

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ames-Old Farm
Other names/site number: DHR ID# 133-0058
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 6700 Knotts Neck Road
City or town: Suffolk State: VA County: Independent City
Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☐ N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

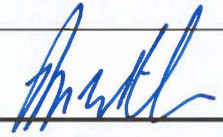
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B XC D


Signature of certifying official/Title:

5/28/26
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling; secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSTINENCE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSTINENCE/processing
AGRICULTURE/SUBSTINENCE/storage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSTINENCE/agricultural outbuilding
EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling; secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSTINENCE/storage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSTINENCE/agricultural outbuilding

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: BRICK; Walls:
WOOD/Weatherboard; Roof: METAL; Other: BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Ames-Old Farm property is located on 4.7-acres of land in the City of Suffolk, near the city's northern boundary, which is intersected by the Nansemond River.¹ Situated to the west of the river, the property fronts Knotts Creek, one of its tributaries. To the north and west, the property is contiguous with a 291-acre parcel of undeveloped farmland, which is protected by conservation easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.² The primary resource on the property is a circa 1815, 2.5-story, three-bay, frame dwelling. The dwelling has four additions: a mid-19th-century dining room addition, an early 20th-century bathroom addition, a mid-20th-century bedroom and kitchen addition, and a late-20th-century garage addition. The dining room and garage additions extend from the dwelling's south elevation, creating a telescoping form. The interior and exterior of the original, circa 1815 block of the house are remarkably preserved, providing a record of the architecture of Tidewater Virginia and the home of a small or yeoman farmer in the early 19th century. The house sits on the southwest portion of the parcel and is

¹ The Ames-Old Farm parcel totals 8.11 acres; however, only 4.7 acres are land. The remaining parcel acreage is comprised of marshland leading to the water's edge.

² 145 acres were placed under easement in 2012, followed by an additional 146 acres in 2022.

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surrounded to the north, south, and east by six historic outbuildings. The outbuildings date from the mid-19th- to early-20th centuries and include a barn, corncrib, garage, schoolhouse, potato cellar, and gas house. All six historic outbuildings, in addition to the house, are contributing resources. A modern, prefabricated garage, which is adjacent to (southeast of) the barn, is the only non-contributing resource on the property. Ames-Old Farm retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description³

Setting/Location

The 4.7-acres of land on which the Ames-Old Farm property is located is flat, grassy, and dotted with mature trees. The house is accessed by Knotts Neck Road, which extends from the adjacent 291-acre parcel of farmland and intersects Route 17, known locally as Bridge Road. The house faces west, toward the farmland, and is surrounded by the Knotts Creek tributary. A paved driveway leads to both the attached garage and the free-standing garage, and brick walkways lead to the front entry of the main block and the south wing. The outbuildings sit to the north, south, and east of the house and are oriented in various directions. South of the 291-acre parcel and north of Route 17, to the east of Knotts Neck Road, is a residential neighborhood known as Arbor Meadows and, to the west of Knotts Neck Road, is agricultural land owned by plant nursery Lancaster Farms. The property is near the City of Suffolk's northwestern boundary, which abuts the eastern boundary of the City of Portsmouth. In 1974, the City of Suffolk merged with Nansemond County. The merger created the present-day, 430-square-mile city boundary, making Suffolk the geographically largest locality in Virginia.

Inventory

1. House, ca. 1815, Contributing building.
2. Barn, ca. 1860, Contributing building.
3. Prefabricated Garage, 2018, Non-contributing building.
4. Corncrib, ca. 1910, Contributing building.
5. Garage, ca. 1914, Contributing building.
6. Schoolhouse, mid-to-late 19th century, Contributing building.
7. Potato Cellar, ca. 1910, Contributing building.
8. Gas House, ca. 1916, Contributing building.

House, Ca. 1815 (Contributing Building)

Exterior Description

Main Block

³ Unless otherwise noted, historical information about Ames-Old Farm and the Knott and Old families is derived from Levi Old Jr.'s *Chronology of Knotts Creek Farm* and is supplemented by additional information provided by property owner William L. Old, III.

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The dwelling's original weatherboard siding is still intact, although it is covered by vinyl lap siding. The vinyl siding is the same width (six inches) as the weatherboard siding, helping to preserve—especially from a distance—the historic appearance of the house. Originally, the dwelling rested on brick piers and had a three-foot crawl space; this space was later enclosed with the current red brick skirt. The dwelling has a side-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal. Originally, the roof was clad in cypress shingles. The original shingles remain beneath the metal roofing, which was likely added in the late 19th century.

The dwelling is three-bays wide and two-bays deep. On the south elevation, there are two brick exterior end chimneys, each of which are 40-feet tall and served a first- and second-story fireplace.⁴ A hipped-roof screened porch, supported by tapered wood posts, extends across the front (west) elevation. A screened porch of the same design extends across the rear (east) elevation. The windows are a mix of primarily nine-over-six and nine-over-nine double-hung wood sash, most of which have simple wooden lintels and sills (some of which are encased in vinyl). Remarkably, most of the windows still contain their old glass panes. The majority of windows are flanked by louvered wood shutters that open and close.

A small, second-story, gable-roofed bathroom addition projects from the north side of the rear elevation. A one-story, gable-roofed hyphen connects the main block of the dwelling to the south wing, which subsequently connects to the garage.



Figures 1 and 2: The main block and part of the south wing circa 1900 (left), and the gable-front portico pre-1900 (right). Photos courtesy of the owner.

West Elevation

The dwelling has a side-hall plan and thus an asymmetric façade, with the front entry located on the north side of the elevation and two nine-over-nine double-hung wood-sash windows on the south side. Though asymmetric, the façade maintains a sense of balance, as the three second-

⁴ Department of Historic Resources' survey files from 1976 note that the south chimney stack was rebuilt in 1918.

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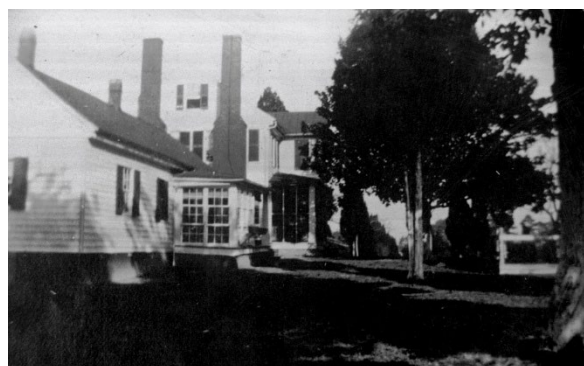
story windows—which are nine-over-six double-hung wood sash—align with the first-story fenestration. Louvered wood shutters flank the windows on the façade. The front entry contains a six-panel wood door, topped by a divided-light transom. Small brick steps with modern iron handrails lead to the screened-porch door. Likely added in the early 20th century, the porch replaced a small gable-front portico (pictured in Figures 1 and 2).

East Elevation

As stated, the rear (east) elevation features a screened porch resembling that of the front elevation, with a hipped roof and tapered wood posts. The fenestration of the rear elevation also mirrors that of the front elevation, with a six-panel wood door located on the north side of the elevation and two nine-over-nine double-hung wood-sash windows on the south side. Like the front elevation, the second-story windows are nine-over-six double-hung wood sash. However, the second-story bathroom addition, likely constructed in the 1920s, has altered the original fenestration pattern.⁵ The addition features three nine-over-six double-hung wood sash windows (one on each of the exterior walls) and a front-gable roof—also clad in standing-seam metal—with cornice returns.



Figure 3: The west elevation and south wing circa 1920. Note that the portico has been replaced with a hipped-roof screened porch. Photo courtesy of the owner.



⁵ Department of Historic Resources' survey files from 1976 note that the bathroom addition was constructed in 1908, coinciding with the farm's transfer of ownership to Walter Raleigh Old Jr (and other projects, like changes to the main staircase). However, photographs from circa 1920 and 1930 (Figures 4 and 5) indicate that the bathroom was added sometime in the 1920s. The *Chronology of Knotts Creek Farm* by Levi Old Jr. states that the bathroom addition was constructed in 1923.

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Figures 4 and 5: The east elevation circa 1920 (left) and circa 1930 (right). Note that the bathroom addition is visible in the circa 1930 photograph and that the porch has been screened in. Note, too, the addition of the greenhouse or “flower room” with triple-hung windows. Photos courtesy of the owner.

North Elevation

A six-over-six double-hung wood-sash window occupies the gable end of the north (side) elevation. The elevation features two first-story windows and two second-story windows that are aligned in their placement but are not symmetrical. On the west side of the first story there is a fixed, six-light, wood window. The window’s small size (which is accounted for by its placement above the stairs) contrasts the surrounding double-hung windows, which include a nine-over-nine window on the east side of the first story and two nine-over-six windows on the second story. A pre-1900 photograph (Figure 6) showing four symmetrical window openings on the north elevation indicates that this smaller window is not original.⁶



Figure 6: The north elevation pre-1900. Note that the first-floor west window has not yet been replaced. Note, too, the Victorian-era pattern-sawn porch pickets (seen also in Figure 4). Photo courtesy of the owner.

South Elevation

The south (side) elevation is dominated by two shouldered exterior end chimneys. Each chimney is bracketed by a smaller “half” window. On the first floor, the windows are six-over-six (two lights wide and three lights high) double-hung wood sash, and on the second floor they are six-over-four double-hung wood sash. Each window fits a single shutter. The interior edges of the windows abut the chimneys, giving the unique appearance that the windows are bisected by the chimney walls. Like the north elevation, a six-over-six double-hung wood-sash window occupies the gable end of the south elevation.

South Wing

The south wing was constructed circa 1875 to house the dining room and kitchen and was built on the site of an older free-standing kitchen. The wing has undergone several alterations

⁶ Department of Historic Resources’ survey files from 1976 note that changes were made to the first-floor staircase in 1908. It is likely that the existing fixed window was added at that time, replacing the original double-hung window.

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throughout the years. In photographs from circa 1900 and 1920 (Figures 1 and 3), the wing's front (west) elevation is pictured with a shed-roofed porch, which, in the circa 1920 photograph, appears half enclosed and half screened (Figure 2). In another circa 1920 photograph, the wing is pictured with an enclosed greenhouse on the north side of the rear (east) elevation (Figure 4 and 5). The wing was altered most substantially in 1965 with the construction of additions designed by Norfolk-based architect Finlay Ferguson, Jr.⁷

The additions consist of two bedrooms—each with a bath—which project from the rear (east) elevation and span the length of the wing, a small entrance hall to the south of the dining room, a new kitchen and a breakfast room to the south of the hall, and a laundry room to the south of the kitchen. The breakfast room projects from the south side of the front (west) elevation. The room has a shed roof which extends to the north, creating a small, covered porch that surrounds the entry to the hall between the dining room and kitchen. Brick steps flanked by iron handrails lead to the porch, which has a simple balustrade and herringbone brick floor. Like the main block, a six-panel wood door topped by a divided-light transom provides entry to the south wing.

The 1965 additions are frame, clad in vinyl lap siding, and have shed roofs sheathed in standing-seam metal. The windows on the additions are six-over-six double-hung wood sash and are arranged in single, paired, and triple configurations. While the scale, proportions, and fenestration patterns of the additions differentiate them from the circa 1875 block of the south wing, the consistency of materials contributes to an overall sense of cohesion between the 19th- and 20th-century portions of the wing. Exterior features like the brick skirt, weatherboard siding (still beneath the vinyl), standing-seam metal roofing, six-over-six windows, and louvered wood shutters are in keeping with the features of the main block.

The south wing was originally connected to the dwelling by a 13-foot open breezeway. In 1923, the breezeway was enclosed to create a seating area. Since its enclosure, the hyphen has been slightly enlarged, so that it is flush with rather than set back from the face of the south wing. Additionally, the roof has been raised and the fenestration on the front (south) elevation altered. These changes are evidenced by the circa 1900 photograph (Figure 1), where the hyphen is pictured with a slight setback from the south wing, a shallow-pitch roof, and a door on the front elevation where there are now two six-over-six windows. The exact date of these changes is not known, though they are believed to predate the 1965 remodeling.

Garage Wing

Constructed in 1985, the garage connects to the south wing via the laundry room. The garage is one-story tall and two-bays wide. The front (east) elevation features two paneled, metal roll-top doors. The rear (west) elevation features two six-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows

⁷ Ferguson Jr. began his career as a draftsman at Colonial Williamsburg. Later, he joined Peebles and Ferguson, the firm of his father, Finlay Forbes Ferguson Sr., who served as an Advisory Architect at Colonial Williamsburg in the late 1920s. Throughout his career, Ferguson Jr. worked on the restoration of numerous historic properties in the Tidewater Region. Finlay Forbes Ferguson Jr. Photograph Collection, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, accessed January 8, 2026, <https://rocklib.omeka.net/collections/show/39>.

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flanked by louvered wood shutters. Exterior access to the garage is provided by a half-light door located on the south elevation. To the east of the door is a third six-over-six window.

Interior Description

Main Block

Originally, the main block of the dwelling had wide, heart-pine floors. The original boards on the first and second floors were covered with narrow, tongue-and-groove oak flooring in 1923; however, they remain uncovered in the attic. The original plaster walls have been retained and are in excellent condition. Over the years, they have been covered with multiple layers of paint and wallpaper; the walls are now painted white. Six-inch baseboards, five-inch chair railing, and a picture railing—located about six inches below the ceiling—are present on the first floor. The first-floor ceilings are ten feet tall.

The first floor of the main block consists of a through hall on the north side of the house and two parlors on the south side. The front (west) parlor measures 17 by 14.5 feet, and the rear (east) parlor measures 17 by 11 feet. The first-floor hallway has two exterior and two interior doors, each of which are traditional six-panel wood doors. The doors are surrounded by six-inch wood, molded casings that match those of the windows. The two brick fireplaces in the parlors are intact, although the one in the rear parlor was closed off in the early 20th century to be used as a flue for a coal furnace. The firebox remains enclosed, and the hearth has been covered or removed. Both fireplaces have their original mantels. The mantels feature simple legs; a large, two-foot-tall header; and a simple shelf. The staircase is located on the north side of the hallway and features a decorative skirtboard and elegant wood balustrade and newel posts. The stairs lead to a small landing, make a right turn, then lead to the second floor.⁸

The second floor of the main block consists of two bedrooms, which are located above and share the same dimensions as the first-floor parlors. Both bedrooms have oak-over-pine floors, plaster walls, and a fireplace located on the south wall, above the respective parlor fireplace. Like the rear parlor fireplace, the fireplace in the rear bedroom has been closed off. The bedroom fireplace mantels are similar to those of the parlor fireplaces; however, they each feature a slightly shorter header. Like the parlors, the bedrooms have six-inch baseboards, five-inch chair railing, and a picture railing located about six inches below the ceiling. Each of the bedrooms has a 4.5-foot-tall radiator, added in the 1920s. The bedroom doors are the same six-panel wood doors as those on the first floor.

At the rear (west end) of the second-floor hall is the bathroom, which measures 7 by 9 feet. The bathroom has 4.5-foot-tall tongue-and-groove wainscoting, its original enamel sink and clawfoot bathtub, and a four-panel door. At the front (east end) of the hall is a smaller third bedroom, measuring 10 by 8 feet. Likely a later addition, the bedroom, which is thought to have served as a nursery, is devoid of the chair and picture railing found in the larger bedrooms. The room does,

⁸ Department of Historic Resources' survey files from 1976 note that the top of the staircase was changed from a dog-leg to winder configuration in 1908. Later, the balusters and balustrade were made taller to make the stairs safer.

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however, have wooden baseboards and a radiator, like the larger bedrooms. A narrow two-panel wood door on the south wall connects the room to the front bedroom.

A simple staircase at the west end of the hall leads to the attic. A single wall divides the attic into two rooms. The original wide, heart-pine floors remain uncovered in the attic and are in very good condition. The attic has simple baseboards and molded window and door casings, like the rest of the main block.

South Wing

The hyphen connecting the main block to the south wing houses a seating area measuring 7 by 9 feet. Though the room features the same 1920s oak flooring as the main block, it is differentiated by its crown molding and four six-over-six windows (two on each exterior wall). A narrow three-panel wood door, with dimensions similar to that of the small upstairs bedroom, leads from the main block to the hyphen, and an open doorway leads from the hyphen to the dining room.

The dining room has original plaster walls, 1920s oak flooring, and crown molding likely dating to the 1965 remodeling. Differing from the main block and hyphen, the dining room features simple, flat, wood window and door casings with slightly pointed headers and wainscoting comprised of organically sized vertical wood boards topped by simple molded chair railing. There is a fireplace, which has been enclosed and covered with wainscoting, on the rear (east) wall of the dining room. The original mantel remains partially intact and features a tall header and simple shelf, similar to the mantels in the main block. The dining room measures 21 by 16 feet.

South of the dining room is the entrance hall. This hall is oriented north-south and leads to a hall oriented east-west, which connects to the two bedrooms and two bathrooms on the east side of the south wing. The bedrooms measure 17 by 14 feet and are identical in their design. The halls and kitchen have chair railing and crown molding, and the same window and door casings as those in the dining room are found throughout the 1965 portions of the wing. A door on the kitchen's south elevation leads to the laundry room, which connects the south wing to the garage. The kitchen, breakfast room, and laundry room all have herringbone brick veneer floors.

Garage Wing

Shorter in height, the garage wing is subordinate to the south wing, contributing to the dwelling's telescoping or stepped appearance. The garage has a simple interior with concrete floors.

Outbuildings

Barn, ca. 1860 (Contributing Building)

The barn sits in a 1.5-acre barnyard, which is now delineated by a row of hedges to the east and the creek to the south. The main block of the barn was likely constructed around the time of the Civil War and is a simple, rectangular, wooden structure set on a brick foundation. Originally, the barn housed about a dozen mules for farm work and about three horses to pull wagons and a buggy. The main block measures 40 by 27 feet, has a side-gable roof clad in standing-seam metal, and is two bays wide. Vertical-board track doors cover each bay. The first floor of the

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main block contains six stalls (three on each side), and the second floor houses an open hayloft, which was used for storing forage for the farm animals. Over the years, one-story, shed-roofed additions were added to the north, south, and east sides of the barn. A pre-1900 photograph depicts the barn without additions (Figure 6). The addition on the south side measures 35 by 10 feet and contains three more stalls. The addition on the west side measures 40 by 16 feet and includes a tack room and a concrete-floor storage area for a farm vehicle. The addition on the north side measures 40 by 16 feet and includes a tool room and the entrance to the aforementioned farm-vehicle storage area. The barn's original weatherboard siding, which is secured with cut nails, remains uncovered on the west elevation. It is in excellent condition, thanks to the protection provided by the west addition.

Prefabricated Garage, 2018 (Non-contributing Building)

A prefabricated, one-story, metal garage is the only non-contributing resource on the property. The garage rests on a concrete foundation, has corrugated metal siding, and two metal roll-top doors. It sits just southeast of the barn and is used for boat storage. The garage was built on the footprint of and replaced a deteriorated frame shed and chicken coop.

Corncrib, ca. 1910 (Contributing Building)

The present corncrib was erected in the early 1900s to replace a deteriorated one. It measures 20 by 25 feet, sits on a brick foundation, and has a concrete floors and a front-gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The siding is made of four-inch-wide vertical boards, which are spaced an inch apart for ventilation. The door is also made of vertical boards and is hung with metal straps. Inside, the siding is covered with a half-inch square wire mesh to keep out rodents and snakes.

Garage, ca. 1914 (Contributing Building)

The free-standing garage was built circa 1914 when the family purchased their first automobile. It is a one-car garage, measuring 22 by 14.5 feet. The original weatherboard siding is covered by vinyl lap siding, and the front-gable roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal. Inside, the walls and ceiling are clad in tongue-and-groove beadboard. There are three windows—one on the south, east, and west walls, respectively—each of which are six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Double-leaf, vertical-board doors hung with metal straps provide entry into the garage.

Gas House, ca. 1916 (Contributing Building)

On the south side of the house is a square 10-by-10-foot gas house. The building was constructed to house bags of calcium carbonate that were used to make acetylene gas used for interior lighting in the 1890s and early 1900s. The gas house has thick red-brick walls, a hipped roof clad in standing-seam metal, and two doors: a vertical-board interior door and a vertical-board exterior door with two louvered vents. The louvered vents on the south, east, and west elevations are later additions to the structure. With its thick brick walls and double doors, the gas house was designed to contain an accidental explosion, which could occur if the calcium carbonate were to get wet. There are two other known extant gas houses in the neighborhood.

Schoolhouse, mid-to-late 19th-century (Contributing Building)

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Just south of the gas house and overlooking the creek is a 12-by-16-foot, one-room schoolhouse. The structure rests on brick piers, has weatherboard siding covered by vinyl lap siding, and a front-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal. The ridge of the roof is pierced by a small, central, brick chimney, which would have been used for a small stove to heat the room. There are two six-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows on the north and south elevations, respectively, and one on the west elevation. The windows are flanked by louvered wood shutters. A four-panel wood door, located on the east elevation, serves as the entry to the schoolhouse. The original plaster walls were covered with the scribblings of the school children; however, in the 1980s, due to deterioration, the walls and floor were replaced. Care was taken to ensure that the replacements were sympathetic to the original walls and floor. The schoolhouse likely dates to the mid-to-late 19th century. The 1850 census lists a schoolteacher by the name of William R. Ellis living on the property.⁹ School books found on the property date to 1878.

Potato Cellar, ca. 1910 (Contributing Building)

Built in the early 1900s to store seed potatoes until they were ready to plant, the potato cellar is located to north of the house. It measures 33 by 18 feet and is built into the side of a hill, so most of the brick foundation and side walls are underground. The cellar has a front-gable roof clad in standing-seam metal. The gable end of the structure is clad in vinyl lap siding. Two vertical-board doors hung with metal straps are located on the west elevation of the cellar.

Integrity Analysis

The Ames-Old Farm house and associated outbuildings retain the seven aspects of integrity identified by the Department of the Interior, including location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house and six extant historic outbuildings remain in their original sites; thus, the property retains integrity of *location*. The 4.7-acres of land on which the property is located retains integrity of *setting*, as the historically rural, agricultural nature of the land has been preserved. New development has not occurred in the vicinity of the property, thanks in part to the conservation easements held on the adjacent 291 acres of farmland. The setting of the house and yard were well-described in a 1983 *Virginian-Pilot* newspaper article written on Virginia's Historic Garden Week. The article describes the "crown-granted land" as "still beautiful," possessing "supreme serenity...cultivated fields, lush trees and vegetation, [and] sleepy creek and sky."¹⁰

A prefabricated metal garage is the only modern and non-contributing resource on the property. Though it is adjacent to the barn and in proximity to the other outbuildings and the house, it is set back from the barn and the barnyard, minimizing its impact on the historic setting. Additionally, mature trees to the north and west help shield views of the garage from the east side of the property, including from the dwelling.

⁹ United States Census Bureau, *1850 U.S. Federal Census*, Nansemond County, Virginia, population schedule. Database with images. FamilySearch. "United States Census, 1850."
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6LCQ-845>.

¹⁰ Chris Gwyn, "Crown Granted Land Still Beautiful," *The Virginian-Pilot*, 1983. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

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Notably, the most significant alterations to the house have taken the form of small-scale telescoping additions, preserving the massing and layout of the dwelling's original, main block and the overall integrity of *design*. The six extant outbuildings also retain integrity of design, as the buildings' historic massing and layouts remain unchanged. Additionally, the house and outbuildings retain integrity of *materials*. The most significant exterior material alteration is the addition of vinyl siding on the house, schoolhouse, garage, and potato cellar and the replacement of original roofing materials on the house and the six historic outbuildings. The roofs of the house, schoolhouse, and gas house are clad in standing-seam metal, a replacement that is in-kind or sympathetic to the original roofing materials, and the original weatherboard siding of the dwelling and outbuildings remains intact beneath the vinyl siding. The most significant interior alteration is the covering of the original heart-pine flooring with oak flooring on the first and second floors of the main block of the house and in the circa 1875 block of the south wing. The original plaster walls, woodwork, wood doors, and wood-sash windows have been preserved throughout the house.

The house retains integrity of *workmanship*, as evidenced by a variety of interior decorative elements and finishes, including those of the wood trim, moldings, mantelpieces, paneled doors, and skirtboards, and exterior features such as the large brick end chimneys. Though of simpler construction and minimal decoration, the outbuildings also retain integrity of workmanship. Perhaps the most notable example of workmanship is found in the barn, where framing members are secured with pegged and lapped joints. Ames-Old Farm retains integrity of *feeling* and *association*, as, together, the house and outbuildings reflect the property's historic character as an early-19th- to mid-20th-century farm.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1815 – ca. 1916

Significant Dates

ca. 1875

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ames-Old Farm property is comprised of the circa 1815 house and six extant outbuildings dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The outbuildings range in type, as they historically had domestic, agricultural, and, in the case of the schoolhouse, educational uses. The property is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as the house is a rare, intact example of an early 19th-century dwelling with Federal-style influences in the City of Suffolk. Around 1875, a dining room and kitchen addition was constructed to the south of the dwelling. The addition was modified in 1965 to include a new kitchen, bedrooms, bathrooms, and a laundry room. To the south of the addition is an attached garage, constructed in 1985. The property's period of significance begins circa 1815, with the construction of the main block of the dwelling, and ends circa 1916, encompassing the construction of the circa 1875 addition and the six extant outbuildings. The 1965 remodeling and the construction of the garage are not encompassed within the period of significance. These changes have not significantly impacted the historic character of Ames-Old Farm, and the property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)¹¹

Criterion C: Architectural Significance

The Ames-Old Farm house embodies vernacular design principles of 19th-century Tidewater Virginia and distinctive characteristics of the Federal style. Very few alterations have been made to the circa 1815 main block of the house, beyond the addition of the front and rear porches and second-floor bathroom. Significant interior changes to the main block are limited to the addition of oak flooring. These changes—both exterior and interior—now around 100 years old, are typical of dwellings of this age and reflect the natural evolution of an early-19th-century house, as does the addition of the south wing.

As a 2.5-story, two-room-deep structure with a side-gable roof and symmetrical (front and rear) fenestration pattern, the basic form of the dwelling is characteristic of the Federal style. Characteristic, too, of the Federal style are the dwelling's brick end chimneys and double-hung wood-sash windows, which are aligned in their placement and appear in six-over-six, nine-over-six, and nine-over-nine configurations. Less typical is the dwelling's side-hall plan, which is seen more frequently in Federal-style townhouses, which were located in urban settings. Although they postdate the house, the six extant outbuildings also contribute to the property's architectural significance. Dating from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries, these outbuildings, like the house,

¹¹ Unless otherwise noted, historical information about Ames-Old Farm and the Knott and Old families is derived from Levi Old Jr.'s *Chronology of Knotts Creek Farm* and is supplemented by additional information provided by property owner William L. Old, III.

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reflect the evolution of the property and were constructed to accommodate changing domestic and agricultural needs.

For comparison, in Suffolk, there are three early-19th-century dwellings that are individually listed in the state and national registers. Of them, the most similar to the house at Ames-Old Farm is the Samuel Eley House (133-0101). Constructed circa 1826, the Samuel Eley House is a vernacular I-house with Federal-style influences and later Greek Revival- and Italianate-style influences. The dwelling features a symmetrical façade with a central entry, gable-front portico, and six-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows. The dwelling is clad in weatherboard siding and has a side-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal, which was originally covered in wood shingles, like the Ames-Old Farm house. Large brick, shouldered end chimneys flank the dwelling's side elevations.

Although the Ames-Old house and Samuel Eley House are alike in their frame construction and possess some similar architectural features like double-hung wood-sash windows and brick end chimneys, their basic forms and massing differ, as do the nature of their additions. The additions of the Samuel Eley House extend from the dwelling's east and south elevations, creating a rear ell rather than a telescoping form. The Samuel Eley property also contains three extant, contributing outbuildings, including a potato house, smokehouse, and log building/corncrib, reflecting its history as a 19th-century farm.

Although it is also contemporary to the dwelling at Ames-Old Farm, the house at Phillips Farm (133-0695) varies stylistically. The house reflects a different and rare iteration of vernacular design in the Tidewater Region. Constructed circa 1820 as a one-story, frame, single-pile dwelling, the house was remodeled in 1848, resulting in the addition of clerestory dormers. With this remodeling, the house was transformed into what is known as a clerestory house. The dwelling is one of just fourteen known examples of the clerestory house type in southeastern Virginia.¹² Aside from its frame construction, side-hall plan, and two exterior end chimneys, the house at Phillips Farm bears little resemblance to the dwelling at Ames-Old Farm.

Constructed beginning in 1837, the Riddick House (133-0003) is an excellent local example of a Greek Revival-style dwelling. Unlike the Ames-Old Farm house and Samuel Eley House, the Riddick House is an urban dwelling, located on Main Street in the Suffolk Historic District (133-0072). Reflecting the transition between Federal- and Greek Revival-style architecture, the brick townhouse features a symmetrical façade with a gable-front portico supported by Doric columns. Like the Ames-Old Farm house, the façade features nine-over-nine double-hung wood-sash windows on the first story and nine-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows on the second story. Elegant features like the fine brickwork; stone lintels, sills, porch stairs, and water table; wood entablature; and parapeted roofline reflect high-style design influences, which depart from the vernacular influences of the Ames-Old Farm and Samuel Eley dwellings.

¹² Virginia Department of Historic Resources. "Phillips Farm." *Virginia Landmarks Register*. Updated April 29, 2024. <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/133-0695/>.

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In addition to the Riddick House, there are a handful of other Federal-period properties in the Suffolk Historic District; however, these dwellings are not individually listed in the registers. Concentrated in the 200, 300, and 400 blocks of North Main Street, these houses, with their frame construction, side-hall plans, and brick end chimneys, are perhaps most similar in their forms and massing to the Ames-Old Farm house. Still, however, like the Riddick House, their urban setting and, in several cases, high-style design influences differentiate them from the dwelling at Ames-Old Farm.

A search in the Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (VCRIS) for early 19th-century dwellings in Suffolk yielded just two results for surviving dwellings that are not listed—either individually or within a historic district—in the registers. The first of these dwellings is the house at Pruden Farm (133-0102), which is located down the road from and is similar, with its I-house form, to the Samuel Eley House. The second of these dwellings is the house at Wayside Farm (133-0530). Constructed circa 1812, this brick dwelling features a side-hall plan; brick end chimney; a mix of nine-over-nine, six-over-six, and four-over-four double-hung windows; and a hipped-roofed front porch. A collection of frame outbuildings associated with the property are located across the street, on the south side of Glen Haven Drive. Neither dwelling shares similar forms nor massing to the Ames-Old Farm house.

Many of the early-19th-century dwellings in Suffolk that are recorded in VCRIS appear to have been demolished or destroyed. Although there are surely surviving houses of the period that are not documented in VCRIS, it is evident that early-19th-century dwellings are an increasingly rare resource type in Suffolk and beyond. Extant and well-preserved examples, like that of Ames-Old Farm, are critical to the study and interpretation of the architecture and building practices of Federal-period Tidewater Virginia.

Historic Background

In 1742, the Town of Suffolk was established within Nansemond County, which was founded in 1646 by English Colonists. In 1910, the town became an independent city, and, in 1974, Suffolk merged with Nansemond County, forming the contemporary city boundary. Prior to English settlement, the areas surrounding the Nansemond River were inhabited by the Nansemond Native American tribe. The tribe was one of approximately thirty Algonquian Native American tribes living on land around the Chesapeake Bay.¹³ As indicated by the number of early artifacts found over the years, it is likely that there were, at various times, settlements of Native Americans on the Ames-Old Farm land.

In September 1608, at the end of his second Chesapeake Bay voyage, Captain John Smith explored the Nansemond River. He described the area as “...acres of most excellent fertill ground: so sweete, so pleasant, so beautifull, and so strong a prospect, for an invincible strong City...”¹⁴ Soon thereafter are the first accounts of the land comprising the present-day Ames-Old

¹³ *Nansemond Indian Nation*, “Tribal History,” accessed November 26, 2025, <https://nansemond.gov/tribal-history/>.

¹⁴ John Smith, *A True Relation of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Note, as Hath Hapned at Virginia, since the First Planting of that Collony* (1608), in *Encyclopedia Virginia*, accessed November 26, 2025,

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Farm. Dating from 1635 and 1637, two land grants totaling 1,500 acres on the Nansemond River were issued to James Knott by the Governor of Virginia, in the name of King Charles I. Issued under the headright system, these land grants rewarded Knott for financing the transportation of settlers to Virginia by providing him with fifty acres per settler.

Knott, who was born in 1602, was transported to Virginia in 1617 on the ship “George.”¹⁵ After arriving in Virginia, he became a successful planter on the Eastern Shore. In 1634, he sold his land on the Eastern Shore and moved to the 600-acre farm on the Nansemond River. Knott died in 1653, leaving the farm to his son Bernard. The location of Knott’s home is not known; however, it is possible that it was located nearby the present house.

A “James Knott” is listed on the 1704 Quit Rent Roll as owning 1,050 acres in Nansemond County.¹⁶ Elvington Knott was a captain in the Virginia State Troops during the Revolution and was killed during a fight with some Tories on Jericho Road, near present-day Suffolk. His daughter, Ann, married an Edward Browne in 1787. One of Ann and Edward’s sons, James Samuel Brown, lived on Knotts Creek in 1814.

The farm remained in the Knott family until 1814. John Ames, who was born in Accomack County in 1796, married Margaret Lingo in 1814. Having no land of his own, Ames came to Nansemond County to work as a farm overseer for James S. Browne, who owned farms on Pig Point—which was located on the east side of Knotts Creek, facing the James River—and part of the original James Knott land, between Knotts Creek and the mouth of Bennetts Creek, facing the Nansemond River. Ames had a deed of debenture with Browne, which allowed him to purchase 250 acres of the aforementioned original James Knott land. After working for Browne for twenty-five years, Ames purchased the land for \$2062 and began building the present house. The wood used to construct the house was harvested from and milled on the property.

The name of the builder and how long it took to construct the house are unknown; however, it is likely that the Ames family was living in the house by 1820, as the oldest grave in the farm cemetery is that of Margaret Ames, who died in 1821.¹⁷ In 1822, John Ames married Mary Ann Rose. The couple had several children, whom they raised in the house. Ames became a successful farmer and, at the time of his death, owned multiple farms in the Sleepy Hole neighborhood of Nansemond County. In his will, Ames left the farm and house, referred to as the “Home Farm,” to his four sons. In 1867, his oldest surviving son, Levi D. Ames, and Levi’s son-in-law, William Raleigh Old, purchased the farm from the other brothers. In 1870, Old purchased his father-in-law’s half of the property. For the next thirty years, Old and his wife, Mary Fletcher Ames, farmed the property, raising their five children there.

<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/a-true-relation-of-such-occurrences-and-accidents-of-note-as-hath-hapned-at-virginia-since-the-first-planting-of-that-collony-by-john-smith-1608/>.

¹⁵ It is possible that Knott was transported on the same voyage that Pocahontas started back to Virginia on before she died at Gravesend.

¹⁶ Henry Jenkins, “Virginia Quit Rent Rolls, 1704 (Continued),” *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 29, no. 4 (October 1921): 408.

¹⁷ The farm cemetery is located on the adjacent 281-acre parcel of land.

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Following the Civil War, “truck farming,” or vegetable farming, was the primary agricultural activity in the region, including at Ames-Old farm. In rapidly growing northern cities, especially Philadelphia and New York, there was a large market for vegetables. In Tidewater Virginia, vegetables could be grown year-round. Vegetables like kale, collards, and cabbages grew in the fall and winter, while crops like potatoes, asparagus, corn, strawberries, melons, and peanuts grew in the spring and summer. These crops were harvested and put on a farm boat in Knotts Creek, where they were then taken to the market in Norfolk. There, they were put on schooners and transported to New York City, sometimes arriving in less than forty-eight hours.



Figure 6: The barn pre-1900. Note that the additions have not yet been constructed and the fenestration has since been altered. Photo courtesy of the owner.

The barn was built around that time, and circa 1875 Raleigh Old added the dining room and kitchen (south wing). Around that time, there was a smokehouse and a washhouse in the yard near the kitchen. These two buildings are no longer standing.

In 1904, the Old family purchased the adjacent farm to the south of Knotts Creek, expanding the “Home Farm” by approximately 183 acres. The family purchased the land from the widow of Frank Arthur, a member of the Arthur family, another large farming family on Knotts Neck. Following his death in 1908, ownership of the farm transferred to Raleigh Old’s second son, Walter Raleigh Old Jr., also known as Raleigh Old (1871-1951). Raleigh Old Jr. farmed the land—primarily truck farming—for about fifty years, remaining a bachelor. By about 1920, the roads in the area had improved enough to allow for the transport of crops. As a result, Raleigh Old Jr. sold the farm boat. Around that time, Old acquired the farm’s first tractor, which had steel wheels. Still though, mules continued to be used for some farm work, and the last mule on the property was not sold until the late 1940s.

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For the next thirty years, until the Great Depression, farming in the area was reasonably profitable, especially during and immediately after World War I. Raleigh Old Jr. grew many Irish potatoes. In the fall, he purchased seed potatoes from Maine and Canada. Around 1910, the potato cellar was built. Around 1914, Old bought his first automobile, a Cadillac, and built a free-standing frame garage just outside the barnyard. In the early 1900s, a telephone line came to the house. The house was lit with kerosene lamps until circa 1916 when an acetylene gas system was installed. Acetylene gas was manufactured in the gas house, then piped into the house, supplying overhead lighting. The house did not have electricity from the Virginia Electric and Power Company until 1933; however, for a time before that, a Delco generator in the barn provided some electricity to the property.

In the early 1920s, with money made on the farm during the boom time, Old—whose mother and sister were then living with him—began making improvements to the house. Notable changes made by Old include enclosing the breezeway (which connected the main block and the south wing) to create a small sitting area, digging a cellar beneath the dining room, and installing a coal furnace and radiators in the house. Before the addition of the furnace, the two first-floor and two second-floor fireplaces heated the house. Possibly the most important improvement made by Old was the addition of an indoor bathroom, which he placed at the west end of the second-floor hall, eliminating the need for chamber pots and an outhouse.



Figure 7: The corncrib pictured with the well windmill and additional stalls, which are no longer standing, n.d.
Photo courtesy of the owner.

Water for the house was originally sourced from an artesian well. Around the 1890s, a new well was placed near the original well. The original well was then used for barnyard animals, including a small herd of cattle whose manure was used to fertilize the fields. The new well had a windmill that pumped water into a reservoir, providing the pressure needed to pump the water to the house.

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Raleigh Old Jr. died in 1953. He left the farm to his nephew, Raleigh Old Green, who had been working with him for the last thirty years. Together, Old and Green had farmed the land (which, at the time, was about 300 acres) along with the land of the second farm in Norfolk County (now the City of Norfolk), where Green lived with his mother and sister. By the 1950s, Old and Green primarily grew and harvested corn, soybeans, winter wheat, and peanuts.

In 1965, Green and his sister moved into the Ames-Old Farm house. To make the house suitable for them, they hired local architect Finlay Ferguson Jr. to draw up plans for additions to the circa 1875 south wing. The plan called for two bedrooms, each with a bath, on the west side of the wing, a new kitchen to the south of the dining room, and a laundry room to the south of the kitchen. The final addition to the house was the attached two-car garage, constructed in 1985. Aside from the addition of the second-floor bathroom in the 1920s, the original footprint of the main block of the house has not been altered.

When Raleigh Old Green died in 2000, the farmland and house were inherited by the present owner, William L. Old, III, and thus kept in the family. In nearly 400 years, the land has been owned by just two families: the Knott family for almost 200 years and the Ames-Old family for more than 200 years. This circa 1815 dwelling continues to serve as an excellent example of the type of home that an early-19th-century yeoman farmer would have built for himself and his family.

Ames-Old Farm

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond; Library of Virginia, Richmond; Clerk of the Circuit Court Office, Suffolk

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 133-0058

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.11 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Ames-Old Farm

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Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.880893 | Longitude: -76.460302 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary of the Ames-Old Farm property is coterminous with the parcel lines of the 8.11-acre tract (4.7 acres of which are land) recorded as parcel number 5 *34 and assigned account number 304295900 by the City of Suffolk, Virginia. The boundary includes the dwelling and six historic outbuildings. The true and correct boundary is shown on the accompanying Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the 8.11 acres historically and still associated with Ames-Old Farm, containing the dwelling and six extant outbuildings.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William L. Old, III, owner, and Ariana Calos, VA Dept. of Historic Resources
organization: _____
street & number: 6700 Knotts Neck Road
city or town: Suffolk state: VA zip code: 23435
e-mail: wlold3@hotmail.com
telephone: 757-510-1297
date: September 1, 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ames-Old Farm
City or Vicinity: Suffolk
County: Independent City State: VA
Photographer: Mike Clem, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Date Photographed: December 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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Photo 1 of 45

View: Main Block, Southeast Oblique.

Photo 2 of 45

View: Main Block and South Wing, West Elevation.

Photo 3 of 45

View: Main Block and South Wing, West Elevation, Looking Northeast.

Photo 4 of 45

View: Main Block and South Wing, East Elevation, Looking Northwest.

Photo 5 of 45

View: Main Block, Southwest Oblique.

Photo 6 of 45

View: Main Block, Front Hall, Looking East.

Photo 7 of 45

View: Main Block, Newel Post, Looking Northeast.

Photo 8 of 45

View: Main Block, Skirt Board, Looking North.

Photo 9 of 45

View: Main Block, Front Parlor, Looking South.

Photo 10 of 45

View: Main Block, Front Parlor, Looking West.

Photo 11 of 45

View: Main Block, Rear Parlor, Looking Northwest.

Photo 12 of 45

View: Main Block, Front Hall, Looking West.

Photo 13 of 45

View: Main Block, Second-floor Hall, Looking Northeast.

Photo 14 of 45

View: Main Block, Second-floor Rear Bedroom, Looking Southeast.

Photo 15 of 45

View: Main Block, Second-floor Front Bedroom, Looking Southwest.

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Photo 16 of 45

View: Main Block, Second-floor "Nursery," Looking West.

Photo 17 of 45

View: Main Block, Second-floor "Nursery" Door, Looking South.

Photo 18 of 45

View: Main Block, Second-floor Bathroom, Looking East.

Photo 19 of 45

View: Main Block, Second-floor Attic Stairs, Looking West.

Photo 20 of 45

View: Main Block, Attic, Looking South.

Photo 21 of 45

View: South Wing, Dining Room, Looking North into Hyphen.

Photo 22 of 45

View: South Wing, Dining Room, Looking North.

Photo 23 of 45

View: South Wing, Dining Room Window and Wainscoting, Looking West.

Photo 24 of 45

View: South Wing, Front Hall, Looking West.

Photo 25 of 45

View: South Wing, North Bedroom, Looking Northeast.

Photo 26 of 45

View: South Wing, Kitchen, Looking Southeast.

Photo 27 of 45

View: South Wing, Breakfast Room, Looking West.

Photo 28 of 45

View: Barn and Prefabricated Garage, Looking Southwest.

Photo 29 of 45

View: Barn, Looking north.

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Photo 30 of 45

View: Barn, Middle Bay, Looking West.

Photo 31 of 45

View: Barn, Joinery, Looking Southeast.

Photo 32 of 45

View: Barn, West Addition, Looking North.

Photo 33 of 45

View: Corncrib, Northwest Oblique.

Photo 34 of 45

View: Corncrib, Interior, Looking West.

Photo 35 of 45

View: Garage, Southeast Oblique.

Photo 36 of 45

View: Garage, Interior, Looking Southwest.

Photo 37 of 45

View: Gas House, Looking North.

Photo 38 of 45

View: Schoolhouse, Northwest Oblique.

Photo 39 of 45

View: Schoolhouse, Interior, Looking West.

Photo 40 of 45

View: Schoolhouse, Interior, Looking East.

Photo 41 of 45

View: Schoolhouse and Gas House, Setting, Looking Southeast.

Photo 42 of 45

View: Potato Cellar, Looking North.

Photo 43 of 45

View: Potato Cellar, Southwest Oblique.

Photo 44 of 45

View: Setting, Looking South toward Dwelling.

Ames-Old Farm

Name of Property

City of Suffolk, VA

County and State

Photo 45 of 45

View: Setting, Looking East down Driveway.

Embedded Images Log:

Figures 1 and 2: The main block and part of the south wing circa 1900 (left), and the gable-front portico pre-1900 (right). Photo courtesy of the owner.

Figure 3: Figure 3: The west elevation and south wing circa 1920. Note that the portico has been replaced with a hipped-roof screened porch. Photo courtesy of the owner.

Figures 4 and 5: The east elevation circa 1920 (left) and circa 1930 (right). Note that the bathroom addition is visible in the circa 1930 photograph and that the porch has been screened in. Note, too, the greenhouse or “flower room” with triple-hung windows. Courtesy of the owner.

Figure 6: The barn pre-1900. Note, the additions have not yet been constructed and that the fenestration has since been altered. Photo courtesy of the owner.

Figure 7: The corncrib pictured with the well windmill and additional stalls, which are no longer standing, n.d. Photo courtesy of the owner.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



Legend

Ames-Old Farm (133-0058)
6700 Knotts Neck Road
Suffolk, VA 23435

 Ames-Old Farm
Resource Boundary

Location Coordinates:

1) Latitude: 36.880893
Longitude: -76.460302



Feet

0 100 200 300 400

1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet



Title: Ames-Old Farm Location Map

Date: 1/6/2026

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Legend

Ames-Old Farm (133-0058)
6700 Knotts Neck Road
Suffolk, VA 23435

 Ames-Old Farm
Resource Boundary

C. = Contributing
NC. = Non-contributing



Feet

0 50 100 150 200
1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title: Ames-Old Farm Sketch Map

Date: 1/6/2026

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Legend

Ames-Old Farm (133-0058)
6700 Knotts Neck Road
Suffolk, VA 23435

 Ames-Old Farm
Resource Boundary

 Photo location and view



Feet

0 50 100 150 200

1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet



Title: Ames-Old Farm Photo Key

Date: 1/7/2026

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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TAX PARCEL MAP

Ames-Old Farm
City of Suffolk VA
DHR ID# 133-0058

City of Suffolk Tax Parcel: 5*34

 Nominated Boundary

0 300 600
Feet



12*54

5*34

6D*RF*B*5

6D*RF*B*4

6D*RF*B*3

6D*RF*B*6

6D*RF*1*A*29
6D*RF*1*A*18
6D*RF*1*A*A*1
6D*RF*1*A*17
6D*RF*2*A*16
6D*RF*2*A*15
6D*RF*2*A*13
6D*RF*2*A*12
6D*RF*2*A*11
6D*RF*2*A*10
6D*RF*B*7
6D*RF*B*8
6D*RF*B*9
6D*RF*B*2
6D*RF*B*1
6D*RF*B*B*2
6D*RF*2*C*45
6D*RF*2*C*44