

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 14 1986

date entered

APR 11 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Louvale Church Row Historic District

and/or common Louvale Church Row Historic District

2. Location

street & number Along U.S. 27

N/A not for publication

city, town Louvale N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Stewart code 259

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Stewart County Courthouse

city, town Lumpkin state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:  
title Stewart County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1976 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Louvale Church Row, in the small, unincorporated rural settlement of Louvale, consists of a rectangular piece of land on which rests three frame historic churches, a historic two-room frame school, and a small cemetery. The district is north of the center of town, on the west side of U.S. 27. The buildings rest on four contiguous parallel lots of approximately one acre each. The four buildings are all lined up forming a "row" with the front facades of the churches being parallel to the highway. The school sits 25 feet behind this setback line. The three churches are typically rectangular with central pulpit and aisle, and are good examples of small, wood-framed, 19th-century rural protestant churches. They differ in that the Antioch Primitive Baptist Church has a wooden, Gothic belfry with an octagonal spire, the Louvale United Methodist Church has a square bell tower and a square tapered spire, and the New Hope Baptist Church has a small roofed box atop the roof ridge replacing an earlier belfry. The school is rectangular with a small front porch and is raised on brick piers. On the interior, the three churches are very similiar in that they all contain a large, one-room sanctuary. They each reflect contemporary styles in their belfries, pulpit alcoves, and trim elements. The Antioch Primitive Baptist Church has a low arch over the pulpit alcove with decorative moldings that suggest Gothic stonework. The interior of the Louvale United Methodist Church includes four-inch beaded ceiling boards, and in the pulpit alcove, molding ornamented only with Bulls Eye blocks, and a partial Tracery screen, all of good craftsmanship. The interior of the New Hope Baptist Church, in keeping with that faith's beliefs, is severely plain, with four-inch beaded ceiling boards. The Antioch Academy/school building contains a large open room with simple square columns and a rear room used for storage. The site is level and shaded by large live oak trees planted about the time the structures were built. The cemetery burials date from the 20th century and are arranged mostly behind the two northernmost churches. Changes to the district have been minimal and include some new siding and other repair and restoration work. The district is bordered by residential and agricultural development (all low density) and open or wooded land.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1851 - 1902

**Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Louvale Church Row is significant in architecture because it includes an unusual grouping of three different examples of typical architectural styles and construction techniques used in rural Southern churches at the turn of the century. Simple massing, gable roofs with steeples, and simple interiors trimmed and detailed with sawn wood are all characteristics of this important type of historic rural architecture in Georgia. It also contains a good example of a rural schoolhouse. It is significant in religion for reflecting three religious institutions on essentially the same piece of property, something rarely found in Georgia. It is significant in education for the former Antioch Institute founded by the Primitive Baptist Church and which later became a public school. It shows the early roots of our rural educational system, especially before government supported school systems. It is also significant in community planning, for the "church row" became the focal point for the area called "Louvale" and became the landmark by which travelers remembered the town. It was as much a focal point for the community's major activities - religious and educational - as had been the medieval cathedral complex of earlier centuries. These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

### Historical Narrative

Throughout its history Louvale has been a loosely defined community comprising the developed portion of Georgia Militia District 780 along the main road between the county seats of Lumpkin and Cusseta and several branch roads. The first name associated with the area was Moccasin Gap, the location of an Indian trading post about one-and-a-half miles south of the present Louvale post office. Local tradition exists that this name referred to the numerous moccasins (snakes) in adjacent Hannahatchee Creek and not to a type of Indian footwear.

The first post office in the area was established at this location in 1843 and given the name Hannahatchee. The name of the post office was changed to Louvale in 1887 at the time it was moved to its present location near the home of Dr. William H. Tatum who was postmaster at the time. The name was in honor of Dr. Tatum's wife, Lucy (Lou) Ann Bussey Tatum. It appears that Tatum exerted considerable effort to develop a town in the immediate vicinity of his home, particularly when the Americus, Preston, and Lumpkin Railroad was being built into the area in 1885-1886. A station, which was to serve temporarily as the end of this line, was built near his residence. A turntable was built and this became the center for the future construction as well as operation of the railroad. It was at this time that the post office was moved nearby. The Tatums enlarged the Downing-type Gothic cottage they had occupied for several years to serve as a boarding house for train crews and other railroad personnel.

CONTINUED

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mahan, Joseph B., Jr. ".....Louvale Church Row." Historic Property Information Form, February 12, 1985. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4 acres

Quadrangle name Louvale, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	6	7	0	5	0	5	0	3	5	6	1	9	3	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property consists of the legal boundaries of the included property and is enclosed within a chain-link fence. It is all the property currently and historically associated with the churches. It is marked on the enclosed Tax Map.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
N/A			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date February 24, 1986

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/10/86

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 4-11-86

*Alvina Byer*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
Date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

The original Antioch Primitive Baptist Church congregation had moved in 1851 to a spot near the future locations of the Louvale post office and train station. The church built there operated a school in a log building until after the Civil War when the frame structure was built in its place. This building may have served as a church until a new church was constructed about 1889 when the organization joined the Summerhill Association. It had 116 members at that time.

Dr. Tatum served as postmaster at Louvale until 1897. He continued the effort to develop a town there even after the railroad station and track were abandoned about 1892. This abandonment resulted from the purchase of the American, Preston, and Lumpkin Railroad by a new company, the Savannah, Americus, and Montgomery Railroad. This company decided to continue construction of the road westward along the valley of Hannahatchee Creek from a point near Moccasin Gap instead of northward from the station at Louvale, as had been the original plan.

This change in the route of the railroad apparently halted the further development of Louvale into a town. Several houses and a general store had been built and the Marvin Methodist and New Hope Baptist Church congregations moved from locations a few miles away to lots purchased from Tatum. The Antioch Institute, the school operated by the Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, was deeded to Stewart County in 1895 and was operated thereafter as a public school. Proximity of this school was apparently a factor in the decision of the congregations to relocate the two church congregations to lots adjacent to it in 1899 and 1900.

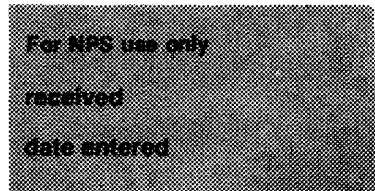
Although no town developed, a populous community grew within two miles of the post office, school, and churches. Homes were built along the main road and others branching from it to the west and northwest. Families represented by 1900 were Shierling, Porter, Johnston, Peek, Burk, Meadows, Williams, Wilder, Deason, Cleveland, Wright, and Lott. The school and churches concentrated at Louvale provided the cohesive influence which kept the community from disintegrating and losing its identity as other communities in the area did as the result of the social and economic changes of the 20th century.

The Baptists were among the first settlers in the northwestern section of Stewart County. Harmony Church in Richland was founded in 1836. Shortly it became apparent that the approximately ten miles from the center of the community in which these people lived to Richland was a great inconvenience to them. About 1839, J.W. Tyler, a member of this group, went to the Baptist association to ask for a church in his community. The request was approved and a church was built at Moccasin Gap on Hannahatchee Creek. It was given the name Antioch.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet    Significance    Item number 8    Page 3

---

This location, about two miles south of the present location, was apparently unsuitable and the congregation decided to move. On February 3, 1851, Cader A. Parker, a Baptist minister, deeded to William C. Armour and John Irvin, church trustees, two acres of land which included the present location of Antioch Church and the school building.

At first the members worshipped in a brush arbor and then in a log building that served both as a church and a school. There is reference in 1870 to a separate church building which may have been the present structure. Certainly, this building was in use during the 1880s. In use also was the school building known then as Antioch Institute.

On August 1, 1895, J.C. Johnston and other trustees of Antioch Institute sold the facility to the Board of Education of Stewart County for \$150. The money paid to the trustees was "to be used by them in repairing said Institute." The lot on which the school was situated contained one acre.

W.H. Tatum owned property immediately north of the schoolhouse lot. On December 6, 1899, he sold one acre adjacent to the school property to Paul J. Burke and other trustees of the newly organized Marvin Methodist Church. They built the present Louvale United Methodist Church on this lot soon afterwards.

On November 20, 1900, Tatum sold a similar one-acre lot immediately north of the Methodist Church to W.W. Iverton and other trustees of the New Hope Baptist Church for \$25. The present structure was built on this lot within a few years. The New Hope Church had functioned for many years at Holloman, some four miles west of Louvale. The congregation moved to the new location apparently to be part of the growing community along the main road between Lumpkin and Columbus.

The three churches and the school continued to serve the community until 1942 when the school was consolidated with the Lumpkin Elementary School. At that time the school building and lot were returned to the people of Louvale for use as a community center.

The cemetery, used by all three churches, began about 1930 with the burial of John A. Shirling.

During the 1950s, the membership of the Antioch Church decreased until only three persons remained on the roll and services were no longer held in the church building. By 1982, the building was rapidly deteriorating from neglect and vandalism. The roof leaked badly, the steeple was rotting and the windows were completely without glass. Vines grew over much of the building.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet    Significance

Item number    8

Page    4

At that time, Mrs. Thomas Wilder and other members of the family of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Richardson undertook a restoration of the old church and a revitalization of the organization and program of the church and its former institute. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson had been life-long residents of Louvale and had been among the last surviving members of Antioch Church. Mrs. Richardson had maintained an interest in preserving the church and in continuing to encourage singing "Sacred Harp," the acapella four-note style of choral music used traditionally at Antioch and other Primitive Baptist churches.

The restoration of the building was completed in 1984 and Hugh McGraw of Bremen, Georgia, a nationally recognized authority on Sacred Harp singing, was engaged to conduct two-day singing schools regularly each quarter in the school building as a program of the Sybil and John B. Richardson School of Sacred Harp Music.

The church organization was reactivated and a minister was employed to conduct services monthly. The church has new members for the first time in more than 50 years.

LOUVALE CHURCH ROW HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Louvale, Stewart County, Georgia

TAX MAP/SKETCH MAP

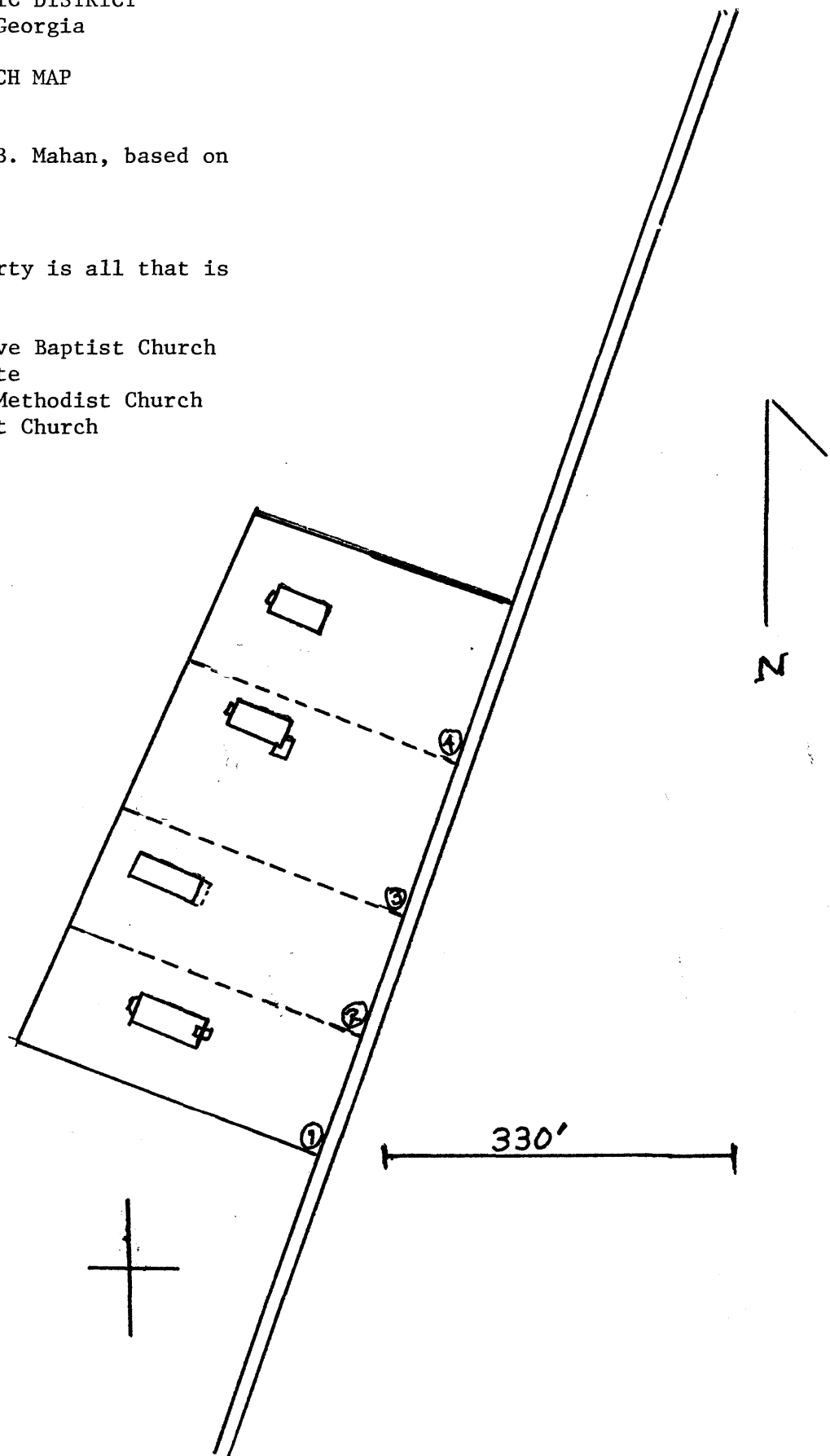
Scale: 1" = 150'

Source: Drawn by Joseph B. Mahan, based on  
Tax Map

Date: 1985

Key: The nominated property is all that is  
shown on the map.

- 1 - Antioch Primitive Baptist Church
- 2 - Antioch Institute
- 3 - Louvale United Methodist Church
- 4 - New Hope Baptist Church



LOUVALE CHURCH ROW HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Enlarged from aerial photograph in office of Stewart County  
Tax Commissioner).

JOSEPH B. MAHAN

February 1985