSE

Jim Wollon

1978



## Continuation Sheet #2

Question #9 continued

Will of George K. Ensor: Will Book 3 folio 38 at Baltimore County Courthouse.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).