

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Dula-Horton Cemetery

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

At end of an 0.25 mile lane, entrance off south side of NC 268, 1.4 miles east  
street & number of junction with Grandin Road (SR 1552) not for publication N/A  
city or town Grandin vicinity X  
state North Carolina code NC county Caldwell code 027 zip code 28645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination  
\_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
\_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeremy Brown SHPO 7/9/04  
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
_____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Dula-Horton Cemetery  
Name of Property

Caldwell County, NC  
County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

Dula-Horton Cemetery  
Name of Property

Caldwell County, NC  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Exploration/Settlement

**Period of Significance**

1835-1947

**Significant Dates**

1835

1947

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dula, William

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Dula-Horton Cemetery  
Name of Property

Caldwell County, NC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of Property Approx. 1 (one) acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing  
1 17 462580 3990760  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Easting Northing  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Davyd Foard Hood

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 14 March 2002

street & number Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road telephone 704/462-1847

city or town Vale state NC zip code 28168

**12. Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See continuation sheet

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Dula-Horton Cemetery  
Caldwell County, North Carolina

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### Narrative Description

The Dula-Horton Cemetery, occupying a one-acre tract located at the end of a quarter of a mile lane off the south side of NC 268 in extreme eastern Caldwell County, is a substantial family cemetery that has been the site of interments for five generations of the extended Dula-Horton family and their Jones family kinsmen from 1835 until 1989. The cemetery is located in a clearing at the southeast point of Dula Hill, a promontorial hill overlooking the fertile bottom lands here on the west side of the Yadkin River. The clearing is a mowed grass-covered area in the general woodland that is distinguishable by its continued maintenance. Its boundary is defined by a map in Caldwell County Deed Book 938 page 285. Native woodlands surround the cemetery and enclose its hilltop setting, and they continue downgrade to the edges of the fields and bottoms. Until 2001, the entrance lane was a farm road that carried between two small cultivated fields for about one-half its distance, to a wood gate at the edge of the woodlands, through which the lane continued to the clearing. Late in 2001 the north half of the lane (the section between the former fields) was asphalt paved, with a circular turn-about at its south end, at the gate, as part of a proposed mobile-home development (that has been halted). Because of the surrounding woodland, slight curves in the lane that provide separation from the asphalt paving, and the sound of the river, audible on clear winter days, the cemetery retains the rural, isolated character that marks its essentially melancholic function.

The cemetery occupies the center two-thirds of the maintained, grass-covered clearing, and its near-rectangular grounds are enclosed in a conventional woven wire fence erected ca. 1990 by Everette Fence Builders of North Wilkesboro. There are no surviving landscape embellishments to its grounds; however, *Vinca minor*, growing in the woodland edges, probably was once planted in the cemetery. Instead of being artificially planted, the cemetery is a small open green, punctuated by five rows of mostly white marble gravestones, in a recently-timbered woodland of deciduous, white pine, holly, and cedar trees with vinca, native running cedar, moss, and other ground covers.

The cemetery includes the graves of sixty-eight members of the Dula, Horton, and Jones families marked by sixty-three inscribed stones, those of ten (now) anonymous persons whose burial place is simply defined by vertical fieldstones, and the grave of a now unknown individual marked by a stone inscribed "J. I. 1826." All but three of the sixty-eight interments, and their gravestones date to the period of significance, 1835 to 1947. Three unmarried great-great-grandchildren of William Dula were buried here between 1954 and 1989: Larkin L. Horton (1881-1954); Robert Glenn Jones (1892-1963); and his sister Cora Elma Jones (1901-1989).

The simple, traditional character of the family burying ground is formed by the arrangement of the graves in five generally parallel rows, on a north/south axis, of unequal length, the repetition

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of conventional tablet shapes punctuated by some few distinctive stones marking the graves of more affluent members, the rare survival here of nearly all of the contemporary footstones, and the use of white marble for all but five of the sixty-three gravestones. Conventional grey granite was used for the monument erected at the grave of Jack M. Dutton (1849-1928), which also records the burial of his wife Alice Horton (1860-1942), and the three post-1947 burials. Rose Virginia Horton's gravestone is of light pink marble. Although there is no specific formal, chronological arrangement to the interments, certain patterns are present in the cemetery. The earliest interments, including those of William and Theodosia Dula, at the south end of the center row, Edmund H. Jones (1821-1845), General William Horton (1786-1845), and Ann (Dula) Jones (ca. 1785-1846) occur in close proximity to each other at the south end of the cemetery with later interments continuing in a generally northward, westward, and eastward progress, with the three post-1947 burials at the north ends of two rows. Husbands and wives are buried beside each other with the graves of their children in close proximity, creating small undefined family groupings within the larger burial ground. An example being the positioning of the graves of James Theodore Horton (1829-1907), his wife, and the graves of five of their six children, the last family unit to make Dula Hill its home, in a parallel alignment in the (first) westernmost row.

The mostly tablet-form gravestones in the cemetery, and their inscriptions, reflect traditional patterns of grave-marking in the western Piedmont during the period of significance with few carved or archetonic references to architectural style, and there is little departure from convention in either form, lettering, or the epitaphs. The thirteen tablet-form gravestones marking interments between 1835 and 1865 have Baroque or mostly classical tympanums with flat, segmental-arched, or shouldered tops. The stones for William and Theodosia Dula, their daughter Ann Jones, and her son Edmund H. Jones have shouldered tympanums, while the gravestone for Colonel Catlitt Jones has a segmental-arched top with a carved laurel wreath in a recessed rondel; the footstones repeat these profiles. The tablet form persists through the later decades of the nineteenth century and into the early-twentieth century with variety in terms of height, thickness, and the occasional carved device. The principal variant to the tablet form is a group of classical obelisk-style gravestones dating to the 1880s through 1910s. The most prepossessing of this group, and the most imposing gravestone in the cemetery is that of Alexander Hamilton Horton (1831-1890); its two-part stepped, molded base supports a square-top obelisk, capped with tasseled drapery, supporting a draped urn. Flanking it are similar obelisks with turned columns marking the graves of David E. Bower (1814-1895) and Phineas Horton (1826-1886). Short, squat three- or four-part obelisks with peaked tops stand above the graves of Everett Horton (1857-1886), Fannie Corpening Horton (1824-1904), Nathan Horton (1823-1907), Rufus D. Horton (1835-1916), and William J. Harrington (1845-1917).

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A Victorian-style stone, featuring paired tablets on a single base with an arched, connecting top, marks the graves of Cora Ann Jones Harrington (1862-1889) and her daughter Cora Jones Harrington (1889). Mother and daughter died during childbirth on 5 June 1889.

### Important Gravestones

William Dula (1755-1835)  
Theodosia Dula (1755-1844)  
Edmund H. Jones (1821-1845)  
General William Horton (1786-1845)  
Ann (Dula) Jones (1786-1846)  
James Theodore Horton (1829-1907)  
Colonel Catlitt Jones (1776-1856)  
Sarah Orilla Jones (1816-1856)  
Phineos Horton (1826-1886)  
Everett Horton (1857-1886)  
Alexander Hamilton Horton (1831-1890)  
Cora Ann (Jones) Harrington (1862-1889) and Cora Jones Harrington (1889)  
David E. Bower (1814-1895)  
Fannie Corpening Horton (1824-1904)  
Nathan Horton (1823-1907)  
Rufus D. Horton (1835-1916)  
William J. Harrington (1845-1917)  
Jack M. (1849-1928) and Alice (Horton) Dutton (1860-1942)  
Rose Virginia Horton (1864-1947)

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### Summary

The Dula-Horton Cemetery, located at the edge of a knoll overlooking bottomlands along a bend in the Yadkin River near the Caldwell-Wilkes County border, is a family burying ground that reflects the prominence of the extended Dula-Horton family in Happy Valley society and the practice among members of that affluent group to create private cemeteries on their plantations. The Dula-Horton Cemetery satisfies National Register Criteria A and B, holds local significance in the areas of exploration/settlement and social history, and meets National Register Criteria Considerations C and D. Its significance and eligibility for nomination to the National Register is two-fold: it is the sole surviving resource associated with the life of Captain William Dula and his role in the late-eighteenth century settlement and early-nineteenth century development of the upper Yadkin River valley; and it is an important, intact, and well-preserved example of the private family burial grounds established and maintained by families on the North Carolina frontier during the period of settlement and development, before the organization of religious institutions and their associated burial grounds. The arrangement of burials reflects the general pattern in private family cemeteries through the mid-twentieth century and is indicative of the family's conscious decision to be buried in the family ground. The period of significance begins with the interment of Captain William Dula in 1835 and extends to 1947 when his great-granddaughter Rose Virginia Horton was buried here.

Captain William Dula (1755-1835) was one of a small group of enterprising men who acquired lands on the Yadkin River in then Wilkes (now Caldwell) County in the last quarter of the eighteenth century and established their families on plantations that would prosper to the Civil War. Between 1791 and 1804 William Dula acquired some 1,800 acres on both sides of the Yadkin River, erected a residence here on Dula Hill, and enriched his family worth in the years up to his death in 1835 when he owned eighty-four slaves and was one of the wealthiest men then living in the Happy Valley. In the settlement of Captain Dula's estate, the Dula family seat, the plot set aside to its south as a family burying ground, and the surrounding acreage was devised by the estate commissioners to his youngest daughter Sarah (1797-1884) and her husband David Eagles Horton (1792-1870). In 1866, as a result of financial problems arising from the Civil War, the couple conveyed the homeplace and cemetery to their fifth son James Theodore Horton (1829-1907), who lived here with his wife Sara Rose Lynch (1835-1934) and their family of six children. The second and third eldest, Ada (1863-1943) and Rose (1864-1947), never married, lived their entire lives on Dula Hill, and are buried in the cemetery. (Ironically the last occupant of the Dula-Horton house, their bachelor nephew Richard Theodore Lenoir (1894-1949), who perished in the fire that destroyed the house in 1949, was buried in Lenoir.) During the years between 1835 and 1947 sixty-five known members of the family and at least ten whose graves are marked by upright fieldstones were buried here. Included among these men are veterans of the Revolution and Civil Wars, the War of 1812, and World War I and the

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grave of William Horton Bower (1850-1910), a great-grandson of William Dula, who represented Caldwell County in both houses of the North Carolina Legislature and his district in the United States Congress (1893-1895). With the loss of the family seat in 1949, the Dula-Horton Cemetery is the most significant surviving reflection of Captain William Dula and his family's role in the history of the Happy Valley through the course of some 150 years and five generations.

The Dula-Horton Cemetery is one of two significant, well-preserved family burial grounds in Caldwell County's Happy Valley that contain the graves of prominent early settlers of the upper Yadkin River valley and which reflect the practice of establishing family burying grounds on plantations during the settlement period. As National Register Bulletin #41 notes "Although initially dictated by settlement patterns, plantation burials became a tradition once the precedent was set." That was the practice here, beginning with the interment of Captain William Dula, as it was at Fort Defiance (National Register, 1970) where the burial of young Elizabeth Lenoir (1783-1785) became the first of a series of Lenoir family interments. Of the several known important cemeteries from the settlement period only the Fort Defiance and Dula-Horton cemeteries have been preserved as private family burial grounds. Two others of especial note, the Isbell family cemetery and the Jones-Patterson family cemetery, have been incorporated into congregational burial grounds at Grandin Baptist Church and the Chapel of Rest, respectively.

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### Historic Background and Exploration/Settlement and Social History Contexts

The origin of this place as a private burying ground on one of Happy Valley's earliest and most important plantations, held by descendant generations through the course of three centuries, begins with Captain William Dula (1755-1835) and his settlement here on Dula Hill in the 1790s. In comparison with General William Lenoir (1751-1839), the builder of nearby Fort Defiance (National Register, 1970) and the progenitor also of a large and socially prominent family, relatively little is known of the life of William Dula; but he was also one of a number of Virginia-born planters who migrated to the Happy Valley after the Revolutionary War and formed the first generation of a cultivated society that flourished until the Civil War. Published Dula-family research identifies him as the son of Irish immigrant Thomas Dula (d. 1783) who settled in Orange County, Virginia, by 1756. It was probably in Orange (now Greene) County that William Dula was born in September 1755. About 1770 Thomas Dula and his family relocated to Augusta (now Rockingham) County, Virginia. Father and son are both said to have served in the Revolutionary War and they returned at its close to Rockingham County.

At present the matter of when and under what circumstances Captain William Dula came to know Mrs. Theodosia (Beasley) McMullen remains unconfirmed, as does the nature of her relationship with her husband, \_\_\_\_\_ McMullen, that apparently became estranged. Whatever the case, Captain Dula and Mrs. McMullen (1755-1844) had forged a natural relationship by about 1781, and by 1782 they had relocated to Henry (now Patrick) County, Virginia, where their first child, a son Thomas Dula (1782-1829), was born. His birth was followed by that of two daughters, Elizabeth (1784-1864) and Nancy Ann (1786-1846), probably also in Henry County, Virginia. A second son, William Buck Dula (1788-1856), was born either in Virginia or North Carolina.

In the late 1780s, and certainly by 1790, William Dula, Mrs. McMullen, and their four children left Henry County, Virginia, and came to Wilkes County, North Carolina. A Wilkes County marriage bond, dated 5 April 1790, confirms their marriage on or about that date.<sup>1</sup> William and Theodosia Dula were the parents of two known children born in North Carolina: Mildred "Milley" Dula (1792-1869) who married General William Horton (1786-1845); and Sarah "Sally" Dula (1797-1884) who married David Eagles Horton (1792-1870). The two youngest sisters married brothers. Here, in what was then Wilkes County, his eldest children made good marriages: Elizabeth married John Witherspoon (1779-1863) and was buried with him near their homeplace in Happy Valley; Nancy Ann married Catlitt Jones (1776-1856) who became an affluent planter; and Thomas married Elizabeth Hulme (1788-1865).

Between 1791 and 1804 William Dula acquired lands lying on both sides of the Yadkin River; however, the bulk of these 1,800 acres lay on the north side of the river. It was here, on a narrow

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hilltop overlooking a broad bend in the river, that he established his permanent residence and was later buried in the family cemetery set aside to the south of the house, and at the point of the hill. His first purchase was for eighty acres on the south side of the river from Russell Jones on 13 December 1791 (Wilkes County Deeds, D/748). The great majority of his plantation was assembled from lands he purchased from members of the Robins (Robbins) family. On 22 March 1792 he purchased two tracts from Thomas Robins: 101 acres on the north side of the river for 250 pounds (Wilkes County Deeds, B-1/388-89); and 171.25 acres on the south side of the Yadkin for 300 pounds (Wilkes County Deeds, B-1/396-97). On 23 May 1796 he purchased two additional tracts of land on the Yadkin River from Thomas Robins: a tract of 100 acres on "a branch of the Yadkin River" for fifty pounds (Wilkes County Deeds, C-1/155-56); and a tract of 150 acres on the north side of the river for 100 pounds (Wilkes County Deeds, C-1/158-59). Two years later, on 9 October 1798, William Dula enlarged his plantation through the purchase of two tracts from Lewis Demoss: 200 acres on the north side of the Yadkin for \$1,000 (Wilkes County Deeds, C-1/480-81); and a fifty-acre parcel on Tucker's branch for \$80 (Wilkes County Deeds, C-1/481-82). His two largest purchases were made of John Robins: on 28 December 1799 he acquired a tract of 350 acres on the north side of the Yadkin for 600 pounds (Wilkes County Deeds, C-1/155); on 27 February 1804 Mr. Robins sold Mr. Dula 430 acres on the south side of the Yadkin for 1,500 pounds (Wilkes County Deeds, F-1/55-56). With two additional purchases in 1797 and 1802, from William Ferguson and Thomas Stepp, respectively, Dula added another 150 acres to his real estate holdings (Wilkes County Deeds, F-1/9, 11-12). Through these recorded purchases William Dula acquired a total of 1,782.25 acres of which 951 acres were on the north side of the Yadkin River, 681.25 lay on the south side, and 150 acres lay on streams flowing into the river.<sup>2</sup>

Clearly William Dula was a man of substance when he came to North Carolina about 1790 and he increased his wealth through the course of his life. However, the means of this affluence and the source of his investments remain unconfirmed. By 1810 he was one of the wealthiest men in Wilkes County, North Carolina. In the 1810 Federal Census he is listed as the owner of thirty-four slaves, a holding second only to that of General James Wellborn who owned forty-one slaves. General William Lenoir, a patriarch of the Happy Valley, then owned thirty-three slaves while General Montfort Stokes, later (1830-1832) a governor of North Carolina, was the owner of thirty slaves. By his death the number of Dula's slaves had increased to sixty-five plus another nineteen who were known as the "Beasley slaves" and had been an inheritance of his wife's.

William Dula died here at Dula Hill on 16 January 1835 in the house that stood near, south of the path of present day NC 268. The southern tip of the promontorial ridge, overlooking the fertile bottomlands along the Yadkin River, was set apart as a cemetery with his interment. In *THE WORLD OF MY CHILDHOOD*, Mr. Dula's great-grandson Robert Lee Isbell wrote that William Dula had selected "the choice spot . . . for his last resting place" (Isbell, 47). Whether

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this site had been used earlier for a family burial is uncertain. A simple stone inscribed "J. I. 1826" survives here and may indicate the grave of a child; however, when Mr. Dula's eldest son Thomas died in 1829 he apparently was buried elsewhere (or here in an unmarked grave). With the burial of Mr. Dula, the progenitor of a large family whose descendant members would mostly bear other surnames, this plot of ground became a favored family burial ground and was used continuously as such through the 1940s.

By burying Mr. Dula on his plantation, in a small plot of land set aside for a cemetery, the Dula family was following a time-honored tradition in both his native Virginia and North Carolina whereby wealthy plantation owners established family burying grounds on family lands with the expectation that property would descend in the family. Examples abound in both states, and the pattern was continued here in the Yadkin River valley along with the construction of handsome plantation and farm seats, and other features of an affluent cultivated society. Among the earliest of these family cemeteries is that of the Lenoir family on the grounds of Fort Defiance where Elizabeth Lenoir (1783-1785), the daughter of General William Lenoir, is believed to be the first burial. Another important, later example is the Jones-Patterson Cemetery, begun with the interment of Patterson Harper Jones (1850-1856), the son of Edmund Walter and Sophia C. Jones, that in 1886 became the site of the Chapel of Rest (see pending Patterson School Historic District National Register nomination).

William Dula's will, written on 9 December 1817 and entered for probate at the February sessions, 1835, court, was a simple document. He devised all of the land purchased of Thomas Robbins lying on the north side of the Yadkin River to his wife, together with two named slaves, "four of the best cows and their calves" and "three of the best Work Horses," and all of the household and kitchen furniture. The remainder of his estate was to be divided equally among his six children, taking into account \$200 which Nancy Jones had already received (Wilkes County Wills, 4/185). On the 11th of February 1835, Joel Vannoy, Thomas Lenoir, and Nelson A. Strange, commissioners, met at the Dula House, examined and valued the slaves belonging to the estate. Sixty-two slaves were valued at \$21,185; three, apparently aged slaves, "were valued at nothing;" and the nineteen "Beasley Negroes" were valued at \$5,885. On 13 February the commissioners apportioned sixty-two of the Dula slaves to the five surviving children and their spouses, and the heirs of Thomas Dula. On the next day, Sarah Dula Horton and her husband having renounced their interest, the Beasley slaves were distributed to the other four siblings and the heirs of Thomas Dula (Wilkes County Wills, 4/190-92; Wilkes County Deeds, N/521-22).<sup>3</sup>

Concurrently, Messrs. Vannoy, Lenoir, and Strange, together with William Hagler and William Cottrell, served as commissioners in the division of the lands of the William Dula estate. The aggregate value of the lands was \$13,025; the acreage was not stated. The Dula lands on the south side of the Yadkin were divided between Elizabeth and John Witherspoon and Nancy and

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Catlett Jones. Sarah and David E. Horton received "the body of land on which the deceased lived and is subject to the life estate of his wife" together with two other tracts, the total valued at \$2,150. Tracts were also allotted to the other siblings and the heirs of Thomas Dula (Wilkes County Wills, 4/192-94; Wilkes County Deeds, N/518-20).<sup>4</sup>

Sarah Dula was born in the Dula house on Dula Hill on 29 April 1797, was married here in 1817 to David Eagles Horton (1792-1870), and surely lived most, if not all, of her life here until dying in 1884. After their marriage Sarah and David Horton lived for about seventeen years on the property he acquired on 10 November 1818 from George Howard in three tracts totaling 259 acres for \$3,800 (Caldwell County Deeds, 3, 142-46); the 184-acre tract, lying on the south side of the Yadkin and costing \$3,000, might have included an existing dwelling house. Mr. Horton was the third son of Colonel Nathan Horton (1757-1824) and his wife Elizabeth Eagles (17\_\_ - 1854) who had settled on the New River in Wilkes (later Ashe, now Watauga) County. Sarah and David Horton were the parents of ten children, of whom nine (their spouses and descendants) are buried in the Dula-Horton Cemetery. Having been well provided for through inheritances and their own enterprise, the couple lived the lives of prominent citizens of antebellum Wilkes and Caldwell counties, and enjoyed the close society of their siblings Milley and General William Horton who lived nearby; they and six of their ten children are buried in the cemetery. General Horton (1786-1845) represented Ashe County in the State Legislature (1814-1816) and served nine terms as a representative from Wilkes County between 1820 and 1838.<sup>5</sup> Through the course of the antebellum period, Theodosia Dula and ten other members of the Dula-Horton families were buried in the family cemetery. This group included Nancy Ann (Dula) Jones who died on 21 May 1846 and whose gravestone was carved and signed by a Philadelphia stone carver whose name is now illegible.

The financial disruption caused by the Civil War throughout the South left its mark on the Dula-Horton family and their way of life. On 12 October 1866, Sarah and David Horton conveyed the family homeplace, deeded to them in 1835, including the cemetery, to their fifth son, James Theodore Horton (1829-1907), who would live here until his death (Caldwell County Deeds, 5/472-73). During the 1860s, the Hortons incurred debts of over \$7,750 to area merchants and citizens. The matter reached Caldwell County Superior Court in the spring term of 1869 which ordered the sale of lands belonging to David E. Horton at auction on 5 July 1869; the 184-acre Howard property; 144 acres in four other tracts; lot #33 in the town of Lenoir; his unspecified interest in 277 acres on the Yadkin River and Elk Creek; twenty-five acres on Green Mountain; and two tracts totaling forty-six acres on Barretts Branch. At the sale Hamilton Allen Brown and Phineas Horton (1826-1886), a bachelor nephew of David Horton (who would be buried here), placed the highest bid of \$2,684.75 (Caldwell County Deeds, 3/222-24). David Eagles Horton died a year later, on 3 July 1870, and was buried in the Dula-Horton Cemetery.

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Sarah Dula Horton lived on at Dula Hill with her son and his family of six children until her death on 11 April 1884. The family's situation apparently improved, or at least stabilized, after the settlement of its wartime financial affairs. Life at Dula Hill in the 1870s and 1880s was warmly remembered by Sarah Horton's grandson, Robert Lee Isbell, in a series of reminiscences, written in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Published in the Lenoir News Topic under the heading "The World of My Childhood," they were reissued in book form in 1955 as The World of My Childhood. Dr. Robert Lee Isbell (1871-1954), the fourth son of Sarah Louise Horton and James Martin Isbell, was a minister of the Advent Christian Church and an educator at its Aurora College.

James Theodore Horton lived on the residual Dula plantation above the Yadkin River until his death in 1907; his widow Sara Rose (Lynch) Horton (1835-1934) survived him by twenty-seven years, dying at the age of ninety-nine on 22 July 1934. Both are buried in the Dula-Horton Cemetery as are five of their six children, including their only son James Walter Horton (1867-1898) who died without issue. Mr. Horton died intestate, and in 1908 his five surviving children sued in court for the division of his lands. The estate's 368.65 acres were divided into ten lots and distributed in generally equal shares among the five. From the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 through and including James Theodore Horton's death in 1907, thirty-three known members of the Dula-Horton family were buried in the cemetery. The second- and third-born of the children remained unmarried and continued to reside at Dula Hill: Ada Lynch Horton (1863-1943), and Rose Virginia Horton (1864-1947). The eldest sibling, Alice Conrad Horton (1860-1942) married Jack M. Dutton (1849-1928). The next to youngest daughter Harriet Augusta Horton (1869-1954) married Walter James Lenoir (1862-1952), and lived with him in the Happy Valley until moving into Lenoir (see pending Walter James Lenoir House National Register nomination). Lillie Gertrude (1872-1938), the youngest sibling, married Henry Carter Council (1882-1963) in 1909.

After the marriage of Lillie Horton in 1909, Dula Hill was home to Mrs. Horton and her two maiden daughters, Ada and Rose, until their deaths in 1934, 1943, and 1947, respectively. During this period twenty-one family members were buried in the cemetery with inscribed gravestones. Also during this period, the two spinsters' bachelor nephew, Richard Theodore Lenoir (1894-1949), came to live with his aunts at Dula Hill and resided here after their deaths. Following the death of Rose Virginia Horton on 3 April 1947 the contents of the Dula Hill house, assembled and enjoyed by four generations of the family from the 1790s to 1947, were sold at public auction. By 1948 when all of the children of James Theodore Horton had died except Harriet (Horton) Lenoir, the ownership of the residual Dula-Horton lands, including the homeplace, cemetery, and some 368 acres had devolved through inheritance to two parties: Mrs. Lenoir, and the three children of her deceased sister Lillie (Horton) Council. On 20 September

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1948, Mrs. Lenoir and her husband conveyed their one-half undivided interest in the portions of the estate previously held by her sisters, Alice, Ada, and Rose, to the three Councill siblings who held the other one-half interest; the Lenoirs excepted from this conveyance an eight-acre tract described as "the old Horton Homeplace" (Caldwell County Deeds, 247/221-23). James Howard Councill (1909-1998), Mary Jeroline Councill Gladstone (b. 1913), and Sara Gertrude Councill West (b. 1915) thus came into ownership of the majority of the Dula-Horton lands and the cemetery.

Richard Theodore Lenoir continued to live alone in the Dula Hill house and was its last resident. During the evening of Tuesday, 6 December 1949, fire broke out in the house and it burned to the ground. The Lenoir News-Topic headline on 7 December announced "Scion of Pioneer Caldwell Family Dies in Fire." The death of Mr. Lenoir and the loss of the ancestral Dula-Horton house were both lamented in the newspaper account of the tragedy.

He was a descendant of General William Lenoir, Revolutionary War hero, and was a member of a family which had settled in the South more than 250 years ago. He was prominently connected on both paternal and maternal sides of his family. His mother is the former Miss Harriet Augusta Horton of Happy Valley.

Because of the heavy growth of cedars and other shrubbery (sic) in the yard of the home, which is located 17 miles Northeast of Lenoir, near the Wilkes county line, the fire had gained considerable headway and was a mass of flames when discovered by neighbors.

The historic old home was burned to the ground, and a large number of beautiful boxwoods near the frame dwelling were also destroyed. The shrubbery was valued at approximately \$5,000.

The value ascribed to the plantings lost in the fire is probably no exaggeration. A photograph of the house published in 1940 in HAPPY VALLEY shows the lush, densely planted grounds of the large weatherboarded plantation seat.

Ironically, Richard Lenoir was buried in Belleview Cemetery in Lenoir. Shortly after the fire Mr. Isbell was moved to write the above-cited sketch for "The World of My Childhood" series.

The Dula-Horton Cemetery and its surrounding acreage remained in the ownership of the Councill siblings for nearly forty years (1948-1987) during which time the cleared fields were rented to area farmers for cultivation. After Rose Horton's interment in April 1947, only three burials have occurred here during the past fifty-five years: the bachelor Larkin L. Horton (1881-1954), a grandson of David Eagles Horton; and Robert Glenn Jones (1892-1963) and Cora Elma

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Jones (1901-1989), the unmarried children of John Langdon and Cornelia (Horton) Jones and the great-great-grandchildren of William Dula through both their paternal and maternal lines. In 1985 James H. Councill acquired two of the (three) tracts of Dula-Horton lands comprising 37.15 acres held by the late Harriet Lenoir (Caldwell County Deeds, 867/602-603), and the overall Councill family holding here grew to 343.40 acres. (The disposition of the remaining 25.25-acre parcel was not traced.) On 3 July 1987 in two deeds James Howard Councill, his wife, and sisters sold this property to Sam and Shirley A. Church of Deep Gap, North Carolina. The Councills reserved ownership of the Dula-Horton Cemetery, a near-rectangular pentagon of approximately one acre, and a right-of-way leading off NC 268 to the cemetery. A description of the parcel and a plat of the cemetery were recorded in the deed to Mr. and Mrs. Church (Caldwell County Deeds, 938/276-87). Following the sale, ca. 1990, Mr. Councill had a woven wire fence erected by Everette Fence Builders, North Wilkesboro, around the ancestral burying ground. Mary Jeroline Councill Gladstone of Raphine, Virginia, and Sara Gertrude Councill West of Panama City, Florida, both widows, are the owners of the cemetery.

In the 1790s when William Dula set about establishing his family here, at a place that would come to be known as Dula Hill, he acquired valuable lands along the Yadkin River and chose the most desirable site in all their extent for his residence. And, as his great-grandson would recall in 1949, he selected "the choice spot . . . for his last resting place and where he was buried 114 years ago" (Isbell, 47). Today, only the cemetery remains as a physical reminder of the family's long occupation of this place. Fate was both kind and unkind to William Dula and his memory. When he died in 1835 his sons had already established themselves on plantations here in the Yadkin River valley, and the estate commissioners set the home plantation apart to Sarah Dula Horton, his youngest child. In retrospect their action may well have been as Mr. Dula intended; however, it set in motion the much longer occupation of this place by those bearing the surname Horton, a period spanning the years from 1835 to 1947. (In contrast male members of the Lenoir family continued to live at Fort Defiance.) Those of his descendants who carried his name mostly left the area and the state to seek and gain their fortune. And, the family would suffer the apparent humiliation of having their name forever associated with the folklore surrounding their kinsman Thomas C. Dula (1844-1868), a Confederate veteran whose conviction for the murder of his lover Laura Foster and death by hanging became the subject of a popular nineteenth-century ballad "Hang Down Your Head, Tom Dula."<sup>6</sup> But William Dula's descendants held their respect for family and their affection for this place. Today, fifty-five years after the great house on Dula Hill was lost to fire and only three members of his family have been buried here in the same space of time, William Dula's family continues to hold and maintain this "choice spot" among all that was once their ancestor's domain.

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### The Dula-Horton Cemetery and the Family Cemetery as a Cultural Resource in Caldwell County's Happy Valley

The paragraph on family cemeteries published in the account of "Colonial and Early American Burial Customs" appearing in National Register Bulletin #41 succinctly describes the origins and general history of the Dula-Horton Cemetery.

In areas such as the Middle Atlantic region and the South, settlement patterns tended to be more dispersed than in New England. Although early towns such as Jamestown established church cemeteries, eventually burial in churchyards became impractical for all but those living close to churches. As extensive plantations were established to facilitate the production of large scale cash crops, such as tobacco, several factors often made burial in a churchyard problematical: towns were located far apart, geographically large parishes were often served by only a single church, and transportation was difficult, the major mode being by ship. The distance of family plantations from churches necessitated alternative locations for cemeteries, which took the form of family cemeteries on the plantation grounds. They usually were established on a high, well-drained point of land, and often were enclosed by a fence or wall. Although initially dictated by settlement patterns, plantation burials became a tradition once the precedent was set. Along with the variety of dependencies, agricultural lands, and other features, family cemeteries help illustrate the degree of self-sufficiency sustained by many of these plantations.

In the upper Yadkin River area and its Happy Valley, this practice of burial in family cemeteries continued until the first permanent religious congregations were formed in the post-Civil War period, churches built, and their churchyards used for burials. However, the Dula-Horton family, together with the Lenoirs at Fort Defiance continued the use of the family burying ground, although in steadily diminishing fashion, through the twentieth century.

The Dula-Horton Cemetery is one in a small group of private family burial grounds that were established during the period between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War in Caldwell County's upper Yadkin River valley, known since the later nineteenth century as the Happy Valley. This area, its plantation society, its families, and their houses were celebrated in a book of the same name, HAPPY VALLEY, written by Thomas Felix Hickerson and published in 1940. Early in this period, beginning with the removal of the Cherokee Indians and other regional Indian (Tuckasegee and Catawba) tribes that culminated in General Griffith

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Rutherford's campaign of 1776, the rich lands along the major rivers and waters of the western North Carolina Piedmont and the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains opened to settlement. The fertile area of the upper Yadkin River valley, in today's Caldwell County, quickly attracted settlement. General William Lenoir, who had participated in General Rutherford's campaign, was among the first to come here and take up lands. He would eventually become the largest landowner in the region; by 1784 he is said to have held just over 14,000 acres. In 1792 he completed a great house on the grounds of a Colonial period fortification--Fort Defiance--whose name he would adopt for both his plantation and its seat.

But prior to building that second residence here, while he was still living in a relatively simple but substantial log house, death visited the Lenoir family. Young Elizabeth Lenoir (1783-1785), the first of General Lenoir's children to be born in present-day Caldwell County, died on 22 March 1785. She was interred at a spot, near the family residence and the old fort, overlooking the course of the Yadkin River. Her burial marked the beginning of the first known family cemetery established in the Happy Valley. William Lenoir was the progenitor of a large and rich family. Two of his daughters, Mary and Ann, would marry men who likewise established important plantations in the upper Yadkin River valley. The Fountain (see pending National Register nomination) and Palmyra (see pending National Register nomination for the Patterson School Historic District). In time both Mary and William Davenport and Ann and General Edmund Jones would be interred at Fort Defiance as would their brother Thomas Lenoir (1780-1861), who succeeded his father as master of Fort Defiance. Between 1785 and 2000 sixty known members of the Lenoir family were buried in the Fort Defiance cemetery including Andrew Lyndon Lenoir (1910-1992), the last resident of the ancestral house now restored and operated as a house museum.

Other settlers and their families came to the upper Yadkin River valley including Captain William Dula, and members of the Jones, Davenport, and Horton families among others. Those who did not initially marry into the Lenoir family likewise established private family burying grounds. At this distance from the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, it is unclear which families undertook this necessity first, after the Lenoir family, because of two factors: the practice of marking graves, and the loss of graves and/or burying grounds. Because of the necessity to import gravestones to what was then the backcountry, graves were initially marked by various means, either field stones, stakes, wood crosses, or plantings, until a gravestone could be ordered, carved, shipped, and erected. The lapse in time from an interment until the grave was permanently marked could involve a year or two, or longer. In some instances, particularly in the early settlement period when a family might have suffered financial hardship and/or moved on to fresher lands, these initial impermanent markings were all that were made. In time, both the identify of those buried and the graves themselves could become lost. Where these two conditions appertained, the entire record of a family and its burying ground was lost to history. In

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other instances the earliest burials were never marked, as at the Hawkins family cemetery where burials are known to have occurred on the hilltop above the house prior to that of J. Melvin Hawkins (1883) which is the earliest marked grave in the cemetery.

The Dula-Horton Cemetery is among three known private family cemeteries established on family plantations in the opening decades of the nineteenth century, and it is the largest, most significant, and best preserved of the three. The first of the trio is the small Hulme-Dula cemetery, located near the western end of the Happy Valley, near Patterson, which is believed to have been set apart for this purpose with the burial of William Hulme (d. 1817), a prominent planter who served in both chambers of the North Carolina Legislature between 1781 and 1815. Captain William Dula's eldest son Thomas Beasley Dula (1782-1829) married Mr. Hulme's daughter Elizabeth (1787-1865). Their place of burial, if, presumably here, is unmarked. Four of their children, Colonel William Hulme Dula (1806-1856), Alfred Dula (1812-1884), Sarah C. Dula (1816-1829), and James W. Dula (ca. 1818-1855), are buried here as were at least eighteen others in the period up to 1948.

The nearly contemporary Isbell family cemetery, the second of the trio, is believed to date to the interments of Thomas Isbell (1753-1819) and his wife Discretion Isbell (ca. 1733-1818). It remained a place of family burials, including those of at least ten members of the family, to 1903. In the early twentieth century when the village of Grandin grew up on a part of the Isbell lands, a Baptist congregation was organized there, and a church built beside the Isbell family cemetery, it became a congregational burying ground and its identity subsumed in a new, larger purpose.

Following on the establishment of the Dula-Horton Cemetery in January 1835 with the death of Captain William Dula on the 16th, two other known family cemeteries were established in the antebellum period; both date to 1856. William Hagler (1781-1856), the builder of the brick Hagler House (National Register, 1981), and his wife Elizabeth (1781-1872) were buried on their lands, at some distance from the house. Here too were buried their daughter Sara (Hagler) Kendall (1823-1908), her husband, and James Horton (1822-1905) in a small plot where only five known interments are marked.

The second of this pair of antebellum family cemeteries established in 1856 in Happy Valley is located on a choice spot on lands that had formed a part of General Edmund Jones's Palmyra Plantation. On 25 August 1856 when Patterson Harper Jones (1850-1856), the fifth son and sixth child of Edmund Walter Jones (1811-1876) and Sophia Caroline (Davenport) Jones (1812-1860), died, his parents may have considered burying his body at Fort Defiance. That cemetery was then the resting place of his paternal grandparents and both General and Mrs. Lenoir who were both his maternal and paternal great-grandparents. Instead, Edmund and Caroline Jones, then the

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wealthiest couple in Caldwell County and resident at Clover Hill (National Register, 1973), followed the example of General Lenoir and Captain Dula and decided upon a site, elevated above and overlooking the bottomlands of the Yadkin River, for the burial of their youngest son. Doing so they followed precedent and tradition by establishing a new family cemetery on the Jones family lands. Four years later Caroline Jones died and was buried beside her son, and a year and a half afterward Mrs. Sarah Lenoir (Jones) Jones (1817-1862), her sister-in-law, died and was interred here. With the death of Phebe Caroline (Jones) Patterson (1806-1869) at Palmyra and her burial here the cemetery came to be the burying ground of the extended Jones-Patterson families who occupied Clover Hill, Palmyra, and The Fountain. On 29 December 1869 Mrs. Patterson's husband wrote to his cousin in Mobile, Alabama, and described his wife's final days and her funeral.

The body was interred in a spot long since selected by herself, near our residence--and where I hope at no distant day we shall have a neat little country church erected partly in memorial of her, and partly in memory of other friends buried at the same place. . . . (ECHOES, 117).

Although family cemeteries remained in use after the Civil War, important changes occurred in burial customs in the Happy Valley in the post-bellum period. These came about largely through the organization of religious congregations, the construction of churches, and the use of the adjoining churchyards and grounds for burials. Although Christian worship services are known to have been held in the Happy Valley from the early-nineteenth century into the mid century by traveling Episcopal clergy and other itinerant Protestant ministers, there was no church or congregation formally organized here until the 1870s. Services were held in homes, including Fort Defiance, and in a small building known as Yadkin Meeting House which is said to have been built on The Fountain lands by William Davenport between 1807 and about 1815. Mr. Davenport was a Methodist; however, he freely allowed all Christian ministers and community residents to use the building.

Despite Mr. Patterson's wish for an Episcopal chapel, the first permanent, surviving churches built in the upper Yadkin River valley were Methodist. In 1872 James Clarence Harper, then a member of the United States Congress, erected Harper's Chapel Methodist Church as a memorial to his son John Witherow Harper (1847-1865) who had died during battle at Kinston. It continues to stand near Patterson, near the west end of the Happy Valley, where Mr. Harper was a principal investor in the cotton mill. The church building and its lot, which soon came to be used for burials, were donated in November 1872 to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The first known interments here were those of an infant born (and died) on 13 May 1873 to Thomas and Rachel Coffey, and Mr. Harper's grandson Albert Harper Cilley (1870-1873) who died on 13 August 1873.

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The valley's second Methodist church, Mariah's Chapel (see pending National Register nomination) had its origins in services held by the itinerant Methodist, the Reverend George Washington Ivey, in the home of Miss Martha Maria Earnest. Miss Earnest (1826-1890), an invalid, was the niece of the builders of Riverside (see pending National Register nomination), the granddaughter of Catlitt and Ann (Dula) Jones, and the great-granddaughter of Captain William Dula. (Her younger brother John L. Earnest (1828-1857) was interred in the Dula-Horton Cemetery.) In September 1878 she donated a one-and-a-half-acre tract comprising a knoll on the south side of the Yadkin River to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and a church was built in 1879. The consecrated ground surrounding Mariah's Chapel likewise became a cemetery. Miss Earnest's cousin, Juliet Josephine (Jones) Carter (1827-1882) was interred here after her death on the 25th of April and three months later another kinsman, Lloyd T. Jones (1818-1882), died on 20 July and was interred here.

The Episcopal chapel envisioned by Samuel Finley Patterson (1799-1874), who was buried beside his wife, was not realized in his lifetime but later by his son Samuel Legerwood Patterson (1850-1908). On 29 August 1889 the Reverend Theodore Benedict Lyman, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, consecrated the newly-completed Chapel of Rest. He recorded the event in his Episcopal diary and described the frame church building as "one of the most beautiful and churchly chapels in the Diocese. It stands in the midst of a burial ground, and thus sanctifies the cherished spot where so many loved ones are sleeping in the dust" (JOURNAL, 1890, 13).

With the completion of these three churches, their grounds became congregational burying grounds that in effect served both the community and families who tended to bury loved ones in family plots or with some real degree of proximity to other kinsmen. Members of Happy Valley's old plantation society and its emerging, turn-of-the-century community of smaller farmers both came to inter their deceased in these church-related grounds and this practice continues to the present. However, those members of both the Lenoir and Dula-Horton families who occupied their respective ancestral homes, Fort Defiance and Dula Hill, until 1965 and 1947, chose to be buried in the family cemeteries on the grounds of those houses, while their siblings and members of their extended families were interred on the church grounds. The last interments at Fort Defiance's burying ground were those of Andrew Lyndon Lenoir (1910-1992) and his wife Faunie Turmmire Lenoir (1915-2000). Here in the Dula-Horton Cemetery the last interments were those of sisters who lived their entire lives on Dula Hill, Ada Lynch Horton (1863-1943) and Rose Virginia Horton (1864-1947), except for three unmarried members of their extended family who were buried here in 1954, 1963, and 1989. Ironically the body of Richard Theodore Lenoir, the last occupant of the Dula-Horton house and a descendant of both General Lenoir and Captain Dula, was buried neither here, where he perished, nor at Fort Defiance, but in a public cemetery in Lenoir.

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The appearance of the Dula-Horton Cemetery reflects the general appearance of known family cemeteries in the upper Yadkin River valley; however, differences exist one to the other because of the wealth and evolving status of individual families through the course of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries and their current situations. In each instance, except for the Hagler and Hawkins cemeteries, the burying ground was located relatively close to the plantation or farm seat, a short walk away, but generally in view of the house. They were located either at the edge of pleasure gardens, near a grove, alongside a lane, at the edge of a woodland, field, or orchard, or on a knoll or hilltop, and in a natural or enhanced setting.

The arrangement of burials in the Dula-Horton Cemetery reflects the general patterns seen in other family cemeteries here and on plantations elsewhere in the Piedmont and eastern North Carolina. Graves are arranged in informal rows, here in five rows on a north/south axis, whereas those in the Lenoir family cemetery occur in six rows of uneven length. Husbands and wives are buried side by side with children beside them or in near proximity in the same or adjoining row. These groupings of siblings or branches in a family are not altogether consistent but reflect general intention which was sometimes altered by family circumstance. Stones marking the graves of family patriarchs and more affluent members of families are usually of handsome appearance, as here, reflecting both their position within the social and economic hierarchy of the family and community and an obvious expense and attention to the memorial. Here, as in most parts of the Piedmont, white marble was the dominant, virtually exclusive stone used for gravestones in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was succeeded by granite in the years near the turn of the twentieth century and remained in use thereafter. The design of gravestones generally reflects the contemporary fashions in art and architecture of the day with a simple chaste neo-classicism giving way in the middle decades of the nineteenth century to more robust Greek Revival-style forms. These, in turn, were succeeded by often more florid Victorian stones in the closing years of the nineteenth century. Classical forms reappeared at the turn of the century and largely held sway thereafter. Few burials occurred in any of the private family cemeteries after World War II, and thus the presence of modern gravestones does not disturb the historic integrity and feeling associated with their historic usage and significance. When first erected most grave markings included complementing headstones and footstones. Virtually all of these pairings survive at Dula-Horton Cemetery, a survival that is becoming increasingly rare in both private and public cemeteries where many footstones are lost or intentionally removed as an accommodation for mowing.

The enhancement to the grounds of family cemeteries likewise reflect both the station of the family through the course of time and circumstance. The extent to which any of them were originally enclosed by fencing of either an ornamental or practical nature during their periods of active use and significance is now unknown. In 1930 the grounds of the former Jones-Patterson cemetery at the Chapel of Rest were enclosed with stone walls, and more recently the Dula-

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Horton Cemetery has been enclosed with a woven wire fence to prevent intrusion on its sacred precinct. Both the Dula-Horton Cemetery and the Lenoir family burying ground are grass-covered and mowed on a regular basis. The grass at the Dula-Horton Cemetery now includes both broomsage and other ground covers and is mowed on a less frequent basis than the cemetery at Fort Defiance which enjoys more frequent visitation as part of a museum setting. How these grounds were treated before the advent of mowing machines is unclear; however, they were tended and perhaps planted with ground covers, including vinca, and kept free of weeds and unwanted growth. Through time, and with maintenance effected at a distance and by hired help, whatever plantings existed in the Dula-Horton Cemetery have been lost. That plantings existed cannot be doubted given the lush adjoining grounds surrounding the family house on Dula Hill known through photographs and documentary references. The Lenoir family cemetery remains ornamented with aged *Buxus sempervirens* "Suffruticosa," an aged cedar, and an enclosing circlet of American boxwood. The grounds of the cemetery at the Chapel of Rest were much enhanced with magnolia, boxwood, and holly trees through the twentieth century.

### Endnotes

1. With the movement of members of the Dula family through Virginia and into North Carolina and the loss of public and private records in both states, discrepancies and uncertainties have arisen through the years concerning family relationships and the dates of births, marriages, and deaths. William Dula's gravestone includes "September 1755" as his birth date; however, a Caldwell County genealogist of high reputation has identified "17 March 1756" as his birth date. Although the date of William Dula's marriage to Mrs. McMullen can be confirmed through a surviving Wilkes County marriage bond, dated 5 April 1790, the matter of their relationship in Virginia remains to be clarified. In the event Theodosia Beasley was married prior to the nuptials with Mr. Dula and may have been the mother of a son, John McMullins (sic), by that marriage about whom William Dula made an admonition in his will for the protection of his widow's assets against claims by same. Theodosia Beasley was the daughter of James Beasley. "Dula," a six-page undated typescript genealogical paper by Allan L. Poe and Samuel Mask, is probably the best documented research on the eighteenth-century history of the Dula family in Virginia and a principal source for this nomination.
2. An examination of the deed records in Wilkes County indicates that William Dula acquired the core lands which remained his home plantation in the 1790s while also engaged in other real estate transactions for profit (Wilkes County Deeds: C-1/540-41; D/717; F-1/13, 20; K/80; N/325, 457-58. Between 1803 and 1833 he also sold tracts of land to his two sons and two of his sons-in-law. In 1803 he sold the two tracts (totaling 250 acres) acquired from Lewis Demoss to his son Thomas Dula (Wilkes County Deeds, C-1/482-83). Later in the year he sold thirty-three acres to Catlitt Jones, who had married his daughter Nancy (Wilkes

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County Deeds, C-1/518). In 1812 he sold a tract of 200 acres on the south side of the Yadkin for \$3,000 to his son William Dula, Jr. (Wilkes County Deeds, N/364). The high price for this property suggests that either a substantial house, mill, or other improvements stood upon it. Seventeen years later, in 1829, he sold a tract of 150 acres on the north side of the river to William Dula, Jr., for \$1,500 (Wilkes County Deeds, N/363). William Dula's final known sale of property occurred in January 1833 when he conveyed 100 acres on the north side of the Yadkin River to his son-in-law John Witherspoon for \$400 (Wilkes County Deeds, N/513).

3. The commissioners concluded their account of their work with the following statement:  
“... we think proper to state that as none of the Legatees appeared willing to take the 3 old negroes to wit, Harry, Frederick and Aggy, who were valued at nothing, we know not how better to do than let them remain in charge of the administrators, and by them to be fed and clothed as necessary at the expense of the Estate on which they have administration, until other and better arrangements can be made for them.”
4. Differences in the valuations of the individual tracts were to be equalized by payments among the siblings. The Witherspoon allocation was the most valuable at \$2,700. Milley and William Horton received the smallest apportionment, which was balanced by a \$900 indebtedness to the estate.
5. Although the Dula family history has yet to receive adequate treatment, the Horton family was the subject of an early genealogy, *THE HORTONS IN AMERICA*, in 1876. The family lines were brought forward by Adaline Horton White in a reissue in 1929 that, in turn, prompted Texie Horton Barlowe to undertake *THE HORTONS OF NORTH CAROLINA*. This last-named work was the principal source for genealogical information on the members of the Horton family who lived at Dula Hill and they and others who are buried in the Dula-Horton Cemetery.
6. In the late 1950s the ballad served as the source for a new song, “Tom Dooley,” written by Dave Guard (1934-1991) and recorded by the Kingston Trio, which reached number one in the United States chart in 1958.

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Verbal Boundary Description: The property included in this nomination is the parcel described in a paragraph on page 284 and defined by the drawing on page 285 of Deed Book 938, Caldwell County Deeds, by which the Council siblings sold the homeplace lands to Sam and Shirley A. Church in 1987. Caldwell County Deeds, Book 938, pp. 279-87. The approximately one-acre cemetery property was excepted from the sale and retained by the family.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, consisting of approximately one acre, comprises the site of the Dula-Horton Cemetery and the woven-wire security fence that encloses it.

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### Schedule of Photographs

1. Name of property: Dula-Horton Cemetery
2. County and state: Caldwell County, North Carolina
3. Name of photographer: Davyd Foard Hood
4. Date of photographs: 25 February 2000. Spring 2004 site visit verifies that there has been no change in the property since 2000.
5. Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC

### List of Photographs

- A. Overall, landscape view, looking south.
- B. Approach to cemetery, looking south on the approach lane.
- C. View in cemetery showing general alignment of headstones and footstones, looking south.
- D. Captain William Dula's headstone, looking east.
- E. Mrs. Theodosia Dula's headstone, looking east.
- F. Ann Dula Jones's headstone, looking east.
- G. Sarah Orilla Jones's headstone, looking east.
- H. David E. Bower gravestone (center) and Captain Alexander Hamilton Horton's gravestone (right), looking southeast.
- I. Cora Ann (Jones) Harrington and Cora Jones Harrington's joint gravestone, looking east.

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### Property Owners

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