

22-23-5045-54

NR 9-22-72

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas

COUNTY:

Drew

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Selma Methodist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 36, T 11 S, R 5 W

CITY OR TOWN:

Selma

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

Arkansas05Drew043**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Selma Methodist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Selma

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

05**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Drew County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Monticello

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05**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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

The church building, now known as the Selma Methodist Church, was built about 1874. The front doorway, which is the only entrance to the building, is located in the center of the south facade and has double doors, originally taller than at present, with a Gothic style pointed transom. Two windows, one on each side, flank the entrance and have Gothic style pointed heads over double hung sash. The east and west sides of the building have five windows each that match those flanking the entrance. A half-octagon bay window in the center of the north side serves as the apse and contains two windows identical to the others except shorter in height. A small brick flue is located east of the apse just inside the north wall. The roof has approximately a sixteen-twelve pitch and is presently covered with composition shingles. On the south end of the roof is a well proportioned cupola having a square base rising out of the roof, topped by an octagonal bell-tower, minus the steeple, but covered with a low hip roof. Centered in the south gable, above the entrance, is a circular medallion containing four wooden trefoil ornaments arranged to form a simple cross. The exterior is covered with simple wood clapboard having a plain frieze board, simple corner boards faintly resembling pilasters and a simple unmoulded box cornice. The structure rests on a low open brick pier foundation. The concrete front steps have three treads and three risers.

The interior contained originally a single flat ceilinged sanctuary. However, the south end has been partitioned off into two rooms on either side of a vestibule, above which is a balcony reached by a small staircase from the southeast room. A brass bell, housed in the cupola, is rung by a rope which drops to the balcony. A wall ladder provides access to the cupola.

Wood floors with plaster walls and ceiling are simple and plain. A modern plywood wainscot has been added and the original pews have been remodeled somewhat. Built into the front of the chancel is a semicircular prayer bench which projects from the rear of building in front of the apse.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Selma was a prosperous hamlet prior to the Civil War. It was located on an Indian Trace which originally crossed the Mississippi River at Gaines Landing and headed north to Pine Bluff and beyond. Soon after the state's secession from the Union, at Lynchburg, Virginia, a group of men from Selma was mustered into the Confederate Army as Company D of the Third Arkansas Infantry Regiment, the only Arkansas detachment to serve in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The town was incorporated in 1876, but the railroad soon bypassed the place, and it decreased in importance.

In the winter of 1873 the small Methodist congregation at Selma suffered a severe setback. The church which they had labored to build was destroyed by a heavy snowstorm. It wasn't until twelve years later that the group was to have its own church.

The Methodist congregation at Selma was first organized in 1870. It could not support a pastor of its own, so it was on one of the many circuits operated by the Methodist Church in Arkansas. In September of 1872 Mr. Joshua Tillar and his wife deeded to the trustees of the congregation a lot on which to build a church. It was this structure which was destroyed in the winter of 1873.

In the next twelve years the Methodist congregation worshiped with the Baptists and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Drew	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

assumed part of the indebtedness of the church building. In 1885 the Baptists deeded their church to the Methodists. That building is the structure presently nominated.

The Baptist congregation had organized in 1870, with eleven members and J. F. Griffin as pastor. The little church prospered until the railroad bypassed the town. The churchhouse was built in 1874 by a Mr. Rector, and the architect is alleged to have been an itinerant from New Orleans who specialized in designing churches. The Old Military Road runs diagonally across the church grounds.

The church building is an outstanding example of the small, rural houses of worship which dotted the countryside in Arkansas during the last century. Its state of preservation is unusually excellent, for most such buildings have deteriorated badly. Thus, it is especially worthy of notice.

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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Works Progress Administration. Inventory of the
Vital Statistics of Arkansas. Vol. II. Church
Records. Little Rock: Historical Records
Survey.

33° 41' 52"

91° 34' 11"



USGS 7.5' SERIES
SELMA, ARK. QUADRANGLE
1960 SCALE 1: 24000

Caney

Selma

Sweet Hope C

Selma Jr High Sch

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Advance Monticellonian, February 12, 1942; September 14, 1961; and June 17, 1971.

Bartholomew Regular Baptist Association. Minutes of the Association, 1875 - 1877.

Friendship Baptist Association. Minutes of the Association, 1879 - 1883.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Staff

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

1023 West Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Title

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date