Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

1/10/73

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VIRGINIA	
COUNTY:	. 67
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	PRESENT USE (Check One or	More as Appropriate)				-
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The Green Springs House is a frame, two-story structure with gable roof and four exterior end chimneys. The residence is constructed on a four-room plan with the stair chamber occupying the space between the two This plan is reflected on the exterior in the twin entranceways rear rooms. on the main (north) front leading to the two front rooms. These entrances form the centre bay of five-bay front, in contrast with the three-bay rear front, now resting behind a shed-roofed, one-story addition with porch Exterior features alluding to the building's eighteenth century origin exist in the paneled doors, Flemish bond brick foundation and grilled basement openings, as well as the architrave window trim and the nine-overnine and six-over-nine sash. A two-story frame wing has been added on the west.

The rear lawn is framed by three frame outbuildings which have been renovated as guesthouses and apartments.

The treatment of the interior woodwork both on the first and second floor is consistent in detail with the only variation being the mantle in the southeastern room on the first floor. Other than this mantel, which uses a centre reeded panel and end blocks in the frieze to support the deep molded shelf, all mantels conform to a basic format: two broad vertical boards and a horizontal board frame a plaster fireplace surround and form the basis for applied molded strips which give an appearance of architraves; a molded cornice shelf rests at the top of the framing. The paneled wainscoting consists of three molded rails, the wider top and bottom ones forming the chair rail and baseboard respectively with a narrower rail midway between Stiles are placed at junctures with openings and corners and, in most rooms, stiles occur at regular points between these junctures. Plain, unraised panels are set between the framing. The stair has rectangular balusters set into a closed stringer with a heavy rail and square newels. The landing of the stair is approached from both the old north portion and the later addition to the south. It is into this addition that the southeast room is extended making it the largest room in the house.

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SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or Mor  Pre-Columbian  15th Century	D D TO THE THE TAX OF	18th Century	20th Century
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If App	licable and Known)		1.97
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE  Abor iginal  Prehistoric  Historic  Agriculture  Architecture  Art  Commerce  Communications	(Check One or More as Appropri.  Education Engineering Industry Invention Landscape Architecture Literature Military Music	ate)  Political Religion/Philosophy Science Sculpture Social/Humanitarian Theater Transportation	Urban/Planning Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated amidst the rolling fields of Green Springs Valley and near the famous spring of that name from whence it derives its name, the Green Springs house survives virtually intact as a significant late-eighteenth century farm dwelling. Besides being distinguished for its interior panelling and trim, the house contains a compact four-room plan, a deviation from the standard Virginia central hall plan. Probably built by Colonel Richard Morris, the house was closely associated with the well-known Morris family, descendants of William Morris, of Taylor's Creek, Hanover County, many of whose members settled and developed this section of Louisa.

Descendants of William Morris (died 1745) were among the early settlers of Louisa County. William and his son Sylvanus (died 1745 or 1746) acquired extensive real property in Hanover County by patent and purchase. Much, if not all, of the son's holdings were in the Green Springs section of Louisa (formed from Hanover in 1740).

Two of Sylvanus's three sons, William (c. 1735-1820) and Richard (c. 1740-1821) lived to enjoy the legacy provided them by their father and grandfather, completing the division of their inheritance by means of a suit in chancery (1771-73). It would appear, from the record of these proceedings, that: Sylvanus was living at the Green Springs when he died; Richard was established there by 1771-73; and William's portion of the Louisa lands were not yet in production.

William stayed in Hanover County at Taylor's Creek, the plantation of his grandfather, and it was his son, William, Jr. (died 1830-31) who developed the 2,500 + acre tract, adjacent to Green Springs, which came to his father in the division of the estate. The remaining 1,746 acres, at and near the spring were established as the seat of Richard Morris.

Colonel Richard Morris -sometime Commissary for the Commonwealth, member of the House of Delegates (1788), and unsuccessful candidate for a seat in the Virginia Convention of 1788- married the sister of Colonel John Overton of Louisa. She bore him seven children: four daughters Martha (Patsy), Elizabeth, Clara, and Maria; and three sons, two of whom, Overton and William, died before their father.

There is a detailed inventory of the structures at Green Springs during Richard Morris's time. The dwelling house, two stories with a full cellar was 36 X 34' (approximately the dimensions of the present house). The complex included: a large barn and stable, five substantial outbuildings; a quarter, oven and henhouses. Somewhat removed from the main house were: the overseer's house, seven Negro houses, and additional outbuildings.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
LOUISA	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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(Number all entries)

8. In addition to his activities as a planter Morris was the proprietor of a resort "at the Springs." Service buildings here included an ice house; two houses (12 X 16'). "at the bath"; a blacksmith's shop, servant's quarters, kitchen; smoke, corn, and storehouses and two ovens.

Morris's son and heir, James Maury Morris, abandoned the extensive complex "at the Springs." By 1835, some of the spacious guest houses had "been consumed by fire." While others, Joseph Martin observed, "have fallen down, and only a few houses in a state of rapid decay remain."

James Maury Morris left a greater estate than he inherited in spite (a contemporary kinsman wrote) of his addiction to frivolous pursuits including regular and extended visits to Richmond and the fashionable resorts. Green Springs Plantation prospered under an indifferent master due to the remarkable fertility of its soil - and, one supposes, through the efforts of a competent overseer.

In spite of two additions, the Green Springs house survives in a remarkable state of preservation. The south addition appears to be almost contemporary with the original building date, the expansion of the southeast room into that wing being accomplished without awkward adjustments; the western addition has served to remove many of the incompatible functions from the original rooms.

/ The Green Springs neighborhood, that has given this fine residence its present name, also has provided the building with an unusually beautiful and tranquil setting, a compatible co-habitation of man and nature typical of this unique region. /

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Isobel Baylor Woodson, "The Morris Family," in <u>The Virginia Genealogist</u>, XI (1967): 51-60, 108-15.



NO VITA

John Blair Dabney, "Sketches and Reminiscences of the Dabney and Morris Families,"  M. S. 1857. Copy at Virginia Historical Society.  Banover County (Chancery), MSS records of division of Green Spring's property between Richard and William Morris, May 2, 1771, May 6, 1774.  (includes plot, description of improvements, etc.) photostat copies at VHLC. Joseph Martin, Gazateer of Virginia, 1836, p. 217.  Earlorg Swem & John W. Williams, A Register of the General Assembly of Virginia: 1776-1916, Richmond 1918.  (See Continuation page)  GEOGRAPHICAL DATA  LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES OF THE PROPERTY		Caler John J	dar of Virginia	State Pape	rs, Ric	chr	nond,	1881,	II: 397	, 491; VI	III:	214.	
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NAME AND TITLE:  Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  ORGANIZATION  Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  Nay, 1972  STREET AND NUMBER:  Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building  CITY OR TOWN:  Richmond,  2. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION  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   James W. Moody, Jr., Director  Title  MAY 1 6 1972  MAY 1 6 1972		STATE:	and the second		CODE	C	OUNTY:	(2)	7	1		CODE	
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1/10/23

#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGINIA

Date Entered JUN 3 0 1972

Name

Location

Ionia

Green Springs

Albemarle County Court House Historic District Trovelians vicinity Louisa County

Trevelians vicinity Louisa County

Charlottesville

#### Also Notified

Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Hon. William B. Spong, Jr. Hon. William L. Scott Hon. J. Kenneth Robinson

Director, Southeast Region
HR NRowland:mm 6/30/72

State Liaison Officer
Mr. James W. Moody, Jr.
Chairman
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
State Minth Street Office Building Toom 1106
Richmond, Virginia 23219



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### VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

ROOM 1106

NINTH STREET STATE OFFICE BUILDING RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 TELEPHONE: 770-3143

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JOHN M. JENNINGS, VICE CHAIRMAN VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23221

JAMES W. MOODY, JR. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

31 May, 1972

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register Room 3209 1100 L. Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed are the reports for Green Springs and Ionia, both in Louisa County, that we are nominating to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

Cleans Jame

(Miss) Eleanor Lane Registrar

EL:sk

Enc.



Form 10-301 (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
LOUISA	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 3 0 1972	

PROPERIT	MAP FURM	FOR NPS USE ONLY			
(Type all entries - attach	to or enclose with map)	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		
	• ^	JUN 3 0 1972			
1. NAME					
COMMON: GREEN SPRINGS					
AND/OR HISTORIC: GREEN SPRING	S				
2. LOCATION					
.2 mi. S of Rt. 617,1.5 m	ni. SW of intersection	on with Rt. 640.			
Trevilians vicinity					
STATE: Virginia	CODE COUNT	y: Louisa	10		
3. MAP REFERENCE		100			
U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangles	Gordonsville, Virgin	nia; Columbia, Virgin	ia.8/		
SCALE: 1:62500; 1:6250	00	28	Pr -		
DATE: 1961; 1960		7 400	1000		
4. REQUIREMENTS			5 10/		
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS		- PA7/	19/3		
1. Property broundaries where require	red.	13 6/6	Wa.		
2. North arrow.		F	21/ B		
<ol><li>Latitude and longitude reference.</li></ol>		6.1	(50)		
		751	TIL		