

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Smith	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 5 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Dixona (Representative Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Dixon, Tilman (House)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: NW of Dixon Springs - on rt. 25
-State Highway-25

CITY OR TOWN:
Dixon Springs

STATE Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Smith	CODE 159
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. William Young, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dixona

CITY OR TOWN:
Dixon Springs

STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Smith County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Carthage

STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

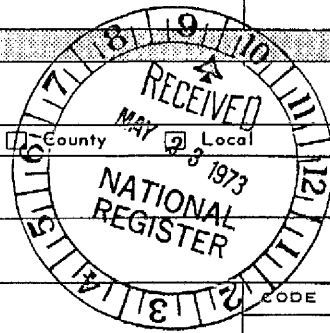
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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STATE: Tennessee
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1789 Captain Tilman Dixon built an eight-room log house on his 3840 acre Revolutionary War land grant and thus located himself in what was to become Smith County, Tennessee. The original two-story log house stands today on a farm in Dixon Springs but a two-story brick wing was added to each end of the log structure sometime prior to the Civil War. A large two story porch or gallery with six square posts and bannisters upstairs connects the brick wings. Nice scrollwork brackets are found under the eaves in the cornice that was added when the additions were made.

Six of the original eight log rooms remain with the original logs, paneling and flooring, ceiling joists, and wrought iron door hinges in good condition. The "saddle and rider" construction with its original chinking is still sound. The two back rooms have been torn off and replaced with a log kitchen addition and a clapboard connection forming the rear ell of the house. The two stone chimneys of the original log portion along with two brick chimneys built with the 1850's addition are still in use as is the large stone chimney on the present kitchen wing.

Two original log outbuildings are extant but several others were built originally in the form of barns, slave quarters, and other outhouses. The large brick and log structure makes an imposing site in the rolling hills of the rural bluegrass area of Middle Tennessee.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SIGNIFICANCE

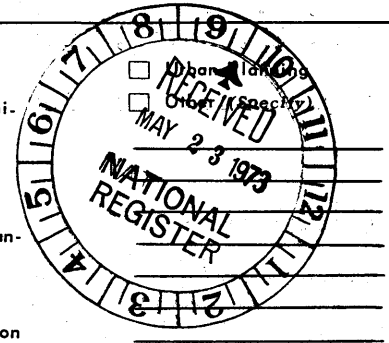
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1789**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Captain Tilman Dixon was a prominent early settler in the Middle Tennessee area and was the builder of Dixona. Dixon was a captain in the American Revolution and fought at King's Mountain. After the war, he had the distinction of being a member of the "Society of the Cincinnati." He received a 3840-acre land grant in Middle Tennessee for his services in the Revolution and settled in 1788 in what was to become Smith County.

Dixon is thought to have been the first settler in this part of the Cumberland country. He was indeed a wealthy man in his day. He was the first merchant in the area that was known as Dixon Springs; he also served as the first postmaster, the first tavern keeper, and one of the first magistrates in the county as well as the builder of the first school in the area. The first court or tribunal held in Smith County met at Dixon's home, Dixona, on December 16-17, 1799; thus Dixona has been called "The Birthplace of Smith County."

The Dixon house was located along the Old Walton Road which brought early travellers and settlers from Knoxville to the central basin of Middle Tennessee. Due to its location, many notables were visitors in the two-story log house which provided more luxurious accommodations than open camp. In 1792 William Blount, the Governor of the "Territory South of the River Ohio," stayed at Dixona on a trip from Knoxville to Nashville. Still later in 1797, Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans and later king of France, while on his famous "Tour of America" with his two brothers, spent the night at the Dixon place. The Duke recorded in his diary that he "Had at Major Dixon's the luxury of coffee and two beds for four."

Tilman Dixon died in 1816 and was buried in the family graveyard a hundred yards northeast of the residence. Not only had he served his country and state in military, political, and business matters, he left an imposing home for the period which has stood as a testimony to the determination, strength, and skill of many of the early settlers. Dixona is the oldest house in Smith County and one of the oldest in Middle Tennessee. It is a good example of the early large log house as they were built in Tennessee. Today it is maintained in good condition by owners who treasure it and it is filled with antiques and historical memorabilia.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brandeau, Roberta Seawell (ed.), History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, (Nashville, 1936).

Young, S. M. "Major Tilman Dixon," Tennessee Historical Magazine, Vol. II, No. 3, April, 1932, pp. 207-215.

Clippings from vertical file, Tennessee State Library.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	21'	44"	86°	03'	33"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

UTM
16/58438
402432C
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
May Dean Eberling, Director of Programs

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **5-15-73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Michael J. Smith
Michael J. Smith

Title: Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 5-20-73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/5/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Deputy of The National Register
Date: July 3, 1973