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PH 0075-906



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arkansas	
COUNTY: Drew	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 22 SEP 1972	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Selma Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION** *N of AR 4 in town of Selma* **(RH)**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 36, T 11 S, R 5 W

CITY OR TOWN:  
Selma

STATE Arkansas	CODE 05	COUNTY: Drew	CODE 043
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
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**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Selma Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Selma

STATE: Arkansas	CODE 05
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Drew County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Monticello

STATE: Arkansas	CODE 05
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: *Historic Buildings of Arkansas, A. Edwin Kendrew, James R. Short, Henry A. Judd, John L. Ferguson*

DATE OF SURVEY: *October, 1968*    ☐ Federal    ☒ State    ☐ County    ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Arkansas History Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN:  
Little Rock

STATE: Arkansas	CODE 05
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

22 SEP 1972

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ Excellent☐ Good☐ Fair

(Check One)

☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

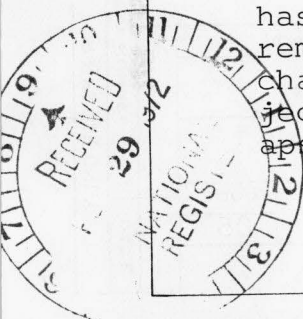
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church building, now known as the Selma Methodist Church, was built about 1874. The front doorway, which is the only entrance to the building, is located in the center of the south facade and has double doors, originally taller than at present, with a Gothic style pointed transom. Two windows, one on each side, flank the entrance and have Gothic style pointed heads over double hung sash. The east and west sides of the building have five windows each that match those flanking the entrance. A half-octagon bay window in the center of the north side serves as the apse and contains two windows identical to the others except shorter in height. A small brick flue is located east of the apse just inside the north wall. The roof has approximately a sixteen-twelve pitch and is presently covered with composition shingles. On the south end of the roof is a well proportioned cupola having a square base rising out of the roof, topped by an octagonal bell-tower, minus the steeple, but covered with a low hip roof. Centered in the south gable, above the entrance, is a circular medallion containing four wooden trefoil ornaments arranged to form a simple cross. The exterior is covered with simple wood clapboard having a plain frieze board, simple corner boards faintly resembling pilasters and a simple unmoulded box cornice. The structure rests on a low open brick pier foundation. The concrete front steps have three treads and three risers.

The interior contained originally a single flat ceilinged sanctuary. However, the south end has been partitioned off into two rooms on either side of a vestibule, above which is a balcony reached by a small staircase from the southeast room. A brass bell, housed in the cupola, is rung by a rope which drops to the balcony. A wall ladder provides access to the cupola.

Wood floors with plaster walls and ceiling are simple and plain. A modern plywood wainscot has been added and the original pews have been remodeled somewhat. Built into the front of the chancel is a semicircular prayer bench which projects from the rear of building in front of the apse.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

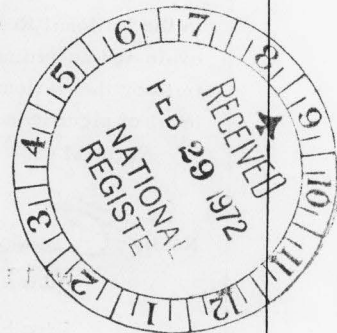
Selma was a prosperous hamlet prior to the Civil War. It was located on an Indian Trace which originally crossed the Mississippi River at Gaines Landing and headed north to Pine Bluff and beyond. Soon after the state's secession from the Union, at Lynchburg, Virginia, a group of men from Selma was mustered into the Confederate Army as Company D of the Third Arkansas Infantry Regiment, the only Arkansas detachment to serve in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The town was incorporated in 1876, but the railroad soon bypassed the place, and it decreased in importance.

In the winter of 1873 the small Methodist congregation at Selma suffered a severe setback. The church which they had labored to build was destroyed by a heavy snowstorm. It wasn't until twelve years later that the group was to have its own church.

The Methodist congregation at Selma was first organized in 1870. It could not support a pastor of its own, so it was on one of the many circuits operated by the Methodist Church in Arkansas. In September of 1872 Mr. Joshua Tillar and his wife deeded to the trustees of the congregation a lot on which to build a church. It was this structure which was destroyed in the winter of 1873.

In the next twelve years the Methodist congregation worshiped with the Baptists and





# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Advance Monticellonian, February 12, 1942; September 14, 1961; and June 17, 1971.

Bartholomew Regular Baptist Association. Minutes of the Association, 1875 - 1877.

Friendship Baptist Association. Minutes of the Association, 1879 - 1883.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	33°	41'	52"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	91°	34'	11"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Staff	
ORGANIZATION Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	DATE
STREET AND NUMBER: 1023 West Third Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE Arkansas CODE 05

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name William E. Henderson  
Title State Liaison Officer  
Date Jan. 25, 1972

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert Van Utey  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/22/72

ATTEST:  
William H. Mumby  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Drew	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 22 SEP 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

assumed part of the indebtedness of the church building. In 1885 the Baptists deeded their church to the Methodists. That building is the structure presently nominated.

The Baptist congregation had organized in 1870, with eleven members and J. F. Griffin as pastor. The little church prospered until the railroad bypassed the town. The churchhouse was built in 1874 by a Mr. Rector, and the architect is alleged to have been an itinerant from New Orleans who specialized in designing churches. The Old Military Road runs diagonally across the church grounds.

The church building is an outstanding example of the small, rural houses of worship which dotted the countryside in Arkansas during the last century. Its state of preservation is unusually excellent, for most such buildings have deteriorated badly. Thus, it is especially worthy of notice.

In 1968 a preliminary survey of certain historic buildings in Arkansas was undertaken at the request of Governor Winthrop Rockefeller. This survey resulted in the "Kendrew Report" which recommended that the Selma Methodist Church be preserved because it "represents a fine effort on the part of the early residents of this area to provide a place of worship of creditable design."

The Selma Methodist Church has been in continuous use as a church building since 1874. Today it continues to serve the needs of the citizens of Selma as a place of worship.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Drew	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	22 SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Works Progress Administration. Inventory of the  
Vital Statistics of Arkansas. Vol. II. Church  
Records. Little Rock: Historical Records  
Survey.



PROPERTY

DREW CO. 72000202

Selma Methodist Church

STATE

Arkansas

DATE OF RECEIPT

2/29/72

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER:

22 SEP 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

2/29/72

RESUBMIT



REVIEW

OK

HISTORIAN

OK means 9/5

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

OK Chambers 9-6-72

ASST. KEEPER

OK R... 9/8/72

KEEPER

WRITER/EDITOR

OK M... 9/8/72

DIRECTOR, OAHP

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

OK 9/20

Federal Registry Entry

10-2-72

Annual Edition Entry

Logged

22 SEP 1972

Card

22 SEP 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER

2.29.72.289

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:







NPS Number 22 Sept. 1972  
Title: Selma Methodist  
Church  
Loc. Drew Co., Arkansas  
View from south

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)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Drew	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
22 SEP 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Selma Methodist Church  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, T 11 S, R 5 W

CITY OR TOWN:

Selma

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY:

Drew

CODE

043

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Staff, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

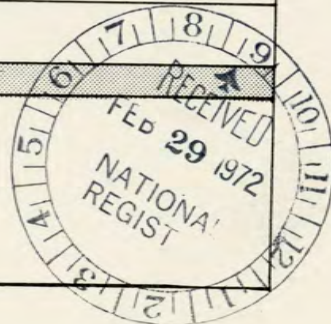
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Arkansas History Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from south.





91° 34' 11"

33° 41' 52"



USGS 7.5' SERIES  
SELMA, ARK. QUADRANGLE  
1960 SCALE 1: 24000



Selma Jr High Sch  
Sweet Hope Cr.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Drew	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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STREET AND NUMBER:

NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, T 11 S, R 5 W

CITY OR TOWN:

Selma

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY:

Drew

CODE

043

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series Selma, Arkansas Quadrangle

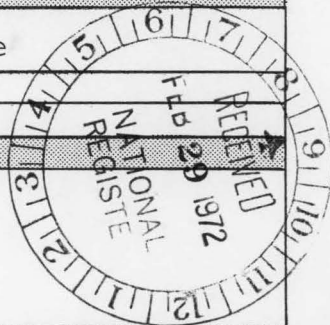
SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1960

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered 22 SEP 1972

Name

Location

Frog Level

Columbia County

Selma Methodist Church

Selma  
Drew County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. J. W. Fulbright

Hon. David Pryor

Director, Southwest Region

HR

NRowland:mm 9/25/72

State Liaison Officer

Mr. William E. Henderson  
Director

Arkansas Department of Parks &  
Tourism

State Capitol - Room 149

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Harrison 3/18

The Reverend Robert H. Peacock

cc: Mr. John D. Shull  
436  
National Building  
20th and Lyon Streets  
Batesville, Arkansas 72201

MAR 23 1981

The Reverend Robert H. Peacock  
First Assembly of God  
20th and Lyon Streets  
P.O. Box 2758  
Batesville, Arkansas 72501

*Listed*

Dear Mr. Peacock:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 1981, expressing your thoughts on the inclusion of religious properties in the National Register of Historic Places. We apologize for not responding sooner.

The criteria for evaluating potential entries for the National Register state that ordinarily properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are not considered eligible for the National Register. However, a religious property which derives primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance does qualify for listing in the National Register. The impact on society of religion and religious institutions is recognized by the National Register criteria and provides a basis for the listing of many religious properties. There are a number of religious institutions in Arkansas which are listed in the National Register, including

Trinity Lutheran Church, Conway County.  
Mount Olive United Methodist Church, Crawford County.  
Selma Methodist Church, Drew County.  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Franklin County.  
Old Bethel Methodist Church, Green County.

Enclosed are copies of the "Federal Register", which list all properties entered in the National Register prior to December 1980 and information on the National Register program.

Once again we appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with us. If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.)

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration

Enclosures