

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 24 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAR 25 1975

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 Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 210 Lauderdale Street

CITY, TOWN Selma

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VII

STATE Alabama

VICINITY OF  
CODE 01

COUNTY Dallas CODE 047

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" 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"/> 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 Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER 210 Lauderdale Street

CITY, TOWN Selma

VICINITY OF

STATE Alabama

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Dallas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 105 Lauderdale

CITY, TOWN Selma

STATE Alabama

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church is a brick, Gothic Revival structure with English overtones designed by the Messrs. R. & R.M. Upjohn of New York City. Built on a cruciform plan with its apse facing east, the nave measures 112' x 44', and the transept is 80' x 32½'. The only deviation from a cruciform plan is the placement of a small sacristy and an organ room behind the east wall of the transept next to the apse. There is also a cellar under the chancel and a rectangular tower (20' x 17½' x 75') at the southwest corner of the nave. The first floor of the tower serves as a side entrance and above it are housed the original chimes. The tower is crowned by parapet-like decoration of stone and brick with a square spire at each corner. The church walls are fitted with a water table a foot from the ground projecting four inches from the walls and topped with a cast iron rim. The walls are of handmade brick laid in common bond and reinforced with brick buttresses. Window sills, steps, doorfacings, buttress caps, and tower ornaments are all of granite from Stone Mountain in Georgia. The Church has a steeply pitched gable roof and is shingled with black slate. Originally heated by coal fires, the church still has a chimney at each end of the nave, though the interior hearths have long been plastered over.

The inside walls are of white plaster applied directly to the brick. On the end walls, the plaster runs from floor to roof pitch. On the side walls the plaster meets a broad carved cornice a foot above the arched windows. The principle rafters are heavy oak beams. These rest on hammer beams which are reinforced by corbelled triangular supports. The arch supports are decorated with tracery of a trefoil pattern, as are the tops of the windows and the triangular supports. The wide pine paneling between the cornice and the rafters gives the ceiling the look of a ship's hold. All the wood was darkly stained, then varnished and tenoned into place. There are twenty fine stained glass windows in the Church. Of those, the distinctive windows include an altar window depicting the life of Saint Paul, a rose window on the west wall of the nave and two Tiffany windows on the north nave wall. Flush with the side windows is a chair rail which encircles the Church. This rail originally crowned a wainscoting of yellow pine, which has been removed. The chancel is the focal point of the entire Church. It is framed by a large arch trimmed with molding. The four paneled Saint Paul window is above an elaborate marble and mosaic altar depicting the Easter angel.

The Church itself has been little changed over the past hundred years. The roof has been reslated, the organ has been moved to the apse, and the sacristy has been enlarged. The major alteration has been the erection of a parish house on the corner of Lauderdale and Selma Streets in 1924. This building is in keeping with the sanctuary's architecture; it has the sanctuary's dimensions, the original slate pattern, and even a granite water table. The parish house is joined to the Church by a two-story wing with a flat roof, having parapet decoration similar to that of the tower. The arcade on the front of this building is an attractive link with five gothic arches and a vaulted ceiling. The large four paneled window in the west wall of the parish house was done by a Saint Paul parishoner, Clara Weaver Parrish who designed stained glass windows for L. C. Tiffany of New York.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT R. & R.M. Upjohn

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Selma is one of four Alabama churches which have been attributed to Richard Upjohn or Richard and Richard M. Upjohn. Three of the churches are small, frame structures built in the 1850's, while the plans for St. Paul's were drawn during the last years of Upjohn's partnership with his son.

The church was founded in Selma in February of 1838, and was formally admitted into union with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama on May 5, 1838. The following year the first church building was erected and served the congregation until April 1, 1865 when it was burned by Union soldiers during the Battle of Selma. A new church was constructed in 1868 but was seen as only a temporary structure.

In January of 1871, plans from Mssrs. R. and R. M. Upjohn arrived and the building committee composed of the Rev. S. M. Bird, N. H. R. Dawson, R. M. Nelson, George Peacock, Thomas K. Fergusson, and Thomas Peters voted to adopt them subject to modification by the architects. By March of that year the revised plans had been received with the "transepts and tower as desired." Construction was begun later that year under the supervision of John K. Snediker, but was not completed until 1874.

The first service was held in the new church on Easter Day, March 28, 1875.



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Upjohn, Everad. Richard Upjohn: Architect and Churchman (reprint)  
New York: Da Capo Press, 1968.

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Building Committee Minutes, 1871-1875.

Vestry Minutes, Saint Paul's Parish, Vol. Nos. 1 and 2, 1863-1878.