Theme 9. Society and Social Conscience

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

South Carolina COUNTY:

	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES			Anderson		
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DESCRIPTION	T			(Check One)		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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Cottage Built c. 1851, by Nancy M. Caldwell, the Johnson-Morris House is a perfect example of the "raised cottage" genera of houses which were built extensively in the 19th century.

One-story, raised brick basement elevates house and gives effect of a two-story dwelling. Facade has high wooden steps which lead to pedimented portico on main floor level. This central portice is supported by four, square columns and enclosed with balustrade. Entrance, flanked by four-pane sidelights, has six-pane transom above. Located on either side of portico is a pair of nine-over-nine sash windows with louver shutters. Two symetrically spaced chimneys are set in medium gable roof.

Located on Morris Street, facing Manning Street, the house stands out for several blocks due to its situation as an "island" with access streets on all sides. Originally the house stood on a four-acre lot, however, the present lot is still quite spacious. Dimensions of present lot are 100 feet on the front, 101 feet on back, and 164 feet along the sides.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			er igi

The architecturally significant Johnson-Morris House is also important as the home of Dr. William Bullein Johnson, outstanding 19th century Baptist minister, leader, and pioneer in the area of female education.

In 1804 William Bullein Johnson, successful young lawyer of Beaufort, South Carolina, was caught up in the religious revival which swept through the area's Baptist churches. Following this spiritual experience, Johnson abandoned his law practice to serve as a Baptist minister throughout South Carolina. He was also chaplain for South Carolina College and pastor of the Baptist Church of Savannah, Georgia.

Equally interested in nationwide Baptist activity, Dr. Johnson was credited by Luther Rice as having initiated the idea of the first Baptist Triennial Convention organized in Philadelphia in 1814. This convention was the first effort to unite the scattered, unorganized Baptists of America into one concerted drive for foreign missions and Baptist educational institutions. Johnson later became president of the Triennial Convention and remained an active member for 30 years.

Knowing that the Triennial Convention could not survive without organized support from Baptists within the individual states Johnson became a foremost advocate of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and served as its president from 1825-1853.

In 1845, the Triennial Convention met in Providence, Rhode Island to discuss the growing rift between Northern and Southern Baptists over the question of slavery. It was decided that the Southern Baptists should form a separate convention. Largely due to the leadership of William Bullein Johnson, the Southern Baptist Convention was founded in Augusta, Georgia in May 1845. Johnson was first president of the convention, serving from 1845-

King, Joe M. A History of South Carolina Baptists. Columbia, S.C.: General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, 1964.

Wallace, David Duncan. The History of South Carolina, Vol. III.

New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1934.

WPA. South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York:

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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

South Carol	ina					
Anderson						
FOR NPS USE ONLY						
ENTRY NUMBER DATE						

11,10,45,0063 10/7/71

(Number all entries)

JOHNSON-MORRIS HOUSE

8. Significance

An alumnus of Brown University, Dr. Johnson was always aware of the educational needs of South Carolina, especially in the area of higher education for women. In Greenville he served as principal of the city's two academies (male and female) from 1822 until 1830 when he began a twenty-two year career as principal of Edgefield Female Academy. In 1853 Dr. Johnson assumed the role of chancellor and teacher at Johnson Female University, Anderson, South Carolina, forerunner of today's Anderson College. Dr. Johnson held this position until his retire ment in 1858.

The following statement concerning the house's architectural importance is by Dr. Harold N. Cooledge Jr., College of Architecture, Clemson University:

"...the Johnson Morris House in Anderson, because of its total site, its relative completeness of fabric, the general soundness of that fabric and the relative ease with which it can be rehabilitated is probably the best standing example of mid-nineteenth residential architecture available for immediate consideration. That is not to say that it is a 'great' work; it is a good, vernacular work, and, for my part, that much more worthy of preservation. We tend to concentrate on 'great' works far too frequently, and are, therefore, losing the much larger and more significant sub-stratum of sound vernacular architecture -- of all periods -- which loss will be noticed, as a serious gap, in our material history some years hence. I sincerely hope the Johnson-Morris house can be preserved and restored, together with the upgrading of the surrounding neighborhood."

