

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 21 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 10 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Walker-Knerr-Williams House

AND/OR COMMON Walker House *use this***2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Knerr Road

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Third

STATE Arkansas

VICINITY OF
CODE 05

COUNTY Washington CODE 143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Franklin S. and Elizabeth B. Williams

STREET & NUMBER Knerr Road (Post Office Box 25)

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville VICINITY OF STATE Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER Washington County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville STATE Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Both historically and architecturally the Walker-Knerr-Williams House is a tangible reminder of the nineteenth century. Its Georgian style with Victorian trim presents a serene and dignified face to the world and is harmonious in its blend of brick, stone and wood. The house was built in two stages, with the front section completed in 1872, and the stem section, giving the house its basic T-shape, completed in 1878.

From every aspect the house pleases the eye. The strong T-shape is accentuated by four chimneys. The two bay windows on the north and south elevations of the front portion of the house, the two storey front portico, and the long second floor south gallery are features which adorn the basic structure. The facade, with its balanced windows, doors and pillars, has a look of simple but genuine elegance. Bracketed cornice work and paired segmental arched windows are typical around the front portion of the structure.

Inside, the original ceilings are the same height as when they were built (14 feet in the front, 12 feet in the stem). The large rooms, graced with much natural light, remain much the same as when originally constructed. Interior features of special note are the pressed tin ceiling on the second storey gallery, and etched transom windows.

Though a few minor changes have been made to allow for twentieth-century comforts, there have been no major structural changes since the house was completed in 1878. Minor alterations in 1910 enclosed the lower south gallery and added a back stairway. The house remains in excellent condition.

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House, the Gregg House¹, and Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus² have some important characteristics in common. W. Z. Mayes was the contractor for all three structures. The red brick used in each was locally produced from the same clay deposit and was fired by the same craftsman, John L. Kelton.

Some statistics on the Walker-Knerr-Williams House:

- 18 inch thick downstairs partitions
- 14 inch thick upstairs partitions
- 14 foot ceilings in the front section
- 12 foot ceilings in the stem section
- 8 fireplaces
- 7 double windows
- 4 chimneys
- 2 doors with bars and iron supports

¹Gregg House, Washington County, Arkansas. Added to the National Register on September 17, 1974.

²Old Main, Washington County, Arkansas. Added to the National Register on June 15, 1970.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. Z. Mayes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House is a two-storey brick structure on the south slope of Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It is known in local and state historical circles as the old Walker House, and more recently, as the Walker-Knerr-Williams House.

In 1872 Judge David Walker built the front portion of the T-shaped Georgian structure for his daughter Mary and her husband, James David Walker (no relation). The stem portion of the house was finished in 1878. The Walker family lived in the house for thirty-six years.

Judge David Walker came to Arkansas from Kentucky in 1829. Though affiliated with the Whig party, neither his political activities nor judicial activities were curtailed in Democratic Arkansas. In 1836 Walker was a leading member of the group which formed the first Arkansas constitution. Four years later, Walker was elected to the State Senate. His activities in the Senate led to his election as Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court in 1848.

Following the Civil War, during which time he served in a Confederate military court, Judge Walker was elected Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. He was ousted by the Reconstruction government, but was elected again in 1874 and served until his death in 1878.

Judge Walker's son-in-law, to whom he gave the house on East Mountain, was James David Walker. Born in Kentucky in 1830, J. D. Walker moved to Arkansas in 1847, and was admitted to the bar three years later. During the Civil War he served as a colonel in the Confederate infantry, and was captured and imprisoned for two years. Following the war he resumed his law practice in Fayetteville. In 1879 J. D. Walker was elected to the United States Senate and served one full term. Declining to seek re-election, he returned home and practiced law until his death in 1906. Like most of the Walker families, he was buried in the Walker family cemetery, located about one-half mile north of the house and adjacent to the Confederate cemetery.

In 1910 the George Frederick Knerr family from Iowa bought the Walker House and lived there for fifty years. During that time two Knerr daughters were

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 21 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 10 1975

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

married in the house. Eventually one Knerr granddaughter was married in the house, and in 1960, returned to live there with her family, the Franklin S. Williams family.

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House is quite similar to the Lafayette Gregg House in Fayetteville. Both structures are of two storey red brick construction with two storey wooden porticos and paired ornamental brackets. A third structure, Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus, was built by the same contractor and with the same type brick as the Gregg and Walker houses. Other exceptional features of the Walker-Knerr-Williams House are the paired and bay windows, arched entry ways, and the second storey gallery on the south elevation.

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House is significant both architecturally and as the home of one of Arkansas' most important political families in the nineteenth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Campbell, William S. One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928. Privately printed, 1928.
- Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.
- Kennedy, Lawrence F., chief compiler. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7

UTM REFERENCES

JTM OK
HL

A	15	396450	3990800	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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Franklin S. and Elizabeth B. Williams/ edited by Dianna Kirk

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

3-11-75

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

STATE

Arkansas

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

William E. Henderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6/10/75

DATE

JUN 9 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 21 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 10 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

Lemke, W. J., editor. Walker Family Letters. Fayetteville, Arkansas:
Washington County Historical Society, 1956.