

AL-V-A-063
Sam Blank Stone House
Blank Road, Bald Knob
ca. 1817

In 1817 a farmer named Fredrick Rigert constructed what is now known as the Samuel Blank House. The house is a two story, five bay wide stone structure with a date stone located in the southwest gable end. The stone has the initials "I.F." and "F.R." and the year 1817 carved on it. Unfortunately, the house is in poor condition; however, many fine details are still visible including a delicate dentilated entablature.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rigert Stone House

and/or common Sam Blank Stone House

2. Location

street & number Blank Road ___ not for publication

city, town Mt. Savage vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Allegany

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ruth Geary

street & number R.R. 1 Box 99 telephone no.: 264-4722

city, town Mt. Savage Maryland state and zip code 21545

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse liber #: 451

street & number 30 Washington Street folio

city, town Cumberland state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AL-V-A-063

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Rigert Stone House is located 50' northwest of Sam Blank Road, a few hundred yards south of the Pennsylvania state line. The house faces southeast overlooking rolling wooded mountains to the south towards Mt. Savage. A stone and timber-frame bank barn stands to the southwest of the house.

The two story, five-bay by two-bay farmhouse is constructed of carefully laid random rubble sandstone masonry with distinct quoins at the corners. Flat arch lintels feature prominent keystones. A datestone at the top of the southwest gable end bears the inscriptions "I.F.", "F.R.", and "1817."

An asphalt-clad gable roof covers the house, which is heated by an interior brick chimney at either end. The northern chimney has been demolished down to the roofline.

A hip roof porch with turned posts and balusters and corner brackets stretches across the front facade.

Central entrances appear on the front and rear facade; the windows are fitted with 2/2 sash. Two tiny (1' 3" square) single-pane windows (complete with keystone lintels) light either end of the attic. Ovolo moldings trim the architraves. The windows rest on large protruding sills. A finely molded dentil cornice trims the eaves line.

As the land slopes downhill to the southeast, the stone cellar is exposed on the facade. A door and window open into the cellar under the porch, and a small two-paned window and a coal chute appear at the southwest end.

The main entrance is distinguished by paneled jambs and a four-light transom. Each of these panes features a curved top. The door, which appears to date from the turn of this century, includes a large window.

The rear of the house exhibits three bays. A series of put-log holes between the two floor levels may once have accommodated a porch. A one-story, two-room frame kitchen once covered the two western bays, as indicated by the gable roof outline visible on the stone wall. In the westernmost bay, the window has been shortened. The central door has been blocked. A door occupies the remaining bay. It is covered by a small porch of recent construction.

The floor plan consists of a central stair hall with two rooms to either side. The front parlors are larger, and include the fireplaces. The southern parlor retains its fireplace mantel and chair rail, which both display cavetto/astragal trim. The windows feature paneled jambs and ovolo trim. A small cupboard is set into either side of the chimney block in both parlors. The partition between the south parlor and the rear room has been removed.

The original stair was replaced by Sam Blank early in this century. The new stair has a square oak newel post and square balusters. Corner block architrave trim believed to date to the same period as the stairs appears in the hall and the north parlor.

The second floor plan matches the first floor. All of the partitions are constructed

of wide, beaded, tongue-and-groove boards. Several six-panel doors with raised molded panels survive on this floor.

An apparently original boxed stair, situated above the main stair, leads to the attic. A batten door opens onto the stair. In both the attic and the cellar large summer beams are visible. The half-pole common rafters are mortised, tenoned and pegged at the apex and bear builders' sequential Roman numerals. These rafters are braced with re-used chamfered porch posts. The interior surfaces of the chimneys and the stone gables are plastered with a crude mud and straw mixture. Flooring nails exhibit a double-struck head.

Mrs. Geary, owner of the house, reports that until she covered the ceiling joists on the first and second floors, they were exposed and unwhitewashed.

A cellar stair is located under the main stairway. In this area the wall construction of the north parlor is visible. Heavy posts measuring 4" by 8", set with the narrow dimension forming the depth of the wall, are located about five feet apart. Riven lathing measuring approximately 3/4" thick by 1½-3" wide is spring into a groove in either side of each post. The lath is covered with a mud and straw mixture, and a thin plaster "white coat." It is presumed that the posts were boxed and beaded. Such a treatment appears midway along the interior wall of the south parlor.

Root Cellar: A shed roofed semi-subterranean stone root cellar adjoins the northeast end of the front porch of the house. The most interesting feature of this cellar is a trough in which dairy products were cooled with well water.

Barn: A timber frame bank barn on a well-laid stone foundation to the southwest of the house adjoins the stone wall of a second barn. Several ventilation slits and two small windows pierce the random rubble stonework of the ruin.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sam Blank Stone House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Blank Road

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Savage

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Alleghany

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ruth Geary

Telephone #: 264-4722

STREET & NUMBER

R.R. 1 Box 99

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Savage

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland, 21545

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Alleghany County Courthouse

Liber #: 451

Folio #: 628

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-V-A063

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Sam Blank Stone House is located on the Blank Road near its intersection with Bald Knob on Bald Knob mountain near Mt. Savage, Allegany County.

The Sam Blank House is a two story, five bay wide rectangular structure that is constructed of stone laid in a combination of coursed and squared rubble bonding. The walls are plain with the exception of quoins and a date stone which is located in the southwest gable end. The building rests on a low stone foundation. The roof is gabled and has been covered with replaced asphalt shingles. The building has a boxed cornice and returns and a fine dentilated entablature. Windows in the structure are double hung, pegged, wooden sashes with two-over-two lights. All windows have flat structural arches with keystones. Small square windows are located in the gable ends. The main entrance is located on the southeast facade and features a vertically paneled door with a narrow transom light. A five bay hipped-roofed end porch is also located on the southeast facade. It is supported by brackets, turned posts and a ballustrade. Two replaced brick end chimneys are located at the gable ends of the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AL-V-A-063

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 1817 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fredrick Rigert

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land in and around the Mount Savage area was originally owned by Andrew Bruce, the first circuit court judge in Cumberland. Bruce owned a plot of land known as "Mt. Pleasant" which included six military lots and comprised 1,191 acres.¹ During the first decade of the 19th century the population west of Cumberland began to grow, Bruce sold much of his original holdings.

In 1817 Fredrick Rigert constructed what is now known as the Samuel Blank Stone House on land which had originally belonged both to Bruce and to the Arnold family, one of the original families in Mt. Savage.² The house is a two story, five bay wide stone structure with a date stone located in the southwest gable end. The stone has the initials "I.F." and "F.R. (undoubtedly for Fredrick Rigert) and the year 1817 carved on it.

-
1. William Hunt. "Cumberland Evening Times" (Cumberland, Maryland October 22, 1956)
 2. Allegany County Land Records.

AL-V-A-003

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records Cumberland, Maryland 21502
Hunt, William. "Cumberland Evening Times" Cumberland, Maryland
October 22, 1956.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 127.53

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

John Nelson and Joan Baldwin

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

5/16/77

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-9967

CITY OR TOWN

La Vale

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

AL-V-A-063

TITLE SEARCH

Sam Blank Stone House
Blank Road, Bald Knob
AL-V-A-063

Allegany County Deed: Liber 451, Folio 628
Grantee: Charles Lewis Geary Date: Feb. 28, 1972
Grantor: Ruth Geary, widow

Allegany County Deed: Liber 220, Folio 234
Grantee: Wilbur C. Geary and Ruth N. Geary Date: April 30, 1948
Grantor: Ruth A. Robison et al

Allegany County Deed: Liber 203, Folio 426
Grantee: Ruth A. Robison and Victor A. Robison Date: Jan. 2, 1945
Grantor: Blair V. Welsh and wife

Allegany County Deed: Liber 201, Folio 527
Grantee: Blair V. Welsh Date: Sept. 27, 1944
Grantor: Henry Mullaney Consideration: \$4,600

Allegany County Deed: Liber 201, Folio 526
Grantee: Henry Mullaney Date: Aug. 21, 1944
Grantor: Herbert H. Griffith, Tax Collector

Allegany County Deed: Liber 81, Folio 362
Grantee: Lewis A. Blank and Mary E. Blank Date: June 12, 1897
Grantor: Samuel W. Blank and Laura B. Blank Consideration: \$1,550

Allegany County Deed: Liber 64, Folio 472
Grantee: Samuel W. Blank Date: April 3, 1886
Grantor: Elias F. Bittner et al, heirs of Samuel Wilhelm Consideration: \$4,900

Allegany County Deed: Liber o, Folio 28
Grantee: Samuel Wilhelm Date: Feb. 1, 1828
Grantor: Fredrick Rigert et ux Consideration: \$1,400
Notes: Lot # 3367 and 3368 and 4074 - from Arnold

INVENTORY NO: AL-V-A-063

DATE: 5/16/77

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

451/628

127.53 Acres

NAME OF PROPERTY: Sam Blank Stone House

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Blank Road, Bald Knob

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: Southeast

NAME OF OWNER: Ruth Geary (1948) 264-4722

ADDRESS: R.R. # 1 Box 99

Mt. Savage, Maryland 21545

STORIES: 1() 2(X) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5(X) 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Spring House

32'x22'

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- () BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- (X) STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- () LOG
- () OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others Quoins

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2(X) 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged(X) nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Southeast
HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) Boxed Cornice
original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced(X)

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(X) hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick(X) Stone() Corbeled(X) original(X) replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end(X) Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: Residence
SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1817
CONDITION: Poor

I N T E R I O R

FLOOR PLAN:

- () CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side
- () SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- () IRREGULAR

STAIRWAYS:

- () ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- () OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- () DOG-LEG
- () DOG-LEG with WINDERS
- () SPIRAL
- () ROUNDED
- () SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- () PLASTER
- () PANELED: original; replaced
- () BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER _____
LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal
MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush
HARDWARE: original; replaced

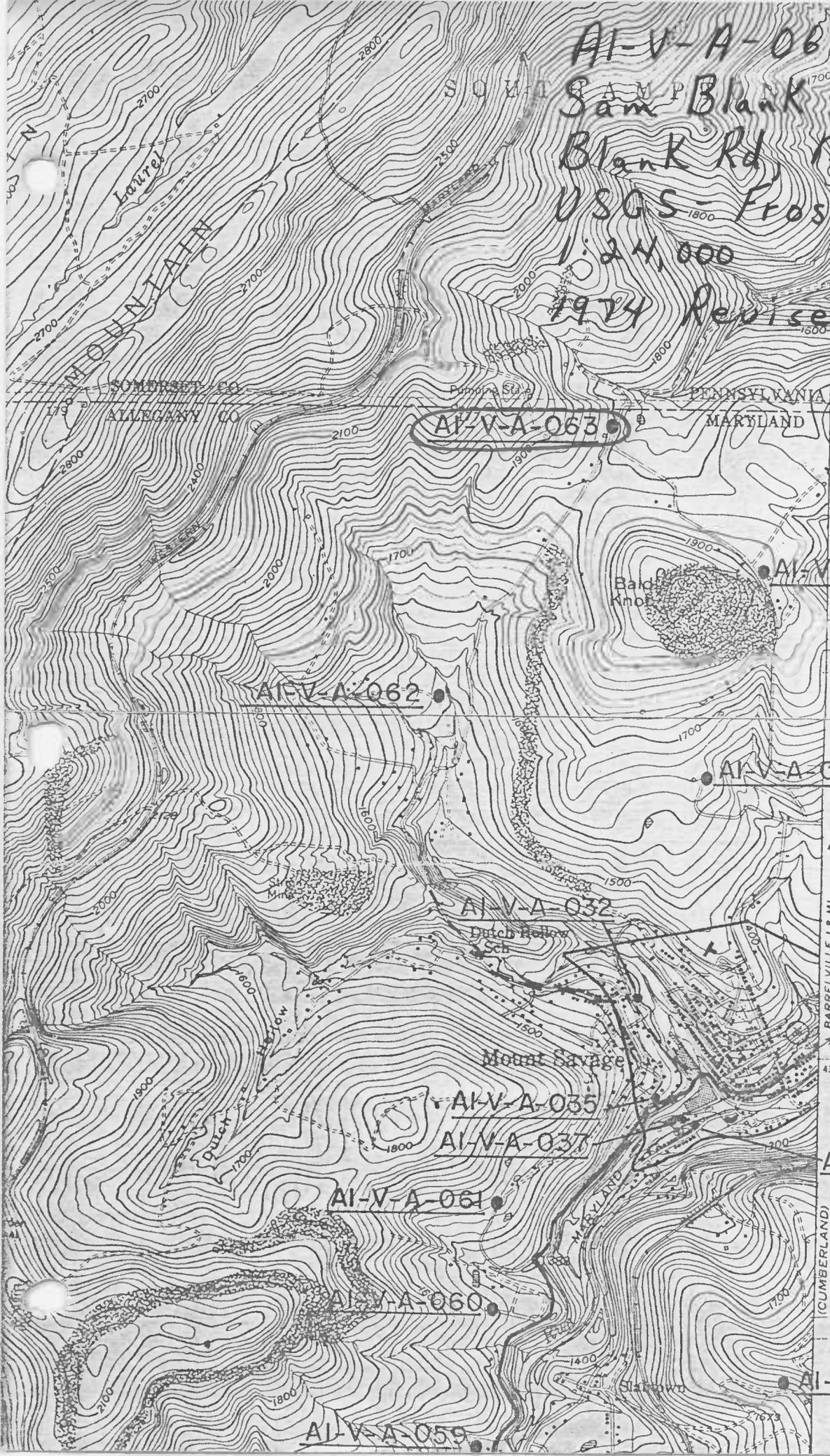
DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

- () PLAIN
- () ARCHITRAVE
- () SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- () FLUTED
- () FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- () ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

NOTES:

4 upstairs/got it from Robosson

AI-V-A-063
SAMP Blank Stone House
Blank Rd, Mt. Savage
USGS - Frostburg Quad
1:24,000
1974 Revised



AI-V-A-063

AI-V-A-064

AI-V-A-062

AI-V-A-065

AI-V-A-032

AI-V-A-010

AI-V-A-035

AI-V-A-037

AI-V-A-036

AI-V-A-061

AI-V-A-060

AI-V-A-031

AI-V-A-059

BARRELVILLE 1.8 MI.
CUMBERLAND 9.3 MI.

(CUMBERLAND)
5263 III NE



AL-V-A-063

RIGERT STONE HOUSE

Merry Stinson - 1982



RIGERT STONE HOUSE
AL-V-A-063

FIGURE 12.



AI-V-A-063

Sam Blank Stone House

Blank Road, Bald Knob

John E. Nelson

5/16/77

north



171-V-A-063

Sam Blank Stone House

Blank Road, Bald Knob

John E. Nelson

5/16/77

WEST



A1-V-A-063

Sam Blank Stone House

Blank Rd., Bald Knob

John E. Nelson

5/16/77

North



A1-V-A-063

Sam Blank Stone House

Blank Road, Bald Knob

John E. Nelson

5/16/77

East



A1-V-A-063

Sam Blank Stone House

Blank Road, Bald Knob

John E. Nelson

5/16/77

Southwest



A1-V-A-063

Sam Blank House (Barn)

Blank Road, Bald Knob

John E. Nelson

5/16/77

WEST