State of North Carolina  
Division of Archives and History  

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Selma  MULTIPLE RESOURCE  OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC 
Noah Edward Edgerton House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 
301 West Railroad Street

CITY, TOWN 
Selma

STATE 
North Carolina

STATE CODE  COUNTY CODE 
037  Johnston  101

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME 
David I. Nunn

STREET & NUMBER 
301 West Railroad Street

CITY, TOWN 
Selma

STATE 
North Carolina  27576

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE 
Johnston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 
Market Street

CITY, TOWN 
Smithfield

STATE 
North Carolina  27577

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE 
Thomas A. Greco/Principal Investigator

ORGANIZATION 
Town of Selma

STREET & NUMBER 
Box 357

CITY OR TOWN 
Selma

DATE 
August, 1980

TELEPHONE 
(919) 965-3388

STATE 
North Carolina  27576
The Noah E. Edgerton House, built in 1896, is a prime example of the popular Queen Anne style. This two story, frame house, is situated on a large, treed town lot facing the Southern Railroad right-of-way. The asymmetrical massing, varied roof lines and three story octagonal corner turret are typical elements of the Queen Anne style. The three bay, front elevation has a projecting central entrance bay with a gabled roof. Exterior fenestration consists of 2/2 windows, with simple wood surrounds on the main body of the house and 1/1 windows in the corner turret. The plain weatherboard siding is complemented by decorative saw tooth shingles in the gables and turret and by the slate roof. Two interior chimneys, with decorative corbeled caps, complete the exterior massing. The ornate, one story wrap-around porch is a unique example of Eastlake styling, resembling furniture parts. Elegant turned wood posts, with sawnwork brackets and turned wood serren and balustrade support the porch roof.

A traditional center hall plan is followed on the interior, two rooms deep with a rear service wing attached. The rear wing, housing kitchen and pantry was added in 1901. Dominating the center hall is a finely carved closed string stair. The end newel post rises into an elegant turned post and supports an intricate turned wood screen. Turned wood balusters and paneled stringer complete the detailing of this fine staircase. Window and door surrounds consist of symmetrical moldings and carved corner blocks. The central hall also has sheathed wainscot. The four principal rooms on the first floor feature handsome hand carved wood mantels. The two rooms to the west of the hall have massive six foot mantels of classical design. Slender fluted columns with Corinthian capitals support the classical cornice and frame the beveled glass mirror and glazed brick fireplace opening in the front room. The rear room has square posts, with leaded glass doors, supporting paired miniature Corinthian columns and classical cornice. In the front room on the east is an elegantly carved Eastlake mantel. Large curving volutes support the main mantel shelf with a beveled glass mirror above. Framing the mirror are three tiers of symmetrical shelving supported by elegant turned wood spindles. During the 1920's and 30's, after N. E. Edgerton sold the house, the house was turned into several apartments. However, this apartment conversion did not alter any of the first floor rooms, and made only minor changes on the second floor. The current owners plan to restore the house to its former glory as one of Selma's most elegant homes.
The N. E. Edgerton House, built in 1896, is a prime Queen Anne style residence, fronting on the Southern Railroad right-of-way. The house was built by Noah E. Edgerton, from plans which he had drawn up by an architectural firm in Raleigh. N. E. Edgerton (1867-1921) was the first depot agent for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad. Mr. Edgerton became a prominent figure in the economic, political, and social life of Selma during his residence in the town from 1886-1919.

B. The house is associated with the life of N. E. Edgerton a prominent businessman and local politician in Selma. Many of the major industries and institutions that developed during the early Twentieth Century were co-founded by Mr. Edgerton and a varying group of other prominent local businessmen including Moses C. Winston.

C. The Edgerton House is a prime example of the Queen Anne style, which was popular in the 1890's. The ornately detailed front porch is in the then current Eastlake style and is a unique example of that style in Selma. The house has a traditional center hall plan with finely executed interior woodwork on the main stair and primary mantels.
Noah Edward Edgerton was born in 1867 in Beulah Township, located in eastern Johnston County. Mr. Edgerton came to Selma, c.1886, to work for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad as its first depot agent for the new line that the railroad was building in the area. The property, on which the house was built, was purchased by Edgerton in 1887 from John A. Waddell. The house was built in 1896, the same year that Mr. Edgerton was elected Mayor of the town. He served as Mayor until 1901. During his Mayoral term, Mr. Edgerton co-founded the Selma Oil and Fertilizer Works (later the Southern Cotton Seed Oil Company), along with Moses C. Winston. During the next five years Edgerton and Winston, along with several other local businessmen, founded many of the major Selma industries that helped the small town prosper during its early years. In 1901 the Selma Manufacturing Company was formed with M. C. Winston as president and N. E. Edgerton on the board of directors. The manufacturing company was followed by the Bank of Selma in 1902; the Selma Cotton Mills in 1904; and the Navassa Guano Fertilizer Company, also in 1904. Mr. Edgerton was president of the cotton mills and on the board of directors of the bank. He served as the first supervisor of the fertilizer company. The Edgerton and Company Clothing Store was also begun by Mr. Edgerton during this time. In 1918 Mr. Edgerton became editor of a new local newspaper, The Johnstonian Sun, which is still in publication, however, he did not stay long at this occupation, for in 1919 he and his family moved to Raleigh. In 1921 Mr. Edgerton died while living in the capital city; he was greatly missed by Selma residents. After his death Mrs. Edgerton and Normand E. Edgerton, his son, donated $2500 and all the brick for the educational wing of the Methodist Church. The church was later dedicated in his memory as the Edgerton Memorial Methodist Church. Mr. Edgerton had been instrumental in obtaining funds for the erection of the present church building in 1910. According to Normand Edgerton the organ in the building was partly funded by a matching grant from Andrew Carnegie, who was a personal friend of Noah Edgerton's.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


2. Register of Deeds. Johnston County Courthouse; Smithfield, N. C.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.5

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being Lot Number 71 in Block 16 in the plan of the Town of Selma, N. C. lying on the west side of Railroad Street and described as follows:
8. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND . . . Continued . . .

FOOTNOTES


7. Ibid. November 22, 1901.

8. Ibid. November 22, 1901, January 31, 1902; March 7, 1902; January 23, 1903; April 1, 1904; April 15, 1904; May 27, 1904.

9. Telephone Interview with Normand E. Edgerton, September 12, 1979 (By Davyd Foard Hood).


9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES - Continued... 

"Selma's Colorful Century". Selma, 1967.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA . . . Continued . . .

BEGINNING at the southwest corner of Railroad and Massey Streets; runs with Railroad Street 150 feet northwest; thence 90 degree angle from Railroad Street and parallel to Massey Street 150 feet southwest; thence 90 degree angle and parallel to Railroad Street 150 feet southeast to Massey Street; thence along Massey Street 150 feet to point of beginning, containing one-half acre more or less.