

## Firm History

McKissack & McKissack is an outgrowth of the oldest minority-owned architecture/engineering firm in the nation. Its roots go back to before the Civil War, when Moses McKissack, a slave in Tennessee, learned the trade of building under the tutelage of his owner, one of America's first contractors. Through his talent, fortitude, and courage, he became a master builder and earned his freedom.

Moses passed his skills to his son, Moses II, and grandson, Moses III. At the young age of 21, Moses III started with his brother the first McKissack firm in Nashville, Tennessee. The year was 1905. Its first major design project was the Carnegie Library in Nashville. 1942 also became a historic year for the two brothers with the award of a \$5.7 million contract to design and build the 99th Pursuit Squadron Airbase in Tuskegee, Alabama, the largest federal contract at that time ever given to an African American firm.

Deryl McKissack, PE, PMP is the fifth generation of the McKissack family to carry on the building tradition. With a degree in Civil Engineering from Howard University, she established a successful career, first at one of the largest construction firms in the nation and then at her alma mater, Howard University, where she managed 900 employees and 133 buildings on its three campuses.

Ms. McKissack started her business in 1990 with limited resources, a business plan, and a lot of drive. With an initial focus on architectural design, she later created the infrastructure for the organization to take on an unprecedented diverse range of construction and management projects.

Ms. McKissack's passion for excellence has defined the culture of McKissack & McKissack. Along with her management team, she has created an organization that is customer-focused, financially strong, and prepared to build on its impressive record of professional triumphs and community service.



### Contact:

Eric Grant  
202.347.1446  
[eric.grant@mckinc.com](mailto:eric.grant@mckinc.com)  
[www.mckinc.com](http://www.mckinc.com)