BA-522

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: AVONDELL

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 5025 Long Green Road

CITY, TOWN: Glen Arm — X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Edward L. Blanton, Jr. — Telephone #: (301) 592-6284

STREET & NUMBER: 5025 Long Green Road

CITY, TOWN: Glen Arm — __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21057

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 4504
Folio #: 300

STREET & NUMBER: 401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Towson

STATE: Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Baltimore Co. Historic Sites Survey BA 522

DATE: Baltimore Co. Office Planning and Zoning — __FEDERAL __STATE X COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Towson

CITY, TOWN: Towson

STATE: Maryland 21204

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

AVONDELL is a frame and log house consisting of four sections. The principal front faces north. Four early outbuildings remain immediately south of the dwelling house.

The westerly section is the earliest section, of frame, one and one-half stories in height, three bays in length, interior brick chimneys at either end of the steep gable roof. Measuring approximately 19 by 39½ feet, it corresponds to a frame one-story house 40 by 18 recorded in a 1767 inventory[1]; original remaining detailing indicates that it may indeed be the same structure. This structure has not been located in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, however. A modern bay window replaces two closely-spaced doors[2] in the central bay and 9/9 windows are in the flanking bays. A broad dormer window is above each window of the first story, each containing a "Venetian window"; the dormers are added details of the ca. 1900 Colonial Revival period. The rear or south roof was raised in recent years making the back virtually two stories in height although the original steep roofline is preserved by a single rafter bay at the original pitch at the west end.

The easterly section is of log construction, two stories in height approximately 16 by 19½ feet. It may be the second-oldest section of this house although extensive interior alterations and finishes prevent a reliable determination of age; indeed it may be contemporary with the westerly section, the log kitchen recorded in that same 1767 document[3]. Its chimney is not extant.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

See page 7-2

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
00-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

AVONDELL is a dwelling consisting of sections from various periods beginning with the late eighteenth century through the third quarter of the nineteenth century with minor additions of the Colonial Revival period following the American Centennial. Its earliest section is the single remaining wooden eighteenth century structure identified in the Long Green Valley Historic District. Four important outbuildings dating from no later than the early nineteenth century, in nearly original form, remain of the many which were required to support rural life in agricultural areas, each relating to the preservation and preparation of food.

James Gittings (1735-1823) owned Chamberlain's Meadows in 1798. His sister, John Chamberlain's widow, and her children undoubtedly had a dwelling, but it does not appear on the 1798 assessment under the name of James Gittings, nor has it been found under another name. A 1767 record[1] however describes the oldest section of the present house. Gittings specifically willed Chamberlain's Meadows to his grandson Elijah, son of Archibald, who owned the Gittings-Baldwin House (BA 265).

Francis Asbury, the founder of American Methodism, preached at "Chamberlains", presumably AVONDELL, during the lifetime of John Chamberlain.[2]

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY see page 8-2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8.15

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 James T. Wollon, Jr. A.I.A.; Elmer R. Haile, Jr.

ORGANIZATION Historic Long Green Valley, Inc. DATE Aug. 3, 1981

STREET & NUMBER c/o Julia Randall, 5539 Hillrise Road TELEPHONE (301) 592-2629

CITY OR TOWN Glen Arm STATE Maryland 21057

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

A two-story section of frame construction approximately 19½ by 19½ feet extends and links the log kitchen at the east with the tallest and principal section of the dwelling immediately east of the early west section. Dating from no later than mid-nineteenth century, original simplicity together with extensive interior alterations and refinishings prevent a reliable determination of age.

The tallest section of the house is immediately east of the earliest section and it now includes the principal entrance to the dwelling. Two bays in length, two stories in height, approximately 19½ by 29½ feet, of frame construction, it once[4] had a gable centered in its north roof slope and a porch across its front. Its many original details indicate construction of ca. 1860-1875.

Within the earliest section is a single large room, formerly two rooms. Fireplaces at either end have nearly-identical early nineteenth century mantels with reeded pilasters and the original flooring remains in use secured with wrought nails, its relieved undersides at the log joists visible in the cellar beneath.

Each of the two sections at the east end of the house contain single rooms while an entrance hall containing the principal staircase is in the westerly bay of the tallest section and a single large room is in the wide easterly bay. Most original detailing remains within the latest section of this dwelling but several earlier details remain in other sections including doors of the very early nineteenth century and one of the eighteenth century now out-of-context in a later south porch.

Continued - See page 7-3

A log out-kitchen measuring approximately 15 by 18½ feet stands south of the log kitchen attached to the dwelling. Sheathed by vertical board-and-batten it is now covered by asbestos shingles. A massive stone exterior chimney is at its south gable end and the north gable extends beyond the north end wall; it may have cantilevered at least twice as far originally, sheltering an exterior stair to the loft, a typical design for the region.

West of the out-kitchen is a stone smokehouse measuring approximately 18 by 18 feet, its pyramidal roof structured by massive hewn timbers with straight-sawn lesser members, all containing wrought iron meat hooks.

West of the smokehouse is a stone dairy house approximately 13½ by 16½ feet, entered by a depressed, latticed entry at its north end. A flight of stone steps leads down toward the north to an underground stone-vaulted cellar with interior dimensions of 8 by 12½ feet.

1 Microfilm M-1234 in the Maryland Hall of Records, from Public Records Office, London

2 Illustrated in Fisher, William H., SOME OLD HOUSES OF MARYLAND, Economy Printing Company, Inc., Easton, Maryland 21601, 1980

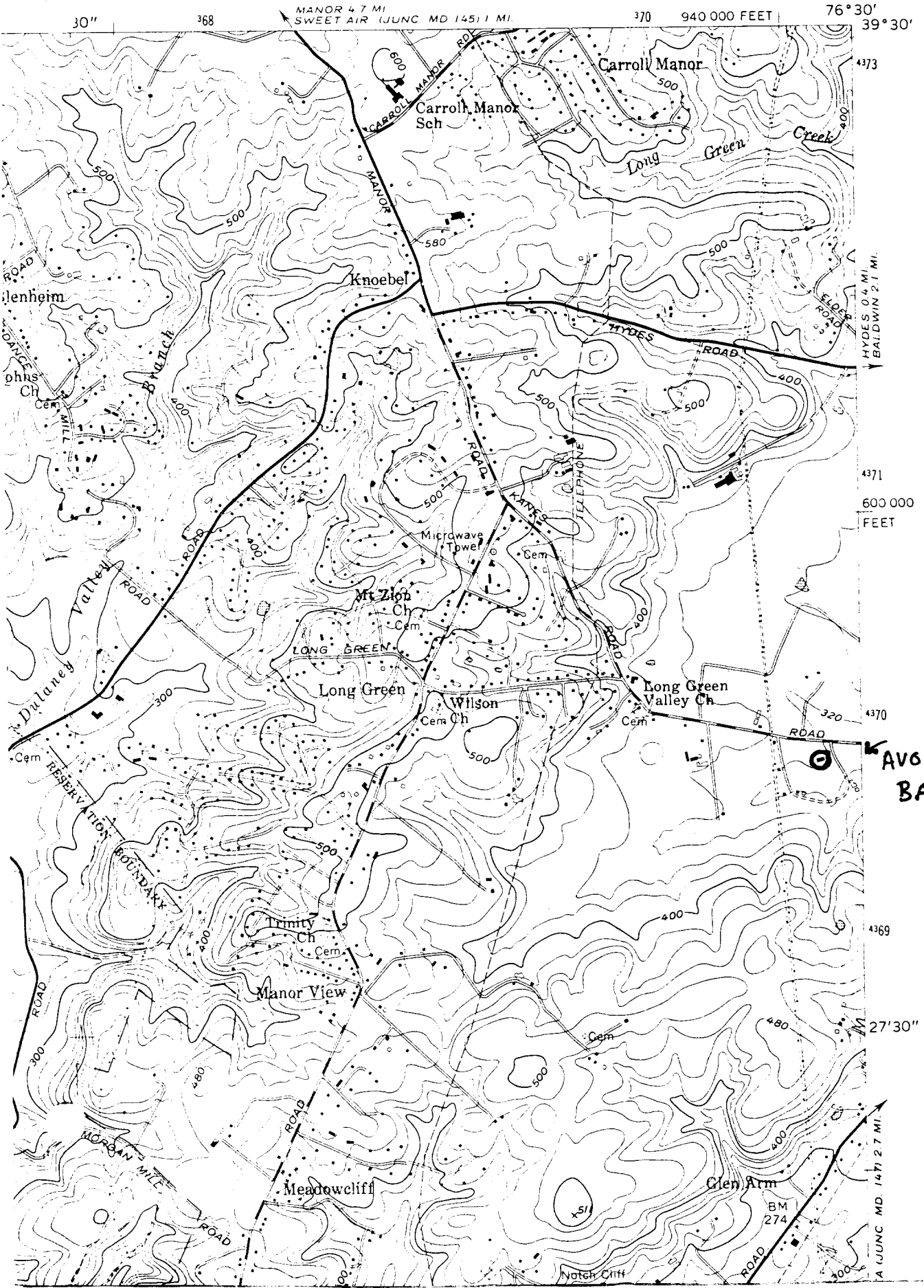
3 Microfilm op. cit.

4 Illustrated in Fisher, op. cit.

AVONDELL later became the property of a Wilson family from Pennsylvania, and is shown as such on the 1850 and 1877 maps of Baltimore County, District 11. [3]

1. Inventory M-1234, Maryland Hall of Records
2. Francis Asbury, Journal
3. This is not the same Wilson family who owned SERENDIPITY (BA 1932) and the YODER FARM (BA 1947).

BA-522

TOWSON QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

5763 III SW (JARRETTSVILLE)