

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Dixon CemeteryOther names/site number: Dixon Burying Ground, VDHR ID 015-5604Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: Toll Gate Road (County Route 658)City or town: Concord State: Virginia County: CampbellNot For Publication: ☒ Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D
Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: cemetery no longer in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: GRANITE, MARBLE, OTHER

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Situated in a farming community near the village of Concord, Virginia, the Cemetery maintains its original boundaries, contours, and appearance. Any changes in appearance or character are due to the effects of time and weathering, such as the ever-increasing fragility of aged mortuary monuments, or the loss of trees. The 1.1-acre wooded parcel, enclosed by a chain-link fence, includes various separate family plots as well as seemingly random graves without associated family members buried nearby. A number of the grave markers have toppled over, and it is likely that many are no longer visible, buried under foliage and accumulated soil. All inscribed headstones—most dating from the 1890s to the 1920s—face to the east. Few of the family plots are enclosed or visibly demarcated, but the small Fulton plot in the north central part of the cemetery has an iron fence. Another plot, with a fallen obelisk engraved with the names John Alexander Cardwell and Howlett Barger Hunter, is enclosed with a low, granite wall. The African American plots are in the western corner of the cemetery, with both marked and unmarked graves. Those that are marked have only undressed fieldstones with no inscriptions. The majority of grave markers throughout the cemetery are uninscribed, undressed fieldstones. The western corner of the cemetery, where only fieldstone markers are found, is said to have been delineated for African American burials; a very unusual arrangement in the American South. Among the marked graves are not only Dixon family members, but a number of other

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families including Booth, Callaham, Cardwell, Evans, Franklin, Fulton, Goff, Hendrick, Hunter, Keesee, Land, Martin, Meeks, Pugh, Wheeler, and Woodson. The grounds also include a rare and diverse assortment of old-growth hardwood tree species including oak, poplar, locust, and sycamore, and plants commonly associated with historic cemeteries such as yucca and periwinkle.

Narrative Description

Site Description

The historic Dixon Cemetery is located in Campbell County, in Virginia's south central Piedmont region, near the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The nearest town, Concord, about two miles north-northeast of the cemetery, straddles the county line between Appomattox County and Campbell County at the intersection of US Highway 460 and VA Highway 24. Highway 460 West leads to Lynchburg, the area's largest metropolitan center, and Highway 24 South to Rustburg, the seat of government for Campbell County.

The Dixon Cemetery, containing 1.46 acres, begins approximately seventy feet west of Toll Gate Road (County Route 658) and is bounded to the south by a small drainage known as Plum Branch. Two parcels (A and B) create a grassy right-of-way upward to the gravesites from Toll Gate Road, the main entrance into the cemetery. This right-of-way does not affect the appearance of the burial grounds, as the area containing gravesites is separated by a chain link fence from the right-of-way, and is not included in the nominated area. The burial sites are located inside a canopy of trees surrounded by a chain link fence, added in the 1960s as a deterrent to farm cattle, and continues to be surrounded by farmland. An artfully fashioned wooden sign was recently installed at the Toll Gate Road entrance to the cemetery property. A metal farm gate with the attached wooden sign opens onto an approximately seventy-foot-long grassy right-of-way to the top of a knoll and the entrance to the gravesites.

There is now an unimproved farm road between the branch and the tree line of the cemetery. On the east side of the cemetery is a cleared area about 85 feet wide between the tree canopy and Toll Gate Road. A modern house at 1312 Toll Gate Road is about 240 feet north-northeast of the cemetery, and a property identified as Farm, 1340 Toll Gate Road [DHR ID 015-0213] is located immediately to the west and northwest.¹

Detailed Description

The cemetery was not laid out in a particular geometric pattern, but grew somewhat haphazardly over nearly two centuries. The graves were established in horizontal rows, though not perfect rows. The grave markers are made of marble, granite, or fieldstone, the majority of them, throughout the cemetery, are uninscribed, undressed fieldstones.

The grounds also include a rare and diverse assortment of old-growth hardwood and conifer tree species including beech, oak, poplar, locust, maple, pine, sycamore, and other trees indigenous to

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Central Virginia, as well as plants commonly associated with historic cemeteries such as yucca and periwinkle. Virtually all of the ground surface inside the fence is covered with periwinkle. Unlike many other cemeteries, there are no well-delineated walkways, yet midway into the cemetery is a worn pathway, covered with periwinkle, that roughly follows the inside of the fence.

Based on old obituaries, family Bibles, and individual recollections, and visual observation, there is no doubt that the historic Dixon Cemetery contains many unmarked graves. Numerous depressions in the grounds identify the locations of unmarked graves, and in recent years stone markers that have disappeared from view have been unearthed and reset.

Several features inside the cemetery are individually significant. One is a marble obelisk memorializing five Callaham family members who were killed in a train collision with their horse and buggy, with the inscription "Killed by the Southern RR at Lawyers, Virginia, September 16, 1895." Another is an iron-fenced plot surrounding the gravesites of the Fulton family from Pennsylvania, whose sons fought in the Union Army. A third significant feature of the cemetery is the undelineated but confined African American portion containing possibly more than one-quarter acre. This would potentially include some graves that have not yet been discovered outside of the fenced area.

The irregularly shaped wooded cemetery parcel includes various separate family plots as well as seemingly random graves without associated family members buried nearby. Several of the grave markers have toppled over, and it is likely that others are no longer visible, buried under foliage and accumulated soil. The burial depressions are aligned north-south, with all inscribed headstones—most dating from the 1890s to the 1920s—facing to the east, which is typical of Christian burials. Few of the family plots are enclosed or visibly demarcated, but the small Fulton plot in the north central part of the cemetery has an iron fence. Another plot, with a fallen obelisk engraved with the names John Alexander Cardwell and Howlett Barger Hunter, is enclosed with a low, granite wall. With both marked and unmarked graves, the African American plots occupy a large area encompassing the western corner of the cemetery, believed to have always been delineated for African American burials. There are a few graves in this area that have marker bearing inscriptions, but most have only undressed fieldstones with no inscriptions.

Among the graves marked with inscribed headstones or monuments are not only Dixon family members, but numerous other families including Booth, Callaham, Cardwell, Evans, Franklin, Fulton, Goff, Hendrick, Hunter, Keese, Land, Martin, Meeks, Pugh, Wheeler, and Woodson. Their markers feature an array of funerary art motifs that were common to their respective periods. Very few of the markers would be considered highly artistic or ornate, but motifs such as angels, praying hands, flowers, and urns are present, and some bear an inscribed poem or Bible verse. For example, the marble tablet at the grave of William Evans (1787–1860) features an embossed weeping willow tree, symbolizing immortality, set within a circular recess. The willow was one of the most common symbols of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The grave marker of James Edwin Goff (1902–1916) includes an embossed dove, said to

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symbolize peace and purity, set within a semicircular recess. The grave of Charles H. Land (b. 1836) is marked by a stone tablet with the once-popular crown-and-thorn motif, which symbolizes “passion or sovereignty of the Lord.”²

Integrity Statement

For many decades the Dixon Cemetery was neglected and left to the encroachment and overgrowth of trees and brush. A concerted effort by volunteers has been made in recent years to clear out dead trees and invasive plant material, and provide repair and general clean-up of the cemetery property. That maintenance continues and will be ongoing. The cemetery remains an unaltered example of a rural cemetery that abides within its original setting and boundaries. Therefore, the site retains its excellent integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

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 grave
- ☒ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1752–1938

Significant Dates

1752–1756

1873

1938

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The historic Dixon Cemetery is a significant property associated with settlement history in west-central Virginia. Among its graves are some of the early settlers of the area including enslaved and freed African Americans, Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers who died as a result of the war as well as those who survived the war, and many who made historical contributions to Virginia and the nation. It was initially a private family cemetery that became a public cemetery. During the Revolution, the Dixon Cemetery was a private burial ground contained within a land grant of 1,025 acres from King George II of England to Thomas Dixon, an early Irish immigrant to America. The grant occurred on August 16, 1756; however, burials were taking place in the Dixon Cemetery by 1752, which makes it one of the oldest, if not the oldest cemetery in Campbell County, and formed from part of Bedford County in 1782. Therefore, the cemetery meets National Register Criteria A in the Exploration/Settlement area of significance, at the local level, as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The cemetery's period of significance spans from the early settlement period—1752—when the first burials were made, through 1938, when the last burials were made, encompassing intermittent periods of settlement after the Civil War by freedmen and their descendants. Important dates correspond to the cemetery's period establishment between 1752-1756, as well as 1873, when the private cemetery was deeded as a public cemetery in Campbell County. The Dixon Cemetery is one of the few local resources associated with the County's historic African American community. Given the cemetery's period of interments and its location in the American South, it was highly unusual for its inclusion of both Whites and African Americans in the same cemetery. Although the graves of each race were not co-mingled, but rather confined to their own areas, and the White grave markers were in some cases much more elaborate, there is little distance and no trace of a dividing wall or fence between them. The cemetery retains its historic integrity and meets Criteria Consideration D both for its age in relation to the exploration and settlement of the community and the locally significant individuals who are buried within it. Currently, Campbell County has only 15 register listings, none of which are cemeteries. There is no extant historic resource or collection of resources that represent this era of the community as well as the Dixon Cemetery.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A – Exploration/Settlement

While Virginia was still one of thirteen colonies under British rule, and long before the American Revolution began in 1775, the Dixon Cemetery was a private cemetery contained within a land grant of 1,025 acres from King George II of England to Thomas Dixon, an early Irish immigrant to America. The grant occurred on August 16, 1756. At the time, all of the property granted was a portion of Lunenburg County, Virginia, which would later become part of Bedford County, and in 1781 part of Campbell County. Burials were taking place in the Dixon Cemetery even before

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the land grant, as early as 1752.³ The date is significant because it establishes the Dixon as one of the oldest, if not the oldest known cemetery in Campbell County. Moreover, because the cemetery contains many graves of the county's first and most prominent citizens, it is eligible under Criterion A in the Exploration/Settlement area of significance.

Virginia's Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS) currently contains records for 73 cemeteries in Campbell County, none of which have been dated with any certainty to the 18th century except for the Dixon Cemetery (1752) and the Lynch Cemetery at Avoca (1796). Most of those recorded in VCRIS date to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Undoubtedly, however, many small family cemeteries across the county remain unidentified and the potential for new discoveries of early historic burial sites clearly exists.

Campbell County, first settled in the Hat Creek area, mainly by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in 1736 and incorporated in 1781, was the first Virginia county formed near the conclusion of the American Revolution. It was named for General William Campbell, a Revolutionary War hero known for his role in defeating the Loyalists at the Battle of King's Mountain in South Carolina.

In 1757, John Lynch, son of one of the area's first Quaker families, initiated a ferry service on the James River in what would become Campbell County, around which the City of Lynchburg developed by 1786. John Lynch's brother Charles developed Green Level (now Avoca), located in present-day Campbell County town of Altavista. In 1784 land donated by Jeremiah Rust became the county seat of Rustburg.⁴

The period of significance, ending in 1938 when the cemetery was closed to new burials, encompasses intermittent periods after the Civil War in which freedmen and their descendants settled in the area and engaged primarily in agricultural occupations.

Archaeological Potential

Although no archaeological investigations have been undertaken at Dixon Cemetery, potential to yield important information regarding cultural and temporal variations in funerary practices presumably exists. Non-intrusive investigation in the forms of observational study with detailed mapping, and ground-penetrating radar could possibly locate currently unknown graves outside of the current bounds of the cemetery and determine the sizes, orientations, and spatial relationships of graves. In the absence of such studies, however, there is insufficient data available to support National Register Criterion D for Archaeology.

Veteran Burials

Among the many war veterans known to be buried in the Dixon Cemetery are locally familiar surnames such as Cardwell, Babcock, Booth, Dixon, Evans, Martin, but also some names not so familiar. Although numerous individuals' graves have yet to be identified, the names and military involvement of some confirmed to be buried in the Dixon Cemetery are discussed briefly below.

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The 1839 obituary of Robert Cardwell, one of the early settlers to Campbell County, notes that he “served under Capt. Dixon in 1776 or 1777, when he marched to the lead mines in Western Virginia to guard them from the English and the Indians. In 1781 Cardwell joined the Amherst Company of the Virginia Militia, under the command of Capt. William Lovin. They marched to Williamsburg where they joined the army which besieged Little York under General Washington.”⁵

Another Revolutionary War soldier, James Dixon, was a miller, a surveyor, and commanded a company of the Bedford County militia at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, where he had his horse shot out from under him. He survived, and in 1782, he represented Campbell County with the Peace Commission.

Bradley Whitney Babcock was born in Franklin, Vermont, but moved to Campbell County in 1836. He was a contractor for the Southern Railroad who enlisted in the Confederate Army in August 1862, and rode with Co. B, 2nd Virginia Cavalry. He was twice wounded and apparently discharged. After the Civil War he worked as a teacher and farmer in Campbell County.

James Daniel Evans served in the 44th Virginia Infantry, then in Company A, 20th Battalion Virginia Heavy Artillery. He died on April 12, 1864 from the kick of a horse while on leave at his home in Appomattox County.

Moses Brightwell was a miller who served as a Corporal and as an artificer (a skilled craftsman) in Company I, 1st Regiment Engineers, CSA. This unit fought as the rear guard on April 6, 1865 at Saylor’s Creek.

George Washington Akers was a farmer, a teacher, a shoemaker, and a clock repairman who served in Booker’s 3rd Regiment, Virginia Reserves.

John William Franklin was in Company E, 20th Battalion, Virginia Heavy Artillery. He became a POW in April of 1865 at Farmville, but was released on July 1, 1865 at Newport News.

Christopher Anthony “Kit” Cardwell was one of the men picked from the regiment by General John Gordon to assault Fort Stedman in an attempt to break the siege of Petersburg. Cardwell wrote letters to his family describing his and his comrades’ fears of mining and being blown up, privations from lack of proper clothing and food, muddy conditions, and cold weather. His group of Confederate soldiers was eventually forced to retreat. Kit did not expect to survive and questioned in another letter to his family whether they would “think ill” of him if he deserted. He did not desert and was part of the remnant of the 42nd Virginia Infantry paroled on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox.

Adam Fulton, a Union soldier who enlisted for 90 days in the 22nd Pennsylvania Infantry, then served as Sgt. in Company G, 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteers was a son of the Reverend Thomas Fulton who came to Campbell County soon after the Civil War as the minister of New Concord Presbyterian Church. Rev. Fulton is also buried at the Dixon Cemetery.

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William James Fulton, brother of Adam, and son of Rev. Fulton, was also a Union soldier with the 1st Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry (15th Reserves).

There is also evidence to suggest that veterans of the French and Indian War and of World War I are buried at the Dixon Cemetery. The search for stones and markers covered in dirt continues.⁶

African American Graves

By 1873, wrote Dr. Joseph Evans in 1988, “there was a community need and this burial ground was deeded to the public...the [eastern] portion was designated for use by the White race and the [western] portion by the colored (Negro) race....” It is generally believed that the community need arose from the emergence of deadly diseases experienced by both races, such as TB, typhoid fever, diphtheria, and many deaths resulting from wounds received during the Civil War. The county was running out of space to bury the dead and a public cemetery helped solve the space problem.⁷

Unfortunately, little is known about the African Americans buried in the Dixon Cemetery. A recent article in *The Chronicle*, the Campbell County Historical Society Bulletin, notes that there were two African Americans who served as trustees for the Dixon Cemetery in 1948. They were George Bradley Burns and James Marvin Gibson, both of whom have family members buried there. There is an effort underway to locate descendants of Burns and Gibson in the hope of gaining more information about them, personally, and perhaps, some information about other African Americans buried at the Dixon Cemetery. It is undisputed that many African Americans buried at the Dixon Cemetery were enslaved domestic servants or enslaved farm workers of White families who were also laid to rest in the cemetery; and also that many African Americans who had been manumitted or emancipated after the Civil War continued to work, voluntarily, alongside the White families who had previously owned them.

The Dixon Cemetery’s Black section resembles numerous other rural Black cemeteries of the 19th and early 20th centuries throughout much of Virginia. The arrangement of graves is typically not unlike that of White cemeteries and its mix of unmarked graves and uninscribed fieldstones is also typical.⁸ What is unusual about the Dixon Cemetery, however, is the lack of division or distance between the Black burials and the white burials. There is no fence, wall, or other visible delineation between them. There are no historic signs or markers referring to racial identities. Other well-documented historic cemeteries in central and western Virginia may be useful in illustrating this distinction.

For example, Shannon Cemetery [DHR 035-5028] in Giles County, listed on the National Register in 2007 under Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement and Ethnic History: Black, has both a White section, dated to 1781 and later, and a Black section, dated to the antebellum period of the 19th century and later. However, the two sections consist of two separate contributing sites. Yet like the Dixon cemetery, the Shannon Cemetery’s Black section consists of graves with uninscribed fieldstone markers, many unmarked depressions, and a high probability of many visually undetectable graves both within and outside of the cemetery’s known limits.

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The African American cemetery [DHR 062-5119-0125] on the east side of the Wintergreen manor site in Nelson County, Virginia, is sited immediately east of the Coleman family cemetery, which is enclosed by a well-built stone wall. (The Harris family cemetery, on the west side of the Coleman cemetery has a separate stone wall enclosure, but shares one common wall with the Coleman Cemetery. Both are recorded as part of the Wintergreen property (DHR ID 062-0031.) The African American cemetery has no wall, fence or other enclosure, and is not maintained. It is largely overgrown and contains scattered litter and debris. All three cemeteries share a single landform: a flat plateau elevated above a historic valley road corridor. The African American cemetery is believed to contain only the graves of enslaved, formerly enslaved, and freedmen residents of Wintergreen interred before and after the Civil War. Most were members of the Crawford and Banks families. The dates of the first and last interments are unknown. Many graves are marked with unworked and uninscribed gravestones, while an uncertain number have no markers at all. Some are evidenced only by depressions in the ground surface, making it difficult to estimate the number of interments.⁹

Maple Hill Cemetery (DHR 143-5082) in Bluefield, Virginia, encompasses an African American section containing approximately 280 graves that was separated by a short distance from the white section, which makes up the largest part of the cemetery. It is possible that no physical barrier originally existed, but a fence was erected during the 20th century and only recently removed. Over time, the Black section was abandoned, forgotten and neglected, becoming heavily overgrown until 2004, when it was discovered to be town property (since 1895).¹⁰

Historical Background

It is significant that while Virginia was still one of thirteen colonies under British rule, and long before the American Revolution began in 1775, the Dixon Cemetery was a private cemetery contained within a land grant of 1,025 acres from King George II of England to Thomas Dixon, an early Irish immigrant to America. The grant occurred on August 16, 1756. At the time, all of the property granted was a portion of Lunenburg County, Virginia, which would later become part of Bedford County, and in 1782 officially part of Campbell County.

By 1820, the rural, agrarian county had a population of approximately 5,000 Whites, more than 400 enslaved persons, and 21 free Blacks.¹¹ The 2020 census recorded a total population of 55,000 in the county. The county seat of Rustburg had only 1,585 residents.

Burials were taking place in the Dixon Cemetery as early as 1752, before the land grant. The date is significant because it establishes the Dixon as one of the oldest, if not the oldest known cemetery in Campbell County, Virginia.¹²

Despite the great divide between North and South during the Civil War, the Dixon Cemetery holds the remains of at least one northern family and their two sons who were Union soldiers. The Fulton family is special in that regard. The Fultons were Irish immigrants who came to Campbell County from Pennsylvania soon after the Civil War. They rest in a prominent plot

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which is surrounded by an iron fence. The father was a minister who came to the county to serve a Protestant church. It seems the family was well-liked and there was no issue with their burial in the Dixon Cemetery. They would have shared similar values with others in the Concord community and been able to find common ground together in their Scots and Irish heritage.

The historic Dixon Cemetery has had a significant relationship with local houses of worship, particularly with several iterations of New Concord Presbyterian Church. The first Concord Presbyterian congregation, now called Old Concord Presbyterian, worshipped with a Methodist Protestant congregation in a school building. In 1835, about thirty members were dismissed for the purpose of organizing New Concord Church. They joined with the Methodist Protestants to build a union church where both groups could worship together. About fifty years later, the New Concord Presbyterians built their own church and members were allowed to use the Dixon Cemetery as the church's burial grounds because they did not have enough property at the new church for a cemetery. This church was built of logs and not expected to last more than twenty years, so members did not want to commit to maintenance of the cemetery.¹³

Some years later, another church by the same name was built at a different location and did contain enough property for its own cemetery. However, at that point, the close ties that had existed between the Dixon Cemetery and New Concord Presbyterian would not be the same. Church members were now more likely to be buried in the church cemetery at New Concord Presbyterian, though some continued to be buried at the Dixon Cemetery. A more accurate accounting of these burials is a future project.¹⁴

Tragedy at Lawyers: The Callaham Family

A tall marble obelisk is centrally located within the Dixon Cemetery on a plot in which five coffins were placed side by side, signifying the burial of a young family killed by a railroad accident on September 16, 1895. On each of its four sides the obelisk features a carved white oak branch and a dove. Joseph Milton Callaham (40 yrs.), his wife Narcissus Gilliam McBrayer Callaham (23 yrs.), their sons Richard (2 yrs.) and Joseph (4 mos.), and Narcissus' sister, Eva McBrayer (16 yrs.) are laid to rest here.

In a wagon with a team of horses composed of a gelding and a mare, the Callaham family were returning from a visit with the McBrayer family in Bedford, to their home in Rustburg by way of Lawyers Crossing. The fast mail train, No 35, of the Southern Railway Company had traveled twelve miles south from Lynchburg Station. As No. 35 was passing through the village of Lawyers, and as the Callaham family's wagon began the downgrade toward the track crossing...the wagon...collided with the train at the crossing...and all five of the Callaham family were killed that day. Five coffins were provided by undertaker W.D. Diuguid of Lynchburg with the Southern Railroad Company paying the cost of \$32. The coffins were taken to the platform of Union Station in Lynchburg where they were viewed by many spectators before being taken to the Callaham home in Rustburg... The Southern Railroad Company also took charge of having the obelisk made and erected in the Dixon Cemetery.¹⁵

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Closure of Dixon Cemetery in 1938

The closure of the cemetery to new interments in 1938 came about unofficially due to circumstances. Within the cemetery there are partial rows resulting from graves wedged into perceived available spaces, many adjacent to child burials, which potentially intruded upon older unmarked burials. Therefore, some of the newer burials were out of alignment to the row, so by 1915 there was already a real risk of a new burial shaft entering an existing older grave.¹⁶

By the early 1930's those who visited the Dixon frequently encountered new graves which were unmarked, and the person interred completely unidentified. Sometimes a wooden board or a cross marked the grave, but wooden markers rotted and were usually not replaced. There was no plan or mapping of the cemetery in place, no one was in charge, and by the 1930s it had become too risky to dig new graves for fear of encroaching on an existing one. Also, by 1938, foliage overgrowth due to the lack of maintenance impeded access to the gravesites.¹⁷

World War I hastened the movement of young families and farmers into towns and cities. The Spanish Flu and then the Great Depression removed more families from the rural countryside, resulting in diminished need for cemetery plots. By this period, several local churches maintained their own cemeteries. The Dixon Cemetery had lacked proper maintenance for several decades; therefore, many chose to be buried in a church or a large municipal cemetery in nearby Lynchburg where maintenance was assured.

Dixon Cemetery Recent History

As posted on the organization's website, "In 2014, descendants of those buried at the Dixon Cemetery and other supporters began to organize and hold Fall clean-up Saturdays at the cemetery. On May 15, 2017, they became the "Dixon Historical Cemetery Association, Inc." (DHCA), a Virginia non-stock charitable corporation. On September 12, 2017, the cemetery and a strip of access land connecting it to Toll Gate Road was conveyed to DHCA thanks to the generosity of Mr. Glover D. Gilliam and Mr. James E. Hamilton. The corporation received exemption from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) on May 17, 2018. DHCA continues the work of clean-up and restoration." ¹⁸

Endnotes

1. A survey of Dixon Cemetery was made by Albert E. Neighbors, Jr., Surveyor, in 2017. The survey was made as a result of deeds of gift for the right-of-way from Toll Gate Road up the grassy knoll to the burial sites. Grantors James Hamilton and Glover Gilliam are farmers who currently own contiguous property around three sides of the Dixon cemetery, outside of the fenced area. According to a plat of survey, Parcel A contains 0.048 acres, more or less, and Parcel B contains 0.299 acres, more or less. The survey and deeds of gift were recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Campbell County Courthouse in Rustburg, Virginia, on September 12, 2017. The plat can be viewed in Plat Cabinet C, Slide 170, page 7000.
2. Accessed 1/23/2024: <https://www.oakdalecemetery.org/funerary-art-symbolism/>
3. Evans, "The Dixon Family Cemetery" 1988.

Dixon Cemetery

Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia

County and State

4. Accessed 1/8/2024: <https://www.co.campbell.va.us/377/County-History>
5. March 11, 1839, obituary citing Pension Records of the National Archives. *Lynchburg Virginian* newspaper.
6. Information regarding Veterans provided by Revely Carwile and is based on his years of personal research. Research is on-going to find other Union soldiers buried at the Dixon Cemetery. It is believed that the house adjacent to the cemetery and now occupied by Mr. Hamilton's granddaughter and family (a contiguous farmer) was occupied in 1864 by a doctor, and that wounded Union soldiers were brought there after raids against Concord Depot in June 1864 and April 1865. If any of these wounded soldiers died at the home of the doctor, it is possible they were buried in the Dixon Cemetery which is adjacent.
7. Evans, "The Dixon Family Cemetery" 1988; 1873 deed recorded in the Campbell County Courthouse.
8. Klatka, "Cultural Expressions of Nature in Sacred Contexts" 2000.
9. Pulice, Wintergreen African American Cemetery (062-5119-0125) VCRIS record, 2016.
10. Maple Hill Colored Cemetery, Town of Bluefield, Virginia (DHR ID 143-5082) 2020 Preliminary Information Form.
11. US Census for 1820, Family Search.com
12. Evans, "The Dixon Family Cemetery".
13. Ibid.
14. William Bynum at The Library of Virginia's Archives Reference Services, described the Session book dated 1884-1913 as containing a lengthy, undated membership list and narratives of Session meetings. There is also the possibility that the earlier Session book of 1835-1913 is bound with Accession 21204a and b, and Session book 1884-1913 is also bound with Accession 21204a and b at The Library of Virginia, and may contain notices of burials and/or other information that would be informative to history and research efforts regarding the Dixon cemetery.
15. "Tragedy at Lawyers Remembered," *Lynchburg News & Advance*, September 11, 1977, pgs.C-1, C-2.
16. Personal communication with Dixon Historical Cemetery Association, Inc. and family members.
17. Ibid.
18. Accessed 1/26/2024: <https://dixoncem.org/>

Dixon Cemetery
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia
County and State

9. Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Appomattox County Chamber Community Guide and Membership Directory, pg. 24.

Authority of King George II (August 16, 1756). Original land grant to Thomas Dickson (Dixon) of 1025 acres in what was then Lunenburg County. (Attached hereto).

Booth, Aubrey W. Collaborator, researcher, and treasurer of The Dixon Historical Cemetery Association, Inc. Personal communication.

Bynum, William. The Library of Virginia, Archives Reference Services (email of 8-26-2020).

Campbell County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Deed Book 37, pg. 55: Andrew Cook Martin to the Trustees of the Dixon Burying Ground. Dixon family cemetery becomes a public cemetery. (Two deeds attached: one original in Spenserian script; the second is the same deed transcribed).

Campbell County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Plat of Survey of The Dixon Historical Cemetery by Albert E. Neighbors, Jr., Surveyor, September 12 2017, in Plat Cabinet C, Slide 170, pg.7000. (Plat reduced and attached).

Cardwell, Dorothy S. An organizer and genealogist of The Historic Dixon Cemetery Association, Inc. Personal communication.

Cardwell, William R. The principal organizer and first president of The Dixon Historical Cemetery Association, Inc. Personal communication.

Carwile, Revelly B., Jr. Historic Dixon Cemetery historian, researcher, collaborator, and current president of the Historic Dixon Cemetery Association, Inc. Personal communication.

The Chronicle. A recent Campbell County Historical Society Bulletin regarding the African- American Trustees of the Dixon Cemetery in 1948.

Dixon, James H., Ph.D. *The Dixon Clan: Scotland, Ireland, and America*, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1996.

Driskill, Amelia Talley. Historic Dixon Cemetery historian, researcher, and collaborator. Personal communication.

Evans, Dr. Joseph. "The Dixon Family Cemetery" June 1988. Unpublished document researched and collated by Dr. Evans on the early Dixon family cemetery.

Dixon Cemetery
Name of Property

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Klatka, Thomas S. "Cultural Expressions of Nature in Sacred Contexts: Documentation of Family and Community Cemeteries in Roanoke County, Virginia." Report, 2000. Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

"Tragedy at Lawyers Remembered," *Lynchburg News & Advance* article, September 11, 1977, pgs.C-1, C-2.

Maple Hill Colored Cemetery, Town of Bluefield, Virginia (DHR ID 143-5082) 2020 Preliminary Information Form. Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Pezzoni, J. Daniel. Shannon Cemetery, Giles County, Virginia, National Register form, 2006.

Pulice, Michael J. Reconnaissance survey of Coleman and Harris cemeteries (at Wintergreen) 2016, Nelson County, Virginia (DHR ID 062-0031). Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 015-5604

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4620

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Dixon Cemetery
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.311356 Longitude: -78.991854

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The 1.4620-acre nominated parcel boundary conforms precisely to that of the Dixon Cemetery itself and its entrance from Toll Gate Road, comprising Campbell County tax parcel 27A-14-C, as shown on the 1:125'-scale Location Map that accompanies the nomination.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The fence that encompasses the cemetery has followed approximately the same lot line since 1938 and likely long before. The nominated parcel boundary, therefore, encompasses the full extent of the cemetery as is currently known and based on historic records such as those cited herein.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sally Ware and Michael Pulice
organization: Dixon Historical Cemetery Association; VDHR
street & number: _____
city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

Dixon Cemetery
Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia
County and State

e-mail: qoware@comcast.net; michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov
telephone: 540-387-5443
date: January 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Dixon Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Concord vicinity

County: Campbell

State: Virginia

Photographer: Photos by Michael Pulice except where noted.

Date Photographed: October 2019 except where noted.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0001 Cemetery sign. Photo by Ed Booth, July 2019
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0002 General view. Photo by Sally Ware Nov. 2023
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0003 General view. Photo by Sally Ware Nov. 2023
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0004 General view looking north

Dixon Cemetery

Name of Property

Campbell County Virginia

County and State

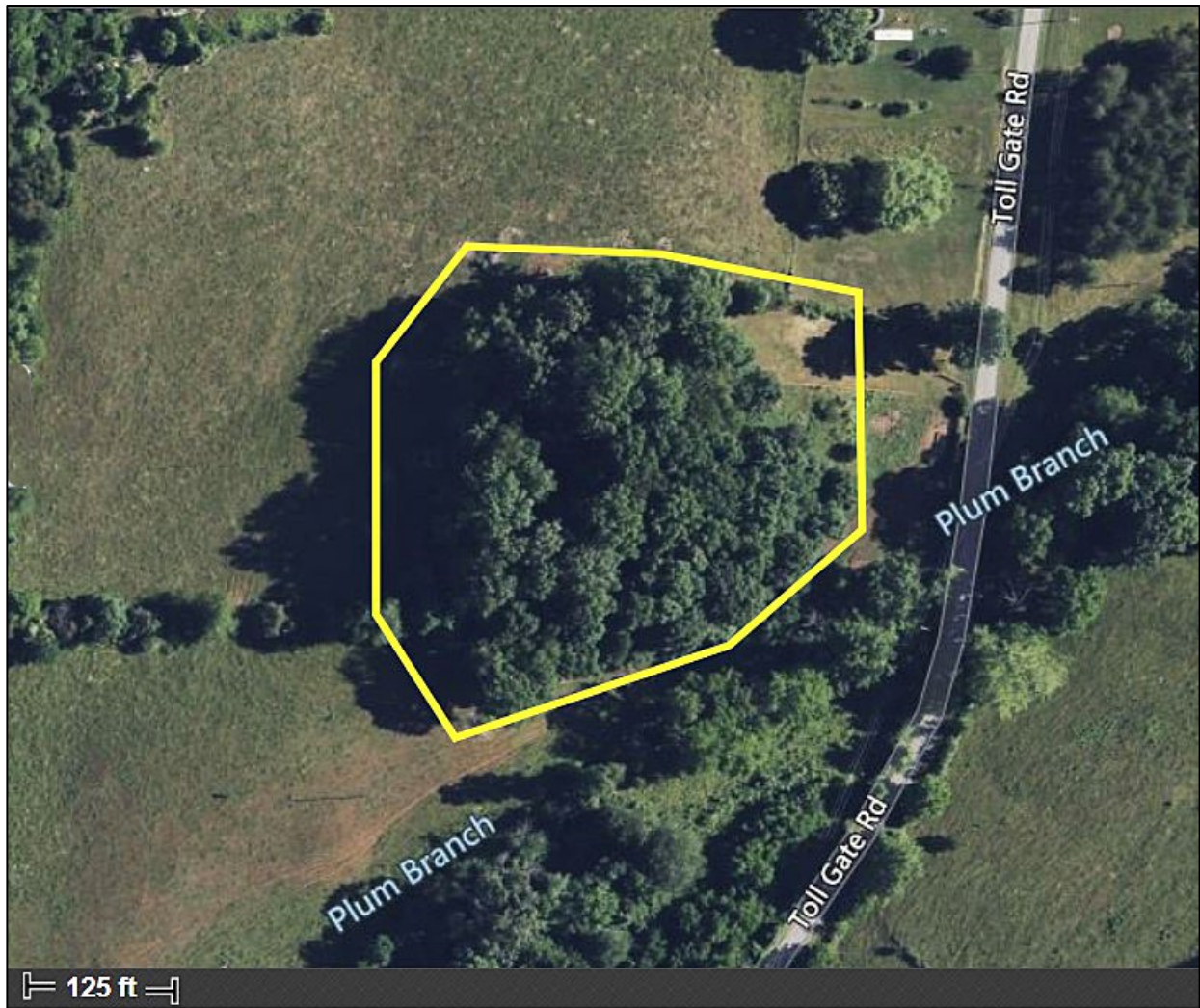
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_000S General view looking S-SW
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0006 General view looking W-NW
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0007 General view looking east
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0008 Hendrick family plot
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0009 Fulton family fenced plot
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0010 Representative uninscribed fieldstone markers
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0011 Fieldstone grave marker with initials
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0012 Booth, Mollie grave marker
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0013 Martin, Ann
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0014 Callaham family
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_001S Dixon, William E.
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0016 Evans, William
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0017 Fulton, Rev. Thomas
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0018 Hendrick, Dora Jane
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0019 Land, Sarah E.
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0020 Wheeler, Mary
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0021 Woodson, Rhoda
VA_CampbellCounty_DixonCemetery_0022 Cardwell, Nellie

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



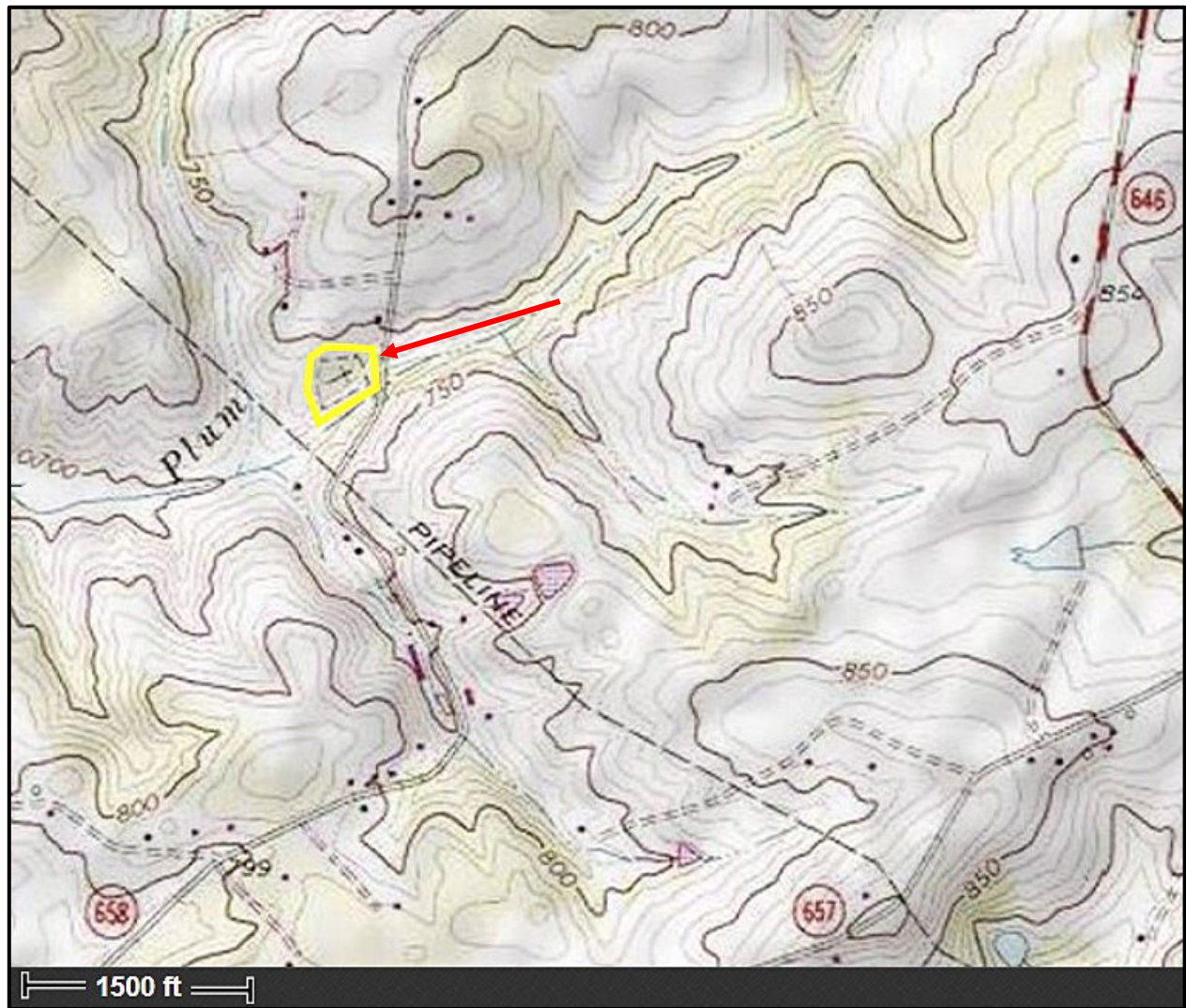
LOCATION MAP

Dixon Cemetery

Campbell County, Virginia

DHR No. 015-5604

Latitude: 37.311356 Longitude: -78.991854



Nominated Boundary

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Dixon Cemetery

Campbell County, Virginia

Latitude: 37.311356 Longitude: -78.991854



Legend

 County Boundaries

ROAD MAP

Dixon Cemetery

Campbell County, VA

DHR No. 015-5604

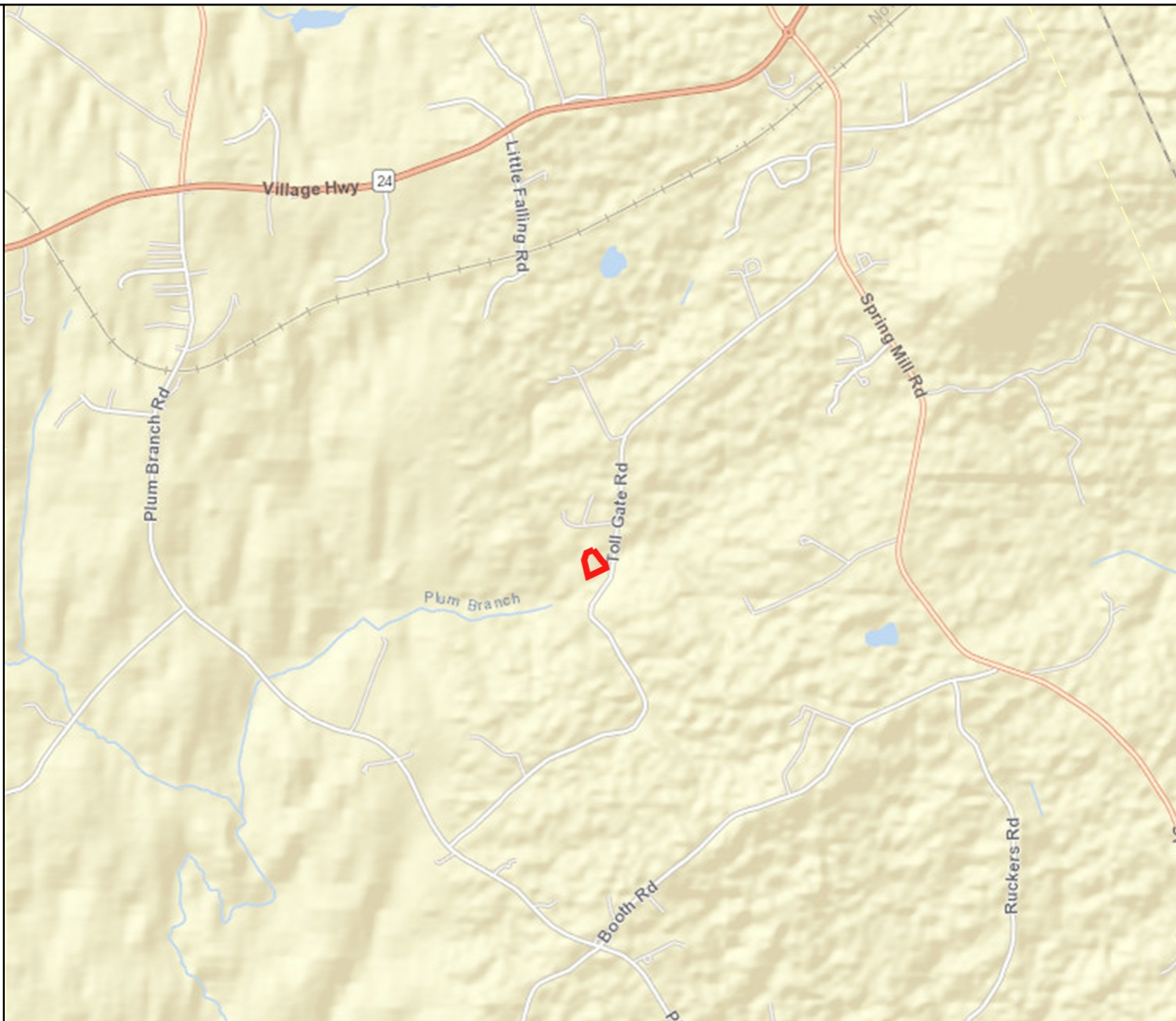
 Nominated Boundary



Feet



0 600 1200 1800 2400
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet



Title:

Date: 1/29/2024

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.