

CAR-41
Liden's Venture Site
Smithville
Public

Circa 1790 and 1820

Liden's Venture was a dwelling situated on a plot of land laid out originally for Richard (Liden) Leyden in 1740 in what was then Dorchester County. After acquiring more land, Shadrach Leyden has his new acquisitions resurveyed in 1796 under the new name of "Venture Surrounded." The dwelling prior to its demolition appeared to be a late-19th Century frame building typical of Caroline County; but on examination of the structure, it was found to contain sections of two earlier houses. One dated from the late 18th Century, judging from its recessed paneling and other features. It was a one room building, originally one story, but heightened in 1867 by William Liden. He also added the new room and lengthened the larger house by four feet and re-arranged the plan.

The latter section was a "hall and parlor" house with diagonal fireplace in the parlor, a plan seen on a brick house in nearby Delaware. The second story was divided into three bedrooms and a hall, divided by board walls, and having exposed beaded joists and ceiling boards. This feature is very common in lower Caroline County and appears with certain frequency in other areas as well.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Liden's Venture Site

AND/OR COMMON

Liden's Manor

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Todd Rd, approximately .4 of a mile east of Iron Gate Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Smithville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Maryland

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Dept of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #: 172

Folio #: 115

STREET & NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Liden's Venture was destroyed by the State of Maryland after the property had been acquired as a reserve in the early 1970's. The house was located on Todd Road, approximately four-tenths of a mile northeast of Iron Gate Road, northwest of Smithville, Caroline County.

The house had been constructed in two sections. The later section was two storys, three by two bays, and frame on a brick foundation. The exterior was covered with white asbestos siding. The main facade (facing northeast) had a central entrance with four pane transom, 9/6 sash windows in the outer bays of the first story, and three 6/6 windows on the second story. Brick chimney stacks were located interior end at each gable.

A wing on the south side was four bays long, with small second floor windows.

Originally, the house was composed of the single two bay end of the kitchen wing. At that period it appears to have been one and one-half storys tall with steep roof typical of the early period. Its interior had recessed paneling across its fireplace and enclosed stair and dado around the remainder of the room. The joists were exposed and champhered and the underside of the flooring was beaded. At a slightly later date wide beaded boards were installed over the joists. The latter were applied with cut nails whereas the original work was fastened with wrought nails.

The second part of the building consisted of the front part of the building except for four feet which had been added on the east side of the house. In its original condition, it had a hall and parlor plan with enclosed stair in the northwest corner. The second story had three small bed chambers divided by board walls, with exposed beaded ceiling boards and joists. The parlor originally had a corner fireplace in the northeast corner of the house and there appears to have been a door on the east gable to a kitchen or wing which may have been the earlier dwelling.

It was enlarged and remodeled around 1867 by William Liden who signed his name on several of the joists when he was undertaking the improvements.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CAR-41

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 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 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

Liden's Venture is an important site in Caroline County as a place owned and lived in by one family for nearly 200 years. It was also an interesting and good example of two periods of vernacular architecture. The earliest, one room house appears to have been built in the late 18th century and the larger section was built around 1820. Its plan is like several dwellings in southern Caroline and parts of Delaware and represents a local variation of the "hall and parlor" house.

Locations of the type woodwork used in the house can be obtained by contacting the recorder.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 Bourne, Architectural Consultant & Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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



Linden's Adventure, site

CAR-41

M. Bourne

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