

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Norven

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 627 and Rt. 795, 2.6 mi. SW of intersection of Rt. 795 and Rt. 53.

CITY OR TOWN: Simeon vicinity (Seventh District Congressman James Kenneth Robinson)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Albemarle CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Stone

STREET AND NUMBER: Norven

CITY OR TOWN: Simeon STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Albemarle County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Albemarle

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: Morven is a fine example of an early nineteenth century, rectangular, country house.

B. Condition of the Fabric: Good.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Over-all dimensions: The two-story main block at Morven is five bays long and two bays wide. The two-story, three-bay wing on the north is both narrower and lower than the main block.

B. Foundations: Brick.

C. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond.

D. Porches: There is a one-bay porch with a pedimented gable roof and a Tuscan entablature, supported by four Tuscan columns, on the front of the main block. A smaller porch with similar features covers the middle bay of the wing. At the rear of the main block, French doors open to a raised terrace. A screen porch with a flat roof supported by Tuscan columns projects from the rear middle bay of the wing. On the south end a balcony hangs under both the first and second story windows.

E. Chimneys: Two interior end chimneys with corbelled caps rise from each end of the main block. One similar smaller end chimney is on the north end of the wing.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The primary doorway in the center bay of the main block has an arched transom with fan tracery. This doorway is flanked by symmetrically moulded pilasters; symmetrically moulded trim with a central keystone surrounds the arch. Four-panelled double doors open into the hall. The center bay doorway in the wing has no transom, and is surrounded by architrave trim.

2. Windows: All the windows have architrave trim. Jack arches surmount all the lower windows; those on the west of the main block are one brick in height, the others have pairs of headers and stretchers. A course of headers surmounts the second floor windows. Two circular windows appear in the north gable of the main block, and a lunette with tulip tracery in the south. The wooden double-hung windows with six-over-six sashes are proportionately smaller in the wing than in the main block. The French doors on the west have rectangular two-paned transoms, and each door sash has five panels.

G. Roof: Both the main block and the wing have a gable roof with a modillion cornice and a beaded barge board. Four dormers with hipped roofs pierce the east and west slope of the main block.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor Plans: On the first floor a long narrow hall runs to the north. The small breakfast room and the dining room open off each side. A drawing room to the west and the library to the southeast open off the square central hall. The second floor rooms open off a long cross hall, as do the rooms in the third floor of the main block.

B. Stairways: A single-run enclosed stair ascends from the first to the second floor, and from the second to the third. In the wing a two-run, open-string stair ascends to the second floor.

C. Wall and ceiling finish: The plaster walls are, for the most part, papered. Ceilings are plastered and painted.

C. Doorways and doors: Six-panelled doors are surrounded by moulded trim.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1821

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morven estate was originally part of a ten-thousand acre grant made to William Champe Carter, grandson of Robert 'King' Carter in the eighteenth century. In 1796, it was purchased by William Short, who was friend and secretary (while in France) to Thomas Jefferson, Minister to the Netherlands and diplomatic representative to Spain. The property, then called Indian Camp, contained 1334 acres. Soon after he purchased the place, Short built the white frame structure that now serves as the office. In 1813, Indian Camp was sold to David Higginbotham who changed the name to Morven. The present brick house, built by Martin Thacker, was completed in 1821, and the cost of building was appraised at about 8,000-dollars. Morven remained in the Higginbotham family until the mid-nineteenth century when it was bought by Daniel Groff Smith. Colonel Edward Buckley Smith later inherited Morven from his father. Charles A. Stone purchased the property in 1926, set up a farming operation including horses and cattle, and extensively renovated the house and gardens. Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Stone are the present owners.

Morven survives as a distinguished early-nineteenth century country house and farm complex in Albemarle County, and is regarded by many as the epitome of a Piedmont Virginia estate. The pleasing proportions of the house and its finely detailed features, such as the modillion cornice, are unusually well developed for a rural house of the period, and serve to emphasize the sophistication of country life in early Albemarle County. The most significant features of the interior are the finely executed imported Carrara marble mantels which give the house additional elegance. The house also retains its original early-nineteenth century outbuildings, and the small late-eighteenth century dwelling built by William Short. The house's magnificent location and its outstanding gardens complete the splendid visual image of Morven. The farm today is well-known as the Morven stud, which has produced some of the leading denizens of the Thoroughbred racing world.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rothery, Agnes, Houses Virginians Have Loved, New York: Bonanza Books, 1954.
 Sale, Edith Tunis, Historic Gardens of Virginia, Richmond, Va.: The William Byrd Press, 1923.
 Stevens, William T., Virginia House Tour, Charlottesville, Va.: Stevenpost Publication.
 Wood, Rev. Edgar, Albemarle County in Virginia, Bridgegewater, Va.: C.J. Carrier Co., 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	37°	58'	25"	78°	28'	10"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	37°	58'	25"	78°	27'	43"						
SE	37°	57'	11"	78°	27'	43"						
SW	37°	57'	11"	78°	28'	10"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 640 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name J.R. Fishburne, Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title Landmarks Commission

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

E. Trim: The first floor rooms have crown moulding.

F. Heating: Although the house is now heated centrally, fireplaces remain in many rooms. The marble ones in the original parlours were imported, probably from France. The most elaborate of these, in what is now the dining room, is of white carved marble. The fireplace is flanked by terms supporting the frieze and shelf. Two stylized blossoms flank the frieze which is made up of a band of alternating anthemions, sheaves of wheat and stylized lily motifs. The other mantel has plain pilasters, frieze and shelf.

IV. Site:

A. General Setting: Morven is superbly located in the brow of a hill at the foot of Carter's Mountain with verdant pastures and paddocks laced by the well-kept white fences of the Morven stud spread around it. The house faces east, and is approached by a long wooded drive breaking into the fields below the house, with a box lined carriage drive passing near the front, leading to the outbuildings on the north and eventually winding to the barns and buildings of the stud farm in the west. A wide lawn stretches from the rear terrace to the drive in the west. The formal gardens are laid out north of the house.

B. Outbuildings: The office, just north of the house, was the first building on the site. The one-story structure with the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with white clapboards. Lean-to additions flank the building. The large square brick chimney has a corbelled cap. Wooden, double-hung windows have six-over-six sashes. The old kitchen north-west of the house, is a five-bay brick structure with a steep gable roof and a massive brick central chimney. The roof is covered with wooden shingles, and the cornice is of corbelled brick. The windows have six-over-six sashes. The frame gable-roof smokehouse, covered with white clapboards is just north of the rose garden beside the kitchen. There are several other cottages in white clapboard with gable roofs and a greenhouse to the north of the buildings.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <i>None</i>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 627 and Rt. 795, 2.6 mi. SW of intersection of Rt. 795 and Rt. 53.			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Simcoo vicinity</i>			
STATE: <i>Virginia</i>	CODE <i>51</i>	COUNTY: <i>Albemarle</i>	CODE <i>003</i>
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: <i>U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 quadrangle Simcoo, Virginia</i>			
SCALE: <i>1:24000</i>			
DATE: <i>1967</i>			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <i>None</i>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 627 and Rt. 795, 2.6 mi. SW of intersection of Rt. 795, and Rt. 53.			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Simcoo vicinity</i>			
STATE: <i>Virginia</i>	CODE <i>51</i>	COUNTY: <i>Albemarle</i>	CODE <i>003</i>
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: <i>Phil Flournoy</i>			
DATE OF PHOTO: <i>1968</i>			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: <i>Virginia Chamber of Commerce Richmond, Virginia</i>			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. <i>View from the east.</i>			

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

78° 30' 38° 00' 720° 00' E CHARLOTTESVILLE 1.1 MI. '22 723 27' 30"

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Simeon, Va. 1967

MORVEN	
latitude	longitude
NW37°58'25"	78°28'10"
NE37°58'25"	78°27'43"
SE37°57'11"	78°27'43"
SW37°57'11"	78°28'10"

4208000m N.

SCOTTSVILLE 15 MI.
CARTERS BRIDGE 6 MI.

4206

4205

4204
57'30"

4203

1.1 MI.
DGE 2 MI.

