

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0142701

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 21 1975  
DATE ENTERED JUN 20 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

Dallas County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Selma Historic and Civic Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

109 Union Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Selma

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Dallas

047

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Civic Bldg.
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Selma

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Selma

VICINITY OF

Alabama

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dallas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

105 Lauderdale Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Selma

Alabama

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Selma Historic and Civic Building is an imposing three story Greek Revival structure which is located on the corner of a large lot in one of Selma's residential sections. The red brick structure is rectangular in shape and its seven bay facade, central chimney and three story height make it unusual for this section of the state.

Four Ionic columns of the central portico rise the full three stories to support a pediment. The unadorned entablature encircles the structure and is topped with a simple cornice.

The doors of the central entrance have been replaced and the transom removed. Single doors which give access to the second and third story balconies are framed with side lights and transoms. Beltcourses continue the line of the two balconies across the facade. All windows are double hung, regularly spaced and have flat rectangular lentils. Those across the facade presently have two panes per sash while the remainder are 6 over 6.

The interior has been altered several times and the later addition of a rear wing was removed in 1971. On the ground floor, the central hall, a front parlor, and sitting room are furnished with period pieces. Grounds around the building have been landscaped with fountains, benches and walkways to provide a small park for the city.

364'

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES late 1840's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Selma Historic and Civic Building is one of Selma's most historic buildings, having served a variety of public and private uses since its construction over 130 years ago.

Built in the late 1840's by the Selma Fraternal Lodge No. 27 of Free and Accepted Masons, the building housed a school, the Central Masonic Institute, which was operated jointly by the Masons and the Ladies Educational Society.

Incorporated February 19, 1848, the Institute opened in October of that year with 45 pupils. Three years later the property was mortgaged to Caroline M. Tarver, and apparently financial reverses resulted in its loss by the Masonic Order. During the Civil War, the former school was used as a hospital for sick and wounded Confederates.

Immediately after the war, Selma began an intensive campaign to have the Dallas County seat moved from Cahaba, where it had been since the county was established, to Selma. As a major factor in luring the county government to Selma, the city purchased the old Central Masonic Institute property and presented it to the county for use as a courthouse.

Voters subsequently approved the moving of the county seat to Selma, and from 1866 until a new courthouse was completed and occupied in the spring of 1902, county government was housed in the building. After county officials vacated the structure, it seems to have remained unused for some time. However, for four years prior to 1908 it again housed a school, the Selma Military Institute.

From 1911 to 1960 the building was again used as a hospital. Trustees of the estate of Henry W. Vaughn operated the Vaughn Memorial Hospital there. The trustees had purchased the property from the county.

The building stood vacant from 1960 until the city of Selma purchased the property in 1969 for \$82,500. Federal Open Space grant provided \$41,000 of the amount and the remainder was supplied by the county government and the Selma Housing Authority.

Restoration of the structure as a civic center and public garden was completed in 1971.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hardy, John. Selma: Her Men and Her Institutions. Selma, 1879.

Jackson, Walter. The Story of Selma. Birmingham, 1954.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 Acre

*UTM OK / HM*

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,6 | 49,7 | 5,8,0 | 3,5 | 8,5 | 1,4,0 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

May 13, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Milo B. Howard, Jr.*

TITLE

*SHPO*

DATE

*May 15, 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*6/30/75*

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*JUN 20 1975*