

VLR 3/8/6  
NRHP 5/10/6

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Selma

other names/site number (DHR Number 065-0077)

#### 2. Location

street & number 16237 Courthouse Road (US Route 13, Business)

city or town Eastville

state Virginia

code VA

county Northampton

code 131

Zip


not for publication

vicinity

23347

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

Date

3/22/00

#### Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public—local
- public—state
- public—Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building (s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>Garden</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>FUNERARY</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u>VACANT/NOT IN USE</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)COLONIAL: Dutch style roofMID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek RevivalLATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival  

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)Foundation BRICKRoof ASPHALTWalls WOOD; ASBESTOSOther  

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**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**      circa 1785 – circa 1920

**Significant Dates**      circa 1785—acquisition of the property by Isaac Smith and erection of the dwelling  
circa 1836—acquisition by George Yerby and elongation of hall and erection of since  
demolished block on the west side  
circa 1914-1920—acquisition by Elise U. Jarvis, demolition of west block erected by  
George Yerby, erection of rooms to the north of circa 1785 original building,  
and erection of ell

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**      N/A

**Architect/Builder**      Isaac Smith  
George T. Yerby  
Elise U. Jarvis

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 #     
       recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #   

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

  X   State Historic Preservation Office.  
       Other State agency  
       Federal agency  
       Local government  
       University  
       Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 4.5

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>1</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>416553</u>	<u>4134890</u>	<u>3</u>	
<u>2</u>			<u>4</u>		

     See continuation sheet.

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kimble A. David, Architectural Historian

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ date: January 2006

street & number P. O. Box 7638 telephone 757/623.3456

city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23509

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Angelo Manuel, Synergy Development and Investments

street & number 4332 Country Club Circle telephone 757 - 289 - 9266

city or town Virginia Beach state VA zip code 23455

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 1**

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**Summary Architectural Description:**

Selma is an example of additive construction typical to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the Virginia/Maryland/Delaware peninsula bound by the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay. The original dwelling of Selma dates to circa 1785 and exhibits a Dutch Colonial form. The original dwelling was three-bay with a side-passage and single pile plan topped with a gambrel roof. Modifications and additions made to the dwelling in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century changed the existing façade of the earlier building and the interior plan. A two-story double-pile block was appended to the west elevation and the hall was elongated to accommodate access to the two-story block. A stair was added at the north end of the hall featuring a turned newel and narrow balusters. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the two-story two-bay block appended to the west elevation was removed, though the hall's form was retained. During this period a room was added on each story of the 1785 building at the north elevation, and an ell was erected to the east of the circa 1785 building connecting the newly constructed room on the first story at the north end to the detached kitchen. The interior of the building features late 18<sup>th</sup> century mantels on the fireplaces of the 1785 rooms of the dwelling and 9/9 and 6/9 windows on the south façade. The room in the two-story block added to the north of the circa 1785 building features fluted surrounds with corner blocks. Fireplaces within these rooms have Classical framing. The ell and kitchen are utilitarian in form with side-gable roofs and beaded board walls. The house is considered under Criterion C for its association with Eastern Shore architecture and additive construction which is common in this area. The property comprises the dwelling, attached kitchen, two cemeteries, a shed, the brick foundation floor of a former kitchen, and a boxwood garden which are considered contributing to the property. A deteriorated shed and well pump are considered non-contributing elements to the property.

**Architectural Description:**

Selma is situated on the east side of US Route 13, Business, in the town of Eastville located in Northampton County, Virginia. Eastville is the county seat of Northampton County. Selma is sited north of the Courthouse green on the opposite side of US Route 13 Business between State Roads 630 and 631. The area is characterized by farmsteads with open, cultivated lands surrounding large to modest frame 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses.

The dwelling, Selma, faces south to the circular, oyster-shell driveway that is oriented east-west extending from US Route 13, Business, to its terminus south of the house. The lands surrounding the main house and two outbuildings are agrarian in nature with soybean crops. The area immediately

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 2**

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surrounding the house is open, flat and planted with grass. There are mature deciduous trees to the south, west, and north of the house.

A collapsed shed is located in a tree stand north of the house at the cultivated field boundary. A smaller, frame shed is located east of the house. There is a well pump located southeast of the house. A remaining boxwood garden is located south of the house, and a cemetery is located southwest of the garden and south of the house at the south boundary of the uncultivated lands. There is another cemetery situated west of the cemetery south of the boxwood gardens. The site of the former kitchen is situated south of the shed.

Selma is a single-family dwelling exhibiting additions and modifications made from its construction circa 1785. The dwelling is in the form of a “big house, little house, colonnade, kitchen” dwelling typical of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century Eastern Shore of Virginia. The arrangement of the buildings retains this form, but the periods of construction of the various parts are not consistent with this construction method.

The house was originally a side-passage, single-pile dwelling of two-stories with a gambrel roof. The two easternmost bays of the façade retain this configuration. The westernmost bay reflects modifications made to the dwelling in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, as it exhibits a side-gable roof and full second story. The west bay comprising the hall was expanded in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century by the owner, George Yerby. This modification extended the hall and addition of the interior stair to accommodate a two-story two-bay addition to the west, which has since been demolished. The north (rear) elevation of the central and west bays was extended by one room and is characterized by two stories and with a gable roof extending from the façade gambrel roof. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the house was expanded to the north by the owner, Elise Jarvis, which included the removal of the Yerby addition west of the hall and the addition of a room to the north of the original single room. There is a one-and-one-half-story kitchen erected at the time of the Yerby occupation at the east end of the dwelling connected to the main house via a hyphen or “colonnade”. The hyphen connects the kitchen with the northeast room, which was added in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century.

The foundation of the original single-pile, side passage house is Flemish bond brick. There is a semi-outside chimney at the east end of the building. A small, brick shed-roofed basement access ell has been added on the east elevation, north of the chimney. This ell replaces an earlier, gabled-roof ell that is visible on the exposed exterior wall of the house within the current ell. The building is frame clad in weatherboard with a raised bead at the base of each board. This is visible in the ell accessing the

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 3**

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basement. The entire dwelling is clad in asbestos shingles. There is some weatherboard visible around the door surround. This current weatherboard is plain and was added in circa 1840 during the Yerby expansion and between 1914 and circa 1920 during the Jarvis additions.

The main house has a three-bay façade with a two-bay porch at the west end. The porch shelters the central bay and entrance located at the west end of the façade. The entrance is comprised of a single-leaf, wood, four-panel door flanked by three-light and paneled sidelights and surmounted by a five-light transom. The porch has square columns and engaged columns. The porch roof is a low-pitch hipped form with a boxed cornice. The windows on the first story facade are 9/9, wood, double-hung sash with wood surrounds. The windows on the second story of the façade are 6/9, double-hung sash on the east and central bays, which are the gambrel-roofed portion of the façade. The westernmost bay door opening on the second story has been boarded.

The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, which replaces earlier wood shingles, and has two levels on the façade and north (rear) elevation. The westernmost end is slightly raised from the gambrel roof portion on the east and central bays. A parged chimney pierces the façade pitch of the roof at the east end corresponding to the semi-outside chimney seen on the east elevation.

The west elevation is two-bay with 6/6, wood, double-hung sash windows on each story. These windows were relocated from the Yerby addition to the west. There is a jack-arched, 7/7, wood, double-hung sash window in the gable that was relocated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century from the Yerby addition that dated to the early-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The north elevation has window openings on both stories with 6/6, wood, double-hung sash windows. The westernmost hall-portion of the dwelling projects north from the easternmost and central bays and has a taller proportion. The parged, central, interior chimney is visible on the north pitch of the roof and corresponds to the added chimney dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The east elevation is asymmetrical. The semi-outside chimney is visible at the south end of the east elevation and is 1-course American bond brick. Flanking the chimney are windows of the same proportion and characteristics of those found on the south façade of the gambrel-roofed portion of the dwelling. The windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of the east elevation are 6/6, wood, double-hung sash.

The hyphen connects the north addition, made to the original gambrel-roofed portion, to the detached kitchen. The hyphen rests on a brick pier foundation and is frame construction. It is clad in wood weatherboard and exhibits 1/1 wood double-hung sash windows. The hyphen extends on the south



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 4**

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elevation across a portion of the south elevation of the kitchen. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles replacing an earlier standing-seam metal roof. A former open porch was enclosed in plywood in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The kitchen is frame construction resting on a solid, common bond foundation. It is one-and-one-half stories with a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roof. The roof was originally clad in wood shingles and features wide eaves. There is a parged, exterior end chimney on the east elevation with a corbelled base common to the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the eastern part of Virginia. 2/2, wood, double-hung sash windows pierce the first and second stories of the north and south elevations. There is a single-leaf door on the south elevation accessing the hyphen.

After the acquisition by Jarvis' nephew in 1954, he clad the entire dwelling in asbestos siding. A 1951 photograph of the dwelling shows it clad in weatherboard with a wood shake roof on the main two-story portion. In addition, he clad the roof in asphalt shingles removing original roof material. It is believed the cladding of the building in asbestos shingles was to cover the irregular wood weatherboard found on the east elevation. The weatherboard on the east elevation exhibits varying widths as some was salvaged from the Yerby addition that was removed by Jarvis in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The interior of the house has a double-pile, side passage plan. The hall has wood plank flooring. There is portion of the floor at the south end along the west wall that has been replaced. This is the location of a former stair that led to the basement and possibly the second story. There is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century half-turn stair located at the north end. It features narrow balusters and a rounded railing with a turned newel post at the base with a volute. The lowest stair has a curtail step at the newel post. Visible in the stairwell are 6/6, wood, double-hung sash window openings that have been partially obscured by the stair landings.

The original first story room to the east of the hall has a four-panel door with simple surround. Doors are located on the west and north walls of the room. The windows on the south wall and on the east wall at the south corner have 9/9 panes. Etched in the window on the west end of the south wall is "W. T. Nottingham, Esq.", which likely dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The surrounds are simple. The fireplace has a wood, Classical surround with Tuscan columns and a roundel motif. The brick is exposed on the fireplace as well as on the hearth. The walls and ceiling are plaster on lath, and the baseboards are simplified and wood. The flooring is wide pine board.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 5**

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The room added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the north of the original portion has a rectangular plan. The doors are 4-panel, wood with fluted surrounds and roundel corner blocks. The baseboards have a simple bead. The window frames have similar characteristics to the doors frames. The mantel in this room has simplified Colonial Revival characteristics.

The hyphen exhibits wood flooring and beaded board walls and ceilings. The flooring is narrow pine. The window and doorframes are simple. There is a modern lavatory in the northwest corner of the hyphen. A door to the exterior has been boarded.

The kitchen exhibits mid-20<sup>th</sup> century cabinetry and vinyl-sheet flooring. The walls and ceiling is beaded board. The chimney has been covered with modern wallboard. There is a four-panel door on the south wall. On the northwest corner of the kitchen is an enclosed stair to the attic story. The stair is wood and the walls are clad in beaded board. The attic story has exposed structural elements covered in modern gypsum board. The flooring is wood plank and the window frames are simple. There are built in workbenches on the walls. Under the stair in the kitchen is a small cupboard.

The basement story is accessible under the original hall and parlor of the circa 1785 house. Access to the basement is gained through the brick ell. There is a stepped brick ramp north of the chimney. The Flemish bond brick is visible. There is a 5-course American bond brick enclosure at the southwest corner. On the west wall, there is a bricked door opening under the early stair. The flooring joists are hand-hewn, as well as the underside of the flooring. On the east wall is a projecting foundation of the chimney. There is a relieving arch with two courses of rowlock bricks. Window openings pierce the north and south elevations of the foundation. Visible through the north window openings is the foundation of the addition. This area is a crawlspace and exhibits former structural timbers from the Yerby addition to the west, which since has been removed.

The second story has a similar configuration to the first story. There is a little room over the entry. This room has wide pine flooring and simplified surrounds seen on the first story north room. The roundel blocks have been replaced by square block on the doorframe. The walls are plaster and the ceiling is modern replacement composite board.

The second story room in the original portion retains its original wide pine flooring, wood chair rail and window and doors surrounds. The fireplace in this room has a simple wood mantel with fluted pilasters and brick hearth. Above the mantel on the chimneybreast is wood paneling. North of the original portion is a lavatory and bedroom. The bedroom has a wood mantel exhibiting fluted

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 6**

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pilasters. The lavatory has beaded board wainscoting and coursed plaster walls. The fixtures are early 20<sup>th</sup> century and include a footed tub, sink and toilet.

The attic story is only comprised of the hall. It is divided into two storage spaces. The flooring is pine and the window and door surrounds are simple. There is a rounded-arch window on the east wall that has been boarded. This window opening overlooks the original roof structure of the gambrel roof that has been covered with the current side gable roof. Also visible within this space is the shed-roof extending from the north elevation of the gambrel roof. The structural members of the roof and east side wall exhibit lath markings and are structural members from the Yerby addition to the west, which was removed.

Located to the east of the house is a frame shed clad in weatherboard siding. It features a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. There is a single-leaf entry. The building rests on a brick pier foundation. This building dates to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is a contributing building to Selma.

To the north is a collapsed shed. Due to overgrowth, it is only partially visible. The building is frame clad in weatherboard with a standing-seam metal roof. This building is deteriorated and does not retain sufficient integrity to be considered contributing, therefore it is a non-contributing building to Selma.

To the southeast of the house is a metal well pump. The pump is only visible due to overgrowth. This is a non-contributing structure to Selma.

East of the house is a possible site of an earlier kitchen. This is noted in a 1972 survey of the property. There is evidence of a brick floor in a square shape in this area. The bricks feature some glazed headers. This site is believed to date from the original dwelling's construction. The area is overgrown. This is a contributing site to Selma.

South of the house is an overgrown boxwood garden. Its general rectangular form is intact, but it has not been maintained. The area within the boxwood garden is open. The garden is a common form found on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and likely dates to the original dwelling's construction. This is a contributing site to Selma.

South of the boxwood garden is the Smith and Parker cemetery. To the west of this cemetery is another cemetery dating to the Yerby and Lumley families. The two cemeteries are both overgrown.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 7**

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Some markers are no longer visible. The earliest marker dates to 1806. Additional markers were added in 1999 and 2000 commemorating past owners. The markers face east and some feature footstones. These two cemeteries are contributing sites to Selma. The markers are documented are listed below.

**Smith and Parker Cemetery:**

Here lies; George Lyttleton; Smith Parker; Son of George and; Elizabeth Parker; And Grandson of Isaac; And Elizabeth Smith; He was born 13<sup>th</sup> day; Of December A.D. 1803; And died; On 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1806.

Elizabeth Parker; Second wife of; George Parker; and eldest Daughter of; Isaac & Elizabeth Smith; was born 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1760; and died 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1808; In all her life, greatly admired; In her Death very much lamented.

Isaac Smith; Born 4<sup>th</sup> Novr 1734; Died 23d March 1813; Aged 78 years; 4 months & 19 days.

**Yerby and Lumley Cemetery:**

In Memory of; Charlotte H. Yerby; wife of; George T. Yerby; who was born; Jany 22<sup>nd</sup> 1806; Departed this life; August 27<sup>th</sup> 1851; I heard a voice from heaven; saying unto me Write blessed; Are the dead which die in; the Lord from henceforth; Yea saith the spirit that; they may rest from their; Labours.

In Memory of; Dr. George Teackle Yerby; Born March 3, 1802; Died Feby 13, 1865; Strictly honorable in; His dealings, kind and; Attentive in his professional; Duties, ever ready to attend; The poor in sickness he was; A true friend an affectionate; Husband and a devoted father; Blessed be the man that pro; Videth for the sick and needy; The Lord shall deliver him in; The time of trouble.

James Rutherford Lumley, Rut, Nov. 6, 1901, Jan. 31, 1999, Lived at Selma 1924-1999, Buried at Belle Haven, VA. (This a commemorative marker)

Gladys Nordstom Lumley, March 20, 1911, April 1, 2000, Lived at Selma 1950-2000, Buried at Belle Haven, VA. (This a commemorative marker)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 8**

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**Inventory:**

Main House, **contributing building**  
Attached kitchen, **contributing building**  
Frame shed, **contributing building**  
Site of an earlier kitchen, **contributing site**  
Boxwood garden, **contributing site**  
Two cemeteries, **contributing sites**  
Collapsed shed, **non-contributing building**  
Metal well pump, **non-contributing structure**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 9**

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**Summary Statement of Significance:**

Selma was constructed circa 1785 coinciding with the acquisition of the land on which the dwelling lies by Isaac Smith. The dwelling exhibits characteristics of this period including a side-passage single-pile plan, gambrel roof and Flemish bond brick foundation. The house was modified in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and is an example of additive construction typical on the Eastern Shore of Virginia during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with its detached kitchen connected to the main house via a hyphen. The house was extensively remodeled in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century with the enlargement of the original dwelling's hall and addition of a now demolished block to the west. Additional modifications were made to the building in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which is reflected in the current building's form. In addition, the roofline of the original hall was reconfigured to a side-gable form. The house is considered under Criterion C from circa 1785 to circa 1920 for its association with Eastern Shore architecture and additive construction which is common in this area. The property comprises the dwelling house, kitchen connected to the dwelling with a hyphen, two cemeteries, a shed, the brick foundation floor of a former kitchen, and a boxwood garden which are considered contributing to the property. A deteriorated shed and well pump are considered non-contributing elements to the property.

**Significance Statement:**

The lands on which Selma is situated were granted as early as the early 1700s. The lands passed through a number of hands until the 1784 when it became part of the John Bowdoin, Jr. property. Bowdoin held most land north and west of Eastville, including a dock on the Chesapeake Bay, which was a water-related stop in Colonial Northampton County.

The area of Eastville was originally farmland in Northampton County. The early Northampton County courthouse was located at the south end of the county. The inconvenience of travel to the south end of the long Eastern Shore county led to the request by the residents to relocate the court to Harry Matthews house in 1677. Matthews' house was located in what became Eastville in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Court was held at Matthews' house until the Courthouse Green was constructed in 1715 nearby on the west side of US Route 13, which was formerly called the Bayside Road. At this point the area was still dominated by farms and farmhouses. It was not until 1773 that John Tazewell subdivided the area around the courthouse into smaller lots to precipitate growth of the courthouse area. The town remained small in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and by 1835 had a meager population of 217.<sup>1</sup>

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 10**

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Bowdoin sold 330 acres of the parcel he inherited to Isaac Smith in 1785.<sup>2</sup> It is believed that the house was constructed during Smith's tenure at the property. The characteristics of the house are typical of domestic architectural style executed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The house originally had a single-pile, side passage plan, and was two stories with a gambrel roof. These characteristics are typical of early house plans in the Colonial and early American periods. The house plan is seen as late as the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but is more frequently seen in the Colonial period. The gambrel-roof form, Flemish bond foundation, semi-outside chimney, and massing and proportion of the remaining elements of the earliest house portion appear to date to the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

In 1802 Smith deeded the property to his son, Isaac Smith and his wife, Elizabeth. Isaac Smith retained the property until his death in 1813. He is buried at Selma. His daughter Elizabeth Parker, whom had married George Parker, was buried in 1808 in the cemetery on the property as well.

Smith willed the property at his death to Severn E. Parker, son of his daughter Elizabeth. Severn Parker retained the property until 1819, when he sold it.<sup>4</sup> In 1820, John Nottingham purchased Selma.<sup>5</sup> At some point during the Nottingham tenure at the property, William T. Nottingham, Esquire, etched his name into a glass pane on the first story of the house.

The property was sold in 1836 to Dr. George T. Yerby, who enlarged the house.<sup>6</sup> Yerby elongated the hall and added a two-story, double-pile block to the west of the original house.<sup>7</sup> In addition he reoriented the roofline of the hall to its current side gable configuration. Dr. Yerby died at Selma in 1865 and is buried in the cemetery, along with his wife, Charlotte, who died in 1851.

Yerby willed the property to Anne E. Kerr, his daughter who retained ownership until 1914, when the property was willed to Elsie Jarvis.<sup>8</sup> Upon Jarvis' acquisition at the house that additional changes were made. Jarvis removed the Yerby addition to the west, except for the hall. In addition, she added a room to the north of the original house on both stories and changed the roofline on the gambrel-roofed portion to a shed form on the north elevation. To heat the two additional rooms, she added a chimney on the north elevation of the original part and fireplaces on the south wall of each of the added rooms. In addition, she added the hyphen to the kitchen, which dates to the Yerby period.<sup>9</sup>

Selma is an example of additive construction typical to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The houses' "big house, little house, colonnade, kitchen" configuration is an example of the evolution of building

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 11**

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construction in Northampton County. This type of house contains rooms strung out in a long plan with the best rooms at one end and the service wing at the opposite end. Similar to “telescope” dwellings which present a descending building height order from larger dwelling spaces to smaller service wings, the “big house, little house, colonnade, kitchen” form connects a one-and-one-half-story service building to a larger dwelling. The service building would house a kitchen and servants’ quarters. This space above the kitchen was later converted to family bedrooms or storage during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The small wing between the larger domestic building and the kitchen provided everyday dining space and a service area for the main dwelling. Dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the house retains many original elements and reflects additions made in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>10</sup>

In the case of Selma, the original gambrel-roofed dwelling remained intact until the Yerby ownership in 1836, when the family erected a double-pile two-story building that abutted the original gambrel-roofed dwelling. To facilitate access to the upper story, the original side passage of the gambrel roofed hall was expanded and a new stair added. To accomplish the expansion of the stair, the roof above the hall was reconfigured to a side-gable form continuing the fashionable side-gable form topping the two-bay two-story west block. The remaining two-bays of the gambrel roofed portion of the original 1785 dwelling were retained in its two-story single-pile form. The original detached kitchen was retained and used at the site. It was originally wood frame construction topped with a pyramidal roof. All that remains of this kitchen is a brick floor underground with bricks dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A kitchen was added later in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century immediately east of the dwelling, which was later connected by the hyphen forming the “big house, little house, colonnade, kitchen”.

Similar modifications to existing dwellings are found on the Eastern Shore and within Virginia. In many cases earlier smaller dwellings were enlarged for growing families and to update older dwellings to the current fashion of the time. The function of the spaces within the dwellings changed as the rooms within the new construction became the formal spaces, while rooms in the earlier portions served as service wings or for family use. The “big house, little house, colonnade, kitchen” and “telescope” houses are the most common on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.<sup>11</sup>

The expansion of the dwelling by the Yerby’s is a common form on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century two-story dwellings were expanded from their earlier side-passage single- or double-pile forms adding an additional room. The reorientation of the roofline of the hall in some cases is also found within remaining late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings. The reorientation of the roofline of the hall is attributed to the fashion of the period as well as a means to access the addition’s double-pile plan for those houses that were originally single-pile. The reorientation of roofs on



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 12**

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dwelling on the Eastern Shore of Virginia is found throughout Northampton and Accomack Counties on existing dwellings dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This mode of additive construction reflects the trends in building construction during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Selma is an example of additive construction found on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and retains its architectural integrity of the periods of construction and alteration. Selma is eligible under Criterion C (Architecture) from the period circa 1785 to circa 1920 and comprises three contributing buildings, four contributing sites, one non-contributing building, and one non-contributing structure.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia

Section 9 Page 14

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

**Section 10 Page 15**

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**Boundary Description:**

The parcel on which Selma is located is noted as on the approved subdivision plan of The Village at Eastville, submitted by MSA, PC Landscape Design, Planning Surveying, Engineering, Environmental Sciences of Virginia Beach, Virginia on 1 April 2004 of the parcel noted as Northampton County Tax ID: 00058-((0A))-00-094.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries reflect the boundaries of the Selma tract as noted on the above reference map. The boundaries retain the historic character of the dwelling and surrounding contributing elements of the property.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Selma  
Northampton County, Virginia**

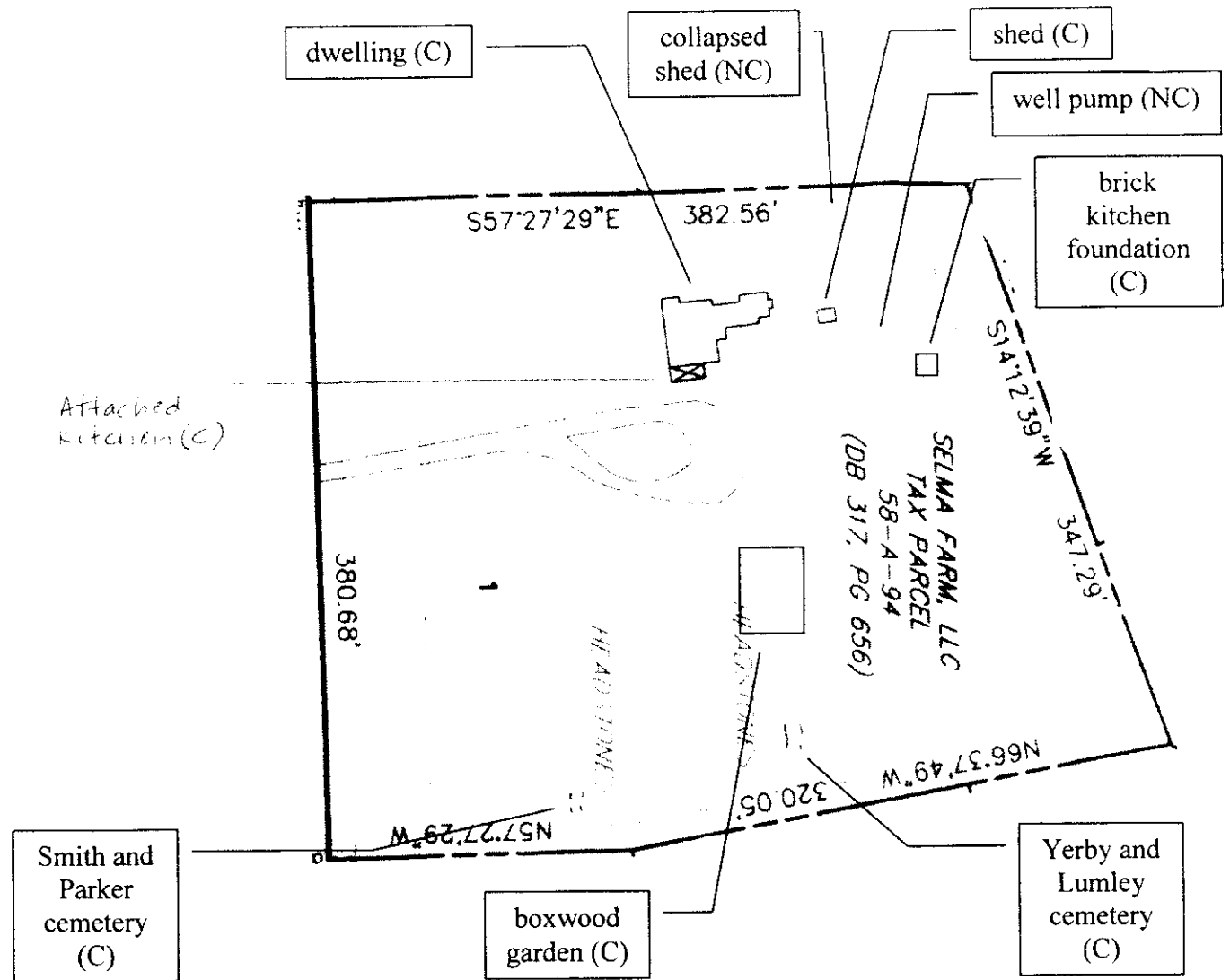
**Section 8 Page 13**

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**ENDNOTES:**

- <sup>1</sup> Mariner, Kirk, "Off 13: the Eastern Shore of Virginia guidebook," (New Church, VA: Miona Publications, c. 2002), 101.
- <sup>2</sup> Northampton County, Virginia Deed Book 21, page 449.
- <sup>3</sup> Mariner, 10.
- <sup>4</sup> Northampton County, Virginia Deed Book 26, page 535.
- <sup>5</sup> Northampton County, Virginia Deed Book 27, page 39.
- <sup>6</sup> Northampton County, Virginia Deed Book 30, 263.
- <sup>7</sup> Whitelaw, Ralph T., "Virginia's Eastern Shore: a history of Northampton and Accomack Counties," (Gloucester, MA: P. Smith, 1968), 265.
- <sup>8</sup> Northampton County, Virginia Deed Book 40, page 240.
- <sup>9</sup> Whitelaw, 265.
- <sup>10</sup> Lanier, Gabrielle M. and Herman, Bernard L., "Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: looking at buildings and landscapes," (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Press, 1997), 40-41.
- <sup>11</sup> Lanier, 42.

'BUSINESS ROUTE 13)(VAR. R/W)



**Selma**  
Eastville, Northampton County, Virginia

DHR Number 065-0077

Site Plan

1" : 100'

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SELMA  
18412032 4134810N  
CHERITON QUAD  
#065-0077  
NORTHAMPTON CO.

4136000m N  
4135  
4134  
4133  
20'  
4132

