

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

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street & number Route 11 ___ not for publication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"/> object s	<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 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 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ state Virginia Zip Code 24201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Smyth County Courthouse

street & number

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 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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alden, Edmund Kimball. "William Campbell," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. III, pp. 465-466.
 Brown, David D. "General William Campbell." Speech. Washington County, Va., May 15, 1979. V.H.L.C. Archives, File #86-13.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre
 Quadrangle name Chilhowie, Virginia Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UMT References

A	1 7	4 4 2 9 0 0	4 0 7 4 2 9 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point about 250' W of State Route 641 and 950' NNW of intersection of 641 with 642; thence extending about 200' S; then about 175' W; then about 100' N, 25' W, and 75' N; thence extending about 100' E, 25' N, and about 100' E to point of origin. These bounds coincide with the Aspenvale Cemetery limits as delineated on the Chilhowie, Va., U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (1958, PR 1969, PR 1978).

state code county code
 state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1980
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Tucker Hill*
 Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date SEP 16 1980

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: date
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Aspenvale Cemetery, Smyth County, Va.

Continuation sheet

1

Item number

4, 8

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY:

- (2) Mrs. E. E. Judkins
38 Holly Lane
Lee Heights
Bristol, Va. 24201
- (3) Dr. John Preston, IV
4101 Linbrook Road
Columbia, S.C. 29205
- (4) Miss Ellinor Preston
3401 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Va. 23221

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

On October 7, nine hundred backwoodsmen occupied the woods encircling the base of King's Mountain and surrounded Ferguson's superior force of 1,100 men. The rebel militia of several states, with Campbell as their leader, caught Ferguson by surprise. First repulsed, the men at Campbell's urging renewed their charge and soon victory was theirs. In one brief hour the Americans had regained the initiative and decisively thwarted Cornwallis's plans. Cornwallis recognized Campbell's part in the battle with a threat of death in the event Campbell were ever captured.

For his services at King's Mountain and at the subsequent battle of Guilford on March 15, 1781, Campbell received the thanks of the Continental Congress and a horse and sword from the legislature of his own state. He died soon after his promotion to Brigadier General of Virginia militia, just as the final campaign of the war commenced. On the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, one of the veterans of the battle of King's Mountain, General Isaac Shelby, questioned Campbell's share in the celebrated victory, but his allegation that Campbell remained in the rear was never substantiated.¹ In the midst of this controversy General Francis Preston brought Campbell's remains to the family plot in Washington County (which became part of Smyth County in 1832) and erected a tombstone with the following inscription to the memory of his father-in-law's heroic part in the Revolution:

Here lie the remains of Brigadier General William Campbell

He was born in the year 1745 and died in the defense of his
country in the year 1781 in the camp
of General LaFayette near Richmond

By the unanimous election of his brother officers he commanded
at King's Mountain. For his heroism and gallant conduct on
that occasion the Congress of the United States tendered to him
and the officers and privates under his command the following
resolution:

(See Continuation #2)

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Continuation sheet

#2

Item number 8, 9

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8. SIGNIFICANCE:

"Resolved that Congress entertain a high sense of the spirited and military conduct of Colonel Campbell and the officers and privates of the militia under his command displayed in the action of October 7th in which a complete victory was obtained over superior numbers of the enemy advantageously posted on King's Mountain in the state of North Carolina and that this resolution be published by the commanding officer of the Southern Army in General Orders." At the head of his regiment he brought on the Battle of Guilford and was the last to quit the field. His zeal, talents and services were awarded by high testimonials of his country's gratitude and have inscribed his name on the history of the

REVOLUTION

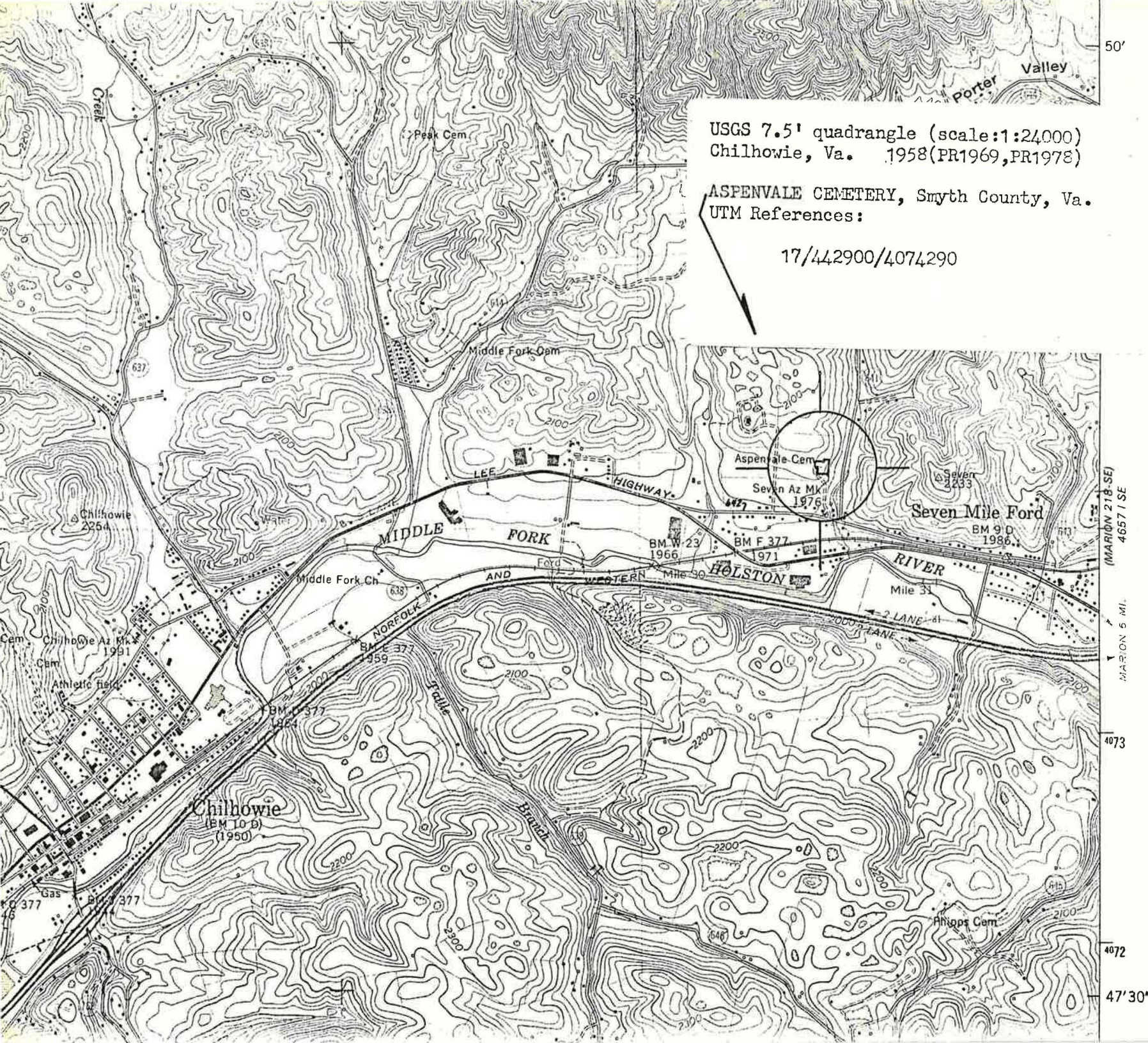
The present granite stone (1964) replaces the original marble and retains General Preston's inscription .

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1. Alden, Edmund Kimball, "William Campbell," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. III, pp. 465-66.

VDS/RAC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

- Bundy, Nellie W. and Betty T. Hollowell. "The Preston Section of Aspenvale Cemetery." Smyth County, Va., August 1979. V.H.L.C. Archives, File #86-13.
- Carner, Clara Hill. "Aspenvale Cemetery." An Address. Smyth County Historical and Museum Society, Marion, Va., 1978. V.H.L.C. Archives, File #86-13.
- Crowson, E. T. "Colonel William Campbell and the Battle of King's Mountain." Virginia Cavalcade. Vol. XXX, No. 1, pp. 22-29.
- Dykeman, Wilma. With Fire and Sword. The Battle of Kings Mountain 1780. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1978.



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

ASPENVALE CEMETERY, Smyth County, Va.
UTM References:

17/442900/4074290

50'
465715E
MARION 5 MI.
4073
4072
47'30"