

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 16 1976

DATE ENTERED MAR 25 1977

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

(McClung, Colonel Samuel, Place)

AND/OR COMMON

Nelson, Oscar, Farm; "Morlunda" (preferred) 1934

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

nw of Lewisburg on
County Route 40 (Muddy Creek Mountain Road)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Greenbrier

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Oscar Nelson, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

"Morlunda", U.S. Route 60

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

 VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Greenbrier County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court and Randolph Streets

CITY, TOWN

Lewisburg

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Morlunda" is a large brick building which has been painted white. The main house is approximately fifty-six feet long (with a five-bay front) by twenty-one feet deep with an ell extending about fifty feet from the southwest side. Wings of brick construction have been added to the main, rectangular unit and extend the length of the facade by about forty-eight feet.

The original house was a two-story unit with an ell of similar height at the southwest corner. About nine feet from the south end of the ell was located a 1½-story detached kitchen which has now been connected to the ell by extension of the walls to enclose the open space. The wings are each one story in height. Roofs are gabled, those on the main house and wings having an east-west ridge line with the ell and old kitchen running north-south. Single dormer projections have been placed on the south (rear) in the main house and in the east elevation of the kitchen (the former is a roof dormer while the latter is a wall dormer).

There are four chimneys in the original building. These are located in the gables of both east and west ends of the rectangular main unit and at the south elevations of the ell and kitchen unit. With the exception of that in the west gable, all chimneys are on the exterior. Each is nearly ten-feet wide, and all project well above the low-pitched roof line.

Exterior features of interest include the double entrance portico with its pediment extending about eight feet from the facade and supported by two massive brick columns. The porches formed on each level under the pediment have railings of a Chinese Chippendale style. There are also porches on each wing, at the area on the west elevation formed by the old kitchen and the section which attached this part to the house, and in the interior of the ell. With the exception of those on the wings, all porches are enclosed.

The main entrance door on the north is wide and attractive. Fluted pilasters reach to the top of the door level, and these are topped with plain extensions under a finely detailed cornice made of several layers of wood each of which projects a little farther from the facade. The entranceway includes a seven-section fanlight. The visual effect of this approach to the house is repeated in the doorway which leads onto the second-story porch above the main entrance.

The basic floor plan of "Morlunda" is a center hall with one large room to either side. This main hall is about eleven feet wide and houses a curving stairway at the rear which extends to the attic. The major rooms on the first floor are called the east and west parlors, each of which measure about nineteen by twenty-one feet. The dining room in the ell (approached through the west parlor) is nearly as large. Wing additions are reached through the parlors, and the old kitchen is approached from the dining room. The second floor has a similar arrangement with bedrooms above the parlors and dining area and a low-ceilinged room over the kitchen.

Interior detail in woodwork is nothing short of elaborate. Most of the paneling, wainscoting, mantels, rails and stair elements are of walnut. The open-string stair has a beautifully curved handrail and decorative, turned newels at the landings with plain rectangular balusters placed two to a step. The carving in the string is of a fine detail, and there is a sunburst motif in the panel under the string between the first floor and the initial curve in the stair. The wall at the stair is wainscoted to a chairrail which follows the line of the banisters.

Door casings are deep and paneled, having a wide molding with corner blocks. There is a paneled wainscot in both parlors and the center hall, and it features

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1827-28

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John W. Dunn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Large and picturesque with its white walls and green roofs, "Morlunda" is the central element in an expanse of bluegrass which extends over the rolling hills a few miles northwest of Lewisburg in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. It was constructed in 1827-28 under the direction of one of the area's leading builders, John W. Dunn, and the detailing of the woodwork on the interior is attributed to Conrod Burgess and his associates. The main house and outbuildings are among the most attractive in the southeastern part of the state, and the farm has been famous for more than one hundred years for its stock breeding, first of horses and more recently of cattle.

Samuel McClung II, son of a man who had a narrow escape from Indians near Blue Sulphur Springs not far from this farm, purchased an estate of about 230 acres of land in 1822, and in 1827-28 had a fine home built on the property. Here he lived, farmed, bred livestock, and raised a family of seven children by two marriages.

With the land paralleling the old James River and Kanawha Turnpike, the McClungs benefitted from the flow of commerce over this major transportation route between east and west. Stages carrying passengers along the roads between resorts and through the mountains to the west as well as those involved in getting goods to eastern markets must have become important customers for the fine horses which were available. During the Civil War, it was said that two companies--the "Greenbrier Swifts" and the "Nicholas Grays"--of Confederate cavalry contained thirty-two McClungs (seven sons of John McClung II, including Samuel McClung I, had settled in sections of Greenbrier County by about 1800) "all riding the finest horses in General Lee's Army." Many, possibly all, of these were from the farm of Colonel Samuel McClung II.

When McClung died, he assigned the farm lands to two of his children, John A. and Martha Porterfield. In 1877, John conveyed his portion to Martha, and the estate remained with her family until 1890. In 1934, Mr. Oscar Nelson (then president of United Carbon Company) purchased the property and gave it the name "Morlunda" (rolling ground) after his native village in Sweden. Since then, the farm has grown in acreage and renown as one of the finer livestock-breeding estates in the nation.

The main house was constructed in 1827-28 under the direction of John W. Dunn, well-known brickmason-architect of the area. It is believed that the finely carved and detailed interior woodwork was done by Conrod Burgess and his assistants. The original house consists of a center-hall main unit with ell to the rear and a detached kitchen beyond the ell. The facade is about fifty-seven feet long, and the building is over twenty feet deep with an ell measuring approximately 20' x 20'. Two stories high, one of the outstanding exterior features is the double portico, with Chinese Chippendale railing, at the entrance. The main door here is about forty-six inches wide with fluted pilasters gracing its sides and reaching to a fanlight above.

Interior design and detail are most outstanding. There are three rooms on each

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Comstock, Jim, ed. Hardesty's West Virginia Counties. Richwood, W.Va.: Jim Comstock, 1973, (VI, 199)
- Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942. (pp. 359-65)
- _____. Lewisburg Landmarks. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation, Inc., 1957. (p. 56)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,7 | | 5,4,4 | 7,9,0 | | 4,1 | 8,7 | 0,5,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

C.E. Turley, Research Assistant and James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

March 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donard M. Davis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 13, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3/25/77

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.24.77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 16 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAR 25 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

a slanted reeding-type design in the area just below the chairrail.

Mantels in both east and west parlors are high and wide. A pair of rounded columns on a high base is to each side of the fireplace opening, and on these is a full entablature with a plain architrave, vertically-reeeded frieze and a cornice which extends outward from the frieze. Above this is a sort of plain pilaster which rises to an elaborately piled and extending mantel shelf. There is an elliptical patera in each of these pilasters and another in the center of the frieze between these elements.

The basic fabric of "Morlunda" is little changed since construction, but the appearance of the whole has been altered since 1934. About that time the wings were added to the east and west sides and the area between the detached kitchen and the ell was enclosed. The additions allowed the placing of bathrooms in areas outside of the original house. At the same time, the basement was enlarged to provide for heating and laundry equipment, porches in the angle of the ell were enlarged and enclosed, and much of the walnut woodwork was painted.

The property includes a number of outbuildings now used as guest houses, offices and quarters for farm personnel. Two of the more interesting are the old smokehouse and slave quarters. The smokehouse is a small, one-story brick building with gable roof and chimney at the south (rear). Its nearly sixteen-foot square dimensions were added to in 1935 when brick wings were built to either side. The former slave quarters is a two-story brick building with gable roof and an inside chimney. It is rather large, approximately twenty feet by forty-eight feet, and contains six rooms.

To reflect the importance of the estate in the field of livestock breeding, "Morlunda" stretches over nearly one thousand acres and includes numerous large white barns (most dating from after 1934) which complement the main house and former dependencies.

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

floor, one to either side of the center hall and one in the ell, and each has a fireplace with a distinctive carved mantel. The mantels in the parlors are especially elaborate, with pairs of rounded columns on a high base reaching to an entablature with a vertically hatched frieze and deep cornice. Above this is a pilaster which extends to a mantel shelf which projects in layers from the wall. Additional features of note are the paneled wainscot in both parlors and the center hall, the open-string stair with decorative newels and plain balusters, and the sunburst design in the panel under the stair between the first floor and initial curve.

Although there have been additions to the building within the last forty years, these have only made "Morlunda" more impressive, extending its proportions

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 16 1976

DATE ENTERED MAR 25 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE two

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

while maintaining the integrity of the original plan and the fine details of the whole. This estate stands as one of the grandest ante-bellum houses in southeastern West Virginia, and it is a tribute to the people who have played a part in its evolution and to the land which provided the resources necessary to its survival.

Morlunda farms began its prize-winning cattle herd in 1936 with a selection of six Shorthorn heifers from the Wilson Brothers of Greenbrier County, adding many choice cows and heifers from the best Shorthorn herds of the Middle West and Canada. Since this beginning, the herd has been diversified and maintained at high standards. A large number of prizes has been taken at the West Virginia State Fair as well as at expositions throughout the country, making Morlunda stock among the better known and the farm the most famous in West Virginia's cattle industry.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Historical Booklet, Greenbrier County, 160th Anniversary, 1778-1938. N.p., n.d.
(Copy in West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, W.Va.). (pp. 20-21,
34)



BARN

COUNTY ROUTE 40 (MUDY CREEK MOUNTAIN ROAD)

U.S. ROUTE 66

MAIN HOUSE

DRIVEWAY

GUEST HOUSE (FORMER SLAVE QUARTERS)

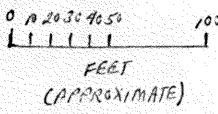
GUEST HOUSE (FORMER SMOKEHOUSE)

FARM OFFICE

FARM MANAGER'S HOUSE

GUEST HOUSE

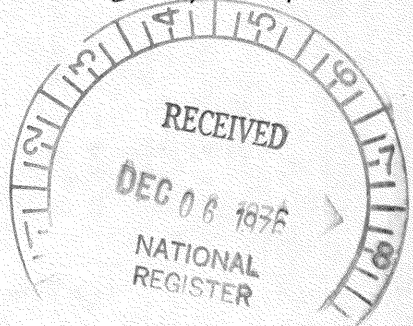
APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY



UTM REFERENCE: 17/544790/4187050

"MORLUNDA"

Lewisburg vicinity,
Greenbrier County,
West Virginia



MAR 25 1977