

Items in genealogy file folder of Ann Arnold Hennings labeled "Willow Hill"

Photocopy of "Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory" for Willow Hill, document # 62 stamped on cover page, "Research made by Julia Marie Heflin, Cropp, Virginia, December 17, 1937." The inventory refers to the home. Also, listing made in 2015 of burials in Arnold Family Cemetery (4 pages - this has been posted on USGWAarchives website). Transcript of phone interview of Jeannette Arnold by Ann Arnold Hennings 18 Oct 1966 on visit to Willow Hill; two photocopies of the "Willow Hill" home; aerial maps of Willow Hill area from 1994 and 2019; photocopy of Willow Hill history; photocopy of Willow Hill pre1990; photograph of Willow Hill after renovations c.1990; photographs of rocking chair and quilt; photograph of Elsie Payne holding oil painting of Lt John Arnold.

Robert Stoy 10 Nov 2020

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA  
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

62

COUNTY: King George

CLASS: Home

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--- "WILSON HILL" ---

This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.

Research made by  
Julia Marie Heflin,  
Orop, Virginia.

December 17, 1937.

## 1. SUBJECT:

"Willow Hill"

## 2. LOCATION:

1.2 miles north of King George Court House on Route #3, thence .1 of a mile south on a private road.

## 3. DATE:

About 1827.

## 4. OWNERS:

In 1790, John Arnold acquired this land.

Mark Arnold willed "Willow Hill" to his brother, T. T. Arnold on September 26, 1867. (Will Book 4, page 175).

Thomas T. Arnold conveyed the estate to John Arnold and Mary Gray Arnold, his wife, on September 14, 1914. (Deed Book 35, page 287).

John Arnold and Mary G. Arnold, his wife conveyed "Willow Hill" estate to Lewis B. Rollins and Josie L. Rollins, his wife, on August 31, 1920. (Deed Book 38, page 14).

Lewis B. Rollins and Josie L. Rollins, his wife, conveyed this estate to W. F. Mason on April 23, 1921. (Deed Book 30, page 62.)

Sidney A. Beyland and Nannie May Beyland, from the state of New York, through Jos. A. Billingsley, who was trustee of "Willow Hill", purchased the estate and are the present owners. This purchase was made on the 18th. day of October, 1934. (Deed Book 45, page 399.)

## 5. DESCRIPTION:

"Willow Hill" house is located in a grove of cedars, oaks and other trees. Originally, willow trees were the most outstanding trees on the lawn, but to-day there are no willows left.

The house is rectangular with a cellar. It is a three story, frame structure, with a brick foundation and gabled roof covered with metal, originally with shingles. There are two large brick chimneys, located on the outside of the building; the fireplaces are very large. The weatherboarding is beaded. There are twenty-four windows--eighteen panes, eight by ten. The shutters are lattice work which is movable. Originally the porch was one story; it is the entire length of the house. The entrance is a four panelled door with transom, which opens into a hall.

There are five rooms in the main part of the house, some large and some small; ceiling height approximately eight feet. The stairway is one flight, with hand rail and balusters. The walls are plastered and have chair rails around them. The doors are four panelled with common locks and "HL" hinges. The planks of the floor are narrow and wide-- not uniform in width and the planks of the second floor

are very wide. The mantels are plain.

The house has been remodeled and modernized with electricity and water systems.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

"Willow Hill" was acquired by John Arnold. "John" was an outstanding name in the Arnold family. There were John I, John II, John III and John IV. The latter is the state senator from Wyoming.

Dr. Thomas T. Arnold was a physician of King George County and also surveyor of King George. He graduated from Jefferson College in Philadelphia and received his B. A. from William and Mary College.

Mary Arnold was a captain in the Confederate Army.

Philip A. Arnold was educated at the University of Virginia and received his degree from this institution. He joined the Confederate Army and died during the war.

The informant's mother was born at "Willow Hill" and this house was very old when she was born. That would make the age of the house one hundred eleven years.

7. ABIS

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informants: Mrs. S. A. Beyland, King George, Virginia.  
Mr. E. F. Mountjoy, relative of the Arnolds, King George, Virginia.

King George County Court Records.

3686

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING CALLED FOR IN  
 5-A. of BULLETIN 3400

Name of Building "Willow Hill"

EXTERIOR

1. Building Plan Rectangular. Cellar  (X)
2. No. of stories: ( 3 ) Attic classed as 1/2 story.
3. Material: Brick  Frame  (X) Stone  Log  ( )
4. If brick, state what bond: Flemish  English  Common  Other  ( )
5. Kind of roof: Hip  Gabled  (X) Gambrel  Lean-to  Deck  ( )
6. If church, describe or draw sketch of roof on reverse side.
7. Roof Material: Slate  Shingle  Metal  (X) Tile  ( )
8. Chimneys: Number ( 2 ) Brick  (X) Stone  Location West and east.
9. Weatherboarding:    Beaded  (X) Plain  ( )
10. Cornices: Plain or Elaborate None. Material
11. Windows: Number ( 24 ) Size and number of panes 18 panes, 8"x10".
12. Shutters: Describe: Lattice work--movable.
13. Dormers: Number, and Shape of roof None.
14. Porch: Porch entire length of house.
15. Type of Entrance: Into a hall through a four panelled door with transom.
16. Columns: Doric  ( ) Ionic  ( ) Corinthian  ( ) Square  ( )

INTERIOR

17. No. of Rooms:  Large  (X) Small  (X) Approximate ceiling height 8 ft.
18. Stairway: Open String  ( ) Closed String  ( ) Describe: One flight with balusters and hand rail.
19. Cellar: Describe
20. Doors: Style and type of wood Four panelled.
21. Walls: Panelled, papered or painted Plastered with chair rails.
22. Interior Cornices None.
23. Hardware: Locks and hinges Common locks and "HL" hinges.
24. Floors: Planks are narrow and wide, not uniform in width.
25. Mantels: Plain.
26. Misc: None.
27. Present condition: and state if spoiled architecturally by remodelling:  
The house has been remodeled and modernized with electricity and water.
28. Does occupant seem to appreciate old architectural features? Yes.

Your Name Julia Marie Heflin.

## KING GEORGE COUNTY, VA - CEMETERIES - Arnold Cemetery

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Source: Library of Virginia Digital Collection

LVA Titled Files: Survey Report, Arnold's cemetery:  
1937 Dec. 17  
Research made by Julia Marie Heflin

Cemetery Location: North of King George Court House, Virginia, 1.8 miles on  
Route #3, thence .3 mile south on a private road, in edge of  
woods.  
King George County, Virginia

## DATE:

About 1813.

## OWNERS:

(blank)

## DESCRIPTION:

It is enclosed with a wire fence, quite a bit of undergrowth, and large trees  
have grown up. Nearly all the graves have markers.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

These are the inscriptions:

In memory of our darling  
Minnie Blanch Coghill  
youngest child of Thomas T. Arnold and Mary Randolph Brockenbrough  
born July 10, 1893  
died December 23, 1896

Dr. Thomas Thornston Arnold  
September 23, 1835  
April 25, 1917  
Well done thy good and faithful servant.

In memory of  
Mary Randolph Brockenbrough  
wife of Thomas T. Arnold  
and mother of Lucy Yeats, Thomas Randolph, Mary Gray,  
Catherine Brockenbrough Coghill, born July 19, 1893  
Aged 47 years

Mary Gray Arnold  
daughter of Mary Randolph Brockenbrough and Thomas Thornton Arnold  
born August 24, 1876  
died July 23, 1921

Faithful in all things.

Our little Lucy  
died May 21, 1872  
Aged 14 months and 11 days

Remember

John A. Arnold

Lieutenant in the War of 1812

the father of twenty children of whom the following had offsprings: viz:

William, Mary, Isaac, John, Humphries,  
Martha, Jane, James, Sarah, Buckner, Elizabeth, Gaddess,  
Jemina, Mary, Frances and Thomas Thornton.

Born poor, died rich in the Grace of God as well as in this  
world's goods on the 12th of April 1862,  
in his 86th year

In memory of  
Frances B. Price  
wife of John Arnold  
born April 25, 1793  
married April 27, 1820  
died April 10, 1851  
Leaving a husband and six children, three sons and three  
daughters to lament her loss.

In memory of  
Sarah B.  
wife of Robert H. Montgomery  
daughter of John and Frances B. Arnold  
born February 4, 1821  
married December 8, 1840  
died February 9, 1851  
Leaving a daughter and an infant son, a father, mother, three  
brothers, three sisters, three half brothers, one half sister  
and many near relations to lament her death

In memory of my beloved husband  
Robert Hill Montgomery  
born August 18th 1815  
died April 21, 1850  
Why should we mourn departed friends,  
Or shake at death's alarms,  
Tis but the voice that Jesus sends  
To call them to his arms.

Sacred to the memory of  
Elizabeth Francis  
daughter of Robert and Sarah Montgomery  
who departed this life on the  
11th of September 1814  
Aged 17 months

In memory of

James  
fifth son of James and Sarah Arnold  
died July 7, 1847  
Aged 7 months and 3 days  
The lamb in his ---- ----  
And call them ---- are bless.

In memory of  
James  
second son of James and Sarah A. Arnold  
died September 20, 1841  
In his 9th year of his age  
Express a desire to die and meet his brother in Heaven.

In memory of  
Thomas  
eldest son of James and Sarah A. Arnold  
died September 26, 1840  
in the 11th year of his age.  
He died to save, he died to care  
But for a moment felt the rod,  
Death but the servant Jesus said,  
To call him to his arms.

In memory of  
Sarah Ann  
wife of James Arnold  
died December 22, 1848  
in the 41st year of her age  
In hope of immortal bliss

In memory of  
William Arnold  
born A.D. 1727  
was married to the mother of John Arnold  
August 12, 1781  
died in January 1813  
in his 86th year.

In memory of  
Jane Humphries  
wife of John Arnold  
born January 1780  
married June 10, 1800  
died August 7, 1819  
Leaving a husband and seven children, four sons and three  
daughters to lament her loss.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Tombstone Inscriptions

Visit by worker.



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by: Joan Renfrow

NOTICE: I have no relationship or further information in  
regards to this family.

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Jeannette Arnold (wife of my 1st cousin  
10/18/66 Phone David) ~~and~~

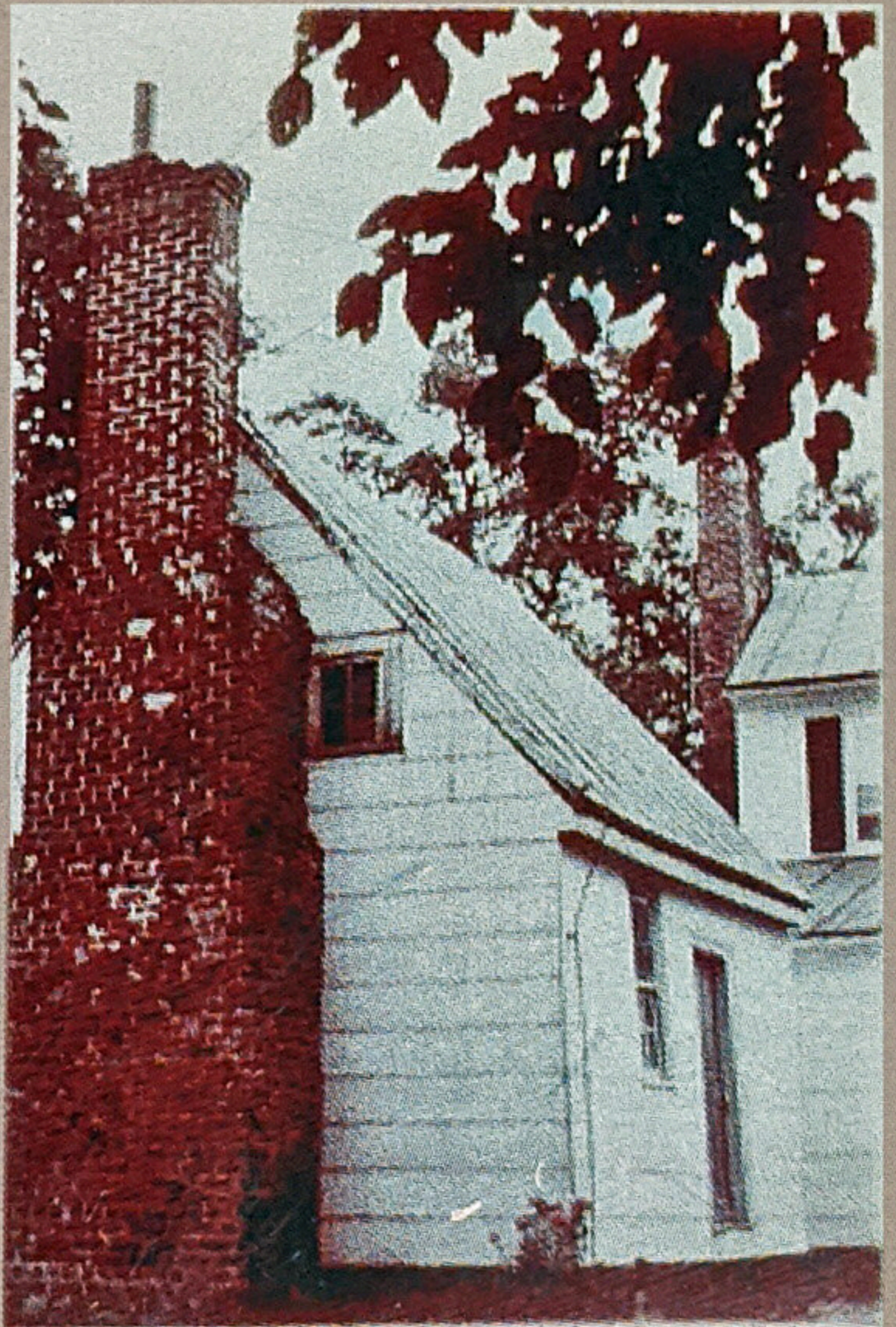
Arnold

She talked with woman who lived at Willow Hill (Mrs. Clare) on her trip down there about two months ago. Owner has lived in area all her life. Only part of original inside still standing is brick wall. The old house (built in about 1887 after first burned) only has one room not renovated, the bedroom on left. The Clares have renovated and added wing on right. Mrs. Clare also discovered brick walk 6 or 7" below surface of ground while digging in front yard.



"Willow Hill"  
Arnold Home  
King George, Virginia

Dr. Thomas Arnold's  
office at  
"Willow Hill"  
King George, Virginia



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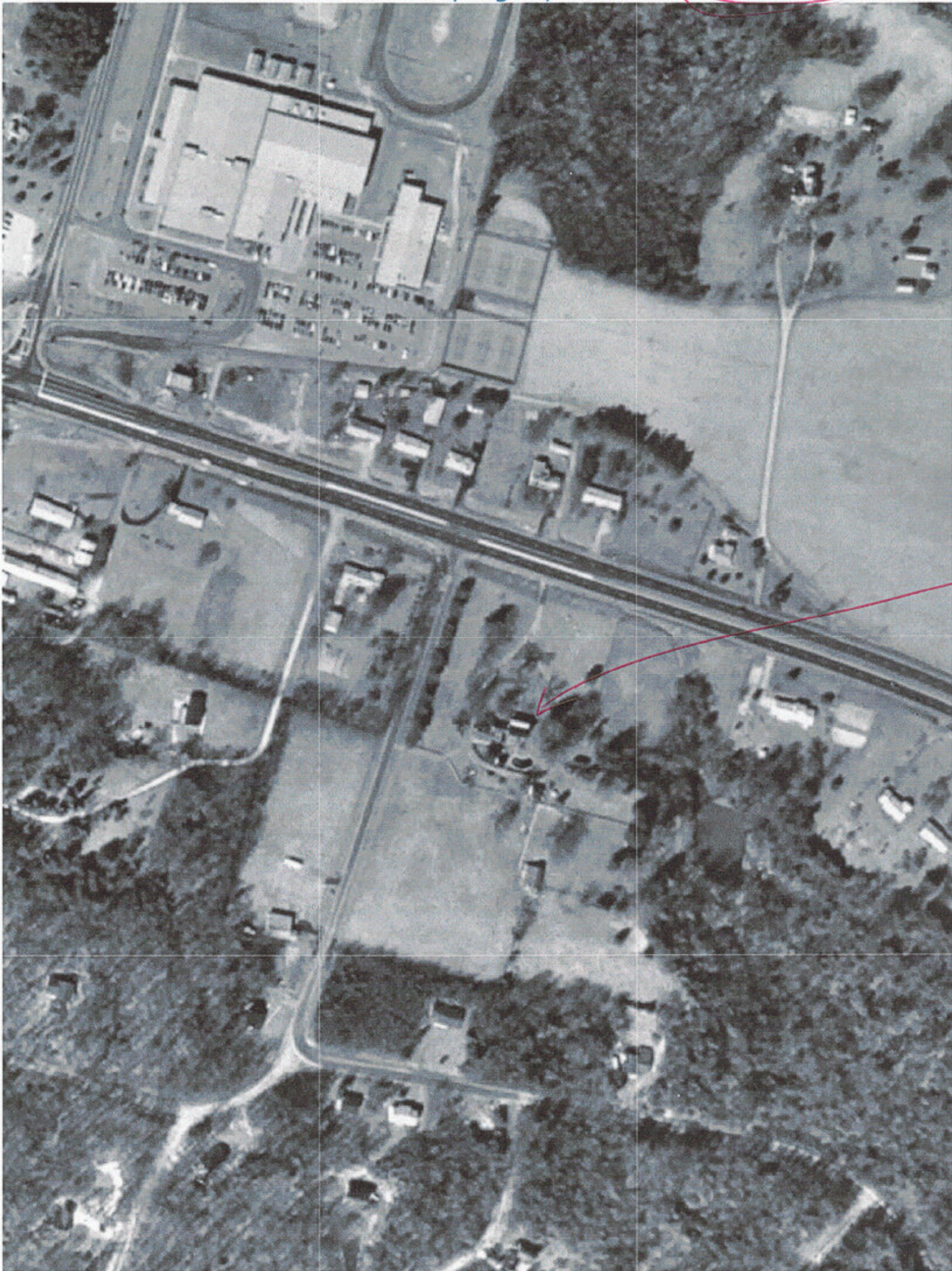
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USGS 4 km SW of Weedonville, Virginia, United States 17 Mar 1994



WILLOW HILL

0 100M

0 100yd

Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

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### Willow Hill 1994

Terraserver map image taken in 1994 - photocopy made in 2006 by Ann Arnold Hennings.

Photocopy found in genealogy files of Ann Arnold Hennings.

Scanned by Robert Stoy November 2020.



Willow Hill c.2019  
Google Maps image



## Willow Hill

Willow Hill, formerly a colonial estate built in 1756, belonged to John Arnold from 1804 to 1863. It was then passed along to Dr. Thomas Thornton Arnold and his family.

Father of twenty children, Lieutenant John Arnold held title to 1,956 acres not counting property he had already transferred to his sons, William and James. Part of the property was sold to the United States government for the establishment of the Dahlgren Naval Base.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Manning acquired the home and twenty acres twenty years ago during the development of the estate now known as Presidential Lakes. The home has been restored with great sensitivity to its history. Bricks used for the addition of a family room were obtained from rubble from the late Mr. Harry Berry's property by Mrs. Manning herself.

This summer more than 200 relatives were hosted at Willow Hill for a unique Arnold Family Reunion. A picture of Lieutenant Arnold and a piece of cloth made by a Willow Hill slave were presented to the Mannings in appreciation for their generous and warm hospitality.

### Chocolate Pie

1 cup granulated sugar	a sprinkle of salt
3 Tbsp. all purpose flour	3 tsp. cocoa

Mix dry ingredients.

1 cup milk	3 egg yolks
1 tsp. vanilla	1/2 stick margarine

Mix well. Cook in double boiler until thick. Add meringue.



"Willow Hill" King George, VA  
Katherine Herbert Collection



"Willow Hill" King George County, Virginia  
From the collection of Alice Katherine Hobday  
Herbert, wife of Claude Page Herbert.  
Home of Lt John A Arnold and his son Thomas  
Thornton Arnold. The Arnold Family Reunion was  
held at Willow Hill in 1990. This image shows the  
property before the renovations c.1990 when  
brick was added. In 2008 the property was  
demolished for a housing development.



Willow Hill

Reverse: "Willow Hill" King George, Va.

Image taken in 1995 after renovations c.1990.

Photograph found in genealogy files of Ann Arnold Hennings.

Scanned by Robert Stoy November 2020.





### Willow Hill Rocking Chair

Reverse: 1995 Currently owned by Julia Arnold Clews. Orig owned by: Mary Jane Holmes Arnold.

Photograph found in genealogy files of Ann Arnold Hennings.

Scanned by Robert Stoy November 2020.



Willow Hill Quilt

Reverse: Quilt made by Slaves at  
"Willow Hill".

Photograph taken in 1995 found in  
genealogy files of Ann Arnold Hennings.  
Scanned by Robert Stoy  
November 2020.



Lt John Arnold Oil Painting  
Photograph taken in 1995 found in  
genealogy files of Ann Arnold Hennings.  
Reverse: Photo of oil painting made in  
1892; Elsie Payne holding picture of  
Lt John Arnold.  
Scanned by Robert Stoy  
November 2020.