

National Register Historic Places
National Park Service
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To the National Park Service Staff.

The next three paragraphs are an excerpt from Selma, Alabama's Historical Commissions Nomination

The Alabama Historical Commission nominated most of Selma's waterfront district to the National Register of Historic Places, including the Civil War-era Confederate arsenal, shipyard and foundry.

The new expanded nomination adds a number of buildings and the newly explored Civil War sites, including portions which are today underwater in the Alabama River. Listing on the Historic Register provides certain protections for sites, and tax incentives and other perks, such as grants and other assistance for revitalizing and preserving the character of historic properties.

"The boundary has been expanded from its original confines to include several contributing buildings along Martin Luther King Street and Broad Street, as well as the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and two archeological sites associated with the Confederate Naval and Army arsenals, **on and in the bottom of the Alabama River**. A terrestrial archeological site has also been included as a contributing site. The 2005 update had 47 contributing resources, this update has been increased to include 59 contributing resources."

**Below is the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Register Criteria for Evaluation of Nominations.**

Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

An Interested Party's Opinion.

The Alabama Historical Commission has made an error when they nominated and recommended a one mile portion of the Alabama River adjacent to Selma's river waterfront. This recommendation was made because of a few isolated civil war finds (Two Mini Bullets) in the river and that the rivers location was near a former Confederate Naval and Army arsenal that is part of the Historical Commission's Nomination. There have been no archaeology sites, shipwreck sites or other history sites located in or on the one mile stretch of river bottom to warrant this portion (one mile stretch) of the Alabama River to be part of this Historical Commission's nomination.

This Alabama River portion of the Historical Commissions Nomination concerns me after reviewing the National Register Criteria. It appears to be an archaeology and historical identification over reach without good evidence of any archaeology site in the river. This over-reach to place an archaeology site in the river has caused the commission to define a mile stretch of the river without identifying a specific site on the bottom in that river mile. By definition of a mile of river bottom is good evidence that no site really exist (Fishing Expedition) and that this portion of the nomination has no real foundation. If an archaeology site did exist the location of the site in the river would have a much more identifiable specific area rather than a long mile stretch of river. Therefore, my recommendation to the National Register of Historical Places is to delete the mention of the Alabama River one mile stretch from the Alabama Selma Historical Nomination or return the nomination to Alabama.

Regards