

NR 12-22-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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 Dr. James Wyatt Walton House

AND/OR COMMON

Walton House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 West Sevier

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Benton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Saline

CODE

125

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

J. W. Walton Estate, W. P. Walton, Manager

STREET & NUMBER

103 South Market

CITY, TOWN

Benton

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Saline County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Benton

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1903, the Walton House in Benton, Arkansas, is one of the most impressive structures in the city. The house was designed by prominent Little Rock architect Charles L. Thompson and contracted by John S. Odum.

The two-story, frame structure, which rests upon a brick foundation, is covered in narrow clapboard siding and features corner boards. The irregular shaped house features a central core topped with a high-hipped roof with five, two-story, gabled projections. Two gabled projections are located on the facade, one on each of the east, west and north elevations. With the exception of the projection on the north elevation, all gabled projections on the house feature decorative bargeboard in the gable end. All five of the gable ends have returns.

A denticulated cornice runs around the entire structure. Three types of window arrangements are featured on the Walton House; single, double-hung one-over-one-light windows; paired, double-hung one-over-one-light windows; and triple, double-hung one-over-one-light windows with arched transoms of stained glass.

The facade (south elevation) of the Walton House features the central mass of the house with two decorative two-story gabled projections. The gabled projection on the west end of the facade features at the first floor level a set of triple, double-hung windows topped by an arched transom with three sections of stained glass. The central section of the facade is marked also by a decorative gable end and by a single, double-hung window with a rectangular stained glass transom at the second story level. Also contained in this central projection is the single-entry door. The east end of the facade is patterned as the west end with paired double-hung windows at the second story level and a set of three windows with an arched stained glass transom at the first floor level. A one-story portico with an irregular roofline extends from the center of the facade and wraps around the southeast corner to cover about one-fourth of the east elevation.

Located in the center of the west elevation is a three-sided, two-story gabled bay which features five, evenly-spaced, double-hung windows and in the central section on the first floor level a set of three windows topped by an arched transom of stained glass. The rear (north elevation) is marked by a two-story gabled projection and by a two-story partially enclosed portico.

Interior features of the Walton House reflect Charles Thompson's exceptional architectural abilities. The 1903 hardware and mantel pieces remain along with most of the original flooring. Of special note is the entry door which features an oval, beveled, frosted glass.

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Located in the foyer, a three-flight stairway, built from scrap lumber, features two ornamental newel posts and three turned balusters per tread. One unusual aspect of the interior of the 1903 structure is that two closets were originally constructed in the time when "built-in" closets were rare in Arkansas.

The major alteration to the Walton House was the removal of a two-story cone-roofed cupola on the southeast corner which was brought about by severe damage to the cupola during a storm. The only other alteration of note was in 1942 when the kitchen was enlarged through encompassing the adjacent pantry. This alteration involved the removal of a wall. There have been no major additions to the structure since its construction.

The Walton House stands on its original site in good condition and represents to the community much of its heritage.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Architect Charles L. Thompson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. James Wyatt Walton House located in Benton, Arkansas, is significant not only for the fineness of its architecture, but in its representation of the city's first doctor. The structure was designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock and built by John S. Odum. These two men were also responsible for the design and construction of the Saline County Courthouse in 1902 (entered in the National Register 11-22-76). The Walton House is a two-story gabled roof structure sheathed in narrow clapboard siding. Decorative detailing of design found on the structure includes denticulated cornices, stained glass transoms, ornamental bargeboard in gable ends and a large one-story Classical portico which turns the corner of the facade to extend onto the east elevation.

James Wyatt Walton was born in Saline County, Arkansas, on January 23, 1863, the son of James and Angelena Poe Walton. James Walton had settled in Arkansas in 1860, working as a carpenter for one year, then farming. Early in the Civil War, James Walton joined the Confederate Army and was believed to have been killed near Atlanta, Georgia. Angelena Poe Walton, a distant relative of poet Edgar Allen Poe died in 1866, leaving her two small children to be raised by her parents. J. W. Walton lived with his grandparents until the death of his grandfather. In 1876 he moved with his grandmother to a farm in Grant County where he lived for seven years. At the age of 20 Walton moved to Benton and took a three-year high school course.

J. W. Walton graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in medicine. In April, 1889, he became the partner of Dr. D. N. Fisher of Benton and in that connection he rapidly built an excellent reputation in the practice of medicine. In 1896, Dr. Walton did postgraduate work in surgery at the Chicago Polyclinic, which later became the University of Chicago. He received an honorary degree from St. Luke's Hospital in Niles, Michigan, and continued the study of medicine for the rest of his life.

Dr. Walton was instrumental in organizing the Saline County Medical Society and was the first County Health Officer. As Saline County Health Officer, Dr. Walton stressed sanitation with an emphasis on typhoid and malaria control.

Dr. Walton was a well-respected physician who was said to have been years ahead of his time in the field of medicine. The Walton House was always a welcome place for those who were ill and needy. After Dr. Walton brought

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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Walton, W. P. Personal interview at the Walton House, Benton, Arkansas,
October 19, 1976.



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

MAR 14 1977



Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

February 3, 1977

The J. W. Walton Estate
W. P. Walton, Manager
103 South Market
Benton, Arkansas 72015

Re: Dr. James Wyatt Walton House
Benton, Saline County

Dear Mr. Walton:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Dr. James Wyatt Walton House which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their March meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

If you have any questions concerning the program or your property's nomination, please contact Sandra Taylor of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

BW:cm

I approve of the above property being nominated
to the National Register of Historic Places.

Yes No

Comments: We appreciate the work that you are doing to preserve Historical Buildings. We are late sending this in, but wanted to check with other members of our family.

3-10-77

Date

W. P. Walton

Signature

Agent

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sick people from the country home so that he could more adequately care for them. Dr. Walton also allowed many youths to live in his home to provide them with the opportunity to finish high school. In addition to being successful in medicine, Dr. Walton was a good businessman and owned several farms and extensive real estate. Dr. J. W. Walton died in 1928.

Dr. Walton was married to Ada Fisher and they had six children. Several years after her death he married Sarah Alma Poe of Little Rock. They were the parents of four children.

The Walton House was originally intended to have been constructed at another site which is now the center of downtown Benton, but Walton was advised to build his home where the family was then living a few blocks away. The house already on the site was moved and the present structure constructed. Ironically, though Dr. Walton built his home at a location to avert living in the business district, the city has grown to the extent that the structure is constantly threatened as it is now in the midst of an area of prime commercial property.

The Walton House is still owned by the descendants of Dr. Walton, who hope to prevent the destruction of the structure. The Walton House represents hospitality, shelter and always available medical attention to many of the older residents of Benton. As a representative structure of Charles L. Thompson's designs and as representative of one of Saline County's finest doctors, the Walton House is a significant historical structure.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Benton Courier, October 28, 1976.

Chambers, Mrs. J. K. Personal interview at the Walton House, Benton, Arkansas, December 17, 1976.

Chambers, Tom. Personal interview at the Walton House, Benton, Arkansas, July 23, 1976.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 5	5 3 7 6 2 0	3 8 2 4 6 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-8-77

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Building

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-8-77

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

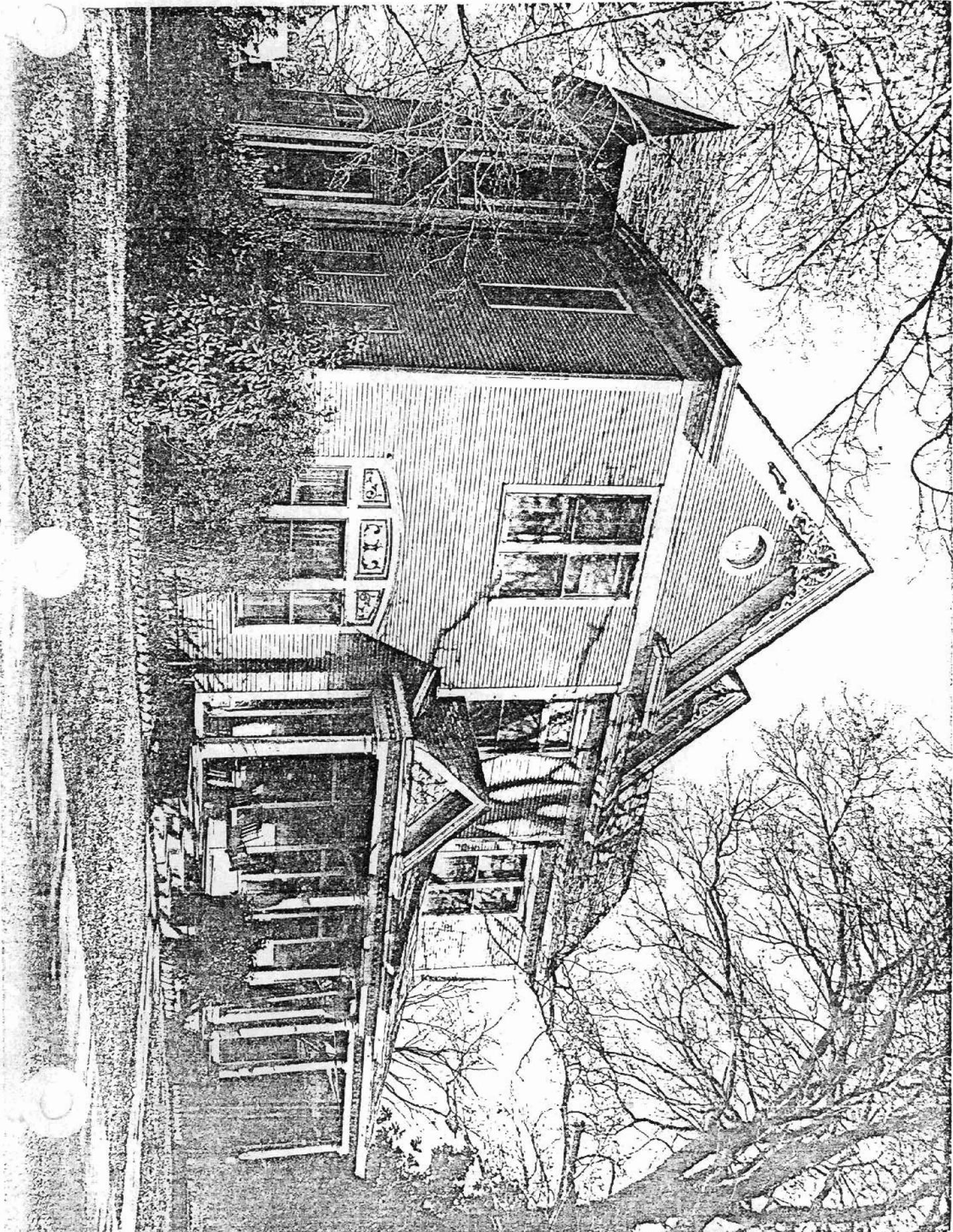
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

 NAME

HISTORIC Walton House

AND/OR COMMON

 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Benton

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY Saline

STATE Arkansas

 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Facade, viewed from the southwest

PHOTO NO

1

INT: 2983-75