

**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**

historic Summerfield District

and/or common

**2. Location** Selma - Summerfield and

street & number Marion Rdg Centenary and College Sts. not for publication

city, town Summerfield vicinity of congressional district 7

state Alabama code 01 county Dallas code 047

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town Summerfield vicinity of Selma state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dallas County Courthouse

street & number Alabama Avenue

city, town Selma state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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**

Summerfield has a present population of about 200. While a number of the important 19th century dwellings must be sought out along meandering gravel roads, a significant number of important buildings front on Main Street. Well established trees form a shady arch along this three block lane. The predominately frame buildings are enhanced in their setting on generous lots, all displaying an abundance of typical southern trees, shrubs and flowers. There are pecan groves, pyracantha, pomegranates, wisteria, holley, magnolias, and in the spring, fields of wild daffodils.

The major styles in the district are Federal and Greek Revival. A sturdy cast iron fence encloses the well-kept cemetery. Handsome tombstones mark the graves of pioneer families. Typically, the predominate migration was from the Eastern seaboard states, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. The name of College Street and a set of massive granite steps which once led up the hill to Centenary Insitute are all that are left to recall the former importance of Summerfield as an educational center.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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received JAN 28 1982
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

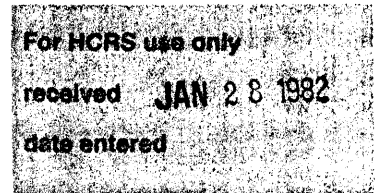
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STRUCTURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISTRICT

1. Summerfield Methodist Church: 1845; Greek Revival, 1 story, 1 room, frame, little altered, original steeple gone, original oil lamps now electrified, simple interior. (HABS)
2. Summerfield Bank Building: mid-19th c.; 1 story, brick with marble lintels and sills; heavily altered; now used as a residence.
4. School: mid-19th c.; 1 story, 1 room, frame with modified Greek Revival detailing; has subsequently been used as a store and as a community building.
5. Moore-Pinson-Tate-Hudson Residence: c. 1840's; Greek Revival cottage, pedimented portico supported by 4 fluted Doric Columns. Interior: symmetrically moulded door and window trim with corner blocks; original graining on doors and wainscots; mantels and baseboards painted black; floor unfinished. This is one of the few buildings in the area that retains its original decoration. (HABS)
7. Sturdivant-Moore-Caine-Hodo Residence: c. 1830; Federal style. 2 story, frame, 2-story central portico, elliptical fans over entrances, eaves ornamented with carved modillions. Interior: paneled wainscot in parlor, chairrail in other rooms, architrave and corner block trim; some walls and ceilings finished with flush boards, Adamesque mantels. (HABS)
8. Johnson-Chisolm-Reed Residence: mid-19th c.; Greek Revival; 1 story frame on raised brick piers; corner location with porches on both street facades. Small Doctor's Office to rear.
9. Residence: late 19th century; Victorian, 1 story, moved from Selma in 1960.
11. Bishop Andrew-Brady Residence: c. 1840; Greek Revival cottage; 1 1/2 story, frame; porch with box columns with molded capitals. Interior: door and window casing have architrave trim and shouldered trim, mantels painted black, original floor covering in one room.
12. Swift-Moore-Cottingham Residence: c. 1850; Greek Revival, 2 story, frame 2-story central pedimented portico with four paneled columns, flush siding beneath, paneled pilasters, low hipped roof. Interior; elaborate Greek Revival ornamentation, windows and doors flanked with wood pilasters that support an entablature that continues around all four sides of the room; curved stair. (HABS)

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16. Childers-Tate-Crow House: prior to 1827; Plantation Plain, 2 story, frame gabled roof, gabled roof porch, 5 bay facade, central dogtrot hallway enclosed, porch rooms enclosed. (HABS)

STRUCTURES WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISTRICT

3. Baptist Church: c. 1960; 1 story, brick.
10. Residence: c. 1970; 1 story, brick veneer.
13. House: c. 1950; 1 story, woodframe, asbestoes cement siding.
14. Building: c. 1950; 1 story, frame, unoccupied.
15. House: c. 1960; 1 story, brick veneer.
6. Campbell-Rush House: mid-19th c.; the principal portion of this residence burned, the remainder has been heavily altered.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

**ARCHITECTURE:** The district contains a very good collection of architecturally significant homes. The Childers-House (1820s), the Sturdivant Residence (c. 1830), the Bishop Andrew House (c. 1840), the Moore House (1840s), the Johnson House (1850s) and the Swift House (1850s) are not only individually excellent examples of Plantation Plain, Federal and Greek Revival, but collectively reflect the changing taste and stylistic preferences in a Black Belt plantation community as well as the cotton-based prosperity of this ante-bellum period.

**EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT:** Summerfield, which consisted of the homes of wealthy planters located along a ridge above the surrounding lower cotton lands, reflects a settlement pattern common in the Black Belt where majority of the settlers were from the Carolinas.

**RELIGION AND EDUCATION:** Summerfield is significant, not only as the center of religious life for the surrounding countryside, but also as the home of James Osgood Andrew, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. It was a controversy over Andrew's wife's slaves that caused the sectional division of the Methodist Church. Additionally, Centenary Institute, a denominational college controlled by the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, was one of the major institutions of higher education in the Black Belt in the 1840s and 50s and reflects the role of the church in education during the antebellum period.

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Summerfield, today, is almost a suburb of Selma, located six miles from the northern fringes of that city. In the 19th century it was a center of education, religion, culture and prosperity in the 3rd most populous and wealthy county in Alabama. At its zenith, the population was about 700.

The town was first settled in 1819 and named Valley Creek, but the name was changed in 1845 to honor a famous Methodist preacher, John Summerfield. There was also the sentiment that the former name gave the connotation of a low and unhealthy place, a matter of real concern in a region where yellow fever frequently decimated the population. The nearby Valley Creek Presbyterian Church (NRHP 5-28-76) commemorates the original name.

Methodism was established in this area in 1837 when Selma and Valley Creek were places together as a pastoral charge of the Montgomery District. By 1839, the combined pastorate served a membership of 130 white and 115 colored. The one-story frame Methodist Church in Summerfield was dedicated in 1845 and still functions as an active church.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 56.12

Quadrangle name Summerfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See map

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nicholas H. Holmes, Jr., FAIA, & Nancy N. Holmes, Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 257 North Conception Street telephone (205) 432-8871

city or town Mobile 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

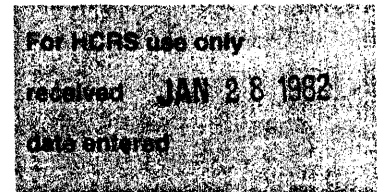
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Orlando B. Deward Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date 10-6-81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for</u> <u>Delores Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>3/1/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Because the church in Summerfield exceeded all other churches in the Conference in gifts toward establishing a school, the decision was made in 1841 to locate Centenary Institute in Summerfield. Valley Creek Academy, established in 1829, was incorporated into the new institution. In the years between 1845 and 1865, the enrollment reached 500 students annually. There were primary and secondary students, male and female departments. Several slate-roofed brick buildings were built. A president of Centenary Institute, Robert Keenan Hargrove, became the presiding Methodist Episcopal Bishop. Another prominent Methodist clergyman from Summerfield was James Osgood Andrew. (#11) It was controversy over his second wife's slaves that caused the sectional division of the Methodist Church. Andrew became the Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1846, a post he held until his death in 1871. Enrollment at Centenary Institute declined after the Civil War. By 1886, the Institute served only as a local school. From 1870-1910 the Methodist orphanage was located there, the forerunner of the exemplary Children's Home now located in Selma.

The first grist mill in Dallas County was built by Robert Sturdivant, a native of Virginia and a banker and planter. He purchased a lot in Summerfield in 1838. His fine two-story house built in the Federal style is a landmark of present day Summerfield. (#7) His bank still stands, although much altered.

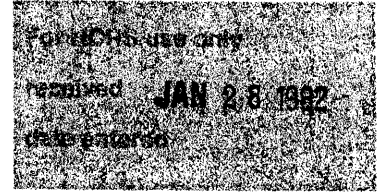
Other extant residences of note include the home of George Childers, (#16) built c. 1827 on land patented in 1819. Mr. Childers in 1840 owned 70 slaves. The original "dog trot" with many embellishments stayed in the Childers family 124 years.

Wiley Pope Swift was a member of the Selma Rangers, which company in 1836 engaged the Creek Indians near Tuskegee. Swift was Mayor of Selma in 1840. He bought lot 46 in Summerfield in 1850 and for a quarter of a century his family occupied the home he built (#12).

In 1835-36 thirteen structures in Summerfield were recorded by the Historic American Building survey. Only eight were recorded in nearby Selma, the county seat of Dallas County. Five of the recorded structures still remain in Summerfield, carefully maintained by their longtime owners.

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Page 1

W. Brewer, Alabama. Her History, Resources, War Record and Public Men,  
Barret & Brown, Montgomery, Alabama 1872

Jesse N. Richardson, Alabama Encyclopedia, Volume I, American Southern  
Publishing Company, Northport, Alabama 1965

Selma & Dallas County Sesquicentennial Commission 150 Years in Selma &  
Dallas County. Selma Printing Company, Selma, Alabama 1969

Selma Times Journal, April 13, 1969, page 15

B. M. Miller Childers. Early Families of Summerfield, Unpublished  
Manuscript 1952

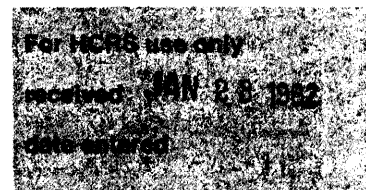
Milo B. Howard. Centenary Institute A Cultural Institution in West  
Alabama. Unpublished Manuscript 1965

Personal Interviews, Sept. 28, 1975, with Mrs. D. S. Caine and other  
property owners.



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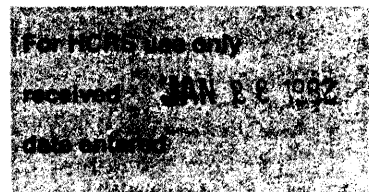
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Al Crow<br/>Rt. 2, Box 337<br/>Selma, Alabama 36701</p> <p>2. BerTrand Riddle<br/>Rt. 2, Box 277-B<br/>Selma, Alabama 36701</p> <p>3. John Murphy<br/>No Address</p> <p>4. Lewis Perison<br/>901 Lauderdale<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>5. Herbert McGee<br/>Rt. 5, Box 284<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>6. William Stockman<br/>Rt. 2, Box 300<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>7. Mrs. Frances Caine<br/>418 King Street<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>8. Dr. David Hodo<br/>P. O. Box 1334<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>9. Grady Rush<br/>Rt. 4, Box 260<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>10. William Hudson, Jr.<br/>3914 Jackson Blvd.<br/>Birmingham, Alabama 35213</p> <p>11. Northside Baptist Church<br/>Birmingham Highway<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> | <p>15. Community Center<br/>Summerfield Road<br/>Selma, Alabama 36701</p> <p>16. Leoscia Childers<br/>Rt. 4<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>17. Ethal Hudson<br/>Rt. 4, Summerfield Road<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>18. M. A. Church<br/>Rt. 4<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>19. Eugene Middlebrooks<br/>Rt. 4, Box 111 B<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>20. W. F. Whiteside<br/>Rt. 2, Box 334<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>21. Paul Cottingham<br/>Rt. 2, Box 332<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>22. L. N. Brady<br/>1505 Selma Avenue<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>23. Charles Stough<br/>1217 Tenth Avenue<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>24. Dr. C. S. Wilkinson<br/>P. O. Box 1002<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> <p>25. Cebelle Matthews<br/>1719 Lawrence Street<br/>Selma, Alabama</p> |
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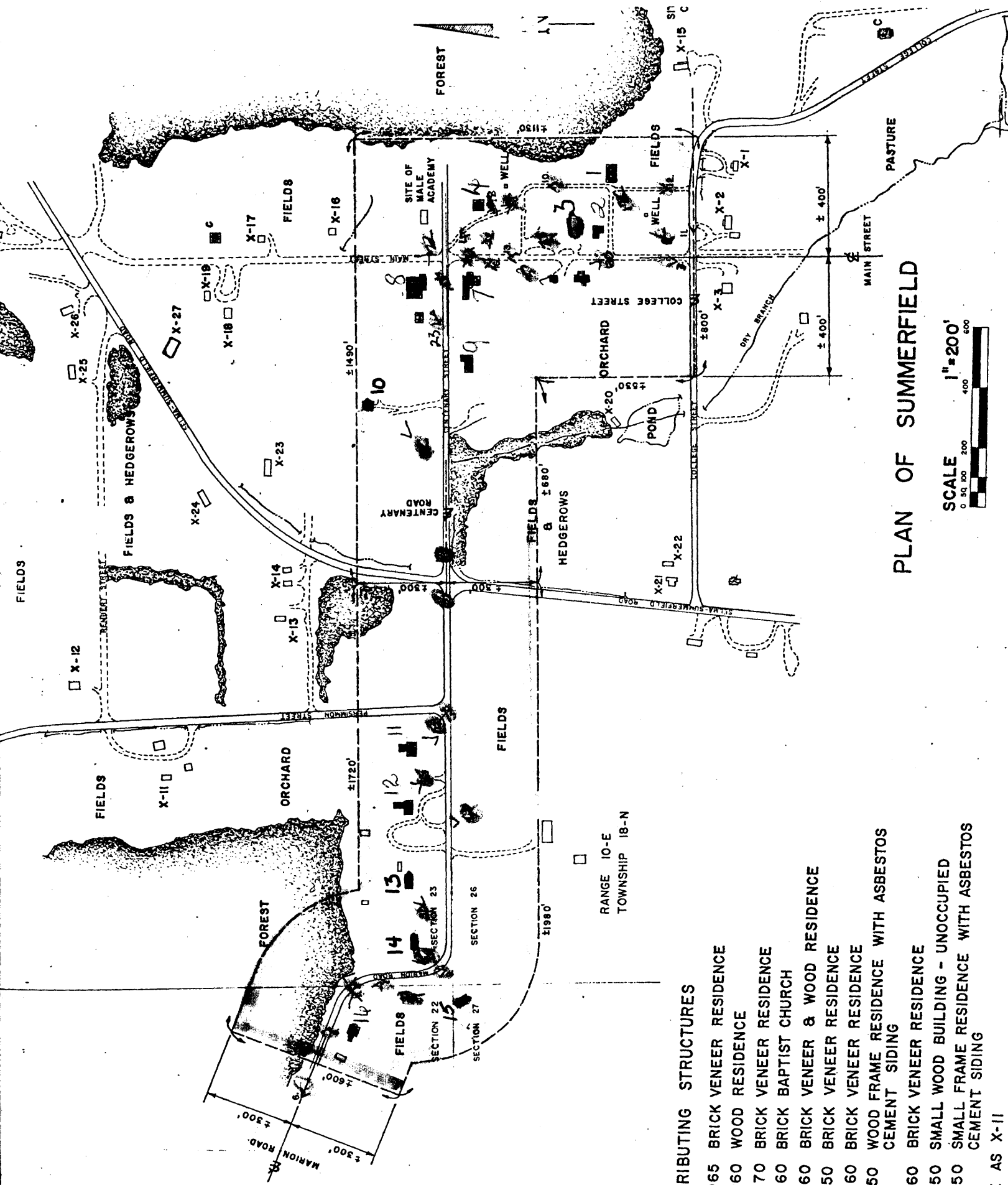
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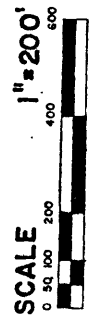
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|--|--|
| 12. William Hudson, Jr.<br>3914 Jackson Blvd.<br>Birmingham, Alabama 35213 | 26. Bernice & Ada Friday<br>Rt. 4, Box 280<br>Selma, Alabama |
| 13. Searcy H. Johnson, Jr.<br>Locksley Drive<br>Birmingham, Alabama 35223  | 27. Jack Reed<br>Rt. 4, Box 263<br>Selma, Alabama            |
| 14. Northside Baptist Church<br>2950 Citizens Pkwy.<br>Selma, Alabama      | 28. Marvin Harris<br>Rt. 4, Box 264<br>Selma, Alabama        |
|  | 29. Cary Walton<br>Rt. 4, Box 256 A<br>Selma, Alabama        |



# PLAN OF SUMMERFIELD



## TRIBUTING STRUCTURES

- 1965 BRICK VENEER RESIDENCE
  - 1960 WOOD RESIDENCE
  - 1970 BRICK VENEER RESIDENCE
  - 1960 BRICK BAPTIST CHURCH
  - 1960 BRICK VENEER & WOOD RESIDENCE
  - 1950 BRICK VENEER RESIDENCE
  - 1960 BRICK VENEER RESIDENCE
  - 1950 WOOD FRAME RESIDENCE WITH ASBESTOS CEMENT SIDING
  - 1960 BRICK VENEER RESIDENCE
  - 1950 SMALL WOOD BUILDING - UNOCCUPIED
  - 1950 SMALL FRAME RESIDENCE WITH ASBESTOS CEMENT SIDING
- NAME AS X-11

RANGE 10-E  
TOWNSHIP 18-N