

PH 0509078

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 9 1977  
DATE ENTERED FEB 17 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old Market ~~House~~  
AND/OR COMMON (Slave Market)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER U.S. 1 and Ga. 24  
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF  
STATE Georgia CODE 13 COUNTY Jefferson CODE 163

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Monument

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Louisville  
STREET & NUMBER City Hall  
CITY, TOWN Louisville VICINITY OF STATE Georgia 30434

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. No legal description recorded - Original public land  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (1)  
Survey of Jefferson County (2)  
DATE (1) 1934 (2) 1977 (1) FEDERAL (2) STATE COUNTY LOCAL (6)  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS (1) Library of Congress (2) Dept. Natural Resources, Historic Presv. Sect.  
CITY, TOWN (1) Washington (2) Atlanta STATE (1) D.C. (2) Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Market-House at Louisville is one of few extant structures of its type and purpose in the United States and the only one in Georgia. It is a four sided open air shed pavillion with pyramidal roof surmounted by a cupola. There are pointed gothic windows in the cupola and the roof is shingled. The plan of the shed is four heavy wooden posts to a side supporting the roof. A cement floor and new roof were added to the pavillion in the 1950's, but many of the original timbers remain. These have been strengthened with iron as they are badly rotted. A bell hangs in the steeple.

The Market-House sits mid-way on a mall dividing Broad Street or U.S. 1 Business. It is surrounded by a low, brick wall of recent origins and shrubbery. The entire mall is presently being landscaped as a beautification project by the City of Louisville. It stands in a commercial environment, both sides of Broad Street being lined with commercial structures, as it was in 1795, but these structures date to the late 19th and early 20th century.

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for the capital. The location chosen was ideal because it was at the confluence of the Great Ogeechee River and Rocky Comfort Creek and at the end of the navigable portion of the Ogeechee. In 1789, an amendment to the Georgia Constitution made Louisville the state capital and in 1794, the town was laid out.

Lucian Lamar Knight, in his book Landmarks, Memorials and Legends, states that none of the people living in Louisville in 1913 remembered the construction of the Market-House but that family traditions stated that it was constructed during the period when Louisville was the state capital [the capital was moved to Milledgeville in 1807]. The previous information, in addition to Knight's reference, shows that the Market-House was not there before 1794.

The Louisville Gazette, known as the Gazette and Republican Trumpet after 1800, is available from January of 1799 through 1803 and one issue of 1807. A search of this paper shows the Market-House to be in existence during those years. Numerous sales are advertised to be held "...At the Market-House, in Louisville..." between 1799 and 1807 and in 1816 in the American Advocate, the only years in this early period for which there are extant newspapers for the town.

It is true that the Market-House served as a site for the sale of slaves from its beginning. However, the Market-House was not built for this purpose. It was a publicly owned market used for sales by public officials such as the Sheriff, the Tax Collector, the Marshall, etc. All types of real and personal property was sold there including large tracts, town lots, furniture, household goods and slaves. While in this century it has been commonly called the Slave Market, it would be more historically accurate to call it the "Market-House".

The early newspapers also lend credence to the authenticity of the present structure. Merchants, advertising their house of business in Louisville, often stated that they were located "near Market Square" or "at the corner of Market Square", indicating that the Market-House was located on a town square and was a focal point in the town, as it is today. Virginia Polhill Price in "Louisville: Georgia's First Capital" states that "In 1794 the town was laid off in the gridiron manner around a central square". The Market-House square must have been laid out in this original town plan.

Based on the above information, it can be concluded that this structure was built between 1795, following the laying out of the town, and 1798, prior to the first known notice of a market in the Louisville Gazette in January of 1799. In addition, it can be concluded that it was multi-purpose market which included the sale of slaves as well as land and other personal property.

The early date of construction of the Market-House, its use for all types of sales, the rarity of structures of its kind in the United States, its excellent state of preservation and its place as a focal point in the history of Louisville and the State of Georgia, give it outstanding significance of a national scope.

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Harold E. Davis, The Fledgling Province, University of North Carolina Press,  
Chapel Hill, 1977.

C.C. Jones, History of Georgia, Vol. I, The Riverside Press, Cambridge, 1883, pp.479-485.

Loris D. Cofer, Queensborough, 1977, pp. 2-36.

Amanda Johnson, Georgia As A Colony and State, Cherokee Publishing Co., Atlanta, 1970,  
Reprinted from 1938 Edition, pp. 166-167 and 219.

John M. Sheftall, Unpublished research on Old Town Plantation, Jefferson County,  
Georgia, 1977.

(11)

Old Market - House, Louisville,  
Jefferson County, Georgia  
Source: On site inspection by researcher,  
Martha F. Norwood  
Date: 1977  
Not to scale

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