

AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House  
Zihlman  
Private

Mid to late 19th century

Davisson Armstrong is located on the northern side of Route 36 near the village of Borden Mines. The "L" shaped house consists of a two and one-half story main block which is two bays wide on the facade (southeastern elevation), and two bays deep. Abutting the northeastern elevation of the main block is a two story wing which is one bay wide and one bay deep.

The Davisson Armstrong House was constructed early in the second half of the 19th century by the Borden Mining Company to house the company's mine agent, Davisson Armstrong.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #0111695502  
ML

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Davisson Armstrong House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 36, west side, approx. 1 1/4 mile north of Frostburg

CITY, TOWN

Zihlman

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James Day

Telephone #: (301) 689-2602

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 2, Box 293

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21502

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Davisson Armstrong House is located on the northern side of Route 36 near the village of Borden Mines. The "L" shaped house consists of a two and one-half story main block which is two bay wide on the facade (southeastern elevation), and two bays deep. Abutting the northeastern elevation of the main block is a two story wing which is one bay wide and one bay deep. Additions to the building include a two story shed roofed addition abutting the northeastern elevation of the main block of the dwelling and a one story gable roofed addition abutting the northwestern elevation of the two story wing.

Wall construction of the house is frame. The walls are covered with asbestos shingles. The building rests on a high random ashlar stone foundation with raised joints. The gabled roofs of the original portions of the building are covered with tin with a standing seam. Eaves consist of a boxed cornice, sloped soffit, bed mold and a frieze.

A porch on the facade has a hipped roof supported by narrow wooden posts with decorated caps which are arranged in an arcade. A porch on the northwestern elevation has a flat roof supported by decoratively grooved wooden posts. Jigsawn gingerbread is attached to the top of the posts. All windows of the original portions of the house, with the exception of round-headed attic windows, are 2/2 sash, surmounted by decorative cornices with scrolled brackets. All original first floor windows are arranged in projecting oriel bays. Second story windows on the flanks of the original portions of the building are located in gabled dormers which project above and through the eaves. Two entrances on the facade have two light transoms and are surmounted by decorative cornices with scrolled brackets. The entrance on the northeastern end of the facade has a door of three panels and original hardware. The entrance on the southwestern end of the facade has french doors of two lights each with an original latch on the interior. Two brick chimneys are located on the interior of the building near the northwestern elevation.

A small board and batten barn with a gabled roof and a gabled ventilator is to the north of the house. A frame outbuilding covered with german siding to the northeast of the house has a gabled roof.

The interior of the house was originally arranged wiht a foyer leading to a hallway which was slightly offset to the northeast of the center of the house. Two rooms were located on the southwestern side of the hallway and one to the northeast. The hallway has been enclosed and a new entrance has been opened from the foyer into the dining room on the northeast. The wall which separated the two rooms on the southwest has been removed to create one large living room.

(continued on separate sheet)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Mid to late 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Davisson Armstrong House was constructed early in the second half of the 19th century by the Borden Mining Company to house the company's mine agent. It stands on a part of a tract known as "Clifton" which was the property of the company from 1847 to 1867 when it was sold to George A. Thomas. (424/435) The house is identified as the home of the Borden Mining Company's agent, Davisson Armstrong, in a deed by which the company conveyed the neighboring superintendent's house to a private individual in 1922. (140/137)

Davisson Armstrong was a prominent Frostburg businessman and a Republican politician at the county level. As was previously stated, he was agent for the Borden Mining Company beginning in 1883 and continued in this position into the 1920's. In 1883 he organized and was first president of the Citizen's National Bank of Frostburg. In 1902 he was an organizer and first president of the Big Savage Fire Brick Company at Frostburg. (Thomas and Williams p. 705) Armstrong was elected to two consecutive two-year terms as an Allegany County Commissioner from 1896 to 1899. During his second term he served as President of the commissioners.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records, Liber 424, Folio 435 and Liber 140 Folio 137.

Thomas and Williams. History of Allegany County, Vol. II, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1969, originally published in 1923.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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  
David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION DATE  
Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines September 1981

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE  
Shaw House, 21 State Circle (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN STATE  
Annapolis Maryland 21401

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

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Davisson Armstrong House

(#7 - Description - Continued)

Interior walls of the house are plastered. A wooden baseboard is of a medium height. Interior surrounds are cornices which are slightly pedimented. Jambs of the windows and doors are molded. The first floor ceiling is approximately eleven feet high.

A one flight stairway with a turn to the left is located on the northeastern wall of the foyer. It has an open well and an enclosed paneled string. Paneled wainscoting (which is 2'5" tall) in the foyer is continued up the stairway. The rail of the stairway is plain and the balusters are turned. The newell post is octagonal. All components of the stairway are reportedly built with cherry wood.

has been a student all his life, as well as a doer, and the fact that he has devoted much time and thought to the pursuit of knowledge accounts in part for his wonderful success. Senator Wellington has for forty years been one of the leading factors in the improvement and development of Maryland, and is devoted to its interests and proud of its history. He is grateful to the people of his native State for the confidence placed in him, and the honors accorded him, and proud that to him was accorded the privilege of serving them in so many capacities. Although now practically retired from politics, his advice is constantly sought and acted upon, and unless he is in favor of a measure the party leaders are loath to promulgate it, for they appreciate his foresight, and rely upon his knowledge of men and his long experience in public life.

DAVISON ARMSTRONG was reared in Allegany county, and acquired his early education in the common schools. While yet a boy he learned surveying from his father, and subsequently he was engaged for six years as clerk to the county commissioners. In 1883 he became agent for the Bordon Mining Company at Frostburg, which responsibility he has since sustained, although he has carried other large interests as well for many years past. In 1893 he was one of the organizers of the Citizens National Bank of Frostburg, and has served as president from the beginning, this financial institution having meantime become one of the most trusted in Western Maryland, largely because of the high character of its officials. The capital stock is \$50,000; the deposits are \$1,250,000, and the surplus is \$100,000. The first board of directors, in addition to Mr. Armstrong, was composed of the following gentlemen: Thomas H. Humbertson, vice-president; A. J. Wilson, H.

B. Shaffer, Henry Williams, Howard Hitchins, H. B. Colburn, W. A. Hitchins, and Frank Watts, cashier. There have been but few changes since then. Mr. Humbertson served as vice-president until his death in February, 1919, in his one hundredth year. Mr. Shaffer was succeeded upon his death by G. H. Wittig, and when the latter resigned he was succeeded by J. S. Brophy. A. J. Willison was succeeded by his son Lawrence D. Willison. No one was chosen to succeed the late Henry Williams, W. A. Hitchins died about 1920, and was succeeded by his brother E. G. Hitchins. For nineteen years the bank did business in the Stanton Opera House Building, but in 1912 moved into its new home at Broadway and Union streets. The site was purchased in July, 1910, from Hitchins, Watts & Hitchins, and a modern two-story fireproof banking building was erected, which is one of the most beautiful and imposing in the State, outside of Baltimore. It is of Ohio sandstone, with concrete floors and roof, and has fireproof and burglarproof vaults. The main banking room occupies the greater portion of the first floor, being 26 by 65 feet in dimensions, with the president's and directors' rooms at the rear; the second floor is fitted up for office rooms. The furnishings are luxurious and altogether in keeping with the traditions of this substantial institution.

Mr. Armstrong's other main interest is the Big Savage Fire Brick Company, of which he has been president ever since its organization in 1902. The company's plant at Frostburg is the largest brick manufacturing plant of that locality, and is one of the most extensive in Western Maryland, and as modern and complete as may be found anywhere. The company began the erection of this plant immediately upon its organization, and had its activities so well ordered that within a few years it had attained a prominent place in the commercial world, its patron-

age coming from every part of the western hemisphere. Perfection of product and service has been the aim of the operators from the outset, and the reputation they now enjoy in both respects show that they have kept their ideals alive. Mr. Armstrong and his associates are not only good business men in the general meaning of the term, but also thoroughly versed in every branch of brick and tile manufacture and the marketing of such products, and Big Savage Fire Brick is now favorably known and used in almost every State of the Union and Canada. The product is adaptable for use in all kinds of furnaces, or wherever heat is generated. Its rapid rise in popularity is a recognition of conscientious production as well as enterprising selling methods. Mr. Armstrong's fellow officials in this company are: Davison A. Benson, vice-president, treasurer and general manager; Miss Era Clark, secretary; Lawrence D. Willison, F. A. Buckholtz, Fred. Wehner and J. R. Atkinson, associate directors.

In public spirit and loyalty to the interests of his home community, Mr. Armstrong has been among its most prominent citizens for nearly half a century, and although not directly interested in public affairs, has always supported the men and measures which he considered most desirable, using his strong influence judiciously. He is a Republican on political questions. An active member and liberal supporter of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Frostburg for more than fifty years, he is one of its pillars.

In 1882 Mr. Armstrong was married to Miss Isabella M. Staples, of Frostburg, a daughter of William and Patience Staples, and a member of an old family of English origin which settled in Maine.

JUDGE ALBERT A. DOUB. — High on the roster of Allegany county's most distinguished citizens appears the name

of Albert A. Doub, for years one of the most brilliant and astute attorneys practicing at the Cumberland bar, an orator whose talents have gained for him statewide reputation, and a man who is universally respected. He built up a large and lucrative law practice and was concerned with much of the more serious litigation in the State and Federal Courts of Maryland. As a lawyer, man of affairs, and as a public-spirited and progressive citizen, he is ably upholding the prestige of a family name that has been worthily linked with the history of Maryland for fully two centuries, and has been of special prominence in the history of the western portion of this commonwealth from the Colonial era to the present time.

The professional ability and pre-eminence of Judge Doub were significantly manifested when, in 1915, he was made the Republican candidate for the office of Attorney-General of Maryland, and although he made a vigorous campaign, he was unsuccessful in overcoming the large normal Democratic majority, and met defeat along with the candidates for Governor and Comptroller.

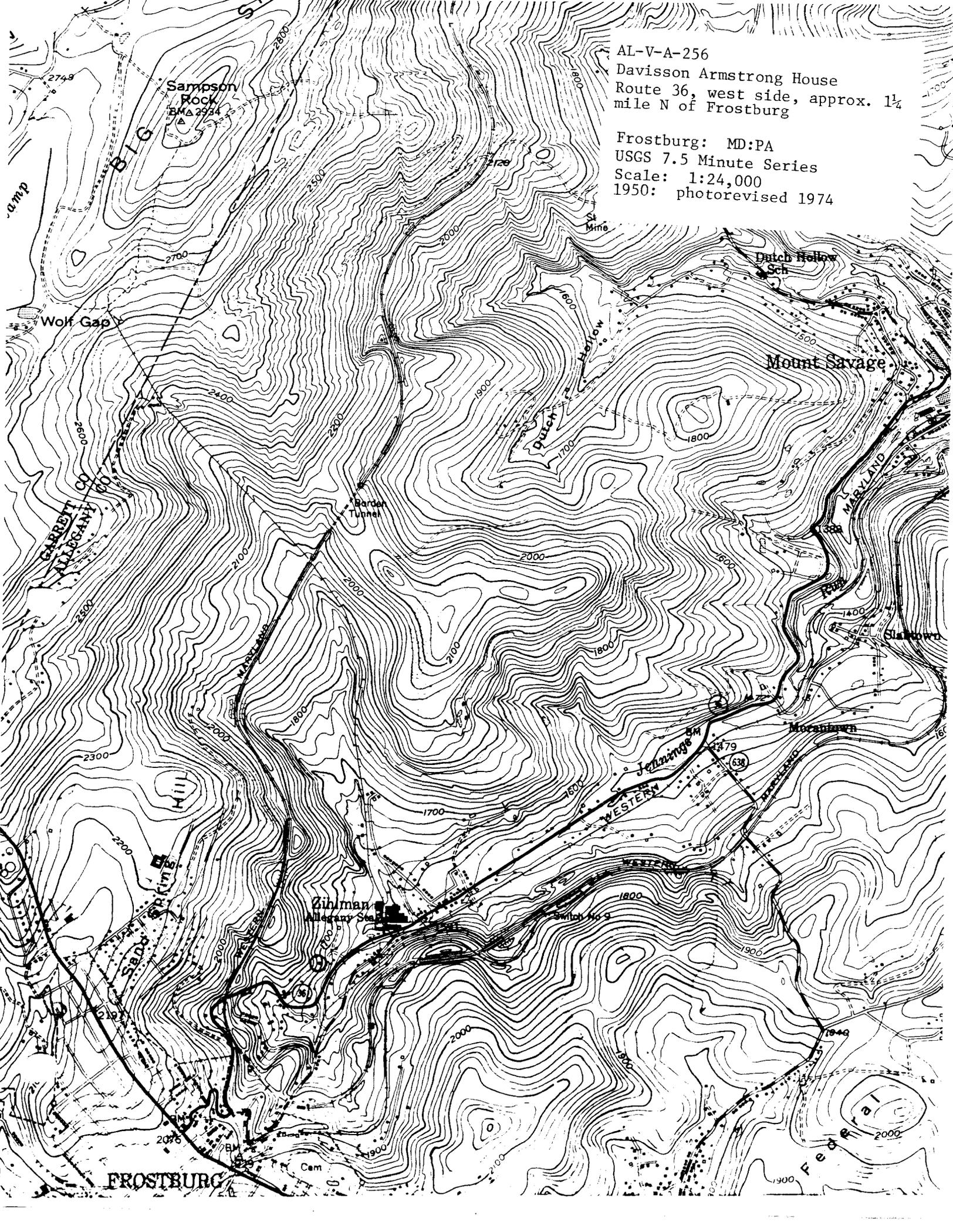
The lineage of the Doub family is traced back to the French Huguenots, when its ancestors were forced to leave France, their native land, to escape the religious persecution incidental to the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and sought refuge in Germany. The name is still preserved in the "Doub" Department, "Doub" River and "Doub" Mountains in eastern France. It was from their refuge in Germany that the original progenitor of the American family came; settlement was made along the Delaware River, and the members of this sterling old family later established themselves in Cecil county, Maryland.

Jacob Doub, great-grandfather of Albert A. Doub, settled in Frederick county, Maryland, in the decade between 1720 and 1730, and he lies buried in the ancient

AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House  
Route 36, west side, approx. 1 1/4  
mile N of Frostburg

Frostburg: MD:PA  
USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
Scale: 1:24,000  
1950: photorevised 1974





AL-V-A-256  
Davisson Armstrong House  
Allegany Co. 8/81  
David A. Dorsey  
NE elevation



6

AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House

Allegheny Co. 8/81

David A. Dorsey SW elevation

1904



AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House

Allegany Co. 8/81

David A. Dorsey

NW elevation

8



AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House

Allegany Co. 8/81

David A. Dorsey

Interior: surround

5



AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House  
Allegany Co. 8/81  
David A. Dorsey  
Barn, S.W. elevation

9



AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House

Allegheny Co. 8/81

David A. Dorsey

Interior: Alcove



1)

AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House

Allegany Co. 8/81

David A. Dorsey

Interior: Stairway



AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House

Allegany Co. 8/81

David A. Dorsey

Detail: SW elevation



AL-V-A-256

Davisson Armstrong House

Allegany Co. 8/81

David A. Dorsey

Detail: SE elevation