

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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K-1369

Property Name: ^(G. Arnold) G. Arnold House

Location and Verbal Boundary Description

The house and 173 acre farm are located on the south side of Route 42 about 3/4 mile east of the intersection with Route 300 in Kenton. The farm complex that stretches out behind the house contains an important collection of out-buildings including a bank barn. To protect this collection of buildings the nominated property is a portion of the larger farm that will total 22.96 acres. This tract extends for 500 feet northwest and southeast of the central driveway for a total of 1,000 feet along Route 42. It extends southwest from the road for 1,000 feet. ^{DF 42}

Owner: Ellen Davidson
C/O Ellen Hamilton
Jarrell Farm
R.D. #1, Box 1425
Clayton, Delaware 19938

Description:

The G. Arnold House is a frame, 3-bay, side-hall-plan dwelling with a projecting rear wing. The entire structure is two stories and has a gable roof. The house sits on a slightly raised brick foundation. Constructed in the 1830's, the rear wing was added in the 1850's. The front porch with its solid brick foundation, squared posts, and turned balusters was added in the 1880's. The windows are six-over-six. The only decorative features on the house are the wide pilasters on either side of the front door. There is also a three-light transom over the door. The current front door is a replacement of the original.

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The agricultural outbuildings are lined up on either side of the farm lane that passes to the west of the house. It is an extensive collection that consists of a series of frame chicken houses, sheds and corn cribs on the east side and a few small sheds, milk house, barn and silo, and hog pens on the west side. At the end of the lane is a bank barn. The small frame buildings all date to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The bank barn was built during the quarter of the nineteenth century and is of a type usually associated with southeastern Pennsylvania. The foundation is brick. The large projecting entrance is built on top of a light ridge that starts at the end of the lane and goes in a southeasterly direction to the next farmstead, the J. Williams House (K-1372).

The hog pen and modern barn are constructed of cement blocks with a frame superstructure. The milk house was constructed at the same time as the barn. It is square and constructed of cement block. Both the barn and milk house have bell-shaped roofs with large metal ventilators at the peaks.

Historical Background:

The G. Arnold House has almost consistently been maintained as a tenant farm. However, as a tenant farm, the property has been well maintained and at one point was a well managed farm. Census records indicate that up until the 1870's, the farm was used for producing the usual crops of corn, wheat, and dairy products. This farm was valued at \$17,000 in the 1870 census of agriculture. This placed it among the top 25% of all farms in Kenton Hundred. In 1880, the farm was valued at \$16,000 but was now in the top 50% of all farms in the hundred. George Arnold reports in the 1880 Census that he had 5900 peach trees in 1880. This was the largest number of trees in the hundred. It was while the peach boom was on-going that the bank barn and many of the frame outbuildings were built.

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Statement of Significance:

The G. Arnold House is significant for two reasons, both making it eligible under Criterion C. The first is the house itself which is a 3-bay, side-hall-plan vernacular dwelling that has as its sole concession to the developing Greek Revival influences, its pilasters and the transom around the first floor front entrance. The second significant feature of the farm complex is the collection of frame outbuildings, especially the bank barn that all date to the third quarter of the nineteenth-century. The bank barn, in particular, is not a common barn form in this part of Delaware. Often the topography is not sufficiently hilly to provide for the banked ramp to the second floor. The builder of this barn, most likely under the direction of George Arnold, was familiar with the building type and was able to take advantage of the slight ridge to build the necessary ramp.