



Photos by J. Henson — The Capital

Katheryn Callahan, president of Anne Arundel Heritage, which maintains Linthicum Walks, a historic house built in 1780, looks through old documents with George Linthicum III, a descendant of the family that originally lived there. The house is on a 6-acre property along Davidsonville Road.

# Turning back time

## Group hopes to restore, display Colonial home

By SCOTT BURKE  
Staff Writer

Deep inside the few remaining patches of woods untouched by development on Davidsonville Road lies a historic treasure.

The Colonial home is hidden from the road and most motorists zoom right past the small, white sign hanging from a wooden post between Crofton Middle School and Crofton Park which reads: "Linthicum Walks. Circa 1780."

Members of Anne Arundel Heritage, an organization devoted to the preservation of historical sites in the county, hope to change the home's low-profile image.

"We'd like to get the interest going," said Crofton resident Katie Dentler, group vice president.

Although the house always has been open for tours, Ms. Dentler and heritage President Katheryn Callahan want to start pushing for more of them.

They know more tours could earn them county funding needed to make costly repairs to the home.

"We have to make the house open to the public at least five times a year to make us eligible (for county grants)," said Ms. Callahan, also a Crofton resident.

Last week, the two women took Owings Mills resident George Linthicum III, a descendant of the family that once lived there, on a private tour of the house and the surrounding 6 acres.

Mr. Linthicum and a friend, Tereasa Weyforth of Kingsville, even got to see the normally off-limits addition built in the 1840s. The heritage group rents out the two-story, two-bedroom addition to help off-set some of the costs of maintain-



Linthicum Walks sits next to Crofton Middle School. The original structure, which is the left side the house, was built in 1780. The two-story addition was built in the 1840s.

"It certainly has been maintained well, but it's got a lot of work to be done," he said.

The first priority is the living room fireplace, Ms. Dentler said.

The large, 3-foot high structure is losing its bricks. Pieces of the wooden floor around it are loose or missing. And the hand-carved, wooden frame needs refurbishing. Repairs may cost as much as \$50,000, Ms. Dentler said.

Upstairs, where Ms. Callahan and Ms. Dentler say they could put their offices, is a small bedroom with four windows and a low ceiling.

Historians aren't sure when the Linthicums got the land, but by 1699 Welsh settler Thomas Linthicum I bequeathed 631 acres to his son, Thomas II. He named it Linthicum Walks.

His son, Thomas III, got 200 acres of the land in 1724 and may have built a house where the current building stands. By 1752, however, Thomas III lost control of Linthicum

### CROFTON

Cadwallader Edwards, couldn't pay his debts and Linthicum Walks was bought by John Linthicum, Thomas III's nephew.

Ms. Callahan and Ms. Dentler are looking for volunteers to help repair the house. The roof is losing its shingles, the foundation needs restructuring and the garage needs to be rebuilt.

Once repairs are made, they would like to see it opened to local students and the Boy and Girl Scouts. The grounds contain many grave sites of Linthicum descendants.

"This is American history right here," she said. "This is our heritage. This is what it's all about. We're not going to learn anything from the future. The future hasn't happened yet."

To schedule a tour or learn more

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Mr. Linthicum and a friend, Tereasa Weyforth of Kingsville, even got to see the normally off-limits addition built in the 1840s. The heritage group rents out the two-story, two-bedroom addition to help off-set some of the costs of maintaining the property.

It had been 15 years since Mr. Linthicum toured the house where his family lived until 1885.



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His son, Thomas III, got 200 acres of the land in 1724 and may have built a house where the current building stands. By 1752, however, Thomas III lost control of Linthicum Walks when he had to sign it away to a distant relative, Edward Edwards, in a dispute over the title.

A half century later, Edwards' son,

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To schedule a tour or learn more about helping to maintain Linthicum Walks, call 410-721-5812 or 410-721-3268.

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February

Feb. 15, 2002 / 15, 2002