



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Two-story stone-faced brick church with square corner tower with tall finials. Rusticated, random-coursed, rock-faced walls; pointed-arch windows trimmed with smooth ashlar blocks. Corner tower is buttressed as are parapeted gable sections; northern side facade and southern portion of front facade are battlemented. Large tripart stain glass windows set in ogee arch on front elevation.

ALTERATIONS:

Two-story brick addition to rear facade not visible from front street facade.

ADJACENT BUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The First Presbyterian Church of Meridian was founded in 1856, but a church structure was not built until 1867. L.A. Ragsdale, one of the city's founding fathers, donated the building site at the corner of 25th Avenue and 7th Street, and the church remained at this location until it was bought by the City for the purpose of building a public library. The original cornerstone, dated March 30, 1867, has been incorporated into the wall of the present building. Although churches are generally excluded from the Register, its historical significance and the fact that it was designed by P.J. Krouse, architect of most of Meridian's outstanding buildings from 1900-1920, should justify its inclusion.

(continued)

NAME: First Presbyterian Church of Meridian Inc.

STREET NO: 911 23rd Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Meridian

COUNTY: Lauderdale

BLOCK/LOT: Ragsdale block 59/over

PRESENT OWNER: Dr. W.F. Skaggs, President
 ADDRESS First Presbyterian Church of Meridian, Inc

911 23rd Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi
 PRESENT USE: church

FORMER USE:

DATE: 1913

STYLE: Gothic Revival

ARCH/BUILDER: P.J. Krouse

SOURCE OF DATE: Meridian Public Library

ENVIRONMENT: Commercial

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL x

STATE

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

1. SITE PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

The First Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant as one of two Gothic Revival ecclesiastical structures in Meridian. Stylistic features are its steeply pitched roofs with corner buttresses and large pointed-arch tracery windows, a corner battlemented tower with pinnacles, and battlemented sections on the southern and northern facades with lancet-arch porch entries. High Victorian Gothic elements are seen in the building's stone finish, where rusticated random-coursed rock-faced walls are contrasted by the smooth ashlar block trim of the windows and the dark stone coping of the battlements and gable-roof sections. This church was designed by P. J. Krouse.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good

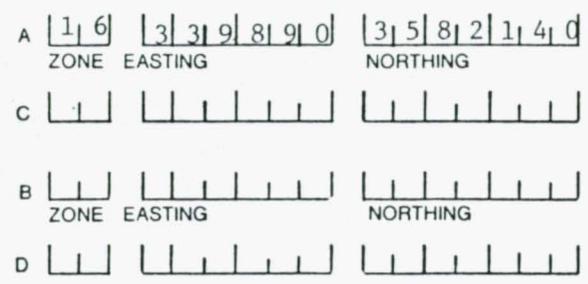
SEATS:

LEGAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Wagsdale block 59, lots 1-4, N 1/2 of 5,6,7,8 and 2' off N side of S 1/2 of 5,6,7,8.

ACREAGE: About one acre

GRID REF:



FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Andy Cook

February, 1979



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi

Jody Cook

January, 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

911 23rd Avenue.

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