

1827

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 22 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Plattenburg, Wesley, House

other name/site number: Kirkpatrick, Dr. Samuel, House

2. Location

street & number: 601 Washington Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Selma

vicinity: N/A

state: AL county: Dallas

code: 047

zip code: 36701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-state, local

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A



=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

19th Century Vernacular

Other Description: raised cottage

Materials: foundation brick roof shingle  
walls brick other weatherboard  
stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance.  See continuation sheet.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1855

Significant Dates : ca. 1855

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Description Plattenburg House Page #1  
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The Plattenburg House was built on what was once known as the northern outskirts of Selma. Today the ca. 1855 raised cottage is located on the corner lot of Washington Street and Furniss Street in Selma. The house is significant for its style, which hardly exists in central Alabama.

The first story of the L-shaped raised cottage is constructed of brick and rests on an above-ground stuccoed brick basement. The low pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Several ca. 1930 frame additions account for the overall rectangular shape. Three interior end brick chimneys pierce the roofline.

The two-story recessed porch or gallery wraps around the south and east elevations. Ten massive piers support the second level porch, and ten slender, square columns support the bracketed cornice. The last bay on the south end of the upper gallery has a frame enclosure, and the main stairway on the north end of the east porch is enclosed with lattice. The rear porch, which covered the angle of the L-cottage, is believed to have been similar to the front porch and was removed for the construction of the frame additions. An attached shed roof on the first level gallery is a recent addition, and at some point, the balustrade was removed.

The eastern three-bay facade includes the main entrance, a single door with transom and sidelights, on the main level. The entrance is flanked by 6/6 sashes which are also found on the basement level. The south elevation has four bays, and the main level features full length 6/9 sashes.

The L-shaped plan of this raised cottage is made up of three rooms and a hall on each level. Two basement level rooms with storage closets, fireplaces, and porch entrances face Washington Street. A narrow hall with front and rear porch entrances separates the southeast room from the rear ell. This rear room has a fireplace and rear entrance.

The main level is reached by an enclosed exterior staircase on the north end of the front porch. The main entrance leads to a central hall and matching rear entrance. Two rooms with fireplaces flank the central hall. The southeast room shares a door with the rear room. This rear ell is the only main level room that has entrances from either or both porches. Although the interior of the house is badly deteriorated, some decorative elements are still evident. The doors and windows have simple trim, and the doors have four panels. Most of the ceilings appear to have narrow flushboard, and there is some evidence of wainscoting, now removed.

A historic frame outbuilding occupies the corner of the lot on Furniss Street. Due to the house's deteriorated state, the property was in danger of demolition. The new joint ownership by the Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society and the Alabama Historical Commission will hopefully allow the rehabilitation of the Plattenburg House.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Significance Plattenburg House Page #1

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CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE):

The Plattenburg House in Selma is an excellent and intact example of a raised basement coastal cottage, a style not usually found in central Alabama. This ca. 1855 house features a hipped roof, a high masonry foundation, massive piers supporting a porch, and floor-length windows on one facade. Slender, square columns and a bracketed cornice accent the raised porch. This raised cottage has some Greek Revival and Italianate detail.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

Wesley Plattenburg was born in Maryland in 1803 and settled in Virginia with his family two years later. He settled in Selma, Alabama, in 1829 as a merchant tailor. Plattenburg nurtured an interest in cotton cultivation after he purchased a two-thousand-acre tract in 1842.(1) He married Anna Maples approximately one or two years later and built his plantation house on his land ca. 1855. A reference to a non-descript dwelling in the 1842 deed raises questions of whether the ca. 1855 house may have been the addition to the original dwelling or an entirely new house. As prominent members of the Selma community, Mr. Plattenburg was trustee of Dallas Academy in the 1840s, and Mrs. Plattenburg led several organizations for the Confederate cause during the Civil War.(2) The 1860 Dallas County census estimates the Plattenburg's wealth in real and personal property as \$150,000 or more.(3)

The Plattenburgs sold their house and a small surrounding parcel of land in 1866 to Mrs. Emily C. Bayne for \$3,000.(4) The family remained in Selma for an unknown period of time and eventually moved to Giles County, Tennessee.(5) Wesley Plattenburg was buried in Selma in the Old Live Oak Cemetery after he died in 1882. The original property passed to several owners before it was purchased in 1904 by Dr. Samuel and Mary Kirkpatrick for \$4,500. In 1934, the Department of the Interior photographed this house and 13 other structures in Selma for the Historic American Buildings Survey.(6)

THE RAISED COTTAGE:

The Plattenburg House is a good representation of the rural raised cottage that was characteristic of the Gulf Coast during French occupation and after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The raised basement type house is found in coastal areas from the Chesapeake Bay to Savannah to New Orleans. However, the type of raised cottage with the large, overhanging hipped roof and wraparound porch is found generally in the Gulf Coast area. It is unusual to find these houses so far inland; however, the presence of South Carolina settlers in Selma may account for the appearance of this type in the area. By 1860, the popularity of these coastal-type cottages diminished and have since become one of the rarest historical resources in the country.(7)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Historical Summary Plattenburg House Page #2

Raised cottages are characterized by hipped roofs and deep porches supported by a high masonry foundation and massive piers. Porches covering two or three elevations are common as are external stairways under the porch. Often, slender columns support an engaged porch roof or dual-pitched roof. The main body of the house is generally half-timbered and stuccoed. The basement is constructed of brick to keep this level cool in summer and warm in winter, and the main level has tall ceilings and floor-length windows opening onto the gallery for cross-ventilation.(8) Most of the rooms would have doors on the gallery rather than doors on an internal hall; rooms often open directly into each other. However, a central hall may occur in more formal examples.(9)

The Plattenburg House is a rare example of a Gulf Coast raised cottage in central Alabama. Few others are known to exist except in the Louisiana and Mississippi area. This style is closely associated with the type known as the Carolina Cottage found on the Gulf Coast and Southern Atlantic Coast.(10) Very similar examples are found in New Orleans and elsewhere in Louisiana including the early 19th-century Riche House, which also has a hipped roof supported by slender columns and a second level porch supported by massive masonry piers.(11)

1

Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, vol.IV, Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1978, pp. 1327.

2

Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society and the Alabama Historical Commission. Rehabilitation Proposal for the Plattenburg House. 1991.

3

Dallas County Census, 1860.

4

Dallas County Land Deed, 1866.

5

Owen, pp. 1327.

6

Rehabilitation Proposal...

7

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide To American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, pp. 121-126.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Historical Summary Plattenburg House Page #3

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8  
McAlester, pp. 121-124.

9  
Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. (Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987, pp. 37, 41.

10  
Gamble, pp. 37, 40.

11  
McAlester, pp. 126-127.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ALA 24-SEL 13-1,2,3
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>497900</u>	<u>3586110</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Lot 10, Block 63, Washington Subdivision, Deed Book 1071, pg. 236, as recorded in the tax accessor's office, Selma, Dallas County, Alabama.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries were delineated by the legal description of the property as described above.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Chloe S. Mercer/National Register Intern; Melanie Betz/AHC Reviewer

Organization: Alabama Historical Commission Date: August 1992

Street & Number: 725 Monroe Street Telephone: (205)242-3184

City or Town: Montgomery State: AL ZIP: 36130

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Bibliographical References Plattenburg House Page #1  
=====

Dallas County Census, 1860.

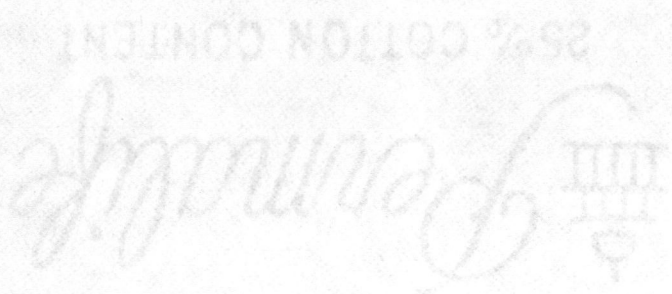
Dallas County Land Deed, 1866.

Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. (Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, vol.IV, Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1978.

Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society and the Alabama Historical Commission. Rehabilitation Proposal for the Plattenburg House. 1991.



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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Plattenburg House Page #1

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Plattenburg, Wesley, House  
601 Washington Street  
Selma, Alabama  
Dallas County  
David Harris (AHC), Photographer  
August 1991  
Negatives at Alabama Historical Commission

- 1) Looking west at front and side facades.
- 2) Looking south at front facade and rear additions.
- 3) Looking north at side facade and rear elevation.
- 4) Interior; second level central hall, plaster walls.
- 5) Interior; full length windows, flushboard ceilings, removed wainscotting.
- 6) Interior; SE room with storage closet on lower level.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 92001827

**Date Listed:** 2/3/93

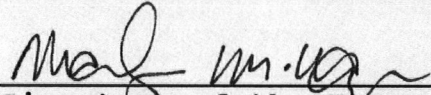
**Plattensburg, Wesley, House  
Property Name**

**Dallas  
County**

**ALABAMA  
State**

**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Keeper**

2/3/93  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Action**

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section No. 7

This nomination is amended to show stucco as the material of the walls and foundation, since that is the material that is visible.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Alabama SHPO (2/3/92).

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Plattenburg, Wesley, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA, Dallas

DATE RECEIVED: 12/22/92      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/05/93  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/21/93      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/93  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001827

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/3/93 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This 1855 house is an example of a raised  
basement coastal cottage, a very rare house  
type in this area of Alabama

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/C  
REVIEWER Hopper  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 2/3/93

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR ~~Yes~~ Yes

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_ count      \_\_\_ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_ historic      \_\_\_ current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_ architectural classification  
\_\_\_ materials  
\_\_\_ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_ summary paragraph  
\_\_\_ completeness  
\_\_\_ clarity  
\_\_\_ applicable criteria  
\_\_\_ justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_ context  
\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_ justification of exception  
\_\_\_ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_ acreage      \_\_\_ verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_ UTM's      \_\_\_ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_ sketch maps      \_\_\_ USGS maps      \_\_\_ photographs      \_\_\_ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This 1822 house is on property owned by a very large house type in this area of Alabama*

*Yes*



The Plattenburg, Wesley, House  
601 Washington Street  
Selma, AL Dallas County



The Plattenburg, Wesley, House  
601 Washington Street  
Selma, AL } Dallas County

2



The Plattenburg, Wesley, House  
601 Washington Street  
Selma, AL Dallas County



The Plattenburg, Wesley, House  
601 Washington Street  
Selma, AL Dallas County



The Plattenburg, Wesley, House  
601 Washington Street  
Selma, AL Dallas County

5



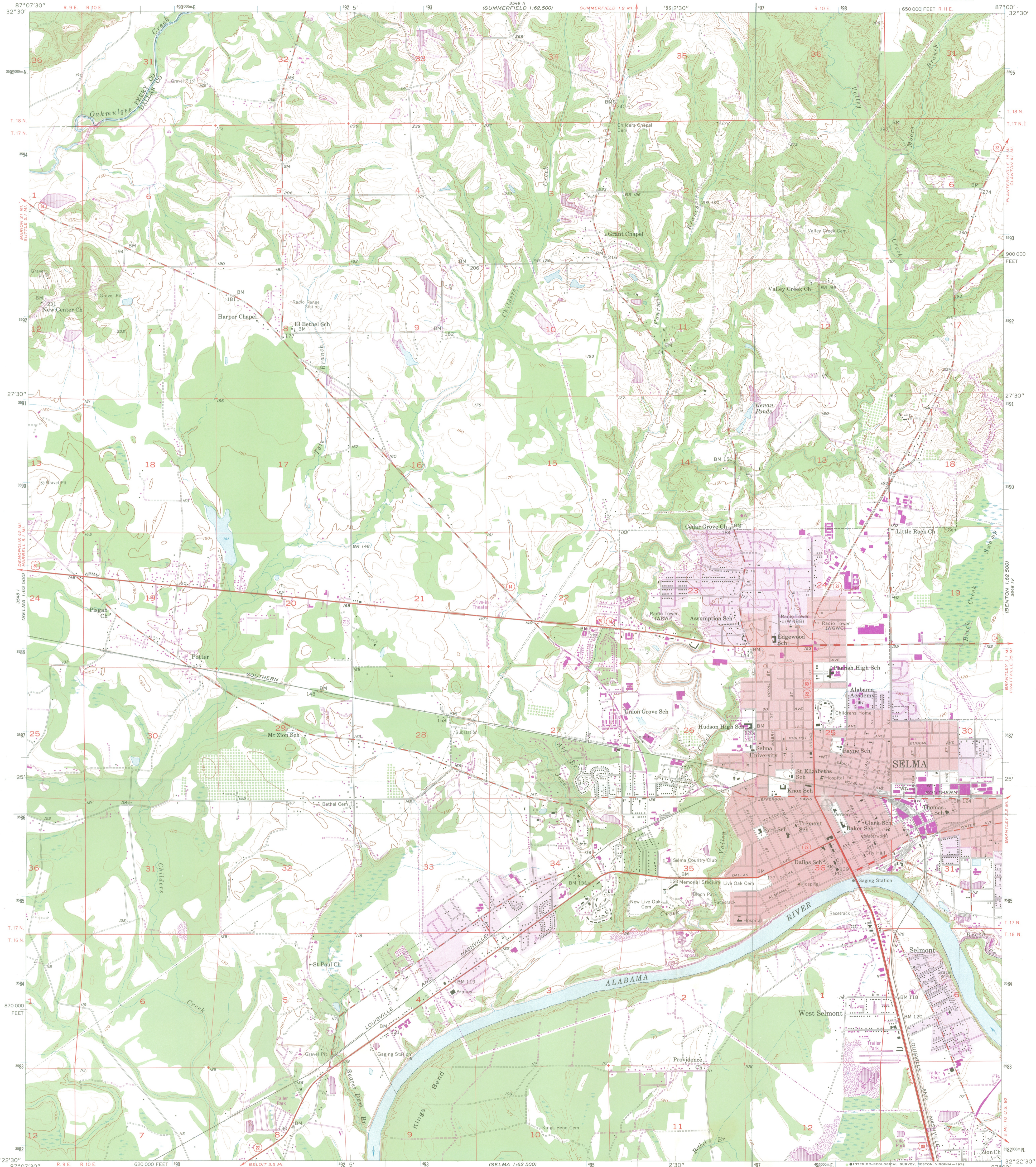
The Plattenburg, Wesley, House  
601 Washington Street  
Selma, AL Dallas County

Scale 1:62,500

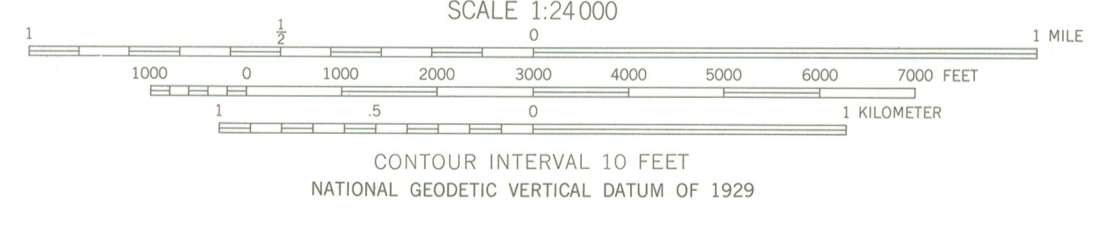
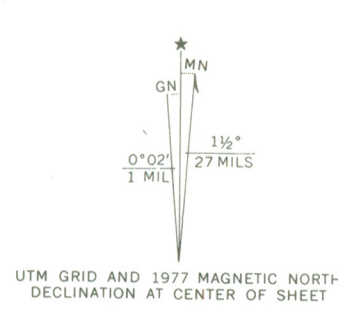
Scale 1:62,500

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SELMA QUADRANGLE ALABAMA 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey... Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE... Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter... Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1958... Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum... 10,000-foot grid based on Alabama coordinate system... 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue... Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown... Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas... Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1975. This information not field checked. Map edited 1977



The Platterburg, Wesley, House Selma, AL - Dallas County 16/497900/3586110

ROAD CLASSIFICATION table with symbols for Heavy-duty, Light-duty, Medium-duty, Unimproved dirt, U.S. Route, and State Route.



SELMA, ALA. NE/4 SELMA 15' QUADRANGLE N3222.5-W8700/7.5 1958 PHOTOREVISED 1977 AMS 3548 1 NE-SERIES V844

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



F. LAWRENCE OAKS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101

December 14, 1992

RECEIVED

DEC 22 1992

NATIONAL  
REGISTER



TELEPHONE NUMBER  
242-3184

Ms. Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
The National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Carol:

Enclosed are nominations to the National Register of Historic Places  
for the following:

1. Ernest Edward Greene House in Cullman, Cullman County
2. Wesley Plattenburg House in Selma, Dallas County
3. Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Jefferson County
4. Judson College Historic District in Marion, Perry County
5. Murphy/Collins House in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County

Sincerely,

F. Lawrence Oaks  
State Historic Preservation Officer

cgh

Enclosures