

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **JUL 13 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Joseph Henry Morris House

and/or common same as above

2. Location

street & number 505 North State Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Jackson

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Hinds

code 49

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Mrs. Joseph H. Morris, Mrs. Dean Morris Alexander, Misses Ellen and Elizabeth P. Morris, Mrs. Hayden J. Silver and Hebron Morris

street & number 505 North State Street

city, town Jackson

N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk

street & number Chancery Court Building, 316 South President Street

city, town Jackson

state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson

state Mississippi

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Joseph Henry Morris House, one of the state's most outstanding examples of the Neoclassical Revival style, sits on a high lot in the heart of downtown Jackson, Mississippi, framed by a massive magnolia, mature azaleas, camellias, yellow jasmine, and other native shrubs and trees. The large frame dwelling's five-bay facade (east elevation) is distinguished by a double-tiered, balustrated gallery which encircles the facade and south elevation. The fluted modified-Ionic columns, raised on paneled pedestals, are enriched with palmette and egg-and-dart motif. The house has a hipped roof (originally capped with a balustrade), pierced by five interior chimneys, a dentiled cornice and distinctive corner quoins. A swell front balconette, supported by radiating console brackets with pendant, embellishes the center bay of the upper gallery.

The grand entrance, marked by clusters of three columns, is dominated by the massive leaded-glass door, which is framed by sidelights and a transom divided in three sections by massive palmette-embellished consoles. Oval circular hexagonal designs embellish the leaded beveled glass in the panels as well as in the door's large window. This delicate tracery is repeated in the transom above the windows and doors on the facade and south elevation.

The exuberance of the facade and entrance is reflected in the interior treatment of the elliptical arch opening that divides the front and stair halls that form the nucleus of the home's irregular floor plan. Egyptian-influenced, palm-capitaled fluted columns set on paneled bases support the arch, which acts as a framework for an exceptionally well-preserved screen of spooled, spindled and scrolled millwork. The spool-and-spindle detail is then echoed in a delicate frieze below the commanding mahogany staircase. The stair is of the half-turn-with-landings design with hexagonal newel and turned balusters.

The basic plan of the house features a large central square entrance hall beyond which is the staircase and back hall opening onto a back veranda. Two south rooms which parallel the stair hall (now bedrooms, but originally used as a library and playroom) are raised on a level two steps above the remaining ground floor. On the north side of the house is a parlor which opens by double, sliding, twelve-paneled doors into the entrance hall. Matching doors open into the dining room, behind which is a pantry and china closet, breakfast room and kitchen. A modern bath is under the staircase.

Upstairs are four spacious bedrooms and three baths centered around a large central hall. There are fireplaces and mantels in each room and original brass chandeliers. Armoires are used, for there is only one clothes closet in the house. The fireplaces throughout have cast-iron firebox insets with classical designs and original hearth and chimneybreast tiles. The massive carved wood mantelpieces in the reception rooms feature beveled mirrors, festoons, swags and other neoclassical enrichment. There are fourteen-foot ceilings and fine original brass hardware throughout, diagonal hardwood flooring in the reception rooms, and heart pine flooring in all other rooms. The interior of the windows have original vertically sliding shutters, the exterior of the windows, original cypress shutters. The home is

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 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 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 Ca. 1893 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morris House is significant as one of the last and best Neoclassical Revival residences on Jackson's State Street, once the capital city's premier residential address. The residence is also significant for its association with the Morris family, leaders in Jackson's commercial and social circles.

During the first four decades of the twentieth century North State Street, one of Jackson's two major thoroughfares, was a tree-shaded avenue lined with the homes of outstanding leaders in the financial, civic, social, political, religious, and medical life of the city and state. Development of the "Grand Boulevard" was spurred by construction of Mississippi's Beaux Arts Capitol in 1903. Theodore Link, architect of the Capitol, enhanced State Street with his Colonial Revival residences. Two Colonial Revival residences along State Street which are listed in the National Register are the Merrill-Maley House (ca. 1907, NR 1982) and the Will Watkins House (ca. 1908, NR 1978). Queen Anne residences held a prominent place on State Street, as evinced by the Sims House (ca. 1905, NR 1983), the Smith-Crowder-Capers House (ca. 1894) and the Millsaps-Buie House (ca. 1888, remodeled ca. 1928 with a monumental Greek Revival portico, NR 1973). Today the Morris House is one of the best preserved Neoclassical Revival residences on State Street, and despite the encroaching commercial and institutional development, the house maintains its integrity and impact on the area.

A pioneering Mississippi family, the Morrises have lived on the site of the Morris House since 1837 when patriarch William Powell Morris moved to Jackson from Clinton, Mississippi (Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. [Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891], 2:476). William Morris constructed a Greek Revival mansion on the lot occupied by the present structure. Morris is credited with starting the first bank in Jackson, which he presided over until his death in 1854 (Goodspeed, p. 476). His son, Joseph Henry Morris, born in 1846, served in the civil war, and worked as an agent for the Illinois Central Railroad until 1872, when he started an ice company in Jackson. Eight years later Morris constructed Mississippi's first ice factory. Morris also owned extensive real estate in Jackson and erected and owned several stores (The Story of Jackson: Biographical Sketches of the Builders of the Capital of Mississippi: [Jackson: J. F. Hyer Publishing Co., 1953], 2:422).

Joseph Henry Morris married in 1891, and although the family's Greek Revival mansion was still inhabitable, began construction of a new residence on the same lot. Morris' house was built on the corner of College Street and North State Street, on the southern lot directly in front of the family residence. The Neoclassical Revival residence, designed by an unknown New York architect, was completed in 1893, and was one of the earliest residences of this design in Jackson. The family's Greek Revival residence was demolished some time in the 1890s, and Morris' three sisters built for themselves a Queen Anne residence (non-extant) on the northern half of the lot. Joseph Henry Morris died in 1926 (The Story of Jackson, p. 422).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891, 2:476.

Chase, Livie Marshall Morris, daughter of Joseph Henry Morris. Interviewed by Dean Morris Alexander.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Jackson, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	6	5	5	7	10	3	5	7	7	4	10	10
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Square 5, North Jackson, Jackson Tax Assessor Roll Book 1, page 264; Tax Map 35, Parcel 10. Lot dimensions are 74 feet by 160 feet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Dean Morris Alexander, Co-owner

organization N/A

date April 6, 1983

street & number 505 North State Street

telephone (601) 352-0800

city or town Jackson

state Mississippi

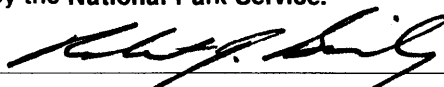
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date

7/7/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/11/83

for 
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Joseph Henry Morris House

Continuation sheet Hinds County, Mississippi

Item number 6, 7, 8, 9

Page 1

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6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Jackson Landmarks

1982 X local

Junior League of Jackson

Jackson, Mississippi

7 - DESCRIPTION

decorated and furnished in family pieces predating the house or sympathetic to the original design.

The south elevation has a small, semi-circular balustrated portico hidden from view by tall cedars.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout their almost 150 years in Jackson the Morris family has contributed leaders to the financial, commercial, religious, and social activities of the city. Today, members of the Morris family continue to live in their downtown residence.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackson, Miss., Clarion-Ledger, October 7, 1951.

Junior League of Jackson, Jackson Landmarks. Jackson: Calvin Hales Advertising, Inc.

McCain, William D., The Story of Jackson: Biographical Sketches of the Builders of the Capital of Mississippi. 2 vols. J. F. Hyer Publishing Co., 1953, 2:422.

Power, Anabel. "Recalling the Homes on Old North State Street." Jackson (Miss.) Daily News, November 10, 1957.

Rowland, Dunbar, History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South. 4 vols. Chicago-Jackson: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1925, 3:352-55.