

From: carolshull@comcast.net <carolshull@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 1:18 PM
To: Pullen, Jennifer (DHR) <Jennifer.Pullen@dhr.virginia.gov>
Subject: Carol Shull's Comments on Dixon Cemetery Nomination

Hi,

Below are my comments on the **Dixon Cemetery** nomination.

The nomination for the **Dixon Cemetery** in Campbell County, Virginia is well written and makes a convincing case that the Dixon Cemetery meets National Register Criterion A in the Exploration/Settlement and Ethnic Heritage: Black Areas of Significance with a Period Significance between the first burials there in 1752 and 1938, the year of the last burials. The cemetery may be the oldest cemetery in Campbell County and is significantly associated with early settlement history in west-central Virginia. Initially a private cemetery on a land grant given to early settler Thomas Dixon the Dixon later became a public cemetery. The cemetery contains both an area reserved for Whites and another section devoted to the graves of African Americans, which is unusual because of its location in the South and the dates of internment. In most instances Whites and African Americans were buried in separate cemeteries. The Dixon Cemetery is also significant as a rare resource associated with the county's African Americans. The nomination is worthy of approval to move forward after the several very minor editorial revisions listed below are made.

p. 1, Location: Close parenthesis after County Route 658.

Sec. 8, p. 16, Dixon Cemetery Recent History, line 1: "The" before Dixon should not be capitalized because it is not capitalized when used in this way elsewhere in the nomination.

Carol Shull
2201 South Knoll Street
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Cell: 703-568-5607 resource associated with the county's African Americans.l@comcast.net

From: Greg Rutledge <greg.rutledge@hewv.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:21 PM
To: Pullen, Jennifer (DHR) <Jennifer.Pullen@dhr.virginia.gov>
Subject: Beach Carousel Motel Nomination Comments

Hi! Jen, sorry I can't make the meetings this March, looking forward to June.

Below are my comments on the nomination form for the Beach Carousel Hotel, very few, as the nomination is supported by the Virginia Beach Oceanfront Resort Motels and Hotels (1955-1970) Multiple Property Listing and is well written.

This Modernist-style motel retains a high degree of integrity and is essentially unchanged from when it was constructed in 1967. The nomination highlights the builder-owner culture behind these independently run hotels that populated Virginia Beach in the 1960s and 70s. It also describes the incorporation of modern construction techniques that influenced the design.

A few editorial comments:

- In the Summary Paragraph and in the Exterior Description section, the term “balustrade” is used for the railing. “Rails” or “Railing” seems to be a more appropriate term for their mid-century modern design aesthetic.
- Section 7, Page 9, first paragraph: I agree that the Beach Carousel is a stripped down version of this style and not as elaborate as the Blue Marlin or the Crest Kitchenette, but the individual fronts of the motel units at the Beach Carousel is perhaps the most distinctive feature and expressive feature of mid-century design. Could this paragraph be rewritten to better describe the panelization of the wall system, the repetitive use, and the incorporation of what looks like either steel or aluminum framing details that are characteristic of the 1950s and 1960s?
- Section 7, Page 12, Integrity Statement: the referenced 1967 Virginia Pilot newspaper image is on page 19, not 18 of the nomination. Also double check the reference in the above mentioned paragraph as the image of the windows referenced on page 6, I believe is meant to be the image on page 7.

Thanks,
Greg R.

Greg Rutledge FAIA, Design Principal | Historic Architect

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From: carolshull@comcast.net <carolshull@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2:52 PM
To: Pullen, Jennifer (DHR) <Jennifer.Pullen@dhr.virginia.gov>
Subject: St. Clair Walker School District Nomination Comment

Jen, please pass on to the staff a comment I have on the St. Clair Walker School District nomination. In my opinion, the nomination does not provide sufficient justification for identifying some of the remains in the district as contributing such as the projected house site and the dump on the St. Clare Walker School Campus and the site of an earlier dwelling and the sites of demolished school buildings on the Rappahannock Central Elementary School campus. The nomination does not claim significance for their information potential under criterion D but mentions a larger archaeological site. The nomination needs to explain this and clearly justify why they contribute.

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From John Mullen

Vinton Downtown Historic District, Roanoke County

DHR No. 149-5010,

Criteria A and C

The Vinton Downtown Historic District covers approximately 6.8 acres in the downtown commercial district of the Town of Vinton. The historic district encompasses 27 contributing resources (8 non-contributing) that consists of buildings constructed between 1900 and 1986. The Historic District is significant under Criterion A (Commerce/Trade) for being the “commercial and industrial hub” of northeast Roanoke County, and locally significant under Criterion C (Architecture) for the concentration of commercial buildings with a high degree of integrity and that illustrate its regional importance.

Extensively well written historic context and well presented. Please proceed with the nomination.

St. Clare Walker School District VDHR 059-5478

(Jody L. Allen) The St. Clare Walker School District is a two-campus publicly owned complex including 20 contributing and 17 non-contributing structures in Stormont, Middlesex County, VA. Historically, developed to educate African American children, the district evolved into education-related facilities including government offices, a recreation center, and transportation hub. The northern campus includes St. Clare Walker High School, 1939 – 1969 and St. Clare Walker Middle School from 1969 – 1994. Since 1994, the northern campus has served as the Middlesex County Department of Social Services and the Middlesex County School Board Offices and a recreation center for area youth. “The northern campus includes a c. 1939 one-story, brick Colonial Revival main building with c. 1953 additions, along with a c. 1941 frame agricultural shop/cafeteria building, c. 1968 cinderblock bus maintenance shop, and a c. 1959 prefabricated metal classroom building. Additional resources on the 22.58-acre parcels that comprise the historic boundaries of the campus include multiple secondary objects and sites. Of the 19 resources in the north campus, ten are contributing and nine are non-contributing, as they postdate the period of significance.” The southern campus, includes the former Rappahannock Central Elementary School, 1962 – 2002 and the contributing “Cafetorium.” Both campuses are eligible under National Register Criteria A and B with areas of significance Education and Ethnic Heritage Black, the period of significance is 1938 – 1969, and significant dates 1969; associated with educator John Henry St. Clare Walker, and the cultural affiliation is African American. This nomination was prepared by Dr. David Brown, Nathaniel

Glasgow, Oliver Mueller-Heubach, and Tyler Radabaugh of DATA Investigations, LLC. and it is thorough and ready to proceed with the following corrections:

Corrections:

- Replace “Rappanock” throughout with “Rappahannock”
- Section 7, p. 5, under the heading “Narrative Description, line 1, delete school
- Section 7, p. 8, paragraph 1, line 3 change surround to surrounded
- Section 9, second map change Epiphany Cmurch to Church and H1storic to Historic and Miadlesex to Middlesex

Oak Hill 071-0026; Oak Hill Archaeological Site, 44PY0440

(Jody L. Allen) Oak Hill is located at 5981 Berry Hill Rd. Danville, Pittsylvania County, VA. It is a privately owned site nominated at the local level under criteria A (Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.) and criteria D (Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.) There are 16 contributing resources, including the federal style mansion, 20 acres and outbuildings (agricultural structures, quarters for enslaved people, and formal gardens) which were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 under criterion C for architecture. Destroyed by arsonists, this property was delisted in 1988. There are no noncontributing resources associated with this nomination. Historically used as single and multiple occupancy dwellings, the property is currently vacant. The Virginia Department of Historical Resources began conducting archaeological surveys at the site in 2015 and have determined that “the archaeological potential of Oak Hill provides a rare opportunity to study the lives of free and enslaved individuals present on the property from the construction of the Oak Hill house into the early-twentieth century.” Areas of significance include Agriculture, Archaeology, Historic-Non-Aboriginal, and Ethnic Heritage: Black. The period of significance ranges from 1823 to 1958 and the significant years are 1825, 1875, and 1893. The cultural affiliation includes Euro-American, African, African American, and Black Freedmen. James Dejarnett was the architect/builder. This nomination was prepared by Sarah Clarke and Randy Lichtenberger of Hurt & Proffitt of Lynchburg, VA. It is thorough and ready to move forward.

From: Eleanor Breen <Eleanor.Breen@alexandriava.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 16:48

To: John Mullen <JMullen@wetlands.com>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]reminder to submit SRB NRHP comments to Jen

Hi John, I do not have any edits or comments to the nomination for Staunton Coca-Cola Bottling Works, Staunton, DHR No. 132-5071, Criteria A and C. I recommend that the nomination move forward. Thanks, Eleanor

From Larissa Smith:

Fuqua Farm:

Fuqua Farm, located at 8700 Bethia Road in Chesterfield County, is a fine example of evolved, one-room-plan houses built in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and joined together in 1905. In 2017, Fuqua Farm was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as locally significant under Criteria C: Architecture.

The updated nomination is a result of an MOU with the VDHR and decreases the boundary lines of Fuqua Farm from 23.3 acres to 4.5 acres leaving the historic dwelling with surrounding driveway, yard, and area around the associated buildings intact. The setting will change from a mostly rural, undeveloped setting to a suburban residential setting, but the sight lines and viewshed of the property will be protected from planned residential development by a tree line and vegetation. The revised nomination will also include 10 of the 12 previously listed historic architectural resources associated with the property; the removal of these buildings does not impact the eligibility of the listing.

The nomination also provides additional documentation for the Fuqua Family Cemetery, which was not part of the original nomination because it was located on a parcel of land with a different owner. In 2022, that parcel was sold for residential development, and in cooperation with VDHR, the burials were disinterred and relocated under a permit for the Archaeological Recovery of Human Remains.

The nomination is ready to proceed. Two very minor editorial changes suggested:

Additional Documentation p. 2 – “field” is misspelled

Additional Documentation p. 3 – “cemetery” is misspelled

Columbian Paper Company:

Columbian Paper Company, located between the Maury River and US Highway 60 in Buena Vista, is nominated under Criteria A in Industry at the local level, as one of Buena Vista’s leading manufacturing companies during the period of significance from 1892, when the Columbian Paper Company began, to 1954, when the company was sold and the buildings were repurposed for other industrial use. In the industrial complex, two buildings are being nominated for listing: the main mill building and the chip house.

The nomination relies closely on the use of Sanborn maps and other historical documents to reconstruct the history and evolution of the mill buildings. The nomination demonstrates the significance of the Columbian Paper Company to the early development of the city of Buena Vista and places it within the context of the development of the paper manufacturing industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The nomination makes reference to a row of mill houses that were built adjacent to the plant, where US Highway 60 now runs, and it made me curious to know more about the social history of the people who worked at the company during the period of significance; it’s a question that may not be easily answered through the historical records available and is beyond the scope of this nomination.

The nomination is extremely well written and documented and is ready to proceed.

From Jeff Klee:

Quarterly DHR Review Board meeting, March, 2024

Paxton House, Fairfield, Rockbridge County

DHR 081-0307

The Paxton House is an exceptionally intact center-passage, double-pile house, built around 1820 in rural Rockbridge County on a rolling 10-acre lot. Built of brick on a rubble stone foundation, it is well finished with fine mantels and decorative woodwork throughout the house, including some material that suggests Germanic origins for its builder. It has a nice complement of distinctive early features, including peg rails, an unusual roof frame, and an especially rare feature in what is likely a sugar box adjoining its dining room fireplace. It is nominated under criterion C for the quality of its architecture, with local significance. Though it has been lightly modernized with modern systems and a bathroom, it nonetheless has a very high degree of integrity.

The nomination is very well detailed, including a careful description of its brick masonry and interior woodwork that is evidently drawn from close inspection. While it would benefit from some further contextualization about Germanic building traditions in the region, it provides strong evidence to support its eligibility for the national register.

That said, its significant strengths in detailed description are let down somewhat by speculation, including on the origins of its coved cornice; the significance of its unusual stair bracket decorations; and the long discussion of the possible use of the sugar closet as an ice box. These speculative passages do not necessarily need to be removed but they are a distracting part of the nomination that do not help make the case for its significance. They draw attention to the nomination's author's puzzlement and away from its subject. In a similar way, the author ascribes some of the house's qualities to a builder's creativity when they are, in fact, conventions of construction—the use of a relieving arch under the southeast chimney stack is a notable instance of this.

Finally, I have two quibbles with terminology. First is the use of “Georgian” to describe the style of the house—while it does follow a plan that became commonplace in the Georgian era and while some of its woodwork was used in the late 18th and early 19th century, it is a thoroughly federal house with some small alterations. As a visual vocabulary, the federal style incorporated many elements of the Georgian, refining or altering them to suit new tastes but retaining the essential parts of many of the old forms, such as architrave casings and raised panel doors. Second is the use of “folk” as a descriptor for some of its interior woodwork—for example, describing the stair ornament as having “folk embellishments.” “Folk,” like “vernacular” is a term that is sometimes used derisively, to diminish the tastes of those not part of a cosmopolitan elite. It is, therefore, likely to be read that way by many, even those who appreciate the merits of the object under consideration. The author clearly does not intend the term this way but using it allows some readers to interpret it this way, so I suggest substituting something more descriptive or simply removing it.

With these edits, this nomination is ready to proceed.

Warrenton Historic District Boundary Increase

DHR 156-5159

The Warrenton Historic District Boundary Increase comprises an area to the north and southwest of the existing NR district. It is within the town limits but lies just outside its historic core and includes

residential, institutional, and commercial properties. It is proposed for nomination under criteria A and C, with 63 contributing buildings and 1 contributing object with a period of significance from 1853 to 1973. The district enlargement has a high degree of integrity, thanks in part to the proposed area being included in a local historic district. The earliest contributing building in the inventory is a ca. 1845 house. This is noted as “colonial revival,” a style historians do not apply to structures built before the 1870s; it is conceivable that the core of the building is antebellum with later alterations to update its style but this might be clarified in the inventory, especially because the period of significance does not begin until 1853. The latest contributing resource is a 1973 apartment building.

The nomination is well contextualized and makes the case for significance effectively. I have only one substantive disagreement, and it is a small one, concerning phrasing. On page 31, the nomination notes that “the International Style was not preferred in Virginia.” Stripped-down European modernism was rare throughout the eastern United States in the mid-20th century and like other easterners, Virginians adopted it selectively, using it for government buildings, retail stores, and office towers from Arlington to Williamsburg and Charlottesville. My suggestion is that this sentence be re-phrased to reflect the selective adoption of this style, rather than its rejection, as implied in this sentence.

With this minor edit, this nomination is ready to proceed.