

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA  
 COUNTY: DALLAS  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 26 1972  
 DATE:

1. NAME  
 COMMON: Water Avenue Historic District  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Water Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Selma  
 STATE: Alabama CODE: 01 COUNTY: Dallas CODE: 047

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: Multiple owners  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dallas County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 105 Lauderdale Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Selma STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Water Avenue Historic District consists of five of the six blocks which front onto Water Avenue between Franklin and Lauderdale Streets. The block between Washington and Broad on the north side of Water Avenue has been omitted from the district. The area consists of 21 buildings all of which are either commercial establishments, offices or are vacant. Architectural styles are varied but all are distinctly 19th century commercial buildings. All are brick or stone construction varying in height from one to three stories and several have one or two story iron verandas which project out over the sidewalk.

All buildings are structurally sound and on some limited facade restoration has been undertaken.



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ADDENDUM

SOUTH SIDE OF WATER AVENUE BETWEEN FRANKLIN AND WASHINGTON

1224 Wicker Transfer Company (assessed to Frank Cothran)

1220 Cothran Feed and Grain (assessed to Frank Cothran)

1200 -

1218 Meadows Tire Recapping Company (assessed to R. C. Meadows)  
was the St. James Hotel 1837; a HABS structure.

NORTH SIDE OF WATER AVENUE BETWEEN FRANKLIN AND WASHINGTON

( all are 1860's - 70's )

1224 Adler Furniture (assessed to David Loeb)

1221-

1217 S & P Furniture and Men's Shoes (assessed to H. C. Long)

1211 Dallas Wholesale Inc. (assessed to Dr. G. C. Blanton)

1207 unoccupied (assessed to Dr. G. C. Blanton)

1203 Yellow Food Store (assessed to Mrs. Laura Carter)

1201 Hardin's Furniture and Antiques (assessed to Brace Lowoy)

SOUTH SIDE OF WATER AVENUE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BROAD

1124- one structure

1122 1124 occupied by Callen Feed (assessed to Russell Callen)

1122 unoccupied (assessed to Theo Coffee)

1118-

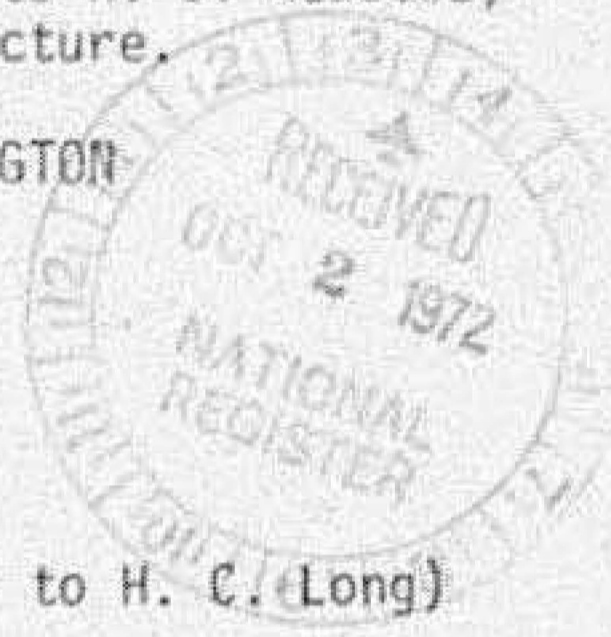
1120 Dallas Feed and Seed Co. (assessed to Margaret B. McCormick)

1112 Southern Clothing and Notions Co. (assessed to Harry Maring, Jr.  
1859)

1104 assessed to Third National Bank of Nashville, Trustee 1858

NORTH SIDE OF WATER AVENUE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BROAD

OMIT





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ADDENDUM

SOUTH SIDE OF WATER AVENUE BETWEEN BROAD AND LAUDERDALE (all 1870's-1880's)

- 1016-  
1018 Selma Times Journal
- 1014 Sloop Office Equipment (assessed to Margaret B. McCormick)
- 1012 unoccupied (assessed to Margaret B. McCormick)
- 1010-  
1008 one structure 1010 Eastep-Haisten Realty (assessed to John Carothers  
1008 Mackin Elect. Co. (assessed to) Mrs. Sarah F. Petty 1873
- 1006-  
1004 one structure 1006 Bonnie's Beauty Salon (assessed to Mrs. W. S. Woolsey  
1004 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners \* " " " " " " " " " " " "
- 1002-  
1000 one structure 1002 Pet Safari assessed to Sol Tepper  
1000 Mutual Loans " " " "

NORTH SIDE OF WATER AVENUE BETWEEN BROAD AND LAUDERDALE

- 1019-  
1017 assessed to S. A. and S. R. Sommers c. 1850  
&  
1 Broad St.

- 1007-  
1005-  
1003 assessed to Roy Childers





**SIGNIFICANCE**

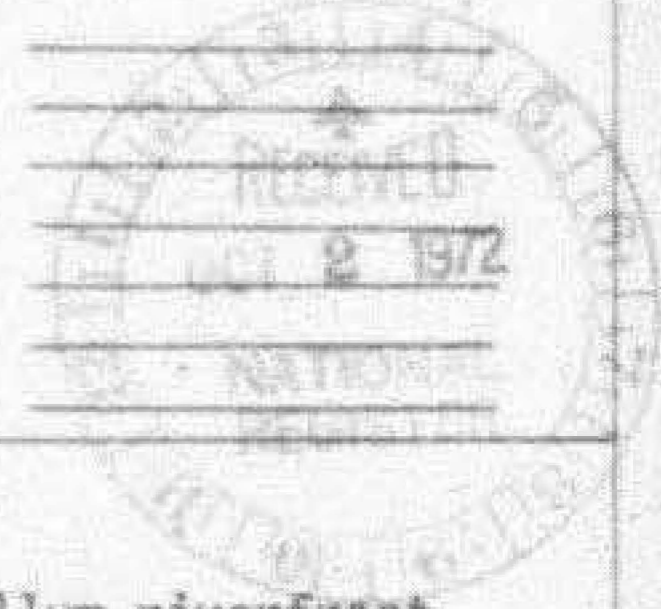
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 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 checked="" 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

Water Avenue is one of the few surviving antebellum riverfront streets in the Lower South which has retained its waterfront character. Of the 14 blocks which face onto this street 5 are of superior quality, retaining much of their original design and features. The 25 buildings located within these five blocks were built between the late 1830's and the end of the 19th century. One of them, built in 1837, the St. James Hotel, now the Meadows Tire Recapping Co., is listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey.

This area along the bluffs of the Alabama River was inhabited by settlers as early as 1809-1810 and was called "High Soap Stone Bluff". By 1815 the area had become known as "Moore's Bluff" taking this name from Thomas Moore who settled at this location.

In 1819 the Selma Land Company was organized for the purpose of trading and speculation in land. Large tracts of land were purchased by the company at government sales, and at the area surrounding Moore's Bluff the company laid out streets and planned the Town of Selma on its present site. It was later incorporated by the State legislature on December 4, 1820.

The wooden shanties which lined Water and Broad Streets during the early years began to give way to more substantial brick buildings during the 1830's and 1840's. Shortly thereafter economic reversals in the state were felt in Selma and little was built during this period, but in 1848 new life was infused into the town in consequence of a charter for the construction of the Alabama and Tennessee Railroad. A period of rapid development followed, with some of the present buildings being constructed during this time.

During the period of the Confederacy, Selma was the most important military depot in the southern tier of states of the Confederacy. The arsenal and naval foundry were located there, and the St. James Hotel served as the main housing for Confederate officers and personnel who came to work in the arsenal and foundry.

When Federal forces occupied the city in 1865, all of the war-sup-

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8. WATER AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED.....

porting industries and structures were burned, as was much of the city. It has been estimated that as much as two-thirds of the business section was burned. However, following the war, cotton speculation, created a boom and 1870-1890 buildings went up to replace the burned ones.





9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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

Sulzby, James. Historic Alabama Hotels and Resorts. (1964)  
Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	32° 24' 24"	87° 01' 14"		0	0	
NE	32° 24' 21"	87° 01' 11"				
SE	32° 24' 25"	87° 01' 01"				
SW	32° 24' 30"	87° 01' 04"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: 10-16-72

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Miss B. Toward, Jr. Title SLO Date Sept. 8, 1972

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

Peter M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/26/72

ATTEST:

William D. Swartz  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12-20-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





South side of Water between Franklin and Broad





Northside of Water Avenue between Franklin  
& Washington





1200 - 1218 Water Avenue  
St. James Hotel HABS