

VLR- 9/16/80
NRHP- 12/5/80

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Aspenvale Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route 11 not for publication

city, town Seven Mile Ford vicinity of Ninth congressional district (William C. Wampler)

state Virginia code 51 county Smyth code 173

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> objects	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

4. Owner of Property (4) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

name (1) Miss Mary Preston Gray

street & number 814 Moore Street

city, town Bristol ~~XXXXXXXX~~ state Virginia Zip Code 24201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Smyth County Courthouse

street & number 42

city, town Marion state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission ^{Survey} has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia Zip Code 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Aspenvale Cemetery is sited on a steep hillside overlooking the small Smyth County town of Seven Mile Ford. It takes its name from Aspenvale, the home of General William Campbell, a noted Revolutionary War commander, who is buried at the cemetery.

Aspenvale Cemetery is composed of three areas. The most significant section is enclosed by a limestone wall and contains the graves of the Preston and Campbell families. The coursed, quarry-faced west elevation is laid with mortar. The stonework on either side of the cast-iron gate has been built up an additional two courses to form entrance piers. The remaining coursed, dressed-face walls are laid without mortar. The coping stones are laid with mortar. Forty-six graves are contained within the "T"-shaped limestone wall, which tradition suggests was built by slave labor.

The graves of other families, Confederate soldiers, slaves, and freed blacks are located outside of the stone walls to the south and east. The third section, to the north of the wall, is a small fenced area belonging to the Thomas Rector family.

The stone markers within the walls date from the colonial period to as recent as 1971. The most prominent monument shapes are table tombs, 19th-century obelisks and simple rectangular stones with rounded heads, and 20th-century rectangular granite markers.

The original marble table tomb of General William Campbell, erected in 1823, was replaced in 1964 by a granite table tomb which retains the original inscription written by General Francis Preston.

MEH

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The total nominated acreage for Aspenvale Cemetery is approximately one acre, including all three above-mentioned areas.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

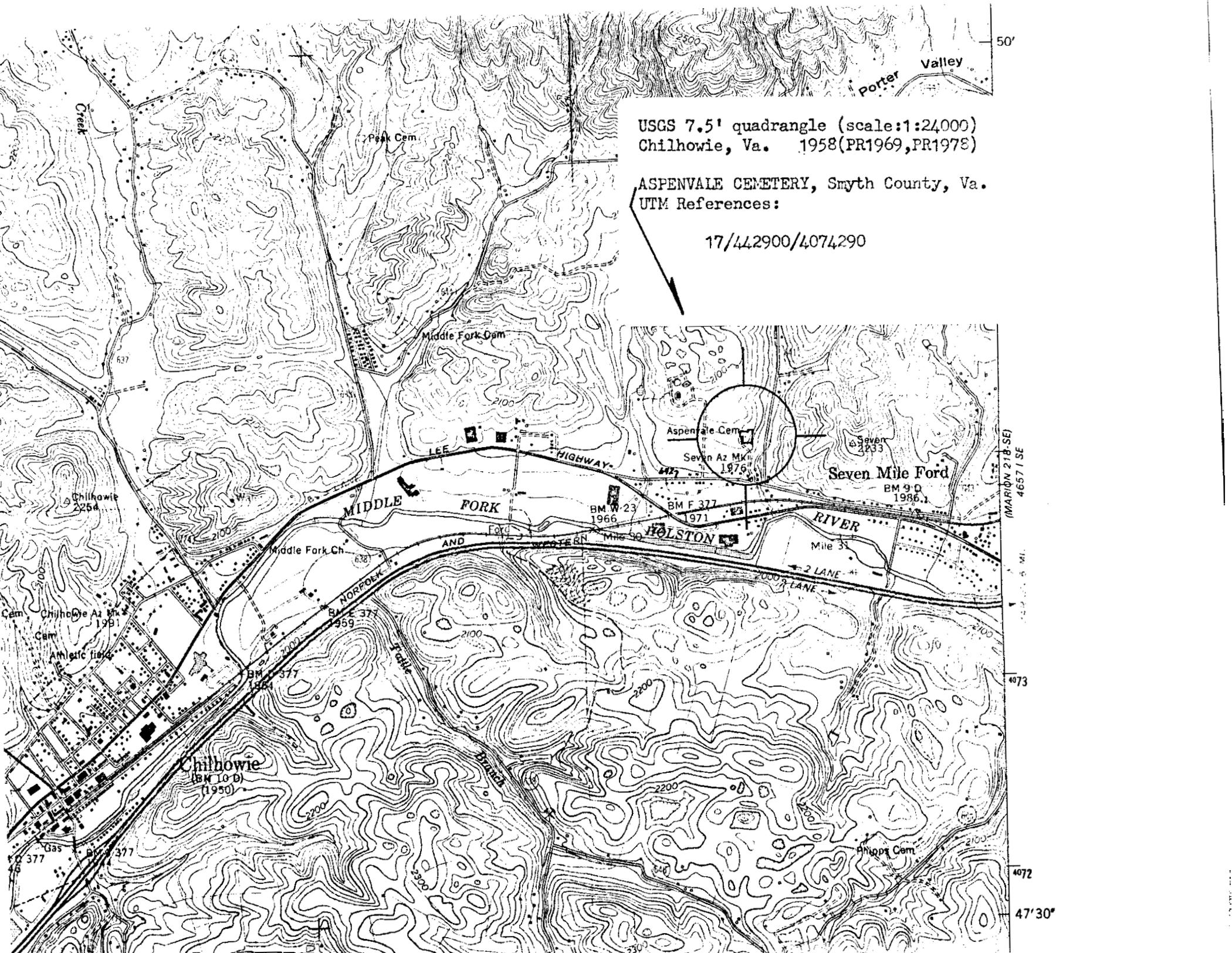
Aspenvale Cemetery contains the grave of General William Campbell, a Virginia-born hero of the American Revolution. Named for the Campbell family home, which formerly stood near the site in a lush vale of aspen trees, the cemetery is the only known tangible reminder in Virginia of Campbell's signal contribution to the success of American arms in the War of Independence. The commander of Virginia militia at the decisive battle of King's Mountain of October 7, 1780, Campbell fell ill while assisting Lafayette at Yorktown and died in Hanover County, Virginia, on August 22, 1781. His bones were brought to the cemetery and his tombstone erected by his son-in-law, General Francis Preston, in 1823. The Preston-Campbell family plot in which he is buried also contains the gravestones of his mother, Margaret Campbell; his widow, Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell; his sole surviving child, Sarah Buchanan Campbell; General Francis Preston; and several succeeding generations.

Born in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1745, William Campbell pioneered in the settlement of the Holston River Valley. As captain of militia of Fincastle County, Campbell first distinguished himself in frontier skirmishes with the Cherokees and later took an active part in Governor Lord Dunmore's war against the Indians in 1774. Marriage to Elizabeth Henry, the sister of Patrick Henry, made him an early ally of Virginia's staunchest opponent of British policy.

In order to mobilize popular opposition to the Coercive Acts of Parliament, the Virginia House of Burgesses urged every county in the colony to form a committee of safety. Campbell enlisted among the freeholders of Fincastle County who responded to this call in January 1775. He with others drafted an address from the people of Fincastle to the Continental Congress, which affirmed their loyalty to the King but vowed their determination to defend liberty at the cost of their lives. Campbell's resistance became revolutionary when he led a company to join Patrick Henry's regiment at Williamsburg and aided in the expulsion of the royal governor, Dunmore, in 1776.

After relinquishing command of his regiment in October of that year, Campbell returned to Aspenvale to receive a commission as colonel of Virginia militia and soon earned a reputation as the scourge of local Tories. Following the dissolution of Fincastle County in 1777, he was chosen as justice of newly formed Washington County and elected as one of the county's first delegates to the Virginia Assembly.

The most important event of Campbell's life occurred toward the end of the Revolutionary War. With the fall of Charleston, Tarleton's victories in North Carolina, and Gates' defeat at Camden, the prospect for independence in the autumn of 1780 seemed almost helpless in the south. Then, Cornwallis, deciding to make a western sweep, sent Major Patrick Ferguson, the ablest of the Loyalist commanders, to subdue the recalcitrant North Carolina back country. A call to arms spread like wildfire through the back settlements and on September 25 brought Campbell and four hundred men of Washington County to the rendezvous point on the Watauga River in Tennessee, where a thousand volunteers had already assembled.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Chilhowie, Va. 1958(PR1969,PR1978)

ASPENVALE CEMETERY, Smyth County, Va.
UTM References:

17/442900/4074290

50'

Porter Valley

(MARIÓN 218 SE)
46571 SE

2.25 MI.

4073

4072

47'30"