

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Mississippi

COUNTY:
Lauderdale

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71-12-28-0016	12/9/91

1. NAME

COMMON:
Merrehope

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
905 31st Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Meridian

STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28 COUNTY: Lauderdale CODE: 075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Meridian Restorations Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
905 31st Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Meridian STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of the Chancery Clerk, Lauderdale County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 21st Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Meridian STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Merrehope, a 26-room monument to Academic Revivalism, evolved from a late nineteenth-century house which was itself, according to local tradition, the outgrowth of an antebellum cottage. Although no description of the cottage is known to exist, a photograph of the second stage depicts a commodious but unpretentious frame dwelling embellished with a number of eclecticism: front porch in the form of an Italianate loggia, balconies, heavy cornices, canopied semihexagonal windows, and shouldered architraves, the entire effect laced together by a network of jigsaw brackets and balustrades. The layout consisted of central hallway flanked by two rooms on each side, up and down, with a one-story, three-room kitchen ell on the north rear (reputedly the original cottage).

Shortly after 1900 the house took on its present appearance. The ell was detached and moved back twenty feet, and a dining room, stairhall, bath, and guest room were added across the rear of the main block. In the latter, the two rooms on the north side of the hall were made into double parlors, and those on the south were converted into a large library. Upstairs, a bedroom/sitting room suite was installed on each side of the hallway, and over the addition across the rear were two bedrooms, a bath, and stairhall. The newly constructed second floor of the ell contained two servants' rooms, baths, and hallway. Exterior changes were in keeping with the increased scale of the floor plan and the Academic Revival vogue. A giant portico was raised on the east and south elevations, its bracketed cornice exaggerating the projecting lines of the bay window on the façade. The monumentality of the effect was increased by basing the fluted Roman Ionic columns on six-foot plinths connected by a wall with curvilinear coping. Three plinths which continued around the north elevation were designed without columns, although a fourth supported a one-story Ionic column which is all that remains of the porte-cochere. The front porch was removed but the balcony remained, supported by diminutive versions of the giant columns suspended from the ceiling of the portico.

Although interior architecture executed during the above renovation was subsequently obscured during decades of neglect, restoration is currently underway. A double arch divides the entrance hall from the library and features an Ionic column flanked by pilasters, egg and dart molding along the extrados, and the family crest of a previous owner, S. H. Floyd, painted on a spandrel. The division between the two parlors is indicated by a frieze visually supported at each end by a paired pilaster and column, in the manner of a classical screen. (During a time when the parlors were partitioned, the screen was preserved intact within the common wall.) The three-quarter-turn stairway has a pine-paneled soffit and square newels, octagonal balusters, broad handrail,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which Merrehope is located was deeded by Richard McLemore, first settler of Meridian, to his daughter Juriah in 1859. At that time Juriah and her husband, W. H. Jackson, constructed on the site a small house which is thought to be incorporated within the present Merrehope. The earliest known mention of the house is in a warranty deed of September 22, 1863: "the dwelling formerly built by W. H. Jackson." Nearly three months later, when the house again changed hands, it was further identified as "the house and improvements recently occupied by General Joseph E. Johnson [sic]." (Headquarters of the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana, which Johnston commanded, had been moved to Meridian in September, 1863; in December Johnston was transferred to Dalton, Georgia, to assume command of the Army of Tennessee.)

The owners of the house in 1867 were John H. and Eliza Gary; in 1881 they sold to J. C. Lloyd "that certain parcel of land now and for some time hitherto occupied by and used as a residence by said grantors." Gary had built the main block, to which was attached the ell reputed to be the Jackson cottage, although the attribution seems debatable. W. G. Croom, describing in his 1882 history of Meridian the less than half dozen residences left standing after the burning of the city during Sherman's February, 1864, campaign, lists "a house that stood on the site of Mr. J. C. Lloyd's present residence." The implication is that the Jackson cottage was replaced by the later structure, although there is the possibility that it was annexed instead and Croom did not know of it.

In 1904 the house was purchased by S. H. Floyd, who remodeled it extensively in the Academic Revival style. It was divided into apartments (ultimately eight) from 1914 to 1968, when it was acquired by the Meridian Restorations Foundation, Inc., a federation of nine women's clubs with a combined membership of 201. The name Merrehope is an acronym derived from Meridian Restorations and "hope," reflecting the Foundation's aim of restoring the building as an architectural

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Croom, W. G. Complete History and Business Directory of the City of Meridian, Miss., 1882-83. Meridian: Chas. P. Dement, Printer, 1882. P. 5.

Interview: Mrs. R. M. Hamill, President, Meridian Restorations Foundation, Inc., Meridian, Mississippi, March 27, 1971.

Johnston, Joseph E. Narrative of Military Operations. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1874. Pp. 255 and 261.
Meridian Restorations Foundation, Inc. Official Files. 905 31st Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.87 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: June 14, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name R. A. McLemore
Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History
Date June 14, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connelley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 9 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William H. Hunt
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Lauderdale	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 11,12,28,0016	DATE 12/9/71

(Number all entries)

7.
and carved stringer, all in walnut. Mantelpieces are cast-iron models painted white, with simple lines and white marble hearths. Other decorative detail throughout the house includes woodwork painted to simulate graining; plaster cornices, wall brackets, and ceiling medallions; window bays with vaulted and cove ceilings; heavily molded casings on doors, windows, and arches; paneled wood and scored plaster wainscoting; gas chandeliers and sconces converted to electricity; and ornate brass locks for doors and plain porcelain ones for windows. One of the most striking features is the etched ruby-colored glass in the side lights and transom of the front door, a glowing contrast to the classically inspired interior and exterior.

8.
landmark and house museum of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its site has been associated with Meridian from the founding of the city through war, destruction, and rebuilding, and the metamorphosis of the house, including decline and rescue, is itself a social document. At the request of the Foundation, a special act of the Mississippi Legislature was passed to enable the municipality of Meridian to assist financially in the restoration. Individuals, private and city government organizations, commercial firms, schools, and public utilities have contributed materials, labor, and expertise. The project represents a pioneer effort in a section of the state which heretofore has been comparatively inactive in organized historic restoration. The goal of preserving the past is joined with that of serving the present, and Merrehope has been the setting for authors' receptions, private social functions, and fund-raising activities for the Foundation. A Trees of Christmas tour, for which the house is decorated with trees of foreign countries, has become an annual event and is included by the local schools in the curriculum of the fourth grades.

9.
Personal Inspection by Dawn Maddox, March 27, 1971.
Shank, George Kline, Jr. "Meridian: A Mississippi City at Birth, During the Civil War, and in Reconstruction." Master's thesis, Mississippi State University, 1961.
Simonds, Edward P. "Test of Total War; Sherman's Meridian Expedition, February, 1864." Master's thesis, Mississippi State University, 1961.
Telephone interviews:
Mrs. Helen S. Floyd, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, daughter-in-law of S. H. Floyd, April 1, 1971.
Mr. Hervey Lloyd, Meridian, Mississippi, grandson of J. C. Lloyd, March 31, 1971.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

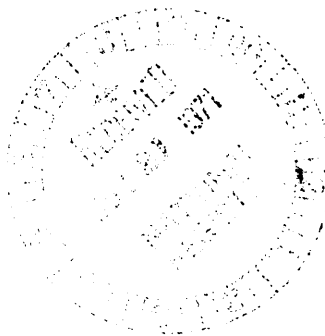
STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Lauderdale	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.12.28.0016	12/9/71

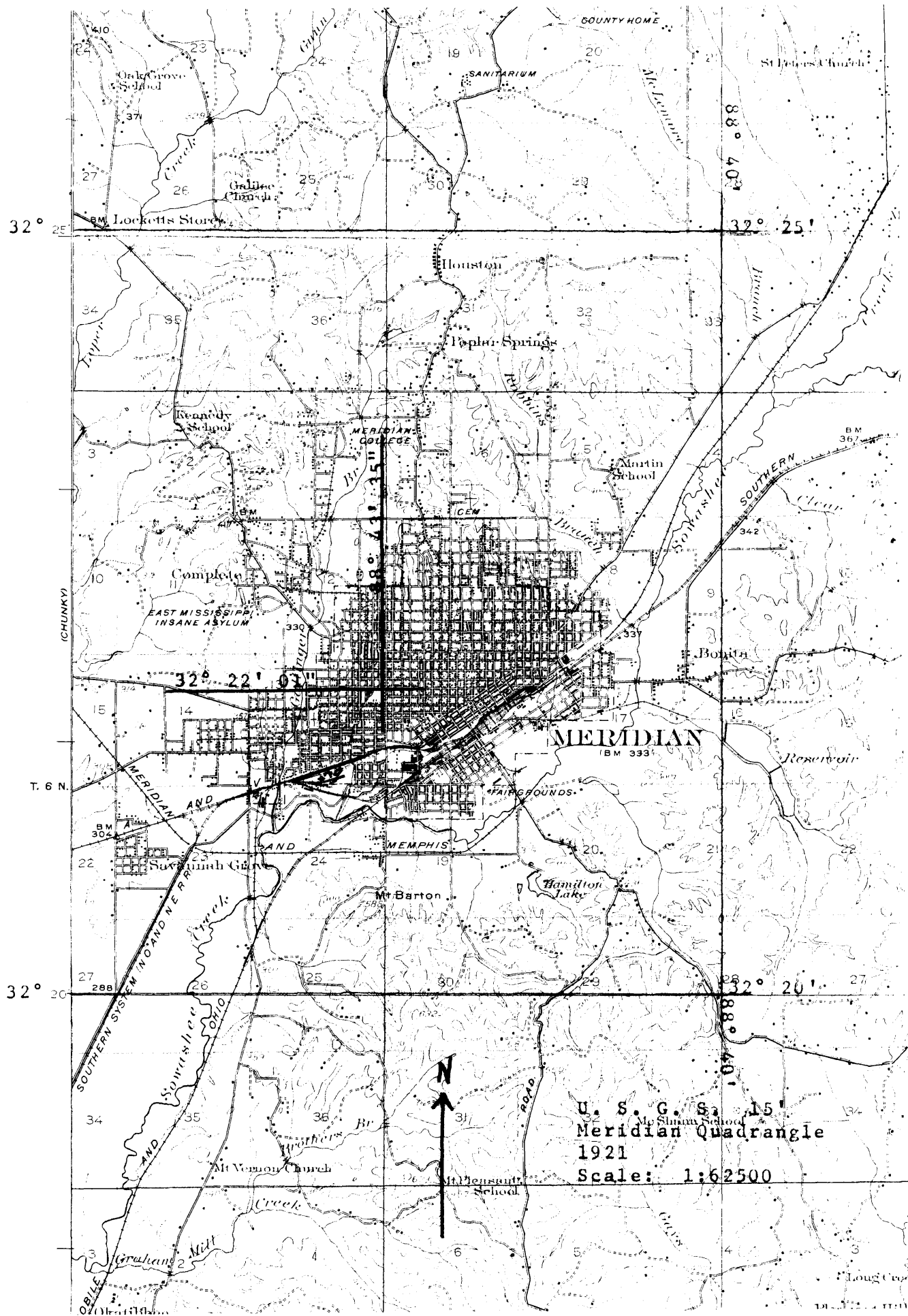
(Number all entries)

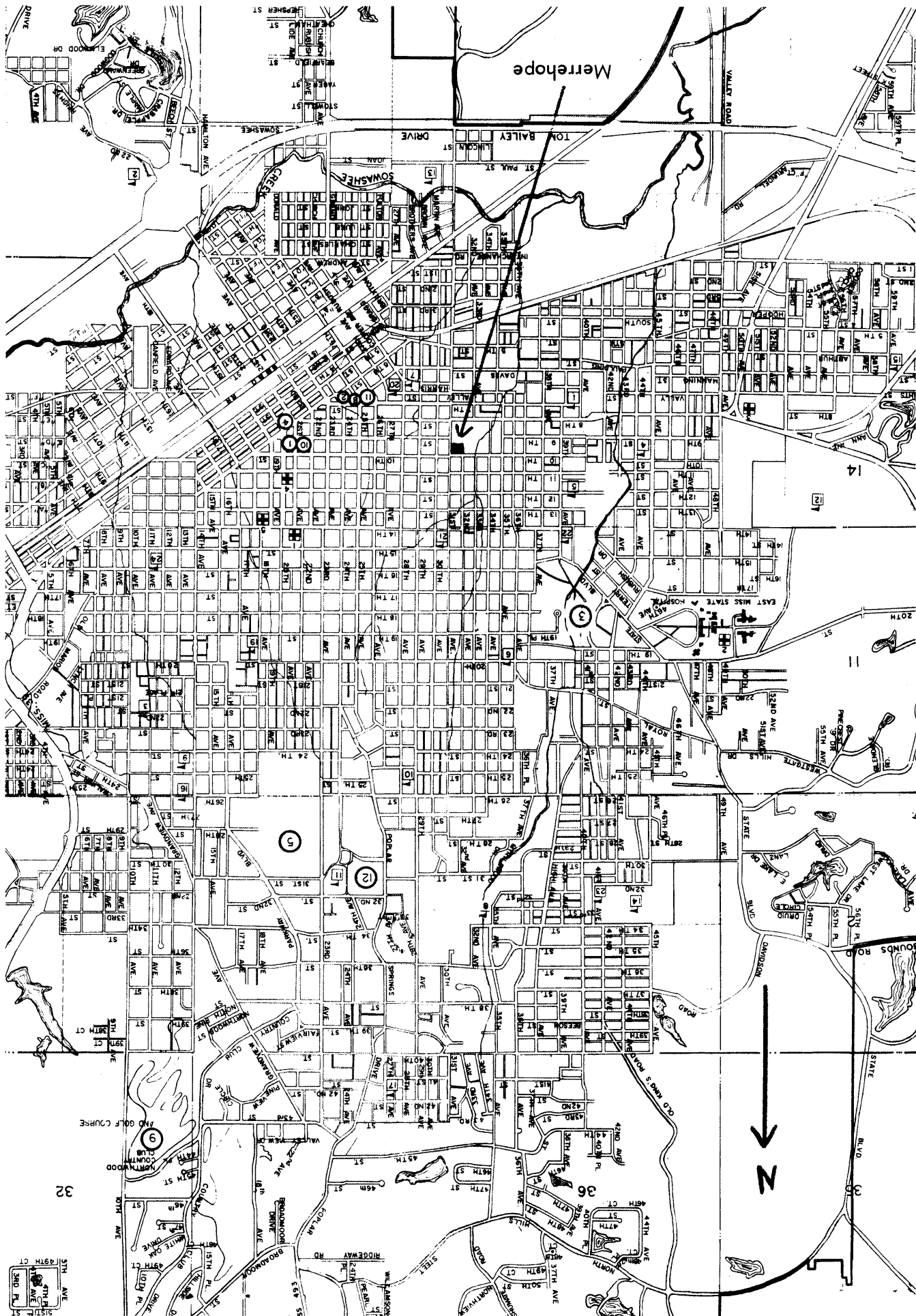
9.

Mrs. James Stallworth, Meridian, Mississippi, April 1 and 6, 1971. Mrs. Stallworth's mother, Mrs. L. P. Smith, was a girlhood friend of Mrs. Curtis Smith (Lidy Gary), daughter of John H. Gary.

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1891. Series I, Vol. XXXII, Part I, 176.









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

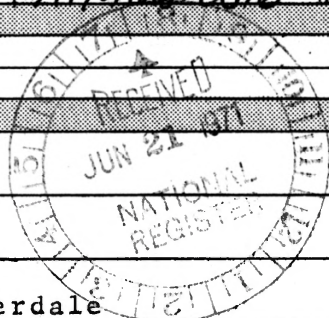
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Lauderdale	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.12.28.0016	12/9/71

1. NAME			
COMMON: Merrehope			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
905 31st Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Meridian			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	39301	28	Lauderdale
			075
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Mississippi Department of Archives and History			
DATE OF PHOTO: May 30, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Post Office Box 571			
Jackson, Mississippi 39205			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Façade and south elevation, looking northwest.			





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Lauderdale	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71-12-28-0016	12/9/71

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1971
NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	39301	28	Lauderdale
			075

1. NAME

COMMON: Merrehope

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

905 31st Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Meridian

STATE:

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY:

Lauderdale

CODE

075

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE OF PHOTO: May 30, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Post Office Box 571

Jackson, Mississippi 39205

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Façade and north elevation, looking southwest.



Received
9/12/75

• Merchants
Landerdale Co, MS
(restored)