

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	28 AUG 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 18 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

24

7 - DESCRIPTION

MERIDIAN DEPOT DISTRICT

The Meridian Depot District is situated slightly east of the Urban Center Historic District, its name derived from the railroad station that brought industrial development to this part of the city. Prior to construction of Union Station in 1905-06 (nos. 127, 128), this neighborhood was primarily residential, the exceptions being Soulé Steam Feed Works, Cliff Williams Machine Company (ca. 1904, no. 132), and the cotton sheds of the Planters Compress and Warehouse Company, which fronted on the railroad tracks.

The Depot District is a small four-block area containing twelve structures and only one intrusion. The buildings are one and two stories, brick and stuccoed-brick construction and relate to one another through their simple utilitarian designs. Decorative brickwork found around arched openings and in entablatures are the buildings' distinctive features. The depot buildings are the only ones that can be categorized by style, and a large portion of the Mission Style station (nos. 127, 128) was demolished in 1966. A small vernacular cottage (no. 138) at the northeastern boundary of the district serves as a reminder of the original nature of the neighborhood.

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ITEM NUMBER

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PAGE 25

7 - DESCRIPTION

Buildings Contributing to the Character of the District

127. Union Station Express Depot (1805 Front St.). 1905-06. One-story rectangle, seven bays by three, gable-on-hip roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters and brackets. High red-brick water table; sills of segmental arch windows rest on projecting water-table course; stuccoed wall surface above. Red shingled; two chimneys with molded caps on western facade.
128. Union Passenger Station (1901 Front St.). 1905-06. Major portion demolished in 1966, but the eastern wing, an eight-bay rectangle with a three-by-five-bay projecting end section, remains and is still serving as a passenger station. All fenestration is segmentally arched with transoms; windows are coupled and double hung. Red-brick water table with stuccoed brick above. Gable-roofed western section and hipped-roof eastern section have overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. The original Spanish Mission-style building was 400 feet long and erected at a cost of \$250,000.
129. 202 19th Ave. Ca. 1910. Two-story brick rectangle, painted gray. Brick veneer over earlier brick common-bond building. Northern alley facade has original segmental-arch fenestration; veneered facades (western and southern) have flat-arch fenestration with transoms; six bays by five. Windows rest on projecting course; string course between floors; projecting courses define entablature. Northern half of the building has six-bay industrial addition to eastern facade.
130. 1900 Front St. Ca. 1915. Two-story, six-by-eight-bay brick rectangle, painted brown. Flat-arch fenestration; small windows in side facade frieze; short parapet.
131. 211 19th Ave. Ca. 1910. Two-story brick rectangle, six bays by six. First floor has been altered to accommodate car garage. Second floor two-over-two double-hung windows rest on projecting stone course. High parapet with raised brick panels; molded brick courses at the cornice. Originally a hotel.
132. 208 19th Ave. Ca. 1904. One-story brick industrial building, nine bays by eighteen. Center entrance has double-leaf doors with raised top and bottom panels and transom set in pointed relieving arch with paneled reveals. Flanking front facade bays are high segmental-arch windows resting on projecting header sills; side facade shows three large round-arch bays and fifteen segmental-arch bays. Short parapet is stepped on front facade and capped by projecting header course. Windmill on flat roof.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 30

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

MERIDIAN DEPOT DISTRICT

The Meridian Depot District contains several small industrial complexes grouped about the railroad station that once symbolized the development of the area. The complexes are still functioning in much the same manner as they did around the turn of the century. Although there are similar concentrations within the multiple-resource area, the subject grouping is the only one which has a compact cohesive quality. Its primary visual significance derives from the perpetuation of an environment created by a former reliance on rail transportation and by past building practices.

G. W. Soulé is a person of historical interest associated with the district and the Soulé Steam Feed Works (nos. 133, 137), incorporated 1893. Soulé invented the Southern Standard Press, a cotton press, and moved his operations to Meridian in 1879. In 1886 Soulé sold the Southern Standard Press Company and founded Progress Manufacturing Company, makers of the "Ideal" Hay-Press. His interest in this company was also sold after development of the steam feed operation and establishment of the Soulé Steam Feed Works in 1891. Soulé also perfected a sugar mill and other inventions, including the "Success" Cotton Seed Huller.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 33

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

MERIDIAN DEPOT DISTRICT

UTM References:

Zone 16	Easting	340410
	Northing	3581975

Verbal Boundary Description: Irregularly shaped area enclosed by red line on the 1932 City Property Map of Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 16 East, Meridian, Mississippi

The district is approximately 8 acres.

**Amendment**  
**Meridian Depot Historic District**  
**(Additional Documentation)**  
**Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi**

The purpose of this amendment is to provide documentation in order to change the name of the Meridian Depot Historic District in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. The original district nomination was prepared in 1979 as a part of the Historic Resources of Meridian MPS. At that time a large portion of the Mission Style Union Station had been demolished. Since then, the city of Meridian has reconstructed portions of Union Station, and it is a thriving hub of the city as the new multi-modal center. The city wishes to change the name of the National Register District to the Union Station Historic District. The purpose of this nomination is to change the name of the district.

**Item 2: Location**

Roughly bounded by 5<sup>th</sup> Street on the northwest, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Avenues on the northeast and southwest and the railroad tracks on the southeast, Meridian, Lauderdale County (code 075), Mississippi (code MS), 39301

**Item 5: Classification**

Ownership of property: multiple  
 Category of property: district

**Narrative Description**

The Meridian Depot Historic District was listed on the National Register on December 18, 1979. As stated in the original nomination, the district is a small four-block area whose historic significance centers around Union Station. The purpose of this nomination is to change the name of the district.

**128A. C      1901 Front Street                      1905-06****Union Passenger Station**

Major portions demolished in 1966, but the eastern wing, an eight-bay rectangle with a three-by-five-bay projecting end section, remains and is still serving passenger trains. All fenestration is segmentally arched with transoms; windows are coupled and double hung. Red-brick water table with stuccoed brick above. Roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters.

**B. NC      1901 Front Street                      c.1996****(reconstructed) Union Station**

Two-story Mission style depot, with a three-story tower, all covered in red tile. The depot is flanked on either side by one-story wings, the eastern one being the only surviving element of the original depot. It replicates many elements of the original building, including the centrally located tower.

**Item 8: Statement of Significance**

No change

**Item 9: Major Bibliographical Reference**

No change

**Item 10: Geographical Data**

No change

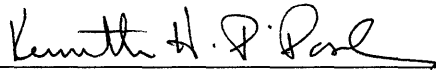
**Item 11: Form prepared by**

Deborah Wise Oakley, Historic Preservation Specialist  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
(601) 359-6940  
July 6, 2000

**Property Owners:**

Multiple

**Certification:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth H. P'Pool  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SEPT. 29, 2000  
Date