

1. Name Linden Oak

2. Planning Area/Site Number 30/14 3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 21;B-4

4. Address Rock Creek Park

5. Classification Summary

Category object

Ownership public

Public Acquisition --

Status not applicable

Accessible yes, unrestricted

Present use park

Previous Survey Recording 1976 M-NCPPE Federal State X County X Local Local

6. Date c. 1718 7. Original Owner unknown

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent c. original site

b. unaltered

9. Description

The Linden Oak is located in Rock Creek Park, near the intersection of Beach Drive and Rockville Pike. It is a white oak (Quercus Alba), sixteen feet in circumference, ninety-five feet high and more than 132 feet wide across the crown.

10. Significance

The Linden Oak is estimated at over 260 years old. It is the largest white oak in Montgomery County and the fourth largest in the state.

In 1976 the Linden Oak was proclaimed a Maryland Bicentennial Tree.

A commemorative plaque has been placed on the site.

11. Date researched 1978 Researcher: Stephen Lodge

12. Compiler Peg Coleman 13. Date Compiled 11/27/78 14. Designation Approval 11/27/78

15. Acreage: 13.7 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI#

m: 30/14

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Linden Oak

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Beach Drive and Rockville Pike 8th

CITY, TOWN Rockville - Bethesda CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Montgomery

STATE Maryland COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Telephone #: 565-7401
 STREET & NUMBER 8787 Georgia Ave. Commission
 CITY, TOWN Silver Spring VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE Liber #: 735
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 335
 STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites
 DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office
 CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

M: 30-14

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The trunk of the Linden Oak is shorter than many other types of trees, but is a large 16' in circumference. Like other white oaks, the crown of the tree is larger than its height. But this tree's dimensions are obviously larger than most, with a height of over 95', and a width of more than 132'. A batch of shrubbery grows in the "crotch" where the branches spread apart, some 20' above the ground.

The bark of the tree is whiteish and scaly, having survived storms and sun perhaps from as far back as the 17th century. The leaves are feather-lobed, a characteristic of only some oaks, and its acorns, shaped thinner than other oaks', help feed herbivorous birds and mammals in Rock Creek Park. The diameter of the tree at the trunk is a thick 64".



REPRESENTATION BY EXIST
Inventory of
1978
Rock Creek Park
Rockville

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M: 30-14

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 checked="" 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		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This local landmark, estimated to be over 260 years old, sits on the edge of Rock Creek Park. It is the largest white oak tree in Montgomery County, and the fourth largest in Maryland (the Wye Oak being the largest in the nation as well as in the state). The white oak was made the Maryland State Tree in 1941, and the Linden Oak stands as a fine example of that grand tree. Its wonderful features make it a beautiful sight.

The source of the Linden Oak's name is not known, but it probably came from the nearby Linden Hill community. The tree itself though, is not located in Linden Hill.

Metro subway construction through the area threatened the life of the tree in the early 1970s, but a promise to preserve the oak was obtained from Metro (perhaps they appreciated the ancient custom in Anglo-Saxon England of fining anyone who purposely injured or destroyed an oak tree). A plaque was placed at the site and passersby on foot, bike or car may observe the tree at the Grosvenor Lane-Beach Drive-Rockville Pike intersection, amid other less majestic trees in Rock Creek Park.

In 1976, it was proclaimed a Maryland Bicentennial Tree, because it "stood its ground, survived the American Revolution, and continues to serve an appreciative nation."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Dwyer, Michael F. Historical Inventory Form
- 2) Petrides, George A. A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs
- 3) Shosteck, Robert. Washington Star, July 1, 1973. "The Trees of Life"
- 4) Symonds, George W.D. The Tree Identification Book

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13.7A Tract

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

On edge of Rock Creek Park, along Beach Drive and Rockville Pike

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lodge

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

~~Dickerson~~

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

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

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Linden Oak

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Beach Drive & Rockville Pike

CITY, TOWN

Rockville-Bethesda

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Telephone #: 589-1480

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M. 30-14

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a towering, white oak tree (the official state tree) that stands on the edge of Rock Creek Park here. It is 94 ft. high, with a diameter of 64 inches. The total span at the crown is 132 ft. across. Estimated to be 260 years old.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:30-14

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<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
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<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		

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a local landmark that sits on the edge of Rock Creek Park. It is estimated to be 260 yrs. old. Supposedly, the second or third largest white oak tree in Maryland (the first, the Wye Oak, is the largest and finest in the entire United States.) The name "Linden" is an ironic misnomer, that probably results from the nearby Linden Hill/Pooks Hill development. (Pooks Hill was an estate formerly located on the hill near here, and that name comes from a Rudyard Kipling poem.)

The Metro subway development threatened to destroy this tree in the 1970's, but a pledge to preserve it has been promised.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) A TREE IS SAVED, (1971) M-NCPPC Parks Dep't. leaflet.
- 2) Shostech, Robert. Article in WASHINGTON STAR, (7/1/73).
- 3) Metro Subway Article, WASHINGTON STAR, (11/12/73).

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

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

9/11/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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