

McKissack and McKissack Buildings in Nashville (1908-1930) Thematic Resources

IDENTIFICATION	Historic name: <u>Morris Memorial Building</u>	STATUS	Open to public: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Common name: <u>N/A</u>		Visible from road: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Address: <u>330 Charlotte Avenue</u> <u>Nashville, Tennessee</u>		Occupied: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Owner's name: <u>National Baptist Convention</u>		Present use: <u>Offices and commercial</u>
	Owner's address: <u>330 Charlotte Avenue</u> <u>Nashville, TN 37201</u>		Current condition: <u>Excellent</u>
	Classification: <u>Building</u>		Alterations: <u>Limestone sheathing was added on the north and east walls in late 1960s after demolition on adjacent lot</u>
	Tax map reference: <u>93-2-12 Davidson County</u> Acreage: <u>.4 acre</u> UTM reference: <u>16/519750/4002280</u>		Site features: <u>The building rests on an urban lot and is surrounded on three sides by city streets. On the east facade the building adjoins a two-story structure.</u>
HISTORY	Date of construction: <u>1924-1926</u>	SOURCES	Bibliographical data: <u>See nomination form</u>
	Architect/builder: <u>McKissack and McKissack</u>		
	Original or previous owners: <u>National Baptist Convention</u>		
	Original use: <u>Offices</u>		Form prepared by: <u>Philip Thomason</u>
	Theme/s: <u>Primary Architecture</u> <u>Secondary Black History</u> <u>Other</u>		Title: <u>Architectural Historian</u> Organization: <u>Thomason and Associates</u> <u>Nashville, TN</u> Date: <u>8/84</u>
DESCRIPTION	The Morris Memorial Building is a large steel and masonry four-story structure located at Charlotte and Fourth Avenues in downtown Nashville. The building is Neo-Classic in design and was constructed between 1924 and 1926. The first story features a large entrance on both Charlotte and Third Avenues. These entrances feature sidelights and transoms and the original metal canopies are still in place. Above the canopies are large rounded arch windows with keystones in the arching. The first story also displays fixed casement windows separated by Doric pilasters. Above the first story is a cornice with modillion blocks, metopes and guttae. On the upper floors are paired one-over-one sash windows. At the roofline is a frieze of garlands and wreaths, a denticulated cornice and balustrade. The interior has not been significantly altered and still displays its original details. In the first floor lobby is marble wainscoting,		
	SIGNIFICANCE	The Morris Memorial Building is one of the finest designs of McKissack and McKissack from the 1920s. The building was designed in the Neo-Classic style with a sheathing of limestone. It was constructed between 1924 and 1926 by the National Baptist Convention which publishes religious materials for black Baptist churches. Money to construct the building was raised from congregations throughout the nation and it was finished in 1926. Upon completion the building housed the offices of the National	

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

Photographer: Thomason and Assoc.

Date: August, 1984

Negatives on file: Thomason and Assoc.

Nashville, TN

Photographer facing: north, northwest

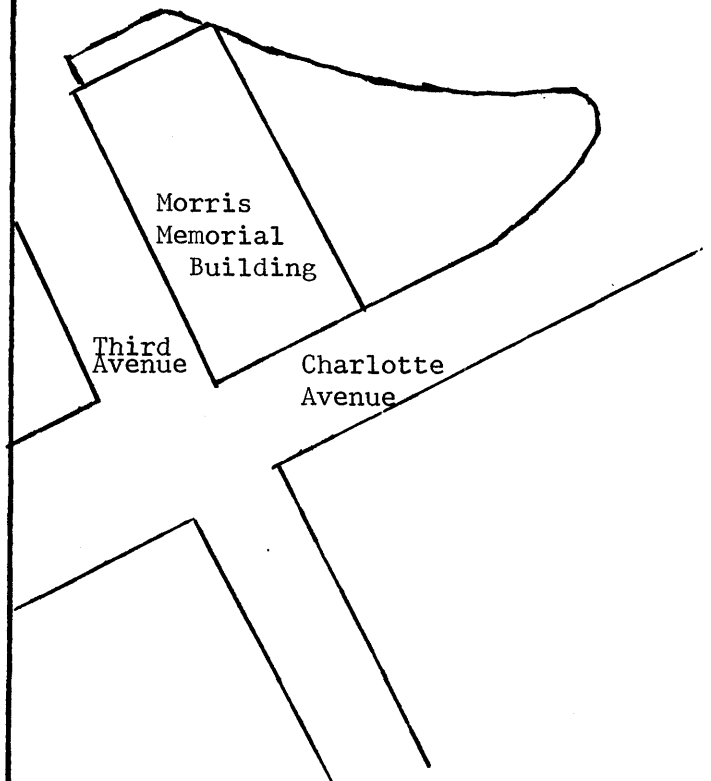
Photograph number 5-6 **of** 9 .

CONTINUATION

SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow



James Robertson
Parkway



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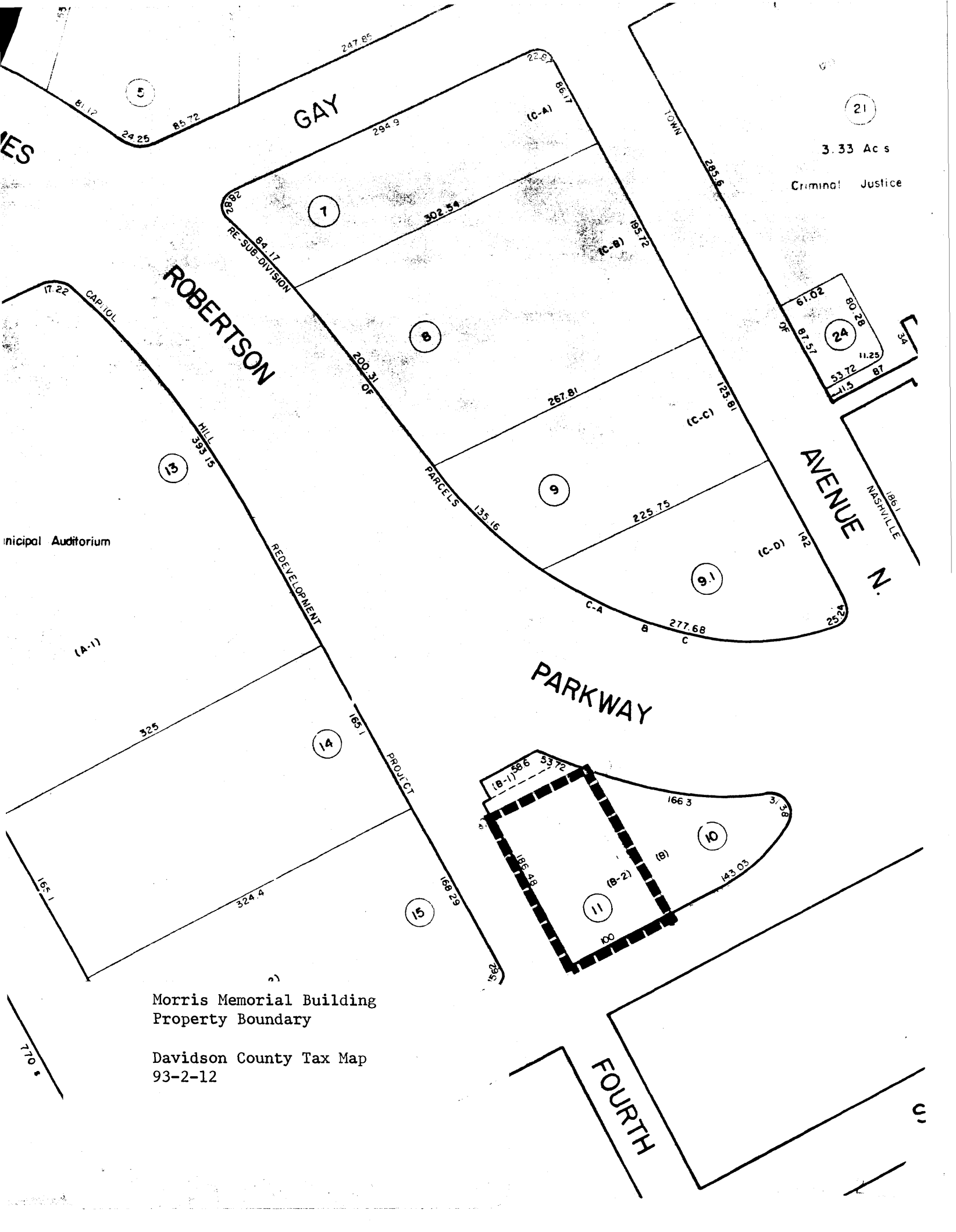
Morris Memorial Building

Description continued:

Doric pilasters, and a cornice with classical detailing. In the ceiling of the lobby are three stained glass windows. The interior is designed with a central light well and offices spaced around the open central area. On the upper floors are individual offices with the original marble wainscoting and frame and glass doors. Few changes have occurred to the interior of the building.

Significance continued:

Baptist Convention. Other black businesses moved into the building after its completion including the offices of McKissack and McKissack which continue to operate in the building. Since the early 1960s most black offices and businesses have moved from this area of downtown to other areas of the city. The Morris Memorial Building is the only structure still standing which is associated with black businesses in the downtown area.



21

3.33 Ac s

Criminal Justice

24
61.02
60.28
17.18
11.25
53.72
11.5
81

Morris Memorial Building
Property Boundary

Davidson County Tax Map
93-2-12

ES

municipal Auditorium

(A-1)

770

3