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DEC 4 1979



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The McLemore Cemetery is located on a hill near the eastern boundary of the multiple resource area. There are a number of large shade trees within the area, which is surrounded by a cast-iron fence. Grave markers range from simple plaques to tombstones to intricately carved monuments.

NAME: McLemore Cemetery

STREET NO: 601 - 16th Avenue

TOWN/VIC: Meridian

COUNTY: Lauderdale

BLOCK/LOT: Ragsdale Block 47, lots 1-5, 15-20

PRESENT OWNER: No deed or reference to ownership
ADDRESS can be located

PRESENT USE: Cemetery

FORMER USE:

DATE: 1839

STYLE:

ARCH/BUILDER:

SOURCE OF DATE: Historical marker

ENVIRONMENT: Residential

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL x

STATE

NATIONAL

ALTERATIONS:

ADJUT BUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Richard McLemore was the first white settler in this area of east-central Mississippi, his original land grant consisting of 2,000 acres between Meridian and Marion. This particular spot was a portion of the land McLemore acquired when his patent was signed by President Van Buren on January 5, 1841.

In addition to members of the McLemore family, victims of the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 and the Meridian riot of 1871 are reportedly buried here.

(continued)

PHOTOS

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

CONTINUATION:

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This cemetery is Meridian's earliest extant historic site, the burial place of Meridian's first white settler, Richard McLemore. It was originally located behind the first Baptist church in Lauderdale County, built by McLemore, a building no longer extant. During the Civil War the church was converted to an arsenal and later a hospital. McLemore Cemetery is currently classified as abandoned and is maintained by the county government.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Fair

FEATURES:

LEGAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Ragsdale block 47, lots 1-5, 15-20.

ACREAGE: About an acre and a half

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Jody Cook

February, 1979