

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675393

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 18 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 29 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Arnold-Woolldridge House; (Prospect Hill)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S of Versailles
Off McCowans Ferry Road

CITY, TOWN

near Versailles

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Woodford

CODE

239

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Ross ✓

STREET & NUMBER

257 Lexington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky 40508

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Woodford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Versailles

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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

The Wooldridge House is a six-bay, one and one-half story brick residence in late Georgian style (Newcomb, p. 61), located in rural Woodford County, Kentucky on the McCowan's Ferry Road near its crossing with the Bluegrass Parkway. The area consists of large farms with land immediately surround the house in pasture. The house is characterized by rigid symmetry, projecting portico with pedimented gable which contains a large Palladian window and various Georgian and Federal style details. The original design of the house has not been modified, save replacing the back porch with one which contains a bathroom. This lack of modification of the original design can be attributed to the fact that the house has not had a resident-owner since 1884. Leasors apparently never were allowed to modify the design, nor was it a requirement to obtain leasors until the plumbing was brought inside. The plumbing was probably installed in the 1950's. During the winter of 1976, fire severely damaged the house, demolishing the second floor and the back section of the roof.

Full dimensions of the house less the porches are approximately 44' wide by 40' deep. The facade is laid in Flemish bond, and the masonry work is in excellent condition with tight mortar joints over 80% of its surface. The nine-over-six pane windows have flat brick arches as do the two centrally located doorways. Each gable end contains two chimneys which project one brick from the wall. A simple box cornice with a deep bed molding runs across the front and rear of the building.

Clearly the dominant feature of the facade is the projecting, pedimented portico displaying plain entablature supported by four columns. A Palladian window with reeded trim and circular corner blocks pierces the tympanum. Shutters are now missing. Most of the shutter bolts (part of the hinge) are still intact and shutter hold-opens of a unique wrought iron design (not "S" curved) remain in the brick near the second floor windows.

The portico is approached by three semi-circular steps of limestone. The sidewalk leading to these steps is also unique. It is 4' wide, paved with brick and curbed with limestone. It presently lies below the grade and is totally covered with grass. Its length is over 100' and was longer; a farm road now cuts into the sidewalk's end.

Four large rooms contained by 14" thick limestone foundation walls on the outside and 12" thick limestone walls on the inside with 8' clear from floor to underside of joist, constitute the full basement. Stones exposed to view from the outside are hand-hewn, with strategic corner stones. One fireplace is located in the rear right room of larger than normal size, adjacent to one outside entry on the side with stone steps and retaining walls (intact) and another which has since been filled with stone which led to the rear of the house. Foundation for the porches were limestone, with the front portico's still intact. Evidence indicates that the floor of this portico was also limestone. No changes other than filling the one exit have been made. Stone walls are still straight and true; wood lintels over basement windows need replacing although only one has broken. Walls show signs of leaching and leaking considerable water, therefore exterior sealing is necessary.

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 ca. 1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arnold-Wooldridge House, apparently constructed c. 1810 by Lewis Arnold, a member of one of Woodford County's early pioneer families, represents what has been described as the "late Georgian" style of the Bluegrass region. This classification is meant to characterize the emergence of the Federal style from Kentucky's earlier, eighteenth century, brick houses (Newcomb, p. 61). In addition to displaying well-executed Federal detailing, the Arnold-Wooldridge House embodies some rather unique elements. The six-bay facade with its two central doors is not a characteristic feature of this period, although a similar 1½ story structure believed to be of a slightly later construction date, does exist in adjoining Jessamine County. Both buildings are six bays wide with two entrances and a projecting porch with pediment containing a Palladian window. However, the Arnold-Wooldridge House, unlike the Jessamine County structure which appears to be a hall-and-parlor plan, is two rooms deep, thus giving it a roughly square massing. Furthermore, the existence of such a portico not only indicates an awareness of the spreading influence of Roman classicism, but foreshadows the Greek Revival.

The interior is equally as impressive in that much of the delicate Federal woodwork remains despite the damage to the house resulting from a fire in 1976. Door frames are reeded with circular corner blocks as are the windows which reveal paneled jambs. Chair rails and baseboards are also intact in the two front rooms. The south parlor contains the most elaborate of the three surviving mantles, displaying paired colonnettes, oval medallions, and reeding.

The area has remained rural, with large farms and many early houses characterizing the countryside. Woodford County was established in 1788, the last of the nine counties organized by Virginia just prior to her admission into the Union (Collins, p. 763).

Only two miles to the northeast of the Wooldridge House is Versailles, the county seat, founded in 1792. McCowans Ferry Pike is one of the older roads radiating from this 18th century town, and contains several 18th and 19th century buildings.

The house, commonly known as the "Wooldridge House," is thought to have been built by Lewis Arnold, following his acquisition of the land in 1800 from his father John Arnold (Deed Book C-2, p. 432). This sale of 65 acres, which was previously owned by Joseph Patterson and his wife Ann is confirmed in the will of John Arnold dated April 23, 1818 (Will Book F, p. 41).

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Kentucky, Philadelphia: D.G. Beers and Co., 1877.

Newcomb, Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1953, p. 42.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7¹/₂ acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Tyrone, Ky.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,6	69,63,5,0	4,20,87,2,0
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B

1,6	69,63,7,5	4,20,85,4,0
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C

1,6	69,62,0,0	4,20,85,3,0
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D

1,6	69,61,8,0	4,20,87,4,0
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E

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F

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G

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H

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Deed Book 98, p. 110. (See continuation sheet.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. & Mrs. James Ross/ Gloria Mills, Historian/Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

/Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

November 1978

STREET & NUMBER

257 Lexington Avenue/104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Lexington/Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Tanna C. Hopkins

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4-10-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER ATTEST

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5-29-79

DATE 7/24/79

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Arnold-Wooldridge House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Four large rooms, each approximately 20'-6" wide and 18'-6" deep with brick masonry walls 13" thick where load bearing or outside and 9" thick partitions telescope the basement walls. All rooms have 12' ceilings and the rear right room has a closed stair starting at the back wall and going to the second level, with the interior basement stair paralleled under. All four rooms have fireplaces with the one containing the stairs having a much larger one than the other three. Outside doors include one from each of the two rear rooms onto the now missing rear porch, and two identical doors onto the front portico; one from each room. All outside doors have 8 panels surmounted by four-pane transoms. The windows, three from each of the front rooms and two from each of the rear rooms, are 3'-8" wide (masonry opening) and 6'-4" tall (masonry opening), simple framed, with 4" wood sills.

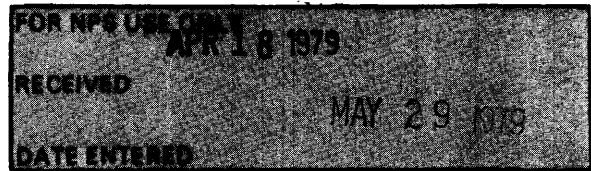
Woodwork is of exceptionally fine detail and remains in two of the four downstairs rooms in excellent condition. Three mantels still exist in near perfect condition, are all of different designs, and are of very fine quality. The two front rooms contain exceptionally well-executed Federal mantles. In the south room, paired colonnettes support a mantle displaying oval shell-patterned medallions. The central medallion is enclosed by rope molding. The frieze is reeded, and a twining stem molding surrounds the fireplace opening. In the north room, a similar mantle, also consists of paired colonnettes with the central and end blocks containing diamond-shaped panels. Door jambs and architraves are all reeded. Door architraves are 6½" wide with plain plinth blocks and circular corner blocks. Window casings are similar with paneled jambs. Chair rails are all 4½" wide by 2" with each room having a different, yet well-executed profile. Baseboards are between 8 and 12".

Original paint is an extremely interesting use of blue, cream, and green colors. The front north room had woodwork painted cream-yellow with wood panels and carvings highlighted with mint green striping one half inch wide. The rear left room was painted soft gray-blue, but more vibrant than that which is normally seen. Cupboards existed in three rooms, two still intact, beside the fireplace, opposite hand of the window. These cupboards have very handsome four paneled doors (two sets) and shelves on the inside.

(continued)

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Arnold-Wooldridge House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The stairwell to the second level opened into a hall $6\frac{1}{2}'$ wide, centered on the portico and running the full length of the portico and half the depth of the house; approximately 28'. The hall area within the portico has knee-walls $6\frac{1}{2}'$ high with 21" of raftered ceiling (measured with the rafters) and 3' of flat ceiling formed by a rafter-to-rafter ceiling joist. The room terminates with the Palladian window approximately 5' high starting 6" off the floor in the portico.

Two large rooms (17' x 17'-8") one on each side of the hall occupy the second level. The left side room has a 3' deep closet which balances out the area taken by the stair. Both rooms have 6'-8" knee-walls and are without fireplaces although the chimney takes 13" x 39" out of the outside corners and fireplaces could have been in one of the rooms. Between the chimneys are located two windows in each room located directly over windows on the first floor. Second floor windows are six panes over six panes.

The setting of this rural site is particularly impressive, with trees ringing the house separating it from open fields to the south and pasture to the north. The house sits at a comfortable distance from the main road, on a slight rise. The nominated area is established by the present legal boundary for the property, encompassing the house and extending west to McCowans Ferry Road and north to Scotts Ferry Pike. The land included is important to the visual qualities and historic agricultural nature of the site.

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Arnold-Wooldridge House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Arnold family was one of the earliest in Woodford County. John Arnold (1754-1818) emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky in 1781. "They came with John Craig and made their first stop at Bryant's Station and were there when the siege took place in August 1782.... Lewis Arnold, a son of John, the pioneer, evidently came to the state with his parents, as he was present at the siege of the fort (Draper MSSS., lc.c. 245 as quoted in Railey, p. 269).

"From Bryant's Station or Fort, John Arnold and his wife moved to what is now Woodford County, and settled at a small fort known as Craig's Fort.... Later John Arnold owned a great deal of land in the neighborhood which he divided among his children" (*Ibid.*, p. 269). Lewis Arnold lived on the property until his death in 1847 at which time the property passed on to his widow in 1848 (Will Book N., p. 190). It was then sold to Martin S. McFall by George W. Arnold, son of the deceased Lewis (Will Book N, p. 190). Upon the death of McFall, it passed to his widow. In 1874, the house and land was sold to William H. Wooldridge (Deed Book 2, p. 266). It was apparently around this time the house acquired the name "Prospect Hill," as indicated on a map published in 1877.

After Wooldridge's death in 1884, the house was used as rental property until recent years. During the winter of 1976, the house suffered a fire and consequently lost the back half of its roof and the two rooms upstairs. The two back rooms on the first floor were also damaged somewhat by the fire, as were the stairs leading to the basement. The house was recently acquired by James Ross, an architect, who wishes to restore it for use as his residence. His plans call for faithful restoration of the front parlors, with the only new construction consisting of a small wing off the back for the bath. The upstairs will be remodeled for bedrooms.

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Arnold-Wooldridge House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Railey, Wm. E. History of Woodford County Versailles, Ky.: Woodford Improvement League, 1968, pp. 269-270; 317, (Originally published 1938).

Woodford County Deed Book B, p. 8; C, p. 58; C-2, p. 432; T, p. 427; 2, p. 266; 51, pp. 444, 22; 52, p. 460; 98, p. 110.

Woodford County Will Book F, p. 41; N, p. 190; Q, p. 550; Y, Item 7.

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Arnold-Wooldridge House; Prospect Hill, Woodford Co.

Legal Boundary Description

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE

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Beginning at an iron pin on the center line of the McCowans Ferry Road marking an intersection of that center line with the center line of the Scotts Ferry Road, thence with the center line of the McCowans Ferry Road S 0 degrees 47' E 525.4 feet to an iron pin on the center line of the McCowans Ferry Road, thence leaving the McCowans Ferry Road 71 degrees 13' E 550.8 feet to a point corner to other land owned by Matt T. Blackard, thence N 15 degrees 11' E 169 feet to an end post in the fence line, thence N 5 degrees 01' W 433 feet to an iron pin in the center line of the Scotts Ferry Road and corner to the property of Matt T. Blackard, thence with the center line of the Scotts Ferry Road N 74 degrees 59' W 554 feet to the point of beginning and containing 7.246 acres, more or less, and being a part of the same conveyed to Matt T. Blackard by Powhatan Wooldridge, Jr. and his wife, by deed dated October 19, 1954, and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Woodford County Court in Deed Book 51, Page 22, and a part of the same conveyed to the said Matt T. Blackard by James E. Searcy and wife by deed dated July 5, 1956, of record in said Clerk's Office in Deed Book 52, at Page 460, the land hereby conveyed having recently been surveyed by William Hippe and J. M. McCreight, land surveyors of Woodford County, Kentucky.

Being the same property conveyed to Grantor from Matt T. Blackard and Helen C. Blackard, his wife, by deed dated the first day of October, 1978, and of record in Deed Book 98, at Page 110, in the aforesaid Clerk's Office.



Arnold-Wooldridge House; Prospect
Hill
Woodford County
Versailles, Kentucky

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette,
Jessamine, and Woodford Counties,
Kentucky

D.G. Beers & Co. MAY 29 1979
Philadelphia 1877

Map 2

APR 18 1979