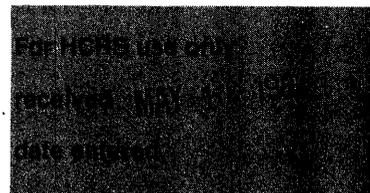OMB 1024-001

EXP 12·31·84

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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   *Selma, North Carolina Multiple Resource Area*

historic Historic Resources of Selma, North Carolina: A Partial Inventory of Architectural
Resources

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Planning Limits of the Town of Selma   ___ **not for publication**

city, town Selma   ___ **vicinity of**   **congressional district** Third

state   North Carolina   **code** 037   **county** Johnston   **code**   101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	_X_ unoccupied	_X_ commercial	___ park
___ structure	_X_ both	_X_ work in progress	_X_ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	_X_ government	___ scientific
MR	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	_X_ transportation
	N/A	_x_ no	___ military	_x_ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership: See individual inventory forms

street & number

city, town   ___ **vicinity of**   **state**

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnston County Courthouse

street & number   Market Street

city, town   Smithfield   **state**   North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   Selma Historical Survey   **has this property been determined elegible?** ___ yes _X_ no

date   1979   ___ federal ___ state ___ county _X_ local

depository for survey records Division of Archives & History, N.C.Dept.of Cultural Resources

city, town   Raleigh   **state**   North Carolina

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

| Continuation sheet | Representation in Existing Surveys | Item number 6 | Page 1 |

Historical and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin

1977   State Survey

Division of Archives & History, N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

Raleigh   North Carolina

(Includes the following buildings: People's Bank/Branch Banking and Trust Company Building, Person-Vick Building, John A. Mitchener Building, Union Station, Nowell-Mayerburg-Oliver House)

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The corporate and one mile planning limits of the Town of Selma form the boundaries of the Multiple Resource area. Selma is located in central Johnston County, approximately two miles southeast of the Neuse River, and is within the Tar-Neuse River Basin of Eastern North Carolina. The typical terrain of the area is flat with an average elevation of 175 feet above sea level. The area is marked by a high water table and several small ponds and swamps.

The Town of Selma is laid out on a regular grid, platted in 1867 and oriented to the Southern Railroad right-of-way. The streets run roughly northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest. The typical residential block is a 300 by 300 foot square, which is subdivided into building lots varying from 150' X 150' to 50' x 150'. The commercial blocks are subdivided into roughly 25' x 150' lots, although these vary extensively.

Selma was founded in 1867 during the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War. Prior to the Civil War several large plantations were active in the area around Mitchener's Station (the original name of the area that eventually became Selma). The only remaining example for an ante-bellum plantation is the Everitt P. Stevens House (c. 1850). The Stevens House became a focal point during the last major battle of the Civil War fought in North Carolina, when it was used as a campground and reassembly point after the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Bentonville, March 19-21, 1865.

The development of Selma occurred due to the construction of the North Carolina Railroad (now the Southern Railroad), which was completed in 1856. In 1867, the original Mitchener's Station (the Southern Railroad Freight Depot) was moved to a new location within the newly platted Town of Selma. Early development of the town centered on the depot and the railroad, with commercial buildings and houses built along the tracks and to the south. As the town started to prosper around the turn of the century, commercial development shifted from the railroad to Raiford Street and housing shifted from the southern portion of the town to the north and north-western part.

The architectural development of Selma is typical of post Civil War communities in Eastern North Carolina and has remained largely intact. There are two ante-bellum structures extant in the town. The Everitt P. Stevens House (c. 1850) is a vernacular two-story, three bay plantation house. The house exhibits some hints of the popular Greek Revival style in the use of corner pilasters and in the door and window surrounds. Mitchener's Station (1856) is similar to other depots that were constructed by the North Carolina Railroad. The one story building has a hip roof with generous overhanging eaves and a two room plan.

The survival of architectural styles is typical of communities that were out of the main stream of architectural and cultural development. For example the (Former) United States Post Office Building, located on Railroad Street, was built in the Greek Revival style c. 1870. The Greek Revival style by 1870 had given way to other more current revival styles across the nation.

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

The downtown area chronicles the architectural and economic development of Selma. An economic boom occurred in the 1890s with the completion of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad (now the Seaboard Coastline). Selma became a major crossroad in Eastern North Carolina for north-south and east-west rail travel. Prior to 1900 commercial buildings consisted mainly of one story frame buildings, located along the Southern Railroad. As development increased, one and two story brick structures started to replace the frame buildings and new development concentrated along Raiford Street, the main north-south route through the town. These early buildings are vernacular in design, featuring corbels and decorative brick work around window and door openings and along the cornice lines. As the town became more economically stable, high style buildings based on nationally popular trends, made their appearance. The Neo-Classical, Renaissance Revival and various eclectic styles mark the buildings of the more progressive era of the teens and twenties. Also during the economic boom period of the teens and twenties, new architectural building types developed, as a result of the automobile industry. Service stations and automobile salesrooms made their appearance in Selma around 1915. These service stations and salesrooms replaced the livery stables which had served the needs of an earlier transportation mode. None of these livery stables, of which there were quite a few, exist in present day Selma. Some of the more noteworthy examples of commercial architecture in Selma are: the Selma Manufacturing Company (1902), an elaborate vernacular building; the Person-Vick Building (1916), one of the finest buildings in Selma based loosely on the Renaissance Revival and exhibiting some fine eclectic brick and stone details; and the monumental People's Bank/Branch Banking and Trust Company Building, 1922, a prime example of the Neo-Classical style that was popular for bank buildings during the 1920s.

From 1899 through the early 1920s industrial development in Selma increased dramatically, with most of the major industries being founded during this period. The industries were located along the two railroad lines, usually outside the corporate limits of the town so that town policies did not intergere with the operations of the industry. The major industry was the three cotton mills; the Selma Cotton Mills, 1904, the Lizzie Cotton Mill, 1907, and the Ethel Cotton Mill, 1910. These three mills built villages to house their individual workers.

Residential architecture in the Town of Selma is divided into three basic categories; first are the larger late-Victorian types of high-style derivation; second are the small mill cottages built for the workers of the cotton mills and other industries, and third are the 1920 bungalows.

The most popular residential style during the late 1890s and up to c. 1910 was Queen Anne. The N. E. Edgerton House (1896) and the Nowell-Mayerburg-Oliver House (c. 1912) are the two finest examples of this style extant in the town. Also popular for larger residences was the Neo-Classical Style employed in houses around 1915 and the Colonial Revival employed in the 1930s.

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Mill houses were mostly one-story structures with or without a facade gable and a full elevation porch. These houses were extremely modest and were built from c. 1900 to c. 1910.

By 1910, the beginnings of the bungalow style were being felt in the town. Several of the older houses had their porches rebuilt in the new style. The bungalow dominated the architectural scene up to the 1929 Crash. The style was popularized through magazines and plan books.

The growth of the downtown commercial area, the industries and the residential areas can be traced graphically through four maps produced by the Sanborn Map Company, dated 1905, 1911, 1923, and 1933.

Virtually no development took place in Selma during the 1930s and 1940s. It was not until the 1950s and '60s that undeveloped building lots were developed with consistent one story brick commercial structures of no real architectural importance. The 1970s have seen the construction of two new bank buildings within the district and are examples of the modern style, with exposed concrete panels and large expanses of glass.

The Architectural and Historical Survey of Selma was a joint project between the Town of Selma and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History. The project was funded by a matching grant and involved four months of research and compilation of information during the summer of 1979. Thomas A. Greco, a Syracuse University School of Architecture graduate, was hired as the principal investigator to complete the project.

This survey is the first part of what will hopefully be developed into a comprehensive preservation planning program within the Town of Selma. The results of the survey have documented and recorded approximately one hundred seventy structures of architectural and/or historical significance within the development of the town. The inventory list includes one hundred thirty-five of the researched buildings.

The methodology employed in conducting the survey involved an initial windshield survey of the entire town, listing some five hundred structures which required further study. This list included all buildings constructed prior to 1930. Further research included interviews with property owners, older citizens in the community and primary and secondary resources. Among the resources used were census records, will abstracts, old newspapers, insurance maps and past histories of the town.

There are several areas in the resource area which may have archaeological significance; however, an archaeological component was not included in the initial phase of the Architectural/Historical Survey. This nomination therefore is based solely on the extant building fabric in the resource area.

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The criteria used in assessing the properties included in the first phase of the project were based on the architectural significance of the individual properties-- whether it was a single example of particular style or whether it was a representative example of common Building style. Also contributing to the assessment of the properties was its historical significance to the development of the town; whether or not an influential person built it or lived there.

8. Significance

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Town of Selma is located in central Johnston County, four miles north of Smith-field, the county seat. The town was laid out on a regular grid in 1867, with the freight depot of the Southern Railroad established as the geographic center. According to John A. Mitchener's History of Selma, the surveyors' description of Selma stated, "To find the beginning corner of the town of Selma, commence at the warehouse or depot now being moved from Mitchener depot and measure so many chainsand links towards Golds-boro, and then at right angle to the road and from center of said road 100 feet to a stake, the beginning corner of the Town of Selma."[1] Like many post Civil War towns in Eastern North Carolina, Selma relied on the railroad for its economic development. Today the town remains virtually unchanged from its appearance during Selma's greatest period of economic development, 1900-1930, when the railroad was the major form of travel. Little remains of the pre-1900 development, especially in the downtown area where many of the early commercial buildings were of wood frame construction. However, very few of the prime residences and commercial buildings built after 1900 have been destroyed.

The Colonial history of the area began with the settlement of North Carolina's coastal plain. The first settlers were English, who came primarily from the Virginia coastal settlements.[2] The dominant Indian tribe of the area were the Tuscaroras. As the coastal settlements expanded, due principally to the constant need for virgin land to support the agricultural economy, the once friendly tribe turned hostile towards the settlers. This growing hostility by both the settlers and the Indians resulted in the devastating Tuscarora Wars, 1711-1715.[3] These wars virtually annihilated the Indian population as well as the English settlers. With the removal of the Indian menace, however, the unhampered expansion of the coastal settlements occurred, thereby opening up the interior lands for new settlements.[4] The English were later joined by the Scotch, both Highlanders and Scotch-Irish, and the Germans. These groups of immi-grants came primarily from the Pennsylvania colony.[5] The formation of Johnston County occurred in 1746, largely from the northwest portion of Craven County, and was named for Gabriel Johnston, the Royal Govenor of North Carolina from 1734-1752. The Town of Smithfiels, chartered in 1777, is located at the navigable head of the Neuse River and was established as the county seat.

The Neuse River played an important part in the early economic life of the area. The river served as a transportation route for shipments of naval stores - tar, pitch rosin and turpentine - and of lumber to the port of New Bern.[6] The production of naval stores became, "The most valuable of the colonies exports . . . and this was the only industry in which North Carolina held first place among the English colonies."[7] Lum-bering was even more widespread than the naval stores industry and, "like naval stores, was usually carried out in connection with ordinary farm operations, and these two industries supplemented the income of some operators as much as 100 a year."[8] The early farmers were mainly subsistence, producing only what was needed for their survival with very little left over, so this extra income was extremely useful.

In the mid-nineteenth century, during a period of economic prosperity nationwide, North Carolina saw an increase in staple crop production, centered on tobacco and cotton. During the 1840's and 1850's, "Rising crop prices and cheaper and better transportation greatly increased the volume of crop production, sales, and profits of farmers, especially those living within reach of plank roads, railroads, and navigable waters."[9] Cotton production increased in Eastern North Carolina, as a result of this economic prosperity and the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney in 1793.[10] Larger plantations, producing cotton on a cash crop basis, started to appear in Johnston County by the 1840's and 1850's. The Everitt P. Stevens House, built c.1850, is a notable example of the plantation type farm. The house was built on a 700 acre tract of land which was willed to Everitt in 1829 by his father, Jacob.[11]

Along with the growth of the plantation system came an increase in slavery. Slavery in North Carolina, however, was never practiced to the extent it was in the other southern states, especially Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi. Slavery was predominate in the coastal plain and the piedmont areas of the state, with higher concentrations of slaves in the counties along the Virginia border. Johnston County was not a large slave holding county, even though cotton was the chief cash crop. According to the Slave Schedule from the 1850 Johnston County census, only a few plantation owners were listed as owning more than fifty slaves; the most notable of these were the plantations of Agrippa Mitchener (fifty-two slaves) and of Josiah O. Watson, (318 slaves, the single largest owner in Johnston County). Everitt Stevens owned twenty slaves, including six from his father's will,[12] which would have been considered quite a few. The majority of slave owners held fewer than ten slaves; with slave owners in the minority of total farmers in the county.[13]

The primary route for the transportation of cotton out of Johnston County was the North Carolina Railroad. In 1848 the North Carolina Assembly worked out a plan to construct a railroad across the state, from Goldsboro to Charlotte, through Raleigh. The Raleigh to Goldsboro line was opened to rail traffic in 1856.[14] At the cross-road of the Louisburg to Smithfield stage road and the railroad, Mitchener's Station was built. The station was named for Agrippa Mitchener, the owner of the adjacent plantation. The local farmers used the station to ship their cotton and as a market place to purchase supplies and to sell the few surplus items which they produced, such as milk, butter and eggs.[15]

During the Civil War, Mitchener's Station was used by the local Confederate Troops as a point of departure.[16] At the end of the war, after the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Bentonville (March 19-21, 1865), the Confederate Army retreated to the station and to the Everitt P. Stevens House. From March 24 to April 10, 1865 the Army re-assembled its decimated ranks before they started their final retreat before General Sherman. On April 6, 1865 the "Last Grand Review" of the Confederate Army was held near the Stevens House.[17] An eye witness from the 72nd Regiment of North Carolina Troops described the last review in this way, "The Regiment remained in camp near Smithfield until 10 April. During that time our corps under command of General Hardee was reviewed by General Johnston, General Hardee, Governor Vance and others. There was not in the grand parade of that day - the last grand review of the Confederate Army - a more soldierly body of troops than the Junior Reserves. Later in the day, Governor Vance made a

stirring speech to the North Carolina Troops, which by its eloquence aroused enthusiasm and caused fire of patriotism to burn more brightly in our hearts. On 10 April we begun (sic) our last retreat before Sherman."[18]

In·the fall of 1866, following the Civil War, Colnel John W. Sharpe came to Mitchener's Station seeking consignments of naval stores for A. W. Lamb and Company of Norfolk, Virginia. Sharpe was struck by the richness of the areas' naval stores industry and decided that the station would be a good location for a new town. However, upon investigation it was found that the lands surrounding the station were owned by John A. Mitchener and his sister, Alice Turner, the two minor heirs of Agrippa Mitchener. Thomas H. Atkinson, Sr., John and Alice's legal guardian, started the process for obtaining a court order to sell the minors' real estate. This legal process took a great deal of time, during which Col. Sharpe met Daniel Sellers, an early settler in the area. Sellers was willing to sell Sharpe a fifty acre tract of land which was located one and a half miles east of Mitchener's Station, along the railroad.[19] Sharpe convinced the North Carolina Railroad to move the station to his tract of land. The land was platted by county surveyor, Charles Massey, and on May 1, 1867, a lot sale was held at the station on its new site in the center of the new town. Sharpe decided on the name Selma, after he rejected the name Sharpsburg, in memory of his hometown, Selma, Alabama.[20]

The early development of the town naturally centered on the railroad. Because of the lack of good roads, all movement of goods

and supplies and most travel was conducted by rail. Business estab-
lishments sprang up along the tracks, making deliveries and shipments
easier. Fine residences were also built fronting on the railroad, which
showed the prosperity of the town to all who traveled by the many trains.

The growth of the town was slow, but by 1869 the town was
beginning to prosper. The 1869 Branson's Directory of North Carolina
Businesses listed several merchants, turpentine distilleries, one hotel,
an iron works (located on the Neuse River) and the Wilson Lumber Company.[21]
The Wilson Lumber Company, actually located in the nearby community of
Wilson's Mills, was one of the most prolific saw mills in the area.
The company was founded by John Marshall Wilson (1815-1901) and John A.
Waddell (1826-1882). Wilson and Waddell came to Johnston County just
after the end of the Civil War from Warrenton, North Carolina.[22]
Besides running a busy saw mill, Wilson and Waddell built many homes in
and around Selma and Smithfield as well as the J. M. Heck House (1869)
in Raleigh, the Julian S. Carr House in Durham and the Atlantic Hotel
in Morehead City.[23]

On February 11, 1873 Selma received its formal charter from
the General Assembly. The General Sessions Laws of 1872-1873 includes
the following:

> An Act to Incorporate the Town of Selma, in the
> County of Johnston
>
> Section I. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact,
> That the Town of Selma, in the County of Johnston be and the
> same is hereby incorporated by the name and style of the Town
> of Selma, and be subject to the provisions contained in chapter
> one hundred and eleven of the Revised Code . . ..
> Section II. That the Corporate limits of said town shall
> be as follows: one-half mile square making the railroad ware-

house the geographical centre.

Section III. The officers of said corporation shall consist of a mayor, four commissioners and a marshal. 24

Captain Albert Morris Noble, a prominent merchant and farmer in the new community was elected as Selma's first mayor.[25]

Education was an important part of the early life of the town. In 1869, Selma saw the formation of its first private school, about which little is known today. In 1880 John A. Waddell built one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the area, the Selma Academy. The fame of the Academy grew under the direction of its first principal, Dr. Henry Louis Smith, and his brother C. Alphonso Smith. Enrollment in the school rose to a high of one hundred students, with some of them coming from the neighboring counties of Wake, Wayne, Wilson and Franklin. Dr. Smith, after leaving Selma around 1890, became president of Davidson College (1901-1912) in Davidson, North Carolina and later of Washington and Lee University (1912-1929) in Lexington, Virginia.[26] The first black school was also started in 1880, near the present site of Richard B. Harrison School.[27]

Religion was not neglected in Selma's early years. The first congregation formed was the Selma Baptist Church in 1872. A small wood frame building was erected on the corner of East Watson and South Sharpe Streets. This building served the Baptist community until it was re- placed by the present brick structure in 1907. The Methodist-Episcopal Church was formed in 1878. A wooden building was constructed on a lot donated by John A. Waddell and the Wilson Lumber Company. Members of the building committee were: Dr. Joshua W. Vick, chairman; John A.

Mitchener, treasurer; and W. G. Graves, secretary. The present brick building, built in 1910, occupies the same lot. In the mid-1880's, the First Baptist Church was organized by black leaders. Services were held under a brush arbor until 1890 when a permanent building was constructed. The original church was destroyed by fire and was replaced by the present brick building in 1925.[28]

Coinciding with the intellectual and spiritual well-being of the people of Selma, their physical health was being maintained by two prominent doctors; Dr. Richard J. Noble, son of Capt. A. M. Noble, and Dr. Joshua W. Vick. Dr. Noble (1853-1930) began his practice in 1876 and continued until 1926. During the early 1900's Dr. Noble rose to prominence in the North Carolina Masonic Organization, serving as the Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Lodge in the late 1910's and early 1920's.[29] Dr. Joshua W. Vick (1843-1900) came to Selma c.1875. He supported some of the social and religious institutions that enhanced the quality of life in the community. Dr. Vick was one of the charter members, in 1878, of the Methodist Church.[30] Associated with Dr. Vick is the Vick Chemical Company, now a division of the Richardson-Merrill Pharmaceutical Company. In 1880 Lunceford Richardson, Dr. Vick's brother-in-law came to Selma. Lunceford bought a small pharmacy from Dr. Vick and Dr. Noble. While in residence in Selma, Lunceford started marketing a pneumonia salve, which it is believed was first concocted by Dr. Vick for use on his patients. Lunceford later added a series of other salves which he himself invented. In 1891 Lunceford moved to Greensboro, where he formally started the Vick Chemical Company, named in honor of Dr. J. W. Vick. The original trademark of the company featured a red triangle with a picture of the three Vick children: George, Edward and Dora; in each of the triangles points.[31]

From 1880 to 1900 North Carolina saw extensive railroad construction. The rapid expansion of the rail system, "resulted from genuine economic need, national prosperity and railroad expansion, the influx of Northern capital, and the special favoritism of the Democratic legislatures for railroad companies in the form of tax exemption and freedom from regulations."[32] Over 1500 miles of tracks were constructed during the twenty year period. This increased railroad development brought a second phase of growth to Selma.

In 1885 the Atlantic Coastline Railroad decided to shorten its New York to Florida route by constructing a short cut from Wilson to Fayetteville. This short cut brought the Atlantic Coastline through Selma, crossing the Southern Railroad a few blocks east of downtown. By 1892, when the line was completed, Selma became a major crossroads for north-south and east-west travel.[33] As a result an economic boom occurred; business and industrial development grew and housing became scarce. Several large hotels were built at the intersection of the railroads including the New Wyoming House in 1896 and the Merchants Hotel in 1903.[34]

The period from 1899 to 1910 saw the greatest increase in industrial development that the town has ever experienced. The names of N. E. Edgerton and Moses C. Winston feature prominently during this decade of growth. These two men co-founded, along with a varying group of Selma businessmen, almost every major industry and financial institution in the town. Noah E. Edgerton (1873-1921), born in Beulah Township in Johnston County, came to Selma in 1886 as the first depot agent for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad.[35] Moses C. Winston came to Selma around the turn of the century. He started the W. C. Winston Company, a gen-

eral dry goods and grocery store, as well as dealers in cotton.[36] Starting
in 1899, the association of Edgerton and Winston began with the founding
of the Selma Oil and Fertilizer Works, renamed the Navassa Guano Fert-
ilizer Company, a subsidiary of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company.
The Selma Manufacturing Company, 1901, was followed by the Bank of Selma,
1902; and the Selma Furniture Company, 1902, which merged in 1903 with
the Selma Manufacturing Company. In 1904 the first of the three cotton
mills was founded. The Selma Cotton Mills had N. E. Edgerton, president;
M. C. Winston, vice-president; and R. B. Whitley, secretary-treasurer.
The mill started operations on March 17, 1905, with Alexander Jackson
Rose as the first Superintendent. The Selma Cotton Mills was followed
by the Lizzie Cotton Mill in 1907, and the Ethel Cotton Mill in 1910.[37]
The Lizzie and Ethel Mills were named for M. C. Winston's two daughters.
M. C. Winston retained interest in the three mills until the early
1920's when they were sold.

The focus of downtown development around the turn of the century
shifted from the railroad to Raiford Street, between Railroad and
Anderson Streets. This shift resulted in the improvement of the major
north-south road running through Selma. The businesses, which still relied
heavily on the railroad, now had improved transportation to their
places of business. One and two story brick buildings were constructed
replacing earlier wood frame commercial buildings.

By the turn of the century, tobacco as a cash crop, had replaced
the earlier tradition of cotton production, due in large part to the
falling of cotton prices after the 1893 economic depression. Tobacco
warehouses, including the Star and the Planters, were in operation in
Selma by 1905.[39] The tobacco industry flourished across the state with
major production centers in Durham, Winston and Reidsville.

As Selma's economy prospered around the turn of the century, so did the social life of the town. The two early churches both built new buildings; Selma Baptist in 1907 and the Methodist-Episcopal in 1910. The Selma Presbyterian Church was organized in 1909 and had the present wood frame building dedicated by 1915. Also contributing to the social life was the Opera House; the scene of numerous plays, lectures and meetings.

The educational system saw great improvements, with the establishment of several new private schools. In 1901 the first free school was opened, the Selma Graded School, on the corner of Green and Waddell Streets.[40] The Graded School initiated the public school system in Selma which later expanded into a new building on Richardson Street and into the Richard B. Harrison School on Noble Street.

Selma was host to a popular event from 1912-1917, known as the Selma Tomato, Melon and Better Baby Fair. First organized by John A. Mitchener, the Fair attracted large crowds each year that it was held. In 1917, the last year of the Fair, many of the larger programs were held in the new Town Hall and Opera House. This building, torn down in 1971, had been a major landmark from the time of its construction in 1916. It had the distinction of being the tallest building in town.[41]

Selma continued to grow throughout the teens and twenties. Businesses were built, schools constructed and life seemed to be flourishing. In the early 1920's the mills were sold and underwent extensive improvements and expansions. Because of decreasing farm production in the late 1910's, there was shift from rural to urban life. Also the expansion of the textile industry, provided employment for these new town dwellers. In 1920, Eastern Manufacturing Company was chartered by Charles Johnston.

Eastern bought the Ethel and Lizzie Mills in 1921 from M.C. Winston.
Johnston operated both mills until 1932, at which
time a strike forced the closing of the Ethel Mill. All operations were
then consolidated at the Lizzie Mill.[42] The Selma Cotton Mills was sold in
1920 to the Standard Coated Products Company from New York and underwent
a complete overhaul. The two cotton mills then started intense competition
for new workers, through advertisements in the local newspapers. Eastern
stated:

> We are about to complete overhauling of the
> former Lizzie Cotton Mill and village at Selma.
> This now makes a completely new plant and village.
> We will use the best of cotton, keep things in
> proper shape and pay the best of wages. Rent and
> electric lights free to those working with us. We
> will be glad to hear from anyone interested by
> letter, over the phone or in person. We have
> a fine truck ready to come for you. 43

Selma Cotton Mill had an advertisement which stated:

> Our new addition to our mill is almost ready
> to start. We will have the first weaving in
> Johnston County. We can now use several families
> with spinners and winders. We pride ourselves
> on having and keeping a nice, clean village.
> We have humidifiers in the mill. This adds to
> working conditions and makes work run better.
> We provide free house rent, with electric lights.
> If interested, write, phone or come to see us. 44

With the expansion of the cotton mill industry, a housing boom
developed. The bungalow style emerged as the dominant architectural
style. The beginnings of the Bungalow style occured early in the
twentieth century in three distinct areas of the country. The first
was in the northeast, developed by Gustave Stickley and popularized
in his magazine, The Craftsman. Similar attitudes towards buildings
were emerging in the Prarie School work of Frank Lloyd Wright, in

the Midwest and on the West Coast in the work of the Greene brothers where the Bungalow prototype developed. The style was popularized across the nation through plan books published in the 1910's and 1920's and capitalized on the economy and convenience of the Bungalow for large or small houses.

Commercial buildings in the downtown area became more monumental in the twenties, culminating in the People's Bank/Branch Banking and Trust Company Building, 1922. This Neo-Classical brick building has giant order Corinthian Columns, flanking the main entrance, and supporting a bold cornice line. Other buildings of the period include the Person-Vick Building, 1916, a two story eclectically detailed brick structure and the John A. Mitchener Building, c.1925, which has an unusual , richly decorated terracotta entablature and pilasters attached to a one story brick building.

A devasting blow to Selma's prosperity came with the crash of 1929 and the resulting Depression of the thirties. Even in the midst of the Depression, however, several W.P.A. projects were completed which provided the town with a library, a large gymnasium and a new school for the black population. A few people managed to survive and even prosper during this period. Two of the finest Georgian Revival houses were built in the mid-thirties: the Dr. E. N. Booker house and the Samuel Wood house. Dr. Booker was a local physician, who turned to the real estate field during the Depression. Samuel P. Wood, owner of the Wood Grocery Company (1904),[45] was the local coal distributor in Selma. He also made quite a fortune in real estate during the Depression.

After the Great Depression little development took place in the town until the late 1940's and into the 1950's, when the economy of the nation was again in the upswing. Many of the vacant undeveloped

business lots downtown were built up, completing the overall character
of downtown as it appears today. House construction also increased,
with development in the older neighborhoods on lots which were sub-
divided from the older homes. These 1950's houses are for the most
part well built one-story brick structures which have been well main-
tained over the years.

Selma is once again experiencing an increase in its economy
with the development of new industry in the area which has resulted
in an increase in the population. New housing is being constructed
rapidly and people are rediscovering some of the older houses. Through
restoration and adaptive reuses these old homes are living reminders of
Selma's past history.

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2. Guion Griffis Johnson. Ante-Bellum North Carolina. The University of North Carolina Press; Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 1937. pp. 10-11.

3. Hugh Talmadge Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome. North Carolina. The University of North Carolina Press; Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 1954. pp. 58-61.

4. Selma Centennial Commission. Selma, North Carolina 1867-1967 "Selma's Colorful Century". Selma, North Carolina. 1967. p. 1.

5. Op. Cit., G. G. Johnson. p. 11.

6. Ibid., p. 5.

7. Op. Cit., Lefler and Newsome. p. 90.

8. Ibid., p. 92.

9. Ibid., p. 369.

10. Ibid., p. 405.

11. Ross. Will Abstracts 1825-1870 Johnston County, North Carolina. Vol. 2, p. 75. Taken from Register of Wills, Johnston County Courthouse. Will Book I, p. 409.

12. Ibid.

13. Op. Cit., Johnson. pp. 468-469.
see also: 1850 United States Census for Johnston County. The Slave Schedule has been abstracted from the total census and is in the Johnston County Room, Smithfield Public Library.

14. Op. Cit., Selma Centennial Commission (S.C.C.). pp. 1-2.

15. Ibid., p. 2.

16. Op. Cit., S.C.C. p. 2.

17. B.L. Ridley. "Last Battles of the War", The Confederate Veteran. Vol. III, No. 1, January 1895. p. 20.

18. Walter Clark (ed.) Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War 1861-1865. Nash Brothers; Goldsboro, North Carolina. 1901. Vol. IV, p. 59. See also Vol. III, pp. 199, 444, 514, 699; Vol. IV, pp. 21-22, 31.

19. Op. Cit., S.C.C. pp. 1-2.
    See also Mitchener, pp. 1-2.

20. Ibid., p. 2.

21. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory. 1869. 84-85.

22. 1860 United States Census Records for Warren County. Microfilm
    copies in the Johnston County Room, Smithfield Public Library.

23. Dr. William G. Wilson, Jr. Family of John Marshall Wilson.
    Unpublished manuscript in Johnston County Room, Smithfield
    Public Library.

    Also information supplied by Catherine Bishir, Head of Survey
    and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, North
    Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

24. General Sessions Laws of 1872-1873. Chapter XVI, p. 388.

25. Op. Cit., S.C.C. List of Selma Town Officials 1873-1967.

26. Ibid., p. 4.
    See also - Josephus Daniels (ed.) "Selma and the Smiths",
    News and Observer, June 17, 1922.

27. Ibid., p. 4.

28. Ibid., pp. 3, 5.

29. Johnston County Physicians 1775-1977. Unpublished Manuscript
    in Johnston County Room, Smithfield Public Library.

30. Op. Cit., S.C.C. p. 3.

31. Ibid., p. 4.

32. Op. Cit., Lefler and Newsome. p. 487.

33. Op. Cit., S.C. C. p. 5.

34. "Selma News" The Smithfield Herald. August 6, 1896; March
    20, 1903; April 24, 1903; May 29, 1903.

35. Op. Cit., S.C.C. p. 6.

36. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory - 1890.

37. Op. Cit., S.C.C. pp. 8, 9.
    See also "Selma News" The Smithfield Herald. April 1, 1904.
    June 22, 1906. Sanborn Map Company - Selma Maps 1911, 1923, 1933.

39. Sanborn Map Company. Selma Map 1905.

40. Op. Cit., S.C.C. p. 5.
    See also Sanborn Map Company. Selma Map 1911.

41. Op. Cit. Mitchener. p. 10.
    See also S.C.C. p. 10.

42. Op. Cit., S.C.C. pp. 11-12.

43. Ibid., p. 12.

44. Ibid., p. 12.

45. "Selma News", The Smithfield Herald. November 25, 1904.
    See also Sanborn Map Company. Selma Map. 1905, 1911, 1923, 1933.

9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

1. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory. 1869, 1890.

2. Clark, Walter (ed.). Histories of the Several Regiments and Batallions from North Carolin in the Great War 1861-1865. Nash Brothers; Goldsboro, North Carolina. 1901. Vol.III, IV

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __See individual properties.__
Quadrangle name __Selma, N. C.__   Quadrangle scale __1:24000__
UMT References   See individual properties

A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
   Zone   Easting   Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
   Zone   Easting   Northing

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

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

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual properties. Also see map of Selma, attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state   N/A   code   county   N/A   code

state   code   county   code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Thomas A. Greco - Consultant for the Selma Historical Survey

organization   Survey and Planning Branch
               Archaeology and Historic Pres. Section   date   August, 1980

street & number N.C. Division of Archives & History
                 109 E. Jones St.   telephone   (919)
                                                                 733-6545

city or town   Raleigh   state   North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: See Individual Forms.

____ national   ____ state   _X_ 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _William D. Price_

title   State Historic Preservation Officer   date   April 20, 1982

OMB 1024 CP 3

EXP 12-31-84

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES . . . Continued

3. Daniels, Josephus (ed.). "Selma and the Smiths", News and Observer,
    June 17, 1922.

4. Johnson, Guion Griffis. Ante-Bellum North Carolina. The University
    of North Carolina Press; Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 1937.

5. Johnston County Physicians 1775-1977. Unpublished manuscript in
    Johnston County Room, Smithfield Public Library; Smithfield, North
    Carolina.

6. Lefler, Hugh Talmadge and Albert Ray Newsome. North Carolina.
    The University of North Carolina Press; Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
    1954.

7. Mitchener, John A. History of Selma. The Johnstonian Sun, Inc.;
    Selma, North Carolina. 1965. Originally appeared as an article
    in the Smithfield Herald - November 9, 1922.

8. North Carolina Legislature. General Sessions Laws of 1872-1973.
    Chapter XVI.

9. Ridley, B. L. "Last Battles of the War", The Confederate Veteran.
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    Vol. 2. Abstracted from Register of Wills, Johnston County Court-
    house; Smithfield, North Carolina.

11. Sanborn Map Company. Map of Selma. 1905, 1911, 1923, 1933. New
    York, New York.

12. Selma Centennial Commission. Selma, North Carolina 1867-1967
    "Selma's Colorful Century". Selma, North Carolina. 1967.

13. "Selma News", The Smithfield Herald: August 6, 1896; March 20, 1903;
    April 24, 1903; April 24, 1903, May 29, 1903; April 1, 1904; November
    24, 1904; June 22, 1906; November 9, 1922.

14. United States Census Bureau. 1860 United States Census Records for
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form
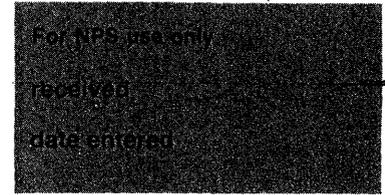
Continuation sheet	Item number	4	Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name   Selma North Carolina Multiple Resource Area
State   NC

Nomination/Type of Review   Date/Signature

1. Selma Historic District   **Substantive Review**   Keeper _____ Return 10/17/83 PWA

                                        Attest _return 6/23_

2. Stevens, Everitt P., House   Entered in the National Register   Keeper _Selma Byers 6/24/82_

                                        Attest _____

3. Smith, William E., House   Entered in the National Register   Keeper _Selma Byers 6/24/82_

                                        Attest _____

4. Union Station   Entered in the National Register   Keeper _Selma Byers 6/24/82_

                                        Attest _____

5. Nowell-Mayerburg-Oliver House   Entered in the National Register   Keeper _Selma Byers 6/24/82_

                                        Attest _____

6. Selma Graded School   **Substantive** Review   Keeper _Ret 6/24_

                                        Attest _return 6/22_

7. Edgerton, Noah Edward, House   Entered in the National Register   Keeper _Selma Byers 6/24/82_

                                        Attest _____

8. Waddell-Oliver House   **DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**   Keeper _Determined eligible William H Branham 6/24/82_

                                        Attest _Carol Dilsie 6/23/82_

9.   Keeper _____

                                        Attest _____

10.   Keeper _____

                                        Attest _____