

# INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Riley Everhart Farm and General Store

AND/OR COMMON  
Elmer Everhart Farm

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South side of SR 1468 just east of Arnold Crossroads

CITY, TOWN  
Arnold

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE  
North Carolina

— VICINITY OF  
CODE  
037

COUNTY  
Davidson

CODE  
057

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Ella Mae Everhart

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 8

CITY, TOWN  
Lexington

— VICINITY OF

STATE  
North Carolina 27292

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Davidson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE  
North Carolina

## 6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
Ruth Little, Consultant

ORGANIZATION  
Survey and Planning Branch

DATE  
May 7, 1983

STREET & NUMBER  
Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN  
Raleigh

STATE  
North Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Riley Everhart Farm and Store is one of the best-preserved late nineteenth century agricultural and rural commercial complexes in Davidson County. The buildings are located on Center Church Road in the small crossroads community of Arnold, a few miles north of Lexington. The most significant building in the complex is the two-story brick farmhouse built in 1885, the finest domestic example of the Italianate Revival style in Davidson County. A full collection of outbuildings surrounds the house: a brick dairy and wellhouse, a frame woodhouse, a corn crib, chicken house, granary, gear house, double-pen log barn, and frame garage. Most of these are contemporary with the house. West of the house, adjacent to the road, is a two-story frame country store, built about 1880 and virtually unaltered.

The Everhart House consists of a main block, three bays wide and two bays deep, with exterior end chimneys, and a two-story rear ell two bays deep and two bays wide with an interior chimney. A one-story porch extends across the front (north) elevation and a second one-story porch extends along the rear and west side of the ell. The walls are laid in random common bond, and the single stepped shoulder chimneys have molded brick caps. The porches, window treatment, and ornate eave detailing create an effect of architectural richness strikingly different from the usual plain late nineteenth century Davidson County farmhouses. The wide boxed cornices are complemented by a deep frieze band which in turn is accented by paired curvilinear brackets with finials and a sawwork band of Gothic trefoil design. The eave treatment creates pedimented gable ends. Standing seam tin covers the gable roof. All window and door openings have segmentally arched lintels which are further emphasized by a second decorative brick course. The original two-over-two and six-over-six sash have heavy wooden sills and are protected by the original louvered wooden shutters. All doors are typical Victorian four-panel designs. The front and rear porches have hipped roofs supported by square chamfered posts and simple capitals. The porch railings have been removed. The porch eaves are treated identically to the main roof eaves, with the added details of flat paneled friezes and a sawwork drip molding of trefoil design. The brick foundation walls beneath the porches have ventilators constructed of vertically set bricks, spaced several inches apart, an ingenious vernacular feature. In 1947, a utility room and bathroom were added to the rear of the ell, and the brickwork and other details match the original structure as closely as possible. The entrance to the original root cellar, beneath the kitchen, is in the rear of this addition, and the original wooden batten door with ventilation slits was reused.

The interior has a typical I-house center hall one-room deep floor plan on each floor of the main block, and a kitchen and dining room on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor of the rear ell. The interior is virtually unaltered, and its stark plastered walls and richly molded surrounds, paneled doors, and simple Italianate mantels are representative of the rural Italianate style in North Carolina. Each room has a high molded baseboard, four-paneled doors with paneled soffits and reveals, and a wooden mantel with chamfered pilasters and a segmental-arched frieze. The stair, in the center hall, rises in two flights with a landing to the second floor. The open-string is decorated with sawwork brackets with a trefoil design. The railing is formed of a heavy turned newel, turned balusters and a molded handrail. The original parlor is east of the center hall; the original master bedroom is west of the hall. Until 1932, there was no door between the parlor and the dining room in the

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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rear ell directly behind it. The kitchen, still located in its original location, has a narrow staircase to the upstairs bedroom. This may have been a slightly later addition.

The outbuildings are worthy of brief descriptions. Immediately adjacent to the rear ell, on the west side, is the original brick dairy and wellhouse, constructed of brickwork identical to the house. The gable roof extends as a porch over the well, and is supported on plain posts, with a flush sheathed gable end. A wide batten door with a nicely molded surround provides access to the dairy. Inside, a brick trough stretches the length of the west wall. The original barn is a double pen log structure which was moved from the nearby Shoaf Farm to its present site when the house was constructed. The V-notch construction is well-preserved, frame sheds protect the logs on the rear and sides. The granary is a small, square two-story structure of board and batten construction, set partially below ground level on a sloping site. There is a small batten door in the first story and another in the second story reached by an exterior staircase. The gear house is a tiny gabled structure of batten structure, of indeterminate age. The corn crib, of early twentieth century construction, is a narrow rectangular gabled structure with walls of narrow slats spaced several inches apart. The woodhouse, chicken house, and garage are also of early twentieth century vintage, and of frame, weatherboarded construction.

The Arnold General Store and Post Office is a tall, narrow two-story frame building set with the three-bay wide gable end almost on the road. In the center bay is a double door, each leaf with four flat panels. Flanking the door, on both the first and second story, are six-over-six sash windows with paneled shutters. The east side and rear each have a single six-over-six sash window, and along the west side is a one-story frame shed, apparently original, with identical window treatment. All openings have simple molded surrounds. The store is covered with plain weatherboard, and the gable roof has overhanging eaves and is covered with tin. In the center of the rear gable end is a single-shoulder exterior chimney. Like the exterior, the interior is almost unaltered. Many of the original store counters and display shelves are intact, and such vintage paraphernalia as the kerosene lamp and old store scales have survived. The second story was apparently always used as living quarters for the storekeeper and his family. It was originally reached by a stair in the rear of the main store room, and is now reached by a stair in the west shed room.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL      \_\_\_\_\_ STATE      XX LOCAL

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900- J	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      1885      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      D. K. Cecil

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built for Riley Everhart, an enterprising farmer and mercantilist, this 1885 brick farmhouse of Italianate Revival design represents the highest level of economic and architectural achievements in Davidson County in the 1880s. Everhart's primary successes during this period are largely tied to the operation of his tobacco factory, which formerly stood adjacent to his farm in the crossroads community of Arnold north of Lexington. The two-story gable front general store which still stands on the farm represents his merchandising skills. In addition to the store, this important farm complex includes a contemporary brick dairy/wellhouse and large log barn, and frame granary, chicken house and several other structures.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- B. The Riley Everhart Farm and General Store complex is associated with the agricultural and mercantile career of Riley Everhart, active from the early 1880s to about 1930. The architecturally significant farmhouse was built by contractor D. K. Cecil of Lexington, who was responsible for many of the brick public and industrial buildings constructed in Davidson County during the late nineteenth century economic renaissance.
- C. The Everhart Farm and General Store is not only one of the most complete examples of a late nineteenth century farm complex remaining in Davidson County, but is also one of the best preserved. The brick house, built in 1885, is the finest example of the Italianate Revival style remaining in the county, and the frame general store of 1880s date is one of only two country stores left in the county.

Riley Everhart, born in 1854 to North Davidson farmer Andrew Everhart and his wife Caroline,<sup>1</sup> purchased 3/4 of an acre of his father's land in 1878 and began a prosperous career as a farmer, tradesman and manufacturer.<sup>2</sup> Riley was typical of a number of enterprising young Davidson County men who took advantage of the expansion of the economy and newly opened highway and railroad networks in the post-bellum business boom of the 1880s. Riley and his new bride, Lavinia McCrary, set up house-keeping in a log house near Swearing Creek, probably on the small tract acquired from his parents, and by 1879 had begun a family.<sup>3</sup> Between 1878 and 1885 Riley gradually acquired about 350 acres along the creek and Center Church Road, which was then the main road from Lexington to Winston.<sup>4</sup> Riley's principal cash crops were tobacco and cotton, and a cotton gin was built about this time nearby, creating a crossroads community which came to be known as Arnold. Another sideline was a liquor distillery operated on the creek, and in the early 1880s Riley and his brother Lafayette, whose farm adjoined his, built the two-story frame building which still stands. This served originally as a storage and rectifying facility for the liquor, and because of its location on the Winston Road, as a convenient marketing location.<sup>5</sup>

Riley's fortunes must have prospered during these early years, for in 1885 he constructed a new house for his family on the same 141-acre tract where the store was located. Riley had bought this tract in 1883 from Lewis Berrier and his wife for \$939.33, and it bounded lands owned by his father Andrew, Richmond Shoaf, and others.<sup>6</sup> According to the memoirs of the youngest son, Elmer, who later acquired and operated the homeplace, Riley employed D. K. Cecil, a Lexington contractor, to construct the house at a cost of \$2,800. The sixteen thousand brick which went into its construction were made on the site at a cost of \$4.50 per thousand. In order to visually separate the house from the farm and store, a picket fence enclosing exactly one acre was built around the house. This remained until about 1912.<sup>7</sup>

Riley and Lavinia raised seven children in their big brick farmhouse, and Riley continued to take advantage of his location to expand his fortune. About 1890 Riley and Lafayette built a large two-story frame tobacco factory with gabled dormers behind the store, on Riley's property. In its heyday in the last decade of the century there were nine two-story employee houses scattered around the factory, known as the R. Everhart & Co. Tobacco Factory. About this time the store became a general merchandise store, selling such Everhart tobacco brands as "Buffalo Bill" and "Blue Eagle" as well as a variety of other merchandise. The Arnold Post Office was located there from 1888 to 1901.<sup>8</sup> The earliest listing of the Everhart businesses in Branson's

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 97 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,6,5	1,9,0	3,9,7	2,5,0	0	B	1,7	5,6,5	9,5,0	3,9,7	2,2,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1,7	5,6,6	0,9,0	3,9,7	1,5,4	0	D	1,7	5,6,4	7,7,0	3,9,7	1,7,9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of Map 311, Davidson County Tax Office, contained in Lot 19, bounded on the north by Center Church Road (SR 1468), on the east by Lot 18, on the south by a lot on the adjacent tax map, on the west by SR 1457 and SR 1468, as outlined in red on map.

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North Carolina Business Directory is in 1890, when the R. & L. Everhard General Store is listed in Arnold under the category "Merchants and Tradesmen." In the last directory, of 1897, is the listing "R. Earnhardt & Co. General Store."<sup>9</sup> The Everhart brothers entered tobacco manufacturing during its infancy, when many small companies throughout piedmont North Carolina had an equal opportunity to prosper. By the early twentieth century, the Dukes in Durham and Reynolds in Winston began to monopolize the market, forcing smaller companies out of business. The Everhart Factory ceased to operate in the early 1900s and was dismantled in 1914. At about the same time, Arnold was bypassed by the construction of U.S. 52, the main highway from Lexington to Winston, several miles to the east, and the Everhart Store also closed.<sup>10</sup>

Riley died in 1930, leaving the farm to his widow and seven children. In the same year the youngest child, Elmer, born in 1900, bought out his brothers and sisters and acquired sole ownership.<sup>11</sup> He operated the farm until his death in the 1970s, and his widow Ella Mae Everhart is now the owner and occupant of the house and property.

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>United States Census, 1900. Population Schedule. Davidson County. Soundex Microfilm E 166, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 25, p. 237. State Archives.

<sup>3</sup>1900 Population Schedule; Interview with Ella Mae Everhart and daughter Ann Clodfelter, 7 April 1983, Arnold, North Carolina.

<sup>4</sup>Davidson County Deed Books 26, p. 170; 26, p. 355; 27, p. 42; 28, p. 107; 29, p. 454; 31, p. 24; 31, p. 336; and 31, p. 458, State Archives.

<sup>5</sup>Interview with Ella Mae Everhart and Ann Clodfelter.

<sup>6</sup>Davidson County Deed Book 29, p. 454, State Archives.

<sup>7</sup>Interview with Ella Mae Everhart and Ann Clodfelter.

<sup>8</sup>Anonymous article on R. Everhart & Co. Tobacco Factory, Homespun, "The Arnold Issue," Vol. V, Spring 1978.

<sup>9</sup>Branson's 1890 North Carolina Business Directory; Branson's 1897 North Carolina Business Directory.

<sup>10</sup>Interview with Ella Mae Everhart and Ann Clodfelter.

<sup>11</sup>Davidson County Deed Books 108, pp. 239, 282; 113, pp. 505, 509, 555; and 115, p. 64.

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Anonymous article on R. Everhart & Co. Tobacco Factory. Homespun "The Arnold Issue"  
Vol. V (Spring 1978).

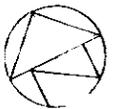
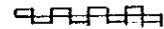
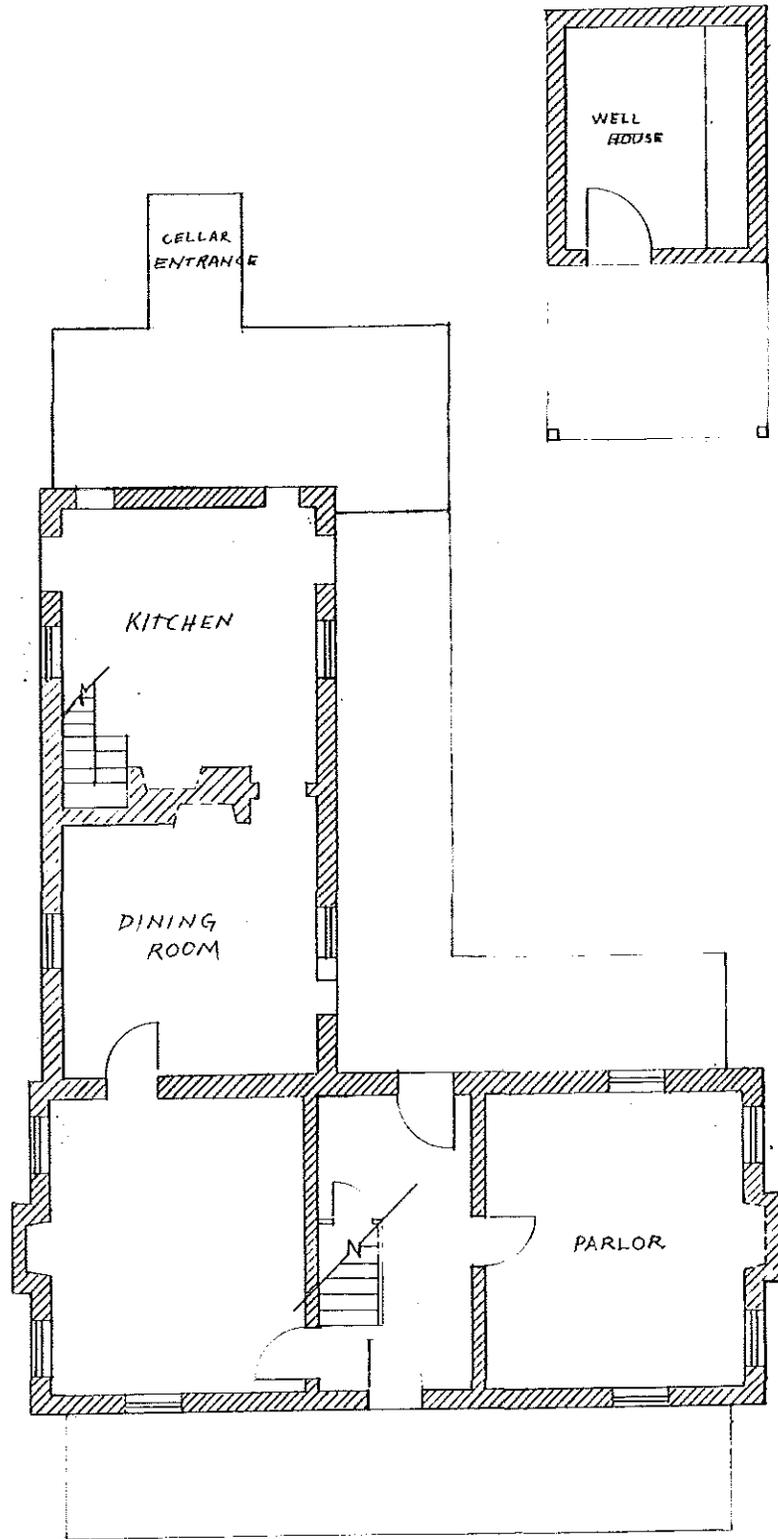
Branson's 1890 North Carolina Business Directory.

Branson's 1897 North Carolina Business Directory.

Davidson County Deed Books, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh,  
North Carolina.

Everhart, Ella Mae and Clodfelter, Ann, Interview with. 7 April 1983. Arnold, North  
Carolina.

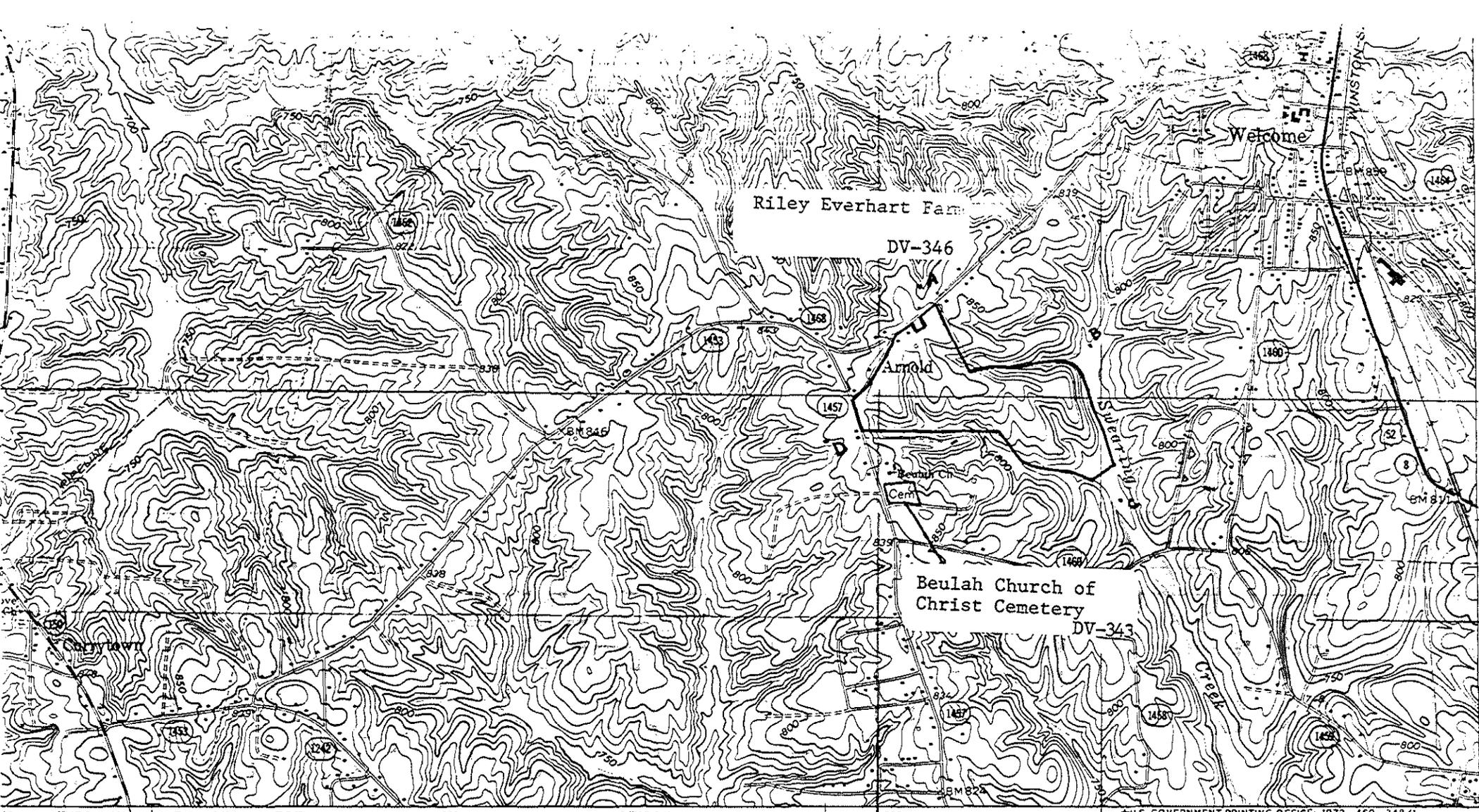
United States Census, 1900. Population Schedule. Davidson County. State Archives,  
Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.



RILEY EYERHART FARM  
 1885 DV-346

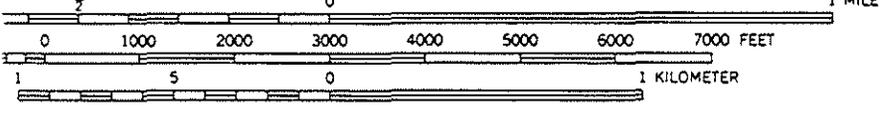
ARNOLD

1/8" = 1' 0"



561 TYRO 6 MI. (LEXINGTON WEST) 4955 IV SE 563 17'30" 565 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972-460-348/1 566 80°

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

WELCOME, N. C.  
N3552 5—W8015 7 5

1969

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST