

VLR-12/12/89 NRHP-12/28/90

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 Morven

other names/site number DHR 24-27

2. Location

street & number Route #45, 1/2 mile south from Cartersville N/A not for publication

city, town Cartersville

vicinity

state Virginia

code Va

county Cumberland

code 049

zip code 23027

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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.

Hugh C. Miller
Signature of certifying official

9 Nov 1990
Date

Director, Department of Historic Resources

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.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

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 dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Early Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof slate shingles

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Morven is a two story brick house located on state Route 45 about a half mile south of Cartersville. It was built on five acres of land in 1820 as a wedding present for Randolph Harrison's daughter, Jane. The house has since been used as a permanent residence. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Whitlock, having been in his family since 1870 when his grandfather bought the farm. The original portion of the house is an example of Federal style architecture. Although the property was as large as sixty-five acres, presently it is only seven and a half acres.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Morven is a brick house, built in 1820, which has been added to in four separate stages. The original house is two stories high, with a basement, and was built in Flemish bond. The design was the typical early-nineteenth-century center hall plan, one room deep, with a dining room in the basement. The original house was small; there are only two rooms on each floor.

There is a covered porch on the front facade of the house. The original porch was wooden and had paired columns on the front. A low parapet was added onto the gabled roof.

The front facade is three bays wide. The first floor windows are large double-hung, six-over-six windows, 4' wide by 6' high. On the second floor the windows are single-sash six-pane windows which are 4' by 4'. The sash rises into a pocket in the wall behind the cornice. A jack arch of bricks is above each of the six openings on the facade. A heavy cornice runs around the building, even across the gable ends, giving the house its distinctive character. An identical cornice was also used in the later nineteenth-century additions.

Some of the original woodwork from 1820 remains in the house. The existing six-panel doors, the west wing, first floor mantle and the floors are all original. The mantle in the east room has been altered with oversized ionic columns and elaborate moldings. Heavy crown moldings, added in the 1950s are in the two front parlors.

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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

1820-1930

1820, 1885,

1895, 1930

architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morven was never used as a large working farm but instead was used as a retreat for the Harrison and Randolph families. It became the seat of the Bogerts in 1870 and has remained in this family since that time.

Although the house has received four separate additions, the original part of the building is intact. The front elevation of the building is in its original condition with the exception of the porch which has been altered twice. The second-floor windows on the front facade rise into a deep cornice, an unusual feature which gives the facade an interesting distinctiveness.

The architectural make-up of the house is unusual for its time. The second-floor single-sash windows rise into a deep cornice giving the proportion and character of the facade a monumental quality not often seen in a residence of its size or purpose.

The late-nineteenth-century additions maintain the character of the house while adding an interesting double pediment to the rear, unusual for houses of this type.

HISTORY

The first mention of the land on which Morven is built is in the Cumberland County Deed Book of 1820. On February 24, five acres "up [the] Cartersville Road" was sold to Randolph Harrison by Cary and Sarah Mitchell. Randolph Harrison already owned an adjoining thirty acres, given to him by his father, Carter Henry Harrison of Clifton. (1) The five acres were sold for \$325. (2)

In 1822 Randolph Harrison gave the five acres and his adjoining thirty acres (3) to William Randolph who had married his daughter, Jane, in 1817. (4)

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Couture, Richard T. "Morven" Manuscript written for the Virginia Landmarks Commission. Goochland County, Virginia, 1988.

Conversations with Mr. and Mrs. George J. Whitlock. Summer 1988.

Cumberland County Deed Books. Virginia State Archives. Richmond, Virginia.

Cumberland County Tax Records, 1818-1824. Virginia State Archives. Richmond, Virginia.

"Springdale Poultry Yards." Catalogue and price list. 1893.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 7 acres

UTM References

A 18 755900 4171750
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

From Circuit Court of Cumberland County, Virginia: "...Being bounded on the South and East on the public road leading from the town of Cartersville, on the North by lands of Miss Maria Brown (Now owned by G. L. Blanton) and on the West by the White Level Farm.."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house and associated resources that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Covington date June 2, 1989

organization Ekstrom + Associates telephone (804) 780-1519

street & number 120 N. Second Street, Suite 102 city or town Richmond state Virginia zip code 23219

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The fireplaces of the original house and of the earlier addition have brick hearths. The hearths of the later addition are slate.

The central hall is narrow, only 7'1" wide. The stairs are also a narrow 3'5" wide and extremely steep with 8½" risers. The stairs run along the east wall, reaching the second floor at the rear of the house. According to the Whitlocks, this was originally reversed.

Bogert built the first addition in 1885 onto the northeast corner of the house. The addition is two stories high with a basement. It protrudes one foot beyond the original house on the east side. It is also built of brick but in six-course common bond. The first floor addition is entered through the north window which was modified to a door. The first and second floor windows are double-hung with six panes over six. The lintels above these windows are concrete. The dining room was moved from the basement to the first floor of the new addition. The new second floor room was used as a bedroom. During this same year, the windmill pump was built in the west yard and interior plumbing was installed.

Another addition was added in 1895 on the northwest corner of the house. The basement of the second addition was used as the kitchen. The walls of this kitchen are stuccoed and lightly scored to give the appearance of cut stone. Access to the basement from the outside is through a raised alcove. The two upper rooms of this addition were both used as bedrooms. Access to both bedrooms was made through existing windows on the north side of the house.

In 1930 a kitchen and wooden porch were added to the north side of the dining room. In the 1950s this porch was enclosed.

The original smoke house still exists in the northwest yard behind the house. It is built of cut cedar logs and measures 11'10" by 11'9" on the interior. The original meathooks are still attached to the tie beams in the roof. The entrance is low, only four feet high. The building has been covered with clapboard siding and a metal roof. The building now serves as a doghouse.

A schoolhouse was built in the west yard about 1890, although no exact date has been established. Bogert built the school in order to have his children educated on the property. George Whitlock, the present owner, built single story additions to the south and north side in 1976. It is now used as an apartment.

A windmill dating from the early twentieth century is located to the northwest of the house and is counted as a contributing structure.

The garage is non-contributing as it was not constructed during the period of significance.

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The deed states that Randolph Harrison gave "unto the said William Randolph a certain tract of land whereon the said William Randolph now resides." (5) There is no mention of the house, but it could be possible that the couple was already living at Morven. Mrs. George J. Whitlock, the current owner, believes the house was built between 1818 and 1820 to be given to Jane as her wedding present.

The Randolphs moved to Lynchburg, and in September of 1831 the house and surrounding five acres were sold for \$1,650 to Abner Nash and his wife. This is the first time that the name Morven is used in reference to the five acres of land: "one certain tract of land (be the same more or less) lying on the right hand side of the road leading from Cartersville about a half a mile therefrom known by the name of Morven." (6) Randolph Harrison's original thirty acres of land was not sold with the house but remained in the family.

The Nashes did not keep the house long, selling it in March of 1833 to John Cunningham. The Cunninghams lived in Goochland County and may never have used Morven as their permanent residence. Three years later they sold the house to Cunninghams's daughter, Eliza Harrison. Five years after the original sale of Morven, the house was back in the Harrison family. Eliza Harrison was the widow of Thomas Randolph Harrison, the eldest son of Randolph Harrison who built Morven. (7)

Morven changed hands once more until George W. Bogert bought the land in November 1870 for \$2000. The land is described: "containing Five acres be the same more or less with the buildings and appurtenancy... in any wise belonging and commonly called Morven." Along with the original five acres, Bogert bought an additional sixty acres which later was sold. (8)

The house remained in its original condition until Bogert built two additions to the rear of the original house; one was built in 1885 and the other in 1895. Also in 1895 a windmill pump was built and indoor plumbing was installed. A two story frame schoolhouse was built near the main house about 1890. It contained a single classroom on the ground floor with living quarters for the teacher above. Correspondence between the Bogerts and a teaching candidate written in 1911 indicate that the building had been completed and was ready for use at this time. (9)

The only farming known to Morven was Mrs. George Bogert's poultry business, the Springdale Poultry Yards. The poultry was apparently a well-known and superior stock, and was shipped to customers as far away as New York and Alabama. (10)

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In 1929 a power plant was built at Bremono, and in 1930 electricity came to Cartersville. That summer George Whitlock, Bogert's grandson, installed electricity for Morven. A kitchen was also added to the northeast corner of the house, built using bricks from a nineteenth-century office which had existed on the site.(11)

The present owner, George J. Whitlock, inherited the house and seven acres from his grandmother, Hibernia Bogert, the wife of George W. Bogert, in 1956.(12)

Members of the Bogert family are buried in a small cemetery plot at the northeast corner of the property. The field stones, marking the graves, have been removed. Nothing remains to mark the site.(13)

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Footnotes

- 1 "Morven," manuscript by Richard T. Couture. Powhatan County, Virginia.
- 2 Cumberland County Deed Book, #16, page 1.
- 3 Cumberland County Deed Book, #17, page 296.
- 4 Cumberland County Marriage Bonds, 1749-1853.
- 5 Cumberland County Deed Book, #17, page 296.
- 6 Cumberland County Deed Book, #20, page 272.
- 7 Couture manuscript.
- 8 Cumberland County Deed Book, #30, page 154.
- 9 Conversations with the Whitlocks.
- 10 Catalogue and Price List of "Springdale Poultry Yards," 1893.
- 11 Conversations with the Whitlocks.
- 12 Cumberland County Deed Book, #97, page 71.
- 13 Conversations with the Whitlocks.

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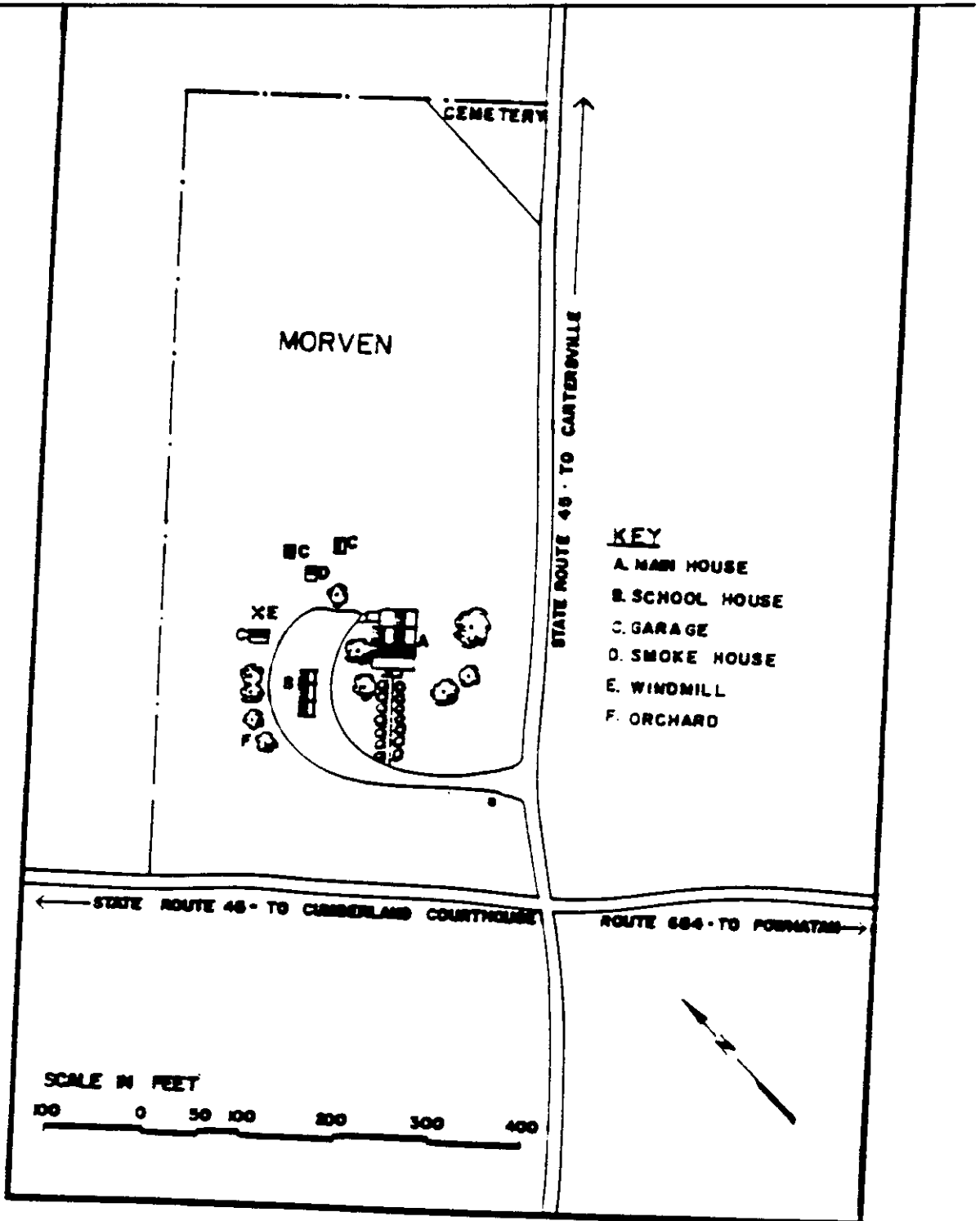
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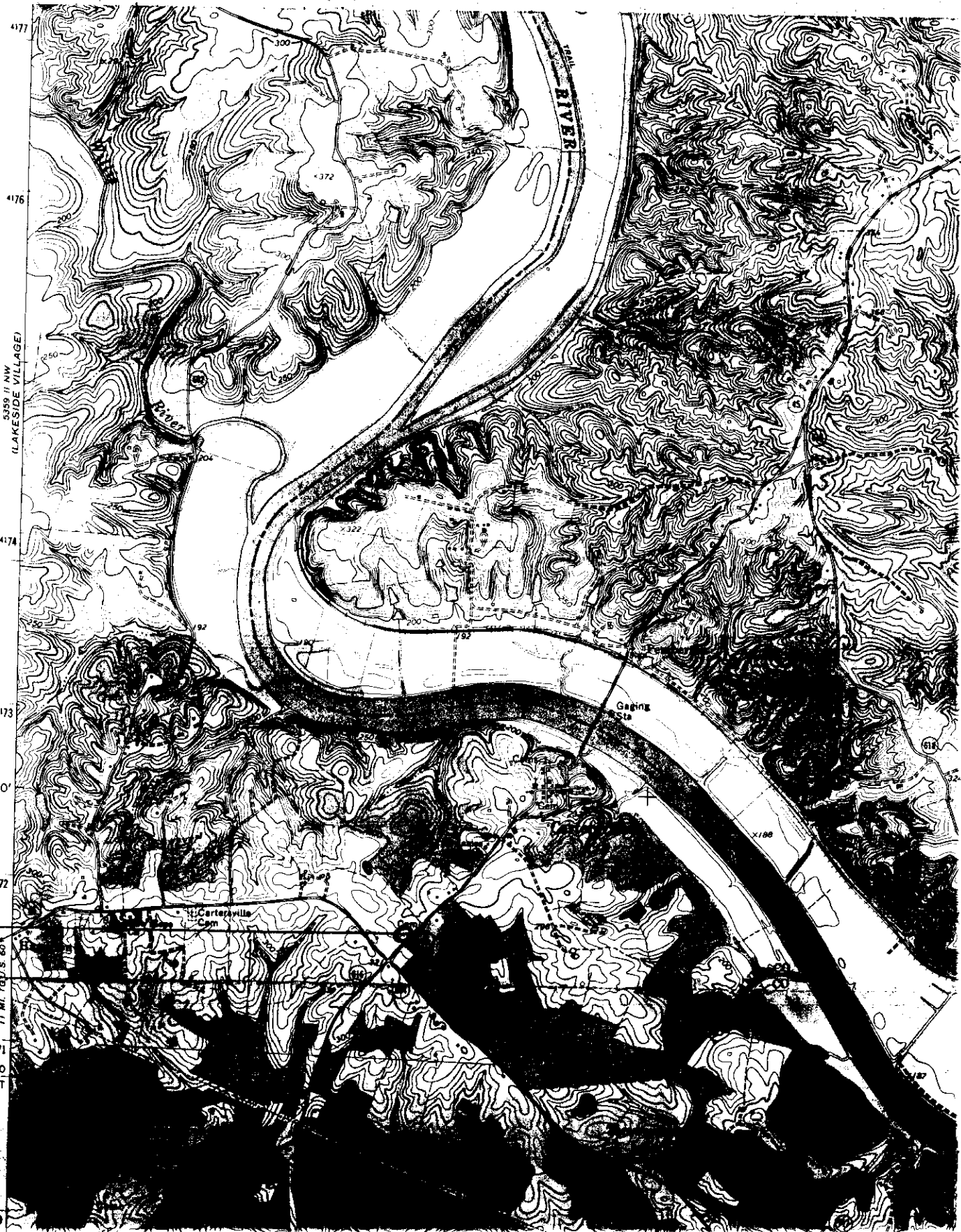
It "...being the same land devised to the parties of the first part as the children of Mrs. Mary E. Whitlock by the Will of the said Mrs. Hibernia C. Bogert, subject to a life estate devised to Lilly M. Bogert, who departed this life on the 20th day of June, 1956; the said Will of Mrs. Hibernia C. Bogert, dated the 7th day of August, 1928, is of record in the said Clerk's Office in Will Book 15, page 286; and reference is hereby made to the aforementioned deed and will for a more particular description and source of title."

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4171
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40'

5959 II NW
(LAKESIDE VILLAGE)

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ORVEN
MBERLAND CO.
MS;
755906/4141956

Carterville
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