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BA-812, AND

BA-813

BA-811

Davis Plow Factory Sales Building
and Houses
South side Belfast Road near Joyce Lane
Date: ca. 1850

Now an apartment house, the Davis Plow Factory is a two and one-half story house made of stone. Although the building is dated from ca. 1850-1870, the simplicity and functional details suggest a much earlier date. Originally owned and operated by Evan Davis, it is the last standing structure of agricultural industry which flourished in the 19th century.

The two frame two storied houses in Davisville appear to date from ca. 1870-1900.

BA-311, 812, 813

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Davis Plow Factory Sales Building and Houses

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Southside Belfast Road near Joyce Lane

CITY, TOWN
Butler

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
William E. Davis

Telephone #: 472-2368

STREET & NUMBER
Belfast Road

CITY, TOWN
Sparks

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21152

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 1095
Folio #: 541

STREET & NUMBER
Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Towson

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The remaining structure of the Davis Plow Factory is a two and one-half storey stone structure closely oriented to the road, its roadside or west facade two full storeys in height, its east facade but one due to the rising grade. Now an apartment house, it functioned as a sales building with a dwelling above in the period of the Plow Factory. It appears to date from ca. 1850-1870, although its traditional, utterly functional detailing suggests a much earlier date.

The first storey of the west or roadside facade is four bays in length, an entrance being in the second bay from the north; the second storey is expressed as three bays, windows being approximately over the masonry between openings below. The east facade is expressed as five bays, entrances being in the northerly bay and in the second bay from the south. In depth, the structure is expressed as two bays, a door being in the first storey near the northwest corner, and in the second near the southeast corner, each sheltered by a small porch. Two dormers are in each roof slope and two six-light sash are in each gable end. Windows are 9/9 in plain, narrow frames. Masonry above windows is supported by stone jack arches.

The gabled roof rises above a traditional wooden cornice which includes an early-19th century bedmoulding. Barge boards are

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Davis Plow Factory and its supportive buildings occupied a site on the south side of Belfast Road directly opposite the William E. Davis farm. Both were owned and operated by Evan Davis, grandfather of the present owner. Although the actual foundry and manufactory have disappeared, there are vestiges of the former bustling village of Davisville such as the former sales building, now an apartment house, two tenant houses, probably built for workmen's families, and a very old tenant house, once the local school (q.v.).

The 1850 Sidney map of Baltimore County shows the plow factory, as does the 1850 Census of Products of Industry. Besides these, the earliest written reference to the business was an account in the American Farmer of December, 1855, that Evan Davis had won a plowing match with his Woodcock Plow. In addition to plows, Davis manufactured threshers, cultivators, and other agricultural equipment. His ledgers also show iron work done for the local mills.

At Davis' death in 1887, the factory was inherited by his son, Thomas W. Davis, and the farm across the road by another son, Joshua B. Davis. The former carried on the business until about 1895, but then closed it down and scrapped the remaining products of the once-thriving factory.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland. (Baltimore, 1850).

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1876, 1896.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.55 acres

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

BA-811, 812, 813

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Continued

against masonry and there is no rake overhang. A single-flue brick chimney rises flush above the north gable and another rises internally through the ridge at about the northerly third-point.

The interior of this structure has been refinished extensively but simply as an apartment house. Original ledge doors of vertical beaded boards remain in use, and the original random-width floors are exposed in some spaces.

Davisville Houses

Two frame houses, each two storeys in height stand in Davisville, in addition to the Davis Plow Factory Sales Building and the William E. Davis House.

The southerly of the two houses, although close to the road, faces south, not west as it would if it faced the road. It is two bays in length and exterior walls are covered with German siding. The gabled roof rises above a simple wooden cornice with bold eave returns and a single-flue chimney rises from the center of the house. Windows are 6/6 with narrow beaded frames, flanked with louvred blinds. The principal entrance is in the westerly bay of the south front and a hipped-roof porch, one storey in height, extends across the south front.

The interior of this house was not examined. It appears to date from ca. 1870-1900.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

BA-811, 812, 813

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 Continued

The northerly of the two Davisville houses faces west toward the road. It is three bays in length, its principal entrance centered. A two storey shed-roofed wing extends from its south end and a one-storey hipped-roof porch extends across the entire west front, including that front of the south wing. A single-flue chimney rises externally at the south end of the main house. Exterior walls are covered with aluminum siding; otherwise, most exterior details of the two houses are the same.

The interior of this house was not examined; it too appears to date from ca. 1870-1900.

BA-811, 812, 813

Davis Plow Factory Sales Building
Valleys Historic District

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #9 Continued

McGrain, John W. "Heavy Industry at Davisville". Unpublished manuscript. Copyright, 1975.

Interview with William E. Davis.

Products of Industry Census: 1850, 1860.

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