Form No 10-300 (Rev 10-74)

Easement

CH-48 12

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Linden; Durham; Durham Freehold

AND/OR COMMON: Linden (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: On Durham Court, Approximately 8/10 mile north of intersection of Maryland Route 225 and Mitchell Road

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Port Tobacco __X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland CODE

COUNTY: Charles CODE: 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mr. Warren E. Barley

STREET & NUMBER: Barley Mortgage Co., Inc., P.O. Box 697

CITY, TOWN: Waldorf __ VICINITY OF

STATE: Maryland 20601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: Charles Street

CITY, TOWN: La Plata

STATE: Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

being restored

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the crest of a hill and commanding a superb view of the Port Tobacco Valley, Linden is a rambling frame house embodying many traditional characteristics of Tidewater architecture. Its present plan consists of three parts: a two-and-one-half-story main block, a one-and-one-half-story east wing, and a one-story kitchen wing positioned at a right angle to the main house. Prominent exterior features include four chimneys and a one-story porch extending across the south front and east end. The house as it exists today, reflects five known phases of development, exclusive of miscellaneous minor alterations and several additions about which little is known.

The first stage of Linden was begun early in the 1780's. A one-story house containing two ground floor rooms positioned back to back, two small attic chambers and a double outside chimney joined at the base by a shed-roofed pent, it was a house type that attained great popularity in the Southern Maryland region during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Mt. Pleasant and the Trinity Lake House, also in Charles County, both built circa 1790, are but two examples remarkably similar in plan and appearance.

This first stage of Linden has experienced numerous alterations, including the removal of most of its first floor woodwork, the front door, exterior sheathing, corner stair and the chimney pent. Nevertheless, sufficient evidence of its initial appearance remains to facilitate a reasonably accurate restoration.

It has been determined that the house was built with a three-bay facade, and that the door was centered between two narrow windows of nine-over-nine sash. In other similar examples the rear elevation was a mirror image of the front; at Linden, however, a later addition against this elevation obliterated any obvious trace of its appearance. Since the west end of the house was later extended, its early details have also been camouflaged. The two east end chimneys are, however, contemporary with this first stage. Characteristic of eighteenth century chimney architecture in Southern Maryland, they were formerly joined at the first floor level by a pent (chimney closet). When a one-story addition was subsequently made to this end of the house, the pent was removed.

Both first floor rooms had beaded baseboards and fairly simple two-piece chair rails (the chair rail still remains in the north room but was removed from the south room; however, a "shadow" of that in the latter room still remains). In addition to three paneled doors that retain their rim locks and wrought hinges, there is a very fine mantel in the south room of attractive proportions and embellished by gougework and reeding. The configuration of the attic rooms repeats that of the first floor, with the north room

See continuation sheet #1

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Linden
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Maryland

DESCRIPTION (continued)

somewhat shorter to accommodate the stair that was formerly located in the northwest corner.

In about 1800 the house was enlarged by the addition of a hall on the west end, and a shed-roofed room and a porch on the north, rear side. Concurrent with the additions was the removal of the front door and the installation of a new door opening into the hall; the earlier windows, however, were retained. Other alterations included the resheathing of the exterior with random width beaded boards (some of which remain today), the reshingling of the roof and the addition of two pedimented dormers on both roof slopes.

Since the present stair, which rises on the northwest corner of the hall, possesses a combination of features datable to both phases, it is possible that the earlier stair was retained after the hall was added, but was removed and the present stair built a few years later. Documented changes to the first floor interior include the introduction of two doors opening into the hall from the two east rooms, and the covering over a window and door on the north elevation. A remaining north window, the one closest to the east end, was enlarged to provide a door into the rear shed room.

Many questions exist concerning the attic level. There is some evidence to suggest that the area above the new hall was divided into two bedchambers, supplementing the two already existing. If this were true then the theory that the original stair was retained after the circa 1800 additions were made seems more plausible. It is known that the man credited with the circa 1800 renovations had a large and growing family and would probably have found the need for more than two bedrooms.

In the late 1830's the house was again enlarged, attaining its present basic plan. This addition, with four nine-over-nine windows and a dentiled cornice on both the front and rear elevations, and two end chimneys, doubled the house in size. It contains two commodious first floor rooms connected by a double leafed door, two second floor bedrooms, and two small bedrooms and a short narrow hall in the attic. It is conjectured that when the addition was made the partition dividing the two bedrooms over the hall was removed and the area opened into a large hall with a small chamber on the north

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

side. An open-string stair was built along the east wall of the hall to give access to the supra attic, later plastered to provide a hall to the attic chambers of the new two-and-one-half story addition.Throughout the addition the woodwork, particularly the mantels, is of very simple styling.

The exterior walls of the addition, like the earlier part, were sheathed with random width beaded clapboards. Two chimneys, each providing first and second floor fireplaces, were built against the west end and a one-story porch with turned tapered posts and balustrade (later removed) was built across the full width of the front. The gable roof, sheathed with butt end shingles, had a single pedimented dormer on its front slope.

Between the time that this addition was made and the first decade of the twentieth century several other alterations and additions were made. Those of which there is evidence include a one- or one-and-one-half-story, gable roofed frame wing on the west end of the largest section and a second wing of similar dimensions on the east end. The only evidence of their former existence is the imprint of the roof flashings on the chimneys they covered. Both of these additions are believed to have been removed before 1910.

Other alterations include the removal of the circa 1800 front door and its replacement with a door and window. A door was also added on the east end, probably to provide access to the former nineteenth century east wing. The replacement of the pent door by a window, the introduction of a window on the east end near the northeast corner, the removal and replacement of the mantel in the north first floor room of the original house, and the addition of the existing north kitchen wing are other changes known to have occurred.

The restoration of Linden, which had been tenanted for nearly half a century, commenced in the fall of 1976. Although the house was examined to determine its physical history, the restoration process will reveal additional evidence documenting its evolutionary changes. Current plans call for a restoration to its overall exterior appearance of circa 1840. The interior rooms of the original house

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

and the circa 1800 hall, however, will be restored as closely as possible to their initial appearance.

In addition to the main house, which is shaded by two large linden trees and several magnificent boxwoods, there are two gable-roofed dependencies, currently used for storage and in an advanced state of deterioration. Both are set close to each other not far from the east end of the house and date from about 1825.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CN-48

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

SPECIFIC DATES c.1783;c.1800;c.1838 BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1. Henry Barnes 2. Horatio Clagett 3. Walter Mitchell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Linden is one of the few houses in Charles County to display a clearly discernable and logical process of development, from that of a modest two-room house to a larger and more formal center hall, four room plan. The earliest section is of particular importance as one of the few essentially intact survivals of a once extremely popular house type.

The land Linden is situated on is made up of three contiguous tracts historically known as "Durham," "Barbadoes" and "Beech Neck." It was on part of Durham that the house was built.

Durham was patented in 1666 to Walter Beane and included 750 acres [illegible]id him for transporting himself, his wife and daughter, and others into the province of Maryland.

Walter Beane arrived in Virginia from England as early as 1637 and shortly thereafter settled in Maryland near the Wicomico River in southeastern Charles County. He was a relatively affluent colonist who quickly rose to social and political prominence. He was, with Governor William Stone, one of the first practicing Presbyterians in the colonies and one of his daughters, Edith, married the Reverend Mathew Hill, successor of Reverend Frances Doughty, under whom the Charles County Presbyterians first organized in 1659.

Walter Beane died in 1670 leaving extensive real estate and personal property. To his youngest daughter, Elinor, he bequeathed Durham. Since Elinor was an infant at the time of her father's death he directed that the patent be held in trust by her mother until she came of age or married. It was, however, an inheritance that was to be embroiled in controversey and litigation for many years afterward.

Within three years of Walter's death, Charles Calvert, then Lord Proprietor of the province of Maryland, acting through the High Court of the Chancery, issued a scire facias claiming that the 750 acres of Durham was erroneously laid out within the bonds of Panguiah Manor, several thousand acres reserved exclusively for the use of the Lords Proprietor. The document demanded that the widow and heir show cause why the property should not be vacated and returned to the Proprietor. Apparently intimidated by this sudden and evidently inarguable action, the widow surrendered the property without question. However, in the name of her

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daughter, she petitioned the Proprietor for a second grant of 400 acres to replace the reclaimed land, which was accordingly done. Although contiguous to the earlier grant, it was surveyed on the west side of Port Tobacco Creek, outside the west boundary of Panguiah Manor.

The relinquishment of the property remained uncontested by the Beanes until 1705. By this year Elinor had married John Beale and had a son named Richard. John Beale apparently discovered that the action against the Beanes resulting in the loss of the original 750 acres was illegal and requested a review of the case. Unfortunately, his plea was brought before the same members of the Chancery Court who had issued the 1673 decree and they refused to reverse their opinion. John Beale was, however, a patient man. In 1719, following Elinor's death, he renewed his arguments, this time before the Maryland General Assembly. They agreed to review the case and in so doing discovered that the bounds of Panguiah Manor were set after the original grant to Durham was made. They then decreed that the 1673 judgment against the Beanes was illegal and unjust and returned the original 750 acres, plus the 400-acre later grant, to Elinor's heirs. Nevertheless, the case was still being contested as late as 1724 for in that year the General Assembly changed the award to include only the original 750 acres.

John Beale, after selling nearly half the acreage to Dr. Daniel Jenifer in 1726, deeded to his son, John Beale, Jr., the remaining property, referred to as the dwelling plantation of John Beale, Sr. John Beale, Jr. died sometime before 1783 leaving each of his three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Eleanor, a one-third interest in the property. The one-third share that included the present house site was bequeathed to Elizabeth Beale, who by 1783 had married Henry Barnes, a wealthy Port Tobacco merchant.

In the 1783 tax assessment for Port Tobacco Hundred, Henry Barnes is listed as the owner of 150 acres of Durham improved by a "small unfinished dwelling house and new kitchen." The dwelling house referred to is believed to be the earliest or east half of the existing house. Barnes maintained a somewhat grander residence in nearby Port Tobacco (then the county seat and two miles south of Linden), but the close proximity of the town to low lying swampy areas made it rather unhealthy during the hot summer months. Since the earliest part of the present house is not the type of residence a man of Barnes' wealth and stature would have maintained but yet is too refined for an overseer's or tenant house, it is believed that he built Linden as a summer residence, con-

See continuation sheet #5

DESCRIPTION (continued)

venient to town but a safe distance from the pestilence ridden swamps.

Elizabeth (Beale) Barnes died shortly after her husband, in or about 1790, devising part of her estate, including here one-third part of Durham, to her son, John Beale Barnes. He in turn sold his right of inheritance to Durham to his two sisters, Mary, wife of Samuel Hawkins, and Catherine, wife of Horatio Clagett. In an 1808 property settlement between Mary Hawkins and Catherine Clagett, Horatio and Catherine Clagett became the sole owners of the 150 acres of Durham.

Horatio Clagett was a relatively prosperous merchant and politician, although he did not attain the same level of affluence as his father-in-law. He and his wife, after enlarging the house at Durham, made it their home until about 1818 when they moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where Horatio assumed proprietorship of several hostelries, including Gadsby's Tavern, today one of Alexandria's most famous landmarks.

The Clagetts maintained ownership of Linden until 1838 when they deeded the property to Walter Hanson Jenifer Mitchell, a prominent Charles County attorney who was closely related to the Beales and Barnes through both his mother and his wife. Mitchell moved into Linden and made extensive alterations and improvements, including the addition of the two-and-one-half story section and the front porch.

Walter Mitchell was undoubtedly one of the most politically influential and socially prominent men in Southern Maryland during the mid-19th century. A graduate of Yale College, he at one time ran for Governor of Maryland, an office he missed by only one vote. In the years preceding the Civil War he was a staunch supporter of the Southern cause. Southern Maryland, which throughout the conflict remained overwhelmingly pro-South, was continuously occupied by Federal troops. It is recorded that at one time Linden had 7,000 troops bivouacked on the property. A diary kept by one of Walter Mitchell's daughters for a period of several months in 1863 vividly recounts the ransacking of the farm, the occupation of the house by officers and how the family was forced to live in the attic.

At Walter Mitchell's death he divided his extensive real estate holdings among his two sons and three daughters. To his eldest son Hugh he bequeathed Linden. Hugh Mitchell died in 1899, leaving Linden to his son

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

Hugh Mitchell, Jr. At the death of Hugh Mitchell, Jr. in 1950, his son, Hugh Mitchell, III became owner. It was from him that the present owners acquired the house and ten acres in 1976, thus ending a three hundred ten year chain of ownership by the same family.

Linden is one of the very few properties in Maryland that has remained in the same family for such an extensive period of time. It has been owned and lived in by some of Charles County's most illustrious personalities, each of whom left evidence of his tenure of ownership, if not physically then historically. The house itself, showing a very interesting process of development, makes a significant contribution to the study of regional architecture. Its restoration will preserve it as an appropriate monument to three hundred years of Southern Maryland's social, religious, economic, political and architectural history, undeniably a valuable asset to both Charles County and the State of Maryland.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CH-48

see continuation sheet #7

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A			
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Restoration Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

December 1st, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Steffans Building, 317 Charles Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 870-3318

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland 20646

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

GPO 892-453

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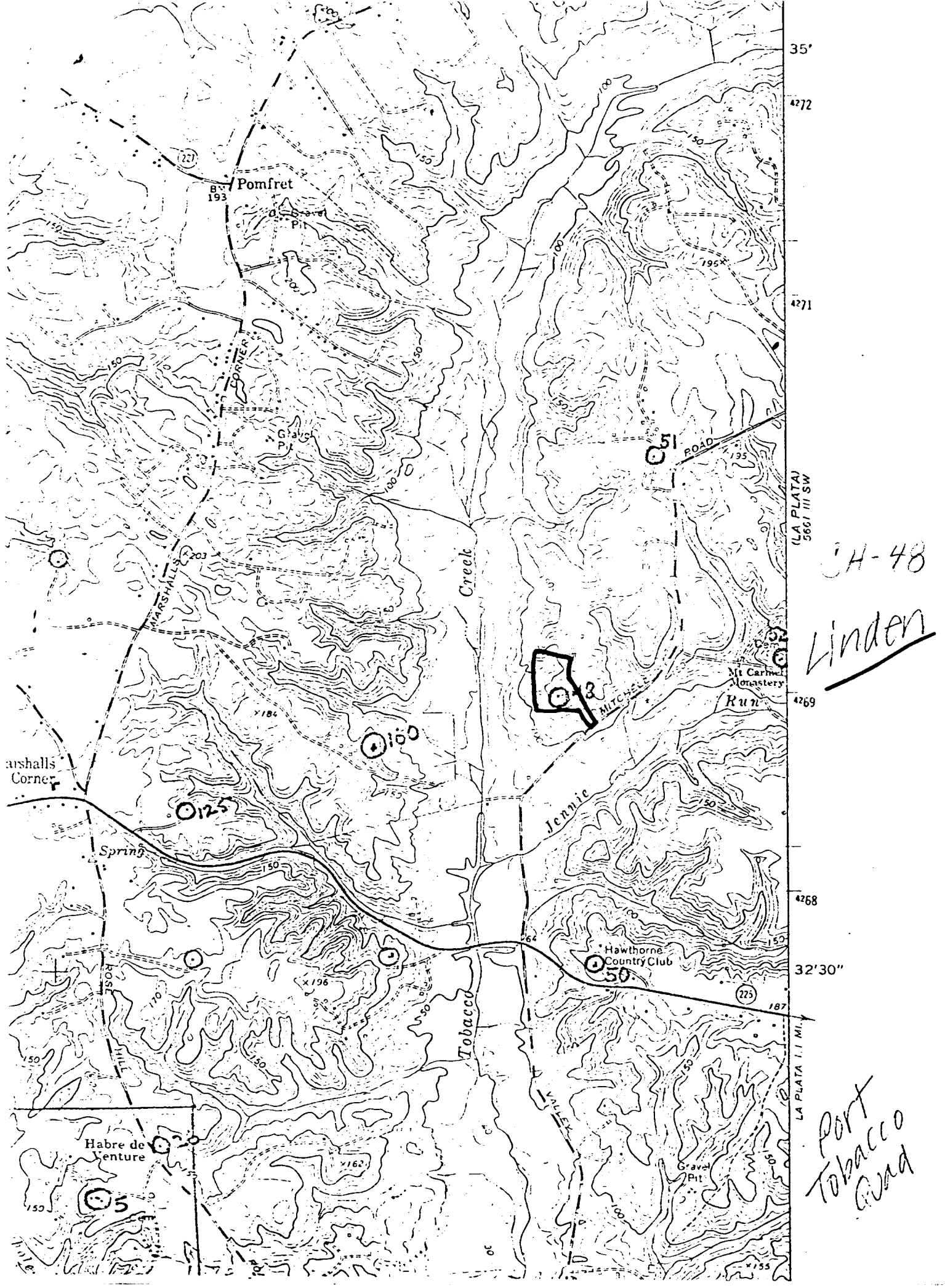
1783 Tax Assessment Records, Patents, Probate and Provincial Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.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4271
4269
4268
32'30"
Pomfret
Gravel Pit
CORNER
MARSHALLS
Creek
ROAD
(LA PLATA) 5661 III SW
Mt Carmel Monastery
Run
MITCHELL
Jennie
Spring
Hawthorne Country Club
Tobacco
VALLEY
ROSE HILL
Habre de Venture
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51
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Linden
Port Tobacco Quad

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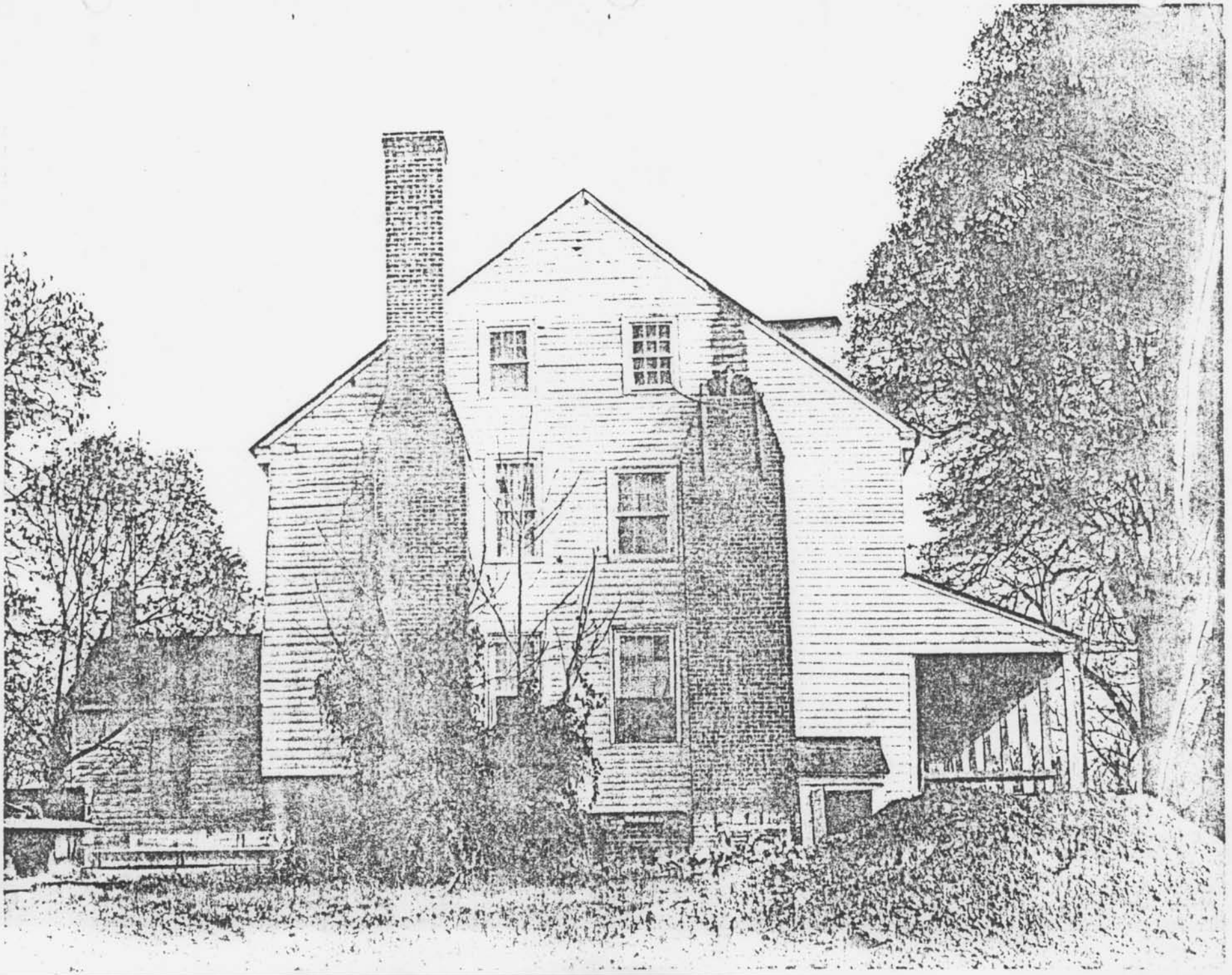

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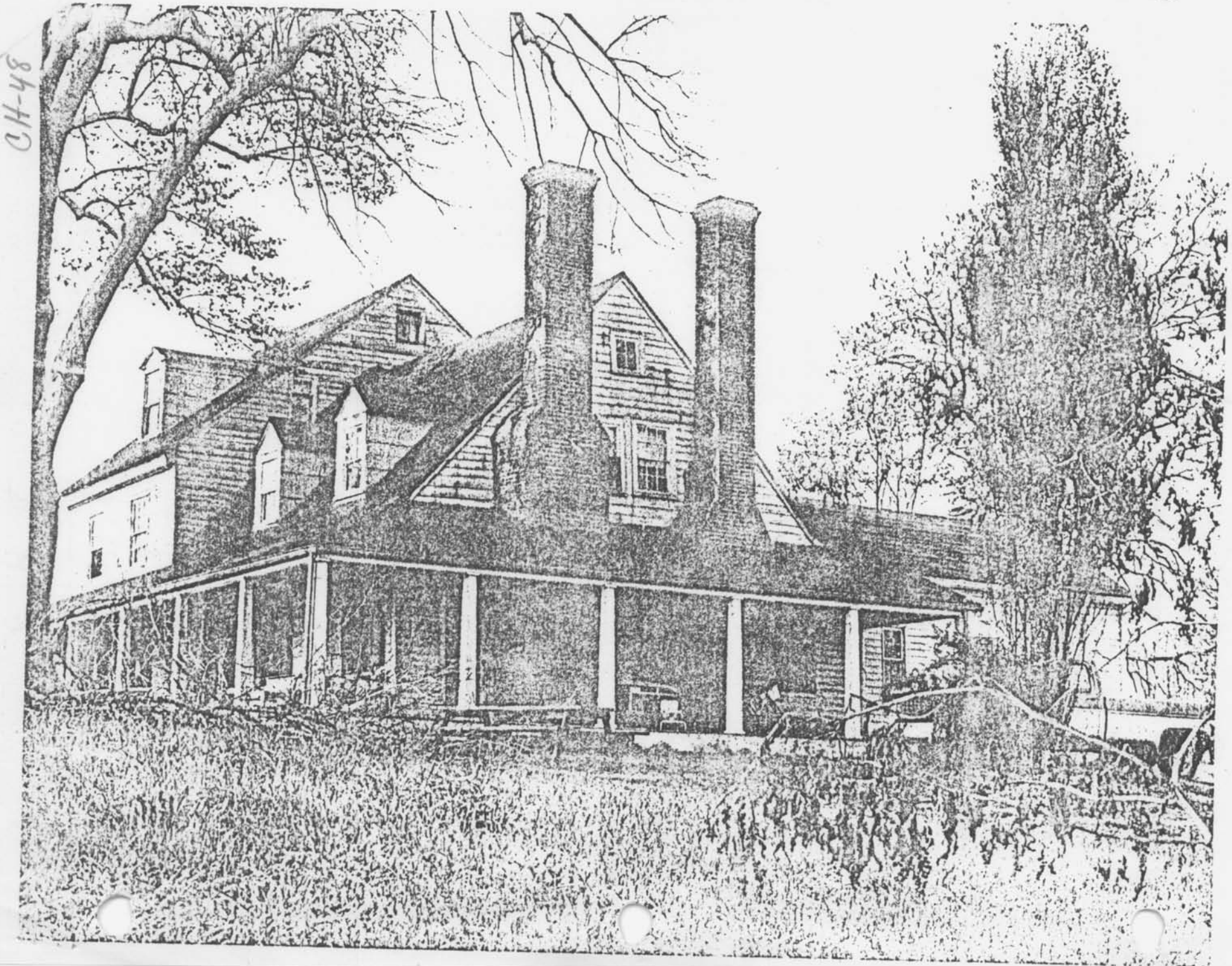
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