

Added to Alabama Register 6/19/97

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

1. Name

historic Alabama Baptist Normal and Theological School of Selma University

and/or common Selma University

2. Location

street & number

city, town Selma

---vicinity of

state Alabama

county Dallas

zip 36701

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

4. Owner of Property

name Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.

Phone number

street & number

city, town

---vicinity of

zip

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

Attached

6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

The Selma University Historic District consists of a complex of six buildings located on the Selma University campus which embody the nucleus of the campus and depict the evolution of this historic black college from its inception in 1878 to 1948, the date of construction for the most recent of the historic buildings (Cleveland Hall).

Situated in the western part of the city, the campus boundaries are defined by Lapsley Street on the east (a primary north-south thoroughfare), Minter Avenue on the south, and Philpot Avenue on the north. A decorative and utilitarian iron fence, consisting of slender iron posts supported by regularly placed brick piers, has been constructed around the main campus area in recent years, resulting in the relocation of the main entrance from Lapsley Street to Minter Avenue, at its intersection with Pollard Street. Across Lapsley Street on the east is an additional parcel of property which was acquired by the school around the turn of the century, during the tenure of Dr. C.S. Dinkins, and on which are located three of the six buildings.

The six historic buildings occupy approximately one-third to one-half of the campus area and make up about the same percentage of the total campus facilities (see attached sketch map). The three most prominent buildings (Cleveland Hall, Dinkins Hall, and Foster Hall) are located along the eastern and western sides of the main campus area and, together with the centrally located Stone-Robinson Library (1960) and the northernmost A.W. Wilson Science Hall (1979), comprise the primary academic nucleus of the school. The three remaining historic buildings (two currently vacant faculty houses and Pollard Hall) are situated on the easternmost edge of the campus, and though separated by Lapsley Street, are visually connected to the main campus area by the brick fabric of Pollard Hall. Together, this historic complex forms the focal point of the campus when approaching it from both the historic and current main entrances.

Additional Selma University facilities date from the recent period and are located in the western/northwestern area of the campus, adjoining property which is inaccessible to automobile traffic and sparsely developed. These include the dining hall, several dormitories, the gymnasium, and the athletic fields. Parking lots are located on the eastern side of the campus, along Lapsley Street; on the southern side, just inside the main entrance on Minter Avenue and separating Dinkins Chapel and Cleveland Hall; and on the northwestern side, at the end of Philpot Avenue. Small vehicular roads join the southern and northwestern parking areas and provide access to the gymnasium, but the campus is otherwise accessible only by pedestrian walkways.

INVENTORY OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES:

1. Dinkins Memorial Chapel: 1921; 3 stories, brick, continuous stone foundation, low-pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and brackets, 6/2 sash windows, stone quoins, decorative brick band separating stories; main entrance originally on north through centrally located 1-story hipped porch supported by brick piers and featuring wide eaves and exposed rafters & brackets; basically rectangular shape with projecting pavilions on north and south elevations, facade has five principal bays created by projecting elements, center bay features paired window groupings separated by four pilasters, projecting pavilions feature paired windows flanked by single sashes, end bays feature smaller paired windows on lower floors and smaller arched windows above; side elevations feature decorative entry porch identical to main entry and surmounted by decorative tile panels terminating in paired arched windows; these have become primary access to building since installation of

elevator resulted in closing of front entry; rear (south) elevation is similar to facade but void of entry; interior is 2 rooms deep with east/west cross hall, contains classrooms and administrative offices on first and second floors, auditorium/chapel on third floor; chapel features folding doors with six horizontal panels, truss ceiling, original pews, semi-circular stage.

2. Cleveland Hall: 1948; 3-bay, 2-story, brick, hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles, asymmetrical form; 2-story full-width porch supported by 3 wood piers, balcony railing; fenestration includes variety of window treatments: primarily 1/1 sashes, also 6/6, 4/4, and multi-diamond-paned sashes; stone lintels and sills; building faces east, asymmetrical facade with WDDW below and WDW above, recessed half-octagon gabled bay on northern side; north elevation features rectangular hipped roof projecting bay supported by decorative brackets, one-story shed roof element attached at northwest corner; rear (west) elevation features 3 bays, 1-story shed-roof porch supported by turned posts and partially enclosed; eastern end of south elevation has semi-circular bay surmounted by small gable; interior features long center hall separated by modern partition (removable), stairs in front and back halls, wood floors (though some are covered with carpet or linoleum), much original wall fabric remains (this consists of horizontal boards above vertical wainscoting or plaster), wood ceiling; asymmetrical plan 2 rooms wide and 3 rooms deep, variety of interior doors include 4-, 5-, 6-panels, notable skylight above rear stairwell; building constructed of materials salvaged from Vickers House and the Arcade Hotel in Selma.

3. Foster Hall: 1910; 2.5 stories with raised basement; brick, low-pitch roof with parapet, continuous foundation (stone, concrete or brick with stucco), decorative brick cornice, stone course separating 2nd and 3rd stories, multi-paned windows appear to be single sashes, stone lintels and sills, rectangular form with entrance on eastern end, decorative bracketed porch roof covering entrance.

4. Pollard Hall: c. 1916-19; faces west on Lapsley; 2 stories; brick; rectangular with front projecting wing; hipped roof; original L-shaped porch replaced by 1-story porch covering 2/3 of facade; boxed cornice; variety of window types, including both single and paired double hung sashes, original appear to have been 1/1; entrance consists of multipaned door surrounded by transom and sidelights; continuous foundation appears to be brick faced with concrete; three interior brick chimneys; additional exterior doors located on south and east.

5. Student/Faculty Cottage: c. late 19th/early 20th century (prior to 1907): vernacular Victorian; vacant, poor condition; faces west on Lapsley; 2 stories; wood siding; brick pier foundation; cross-gable seamed metal roof; wood shingles in gable end; many original windows remain (4/4 double hung sashes), replacement windows 9/9; recessed 1-story porch, replacement posts, semi-circular arch in south end of porch; entrance door has 4 vertical panes/3 horizontal panels.

6. Student/Faculty Cottage: c. late 19th/early 20th century (prior to 1907): vernacular Victorian; vacant, dilapidated; faces west on Lapsley; 1 story; wood siding; continuous foundation; cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles; wood shingles in front gable end; front projecting half-octagonal bay on south side of facade; 4/4 double hung sash windows; porch removed.

7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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 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"/> 1600-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

The Selma University Historic District is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criteria A and C, in the areas of ethnic historic-African American, education, and architecture.

Established in 1878 as the first black Baptist college in the state, Selma University embodies the development of the African-American normal and theological institution and the role it played in the education of blacks as they made the transition from slavery to freedom. As a black college, it depicts the opening of academic opportunities for blacks as well as the proliferation of the segregated school system during the Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction periods. With the failure of Southern whites to support the integration of public schools, blacks began to seek their own means of educating the former slave population. Churches, both black and white, often filled the void where government failed to provide funding and training of teachers. Likewise, they sought to support theological training of blacks in the emerging black churches.

Selma, as the one of the most heavily populated cities of the Black Belt, contained a large black population and therefore a ripe field for educators and theologians. Other church-affiliated schools for blacks in the area included Payne University(1889 in Selma by the African Methodist Episcopal Church), Alabama Lutheran Academy and College (now Concordia College, Selma--founded c.1928), and Knox Academy (1874 in Selma by the Presbyterian Church). Also available was the Lincoln Normal School at Marion which was established by the American Missionary Association in 1866 and later moved to Montgomery and became Alabama State University. Selma University, as a mission of the Colored Baptist State Convention, became the first black college of its denomination in the state. It, together with Concordia College, remain as the only predominantly black church-affiliated colleges in the area.

Architecturally, Selma University contains a blend of vernacular academic and domestic buildings depicting the evolution of the college campus from its inception in 1878 to 1948, the date of construction of the most recent of the historic buildings. The predominant red brick fabric and monumental scale establish a distinct flavor in a neighborhood of primarily frame dwellings. Stylistic influences are minimal but include a blend of Classical, Victorian, and early 20th century elements. The two most notable buildings are Dinkins Chapel and Cleveland Hall.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

See attached paper written by Mrs. Ruthie Pitts.

8. Major Bibliographical References

- Bond, Horace Mann. *Negro Education in Alabama: A Study in Cotton and Steel*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1994.
- Owen, Thomas McAdory. *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921.
- Pitts, Mrs. Ruthie Hodge Pitts. "Historical Sketch of Selma University." Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1997.
- Rogers, William Warren, Robert David Ward, Leah Rawls Atkins, and Wayne Flynt. *Alabama: The History of a Deep South State*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1994.
- Wimberly, Louretta. Interview and site visit. April, 1997.

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __approximately 36 acres__
Quadrangle name _____

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

10. Form Prepared By

Sally Moore (AHC)

name/title Louretta Wimberly

organization _____

date June 19, 1997

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip _____

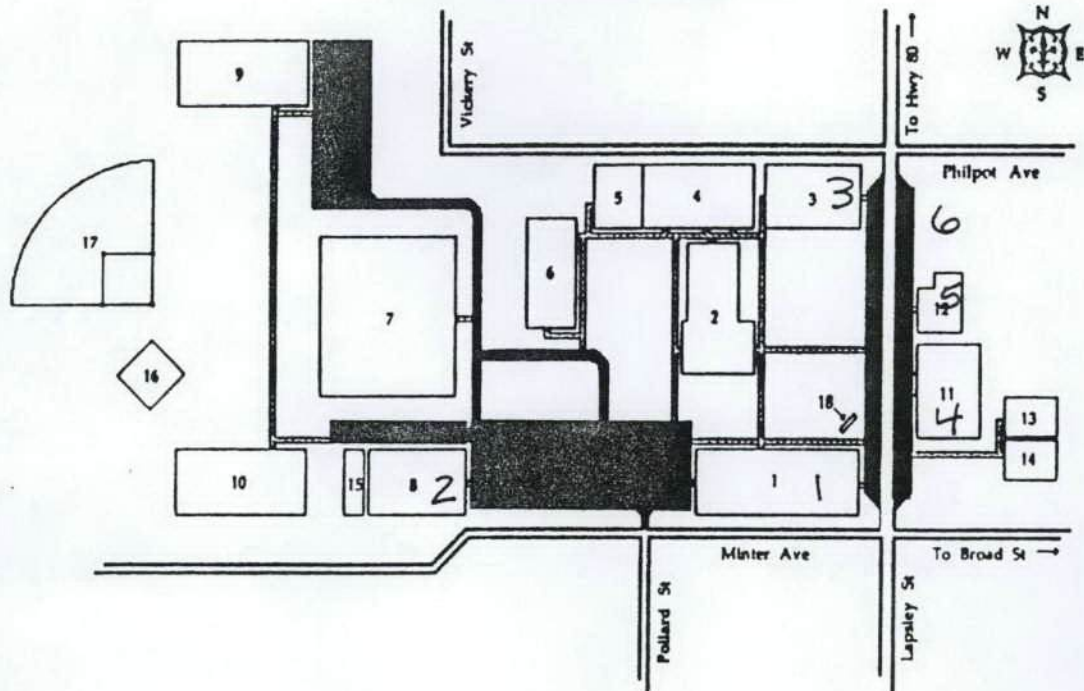
11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

SELMA UNIVERSITY



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 Dinkus Hall (Administration) | 7 Jemison-Owens Gymnasium | 13 Utility Building |
| 2 Stone Robinson Library | 8 Cleveland Hall (Student Services) | 14 Print Shop |
| 3 Foster Hall | 9 Jackson-Wilson Hall (Female Dormitory) | 15 Greenhouse |
| 4 A. W. Wilson Science Building | 10 Hood-Ware Hall (Male Dormitory) | 16 Athletics Building |
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and/or common Selma University

2. Location

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street & number
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state Alabama county Dallas zip 36701

3. Classification

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<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. Phone number
street & number
city, town ---vicinity of zip

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

Attached

6. Description (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Condition		Check one	Check one
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7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	other (specify)

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

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9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __ approximately 36 acres __
Quadrangle name _____

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

10. Form Prepared By Sally Moore (AHC)

name/title Louretta Wimberly

organization _____

date June 19, 1997

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip _____

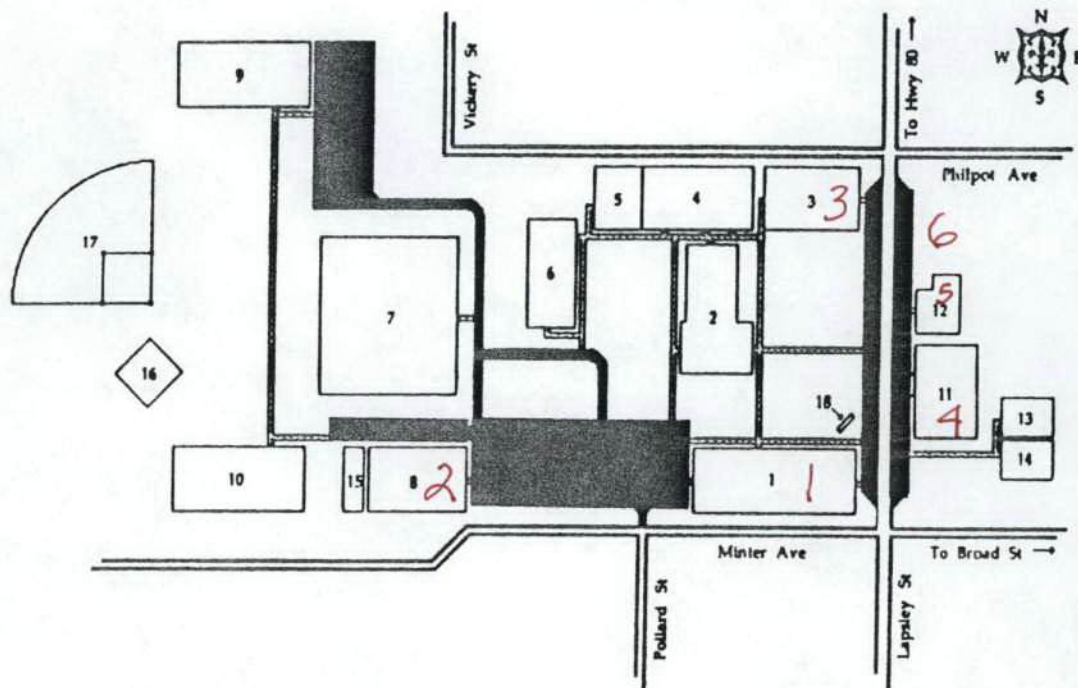
11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

Color slides are essential to the review process.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

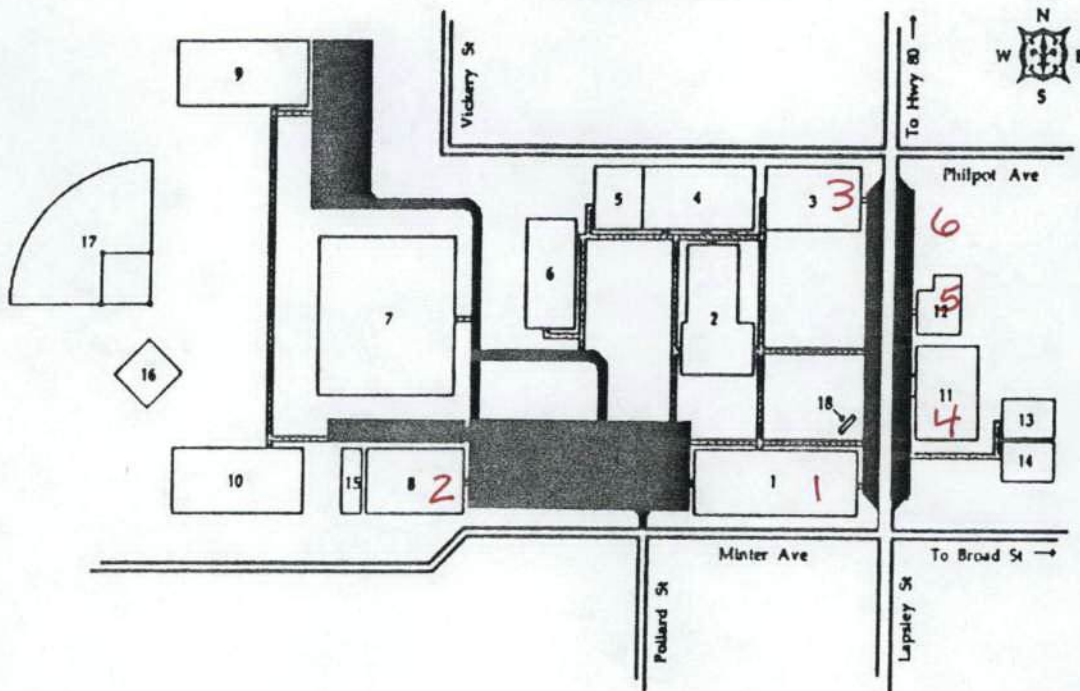
Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

SELMA UNIVERSITY



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
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| 2 Stone-Robinson Library | 8 Cleveland Hall (Student Services) | 14 Print Shop |
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| 4 A. W. Wilson Science Building | 10 Hood-Ware Hall (Male Dormitory) | 16 Athletics Building |
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SELMA UNIVERSITY



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
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