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

6. Date: c. 1718
7. Original Owner: unknown
8. Apparent Condition:
   - a. excellent
   - b. unaltered
   - c. original site

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
15. Acreage: 13.7 acres
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC
AND/OR COMMON
Linden Oak

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Beach Drive and Rockville Pike
CITY, TOWN
Rockville - Bethesda
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Montgomery
STATE
Maryland

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
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
STREET & NUMBER
8787 Georgia Ave.
CITY, TOWN
Silver Spring
VICINITY OF
STATE, zip code
Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Montgomery County Courthouse
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
ZIP CODE
20855
The trunk of the Linden Oak is shorter than many other types of trees, but it 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 scaley, 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".
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, and 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."
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
1) Dwyer, Michael F. Historical Inventory Form
2) Petrides, George A. A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs
4) Symonds, George W.D. The Tree Identification Book

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE 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

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE Stephen Lodge
ORGANIZATION Sugarloaf Regional Trails
STREET & NUMBER Dickerson
CITY OR TOWN Dickerson
DATE July, 1978
TELEPHONE 928-4510

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

**AND/OR COMMON**

Linden Oak

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**

Beach Drive & Rockville Pike

**CITY, TOWN**

Rockville-Bethesda

**STATE**

Maryland

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

**COUNTY**

Montgomery

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

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### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning

**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

**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**
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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
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.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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

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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