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VLR Listed: 2/20/1973
NRHP Listed: 4/24/1973

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

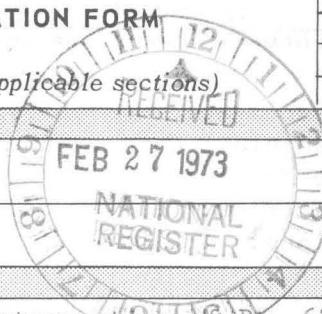
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Morven

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	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	Albemarle	003

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

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:

Morven

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

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Albemarle
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 24 1973	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" 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
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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 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.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Virginia	
COUNTY	Albemarle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
APR 24 1973		

(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.



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)

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/Phi.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> losophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> itarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	

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.



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.

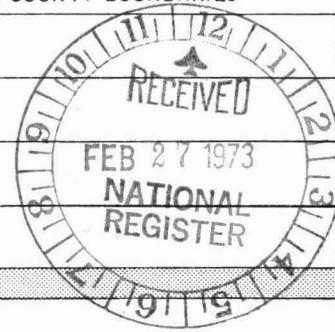
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	OR	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
37 ° 58' 25"	78 ° 28' 10"		0	0	0
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.P. Fishburne
J.P. Fishburne, Director
Virginia Historic
Landmarks Commission

Title Landmarks Commission
Date FEB 20 1973

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

Roger H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/24/73

ATTEST:

Robert C. Brown
Keeper of The National Register
Date 4/16/73

4/17/1973 080900/40203420

4/17/1973 080900/40203420

S E E

I N S T R U C T I O N S

UTM REF
10-10-75 WM

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Morven, #002-0054
Albemarle County, Virginia**

Section 7 & 8 Page 2

Morven was originally listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register on 2/20/1973 and in the National Register of Historic Places on 4/24/1973.

March 2008: Updated information based on 2005 survey for the Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District:

781 Morven Drive 002-0054 Other DHR Id #: 002-5045-0166

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.50, Style: Federal, ca 1821

Architecture Summary: 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.

2005: Main House Set on a solid Flemish bond brick foundation, the Flemish bond Federal/Roman Revival-style dwelling at Morven was designed ca. 1821 by architect Martin Thacker. The two-and-a-half story five-bay structure features a side-gabled slate roof, 6/6 wood windows, a double-leaf entry door set beneath a fanlight with keystone, five exterior-end brick chimneys, and a one-story three-bay porch with Tuscan column supports (plaster over brick) and a closed tympanum. The roof features three hipped dormers. Other detailing includes a molded wood cornice with modillions, operable louvered wood shutters, penciled mortar joints, paneled door jambs, and jack arch brick lintels. A slightly recessed two-story side-gabled wing was added ca. 1920 to the side elevation. The three-bay wing features 6/6 wood windows and a gabled portico. The house was updated in the early 1900s by architect Howard Sill of Baltimore. The property is now owned by the UVA Foundation, given by Kluge.

The contributing and non-contributing status of these resources is based on the Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District nomination Areas of Significance (AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE, ARCHAEOLOGY: HISTORIC, COMMERCE, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION, ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK, EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT, INDUSTRY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL HISTORY, TRANSPORTATION) with a Period of Significance from 1729 to ca. 1955.

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling Contributing Total: 2

Individual Resource Status: Guest House Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Shed Non-Contributing Total: 2

Individual Resource Status: Tenant House Contributing Total: 6

Individual Resource Status: Tenant House Non-Contributing Total: 3

Individual Resource Status: Garage Contributing Total: 2

Individual Resource Status: Garage Non-Contributing Total: 8

Individual Resource Status: Chicken coop Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Barn Contributing Total: 3

Individual Resource Status: Barn Non-Contributing Total: 7

Individual Resource Status: Gatehouse Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Well House Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Silo Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Silo Non-Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Office Contributing Total: 2

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

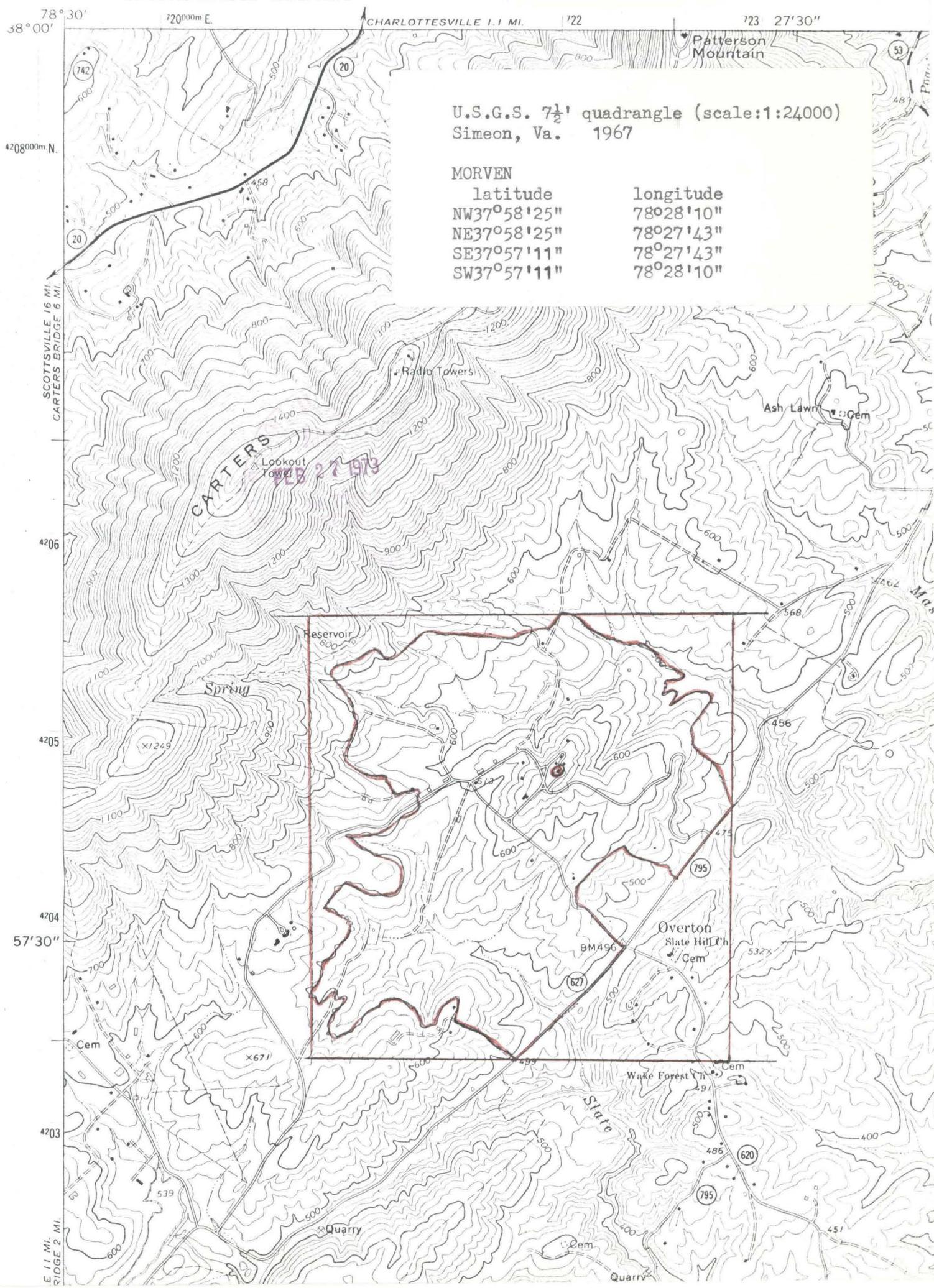
Section 7 & 8 Page 3

Morven, #002-0054

Albemarle County, Virginia

Individual Resource Status: Animal Shelter Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Stable Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Stable Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Machine Shed Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Machine Shed Non-Contributing Total: 2
Individual Resource Status: School Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Greenhouse Non-Contributing Total: 2
Individual Resource Status: Pavilion Non-Contributing Total: 3
Individual Resource Status: Servant Quarters Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Shop Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Smoke/Meat House Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Storage Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Pool House Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Pump House Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Restroom Facility Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Cemetery Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Pool/Swimming Pool Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Sculpture Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Garden Non-Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Kitchen Contributing Total: 1

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



U.S.G.S. $7\frac{1}{2}$ ' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Simeon, Va. 1967

MORVEN

latitude	longitude
NW $37^{\circ}58'25''$	$78^{\circ}28'10''$
NE $37^{\circ}58'25''$	$78^{\circ}27'43''$
SE $37^{\circ}57'11''$	$78^{\circ}27'43''$
SW $37^{\circ}57'11''$	$78^{\circ}28'10''$