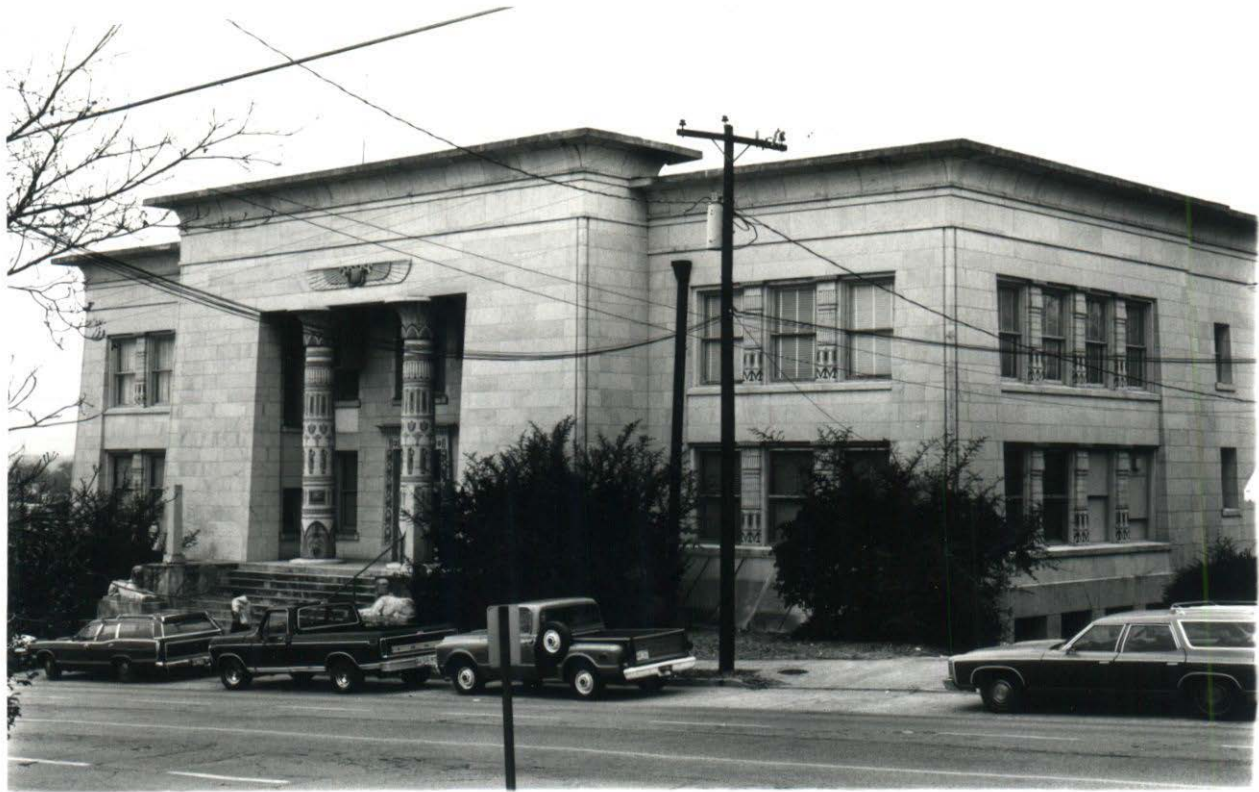


Scottish Rite Cathedral
Meridian, Lauderdale County

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF MERIDIAN



SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi

Jody Cook

January, 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

1101 23rd Avenue.

Photo 34



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Three-story, three-bay stone construction with rusticated ashlar finish; built into the side of a hill so that northern facade is only two stories with basement. Central projecting section has two-story recessed entrance supported by columns with lotus flower capitals; a vulture and sundisk symbol in the entablature directly above the columns. Pilasters between front- and side-facade windows are decorated with polychromatic terracotta, as are sphinxes on stoops at the corners of front staircase. The cornice is of the Egyptian gorge-and-roll type. There are also obelisks on the entrance stoops.

ALTERATIONS:

(destroyed by fire 3/20/85)

ADJUTANT BUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The design of the Scottish Rite Temple was based on an original sketch and later plans by Hyman W. Witcover, Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council, and an architect by profession, of Savannah. The inspiration for this design came when Witcover visited Egypt and was impressed by the Temple to Osiris on the Island of Philae. This island and temple are now submerged due to the construction of the Aswan Dam. Witcover designed a Scottish Rite Temple with the hope it would one day be constructed by one of the Scottish Rite Bodies, and in 1914 the plans were accepted by Mississippi Consistory No. 1. P. J. Krouse, Meridian's notable architect and a Scottish Rite member, designed the actual plans and supervised construction. Cass Construction Company of Georgia was the contractor.

NAME: Scottish Rite Cathedral

STREET NO: 1101 23rd Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Meridian

COUNTY: Lauderdale

BLOCK/LOT: Ragsdale Block 35, lots 35 & 14

PRESENT OWNER: Meridian Masonic Title Holding Co.
ADDRESS P. O. Box 1401 Meridian

PRESENT USE: Masonic lodge

FORMER USE:

DATE: 1914

STYLE: Egyptian Revival

ARCH/BUILDER: P. J. Krouse

SOURCE OF DATE: Meridian Public Library

ENVIRONMENT: Commercial

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

STATE

NATIONAL x

PHOTOS

NEG #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

This site originally was the location of the East Mississippi Female College (Methodist), established in 1869, which later became Beason's College. This was Meridian's second oldest college, The Meridian Female College (Baptist) having been established in 1865.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good

THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Ragsdale block 35 - SE quarter less 2' N and S off N end.

ACREAGE: Less than an acre

UTM REF:

A

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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FORM PREPARED BY:

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DATE

February, 1979