

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

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

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

**1. Name**

historic Dixie High School

and/or common Dixie School

**2. Location**

street & number Off U.S. 410  not for publication

city, town Dixie  vicinity of congressional district 5th - Thomas Foley

state Washington code 053 county Walla Walla code 071

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Board of Directors, Dixie School District 101, Karen Anderson, Resident

street & number P.O. Box 77

city, town Dixie  vicinity of state Washington 99329

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Walla Walla County Assessor's Office, County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Walla Walla state Washington

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Washington State Inventory Of Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date May 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Olympia state Washington 98504

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Dixie High School is a handsome, substantial building which stands on a hill overlooking rolling wheatfields and the tiny unincorporated community of Dixie in southeastern Washington. The school occupies a three-acre site on the Highway 12, midway between Waitsburg and Walla Walla. Built as a high school in 1921, the building is a striking and unusual vision amidst its rural surroundings.

The plan of the school building clearly reflects its interior spaces. The two-story solid brick structure is reinforced with steel. Above the partial daylight basement of concrete are two stories of buff brick with contrasting dark brown brick detailing. The broad hipped roof is clad with composition shingles. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical throughout the building, consisting mainly of blocks of three to four windows tied together visually by dark brown brick surrounds. The original wooden sash, generally with six-over-one lights, remain in place on each elevation.

The front or northwest facade features a centrally-placed neo-classical entrance between two projecting classroom bays. A short run of concrete steps lead to double panelled and glazed doors with a transom and fanlight above. A wide surround of stucco and dark brown brick reiterates the arch shaped opening. The entrance is protected by a wooden portico with classically-derived pediment, entablature, and Tuscan columns and pilasters. The front facade is further detailed by large concentric squares of dark brown brickwork on the classroom bays, and rectangular panels of the same between first and second floor windows. On both the northeast and southwest elevations are entrances with similar brick and stucco surrounds. Above them are stairwell windows with glazed fanlights and arched brick surrounds. Belt courses, window surrounds, and details of dark brown brick are carefully executed on the sides as well as the rear elevations. Each elevation presents a well-designed and virtually unaltered appearance.

The same absence of insensitive alteration occurs on the interior of the school building. The floorplan includes symmetrically arranged classrooms, storage, and restroom facilities. The first floor gymnasium contains a suspended balcony for spectators on all four sides and wood encased beams. The auditorium upstairs is equally handsome with similarly treated ceiling beams and a well-detailed, wood-framed elliptical stage. Throughout the building's interior is the original dark stained and varnished woodwork. The basement level contains a kitchen, two classrooms and a boiler room.

### Architects

The firm of Osterman and Siebert were responsible for a number of prominent buildings in the nearby city of Walla Walla. Among those still standing are the Walla Walla County Courthouse (1915-1916), the Ellis Hotel and the Siel Building on Main Street in downtown Walla Walla.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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** 1921 **Builder/Architect** Osterman and Siebert

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Dixie High School, erected in 1921, has played an important role in the educational life of this farming community for sixty years. The building stands on property which includes land dedicated to school use since 1867. On a countywide scale, the school is significant as a distinctive visual monument, an architectural landmark amongst the wheatfields. Although it no longer serves in its original capacity as a high school, Dixie School continues in use, maintained and staunchly supported by local citizens.

In 1867, Charles Actor helped to form the Dry Creek School District, now Dixie School District #101 of Walla Walla County. Actor donated four acres to the district always to be used for a "school ground and playground for the children of the district." In 1872, a log house was moved onto the site to serve as a school. Two years later a frame school was built on the site, to be replaced by a brick structure in 1909. The current Dixie School was erected in 1921 as a high school across the road on land sold to the District for \$1,400 by John and Amanda Barnes. Architects for the project were Osterman and Siebert, a local firm with offices in the Drumheller Building in Walla Walla.

The Dixie School is an arresting, attractive building owing in part to the quality of its design and in part to the dramatic contrast of its setting. Its formality, distinctive brickwork (including geometric patterns and contrast coloration), and attention to detail are notable in comparison with most rural schools in the state. The building remains remarkably intact, lacking any insensitive alterations on either interior or exterior. Against a backdrop of blue sky and rolling wheatfields of yellow and green stretching to the horizon, the school's size, materials and coloration create a striking image.

Dixie School served as a high school until 1941 when students began to travel by bus and car to attend school in Walla Walla and Waitsburg. The school was converted to elementary use at that time. Currently it functions as an ungraded elementary with 40-50 students, half from the Dixie township and half from the surrounding farms. The people of the school district remain strongly in support of the continued operation of their school, despite recent trends and continual pressure toward consolidation and closures. There has never been a levy failure in the district, and fifteen community people serve regularly as school volunteers. The school's curriculum is progressive, including for instance an Environmental Education Area on the Actor land across Highway 12.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gose, Roberta. "Dixie," c. 1940. Unpublished research paper circulated among community.  
 Kelly, Elizabeth. "Oldest Resident Recounts Early Dixie Days," Walla Walla Union Bulletin,  
 July 26, 1964.

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Acreege of nominated property approximately 2.88 acres  
 Quadrangle name Dixie, Wash.

**UMT References**

A	1 1	4 1 1 2 9 0	5 1 1 0 2 4 0	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The nominated property occupies Blocks 26 and 27 of the town of Dixie, Washington as recorded in Volume B of plats, Records of Walla Walla County.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

Based on information submitted by: Vickie Esarey, Administrator Edited by: F.K. Lentz, OA & HP, Olympia, WA  
 organization Dixie School District #101 of Walla Walla County Walla Walla date December 1980  
 street & number P.O. Box 77 telephone (509) 525-5339  
 city or town Dixie state Washington

# 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

*Jacob E. Thom*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/16/81

For HCERS use only

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

*Delores Byers*

Entered in the National Register

date 7-23-81

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration