

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC OREGON FURNACE STORE

AND/OR COMMON KURTZ HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER SW intersection of Shawan Road and Beaver Dam Roads

CITY, TOWN Cockeyville  
 STATE Maryland  
 VICINITY OF 2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 3rd Councilmanic District  
 COUNTY Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                  | STATUS   | PRESENT USE   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED              | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" 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                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                              | <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                |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME Baltimore County, Department of Recreation and Parks  
 c/o Mr. Harry G. Coulter, Jr. Telephone #: 494-3495  
 STREET & NUMBER 301 Washington Avenue  
 CITY, TOWN Towson STATE, zip code Md. 21204  
 VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, COUNTY COURTS BUILDING Liber #: EHK JR. 5056  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 650  
 STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue  
 CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** BA 269  
 TITLE "Oregon Furnace Buildings"---National Register Form accompanying  
 Nomination of Western Run-Belfast H.D.

DATE September, 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS U.S. Department of the Interior

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C. 20240

# DESCRIPTION

BA-269

| CONDITION                          |  | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD      | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR      | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED               |   | DATE _____  |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

by James T. Wollon, Jr. A.I.A. (1976)

The Oregon Furnace Store (BA 269) is a complex stone, brick, and frame structure standing close to the southwest corner of Shawan and Beaver Dam Roads. Its principal facade, facing Shawan Road, is to the north. All sections are close in age, dating variously from ca. 1850 to ca. 1875.

The first part of this structure is the center section, of stone, five bays in length, two stories in height, with a rectangular single-flue brick chimney rising flush with each gable end. Although its form is traditional, its very simple Greek revival detailing and its absence of fireplaces indicates a date after the advent of closed stoves, probably in the 1850's or very early 1860's.

The one-story, shed-roofed, three-bay east wing and the two-story, shed-roofed, two-bay west wing, the latter with a flat-topped parapet across its principal (north) facade were added to the center section, a conjecture based on the absence of structural walls belonging to those two wings adjacent to the center section. The east wing was not accessible for interior inspection. A square, single-flue brick chimney rises flush with the southwest corner of the west wing.

A two-story, shed-roofed, frame wing extends south from the brick west wing. A one-story, shed-roofed addition extends south from the easterly bays of the center section; its east wall, facing the side road, extends above the roof in a stepped parapet.

One-story, hipped-roof porches extend across the entire north facade; the porch in front of the center section extends continuously in front of and around the west end of the brick west wing, its southerly bay there enclosed with frame walls as a pantry, typical of the region. The square columns with simple moulded capitals are probably original to the porches, as are the square columns with jig-sawn brackets in front of the east wing. A shed-roofed, one-story porch extends across the south facade of the center section, its columns simpler; spanning between them is a wooden railing with an oval rail and plain rectangular balusters.

An extra north front door, in the easterly bay of the center section, indicates the special purpose of this structure, probably as a store, tavern, post office and dwelling. It is of two long panels, typical of the Greek-revival style. Most original shutters remain on the 6/6 windows, each consisting of a single vertical panel, flush with the stiles and rails on the exposed side when opened. An original wrought iron bar secures the shutters closed, locked from within. Second-story windows are flanked by louvered blinds and all windows have narrow beaded frames. Brick

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

jack-arches support masonry above first-story openings; second-story openings are immediately beneath the cornice.

The east wing has its principal entrance centered in its north facade; flanking windows are wide to serve as display windows and they are protected with bi-folding paneled shutters with loose mouldings, also secured closed with an iron bar. North and east walls are of limestone, matched for color, but the south (rear) wall is of unmatched rubble.

A hall extends through the middle bay of the center section; the principal stair rises enclosed from its northeast corner and a single room is on either side of the hall in the first story. In the second story, the easterly portion is divided into two rooms and a narrow hall to the west bisects the westerly portion of the center section and the southwest room thus formed is bisected again into two small rooms. Interior trim is very plain; architraves are of two planes in the first story, one in the second, all with a beaded edge. Doors are of two tall panels in the first story and of vertical beaded boards in the second, hung on "T. CLARK" cast-iron butt hinges. Chimneys do not project beyond the face of the wall and there are no fireplaces.

In the southwest corner of the west wing is a large cooking fireplace or stove enclosure, now closed. A secondary staircase rises to the second floor between the two rooms of the west wing.

In the attic of the center section, the straight-sawn rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge.

\*

In June, 1979, the building is boarded against intruders.

#### SPRINGHOUSE (BA 269A)

To the west of the store is a square springhouse with a pyramidal roof retaining its original roof framing, brick floor, and brick water troughs around the interior; its entrance faces east.

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| REHISTORIC                                    | <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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" 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 Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In acquiring the Kurtz farm in 1969, Baltimore County came into possession of a deteriorated company town and the ore pits of the former Oregon Furnace. The tract name here is "John and Thomas' Forrest." (1) There are published statements that ore mining was under way here in the early 1830's, but the first recorded agreements between the iron operators Richard Green and Walter Farnandes are in the late 1840's. When the furnace company was reorganized, a deed made by Richard Green enumerated the company's assets, and showed that they had acquired mining privileges from John Scott, Hugh Ensor, Richard Stansbury, and Miss Charlotte Cockey Deye Owings. (2) They also purchased land from Samuel Wilderson and wife in June of 1847. (3) The Wilderson place included the seller's dwelling. The company paid \$5 per year for mining rights, plus 25 cents per ton. (4)

Farnandes was a Baltimore attorney and had been in partnership with Green since November, 1846, as co-owner of Harford Furnace. The agreement mentioned "Farnandis having no experience in the management of Iron Works" in contrast with "the skill and experience ... of Green." (5) Green had prior dealings with landowner Wilderson, lending him money via mortgage in 1838 and 1846. (6)

There was already one furnace company working in the eighth district, the Ashland Furnace, about 2.7 miles to the southeast. Ashland Furnace has apparently been dated somewhat too early in published works; although Singewald's classic study for the Maryland Geological Survey puts Ashland's beginning at 1837, the company did not begin to acquire land and water rights until the summer of 1844. Nor is Ashland listed in Alexander's 1840 report on the Maryland iron industry. (7)

Ashland had been organized in 1844, and its principals included Christopher Geiger, Philip A. and Thomas Small, members of the Patterson family, and Charles Gilmor. They had acquired some land in the present Oregon park area before the Oregon Furnace was built, a tract purchased by the Ashland partners in their own names from the widow of Abraham Price; that parcel, acquired in 1844, was part of the landgrant "Long Tract" and it adjoined "John and Thomas' Forrest." (8)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The owners of Oregon apparently never incorporated, and in 1851, Farnandes sold out to Green by bond of conveyance. While they were in the business, it is reported that the groups of miners representing the rival firms got into battles over access to the various ore beds. (9) Deeds also mention a dispute that had arisen between Miss Owings and the Oregon company, settled by an "amicable arrangement." (10)

Singewald's study dates Oregon Furnace at 1849, which seems to fit existing maps and deeds. The 1850 county map by J.C. Sidney showed Oregon Furnace and placed it on the south bank of Oregon Branch, on a line sighted S39°W from the surviving company store.

Oregon Furnace was a stone stack, probably housed in a partially open frame shed or casting house. It, like Ashland, was considerably advanced over somewhat similar stone furnaces of the colonial period such as Northampton Furnace or White Marsh Furnace. At Oregon, the air blast was furnished by a steam-driven bellows and the fuel used was anthracite coal. Oregon stood 36 feet high and measured 11 feet wide at the bosh (i.e., at the inverted cone inside the rounded arch at the base of the structure. (11) No remains were mentioned as surviving in Singewald's 1911 study; no mound can be found today. The authors of the Western Run-Belfast Road National Register district survey had a Maryland Historical Trust inventory number reserved for the furnace, if it is ever located. (12) (Site BA 969)

In February, 1852, a merger of both furnace groups was effected under the management of Richard Green. Deeds were made by all parties to unify the ownership and redistribute relative shares. (13)

The Maryland Historical Society library has 14 ledgers identified as accounts of the company store. However, the earliest volumes also contain charges for hauling limestone, coal, and pig iron, and the royalties paid to Miss Owings. A second ledger contains employment time sheets of the furnace and ore bank workmen, with the earliest entries made in April of 1851. Notations on the time sheets reveal mechanical problems, snowfalls, floods, deaths, marriages, and the date that tenants came to occupy company housing and who agreed to share the rent. The furnace started on April 3, 1851, and ran more or less continuously until May of 1857. There were usually 30 to 39 names on the time sheets, but on June 1, 1857, employment dropped to ten and there were no further references such as "Furnace Blowed Out" or "Blowed in Furnace 3 P.M." Most of the names appear to be of Irishmen. Occasionally persons are identified by first name alone among the cart drivers and may have been slaves. (14)

When the ore bank workers at Oregon refused to work unless their salaries were raised to \$1.00 per day, the county papers called this unfamiliar event a "strike," putting the word in quotation marks. (15)

The city papers reported on Tuesday, May 31, 1853:

On Sunday morning Oregon Furnace, situated near Cockeysville, was entirely destroyed by fire. The property was owned by Messrs. Patterson, Small, Green & Co., whose loss is said to be very high. (16)

The time sheet merely reported the fire as "Stock House burnt." An engineer named Henry Masyman commenced work on June 14, and two days later the furnace was again "Blowed in." BA-269

Singewald's study reported that output in 1855 set a record, some 4,419 tons. But in 1857, the company consolidated all its iron making at Ashland. (17)

The 1877 atlas showed an engine house at Oregon, presumably used for pumping out the ore pits. The time sheet had noted on September 2, 1853, "John Gill and Tho. Trout brought the Steam Pump from Galloway's Bank to Oregon Bank--Jacob T. Kurtz."

Bromley's atlas of 1915 showed the words "Ashland Furnace, Engine House" near the present swimming pool at Oregon; the pool is nothing more than an undrained ore pit.

The company store was in existence by at least the time for surveying the 1850 map by J.C. Sidney, which showed the present building as "Store Green & Company." Part of the store may have been the Wilderson dwelling --that family had to vacate the premises before January 1, 1848--but no stone dwelling was found here on the 1798 tax list; architectural analysis by James T. Wollon, Jr., suggests that the store is a mid-19th Century design. Store goods were advertised in the Baltimore County Advocate in 1850 at Rosan's store, Oregon. (18)

The time sheets record that on October 8, 1854, that "E.B. Bossler took possession of Oregon Store to day." On October 15, 1858, it was recorded, "E.B. Bossler got kicked by the Black Mare this morning." The Oregon post office was established in 1879 with James W. Rockey as postmaster. Thomas Kurtz was appointed postmaster in December of 1884 and Catherine Kurtz in October, 1895. The office was discontinued in 1902.

The store served both the local farmers and the ore bank and furnace workmen. One ledger shows the names of customers and such items as coffee and boy's hats. A few of the patrons in 1873 were:

|                 |                |                     |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Abraham Geise   | Charles Jessop | Jacob Geist         |
| Wm. J. Jeffries | Wm. Fishpaw    | John T. Riley. (19) |
| Wm. W. Matthews | Henry Long     |                     |

The 1876 Baltimore County Tax Ledger indicates that there were still twenty tenant houses on the 457-acre property. That area included a large farm that apparently was worked for the benefit of the company. (20) The time sheets record planting corn and filling of the Oregon Ice House (as well as Miss Owings' Ice House) in the 1850's.

In 1884, all mining operations ceased at Oregon due to the shutdown of Ashland Furnace; its owners told the press that they were still solvent, but iron was selling below its cost of production and the country was glutted with an iron surplus turned out by new investors in the industry. (21) Thomas Kurtz, who had been foreman since just after the Civil War--the atlas patron list gives his date of settlement as 1856--bought the entire Oregon tract and continued to operate the general store. (22) The combined store and dwelling is mentioned in Tax Ledgers of 1876, 1896, and 1918. In 1918, dimensions were given as 27 x 60 feet and 24 x 34, charged to Catherine Kurtz. (23)

One of the ore pits (Site BA 830) filled up with spring water and in runoff and was put to use as a public swimming pool that functioned in the 1930's and two or three decades after. The Kurtz family continued to live on the place and still owned it until it was sold in 1969 to Baltimore County for park purposes. (24)

Various plans have been made to develop a recreational area at Oregon. A ski slope and lift was in operation for a few years; the Oregon dinner theatre has been more enduring than the ski business. Various years have seen open air summer concerts by the Baltimore Symphony, always at the mercy of sudden storms, however romantic the advertising about Concerts Under the Stars. In 1978, there was an election question on the subject of issuing bonds to build a permanent music pavilion at Oregon; however, it was defeated by the electorate. One park plan calls for moving the store off the corner and keeping it as an "historic building."

As of June, 1979, no one was living in the former company store.

Other Structures, Not Nominated:

- . BANK BARN (Site BA 826A). There had been a large bank barn associated with the company store, but only its foundation and stone barnyard wall remain. It was described as "old" in the 1918 tax ledger.

OTHER SITES. See attached map, traced from 200-scale photogrametric maps.

Company Town:

The company town was a slight distance from the store and apparently there had been a full row of three-story dwellings on each side of a street. Nine tenant houses were listed in 1918. Some structures were photographed by Harold Sampson for a Johns Hopkins term paper in economic history in 1938-39. Sampson made a tracing of an 1864 plat owned by the Kurtz family at that time. The plat showed the houses and furnace, and indicated that the store lot was part of the tract sold by Wilderson to Green and Farnandes under deed AWB 381:273 of 1847. One of the photos showed a one-story stone blacksmith shop. In 1979, only three houses of the village survived and have long been vacant. A time-sheet entry of August 8, 1854, stated that Patrick Neale commenced keeping the Boarding House this morning." On August 12, there was the notation, "John McCue moved in the first new house next to the furnace to day."

A "fourth new house" was occupied by Martin Lavern on August 20. On March 24, 1855, there was mention that "Jno. Gunning moved into No. 13 Avenue--today." Again, "One of the new houses" was mentioned on April 1, 1856. The employees were called "mechanics" in the entry for Thanksgiving Day, 1855. "Ladies Day" on March 25 was a holliday one year. (26)

The remaining houses are fairly far apart and no longer resemble a planned community or form a cluster. In fact, the Department of Recreation and Parks would like to dispose of these buildings and re-use some of the materials. (Sites BA 826, BA 828, BA 829)

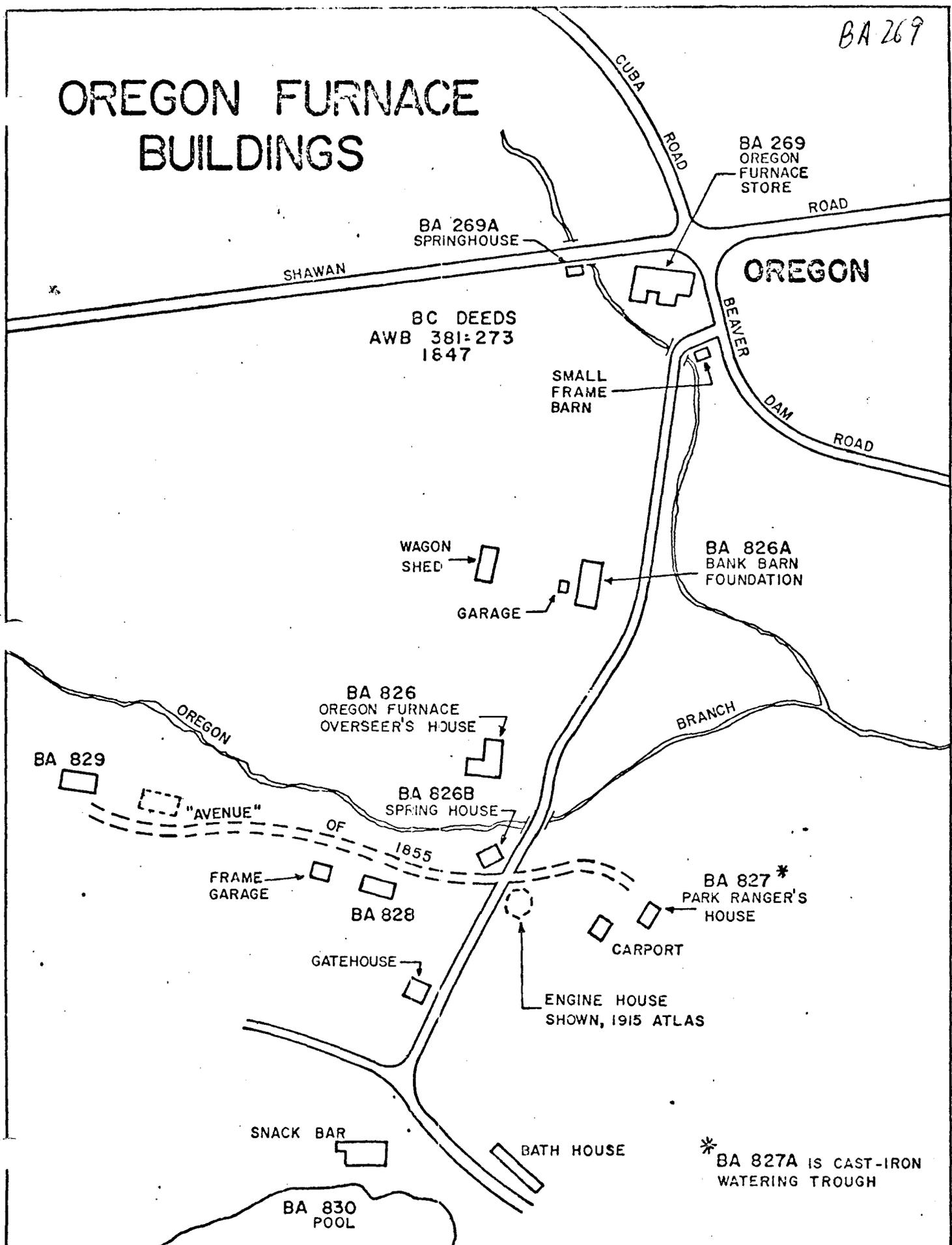
Notes:

BA-269

1. Patents EI No. 4, f. 485 (1735), Hall of Records, Annapolis.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, GHC 15:251.
3. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 381:273; AWB 393:256.
4. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 425:313.
5. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 374:68.
6. Baltimore City Deeds, TK 282:369; AWB 365:315.
7. Joseph T. Singewald, Report on the Iron Ores of Maryland (Baltimore, 1911), p. 155.
8. Baltimore City Deeds, TK 344:521. Ashland was incorporated in March, 1853.
9. Bertha B. Bland, "The Old Iron Industry at Oregon and Ashland," Federation PTA News, March-April 1938, p. 22.
10. Baltimore County Deeds, GHC 15:256.
11. Singewald, Report on Iron, p. 155.
12. Katherine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., "Oregon Furnace Buildings," National Register form, September, 1976.
13. Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 2:75ff.
14. Oregon Store Ledgers, Maryland Historical Society Library, Ms. 629 (unpaged).
15. Baltimore County Advocate, Towson, April 16, 1853.
16. Baltimore American, May 31, 1853.
17. Singewald, Report, p. 155. Oregon Ledgers, Volume 2.
18. Baltimore County Advocate, Cockeysville, December 14, 1850.
19. Oregon Ledger, Volume 1.
20. District 8 Tax Ledger, 1876, n.p.
21. Bland, "Old Iron Industry," p. 22. "Gone Out of Blast," Sun, July 23, 1884.
22. Baltimore County Deeds, LMB 193:279.
23. District 8 Tax Ledger, 1918, f. 325.
24. Baltimore County Deeds, EHK, Jr. 5056:650.
25. Harold Sampson, "A History of the Ashland Iron Company," ms., 1938-39, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Department, VF.
26. Oregon Ledgers, Volume 2, n.p.

BA 269

# OREGON FURNACE BUILDINGS



BA 269  
OREGON  
FURNACE  
STORE

BA 269A  
SPRINGHOUSE

OREGON

BC DEEDS  
AWB 381:273  
1847

SMALL  
FRAME  
BARN

BA 826A  
BANK BARN  
FOUNDATION

WAGON  
SHED

GARAGE

BA 826  
OREGON FURNACE  
OVERSEER'S HOUSE

BA 829

BA 826B  
SPRING HOUSE

OREGON

"AVENUE"

OF  
1855

FRAME  
GARAGE

BA 828

BA 827 \*  
PARK RANGER'S  
HOUSE

CARPORT

GATEHOUSE

ENGINE HOUSE  
SHOWN, 1915 ATLAS

SNACK BAR

BATH HOUSE

\* BA 827A IS CAST-IRON  
WATERING TROUGH

BA 830  
POOL

BA-269

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bertha B. Bland, "The Old Iron Industry at Oregon and Ashland," Federation PTA News (March-April, 1938), p. 22ff.

Singewald, Joseph T., Jr., Report on the Iron Ores of Maryland (Baltimore, 1911), p. 155.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 440 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The store lot is bounded by Shawan Road on the north, by a small stream on the west, by Beaver Dam Road on the East, and by the entrance road into the park on the south or southeast.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE none COUNTY none

STATE none COUNTY none

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John McGrain--quoting parts of NR form by J.T. Wollon, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Office of Planning and Zoning

June, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

401 Bosley Avenue

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

Md.

OREGON FURNACE STORE---Ledgers, found in Md. Historical Society, Ms. 629.

Inside the flylead of earliest volume: Oregon Furnace April 1, 1851  
Account of Limestone hauled  
by Thomas Love

BA-269

also "A. J. Lentz, Oregon,  
Balt. Co. Md."

Various notes read "E.E. Ashland", apparently for "Entered at Ashland."

refs to: bar lead, iron pipe ... hewn timber .... chills ....  
July 2, 1851 ... 4100 (pounds of) hearthstones

Ore hauled by Thomas Love  
November 19, 1851 ... (first such entry)

Account of Pig Iron hauled by Thomas Love & J. Merryman, Jr.  
Apr 14 1851

Coal

Cinder .... Apr. 16, 1851 .....

Hauling by Thomas C. Tracy

Scrap Iron

... hauled by Samuel Worthington .... Pat<sup>r</sup> Neal

1855, 1856 ... "Pig Iron Hauled to Ashland"

1856 Coal Hauled from Ashland by Thomas Love

May 29, 1854 Pig Iron ... recd by Evan Davis

Total Amount hauled to Ashland, this blast 2,765  
March 15 1854

1855 ... 2500 tons from Miss Cwings up to 22d Dec. 1855.

Accounts .... book skips to 1873 ... lists store customers ....

Abraham Geise

Wm. Jeffries

Wm. W. Matthews

Wm. Fishpaw

Hewry Long

Chas. Jessop

Jacob Geist

John T. Riley

Second Volume:

"Work in April 1851."

Furnace Started 3 April 1851

Furnace Stopped to Repair feed pipe . 22 April 1851

30 columns with names, most of the Irish

Second Volume

BA-269

- 7 December 1851 Furnace stopped to repair cylinder
- 28 January 1852 Blowed furnace out this morning
- November 1852 (39 employees)
- Christmas (on one seems to have worked)
- 27 January 1853 "Very cold"
- 28 January 1853 "d. Therm. 4<sup>o</sup>"
- 7 February 1853 Putting Hearth in Furnace"
- 19 April 1853 Engineer Came
- 29 May 1853 (Sun.) "Stock house burnt."
- 26 May 1853 "Blowed in Furnace at 5 A.M."
- 14 June 1853 "Henry Masgman Engineer commenced"
- 16 June 1853 "Blowed in Furnace 3 P.M."
- 2 September 1853 "Jos. Gill & Tho. Trout brought the Steam Pump  
from Galloway's Bank to Oregon Bank."  
Jacob T. Kurtz
- 2 October 1853 First snow fall  
.. ref H. Knowles, Eng.
- 5 December 1853 Broke cross head stopped 15 hours
- 23 December 1853 Blew out at 9 o'clock
- July 1854 ... broken cranks ... for Steam Chest
- 8 August 1854 Patrick Neal commenced keeping the Boarding  
House this morning.
- 12 August 1854 John McCue moved in first new house next to the  
furnace to day
- 16 August 1854 Michael Cornell took possession of second one today.
- 17 August 1854 John Whalen moved into one of the new houses  
today.
- 20 August 1854 Martin Lavern .... fourth new house today.
- 14 October 1854 Daglin Glancy killed by the large Cog wheel  
falling on him.
- 3 December 1854 Pat. Monaghan was severely injured in the Bank  
this morning by a quantity of ore and dirt falling  
on him breaking both limbs--underground 15  
minutes.

Second Volume

- 12 January 1855 Camphene Lamp burst in Bridge House tonight. BA-269
- 29 January 1855 ... ref ... Miss Owings' ice house ...  
... ref ... Oregon Ice House
- 6 February 1855 Jno. Ruff's foot washed in Raising Cinder last night
- 24 March 1855 ... ref ... Jno. Gunning moved into No. 13 Avenue -- today.
- 5 August 1855 Heaviest Flood ever known about Oregon .... fences live stock &c carried away. Branch made chan. 150 ft. wide.
- 7 S<sup>e</sup>ptember 1855 Side of Bridge House took fire from one of the Flues at 4 o'clock in the morning. Caused great excitement and considerable damage.
- Thanksgiving Day Mechanics did not work.
- 1 April 1856 Lackey Watson took possession of one of the new houses to-day.

NOTE: May 1857, the roster is 30-plus men for last time; the next month, there are 10 men. No more refs to working the furnace.

- 8 October 1854 E.B. Bossler took possession of Oregon Store to day.
- 16 October 1854 Pat Shay's baby died today.
- 30 October 1854 Put up New Wash Machine today 11 o'clock a m
- 4 March 1858 Tho. R. McCaslin married today at Cockeyville by Rev. Mr. Walters.
- 5 March 1858 McCaslin home with his wife today.
- 15 March 1858 E.B. Bossler got Kicked by the Black Mare this Morning
- 12 June 1 1858 Great flood. Western Run up within one and a half foot of county bridge. Mill dams, fences, and bridges swept away. Matthews race torn away also shed containing about thirteen hundred barrels eight hundred of which were lost.

3A-201

~~0302694516~~

0302694516

Oregon Furnace Buildings  
Southside of Shawan rd.  
west of Beaver Dam Rd.  
Cockeysville, Md.  
Not accessible  
Circa 1840-1890

The buildings which remain on this site are: a company store, overseer's house, park ranger's house, two tenant houses, a barn and a springhouse. They all are related to the rural iron industry which flourished here in the 19th century and indicate the architectural simplicity employed on company buildings. The store probably had multiple uses: as a post office, general store, office and dwelling. It is the least altered of the structures.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-269

~~0302694516~~

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY 0302694516

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oregon Furnace Buildings

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Shawan Road west of Beaver Dam Road

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Baltimore County-Dept of Recreation&Parks Telephone #: 494-3817

STREET & NUMBER

301 Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 5056

Folio #: 650

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                         |  | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                            | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED               |   |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Oregon Company Store is a complex stone, brick and frame structure standing close to the southwest corner of Shawan and Beaver Dam roads. Its principle facade, facing Shawan Road, is to the north. All sections are close in age, dating variously from ca. 1850 to ca. 1875.

The first part of this structure is the center section, of stone, five bays in length, two stories in height, with a rectangular single-flue brick chimney rising flush with each gable end. Although its form is traditional, its very simple Greek revival detailing and its absence of fireplaces indicates a date after the advent of closed stoves, probably in the 1850's or very early 1860's.

The one-story shed-roofed three bay east wing and the two-story shed-roofed two bay west wing, the latter with a flat topped parapet across its principle (north) facade were added to the center section, a conjecture based on the absence of structural walls belonging to those two wings adjacent to the center section. The east wing was not accessible for interior inspection. A square single flue brick chimney rises flush with the southwest corner of the west wing.

A two-story shed-roofed frame wing extends south from the brick west wing. A one story shed-roofed addition extends south from the easterly bays of the center section; its east wall, facing the side road, extends above the roof in a stepped parapet.

One story hipped-roof porches extend across the entire north facade; the porch in front of the center section extends continuously in front of and around the west end of the brick west wing, its southerly bay there enclosed with frame walls as a pantry, typical of the region. The square columns with simple

See Continuation Sheet # 1

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-269

| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE  | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" 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  
UnknownBUILDER/ARCHITECT  
Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On the south side of Shawan Road, west of Beaver Dam Road, are located the remains of the Oregon Furnace, ore banks, workers' houses and company store. All that is left of the once bustling iron industry here are the overseer's house with its barn and springhouse, a company house now used by the Park Ranger, two company tenant houses, and the general store.

It is not known when iron ore was first mined on this site. Richard Green and Walter Fernadis, a Baltimore lawyer, formed a partnership in 1836 to mine here. <sup>(1)</sup> They built an anthracite steam furnace 36 feet high by 11 feet wide on the property in 1849, and leased the ore banks from Charlotte Colegate Deye Owings <sup>(2)</sup> whose family had patented the property known as John and Thomas Forest in 1735. <sup>(3)</sup>

Nearby, on property acquired from Abraham H. Price's family, the Patterson, Small and Co., incorporated by Philip and Samuel Small of York, Pa., and Joseph and Edward Patterson of Baltimore, was also mining and smelting. Such sharp competition and rivalry developed between the two that a legal battle resulted and the companies were merged under the name Ashland Iron Company. <sup>(4)</sup> The parent company was located just east of Cocksylville and operated three furnaces and several mines. Although the Oregon Furnace continued to operate with Richard Green as the manager, in 1853 a fire entirely destroyed it and property loss to the company ran very high. <sup>(5)</sup> In 1856, the smelting at Oregon ceased and ore was hauled to the furnace at Ashland as a more economical measure. <sup>(6)</sup> The 1860 Products of Industry census indicates that in that year Patterson,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY See Continuation Sheet # 5

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bland, Bertha B. "The Old Iron Industry at Oregon and Ashland". Federation P.T.A. News. (March-April, 1938) pp. 22-24.

Singewald, Joseph T., Jr. "Report on the Iron Ores of Maryland". Maryland Geological Survey. Vol. IX, Part III, p. 155.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 440 A<sup>±</sup>

**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

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

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

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Description, Continued

moulded capitals are probably original to the porches, as are the square columns with jig-sawn brackets in front of the east wing. A shed-roofed one story porch extends across the south facade of the center section, its columns simpler; spanning between them is a wooden railing with an oval rail and plain rectangular balusters.

An extra north front door, in the easterly bay of the center section, indicates the special purpose of this structure, probably as a store, tavern, post office and dwelling. It is of two long panels, typical of the Greek-revival style. Most original shutters remain on the 6/6 windows, each consisting of a single vertical panel, flush with the stiles and rails on the exposed side when opened. An original wrought iron bar secures the shutters closed, locked from within. Second story windows are flanked by louvered blinds and all windows have narrow beaded frames. Brick jack arches support masonry above first story openings; second story openings are immediately beneath the cornice.

The east wing has its principle entrance centered in its north facade; flanking windows are wide to serve as display windows and they are protected with bi-folding paneled shutters with loose mouldings, also secured closed with an iron bar. North and east walls are of limestone, matched for color, but the south (rear) wall is of unmatched rubble.

A hall extends through the middle bay of the center section; the principle stair rises enclosed from its northeast corner and a single room is on either side of the hall in the first story. In the second story the easterly portion is divided into two rooms and a narrow hall to the west wing bisects the westerly portion of the center section and the southwest room thus formed is bisected again into two small rooms. Interior trim is very plain; architraves are of two planes in

See Continuation Sheet # 2

## Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 Description, Continued

the first story, one in the second, all with a beaded edge. Doors are of two tall panels in the first story and of vertical beaded boards in the second, hung on T. CLARK cast iron butt hinges. Chimneys do not project beyond the face of the wall and there are no fireplaces.

In the southwest corner of the west wing is a large cooking fireplace or stove enclosure, now closed. A secondary staircase rises to the second floor between the two rooms of the west wing.

In the attic of the center section, the straight sawn rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge.

To the west is a square springhouse with a pyramidal roof retaining its original roof framing, brick floor and brick water troughs around the interior; its entrance faces and principle structure through its east wall.

To the southeast is a one and one-half story framed out-building, probably a carriage house and grainery combination; its exterior walls are covered with German siding. Its interior was not accessible for inspection.

The Overseer's House is a two story frame house, five bays in length, facing east. Of traditional form, its principle entrance, a door with two long panels, is centered in the first story of its east facade and windows are or were 6/6 set in narrow beaded frames. Most sash is missing. Exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles over plain weatherboarding. Single flue brick chimneys rise internally at each gable end. Extending west behind its south end is a one and one-half story kitchen wing, its shed roof perpendicular to the main house. A brick chimney rises internally centered on the west end. Internally, a central hall extends through the house with a straight, enclosed stair to the second and attic floors; a secondary stair rises to the second floor from the southwest room. Flanking the hall in both stories

## Continuation Sheet #3

Question #7 Description, Continued

are two rooms on either side. Interior finishes are extremely plain, limited to plain beaded architraves around doors and windows and in the two east front rooms, a mantel (probably surrounding a stove) consisting of plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze and shelf. Most of the walls and woodwork retain their nineteenth century paint, the former being pastel tinted washes over plaster, the latter a strong dark brown.

Structural members are of straight sawn, dimensional material; lathing is circular sawn. In the unfinished attic, the rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge with collar beams dovetailed and nailed in place.

To the north are the stone walls of a former barnyard and Barn, the wooden superstructure of which is missing. In a dense undergrowth near the northeast corner of these walls is an iron trough, one of two on the property, the other of which is described below.

Southeast of the house is a stone Springhouse; its north gable is cantilevered over its north wall to shelter the entry; other walls have small louvered openings.

Southeast of the springhouse, across Oregon Branch, is the Park Ranger's House, formerly a company house. It is a two story frame house on a high stone foundation built into the hillside, making its west or principle front virtually three stories in height. Its 6/6 windows in the first frame story are arranged as though the house were of two long bays in length; the upper story is void of windows on this facade. A modern chimney rises externally at either end of this much altered house. Exterior walls are covered with wooden shingles.

Northwest of the Park Ranger's House is another iron trough standing up against a tree. It is of plain iron plates forged into a large watering trough for the draught animals once used on this industrial site.

See Continuation Sheet # 4

## Continuation Sheet #4

Question #7 Description, Continued

The two Company Houses are virtually identical and they are situated along an old road extending to the west parallel to Oregon Branch. Each is two stories in height, of frame construction, on a stone foundation or ground story set into the hillside making their north facades three full stories in height. Upper story windows are small, probably 3/3 originally while windows below were probably 6/6; all sash are missing. Frames are of narrow beaded material. Entrances are in each end bay of the south facade and each house has two rooms on each floor with a chimney extending through the middle partition offering fireplaces to both rooms in the ground and first stories. Possibly the houses were planned as duplex dwellings, a typical form for early and mid-nineteenth century company housing, but doorways have been cut between the rooms in each story. Interior detailing is very plain; walls and ceilings are plastered on circular sawn lathe; lower floor joists are of hewn logs; upper floor, walls and roofs are framed with straight sawn dimensional material. Enclosed staircases rise immediately inside the exterior entrances, enclosed within vertical beaded board partitions. Original doors, of which a few remain, are of vertical beaded boards, hung on cast iron butt hinges with wrought iron Suffolk latches.

A majestic sycamore stands close to the east end of the westerly of these structures.

South of the Company Houses is a large water filled Quarry, the original Oregon ore banks, now used as a swimming pool.

West of the Quarry is a bank, now overgrown in a young woods, with several small holes penetrating it. It is said to have contained the entrance to the principle mine, now filled to prevent human entry.

## Continuation Sheet #5

Question #8 Significance, Continued

Small, and Co. employed 45 workers who mined 11,825 tons of iron ore, 8100 tons of coal and 4300 tons of limestone.

A company store and post office was built in the mid-nineteenth century. It supplied both the local farmers and the workmen. Some of the ledgers are still in existence and show the names of the patrons and the lists of items sold. The 1876 Baltimore County Tax Assessment indicates that there were twenty tenant houses on the 127 acre property. This acreage was in addition to a large farm which adjoined it and apparently furnished the needs of the tenants.

In 1884, all operations ceased at Oregon. (7) Thomas Kurtz, who was by then the manager, bought the entire 455 acres. (8) He continued to operate the farm and the company store. The ore pit, filled with spring water, became a swimming pool which was opened to the public in the 1930's. The Kurtz family lived on the property for a number of years, finally selling the land to Baltimore County in 1969 to be made into a park. (9) Several attempts have been made to create a public recreation area with a ski slope and a dinner theater. The only successful venture has been the dinner theater, although the Department of Recreation and Parks has several new projects under consideration

- (1) Federation P.T.A.. News, p. 22.
- (2) Md. Geological Survey, p. 155.
- (3) Patent Book EI #4 folio 485.
- (4) Jeffersonian, August 20, 1932.
- (5) American, May 31, 1853.
- (6) Federation P.T.A.. News, P.22.
- (7) Ibid.
- (8) Baltimore County Deed Liber 193 folio 279.
- (9) Baltimore County Deed Liber 5056 folio 650.

Continuation Sheet #6

Question #9 Bibliography, Continued

Patent for John and Thomas Forest: Patent Book EI #4 folio 485. Hall of Records,  
Annapolis, Md.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Old Ore Bank At Oregon Where Iron Miners Labored, Now Popular Swimming  
Pool". Jeffersonian, August 20, 1932. At Baltimore County Historical Society.  
American, May 31, 1853. At Baltimore County Historical Society.



BA-269 OREGON FURNACE BUILDINGS

James T. Wollon, Jr. 9/1976





BA-269 OREGON FURNACE BUILDINGS

James T. Wollen, Jr. 9/1976

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BA - 269 OREGON FURNACE BUILDINGS

James T. Wollm, Jr.

9/1976

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JTW', written over the date.



BA-269

OREGON FURNACE BUILDINGS

James T. Wollan, Jr. 9/1976

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely reading "James T. Wollan, Jr.", is written on the right side of the page. The signature is composed of several sweeping, connected strokes.