

VLR-8/21/90 NRHP-1/3/91

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon

other names/site number DHR File 14-5

2. Location

street & number VA Route 675

N/A not for publication

city, town Arvon

N/A vicinity

state Virginia

code VA

county Buckingham

code 029

zip code 23004

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Date

8-23-90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellings

DOMESTIC: secondary structures

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellings

DOMESTIC: secondary structures

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Slate

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

STONE: Slate

roof STONE: Slate

other BRICK (chimneys)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located on a tract of wooded land in the quarrying community of Arvon, are Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon, two Queen Anne residences built in the 1890s for the Williams brothers. Both houses are distinguished by the extensive and creative use of slate, which is apparent on both the interior and exterior. Although similar in design, detailing, and the utilization of materials, particularly slate, the plan and elevations of each house are unique. The houses share a large tree-shaded lawn and are reached by a crushed-slate-covered drive that leads from Virginia Route 675. Bryn Arvon was the first of the two houses to be built and Gwyn Arvon, located slightly closer to the road, was constructed only a short time later and was enlarged circa 1915. A collection of outbuildings, which include a shared water tower and pump house, are located to the rear of the houses.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon are located in the small slate-quarrying community of Arvon and were built by Evan and John Williams, two brothers who owned the Williams Slate Company. Both houses and the foundation of a third occupy a large clearing within a wooded tract near the quarry. A pair of slate entrance piers that no longer retain their original gate mark the entrance from the road. The two-story houses have in common their extensive and unusual use of slate, as well as massing, materials, and details. The houses are not, however, identical, as the elevations and floor plans are significantly different. Gwyn Arvon, the second of the three to be built, received a rear addition in 1915. The houses possess features typical of the Queen Anne style, such as asymmetrical massing, cross gable projections, and irregular rooflines. Drives of crushed slate and walks of slate slabs are found at both houses.

The most notable similarity of the two houses is in the use of slate, which is employed extensively on both interiors and exteriors. The second floor of each house is clad in slate shingles reminiscent of tile-hung buildings in England. The same

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8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

ca. 1891-1915

Significant Dates

ca. 1891
1901
1911; ca. 1915

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon, which are located in the town of Arvon in northeastern Buckingham County, are two Queen Anne-style residences probably constructed about 1891-1892. Their respective builders, Evan Robert Williams and his brother John Robert Williams, were Welsh immigrants and quarrymen who founded the Williams Slate Company in 1870s. The Buckingham County slate industry, which began in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, was revitalized after the Civil War when new construction throughout the state created an enormous demand for roofing materials. Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon, with much of their exterior covered with different-colored slates arranged in decorative patterns, stand as monuments to the quarryman's art as well as to the slate industry and the Welsh immigrants who dominated it at its peak in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. With their slate coverings the two houses also well represent the late-nineteenth-century Victorian houses that are found in almost every community in the country.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. They are eligible under Criterion A because of their association with the development of the Buckingham slate industry and with the Welsh immigrants who built that industry into one of national renown. Under Criterion C the houses are eligible because they are unusual examples of Queen Anne-style residences constructed as showpieces of the quarryman's art; inside and out, slate is used in place of more commonly seen materials to create unusual and decorative patterns. In their use of slate as a decorative roof covering, Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon serve as a models for the ubiquitous

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shingles, also laid in a decorative pattern, cover the roofs. The majority of slate is the blue-black slate quarried locally, with small amounts of red from Vermont and green from Pennsylvania for decorative effect. Both houses rest on foundations of stacked slate and have front and rear porches with slate floors and steps. Even the roofs of the outbuildings are covered with slate.

The following resources are located on the property and are counted as contributing: the two principal dwellings, a garage, water tower, barn, two entrance piers, the site of a house foundation, a pump house, and a storage building. The only noncontributing resources are a nonhistoric greenhouse, a slate-roofed doghouse, and a vehicle shed.

BRYN ARVON

Bryn Arvon has an L-shaped plan created by a clipped-gable projection. Like its neighbor, the house rests on a foundation of mortared slate slabs. The first floor is covered by wood weatherboards and the second floor is covered with slate. A band of wood molding separates the two materials. Rising from the left of the junction of the cross and central gable intersection is a two-and-a-half story tower. This element, which is a dominant feature of the facade, is detailed with an extending eave supported by jig-sawn brackets that match those detailing the front porch. The pyramidal roof of the tower is embellished with clipped gable projections. Each of the four gable ends features a clipped gable and the roof, as well as the second floor cladding, is predominantly blue-black slate with small quantities of red and green slates laid in a decorative pattern. A pair of diamond-paned casement attic windows are found in each gable end.

A three-sided, one-story bay projection with narrow wood panels between and below each window extends from the cross gable projection. Sheltered by a one-story porch, the entrance is at the center of the elevation, in line with the tower. The pair of wood doors are incised with a decorative pattern and have a single-light transom and bracket-supported overdoor. The porch is supported by grooved and bracketed chamfered posts. There are two brick chimneys, one interior chimney extending above the southeast slope of the cross gable and an exterior chimney at the opposite end wall.

The northeast end elevation has two windows on each floor. The

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opposite end wall has a pair of attic windows, an enclosed side porch connection with the kitchen, and a lean-to shed-roofed addition that protects the entrance to the basement.

The rear elevation matches the front, with the exception that the rear entrance consists of a single door without ornament and an addition extends from the wall above the entrance. This addition was made to accommodate a bathroom. A second door connects the porch with the enclosed connection to the kitchen that originally was detached.

Bryn Arvon has a central hall with three principal rooms on each of the two floors. An enclosed side porch connects the main core of the house to the kitchen that was originally detached. To the northwest are a front and rear parlor that are interconnected by a door in the lateral wall. The dining room is located on the opposite side of the hall. This room arrangement is repeated on the second floor.

Each room possesses a different slate mantelpiece with carved and incised ornament. The flooring is random width pine, the walls are plaster, and the majority of windows are single sash double-hung. All doors have four raised panels and each door and window is framed with an architrave molding. The baseboards throughout the house are slate with a simple molding of the same material. Each room has a simple wood picture molding.

The stair hall features the main double-leaf entrance with a single-light transom at the southeast end, and a single-door entrance to the rear. The walls have beaded-board wainscoting with simple chair rails. This material is also used as a wall covering beneath the stair. The hall lacks the slate baseboards found elsewhere in the house. The stair consists of a long flight leading to a landing where it turns and continues three steps. The railing is walnut and has turned balusters and a massive newel. The closet beneath the stair has been converted to a bath.

The front parlor has a three-sided front bay projection and a slate mantel with incised detailing and a slate insert. The rear parlor also has a slate mantelpiece, to the left of which is a closet. This room has slightly simpler door and window surrounds than the front parlor. The rear wall of the rear parlor has a pair of windows.

The dining room can be entered from two doors, one at each end of

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the stair hall. It features a fireplace with a slate mantelpiece in the center of the exterior southwest wall. A door to the right of the fireplace leads to the connection with the kitchen and a built-in cupboard is located to the left. This cupboard has three glass doors on top, three drawers below, and three paneled wood cupboard doors on the bottom. Both the front (southeast) and rear (northwest) walls have a pair of windows.

The connection with the kitchen consists of a side porch enclosed about 1980. It has slate floors and the exterior weatherboard siding of the southwest elevation is still exposed. An exterior door in the added exterior wall leads to the side yard.

The kitchen was originally detached and accessed through the side porch. It features slate floors, wainscoting, and pantry shelving supported by iron brackets. The wainscoting consists of large rectangular slabs arranged vertically with a simple chair rail. Unlike the remainder of the house, the windows in this room are two-over-two and the door and window surrounds are simpler with corner block detailing. A partition wall that divided the room into a kitchen and pantry was removed about 1980.

The second floor has a floor plan identical to the first floor. In about 1920 the stair landing was extended out over the rear porch of the house to accommodate the addition of a bathroom. The flooring was raised several inches to allow for plumbing and a smaller four-over-four sash window added. Three steps lead from the landing to the second floor hall, from which the stair turns and continues to the attic. After three steps, this attic stair is enclosed and is accessed through a door.

The front (southeast) room has a pair of front windows and a single window in the side elevation. This room possesses no closet. The slate mantelpiece has a slate insert. The rear bedroom is identical to the front with the same dimensions, fenestration, and similar mantelpiece. The rear room has a closet to the left of the fireplace. The largest bedroom, equal in size to the dining room, is located on the southwest side of the hall. Its fireplace is flanked by closets and has paired front and rear windows and a slate mantel with an insert detailed with a molded arch.

Three contributing resources are associated with Bryn Arvon. These include the water tower, garage, and barn. The water tower consists of a wooden tank supported by a metal structure. The one-story weatherboarded garage has a gable roof covered with slate, as

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does the two-story barn. A privy with Queen Anne detailing was burned in 1982.

GWYN ARVON

Like its neighbor to the northwest, Gwyn Arvon is located on a spacious lawn protected by woods. Slate-slabbed walks are located in the yard, and the entrance walk is paved with slates laid in a diamond pattern. Slate steps lead from the front drive to the walk and from the walk to the porch.

Built shortly after Bryn Arvon, Gwyn Arvon is constructed of the same materials and in the same style, though it is slightly larger than its neighbor. Many of the details and elements of its plan are similar to those found at Bryn Arvon. The use of foundation, wall cladding, and roofing materials is the same. Notable differences include the slate stair, pocket doors, and lack of a tower. In 1915 a rear addition was constructed to provide separate living quarters for a family relative.

The overall plan is the same, only in reverse, with a cross gable projection at the southwest corner and a central entrance protected by a one-story hip-roofed porch. The gabled projection is three-sided on the first floor and decorative brackets detail the overhang of the story above. There are four windows on the first floor of the projection and three each on the second floor and attic. A second cross gable roof and hip-roofed sleeping porch addition are located above the entrance in place of Bryn Arvon's tower. The sleeping porch, located directly above the entrance, has three pairs of multi-paned casements on the front and two on the side. The porch has been widened and screened. The entrance consists of double doors with a two-light transom and three-light sidelights.

The gable end of the northeast elevation features a pair of windows on the first and second floors, with three attic windows. As with the two other gable ends of the house, this one is embellished with a decorative modillioned band between the second floor and attic, with a bracket at each end supporting the eave. Extending to the northwest is the rear addition, created by extending the original attached kitchen and adding a second story. Two-over-two windows are found in the addition, whereas one-over-one are used in the original portion.

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The southwest side elevation has a pair of first-floor windows to the far left and two evenly spaced windows on the second floor. An interior chimney with decorative corbeling extends from the roof slope of this elevation. The rear wing does not extend from this wall as it does on the other side. A slate terrace is located in front of the two-storied porch of the wing. The porch is supported by bracketed posts similar to those at Bryn Arvon and the second level has a decorative balustrade.

The interior is more spacious than Bryn Arvon, for though the arrangement is similar, the size of the rooms is larger. The wide central hall features a stair with slate risers and treads, with a straight run to a landing, where it turns and continues to the upstairs hall. The walnut railing is supported by square turned balusters and a massive newel. Paneled wainscoting is found throughout the stair hall. Entrances from the hall to the library and parlor are on the diagonal. New wood flooring has been added over the original in the hall.

The two rooms to the left of the entrance are interconnected by pocket doors and each has an interior corner fireplace. The slate mantelpieces, like those at Bryn Arvon, are carved and incised. The library fireplace has a slate stove insert. The front parlor has not been altered and the rear library has had shelving installed.

The dining room is located to the right of the entrance and retains its slate mantelpiece and built-in cupboard. The room has a heavy chair rail and a simple wood cornice. A door leads from this room into the kitchen wing that, until it was extended in 1915, was divided into a kitchen, a pantry with slate shelving, flooring, and wainscoting, and a side-porch entrance vestibule with slate wainscoting. A door in the kitchen leads to the addition that was built to function as a separate residence. The first floor consists of a large room containing a straight-run stair with a turned-baluster railing leading to two bedrooms above. The first-floor walls are covered with beaded board whereas those on the second floor are covered with large boards and battens.

The upstairs of the original section of the house has two bedrooms above the parlor and library and a larger room above the dining room. None of the upstairs rooms retain their slate mantelpieces. The sleeping porch added above the front entrance has been converted to a bathroom.

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A single-story gable-roofed structure originally used as a cottage for a Williams relative is located to the northwest of the slate terrace. This building is now used for storage. A board-and-batten pump house is located to the south of the water tower shared with Bryn Arvon. At the southeast corner of the property are the remains of a slate foundation for a third house, also built by the Williamses in the Queen Anne style, that burned about 1930.

There are three noncontributing resources associated with Gwyn Arvon, none of which are historic or intrusive. These include a greenhouse to the northeast, a small slate-roofed dog house, and a shed-roofed vehicle shed located to the rear of the property. A carriage house located on the site burned earlier in this century.

Julie L. Vosmik

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Victorian, slate-roofed houses located in most American towns and cities.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Between 1724 and 1726 James Skelton acquired two thousand acres of land by patent on the Slate River in present-day Buckingham County, in the midst of what is now called the Arvonnia Slate District. Other entrepreneurs followed, and the commercial production of slate began on a small scale soon thereafter. By the end of the eighteenth century the blue-black Buckingham slate had become famous throughout the state. In 1790 the plantation house at Berkeley was covered with a slate roof, and in 1796 Buckingham slate was quarried for the Virginia State Capitol.

Other states besides Virginia supplied slate to the building trades. Perhaps the best-known native American slates were the red of Vermont and the green of Pennsylvania. The eminent geologist William Barton Rogers testified to the high quality of Buckingham slate in his report on the 1835 geological reconnaissance of the state. He noted that Buckingham County

yields a material which will bear comparison with the better qualities of imported roofing slate. In texture, density and capacity of resisting atmospheric agents, it can scarcely be excelled by a similar material in any part of the world.¹

The most commonly used roofing material in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was wood in the form of shingles. Sheet metal was also available and grew in popularity during the nineteenth century because of its relative lightness and fireproof qualities. Thomas Jefferson strongly advocated the use of metal roofs, although he was familiar with slate. Perhaps because of poor quarrying techniques, however, as well as its weight, slate roofed mostly large, public buildings before the Civil War.

By 1860 there were only two slate quarries operating in Buckingham County. Chapman, Snead and Company was the larger, employing fifteen men and producing \$10,000 worth of slate per year. Robert C. Nicholas owned the other company; it employed six and produced slate valued at \$5,000 annually.²

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The demand for Buckingham slate remained steady even during the war. Afterwards, as the physical reconstruction of the South began simultaneously with political Reconstruction, the demand suddenly increased. Because of the loss of slave labor, the government of Virginia at about the same time encouraged the immigration of foreign laborers--especially farm workers--into the state. Perhaps in response to the state's efforts, men set sail from Wales to find employment in Virginia not as farmers but as quarrymen.

By 1870 eighty-seven Welsh immigrants had settled in the slate district; fifty-eight of them were employed as quarrymen and the remainder were women and children. The number of quarries had grown from two to eleven, including a Welsh Quarry Number 1 and a Welsh Quarry Number 2. These two quarries were the most heavily capitalized at \$12,500 apiece; Quarry 1 produced five thousand tons of rock and a hundred tons of slate valued at \$6,000, while Quarry 2 produced \$4,000 worth of rock (two thousand tons) and slate (two hundred tons). Compared with the Buckingham Slate Company quarry, however, the two Welsh quarries were not yet major competitors--no doubt because of their newness. Buckingham Slate had \$10,000 worth of capital investment, including water- and steam-powered equipment; the Welsh companies had no machinery, but relied solely on manual labor (they employed fifteen and eight hands respectively). The Buckingham Slate Company employed thirty quarrymen and produced ten thousand tons of rock and five hundred tons of slate valued at \$9,000.³

Among the newcomers from Wales were two brothers, John Robert Williams (28 March 1843-21 March 1901) and Evan Robert Williams (June 1844-February 1911), who were natives of Caernarvon, a world center of slate production. They emigrated to the United States in 1868, settled first in Vermont, and moved to Virginia in 1870. John R. Williams, the elder of the two, took his room and board in the home of another Welsh immigrant, Margaret Morriss, and went to work in the quarries. Evan R. Williams was not listed in the 1870 census records but does appear in the Buckingham County personal property tax records for that year with two cows and a carriage or wagon, presumably all the taxable property the brothers owned when they moved to Virginia.⁴

Although John and Evan Williams probably began their careers as quarrymen, they soon divided their labors between Buckingham County, the production center, and Richmond, the marketing center of the state. In 1876 Evan Robert Williams married Thomasia Hutcheson, of Richmond; John Robert Williams married her sister,

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Alexine Hutcheson, in 1877. When the United States census was taken in 1880, both brothers were listed in the Richmond household of their mother-in-law, most likely because they were visiting.

On 1 June 1875 the brothers, trading under the name John R. Williams and Company, leased for ten years the quarry owned by the heirs of Robert C. Nicholas, "together with all the machinery, fixtures and implements attached to, and used in working said Quarry."⁵ In return for the right to work the quarry, the brothers agreed to pay the Nicholas heirs seventy-five cents for each ten-foot square of slate they quarried; if they opened a new quarry on the property they were to pay fifty cents for each square cut there. Three years later the lease was changed by mutual agreement to permit the brothers to pay a flat rate of \$1,000 a year.⁶

John Williams spent most of his time in Richmond, where he promoted his company's slate masterfully at its offices at 2627 Dock Street; his favorite tactic was to submit samples to the expositions and world's fairs of the period. Gold medals and other awards frequently resulted.⁷

On 4 February 1882 the General Assembly incorporated the Big Quarry Slate Company, with John R. Williams as one of the directors. The brothers purchased their own land in Buckingham County in 1883: two hundred and fifty acres on Hunt's Creek from the heirs of Robert C. Nicholas. In 1884 John R. Williams and Company bought ninety-nine acres on Hunt's Creek adjacent to the quarry tract from the estate of Charles H. Perrow. No doubt because John Williams traveled frequently to Buckingham on business, in 1891-1892 the brothers constructed adjacent, superficially similar houses near their quarries on the Perrow tract. Evan Williams occupied Bryn Arvon and John Williams used Gwyn Arvon on his visits.⁸

The brothers located their houses on the edge of the village that had grown up with the arrival of the Welsh quarrymen. Before the Civil War the nearest town to the quarries was New Canton a few miles to the north. The Welshmen named the new village Arvon (later modified to Arvonnia), after Caernarvon, which had been home to many of them. They soon covered the roofs of the town with slate; eventually barns, privies, doghouses, and woodsheds had slate roofs. Slate was used for intricately carved tombstones in the local cemetery, and their inscriptions were done in Gaelic.

The use of slate as a utilitarian, artistic, or decorative medium

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not only is evident in Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon, but is carried almost to an extreme. Blue-black Buckingham slate on the exteriors, both as a roof covering and as a sheathing for the upper story, was supplemented by red and green slate from Vermont and Pennsylvania to create decorative patterns; craftsmen carved the exposed edges of the slate shingles into various shapes. Porch floors were of slate. Inside the houses slate was used for mantels, hearths, baseboards, and wainscoting. The risers and treads of stairways, the pantry walls, and even the kitchen sinks were sheathed in slate.

John R. Williams died at his house in Richmond on 21 March 1901. At the time of his death the Welsh immigrant had his office in his own building at Ninth and Cary streets in downtown Richmond; he was president of the Southern Trust Company; a director of the State Bank; a major investor in the Virginia Casket Company; and one of a company of men that recently had been formed to develop the old resort at Natural Bridge, in Rockbridge County. He was buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.⁹

Evan R. Williams carried on the slate business until his death in February 1911; he too was buried in Hollywood Cemetery.¹⁰ Although the Williams Slate Company was the largest in Arvonian, it was not the only one. Arvonian never was a company town in the sense of being "owned" by a single company; it was, however, dominated by a single industry: slate quarrying. Some of the quarry owners constructed workers' housing, a few examples of which survive. Each company built its own offices and stores, but there were non-company-owned enterprises as well. In its heyday, roughly the first decade of the twentieth century, Arvonian boasted a hotel, a railroad station, and an optimistic development company.

Arvonian's plans for growth received a severe setback on 1 June 1910, however, when the town's quarrymen went on strike. Dangerous working conditions, two deaths from accidents, and low wages resulted in a work stoppage that lasted six months. While the Buckingham quarries stood idle competitors in other states lured construction contractors away and it was several years before the Arvonian companies recovered. The popularity of the Colonial Revival style caused orders to surge, as homeowners became convinced through clever advertising that nothing could adorn their new brick mansions quite as well as a Buckingham slate roof.

The Great Depression virtually killed the slate industry. Automation and mergers kept a few companies in operation, including the

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Williams Slate Company. The demand for slate never regained its pre-Depression heights, however, and in 1959 the Williams Slate Company merged with the Arvoniam-Buckingham Corporation. Additional mergers followed, and by 1987 the LeSueur-Richmond Slate Company was the sole quarry in operation, employing about a hundred and fifty persons.

Despite the decline in sales, however, there has been no decline in the quality or reputation of Buckingham slate as a roofing material. When the Virginia Governor's Mansion, a National Historic Landmark, was rehabilitated in 1989, workers installed a new roof of Buckingham slate. In Arvoniam, near the source of that slate, the houses of Evan and John Williams remain in the hands of their descendants as symbols of the industry they helped develop, the standards of craftsmanship that their quarrymen established, and the reputation for permanence that Buckingham slate still enjoys.

John S. Salmon

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1. Nick H. Evans and John D. Marr, Jr., "Geology and the Slate Industry in the Arvon District, Buckingham County, Virginia," Virginia Minerals 34 (1988):38.
2. United States Census, Industry, 1860, Buckingham County, Reel 236, Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives (VSL&A). In 1883 Nicholas sold his quarry to the Williams brothers.
3. Ibid., Inhabitants, 1870, Buckingham County, Reel 155b, VSL&A; ibid., Industry, 1870, Buckingham County, Reel 243, VSL&A.
4. Ibid., Inhabitants, Buckingham County, 1870, Reel 155b, VSL&A; Obituary, John R. Williams, Richmond Times-Dispatch, 22 March 1901; Auditor of Public Accounts, Personal Property Tax Books, Buckingham County, 1870, VSL&A (neither brother appears in the 1869 book).
5. Buckingham County, Deed Book 2, pp. 386-390, Buckingham County Courthouse, Buckingham, Va.
6. Ibid., Deed Book 3, pp. 160-161.
7. S. Allen Chambers, Jr., "'Of the best quality': Buckingham Slate," Virginia Cavalcade 38 (1989): 162-163.
8. Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Virginia During the Session of 1881-82 (Richmond: Superintendent of Public Printing, 1882), 60-61; Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Books, Buckingham County, 1882-1895, VSL&A; Buckingham County Deed Book 5, pp. 509-510. The deed for the ninety-nine-acre tract was written on 9 August 1884 but not recorded until 8 November 1886. When the brothers acquired the quarry tract in 1883 it had \$2,000 worth of buildings on it; in 1885 the value of the buildings rose to \$8,000, indicating new construction. In 1891 the value fell to \$5,000. When the brothers purchased the Perrow tract in 1884 it had \$50 worth of buildings. In 1891 the value increased to \$3,000 and the next year to \$10,000, with the marginal comment "\$7000 in buildings added to this." Note that the value of the buildings on the quarry tract fell by \$3,000 in 1891, the same year that the value of the buildings on the Perrow tract rose from \$50 to \$3,000. Perhaps some buildings at the quarry were either demolished or moved to the Perrow tract in 1891 and in 1892 Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon were constructed. Alternatively, the two dwellings could have been built in 1891 and

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finished with slate in 1892. There even may have been three dwellings on the Perrow tract; the foundations of another large structure (according to local tradition a dwelling built about the same time as Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon) are located down the hill from Gwyn Arvon, near the road.

9. Obituary, John R. Williams, Richmond Times-Dispatch, 22 March 1901. Both his Richmond house and his office have since been demolished.

10. Richmond City, Hollywood Cemetery Records, Index to Burials, 1847-1930, VSL&A.

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Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Virginia During the Session of 1881-82. Richmond: Superintendent of Public Printing, 1882.

Architectural Survey File 14-5. Department of Historic Resources. Richmond, Va.

Auditor of Public Accounts. Land Tax Books. Buckingham County. 1882-1895. Virginia State Library and Archives. Richmond, Va. (VSL&A).

Auditor of Public Accounts. Personal Property Tax Books. Buckingham County. 1869-1870. VSL&A.

Buckingham County. Deed Books 2, 3, and 5. Buckingham County Courthouse. Buckingham, Va.

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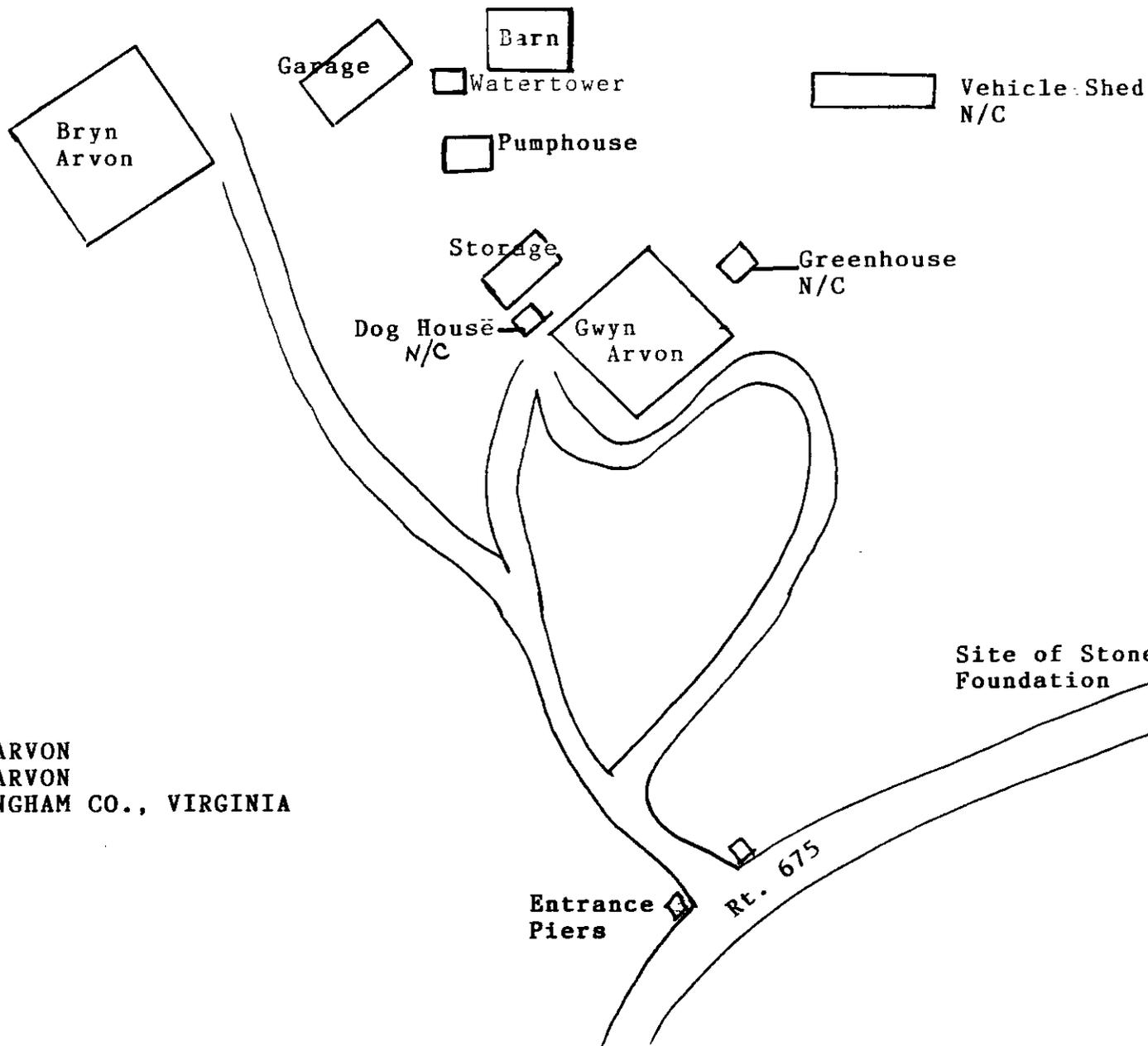
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SITE MAP- not to scale



BRYN ARVON
GWYN ARVON
BUCKINGHAM CO., VIRGINIA

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Va. Dept. of Historic Resources
221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6.5 acres

UTM References

A 17 733680 417490
 Zone Easting Northing

C 17 733300 417450
 Zone Easting Northing

B 17 733560 417440
 Zone Easting Northing

D 17 733600 417460
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is defined by the polygon whose vertices are delineated by the following UTM coordinates: A 17/733680/4174490; B 17/733560/4174400; C 17/733300/4174540; D 17/733600/4174610.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include both houses and the associated resources that historically have been part of Bryn Arvon and Gwyn Arvon, and excludes the adjacent wooded areas that lack these resources.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie L. Vosmik (Architectural Historian)/John S. Salmon (Historian)

organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date 31 July 1990

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143

city or town Richmond state Virginia zip code 23219

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PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATIONNEGATIVE Nos. 10762
10763

1. Bryn Arvon
Arvonia, Buckingham County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
July 1990
Negative on file: Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.
View of south elevation
2. View of east elevation
3. View of west elevation
4. View of north elevation
5. View of tower, south elevation
6. View of stair, first floor
7. View of southeast parlor
8. View of north parlor
9. View of mantelpiece, southwest parlor
10. View of barn
11. View of garage
12. View of water tower
13. Gwyn Arvon
Arvonia, Buckingham County, Virginia
John S. Salmon, photographer
July 1990
Negative on file: Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.
View of south elevation
14. View of southwest elevation
15. View of east elevation
16. View of west elevation showing ca. 1915 addition to rear
17. View of porch and terrace, west elevation

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18. View of stair hall, first floor
19. View of southwest parlor looking into northwest parlor
20. View of dining room
21. View of slate walkway, south entrance
22. View of slate piers, entrance to driveway
23. View of slate foundations, third house (site)

