

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Smith
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 10 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Dixon Springs District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Dixon Springs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fourth

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

COUNTY:
Smith

CODE:
159

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple Owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Dixon Springs

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Carthage

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

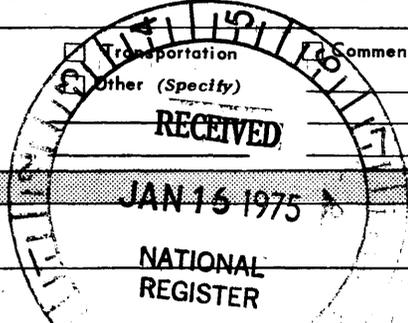
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Tennessee

COUNTY: Smith

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The community of Dixon Springs is located along old State Highway 25, also called Main Street, in Smith County. The district is composed of an area along both sides of Main Street for a little over a half mile, and along a cross street, Cato Road, for about 500 yards. Within the district, there are about 35 buildings, over half of which possess some architectural significance in contributing to the overall character of the community. About ten years ago a new section of State Highway 25 was built north of the village. This has served as a by-pass, leaving the quiet community relatively free from traffic.

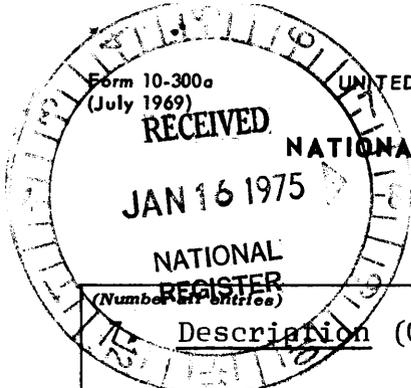
Although a few were built earlier, most of the residences were erected during the last half of the nineteenth century, and with the exception of a few modern intrusions, still present the appearance of this era. The residences generally are of frame and log construction.

The oldest commercial building in the village is a one-story brick structure which now houses the Garrett Garage. Built in the 1840's as a community dry goods store, it has also served as a post office. A metal awning style roof was added at a later date to accommodate the filling station and garage business.

The focal point of the community is Phillips Merchandise Company, a rectangular frame building erected around 1900. The two-story weatherboarded structure was built on a stone foundation and has a detached store room to the right of the front entrance. Side walls serve as partial enclosure for the open-air staircase leading to the second story rooms. The fenestration features two four over four light double hung sash type windows on the front and west side elevations of the second floor. It has an attached front porch with a shed style standing seam tin clad roof, which serves to shelter the front entrance and stairwell. This building is an excellent example of the Tennessee country store which serves as a social gathering place for the community.

Other commercial buildings include the abandoned Dixon Springs Bank Building and the Highers Garage. The former, a two-story structure built around 1910, features simulated rusticated stone-concrete veneer bearing walls with a recessed roof, glass shop windows, recessed entrance and French style doors. An elaborate bank vault with an ornamental metal frame is the main feature of the interior. Used for offices and storage space since the depression years, the building is now vacant and the interior is deteriorating. The Highers Garage, also built around 1910 as a feed store, is a two-story frame rectangular building which has been covered with pressed tin siding. It features a false front raised above the roofline at the front elevation, and

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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Description (Continued)

a one-story tin canopy type roof.

The Jerry Highers residence, a two-story frame structure adjacent to Phillips Merchandise Company, was built in the latter part of the nineteenth century and served for some time as a hotel. The Hershel Ross residence, built around 1830, is a weatherboarded structure constructed on a stone foundation. The building follows the "piano box" style that was popular in several Middle Tennessee counties. The front porch features chamfered wood posts, jig-saw carved brackets and wood barge-board ornaments at the eaves, added at a later date. The end wall attic ventilation is punctuated by the carved ornament popular in that era.

Built around 1870, the William Martin Young house is a two-story frame structure featuring a two-story gallery style front porch fronted by four fluted wood columns capped with Ionic volutes, and a turned wood balustrade. The ell shaped plan features gable roof and brick end wall chimneys. The windows have curved arches and closing type shutters, and the front entrance has an arched transom. The gabled end walls have full cornice returns. The roof is of standing seam tin.

The Lewis Garrett residence is a one and one-half-story frame building erected around 1900. The rectangular plan features raised, stone foundation walls and a hipped roof with a one-story gable roof wing to the front. The gable end wall at the front features dentil ornamented rake boards and cornice returns with carved wood cornice brackets. The front porch features turned wood posts and balustrade. Window and door framing features richly carved wood ornamentation and decorative shutters.

The Mary Martin Meador residence was built of logs around 1835, with clapboard siding being added later. The end wall chimneys, gable roof, and three bay central hall plan are reminiscent of the Georgian style. The attached front gallery style porch, a later addition, features a turned wood balustrade, square columns and curved ceiling braces.

The Dixon Springs Union Church where groups from all local denominations met, was built in 1878. It was used regularly until 1965, and is now only used occasionally. Built on coursed stone foundation walls, the weatherboarded frame structure follows the rectangular shape plan with a front end wall tower featuring the original side entrances. The design features the modest application of simplified Romanesque classicizing. The fenestration features gable end wall with ornamental

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7. Description (Continued)

rake boards and boxed cornice returns. Arched windows are double-hung sash type, and the original side entrances feature arched, single-light transoms. Wood pilasters featuring Latin crosses decorate the corner boards. The square belfry tower features a modified hip roof, standing seam tin clad, with dentil ornamented cornice boards, pilastered corner boards and louvered, arched openings located at each elevation.

One of the most interesting buildings in the district is the Dixon Springs Schoolhouse. This circa 1915 building follows the "piano box" style, square plan with recessed portico entrance fronted by a fluted wood pillar and flanking pilasters. The weatherboarded frame structure is built on stone foundation walls and features a modified pointed roof capped by a single-story belfry tower. The square bell tower with its tiny gable style roof, supported by fluted wood posts, features jigsaw-cut paired cornice brackets and elaborately designed bargeboard pediment ornamentation. The building is now vacant, having been abandoned as a schoolhouse in 1955.



I. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dixon Springs community is one of the oldest settlements in Smith County. During its early days it enjoyed prestige and prominence in this area of Middle Tennessee. In 1787 Major Tillman Dixon, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, left Mansker's Station in Sumner County and came up the Cumberland River by canoe to settle on a 3,840 acre grant that had been given to him for his services during the Revolution. The grant began at a creek that was to bear his name and also included a large spring near which he built his home. This log house, built in 1789 and named Dixona, is immediately to the west of the Dixon Springs District, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When Smith County was formed from a part of Sumner County, the first meeting of the County Tribunal Court of Pleas met at the Tillman Dixon home on December 16, 1799. As the community grew, the present site of the Dixon Springs District became the center of this growth. The land had been a part of Tillman Dixon's Revolutionary War grant. In 1803 John and Robert Allen built a store at Dixon Springs, which has long been razed. John Allen's daughter, Eliza, was the wife of Sam Houston. The crossroads community grew rapidly as the center of activity of a rich farming community.

Although not as thriving as it once was, the Dixon Springs District is still an important asset to the area. It possesses great significance from an architectural standpoint because of the concentration of buildings of different styles, and as a result of the by-pass highway, it presents today the appearance of a serene community of the past century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carthage Courier, March 16, 1972.

Gold, W. D., The County of Smith (Carthage, 1903).

Young, S. M., "Major Tillman Dixon," Tennessee Historical Magazine, Vol. II, No. 3, April, 1932.

NW1/6/784940
 4024380
 NE1/6/785600/4023670
 SE1/6/785640/4023606
 SW1/6/784720/4023910

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36° 21' 45"	86° 03' 11"				
NE	36° 21' 22"	86° 02' 44"				
SE	36° 21' 19"	86° 02' 44"				
SW	36° 21' 30"	86° 03' 20"				
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			72			
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES						
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE	COUNTY:	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE	COUNTY:	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE	COUNTY:	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE	COUNTY:	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert L. Harper and Gail Hammerquist

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE: 1/9/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
170 2nd 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: Laureal Henry

Title: Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 1/10/75

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1-10-75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-6-75

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STATE Tennessee	
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*Pending
1.16.75*

(Number all entries)

10.

Verbal Boundary Description

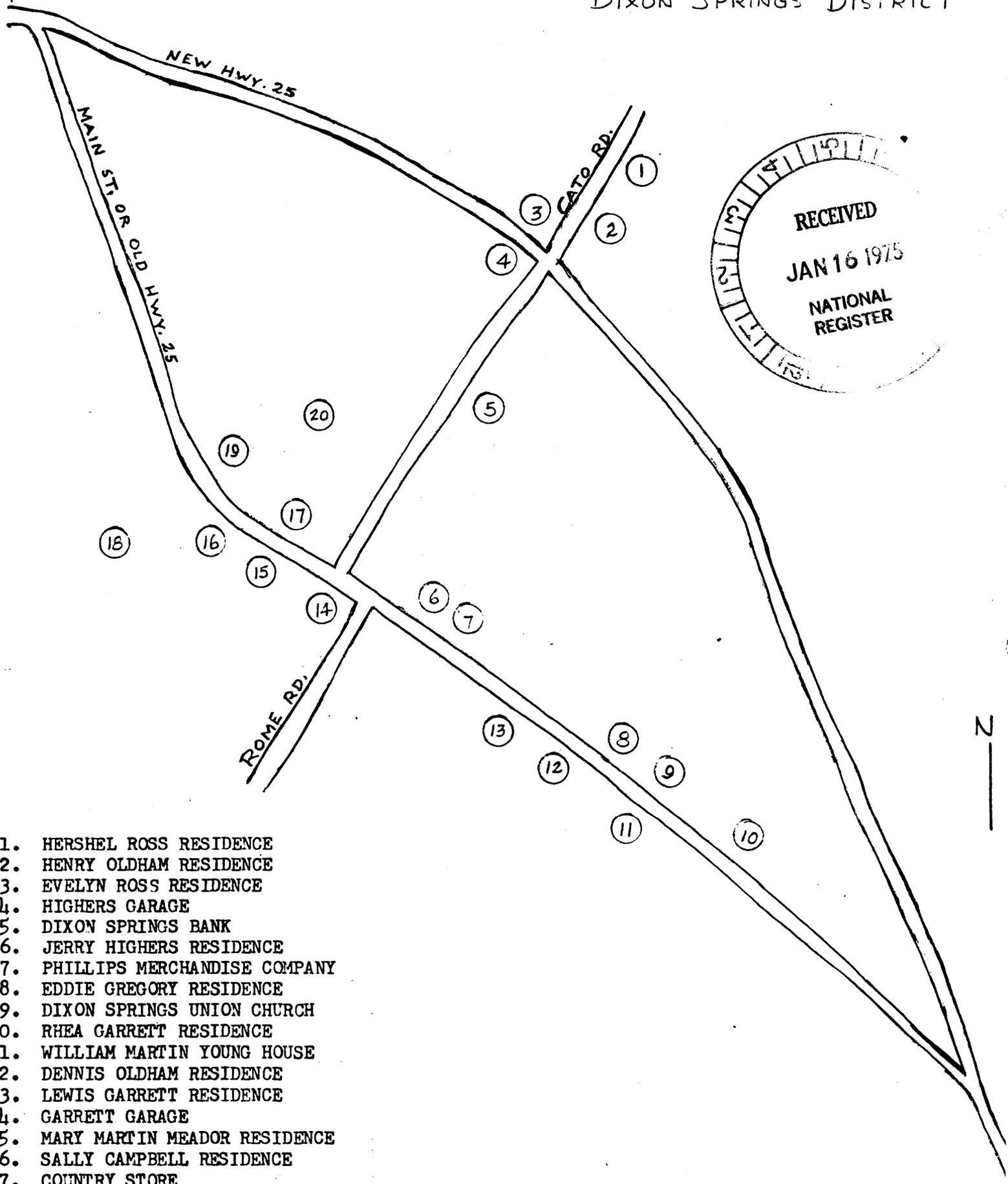
The Dixon Springs District is bounded on the north by new State Highway 25, with the exception of Cato Road, which extends for approximately 1/4 mile north of Highway 25; Highway 25 extends northwestwardly to its intersection of Main Street, or old Highway 25, the south side of which is the southern boundary of the District. Old Highway 25 intersects New Highway 25 at the southeastern end of the district, making the shape of the district roughly egg-shaped.



SKETCH MAP

DIXON SPRINGS DISTRICT

← DIXONA



1. HERSHEL ROSS RESIDENCE
2. HENRY OLDHAM RESIDENCE
3. EVELYN ROSS RESIDENCE
4. HIGHERS GARAGE
5. DIXON SPRINGS BANK
6. JERRY HIGHERS RESIDENCE
7. PHILLIPS MERCHANDISE COMPANY
8. EDDIE GREGORY RESIDENCE
9. DIXON SPRINGS UNION CHURCH
10. RHEA GARRETT RESIDENCE
11. WILLIAM MARTIN YOUNG HOUSE
12. DENNIS OLDHAM RESIDENCE
13. LEWIS GARRETT RESIDENCE
14. GARRETT GARAGE
15. MARY MARTIN MEADOR RESIDENCE
16. SALLY CAMPBELL RESIDENCE
17. COUNTRY STORE
18. DIXON SPRINGS SCHOOLHOUSE
19. JOE GREEN HOUSE
20. JOE AND HALLEY GREEN HOUSE