

PH0261459 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUL 22 1975

DATE ENTERED

GT 10 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Avondale

AND/OR COMMON
Avondale Farm House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Maryland Route 31 at Avondale

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
2 1/2 miles west of Westminster VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Maryland 24 Carroll 013

CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The B. F. Shriver Company

STREET & NUMBER
Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN STATE
Westminster VICINITY OF Maryland

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Carroll County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Court House Square

CITY, TOWN STATE
Westminster Maryland

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Avondale stands on a low rise of ground on the south side of U.S. Route 31, about 2 1/2 miles west of Westminster, Maryland.

It is a Georgian style two and one-half story brick house, measuring approximately 45 feet long by 18 1/2 feet deep. A two story brick north-west wing measures approximately 49 feet long by 13 feet deep.

The formally arranged, Flemish bond principal facade faces southwest and has five symmetrically placed bays at the first floor level. The entrance doorway is located on a centered, two story pedimented pavillion that only slightly projects beyond the wall plane. This entrance consists of a double door and narrow flanking sidelights beneath an unusually pronounced arched fanlight. The four flanking windows of nine over nine panes sash have simple beaded surrounds and flat arches of splayed stretcher brick. On the second floor level is a Palladian window centered on the pavillion directly over the entrance door. Its four flanking windows are smaller than those below and have sash of six over six lights each. Extending across the facade between the outside ends of the sills of the two second floor end windows is a two course brick band. Within the pediment of the pavillion is a small lunette window. A single flush chimney stands at each end of the gable roof and there is a three part, dentiled wood cornice across the front and rear elevations. Although there are cornice returns on the front pediment there are none on the ends of the house. On the rear elevation of the exposed wall of the main block is two bays wide. A centered, first floor, unornamented door opens into the main hall. Extending across this elevation, between the wing and the southeast corner of the main block and flush with the second floor window sills, is a projecting two course brick band.

The northeast wing was initially a detached or semi-detached two story brick structure, three bays wide on its southeast side and one bay wide on the northwest side, which housed the summer kitchen in its single ground floor room. It has been suggested that this earliest part of the wing pre-dates the main block but similarities in structural and decorative detail indicate that the two were built at or about the same time. In about the mid nineteenth century the area between the main block and kitchen was closed by the addition of a two story, two bay extension of the kitchen. At about this same time a one-story, full width farm porch was built on the wings southeast elevation.

Although the plan of the principal facade would seem to suggest otherwise, the interior of Avondale is one of fairly simple design, more Federal in detail than Georgian. Its most outstanding feature is that of the main stair, rising in four flights to the attic and decorated with delicately turned balusters, a molded rail and

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CONTINUATION SHEET Avondale ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

scrolled stepends. In combination with the fanlighted entrance the stair hall presents a very handsome appearance. In the two rooms flanking the hall (see plan) are simple mantles with molded cornice shelves (in the northwest room a paneled closet stands adjacent to the projecting chimney), wide two piece surrounds on the windows and doors, and paneled wainscoting beneath molded chairrails. The two rooms and hall of the second floor are similarly treated. Beneath the house is a full, dirt floored cellar.

In the wing there are two rooms, both with large fireplace openings. A steep winding stair is enclosed within the recessed area adjacent to the projecting chimney of the southwest room and the fireplace opening in the original kitchen is fitted with cranes and an iron doored oven. A large iron fireback originally standing this opening was removed several years ago, but remains on the property.

Avondale has, from years of neglect, suffered extensive damage from deterioration. The graceful and noteworthy entrance door has lost 90 percent of its fan and side lights and the floor of the south-east first floor room of the main block has collapsed into the cellar. The remainder of the house appears physically sound but is in great need of general repairs before it, too, is lost.

Near the house is a pyramid roofed smokehouse and a frame wash-house, both in good repair. There are no vestiges of former gardens or other outbuildings remaining except a large nineteenth century barn near the entrance to the property. Ore pits remaining from the iron furnaces of Legh Masters are, however, evident at a distance not far from the house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Avondale is unique in Carroll County, being the only recorded example of an eighteenth century house with a formal facade that is based on elements of Georgian architecture. Although it displays Federal influences and could be perhaps considered a transitional building, the arrangement of the facade establishes it as an important landmark significant to the study of regional architectural development.

The building of Avondale is attributed to Legh Masters (d. 1796) who came to what is now Carroll County from New Hall, Lancashire, England, in the early eighteenth century. He owned several thousand acres, including the Avondale tract. Masters began the operation of an iron foundry near Avondale circa 1765, making this one of the oldest furnaces in Maryland. The furnace only operated for one or two blasts as the ore proved "unproductive and indifferent". Masters' interest in the area as a residence contradicts his mineral venture for no one would describe his monumental brick house as "indifferent". (Two other attempts at iron production were initiated at the end of the eighteenth century and before the Civil War. Neither was successful.

Although there are numerous local stories involving Avondale, most of these are of supernatural nature. No events of a significant historical nature are known to have occurred, except the operation of the furnace. Avondale is presently owned by the B. F. Shriver Company of Carroll County and the house tenanted. There is a distinct possibility that the property may soon be sold and a great deal of public concern has been voiced concerning its preservation.

