

CHAS-294

TRINITY LAKE HOUSE

c. 1770

Private

A modest frame dwelling now in ruins, the Trinity Lake House exemplified a regionally popular eighteenth century house type that is elsewhere represented by such similar buildings as Mt. Pleasant, (CH-208), and the first stage of Linden, (CH-48).

Unlike many others of this type, the Trinity Lake House retains most of its original interior woodwork, including beaded board wainscoting and a narrow corner stair enclosed by wide diagonal boards. Among its many interesting features are beaded ceiling joists in the two first floor rooms and beaded roof collars in the two attic chambers. The front wall of the house, covered by a one story porch believed to be contemporary with the house, retains its original sheathing of beaded riven clapboards.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-294

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

TRINITY LAKE HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Trinity Lake; Dubois Road

CITY, TOWN

Dentsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Charlotte Hall

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

**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 ABD.

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lake Charles Associates

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

5829 Auth Road, S.E.

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.  VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20023

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 287

Folio #: 62

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CH-294

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The Trinity Lake House, situated on the west bank of Trinity Lake, approximately one-half mile east of the junction of the entrance to Trinity Lake and Dubois Road, and about one and one-half mile northeast of Trinity Church, is only accessible via a path leading from the lake to its densely wooded hilltop site. Having been abandoned for about fifteen years the house has gradually fallen to ruin. It is nevertheless one of the most complete and interesting examples of a regional house type popular from about 1750-70 to about 1820.

The house type this modest dwelling represents is characterized by a narrow facade, wide end elevations, two chimneys with pent at one end and two first floor rooms separated by a lateral partition. Similar examples would include Mt. Pleasant, (CH-208), and the first stage of Linden, (CH-48), among others.

Measuring 18' by 28' deep, the house was probably built during the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century. Its principal facade, covered by an original shed-roofed porch, faces directly east and has a centered door, to the right of which is a single 9-over-6 pane window. The door and window casings are morticed, tenoned and pinned, the window frame being particularly noteworthy for its heavy molded sill. The window and door arrangement of the rear, west elevation is a mirror image of the front. Initially, the north end had a large double chimney with pent, similar to that seen at Mt. Pleasant and Linden; however, this arrangement was later replaced by a single chimney with fireplace openings on both sides. This elevation also had two small windows in the gable, one of which was later altered into a low door. A first floor window to the left of the former chimney area was introduced in about 1900. On the south end the house had a single window centered in the gable. This was later replaced by a door opening into the second floor level of a two story wing built against this elevation circa 1900. When built, the house was sheathed with beaded riven clapboards, those of the front wall are still preserved in excellent condition. The other two exposed elevations were resheathed at a later date.

The east room of the original house retains almost all of its original interior woodwork, including wainscoting of vertical, random width beaded boards beneath a simple two-piece chairrail, and two-piece window and door surrounds. In the southeast corner is a narrow winding stair enclosed by wide, diagonal beaded boards. Beneath the winders of the stair is a small closet with a batten door hung on wrought "butterfly" hinges. A door on the south wall between the stair and the partition wall was probably installed when the south wing was built. The west room which

(continued on attached sheet)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	c. 1770	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Unlike many others of this type, the Trinity Lake House retains most of its original interior woodwork, including beaded board wainscoting and a narrow corner stair enclosed by wide diagonal boards. Among its many interesting features are beaded ceiling joists in the two first floor rooms and beaded roof collars in the two attic chambers. The front wall of the house, covered by a one story porch believed to be contemporary with the house, retains its original sheathing of beaded riven clapboards.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Trinity Lake House is located on a 1, 129-acre tract of land identified as parcel 9, Map 66 of the Charles County Tax Map (revised Jan. 1976).

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

January 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

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

Continuation of #7 (Description)--TRINITY LAKE HOUSE

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is narrower than the east room, had all of its woodwork replaced in about 1830-50. Neither room retains a mantel; it is probable that both were removed at the same time as the chimneys. The ceilings of both rooms originally displayed exposed and painted beaded ceiling joists, now covered by lath and plaster.

In the attic are two narrow bedchambers with plastered walls and two-piece window and door surrounds, the latter retaining traces of their early red paint. Both rooms have a single dormer window installed in the mid-nineteenth century. The ceilings of the two bedchambers, as well as the small stair-passage, once displayed exposed and whitewashed beaded collars with planked boards above.

In the first half of the nineteenth century the right north end chimney and pent were removed and a one and one-half story frame wing built against this elevation. The chimney that was removed was replaced by a slightly larger one with back-to-back fireplaces servicing the single first floor room of the wing and the west first floor room of the house. Little remains of the wing today except its brick foundation piers and portions of the northeast corner, the latter retaining evidence of a narrow enclosed stair which stood there. At a date subsequent to the addition of the wing the remaining chimney of the house was removed.

In about 1900 the house was again enlarged, this time by a two story, two bay frame wing built against the south end. Its gable roof is positioned at a right angle to the original house.