Form 10-300 (July 1969)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALABAMA COUNTY:

STATE:

LOWNDES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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| ☐ Site ☐ Structure | ☐ Private | ☐ In Process | ☐ Unoccupied | ▼ Restricted |
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| PRESENT USE (Check One or I | More as Appropriate) | | | |
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| CONDITION | | (Check Or | ne) | | (Che | ck One) |
| | K Alte | red | ☐ Unaltered | | Moved | ▼ Original Site |

Lowndesboro is a small community located off Highway 80 in Lowndes County, with the majority of the structures lining the one main avenue. Several small unimproved or gravel roads lead to homes located a short distance from the main road.

There are fourteen homes which include unpretentious country homes, raised cottages and several elaborate Greek Revival Mansions. Additionally there are five churches dating from 1830 to 1888, one of which supports the dome from Alabama's first State Capitol. Nine of the structures are listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey. Originally there was a business section which burned in 1926. Most of the homes are owned by the descendants of the original settlers and are maintained as residences with many of the houses containing the original furnishings.

(See addendum sheet)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NOV 1 2 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER (Number all entries) (Continuation Sheet)

| STATE | |
|----------------|------|
| ALABAMA | |
| COUNTY | |
| LOWNDES | |
| FOR NPS USE ON | ILY |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
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7. Description (continued)

- 1. Steelehaven 1818 two story frame structure, rectangular in shape with a gabled roof, four end-exterior chimneys and a one story veranda across the front.
- 2. The Pillars (Tyson Home) 1850 two story Greek Revival Mansion, L-shaped with two major porticos. (H.A.B.S.)
- 3. The Cottage (Dixon Hall Lewis Home) 1830-35 one and one half story cottage, built for Dixon Hall Lewis, a prominent Alabama Congressman and United States Senator.
- 4. St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1857 Board and batten Gothic Revival Church.
- 5. Meadowlawn (Hagood House) 1853 two story frame, the portico extends completely around two sides of the structure, elaborate cornice brackets. HABS
- 6. Methodist Parsonage 1857 one and one half story frame structure with end-exterior chimneys and veranda.
- 7. Nichols Home 1835 one and one half story home with a one story wing.
- 8. Methodist Church 1888- frame structure, typical of country churches.
- 9. Cilly Howard 1825 One and one half story frame structure, two end-exterior chimneys, simple portico. HABS
- 10. Presbyterian Church 1850 End gable frame structure. HABS
- 11. Mockingbird House 1835 Raised cottage, Greek Revival portico
- 12. Somerset 1828 two story frame structure, one story porch with balustraded veranda above.
- 13. Negro Methodist Church 1830 frame end gable church, dome from Alabama's first State Capitol (1820) serves as the steeple.

 Dome was brought to Lowndesboro around 1840. HABS
- 14. Rosewood (Wooten House) 1855 Raised Cottage, first floor is plaster over brick, second is wood. Curved stairs lead to second story portico. Rear has recessed portico. HABS
- 15. Seven Gables c. 1880 one and one half story frame Victorian house.
- 16. Marengo 1835 Raised Cottage, structure was originally built in Autauga County and later moved to Lowndesboro. HABS
- 17. Baptist Chruch 1888- frame structure.
- Shirley 1830 two story frame structure with piramidal roof, two story portico.
- 19. Reese Home (Meadows) 1850 two story L-shaped structure with two porticos, served as the home of the President of the Lowndesboro Female Institute. HABS
- 20. Old Homestead (Francis Lewis House) 1823 large two story frame structure.

| PERIOD (Check One or More as | s Appropriate) | | SA PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | 19th Century | |
| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica | ble and Known) 1865- | -1972 | |
| AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CI | | | |
| Abor iginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | Urban Planning |
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| □ Communications | Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | |

Lowndesboro is a unique antebellum plantation village which has changed very little since the mid-1800's. It consists of a collection of plantation houses built along one tree-lined avenue, with the plantation lands extending into the surrounding region. Twenty of the approximately thirty structures were built between 1819 and 1888, with the majority of the structures dating to around the 1830's.

Originally called McGill's Hill, Lowndesboro was settled in 1815 by thirteen families from Virginia and for many years was a widely scattered pioneer community. In 1830 when Lowndes County was created by an act of the Alabama Legislature, the settlement began to grow, aided by rich soil and proximity to the Alabama River.

Although it was predominately an agricultural settlement, trade and the establishment of two schools contributed to the prosperity of the town. Goods coming up the river from Mobile stopped at Newport landing leaving choice merchandise before it was offered for sale in Montgomery, a larger town but north of Lowndesboro. Two local taverns provided accommodations for the shoppers.

An excellent boys school, the Boy's Academy, was established and in 1840 the Female Institute was also established.

Lowndesboro was at its peak when the Civil War broke out. The village was spared any major property damage when General James Wilson made his march from Selma to Montgomery.

After the war the town never returned to its pre-war prosperity and in 1926 when the business section was destroyed by fire, it was not rebuilt. The majority of the structures have been restored and are used as private homes.

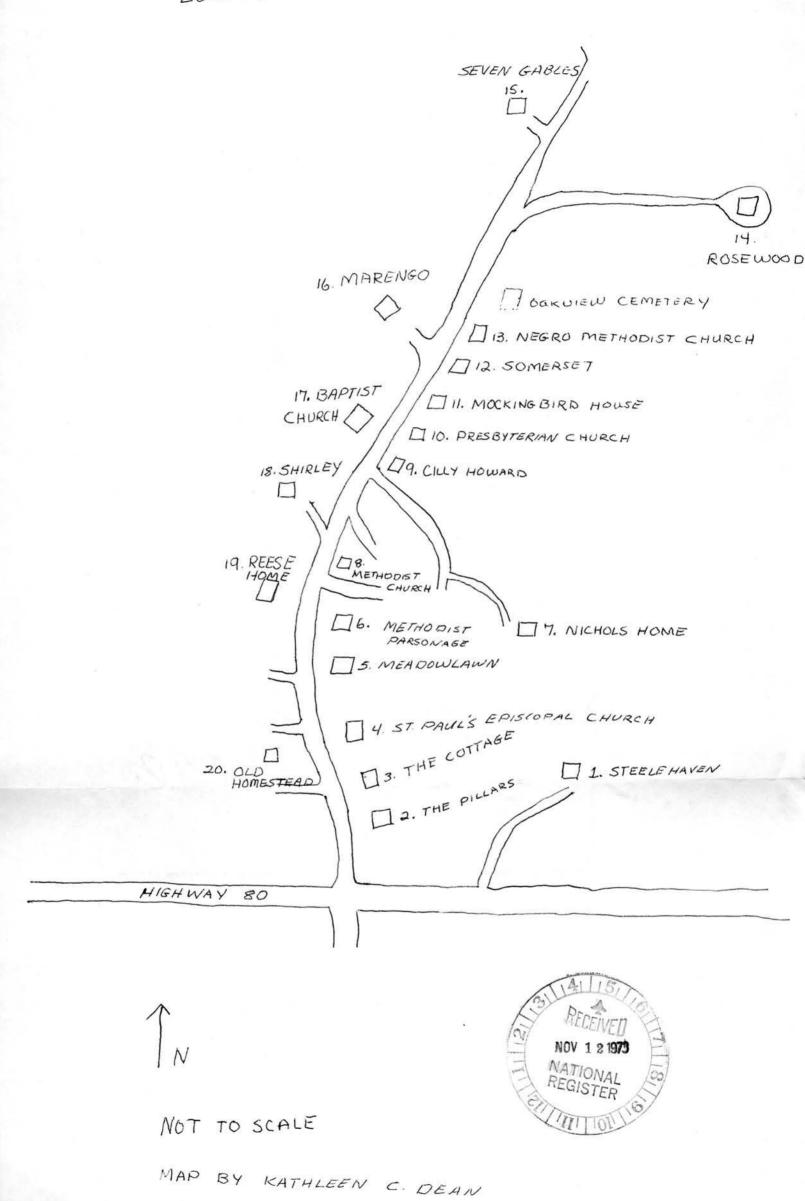


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Materials on file at the ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

OWEN, T. M., HISTORY OF ALABAMA AND DICTIONARY OF ALABAMA BIOGRAPHY, S. S. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago: 1921.

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Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTME F THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

STATE ALABAMA COUNTY LOWNDES FOR NPS USE ONLY

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Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or anclose with photograph)

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Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Form 10-301 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

3. Latitude and longitude reference.

| STATE | |
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Otutaugaville, ala.

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014

| NPS | S Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002) OMB No. 1024-0018 PED 2280 | |
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| | nited States Department of the Interior ational Park Service APR 1 1 7014 | Lowndesboro Hisoric District (Resource & History Update) Name of Property |
| N: | ational Register of Historic Places OF HISTORIC PLACES | Lowndes, Alabama |
| | ontinuation Sheet | County and State N/A |
| | | Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |
| Se | ection number <u>1-3</u> Page <u>1</u> | |
| 1. | Name of Property Historic name: Lowndesboro Historic District (Resource & Dother names/site number: N/A Name of related multiple property listing: N/A (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing. | |
| 2. | Location Street & number: 104 Broad St. N. (church); 129 Howard Street City or town: Lowndesboro State: Alabama County: Lowndesboro Not For Publication: Vicinity: | |
| 3. | State/Federal Agency Certification | |
| | As the designated authority under the National Historic Preser | vation Act, as amended, |
| | I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>request for det documentation standards for registering properties in the Nation meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in</u> | onal Register of Historic Places and |
| | In my opinion, the property <u>X</u> meets <u>does</u> not meet recommend that this property be considered significant at the level(s) of significance: | |
| | national X statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: | |
| | <u>X</u> A <u>B</u> <u>X</u> C <u>Ď</u> | |
| | Signature of certifying official/Title: | rvation Officer 44 14 |
| | | Date |
| | Alabama Historical Commission State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |
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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

| Lowndesbor | o Hisoric District (Resource |
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| & History U | pdate) |
| Name of Prop | erty |
| Lowndes, Alal | oama |
| County and St | tate |
| N/A | |
| Name of multi | ple listing (if applicable) |

| Section number | 1-3 | Page | 2 |
|----------------|-----|------|---|
| | | | |

| In my opinion, the property meets _ | does not meet the National Register criteria |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| | |

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

| Lowndesboro Historio History Update) | : District (Resource & |
|---|--|
| Name of Property | ************************************** |
| Lowndes, Alabama | ***************************** |
| County and State N/A | |
| Name of multiple listing | ng (if applicable) |

| Se | ction number 4 Page 3 | |
|----|--|--|
| 4. | National Park Service Certification | |
| | I hereby certify that this property is: | |
| | entered in the National Register | |
| | determined eligible for the National Register | |
| | determined not eligible for the National Register | |
| | removed from the National Register other (explain:) Additional Documentation Approved | |
| | Edson It. Beal 5.19.14 | |
| | Signature of the Keeper Date of Action | |

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

| | ndesboro Historic District (Resource & ory Update) |
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| 5. | Classification | (Updated) |
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Nu

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
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| 2 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| - | | structures |
| | - | objects |
| 2 | 0 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 20

6. Function or Use (Updated)

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

EDUCATION: school

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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| | esboro Historic District (Resource ory Update) |
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Update to Narrative Description

This update is a technical correction that will add 2 contributing resources to the Lowndesboro Historic District which, for some unknown reason, were left out by mistake. This technical correction involves neither an expansion of the district's boundaries nor an extension of the period of significance.

Update to Summary Paragraph

The original nomination described Lowndesboro as "a unique antebellum plantation village which has changed very little since the mid-1800s." It listed twenty resources in its inventory; the majority of which were "unpretentious country homes, raised cottages and several elaborate Greek Revival Mansions" as well as "five churches dating from 1830 to 1888 "

These resources still line Broad Street North (County Road 29) today. This road heads north off US Highway 80, forming the major thoroughfare of the community. Secondary streets branch off this main artery to the east and to the west. The Lowndesboro School is located on Howard Street East and lies east of Broad Street North. The First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro fronts Broad Street on the east and is a prominent landmark in the community. A cemetery lies immediately behind the church.

Additions to the Inventory

21. Lowndesboro School 129 Howard St. East c. 1883 Contributing Parcel #45-10-06-13-0-001-003.000

The Lowndesboro School is a one-story, gable-roofed, 5x2 bay, two-room school building with a third room rear addition [photos 1-3]. The school rests on its original brick piers and later concrete block piers. The entire building is clad in pine board-and-batten. The two original rooms are of unequal size with the larger one (the east room) measuring 28 feet 3 inches by 18 feet 3 inches and the smaller (the west room) 19 feet 9 inches by 18 feet 3 inches. Originally, a narrow hall divided these two classrooms. The east wall of the hall was removed at some point in the recent past, creating the larger classroom [photo 4-5]. The large room is accessed by steps leading up to a single-leaf door on the facade. This door was the entrance into the hall. The smaller front room [photos 6-7] has both an exterior single-leaf and an exterior double-leaf door on the facade. Both of these openings were originally windows. The post-1967 rear addition is a shed-roofed room (measuring 28 feet 3 inches by 11 feet 7 inches) directly behind the large original room. It has a single-leaf exterior door flanked by 6/6 DHS windows. This rear room was added as office space for the Office of Economic Opportunity [photo 8]. The OEO occupied the building, along with a washateria in the west room, for a time after the school closed in 1967.

In Lowndesboro's Picturesque Legacies, a photograph of the school shows the double-leaf door and a

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| Name of Property Lowndes, Alabama | |
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4/4 DHS window in the end bay. The other front windows were also originally 4/4 DHS. The exact date of this photo is unknown but it was taken sometime after the school closure and prior to the publication of this book in 1994.

The current window styles include 6/6 DHS (which are replacements on the façade and perhaps throughout the entire building) in all of the rooms as well as fixed 9-light and 4-light windows. Some of these windows are boarded up. Each side gable has returns and a louvered attic vent. From the original large room, there are doorways into both the smaller room and the addition. The walls of the original rooms are finished in flushboard of varying widths with that in the small room sometimes being quite wide. The walls of the hallway were finished in beaded board, some of which is still present. The large room apparently had two additional windows opposite its façade windows. These were removed at some point (perhaps when the rear room was added) but their boarded up openings remain. The interior walls of the rear addition are clad in vertical wood paneling that appears to date from the late twentieth century. The interior of the building has been damaged by water penetration.

The Lowndesboro School made Alabama's Places in Peril list in 2008. The building's recent rehabilitation was funded by a 2012 State Historic Preservation grant from the Alabama Historical Commission.

22. First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro 104 Broad St. N. 1880 Contributing Parcel #45-10-01-12-0-000-014.000 (also includes cemetery directly behind church)

This is a one-story, wood-frame building with a clapboard wall treatment [photo 9]. The front gable roof is crowned by a central steeple. The square steeple displays louvered attic vents on three of its elevations and has a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The church rests on its original brick piers which have been infilled with concrete blocks to form a solid foundation. The façade features a concrete porch accessed by front steps and side ramps. The porch has a shallow pitched gable roof supported by plain posts. A modern, double-leaf front door with a transom is located in the porch area. Each side elevation has several windows with aluminum sash. On the south (side) elevation is a large, one-story addition clad in vinyl siding that wraps around to the rear elevation. Here the addition envelopes an original (or early) gabled apse [photo 11].

In <u>Lowndesboro's Picturesque Legacies</u> (published in 1994), a photograph of the church shows steps delineated by brick cheek walls leading up to a central, double-leaf entrance. Therefore, the porch, its steps, its ramps and the front doors are modern alterations. The addition also may post-date 1994.

The church's front entrance accesses the narthex [photo 12]. There are restrooms off each side of the

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narthex. The church's nave features three rows of pews divided by two aisles. The altar sits on a dais in the apse, surrounded by plain pillars. The wooden pews are original, displaying square-head nails. Otherwise, the interior has been modernized with sheetrock-clad walls and pillars, carpeting, modern light fixtures and ceiling fans and replacement windows [photo 13].

22a. Cemetery

1956-present

Contributing

Directly behind the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro is a small cemetery containing approximately 55 marked graves. There are probably also unmarked graves in this cemetery. It is casually landscaped with the marked graves placed close together in rows. The earliest interment dates from 1956. This is still an active cemetery [photo 11].

Archaeological Component

While no archaeological survey has been undertaken on these properties, the possibility of subsurface remains that would help us understand and interpret the history of Lowndesboro's black community remains high.

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| 8. | Statement of Significance | | | |
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| | Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.) | | | |
| | X | A. | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. | |
| | | B. | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. | |
| | X | C. | Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. | |

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes B. Removed from its original location C. A birthplace or grave D. A cemetery E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure F. A commemorative property G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage: Black (updated area of significance)

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| | e original period of significance) — |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Significant Dates | |
| c. 1883 | |
| Significant Person (Complete only if Cr N/A | iterion B is marked above.) |
| | |
| Cultural Affiliation | |

Updated Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The original period of significance for the Lowndesboro Historic District nomination is 1865 to 1972. It is not being revised. The two resources being added to this nomination--the Lowndesboro School and the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro --both fall within the original period of significance and also within the original boundaries of the district. The year 1880 is significant as the construction date for the church. The school is believed to have been built c. 1883, the year Rev. Mansfield Tyler and his wife Amanda sold the land where it is located to the Trustees of the Lowndesboro Colored Education Association. This nomination update (requested by Lowndesboro's black citizens) is an effort to record some of the resources that represent the town's African-American history.

The areas of significance cited in the original nomination were Agriculture and Architecture. Additional information under Criterion C: Architecture is included in this update to the Lowndesboro Historic District nomination.

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A new area of significance, Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black, is being added also. Both resources--the Lowndesboro School and the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro—are locally significant under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black.

Constructed c. 1883 for the town's black children, the Lowndesboro School represents the struggle of freedmen and their descendents to secure an education for their offspring despite racism and dire poverty. The school building illustrates the commitment of local blacks to education as a means of self improvement and progress for their people. The period of significance for the Lowndesboro School extends from c. 1883 to 1967 when it was closed as a school.

The First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro (current building constructed in 1880) was founded by local black Baptists shortly after the Civil War. It flourished under Rev. Mansfield Tyler (1826-1904), a freed slave, who led the congregation from the late 1860s until his death in 1904. From the end of the Civil War through the mid-twentieth century Civil Rights Movement, their church was the only institution over which African-Americans had total control. It was a place of refuge in a society dominated by bigotry. The building represents the significance of the black church, not only as a place of worship, but also as a social hall, educational facility, and political center during segregation. The period of significance for the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro extends from 1880 to 1972, the end of the period of significance.

The Lowndesboro School also has statewide significance under **Criterion C: Architecture**. The building is a rare, surviving example in Alabama of a late nineteenth century, rural educational facility for African-American children.

Updated Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black

Lowndesboro is located in Lowndes County in Alabama's Black Belt. In this very rural region the struggle of African-Americans to improve their lot in life was particularly acute. Before the Civil War, the Black Belt had been home to large cotton plantations worked by thousands of slaves. There were few towns of any appreciable size in the Black Belt and almost no industry. After the war, there were few resources or opportunities available to the freed blacks. Many continued to farm as tenants for large landowners simply because they lacked other options. They could not even work at other jobs in the offseason to supplement their income because such work was not available. Elsewhere freedmen could sometimes earn cash wages during down times through industrial jobs, railroad construction or timbering. Some even saved enough money over time to buy their own farms. H. Paul Douglass, through his ties with the American Missionary Association, discovered that "the most frequent spots of need and helplessness are in the Black Belts" of the Southern states.

Taken together, the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro and the Lowndesboro School symbolize the efforts of Lowndesboro's black citizens to carve out a place for themselves and their

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children in this Black Belt community. Restricted by both southern white tradition and its Jim Crow laws, African-Americans could only achieve autonomy within their own institutions. Such autonomy became even more critical after Reconstruction (1865-1874). It became apparent to many southern whites at that time that the Federal government was abandoning its commitments to the freed blacks. Southern Democrats systematically began revoking through both legal and extralegal means whatever progress blacks had made. It was during this period, the last quarter of the nineteenth century, that the Lowndesboro School was established and the First Missionary Baptist Church constructed its current place of worship.

Criterion C: Architecture

The original nomination focused on the resources of the wealthy planters who lived in the village, barely conceding the contributions of Lowndesboro's African-American residents. In fact, the only clearly defined black resource in the nomination was the "Negro Methodist Church" (inv. #13).

The Lowndesboro School is arguably the most architecturally significant African-American resource in the district. In the late nineteenth century it was not uncommon for black children to attend school in either their parents' churches or their Masonic Lodges. This was originally the case in Lowndesboro. There was a lack of free-standing school buildings. Those that did exist were primitive, wood-frame structures with poor lighting. H. Paul Douglass, writing in 1909, described some of the ungraded schools for blacks found in the rural South. Many times such a school was "a windowless log cabin." Another was "a slab schoolhouse with solid blinds which were nailed shut, the authorities refusing to have them opened." A school in Beachtown, Georgia, rested on posts, was unfinished on the interior and had small windows that admitted little light. The Lowndesboro School, while better designed and better constructed than the average such school, is still representative of this building typology. Despite the alterations made to the building over the years, it retains integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. No other examples of late nineteenth century, rural schools for blacks have been identified so far by the Alabama Historical Commission.

Updated Narrative History

Mansfield Tyler was born a slave near Augusta, Georgia in 1826. He reportedly was owned by a Baptist preacher. It is said that Tyler learned to read and write as a slave, though this was illegal. Tyler also attended the Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta as a child. This church's congregation in 1845 comprised 1100 black members led by a black minister. This group of people surely had a profound and positive impact on the teen-age Tyler that influenced the rest of his life.

Tyler's master moved to Alabama in 1844, bringing his young slave along with him. Mansfield Tyler was baptized into the Baptist church eleven years later. He soon decided to become a minister. Being denied access to books, Tyler "receive[d] only oral instruction on religious subjects."

The arrival of Union troops in Lowndes County in the spring of 1865 freed the slaves. Shortly thereafter, Mansfield Tyler settled in Lowndesboro. The freedmen and women welcomed him. He soon became a pillar of their community. Tyler founded a Baptist church for blacks in Lowndesboro and was

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ordained a minister in 1868. Between 1868 and 1895 Rev. Mansfield Tyler baptized one thousand people in Lowndesboro and another five hundred in the nearby village of White Hall. He established several churches in the county over the years. Tyler came to be known as the "Baptist 'pope' of Lowndes County" according to historian Wilson Fallin, Jr.

Tyler's church became the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro. It was established when the black members of the Lowndesboro Baptist Church left to form their own church in the late 1860s. At that time, the congregation was comprised of 137 members of whom only five were white.

It is unknown at this time what that first church structure looked like. Initially, the churches of the freedmen were often simply brush arbors or perhaps a log cabin. However, this church building may have been more substantial. It seems likely that the five white members would have joined other Lowndesboro churches, leaving the building to the larger black congregation.

In any event, the membership of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro had increased to 327 by 1870. The congregation constructed a new building the following year on land purchased from a white family named Meadows. Soon an even larger building was needed. The present church was built in 1880.

The First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro was one of approximately fifty Baptist congregations founded by blacks in Alabama by December 1868. These churches were not only places of worship but also served as school buildings and meeting halls for both social and political events. Likewise, their ministers were not only spiritual leaders but also educational and civic leaders within the black community. Black Baptists of the late nineteenth century developed their own theology and worship style while also receiving financial, organizational and educational assistance from northern benefactors. The American Missionary Association noted how black Baptists strongly supported education by opening eighty schools, "which [is what] the state ought to be doing for its citizens."

The First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro and its minister Rev. Mansfield Tyler represent in microcosm the work black Baptist congregations and their preachers were doing across Alabama.

Pastor Tyler was not only active in the black Baptist community at Lowndesboro, but also at the state level. He was a leader in the denomination's organizational, educational and religious efforts as well as a financial supporter. Rev. Mansfield Tyler was among the sixty people who met in Montgomery in 1868 to organize the Alabama Colored Baptist Church Convention. The goals of the convention were to promote the Baptist faith among the freedmen and women, grow their congregations and provide educational opportunities. Their educational goals included public education, Sunday school and a Baptist seminary. Rev. Tyler served as the convention's first president until 1886. The participants returned home to establish local associations under this state convention. Rev. Tyler along with other prominent men founded the Alabama District Association which was comprised of churches in Montgomery and Lowndes Counties. This association focused on missionary and educational work. Mansfield Tyler was elected as its moderator in 1871 and was also serving in this position in the mid-1890s. Additionally, he helped to establish Selma University in nearby Dallas County. Rev. Tyler

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served as the chairman of the university's board of trustees from its founding until his death in 1904. This historically black college, founded in 1878 to educate both teachers and ministers, is still in existence today. Finally, Mansfield Tyler served in the state legislature from 1870 to 1872. Here he advocated strongly for a public education system for blacks and for black land ownership.

Rev. Mansfield Tyler and other black Baptists labored in a society generally opposed to black education. In the antebellum period it had been illegal for anyone to teach a slave to read or write. Immediately after the Civil War, schools for the former slaves were established by both the Freedmen's Bureau and the American Missionary Association. The freedmen and women were more than willing to build and furnish schoolhouses if teachers were available. However, as Bureau reports noted, they would "require assistance until [the] state becomes quiet and prosperous." The property taxes collected during Reconstruction were used to establish new schools and were equally divided among the student population regardless of race. Whites resented this tax distribution strategy. Their resentment ran particularly deep in cotton plantation regions such as Lowndes County, where whites owned almost all the land but were the minority population.

The Alabama state legislature changed how tax monies were distributed in the early 1890s. No longer was state funding for public education divided equally among schools based on the number of students. Now the state allocated a certain amount of money to each local school system based on its total number of students, both black and white. Local officials could distribute the money any way they wanted. As intended, this was a disaster for African-American public education. In the late nineteenth century there were still no public high schools for blacks. Three decades later, Lowndes County was spending five dollars annually to educate a black child as compared to ninety-six dollars for a white child. African-American Baptists, however, supported at least thirty schools in Alabama between 1875 and 1915. A few were high schools, with the majority being elementary schools with industrial arts departments.

Charles Gardiner reported to the Freedmen's Bureau as early as May 1867 that there was a school for freedmen in Lowndesboro that was operating successfully under a Dr. Jennings. We have no further information at this point on this school or its location in the town. However, considering the personal commitment of Mansfield Tyler and the commitment of black Baptists in general to education, the school probably was supported and even housed in the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro. It is not known how long the school remained in operation. It may have closed the following year because another Freedmen's Bureau report from the summer of 1868 noted that schools were needed in Lowndes County at Lowndesboro, Hayneville and Benton. Two years later, and perhaps in response to this report, the Bureau authorized \$600.00 for the construction of a school building in Lowndesboro. These funds may have gone towards the purchase of construction materials for a structure built by Rev. Mansfield Tyler and Daniel Alexander for use as both a church and a school.

Located on the current site of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro, this building served the needs of the "Colored People of Lowndesboro." They outgrew the building within a decade. The current church replaced it in 1880.

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The current schoolhouse, believed to have been constructed c. 1883, was located on land purchased for \$70.00 from Mansfield Tyler and his wife Amanda Tyler in that year. This 1½ acre was known as the "Lowndesboro Male Academy Lot" because an antebellum school for boys had once stood here.

Teachers who taught here over the years included Ila Howard, Hattie Giles, Clara Bertha Scott, Clara McGinnis Bell, Virginia McCall, Cora Capleton and Lizzie Thomas. The school was closed in 1967. The building then housed a laundromat in the west front room of the original section and a health center in the east front room. The latter was sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity which had an office in the rear addition. The OEO was a component of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The property is currently owned by the Elmore Bolling Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to its preservation and rehabilitation.

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9. Updated Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): _____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____ Primary location of additional data: X State Historic Preservation Office

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| Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other | | |
| Name of repository: | | |
| Historic Resources Survey Number | (if assigned): | |
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| 10. Geographical Data | | |
| Acreage of Property _no additional a | acreage is being added | |
| 11. Form Prepared By | | A. C. |
| name/title: Jo McCall (local historian): (AHC Senior Architectural Historian) organization: Elmore Bolling Foundati street & number: PO Box 83; PO Box | ion; Alabama Historica | |
| city or town: Lowndesboro; Montgome-mail rvrollers@knology.net; susan. | nery_state: AL_zip co | |
| telephone: 334/230-2644 date: 4 April 2013 | <u>One we proper votate</u> | *************************************** |
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Lowndesboro School (photos 1-8) and First Missionary Baptist Church of

Lowndesboro (photos 9-13)

City or Vicinity: Lowndesboro

County: Lowndes State: Alabama

Photographer: Susan Enzweiler

Date Photographed: 27 June 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0001 Front and east elevations, camera facing NW

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0002 East and rear elevations, camera facing SW

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0003 Rear and west elevations, camera facing W

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0004 East front classroom, camera facing W

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0005 East front classroom, camera facing E

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0006 West front classroom, camera facing SW

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| Name of multiple listing (if applicat | ole) |

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0007 West front classroom, camera facing NW

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_LowndesboroSchool_0008 Rear addition for OEO office, camera facing W

 $AL_Lowndes County_Lowndes boro Historic District Amendment_First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndes boro 0009$

Front and south elevations, camera facing NE

 $AL_Lowndes County_Lowndes boro Historic District Amendment_First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndes boro_0010$

Cornerstone, camera facing E

 $AL_Lowndes County_Lowndes boro Historic District Amendment_First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndes boro_0011$

Rear elevation and portion of cemetery, camera facing NW

AL_LowndesCounty_LowndesboroHistoricDistrictAmendment_FirstMissionaryBaptistChurchofLowndesboro 0012

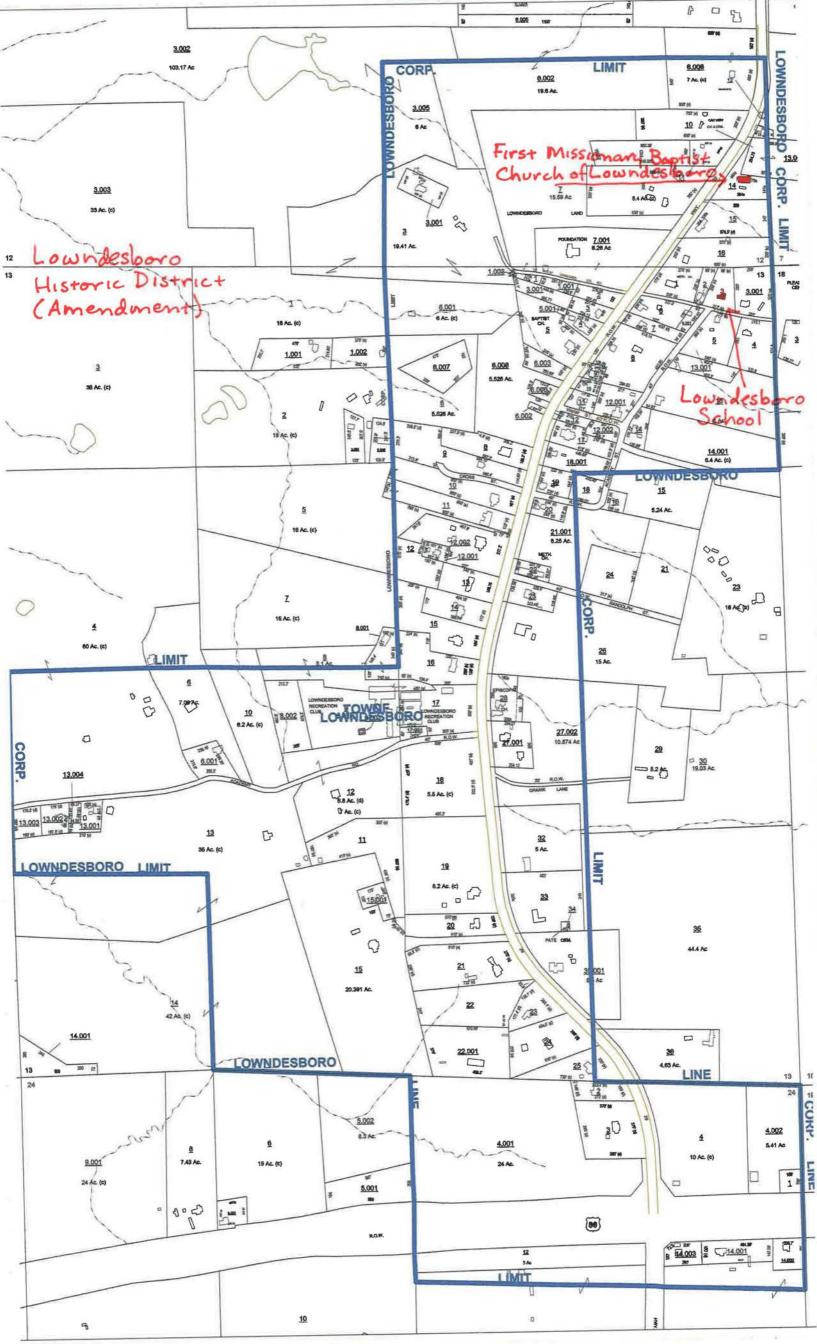
Narthex of church, camera facing N

 $AL_Lowndes County_Lowndes boro Historic District Amendment_First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndes boro_0013$

Nave of church, camera facing E

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





























National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ALABAMA

Date Entered DEC 1 2 1973

Name

Location

Kirkbride House

Mobile

Mobile County

Loundesboro

Loundes County

Also Notified

Hon. John J. Sparkman Hon. James B. Allen

Hon. Jack Edwards

Hon. William Nichola

Ms. Ann Webster Smith, Department

of Transportation

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Milo B. Howard, Jr., Director
Alabama Department of Archives & History
Chairman, Alabama Historical Commission
Archives and History Building
Hontgomery, Alabama 36104

Director, Southeast Region

PR MMOTT: pl 12.27.73

| PROPERTY Laundesboro four | ndes STATE ala. | 73000356 |
|--|--|--------------------|
| WORKING NUMBER //, /2, 73, 392/ | | |
| TECH REVIEW PHOTOS | | |
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| KEEPER | | 12/11/53 |
| National Register Write-up = 2-28-74 | Send-back | |
| Federal Register entry 2-74 | Re-submit | 1 9 1079 |
| | Entered | DEC 1 2 1973 |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

| REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION |
|---|
| PROPERTY Lowndesboro Historic District NAME: |
| MULTIPLE NAME: |
| STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA, Lowndes |
| DATE RECEIVED: 4/11/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/14 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: |
| REFERENCE NUMBER: 73000356 |
| NOMINATOR: STATE |
| REASONS FOR REVIEW: |
| APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N |
| COMMENT WAIVER: N |
| ACCEPTRETURNREJECT5.19.14 DATE |
| ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: |
| |
| |
| Additional Documentation Approved |
| |
| RECOM./CRITERIA |
| REVIEWER DISCIPLINE |
| TELEPHONE DATE |
| DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N |

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



STATE OF ALABAMA ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

APR 1 1 2014

NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TEL: 334-242-3184 Fax: 334-240-3477

FRANK W. WHITE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 4, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior, NPS
Cultural Resources
National Register, History & Education Programs
1201 "I" Street NW (2280)
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find an amendment and its supporting documentation for the:

Lowndesboro Historic District Lowndesboro, Lowndes County, Alabama Reference No.: PH0000612

73000356

The original nomination for this historic district was listed in 1973. For unknown reasons, the nomination excluded resources associated with Lowndesboro's African-American history which clearly were within the district boundaries. This amendment is intended to rectify that situation. Your consideration of the enclosed amendment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/sme/nw

Enclosures



STATE OF ALABAMA ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

FRANK W. WHITE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEL: 334-242-3184 FAX: 334-240-3477

MEMO TO LISA DELINE

LOWNDESBORO SCHOOL & FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWNDESBORO

Date: 4 April 2014

From: Susan Enzweiler

Re: Update and Boundaries for Lowndesboro Historic District

This update is a technical correction that will add 2 contributing resources to the Lowndesboro Historic District which were inadvertently left out of the original nomination. This technical correction involves neither an expansion of the district's boundaries nor an extension of the period of significance.

The original nomination was listed in 1973. While it stated that the district encompassed 1800 acres, it did not define the boundaries. It is assumed that the boundaries were (and continue to be) the incorporation limits of the town of Lowndesboro. A map is enclosed that clearly shows the boundaries of the district and also the locations of the 2 contributing resources—Lowndesboro School and the First Missionary Baptist Church of Lowndesboro—that are being added to the nomination through this amendment.