Cotten Construction, minority firm did vital work on Providence Baptist

The Cotten Construction Co., was among sub - contractors who helped develop the new Providence Baptist Church.

The firm is headed by 46 - year - old Cusic Q. Cotten, who organized the firm four years ago, with headquarters at 3042 Waterview Ave., in the Cherry Hill section of south Baltimore.

Cotten Constructior specializes in excavation, paving, demolition, and hauling. "Prior to establishing his Baltimore - based firm, Mr. Cotten, a Korea war veteran, ran a trucking firm in Washington for over 20 years.

Chief estimator for Cotten is Ron Lipscomb, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he specialized in civil engineering.

Mr. Cotten resides in Washington. Mrs. Cotten (Eva), is a government accountant. Their 15 - year - old son, Cusic Jr., is a tenth grader at a D.C. high school.

Among other jobs the Cotten firm is doing is the excavation for the University of Maryland's School of Social Work and Community Planning.

Ground for this $7 million structure in downtown Baltimore was broken on December 4. Another black - owned firm, Diversified Engineering Inc. of Silver Spring, is the architect and engineer. Marion Thomas heads this firm.

HISTORIC MOMENT — Photographed at October 1980 cornerstone laying ceremony for Providence Baptist Church are, from left, Dr. W. O. Bryson Jr., president of Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association which financed the new building; Cusie Cotten, president of Cotten Construction, which had contract for excavation for the new site; Howard Garrett, partner in Howard Beck Architectural firm, which designed the structure; and, Providence pastor, Rev. Marcus G. Wood.

Rev. Marcus G. Wood, was vice chairman of the Community Action Committee of which Senator Clarence Blount was chairman when he made these remarks at a 1972 testimnial for Rev. Wood:

"He has been a patient man dealing with the problems of the poor of our city."

Quentin Lawson, aide to the mayor, presented him with the city executive's citation at the same testimonial, and Congressman Parren J. Mitchell hailed Rev. Wood as a man whose intergity has set a pattern difficult for many to follow.

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41st Legislative District

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Rev. Marcus G. Wood and the Providence Baptist Congregation

State Senator Verda F. Welcome

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KENNETH R. FAUNTLEROY, Secretary

Wood has limitless energy

Providence Baptist's pastor, the Rev. Marcus Garvey Wood, has been held in high esteem here since coming to Baltimore in 1952 to take his present charge.

The Rev. Mr. Wood won a place on the AFRO - AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS' 1956 Honor Roll.

AFRO files show he was cited as a man, "with a seemingly limitless store of energy . . . (who) appears to be almost everywhere at the same time, working for his fellowmen, his community and his God."

The citation added: "A community can count itself as blessed when in its midst is a minister who applies the principles of Christianity to civic affairs, and stands in the forefront of those who believe that every man is entitled to the same rights as another man."

1956 PHOTO of Rev. Marcus G. Wood, pastor of Providence Baptist Church, was taken from AFRO files. Photo was made when he received AFRO Honor Roll citation described in accompanying article.

At the time, Rev. Wood served as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the local NAACP and was a member of the executive board. He was also National Church Secretary of the NAACP. Also, he was a member of the board of trustees at the Maryland Baptist School of Religion, the board of trustees, Maryland Baptist Aged Home, clergy staff at Crownsville State and Montebello State Hospitals, president of the Douglass High School P.T.A., and secretary of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity.

Today, as he leads his church into the unique $1.3 million solar home on Pennsylvania Ave., Rev. Wood is as active as he was described 24 years ago.

In addition to providing dedicated leadership and counseling to members of his congregation, he remains active on the following boards:

Finance Committee of the Baltimore NAACP; chairman of the Board of Visitors for Patuxent Institute, where he has been a board member 16 years, the last 4 as chairman;

Also, the Board of Constant Care Health Center; Board of Trustees of the Crozier - Rochester - Bexley Hall Theological Seminary in Rochester, N.Y.

And, Continuing Education Program of the Lancaster, Pa. Theological Seminary, and the Montebello Hospital Clergy Staff.

Those who have watched him these last two years report Rev. Wood's energy is still limitless.

He has been the chief unofficial architect and watchdog every step of the way — from the day the decision was made to build, until the fruition of a dream — opening of the new facility this coming Sunday, Feb. 8.

14 charter members

When Providence Baptist Church was founded by Dr. David E. over some 52 years ago, there was a group of "baptized believers", whose names are recorded on the original roll. They became known as the charter members.

Today some 14 of those charter members are a living testimony to the church. They are:

Mildred McNair
Mable Snead
Margaret Wright Bedford
Mildred Dennis
Lovella Bright
Minnie Taylor
Annie Green Haynie
Helen Bright
Rebecca Scott
Eloise Jones
Edna Over Campbell
Joseph Ray
Mattie White Ashton
Vernice Matthews
Downing

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- Dr. Keiffer Jackson Mitchell
- Councilman Michael Bowen Mitchell
- George David Mitchell

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