History of the Little Red Schoolhouse

Eureka Masonic College, at Richland, Mississippi, lovingly called "The Little Red Schoolhouse" by Eastern Star members all over the world, is preserved by the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, O.E.S., in honor of the Architect and Master Builder of the Order, Dr. Robert Morris, who conceived the idea of the Order while serving as Principal of the school.

Official records show that the cornerstone of the building was laid early in October of 1847. It was described as "a handsome brick edifice, 60 by 30 feet, and two stories high". The original name was Richland Literary Institute but on February 7, 1848, the college was chartered under the name of Eureka Masonic College with the power to confer literary and honorary degrees. Robert Morris was secured as the Principal of this new Masonic college. The building was used during the Civil War to house Company C, 15th Mississippi Infantry, one of the first companies organized in the state. The regiment was noted for its heroic service throughout the war, serving in the battles of Fishing Creek, Shiloh, Franklin, and the Atlantic Campaign.

After the last session of school held in the building, in 1958-59, the Holmes County Board of Supervisors leased the property to the Grand Chapter of Mississippi for a twenty-five year period. In 1968, the Grand Chapter of Mississippi obtained legal title, by special act of the Mississippi Legislature, to the property in exchange for an equal, adjacent tract of land. In November, 1970, Eureka Masonic College was accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Sites.

Early in 1975 the first superintendent moved into a brick home, built across Highway 17 from the Schoolhouse, obtained under the same legislative act which allowed the original purchase in 1968. The 1979 report of the Board of Trustees states that a 21-year restoration of the school building begun in 1958 had been completed on December 10, 1979. Since securing possession of the Schoolhouse, the members of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi have spent vast amounts of money, time, and effort in a long-range program of restoration. A fence encloses the property, and rest rooms of red brick have been built.

A pavilion, erected in 1962, and reconstructed in 2014 shelters crowds assembling there in August of each year for a Festal Day picnic. This picnic attracts hundreds of Eastern Star families from Mississippi as well as neighboring states. Each year during the Grand Chapter session, a tour to the Schoolhouse is conducted by the Board of Trustees, providing an opportunity for out-of-state guests to share the pride which Mississippi members feel in the preservation of this shrine. The Festal Day Picnic is always held on the last Saturday in August beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Little Red Schoolhouse Picnic

Saturday, August 26, 2017 @9:00AM
6796 Highway 17, Pickens, MS  39146
Tickets are $15.00

Bring your chairs and enjoy a day of Fun and Fellowship as we honor Dr. Rob Morris, our Eastern Star Founder

Forms available on web site: msgrandchapter.com

Name: ______________________________________
Title: _______________________________________
Address: ____________________________________
Phone No.___________________________________
Email Address: ________________________________

_______Number of Tickets @$15.00 = Total ______________

Make Checks payable to: Grand Chapter of MS
Jo Ann Herrin, Ticket Chairman
141 Rollingwood Drive
Vicksburg, MS  39183
601-994-4906 e-mail: jherr108@att.net

Include Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope for Return Tickets
“Magnolia Banquet”

Honoring our Mississippi General Grand Chapter Committee Members

Friday, August 25, 2017
Wanda’s Catering
550 Highway 12 E
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Formal Attire
Meet & Greet at 5:00PM
Dinner at 6:00PM
$25.00 per person

Make Checks payable to GRAND CHAPTER OF MISSISSIPPI Check out our web site for forms: mgrandchapter.com

Name: ______________________________________
Title: _______________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________
Phone No.______________________________________
Email Address: __________________________________________

Number of Tickets @$25.00  = Total ________________________

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