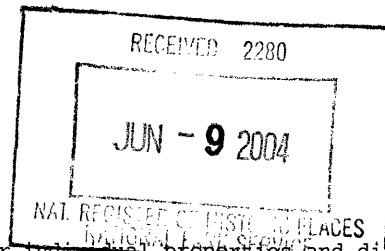


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House
other names/site number: The Pink House

2. Location

street & number 193 Genoa Lane not for publication N/A
city or town Genoa vicinity N/A
state Nevada code NV county Douglas code 005 zip code 89411

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ralph [Signature], SHPO, Date 6-8-04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):
per Edson H. Beall Date of Action 7/21/04
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Business/Office Building

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century/Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Rubble

roof Wood Shake

walls Wood

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement
Architecture

Period of Significance 1855-1904

Significant Dates 1855, 1870, 1884, 1904

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown/Martin Gaige

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets See continuation sheets)

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 0.39 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>253690</u>	<u>4320780</u>	3	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mella Rothwell Harmon, Architectural Historian
 organization State Historic Preservation Office date January 15, 2003
 street & number 100 N. Stewart Street telephone 775-684-3447
 city or town Carson City state NV zip code 89701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name David W. and Diana L. Groendyke
 street & number 232 Shadow Mountain Circle telephone _____
 city or town Gardnerville state NV zip code 89460

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

7. Description

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House is located at 193 Genoa Lane in Genoa, Nevada. The central portion of the house was built in the Carpenter Gothic style in 1855 for Col. John Reese, founder of Mormon Station, next to his grist mill. After Reese left Genoa, and following several years of litigation over unpaid debts, the house was purchased in 1870 by local merchant J.R. Johnson, who moved it to a parcel of land on Genoa Lane, just off Main Street. In order to accommodate his family, Mr. Johnson added several rooms to the house. He also built a stone ice cellar to the southwest of the house, which still exists but has been split off from the property by a 1992 land transaction.

The two-story house sits on a rubble foundation, is clapboard-sided, and its high-pitched, cross-gabled roof is covered in wood shakes. Characteristic of the style, decorative jig-cut barge boards decorate the eaves, with pendants and finials at the peak of each gable. Even the brick chimney sports Gothic-arched insets. It is not clear which of the two entries was the original one. The west entrance opens immediately onto the staircase leading to the rooms above. The entry on the north side is more elaborate and leads into what was most likely the original parlor. Both doors are wood-framed with etched-glass panels and side-lights. Fenestration reflects a variety typical of the style, most of which is square-framed and multi-paned. Upstairs, in the bedrooms at each end, are matching Gothic-arched floor-to-ceiling windows that afforded access to the upper porch level. The smaller windows on the north and south side are square rather than arched.

On the ground floor, J.R. Johnson's additions were made mostly to the east and south sides. These included a storage room, a sitting room, and a shed-roofed space connected the sitting room to the porch. This room may at some point have been intended to be an indoor bathroom. The front and rear of the house were connected by an "L" shaped hallway. Around 1904, Judge Virgin and his wife added the wrap-around porch with turned balusters and Doric columns. Some time after their marriage in 1907, their son-in-law, Louis Finnegan, built a Gothic-Revival cottage on the south side of the house. Like the stone ice cellar, the cottage was split off from the main house by a land sale in 1992.

Integrity

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House retains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity despite its move from the site of John Reese's grist mill to the center of the town of Genoa in 1870. The original central portion of the house built by John Reese is discernible among the various modifications made by the subsequent owners during its period of significance. The whole, however, gives a unified appearance. Although the property has undergone parcel splits that has reduces its size and separated it from the cottage and ice house, and the railings on the second-story porches were removed for safety reasons, the

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7, 8 Page 2

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

7. Description, continued

Pink House reflects sufficient integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its historical significance.

The grounds of the Pink House were at one time quite extensive and filled with flowers and fruit trees. Despite the various transactions that reduced the size of the property, the remaining grounds are full of ornamental plants and trees, and the remnants of the original orchards. These plantings contribute to the integrity of setting and feeling.

Criteria Consideration B

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House was moved from its original location near John Reese's grist mill to a parcel behind J.R. Johnson's store in 1870. The move occurred during the building's period of significance and in its new location it continued to make significant contributions to the history of Genoa. Further, the house retains sufficient architectural values to convey its significance under Criterion C, and it also retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

8. Statement of Significance

Although the Reese-Johnson-Virgin House is a contributing element to the Genoa Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1975, it is individually eligible for listing under criterion A for the important role it played in Genoa's exploration and settlement history. It was built by local carpenter Mark Gaige around 1855 for Mormon Station founder John Reese, who also operated a sawmill and grist mill nearby. After Reese's business failed and he returned to Salt Lake City, the house was purchased by pioneer merchant J.R. Johnson, who moved it to its present location, enlarged it—and painted it pink. Ownership then passed to Judge D.W. Virgin, whose family owned it until 1938. The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House is also eligible under criterion C as an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture that reflected the rise in prominence of the town and its owners through its enlargement and ornamentation.

Genoa, Nevada

Nevada's first trading post was established by a Mormon party led by Captain Joseph DeMont, with Hampton S. Beatie as his clerk. The party left Salt Lake City, Utah Territory in April 1850 headed for the gold mines of California. They changed their plans when they stopped in the Carson Valley at the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and found the spot ideal for a trading post serving the

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

westward migration. As winter approached, the DeMont-Beatie group sold their trading post and returned to Salt Lake City (Elliott 1987:50).

When Hampton Beatie returned to Salt Lake City, he took a job at John and Enoch Reese's general store. Reese and his brother were from New York, but had come to the Midwest with the Mormons in the 1840s. John Reese joined the westward migration in 1849, heading to Salt Lake City. Encouraged by Beatie's reports of the Carson Valley, Reese outfitted ten wagons with supplies for sale and seeds to plant, and left for the Carson Valley on April 5, 1851. Arriving on June 4, Reese bought the little log cabin that served as the trading post from the man who had bought it from the DeMont party. Reese set about constructing the first permanent structure in what would later become the state of Nevada. Mormon Station, as it was called, consisted of a log cabin and a stockade. By the end of 1851, Reese's trading post was a successful enterprise. Settlers, both Mormon and non-Mormon, were drawn to Mormon Station and the neighboring valleys, where they planted crops. Close by in Gold Canyon, a few miners were trying their luck. As of 1850, the area was part of Utah Territory, which had been created by the Compromise of 1850. The Compromise also granted statehood to California, located just over the crest of the Sierra Nevada from Mormon Station (Elliott 1987:51).

Mormon-controlled Carson Valley continued to draw settlers, who established land holdings around Reese's Mormon Station. In 1852, Utah Territory designated several counties in the western portion. Among them was Millard County, in which Mormon Station was located. John Reese was the first of six to file a land claim in the new county in December 1852. In 1853, Thomas Knott, with the financial backing of Benjamin Jones and John James, built a sawmill for John Reese on Reese's newly acquired land, which "extended from his store south to a lone tree and including everything between the river and the mountains on the west" (Richard Reese 1977). Soon thereafter, Knott built a water-powered grist mill to the north of the saw mill. In 1855, Reese built a small two-story house next to his grist mill. Upon viewing Mormon Station for the first time in 1854, Lt. Col. E.J. Steptoe remarked:

Its soil and climate is equal to the best of the mountain vallies [*sic*]. Its timber is exhaustless and of superior quality. Reese and company have in successful operation a very fine large three story grist mill to which is attached the most complete saw mill we ever saw in motion with a circular saw 6 ft. in diameter. We witnessed it saw twice through a ten foot log making a complete change of the mill, and sawing 28 feet of lumber in one minute and 50 seconds (Richard Reese 1977¹)

¹ Richard Reese is the great grandson of Enoch Reese, Col. John Reese's brother.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

The construction of Reese's house is credited to carpenter Mark Gaige, who played an active role in the settlement and development of Genoa. Reese's house quickly became an important meeting place for the nascent community. A meeting that established the first government in the area was held at John Reese's residence in 1855, led by Orson Hyde, who renamed the area Genoa. A number of other meetings, including ones dealing with important timber and water rights issues, were held there, as well.

In 1857, Mormons were recalled to Salt Lake City to prepare for what Brigham Young believed to be an impending attack by the United States government. Their lands in Genoa and western Utah Territory were abandoned and taken over by Gentiles. Also in 1857, a committee was established to pursue independent territorial status for the region. On August 8, 1857, John Reese presided over a public meeting attended by representatives from a wide area. Although it would be four years before territorial status was achieved, the movement began in Genoa (Elliott 1987:57-58).

John Reese sold his property in Genoa in 1859 and returned to Utah, where he was engaged by Captain Simpson to guide the Army across western Utah Territory and to establish a new pioneer road and a shorter route between Salt Lake City and Genoa (Richard Reese 1977). Also in 1859, the discovery of gold and silver on the Comstock Lode brought a migration to the entire region and Genoa boomed as a supply center. By 1860, Genoa boasted two hotels, three restaurants, five saloons, seven stores, six blacksmiths, one bootmaker, two doctors, two livery stables, and two bakers. Several mercantiles were established around that time, including that of J.R. Johnson and S. Salmon, who built a store in 1860, followed by a second one in 1863. Genoa had become an important trading center (Miluck 1975:44-53).

By the 1880s, the town's population stood at about 500 and it was surrounded by lush ranches and farms. When Nevada Territory was authorized in 1861, Douglas County was established with Genoa as the county seat. Genoa retained county seat status when Nevada was admitted to the Union in October 1864. In 1905, the town of Minden was established about five miles east of Genoa. The new town came about because the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, at the prompting of Minden founder H.F. Dangberg, bypassed Genoa and built its southern terminus at Minden. In 1910, a devastating fire burned a number of buildings in Genoa, including Reese's Mormon Fort. The county courthouse was severely damaged, and Minden and Gardnerville, Minden's neighbor to the east, took the opportunity to fight over the relocation of the county seat. Minden won, and the county government was officially transferred in 1916. The old courthouse in Genoa was repaired, but both the railroad and the highway bypassed the town, so without its political clout, it became a quiet pastoral place with a few historic buildings as testaments of the town's former glory.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House

The building that stands at 193 Genoa Lane began ca. 1855 as the two-story house constructed next to Reese's grist mill by carpenter Mark Gaige. Still evident from this early phase are the high-pitched gable roof, the jig-cut gingerbread barge-board, and the variegated shingle pattern on the roof, reflecting elements of the Gothic Revival style. This house served as the center of early attempts at governance by the first settlers of the Carson Valley. Although Col. Reese experienced initial success, he was not making money with his saw and grist mills, and was not able to pay Thomas Knott for his work constructing them or the men who financed the project, Benjamin Jones and John James. In 1859, Col. Reese returned to Salt Lake City. The fate of the mills and the house between 1859 and 1870 are murky, but it is evident that Knott's, James's, and Jones's attempt to get paid by Col. Reese resulted in a protracted legal effort that presumably left the men in control of the properties for a period of time (Miluck 1975).

In 1870, successful Genoa merchant J.R. Johnson² purchased Col. Reese's house and moved it a few blocks east onto the parcel of land on Nixon Street (now Genoa Lane) behind his store, which faced Main Street. He supervised two men in moving the house using wide planks, wooden rollers, and a capstan. He proceeded to remodel and enlarge the house in preparation for the arrival of his family from the East. It was Johnson who gave the house its first coat of pink paint, a tradition that has carried down to the present day and given the house its nickname, the Pink House. A second town plat was surveyed by Samuel Wright in 1874. As a result, J.R. Johnson received the deed to the Pink House land, barns, and stone cellar, as well as his Main Street business lots (Janssen n.d. 3). The Johnson family lived in the Pink House until 1883, when it was purchased by Judge Daniel Webster Virgin (Ellison 1975).

Lawyer D. W. Virgin had come to Genoa in 1863, where he became the first district attorney for Douglas County, which had been created by the passage of the Nevada territorial constitution in 1861. Virgin received a district judgeship at the Douglas County courthouse in Genoa, and upon retirement from the bench, he continued to operate his private law practice from a second-floor bedroom in his home (Dangberg 1972). Judge Virgin had come to California during the Gold Rush, and after trying his hand at placer mining, accepted a teaching post in a mining camp. His students were mostly miners driven by necessity to read and write mining claim notices. After six months under unpleasant conditions, Daniel

²J.R. Johnson was evidently a popular man in Genoa. In addition to operating his mercantile business, in the 1860s he was elected to the offices of county treasurer, assessor, and public administrator.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

Virgin went to Sacramento to study law with a group of attorneys. The Virginia City and Washoe strikes enticed Virgin to pack up his law books and come to Nevada territory in 1863, where he settled in Genoa (Janssen n.d. 4).

After establishing his law practice, Judge Virgin married the former Mary Raycraft, and together they had three children, two of whom died in early adulthood. The Raycraft family was a large and prominent Genoa family with hotel, livery, and stage line interests. Mrs. Virgin was known for her beautiful flower and vegetable gardens, and fruit trees. Fourth of July was a popular event in Genoa, with homemade ice cream and raspberry shortcake served from the relative coolness of the Virgin's sawdust-insulated ice house. After the Virgin's eldest daughter, Lillian, married wealthy Tonopah mining man Louis Finnegan in 1907, the couple built a two-room cottage behind the house for their visits. Around that time, the Virgins added a porch on the north and west sides of the main house, with white columns and hand-turned railings. These features were sympathetic to the Gothic Revival essence of the original building and Johnson's modifications, and reflect the continuum of care and attention lavished on the home over the years.

It was not many years later that two of the Virgin's children died, as did Lillian's husband, and Mary Raycraft. Lillian moved back into the Pink House to care for her father. Lillian Finnegan is credited with the origination of a Genoa tradition called "The Candy Dance." In the early 1900s, the town of Genoa wanted to install electric streetlights. In order to help raise money, Lillian suggested a candy dance, after a similar event she experienced on a cruise. The idea was for candy to be passed out as an incentive for paid attendance to the dance. All the town's women made their candy specialties and a midnight supper was served. The event was held each year to help pay the monthly electricity bills. The Candy Dance tradition continues today, featuring candy and arts and crafts (Bruins n.d.).

In 1910, Genoa experienced a fire that severely damaged the county courthouse, destroyed the cabin at Mormon Station, and affected to varying degrees a number of businesses and homes in town. The total estimated loss was \$30,000. The *Record-Courier* noted that the Virgin house was on fire at various times, but firemen using a hand pump and water from the irrigation ditch managed to save the structure (*Record-Courier* July 1, 1910). The only damage reported to Judge Virgin's property was to his barn at an estimated loss of \$300 (*Record Courier* July 1, 1910).

Judge Virgin passed away on August 21, 1928 at the age of 93. Lillian Finnegan inherited the house and continued to live there until her death in 1938. Agnes and Percy Train acquired the property, complete

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

with all of the Virgin's furnishings and personal possessions. In 1941, Mrs. Train was appointed first curator of the newly-established Nevada State Museum located in the former United States Branch Mint building in Carson City. In 1942, her husband Percy died and her parents, the Scotts, came from Chicago to live with her in the Pink House. In May 1944, Agnes Train resigned her position with the State Museum, married John Janssen in the garden of the Pink House. The couple moved to Santa Rosa, leaving Agnes's parents in residence in the house. After her father's death and her mother's illness, Agnes Janssen sold the Pink House in 1956. From that time to the present the Pink House has passed through a succession of owners and conversion to commercial use beginning in 1965. In 1992, the stone cellar and the Finnegan's cottage were split off from the Pink House in a land deal. The Pink House's current owner is lovingly restoring the house and the grounds with the goal of opening it to school children and tourists so they can experience the Victorian life, Nevada-style. Nearly 180 years later, the Reese-Johnson Virgin House, a.k.a., the Pink House, remains a treasured landmark in Genoa (Ellison 1975).

Criterion C

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House is an excellent and early example of the vernacular exemplification of the Carpenter Gothic mode of the Gothic Revival style in settlement-era Nevada. The first Gothic style building in America was Glen Ellen in Baltimore, designed in 1832 by Alexander Jackson Davis. Davis became the foremost proponent of the style with his 1837 book, *Rural Residences*, which was dominated by Gothic examples. *Rural Residences* was also the first house plan book published in this country (McAlester and McAlester 1990: 200).

Davis's book featured large homes, as well as smaller country cottages with steep roofs, dominant front gables, and spacious verandas, like those present in John Reese's house. Davis's friend and landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing featured Davis's designs in his 1842 book *Cottage Residences*, which is said to have naturalized the picturesque in America.³ *Cottage Residences* and Downing's 1850 book *The Architecture of Country Homes*, were exceedingly influential in shaping mid-nineteenth-century tastes, and were well-known resources for home builders and carpenters, even those like Mark Gaige, who were plying their trade in remote territories (Whiffen 1969: 56).

³ The picturesque was a movement in landscape and architecture that was characterized by relationships among buildings and landscape features that evoked the qualities of landscape paintings.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 8

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

The original portion of the Reese-Johnson-Virgin house reflects the Gothic style through its high-pitched gable roof, with variegated shingles, and the jig-cut decorative barge board, as well as its form and proportions that could well have been gleaned from one of Downing's plan books. It is not known whether the architectural details were produced at Reese's sawmill or shipped pre-cut from another location. The two subsequent phases of construction on the Reese-Johnson-Virgin House are compatible with the original Carpenter Gothic styling Mark Gaige rendered for John Reese.

J.R. Johnson remodeled and enlarged the house after he bought it and moved it in 1870. Although the original paint color John Reese used on the house is not known, early Carpenter Gothic houses would have been painted earth tones of brown, tan, green, or in the case of a remote settlement, perhaps even left unpainted. By the 1870s, however, Victorian tastes were favoring bright colors and Genoa had become bustling center of commerce, so Johnson's choice of pink paint for the house he was fixing up for the arrival of his family from the East would have been a fashionable one.

By the time Louis Finnegan constructed the small cottage for himself and his wife, the Virgins had added the 1/4-wrap-around porch to the house, the Gothic style had been supplanted by several late Victorian styles. The Queen Anne style, which had a general popularity run of 30 years, between 1880 and 1910, featured gingerbread details reminiscent of those associated with Carpenter Gothic (McAlester and McAlester 1990). The later style is also characterized by one-story decorated porches that often wrapped around one or more sides of a house. The Virgin's addition of a Queen Anne porch for their Carpenter Gothic house was both appropriate and attractive. Rather than creating a source of historical confusion, the porch reflects architectural evolution, as well as the rise in prominence of the owners and the community.

Of the residential properties within the Genoa Historic District, thirteen date to the earliest 1850s settlement period. The majority of those were identified in a 1980s survey as vernacular or utilitarian. In addition to the Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, two other houses were categorized as Gothic Revival (with Greek Revival elements). The Stephen Kinsey Home at 196 Genoa Lane, was built in 1856. The Syll/Juchtzer House, at 195 Genoa Lane, was built during the decade, but the exact year was not specified. The only other Gothic Revival house in Genoa, the Nordin House at 2354 Genoa Street, was built in the 1870s. Stephen Kinsey and John Reese were both important participants in the growth and development of Mormon Station/Genoa (Douglas County Planning Department 1981).

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8,9 Page 10

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

8. Statement of Significance, continued

Summary

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House is significant in the settlement history of Genoa, Nevada as one of the earliest homes built in the settlement of Mormon Station and also as the site of important meetings that established early local government. The house is also eligible for listing in the National Register as an outstanding example of settlement-period Gothic Revival-style architecture, most likely inspired by early pattern books.

9. Bibliography

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 10

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

9. Bibliography, continued

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The National Register boundary of the D.W. Virgin House includes the 0.39-acre parcel identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 1319-09-702-009, Douglas County, Nevada.

Boundary Justification

Resource boundaries include all land commonly associated with the lot identified as Douglas County, Nevada APN 1319-702-009.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section Photographs Page 12

The Reese-Johnson-Virgin House, 193 Genoa Lane, Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada.

Photographs

Property Name: Reese-Johnson-Virgin House

Property Location: 193 Genoa Lane
Genoa, Douglas County
Nevada

Photographer: Mella Rothwell Harmon

Date of Photograph: April 29, 2004

Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada

Photograph 1: Reese-Johnson-Virgin House
North elevation, facing southeast

Photograph 2: Reese-Johnson-Virgin House
West elevation, facing east