

BA-261

Avalon Iron Works, site

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 05-15-2018

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AVALON IRON WORKS - about 1761 - Site at the terminus of Gun Road and the B. & O. tracks was originally used as Dorsey's Forge about 1761. Whetcroft's slitting mill was added to the forge property in 1776. Later site of Elliott's nail works, and still later Manning and Company's Avalon Iron Works, also a nail-making operation. One stone house remains from complex largely wrecked by 1868 flood. Nearby brick buildings (c. 1910) downstream of Gun Road are plant of Baltimore County Water and Electric Company (abandoned). DNR considers water works building unsafe (October 17, 1977 - inquiry from Joe McNamara of MGS).

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Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE **Maryland**
 COUNTY **Baltimore**
 TOWN _____ VICINITY **Dist. XIII**
 STREET NO. **Gun Rd. by the B. & O.**
Railroad tracks
 ORIGINAL OWNER _____
 ORIGINAL USE _____
 PRESENT OWNER _____
 PRESENT USE _____
 WALL CONSTRUCTION _____
 NO. OF STORIES _____

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY **BA-~~262~~ 261**

2. NAME **Avalon Iron Works (Site)**
Hockley Forge
 DATE OR PERIOD **before 1857**
 STYLE _____
 ARCHITECT _____
 BUILDER _____

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

Property belonged to the Messers - Manning & Co., according to Robert Taylor's 1857 map of Baltimore. This was the Patapsco site of the Old Dorsey Forge in existence in 1795. It was also known as the Hockley Forge.

(second HABS report)
 E. Frances Offutt
 HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
 COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE **Endangered** **Interior** **Exterior**

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

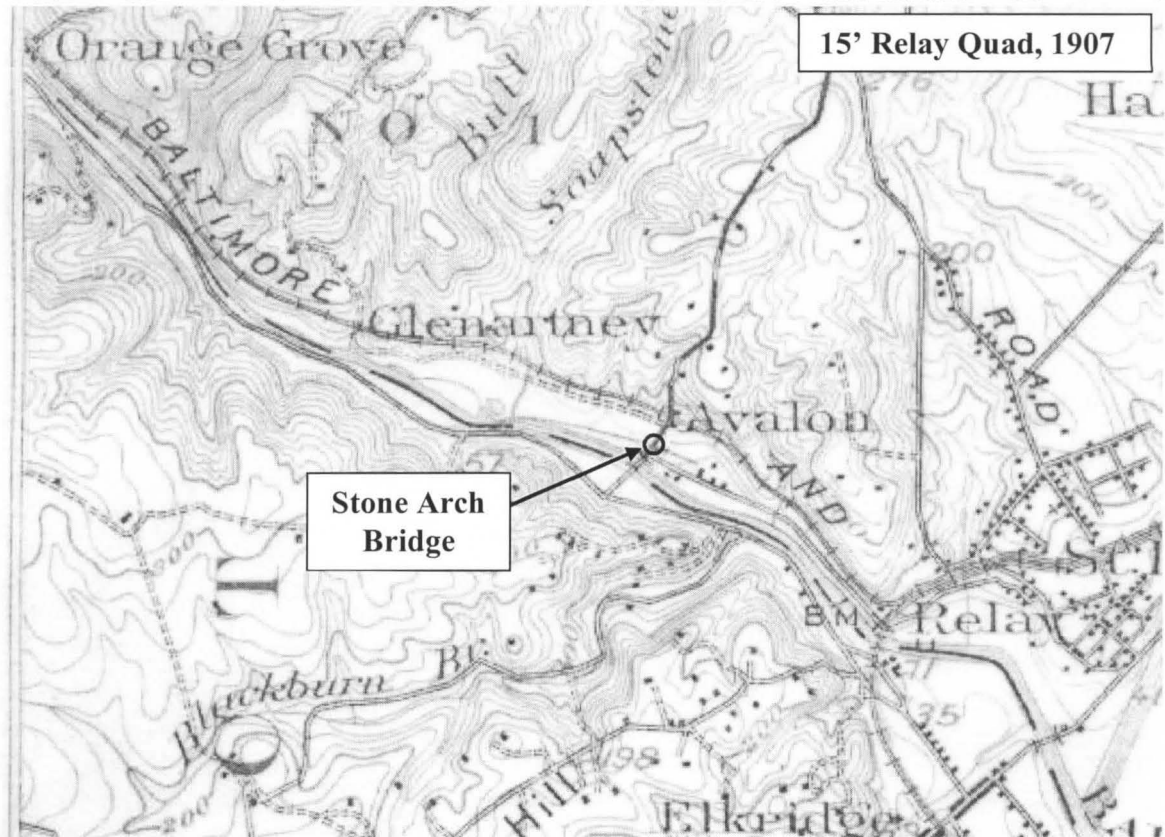
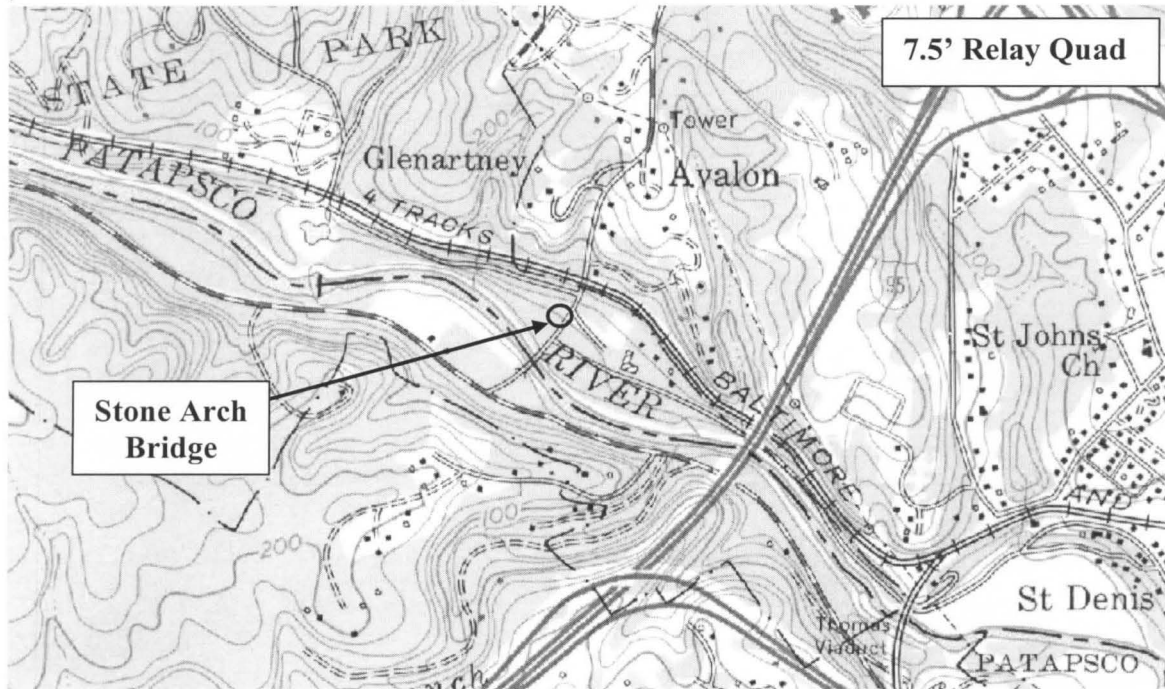
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

 DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



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Avalon Iron Works, site
(Old Gun Road Stone Arch Bridge)



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[<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/patapscohistory.html>]

Old Gun Road Stone Arch Bridge is not in use but it has since colonial times spanned the "Mill Race" supplying water power to the Dorsey Forge. George Washington reportedly laid out Gun Road to move guns for the American Revolution produced at the Dorsey Forge. Transported via Gun Road to Elkridge Landing, the guns were shipped down the River and the Bay to Annapolis for final assembly. In 1815 the Ellicott family acquired Dorsey Forge and expanded it to become the *Avalon Iron and Nail Works*. Floods in 1868 destroyed the Iron and Nail Works along with the village of Avalon.

Jennifer K. Cosham
6 May 2006



South elevation



North elevation

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Avalon Iron Works, site
(Old Gun Road Stone Arch Bridge)
Jennifer K. Cosham
6 May 2006



East elevation



Southwest elevation



East elevation