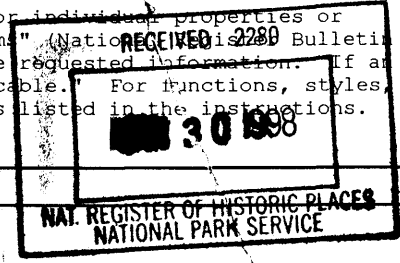


145

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 The Morgan Farm
other names/site number Nathan Morgan Home Place

2. Location

street & number 770 Old Dawson Road (Sumter County Road)
city, town Smithville, Georgia (X) vicinity of
county Sumter code GA 261
state Georgia code GA zip code 31709

(n/a) not for publication

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:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	7	3
sites	1	0
structures	1	1
objects	0	0
total	9	4

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: 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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards

Signature of certifying official

January 22, 1998
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

5. 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:

() see continuation sheet

Edson K. Beall *2/26/98*

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

VACANT/not in use
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Vernacular (central hall with ell wing)

Materials:

foundation	brick, concrete
walls	wood
roof	asphalt
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Summary Description (State Historic Preservation Office)

The Morgan Farm is a historic African-American farmstead located in rural Sumter County which consists of a historic central-hall farmhouse, six historic outbuildings, well, cultivated land, pastures, fence lines, and nonhistoric ranch house, shed, and carport.

The ca.1890 house was originally a central-hall house with an ell wing; however, during the 1960s rooms were added to fill in the ell and a portion of the wall making the central hall was removed. The house has a side-gabled roof with a projecting front gable, three brick chimneys, weatherboard siding, shed-roof front porch, central front door, 4/4 double-hung sash windows, and brick-pier with infill foundation.

The interior of the house features high ceilings, wood-paneled doors, hardware, wood mantels, wood window and door surrounds, beaded-board wainscoting, chair rail, beaded-board ceilings and walls with portions paneled over, and linoleum-over-wood floors.

The historic outbuildings include a ca.1890 smokehouse, ca.1920s cotton barn and well, ca.1930s mule barn, hen house and hog pen, and ca.1940s corn

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crib. The outbuildings are randomly arranged behind the house creating a landscape of work with a variety of fencing and livestock pens.

There are garden plots, hardwood and fruit trees, cultivated fields, and cow pastures at the rear of the house outside the immediate farm yard.

The 1994 ranch house with its carport and utility shed is located south of the farmhouse away from the farm yard and down a sloping hill in what was a pasture.

NOTE: The following more detailed description was prepared by Diana Miles as part of the National Register application for the Morgan Farm which was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office in August 1995.

The Morgan Farm is located on Old Dawson Road, seven-and-one-half miles south of Americus, Georgia, the county seat of Sumter County. The farm includes 117 acres, a historic farmhouse and outbuildings, and a nonhistoric ranch house. The property was purchased by Nathan Morgan in 1886 and has been continuously farmed for over 100 years. Since then, there have only been three owners of the farm, and they have all been in the Morgan family. The Morgan Farm has been named a Centennial Farm by the State of Georgia, meaning it has been continuously owned and operated by the same family for over 100 years.

The original 1890s farm house is situated on a small rise and is a one-story, central-hall house with an ell-shaped wing. A nonhistoric addition has filled in the ell shape, squaring off the shape of the farm house. The east-facing house has a concrete-infill and brick-pier foundation, original weatherboard siding, and a modern asphalt shingle roof. The house has a dominant side gable roof and a protruding gable pediment with a ventilator panel in the front. The other roofs are gabled, except for a small north side addition with a shed roof. There is a full-length front porch with a concrete base and metal support poles holding the overhanging porch roof. The plain front door is not original and it is flanked on either side by windows with replacement sashes. There are one interior and two exterior chimneys, and a nonhistoric carport on the south elevation. There is a small side porch on the north elevation which connects the front and rear of the house.

The interior of the original part of the house has retained its original doors, hardware, beaded-board ceilings and original wood mantels. The walls have been paneled and the floors covered with linoleum, though the original beaded-board walls and plank floors still exists under the new coverings. The original ell-shape farmhouse has the original high

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ceilings, while the later additions have dropped ceilings.

During the 1960s, the center hall had its east side wall partially removed to create a large living space. The walls and ceilings are beaded board. The simple door surrounds are original. Linoleum covers the original wood floors.

The living room has its original wooden floors underneath the linoleum. The original vertical beaded-board wainscoting and chair rail wrap around the room, though the upper wall is covered with modern paneling. The ceiling has been covered with sheetrock. There are three windows to the north, east, and west that have all had their sashes replaced. The original wood mantle has turned columns and curved fluted consoles.

The front south bedroom off the hall has linoleum over the original wood floors and paneling over the beaded-board walls. The ceiling is beaded board. The east and south windows have replacement sashes and the original mantle is identical to the one in the living room. The room has its original doors.

The middle bedroom has linoleum on the floor, paneling on the walls and its original beaded-board ceiling. The doors are original and the south windows has a replacement sash. The original wood mantle is very simple. There is a closet to the right of the fireplace.

The rear bedroom has a linoleum floor, paneled walls, and a wide, beaded-board ceiling. There is an exterior replacement door and an original door to the kitchen. The fireplace has been closed up and a wood-and-coal burner iron stove was used most recently for heating. The mantle is not original. The rear window is an original 9/9 double-hung sash.

The rear kitchen is part of the original house and has its original door from the bedroom. The high ceiling is covered with plywood, though originally there was no ceiling and it was open to the rafters above. The wooden floors and walls are covered with linoleum and sheetrock. There is an original rear window with four lights.

The 1960s side shed addition bedroom retains an original door to the porch and a 4/4 window sash, along with another window with a replacement sash. The floors, walls and ceiling are covered with linoleum, paneling and plywood. The 1960s room added between the center hall and the kitchen, containing a bathroom and living space, now exits onto a small side porch. The ceiling is low and covered with sheet rock and the floors and walls have linoleum and paneling.

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Around the house is the area of work for the farm including many outbuildings, most of which are historic. The historic outbuildings include the smokehouse, cotton barn, hog pen, mule barn, corn crib and hen house. The nonhistoric structures are a pumphouse, garage, and storage building. In the outbuildings and on the property are numerous antique farming tools and equipment. There are no longer any mules or hogs on the farm, though there once were many to provide labor for plowing the land and meat for the family to eat.

The smokehouse is a gable-front building on a log foundation. It has its original weatherboard along with some new pressed board siding. It has a raised-seam metal roof. The smokehouse was last used in 1993. The cotton barn is a gable-front building with two overhanging shed roofs on either side for equipment storage. It has a log foundation, weatherboard siding and a raised-seam metal roof. The hog pen is a wooden enclosure with a small separate wooden pen with a metal shed roof. The mule barn is a gable-front building with a hay loft. It has weatherboard siding and a metal roof. The corn crib is a wooden building with a metal roof. The hen house is made of weatherboard and has a metal shed roof.

There is a kitchen garden behind the house and many fruit trees grow on the property, such as mulberry, peach, plum, and pear trees. There are also pecan trees growing on the property. The outlying land is rolling, with a mix of forest, pasture, and cropland. The Morgan family presently operates a beef cattle business, in addition to leasing some land to a neighboring farmer who grows corn. The farm still produces various amounts of peanuts, watermelons, and okra.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1886-1947

Significant Dates:

1886 - Nathan Morgan purchased the property
1890 - Morgan Farmhouse was constructed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

n/a

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Morgan Farm is extremely significant in African-American heritage and agriculture as an excellent, intact, and extremely rare example of a historic African-American farm which has remained in the same family and continuously operated for over 100 years. A former slave, Nathan Morgan (1849-1917) purchased 202 acres in 1886 where he raised his family and farmed. The grandson of Nathan Morgan currently owns the property and farms the land. This farm is also significant in agriculture as a late 19th- and early 20th-century farmstead with a large number of intact outbuildings and an intact farm setting.

Between 1865 and the mid-20th century most African Americans lived and worked as tenant farmers on large, white-owned farms, many of which were the direct "descendants" of slavery-era plantations. Many other rural African-American families moved to towns and cities in search of jobs, self-determination, and a new life. Another group migrated out of the South to the industrial cities of the north looking for work opportunities or to escape the increasing racial violence occurring in Georgia. The out-migration of blacks reached its peak in the 1920s. According to Carole Merritt in the 1984 *Historic Black Resources: A Handbook For the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia*, only one in seven black farms was operated by its owners. Basically, during this period, very few blacks owned and operated their own farms.

In the South where sharecropping and tenant farming were the norm for rural African Americans, the Morgan Farm represents the rare ascendance from slavery to successful independence and property ownership. This farm is not only rare, but it has all the components of the proto-typical African-American owned and operated farm per the "model" outlined by Carole Merritt in *Historic Black Resources*, making it extremely significant in both African-American and agricultural history statewide. These characteristics include a modest vernacular farm house, constructed by the owner, modified through the years to meet the family's changing needs, and a variety of outbuildings to the rear of the house.

This is the first African-American farm to be individually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in Georgia. In addition, in 1995 the Morgan Farm was the first African-American farm to be a Georgia Centennial Family Farm award winner, the qualifications for which are owning and

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8

continuously operating a farm in the same family for over 100 years. Since then only one other African-American farm has received the Centennial Family Farm award--the Lewis Clark Estate Farm in Lowndes County. Differing from the Morgan Farm, the Clark Farm has no extant historic buildings and its ownership is in the estate of Lewis Clark with dozens of family members owning it.

Out of 38,000 surveyed historic properties in the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, there are fewer than ten documented African-American owned and operated farms. Again, to underscore the rarity of the Morgan Farm, there are so few known historic African-American farms in Georgia, and even fewer in continuous agricultural operation for over a century, and far more fewer which have been owned by the same family. Because this is an exceptionally rare resource, it is therefore exceptionally significant on the state level.

The Morgan Farm is also significant in terms of architecture and landscaping as a rare example of a historic African-American farm with its vernacular farm house, collection of outbuildings, and landscape of work. The buildings and landscape features, as outlined in *Historic Black Resources* and mentioned above, perfectly fit the model of an African-American farm in Georgia. To begin with it has a modified central-hall house which is an important vernacular house type in Georgia, as documented in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Setting*. Its characteristics are a central hall with a room on each side. The Morgan farmhouse is a good example of a modified central hall with an ell wing. Although there have been some modern superficial changes to the farmhouse, its extant character-defining features include its central front door and hall with flanking rooms, beaded-board ceiling and walls, wood floors, window and door openings, original doors and mantels, end-gable main roof, and exterior end chimney.

The landscaping of the Morgan Farm represents the picture-perfect model of the "landscape of work" as described in *Georgia's Living Places*. The farmhouse's landscaping includes an informal front yard, a kitchen garden almost immediately outside the back door, outbuildings irregularly placed for function and convenience within shouting distance, fruit trees defining the kitchen garden, and then further out from the house the pastures and fields for raising cattle and growing cash crops. There is a variety of historic fencing enclosing the fields and pastures, as well as pens for the livestock, both of which are character-defining features of a rural agricultural landscape. This intact landscape of work still functions today with the current Mr. Morgan farming the land and raising livestock.

The types of vernacular architecture seen in the smokehouse, cotton barn,

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hog pen, mule barn, corn crib, and hen house are all specially designed to meet the needs of an active farming operation in the rural South during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Unlike many farms which have destroyed their historic outbuildings or left them to fall down in favor of modern buildings, the Morgans have patched and stabilized their outbuildings as their farming needs grew and changed. As a result, the farm retains a much-larger-than-average number of historic outbuildings and auxiliary structures. Overall, the Morgan Farm is an outstanding and rare example of a historic, intact, small southern farm.

National Register Criteria

The Morgan Farm is eligible under Criterion A for its exceptional significance in African-American heritage and agriculture as a rare continuously operated farm bought by a freed slave and farmed for over 100 years by him and his family. The Morgan Farm is also eligible under Criterion C for its significance as an excellent and intact example of vernacular architecture with an intact landscape of work representing the spatial relationships existing on a turn-of-the-century working farm in the South.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

Nathan Morgan purchased the property in 1886 and 1948 marks the end of the historic period. Because ownership of the property and the land is of such importance to this nomination, the period of significance begins with the 1886 land purchase. The closing date of 1948 marks the end of the historic period and the significant activities, i.e. farming, continued to have importance up through the present and no more specific date can define the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resources are the historic farmhouse, the smokehouse, cotton barn, hog pen, mule barn, corn crib, hen house, and fencing. The noncontributing resources include the nonhistoric ranch house, pump house, garage, and storage building. Also contributing is the overall historic landscape of work including the general arrangement and character of the

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farm.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Nathan Morgan, who was born a slave in Sumter County, Georgia, in October of 1842, purchased 202 acres of land in Sumter County, Georgia, from Mr. A. Windsor in 1886. Nathan and his wife Ella, born in Georgia in November 1864, raised a family on this land where they produced agricultural products for the market and for their consumption. Mr. Morgan built the house, a central-hall cottage with an ell-shaped wing, in 1890. The family hauled lumber on a wagon from a saw mill for the construction of the farm house. Mr. Morgan, his wife, and their five daughters and four sons lived in the farmhouse. Mr. Morgan owned the farm until his death in 1917. The Morgan children were Milton, Fletcher, Dotha, Ervin, Fanny Mae, Cora, Emmet, Clifford, and Lola.

Milton (1878-1947), one of Nathan's and Ella's sons, lived in one of the three other houses which used to be on the farm (These houses have long since fallen down). After the death of his father, Milton and his family moved into the large farmhouse with his mother. He, his wife Ada Price Morgan, and their seven sons continued to produce cotton, corn, peanuts, and vegetables. They cultivated their crops with mules and raised other livestock for food, such as chickens, hogs, and milk cows. Milton Morgan owned the farm from 1925 to 1947 when he died. During his ownership, Milton Morgan purchased land from his father's heirs to help keep the farm intact. He also sold sixty acres of the farmland during his ownership, one acre of which is now the site of the long-time family church, Mount Zion A.M.E. Church.

After Milton's death in 1947, Carranza, one of Milton's sons, bought the farm in 1952. Carranza and his wife Mazie Tyson Morgan and their four children continued working the land for agricultural purposes. Carranza introduced more progressive farming techniques, such as the tractor, and also made improvements on the farmhouse in the 1950s, such as the introduction of electricity. Carranza Morgan owns and operates the farm today growing hay, corn, vegetables, and fruits, as well as raising cattle. He also leases some of the land to neighboring corn and peanut farmers.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Americus City Directory, including Sumter County, 1916-1917. Volume I. Birmingham, AL: R.L. Polk & Co.
- Census Records for Sumter County - 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910. Americus Public Library, Americus, Georgia.
- Census Records for Sumter County - 1900. Georgia Department of Archives, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Eaddy, Mary Ann and Carole Moore, eds. Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Setting. Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1991.
- MacKenzie, Hal. "Sumter Farmer Has 100 Year Legacy." Americus Times Recorder, July 21, 1995, p.1.
- Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources: A Handbook For the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia. Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1984.
- Morgan, Carranza. Interview by Wynifred Morgan James and Stella Gray Bryant. Spring, 1995.
- Sumter County, Georgia. Deed for Nathan Morgan, (1886). Deed for Milton Morgan, Deed Book 9 (1927), p. 41. Deed for Carranza Morgan, Deed Book 40 (1951), p. 486, with maps of Lot #13.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () 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:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- (x) Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

117.44 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 756520 Northing 3543270
B) Zone 16 Easting 757260 Northing 3543270
C) Zone 16 Easting 756500 Northing 3542380
D) Zone 16 Easting 756700 Northing 3542380

Verbal Boundary Description

The Old Dawson Road is the boundary on the east side of the property, except for seven acres of land. On the north is the Helms farm, on the west and the south is the Koinonia Farm. There is a fence running on the boundaries of the property separating it from other farmland. The boundary is further indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy black line drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses all the land owned by Carranza Morgan, most of which was part of the original purchase by Nathan Morgan in 1886.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street and number 500 The Healey Building; 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** GA **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 651-6782 **date** Winter 1997-1998

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) not applicable

name/title Diana Miles, Intern (under the supervision of Stella Gray Bryant)
organization Middle Flint Regional Development Center
street & number 228 W. Lamar Street
city or town Americus **state** Georgia **zip code** 31709
telephone (912) 928-4120

- consultant
 regional development center preservation planner
 other:

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPhotographs

Name of Property: The Morgan Farm
City or Vicinity: Smithville Vicinity
County: Sumter
State: Georgia
Photographer: Jim Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 1996

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 15: Morgan Farm, Sumter County; Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse, east and south facades; Photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse, south and west facades; Photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse, east or main facade; Photographer facing west.
- 5 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse, interior, main hall; Photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse, interior, northeast front room; Photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse, interior, southeast front room; Photographer facing west.
- 8 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse, interior, rear room of ell; Photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 15: Morgan Farmhouse and front yard, east and north facades; Photographer facing west.
- 10 of 15: Smokehouse and nonhistoric shed; Photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 15: Cotton barn with hen house in distance; Photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 15: Mule Barn with livestock pen; Photographer facing southwest.

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Photographs

13 of 15: Morgan Farm agricultural fields; Photographer facing west.

14 of 15: Overview of Morgan Farm with cow pasture and nonhistoric ranch house to the right of the photograph; Photographer facing north-northwest.

15 of 15: Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church (once a part of the Morgan Farm) with the Morgan Farm in the distance; View from the east side of Dawson Road, south of the farm; Photographer facing northwest.

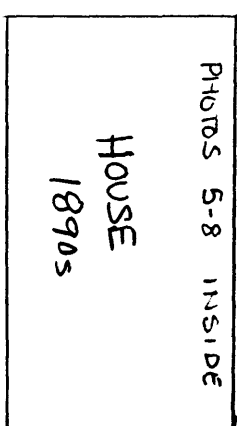
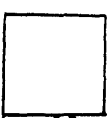
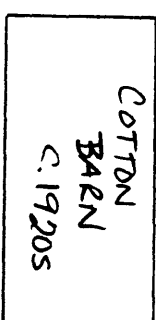
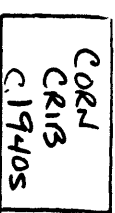
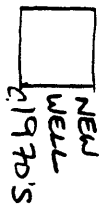
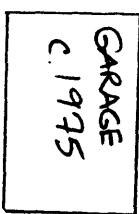
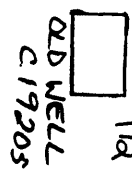
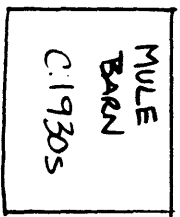
Morgan Farm
Sumter County, Georgia
Site Plan
Photographs/Direction of View: 1>
Not to Scale

North: →

← RANCH HOUSE

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2

15
2



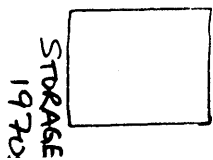
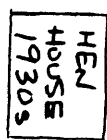
21

31

101

14

13



OLD DAWSON ROAD

11

NOT TO SCALE



16