

## SUMMARY

HA-306

Linwood  
3005 Clayton Road  
Joppa, MD 21085

"Linwood," a ca. 1855 board-and-batten gothic cottage, was built as a summer residence for George March McComas and his wife, Margarretta Witner McComas. The McComas family built a number of houses in this area to escape from the rapidly-urbanizing city of Baltimore--and the concomitant evils. "Linwood" is a splendid example of the picturesque country villas popularized by A.J. Downing.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
**Linwood**  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**3005 Clayton Road, near Joppa (southeast corner Clayton & Singer Roads)**  
 CITY, TOWN  
**Joppa** VICINITY OF  
 STATE  
**Maryland** COUNTY  
**Harford**  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
**Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Van de Wal, Jr.** Telephone #:  
 STREET & NUMBER  
**3005 Clayton Road**  
 CITY, TOWN  
**Joppa** VICINITY OF  
**Maryland** STATE, zip code  
**21085**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
**Harford County Courthouse** Liber #:  
 STREET & NUMBER  
**40 South Main Street** Folio #:  
 CITY, TOWN  
**Bel Air** STATE  
**Maryland**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
 DATE  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
 CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

AK 1000

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This ca. 1850 board-and-batten, gable-roofed gothic cottage is located on the southeast corner of Singer and Clayton Roads and faces north.

The structure set on a raised stone foundation consists of several sections: the main portion on the west is three bays wide and two bays deep with a center front gable flanked by two brick chimneys with corbelled caps. On the east is a one and one-half story, two-bay by two-bay wing with a brick chimney in the east end. On the east end and south side of the latter section are one-story, shed-roofed additions, with a shed-roofed dormer in the south slope of the roof. A verandah spans the north side of the east wing, and a shed-roofed porch spans the south side of the west section.

Except for the additions and dormer, the wide roof eaves are supported on carved wooden brackets, and large pendants adorn the gable peaks. Except as noted, windows have 6/6 sash.

The principal facade--the north side of the west section--has an entrance in the center bay, flanked by windows on both sides, with windows in each of the three bays of the second story, and paired round-arched windows in the gable. Sheltered by a one-story portico with four square doric posts, the double-leafed entrance doors have two-light sidelights and a three-light transom, of which one original pane with an etched prism design remains. All windows in this section have cyma recta wood cornices: those in the first story are full length and have three-panel shutters and wood spandrels that originally opened to allow access onto verandahs. Windows in the second story, including the tripartite window in the center bay, have louvered shutters.

The west end has two windows in each story.

The south side is arranged like the north.

The north side of the east wing has 3/3 sash windows in the second story and 6/6 in the first. The east end has two three-light gable windows on the south side. The shed-roofed addition covers the west bay, leaving the windows in the east bay exposed.

The interior has a center hall plan with one room on the west and two on the east, and one room in the east wing with a rear staircase separating the two sections. The trim is plain with corner blocks. The four-panel doors have glass or china knobs. The mantel in the west room has a dentelled cornice, ovolo architrave, and a crossette opening surround. The southeast room has been remodeled, but the northeast room still has a mantel with a butterfly shelf and an opening surround consisting of a seven-ovolo band. The open-string staircase against the east wall of the hall is two runs at a perpendicular angle, with turned balusters, scalloped step-ends, and a hand-carved rail.

The attic contains three finished rooms and a hall. The rafters are joined with a lap joint.

The basement under the east section has full log joists.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

AK 506

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 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 \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George March McComas purchased 140 acres of "Antioch" (or "Antiock") for \$1200 in 1855;<sup>1</sup> and the next year, 37 1/2 acres of "Gresham's College" and "Spanish Oak Hill" for \$618.<sup>2</sup> The latter had belonged to Elizabeth McComas, and the parcel of "Antioch" had belonged to the Harford Furnace Company, an ironworks located on James Run. He and his wife Margarretta Witner built "Linwood" soon after acquiring the land. The 1858 Jennings & Herrick Map shows a structure owned by him in this location. He may have made substantial improvements in 1862 when he took out a mortgage for \$2350.<sup>3</sup> When George March McComas defaulted on the mortgage, the house and 100-acre farm were sold in 1892 to Henry Clay McComas for \$3100.<sup>4</sup>

George March McComas (b. 1821) second son of William and Ellen McComas, had a tobacco business and was collector of the Port in Baltimore. According to family records, William McComas, a housebuilder, and his wife, Ellen, a dressmaker, concerned "about the evils of urban life," acquired part of "Gresham's College" in 1853 and built a summer house (which has since burned down). Their children also built houses nearby, at least two of which are still standing.

George March McComas' house--or "Linwood"--is a classic Downing-esque Gothic Revival cottage. With its board-and-batten siding, wide bracketed eaves, gable pendants, and French doors that originally opened onto porches with cast-iron railings, Linwood is a splendid example of the picturesque country villas popularized by A.J. Downing in the middle of the 19th century.

Indeed, the Gothic forms embodying, as Downing was fond of quoting, "the worshipping principle, the loving reverence for that which is highest, and the sentiment of Christian brotherhood. . . expressed in the principal lines which are all vertical; in the whole mass falling under, or within the pyramidal (the fire, or symbol of love) form," seemed most appropriate for the altruistic McComas family. The sprawling, asymmetrical configuration and numerous windows and verandahs distinguish this as a summer villa; the fashionable Gothic Revival style marks it as belonging to a family with more cosmopolitan tastes than were usually fostered in Harford County.

- 1. Liber ALJ 6, Folio 225
- 2. Liber ALJ 7, Folio 172
- 3. Liber WG 13, Folio 244
- 4. Liber SWF 74, Folio 93

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land, Will, and equity records of Harford County.

"The McComas Saga: 1100A.D.--1950," compiled by Henry Clay McComas & Mary Winona McComas; unpublished.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

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

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

10/79

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 X207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

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

## LINWOOD

## Title Search

HA-306

- |     |              |                    |  |
|-----|--------------|--------------------|--|
| 1.  | 792/225      | September 27, 1968 | Grantor: Howard R. & Joan D. Byrd<br>Grantee: Anthony Van De Wal, Jr. & wife, Helen Wallis Van De Wal<br>Acreage: 9.376 Acres  |
| 2.  | GRG 719/358  | June 1, 1966       | Grantor: John A. & Patricia W. Llewellyn<br>Grantee: Howard R. & Joan D. Byrd<br>Acreage: 9.376 Acres  |
| 3.  | GRG 555/90   | August 6, 1960     | Grantor: Robert K. & Shelley S. Johnston<br>Grantee: John A. & Patricia W. Llewellyn<br>Sum: Portion of mortgage (GRG 438/3) = \$13,427<br>Acreage: "Gresham's College", "Antioch" = 15A,11P |
| 4.  | GRG 438/1    | June 8, 1955       | Grantor: Cecil W. & Mabel B. Peeples<br>Grantee: Robert K. & Shelley S. Johnston<br>Acreage: 15 A, 11P: "Gresham's College", "Antioch"   |
| 5.  | GCB 265/443  | May 28, 1941       | Grantor: Thomas M. Barrow, unmarried<br>Grantee: Cecil W. & Mabel B. Peeples<br>Sum: Portion = mortgage GCB 262/215<br>Acreage: 15 A, 11 P; "Gresham's College" "Antioch"                    |
| 6.  | GCB 261/492  | May 23, 1940       | Grantor: Mary Ellen O'Keefe, unmarried<br>Grantee: Thomas M. Barrow<br>Acreage: 15 A, 11 P   |
| 7.  | MEWR 253/148 | September 16, 1938 | Grantor: Mary Winona McComas, unmarried, of Baltimore City<br>Grantee: Mary Ellen O'Keefe<br>Acreage: 15 A, 11 P; "Gresham's College", "Antioch"   |
| 8.  | DGW 203/315  | June 1, 1927       | Grantor: George W. McComas, Sr. & wife, Virginia McComas<br>Grantee: Mary Winona McComas, daughter<br>Acreage: 15 A, 11 P  |
| 9.  | JAR 158/389  | March 8, 1918      | Grantee: Mary E. Kirk<br>Grantor: George W. McComas, Sr.<br>Sum: \$4000<br>Acreage: 15 A, 11 P; "Gresham's College" "Antioch"  |
| 10. | WSF 113/174  | June 8, 1904       | Grantor: Henry C. McComas & wife, Mary Parker McComas of Baltimore City<br>Grantee: Mary E. Kirk<br>Sum: \$1800<br>Acreage: 15 A, 11 P; "Gresham's College" "Antioch"                        |

Title Search (Cont'd.)

HA-306

- |                      |                   |  |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| 11. WSF 74/93        | March 21, 1892    | Grantor: Frank H. Jacobs, Trust.<br>Stevenson A. & Fred R. Williams, Trust.<br>Henry D. Farnandis, Ass.<br>Grantee: Henry C. McComas<br>Sum: \$3100<br>Acreage: 100 Acre farm, "Gresham's Colleg",<br>"Antioch"  |
| 12. WG 13/244(Mort.) | September 6, 1862 | Grantor: George M. & Margaretta W. McComas<br>Grantee: Henrietta O. Cockey<br>Sum: \$2350<br>Acreage: 100 Acres of "Grisham's College" &<br>"Antioch"  |
| 13. ALJ 7/172        | February 1, 1856  | Grantor: John & Sophia E. Norris<br>J. Wilson & Ann B. Pearce<br>Grantee: George M. McComas of Baltimore City<br>Sum: \$618<br>Acreage: all real estate of Elizabeth McComas,<br>dec.: Part of "Greshams College" =<br>56 Acres<br>All of "Spanish Oak Hill" = 37½ Acres |
| 14. ALJ 6/225        | July 2, 1855      | Grantor: Richard Green<br>Henry D. & Hannah Farnandis<br>Grantee: George McComas of Baltimore City<br>Sum: \$1200<br>Acreage: "Antioc" = 140 Acres   |

130306-55  
N. R. FIELD SHEET

HA 306

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: *Linwood*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *Southeast corner of Singer and Clayton Roads*

CITY OR TOWN: *Joppa*

STATE: *Maryland* CODE: COUNTY: *Harford* CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: *Anthony & Holly Van de Wal*

STREET AND NUMBER: *Linwood*

CITY OR TOWN: *Joppa* STATE: *Md* CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: **CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

STREET AND NUMBER: **HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.**

CITY OR TOWN: **BEL AIR** STATE: **MARYLAND** CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Large frame house, board and batten.  
 Two stories with pair of small windows  
 in the attic gable ends and gables  
 centered in the roof sides. Wide eaves  
 have cut-wood corbels →   
 almost the only two concessions to  
 the Victorian era styles except for  
 floor length windows downstairs, since  
 built up. In the main house two  
 slim chimneys rise near the center of  
 the building to the ridgepole, & their  
 chimney large brick, rises from the  
 smaller-scale east wing, 2 bays x 2.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century 

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal Education Political Urban Planning Prehistoric Engineering 

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) Historic Industry losophy Agriculture Invention Science Art Landscape Sculpture Commerce Architecture 

Social/Human-

Communications Literature itarian Conservation Military Theater Music Transportation 

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Built for a summer house of the  
 McComas family whose winter home was in  
 Baltimore, this place is difficult to  
 heat for a year-round residence, but  
 spacious and attractive. Insensitive  
 pseudo-colonial interior detracts from value.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for bibliographical references]

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 ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S. EWING**

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: **50 STATE CIRCLE**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND** CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

EDGEWOOD USGS  
QUADRANGLE MAP

HA-306

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
5763 III  
(BEL AIR)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





Linwood  
Joppa, MD 21085  
Natalie Shivers  
North

HA-306

10/79



Linwood  
Joppa, MD 21085  
Natalie Shivers  
Southeast

HA-306

10/79



HA 386

Linwood

Apr '76 582