

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Walker Family Plot

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 514 E. Rock StreetCity or town: Fayetteville State: AR County: WashingtonNot For Publication: ☐Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Cedric H. Hatcher, Director 8/6/12

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Department of Arkansas Heritage

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau

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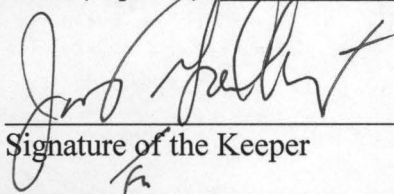
County and State

or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

9/24/2012
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☐

Site

☒

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Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings

1

sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary/cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Granite, marble, brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Walker Family Plot is located on East Rock Street within the Walker Cemetery in Fayetteville, Washington County. The plot is directly east of the Fayetteville Confederate Cemetery (NR 06/03/93). No buildings are associated with the plot enclosed within a decorative iron fence. The 34 monuments are commercially produced and exhibit moderate to modestly high-style designs, the majority of which date from the Victorian era.

Monument types are brick box tombs with marble slab tops, ground-level, slant, obelisks, block, basic tablet and remnants of columnar monuments with Gothic influence. The most prominent marker is the large obelisk of Judge David Walker (b. 1806 d. 1879). Gravestone materials consist of granite, brick and marble.

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Narrative Description

ELABORATION

The Walker Family Plot is located within the Walker Cemetery on East Rock Street in Fayetteville. The graves are situated in north-south rows inside a decorative iron fence set on concrete coping. The plot is accessed by an iron gate on the south end. Seven other family plots are located to the north and east of the Walker enclosure; however, these burials are overgrown and are not easily visible.

The Walker and Fayetteville Confederate Cemeteries are surrounded by a wooded area on Mt. Sequoyah, (spelled Sequoiah in some resources). Residential development surrounds the burial grounds but they maintain a secluded feel due to the hilly terrain. To the west is a view of downtown Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas campus.

Markers in the Walker Family Plot are not elaborate or unusual in design but reflect the dignified standing of a family who contributed to politics, education and culture in Fayetteville. The largest monument is a tall obelisk on a pedestal marking the grave of Judge David Walker. Two smaller obelisks mark the burials of Jacob Wythe Walker (b. 1866, d. 1928), and Captain John J. Walker (b. 1817, d. 1886). Three pedestals with Gothic influence are missing crosses, which were present in a 1964 photograph. Five brick box tombs with slab tops are situated in a row in the middle of the plot. Tablet style markers display basic square or round shoulders or slight Gothic arches while early 20th century examples of granite exhibit square shoulders or pyramidal tops. Slanted ground-level types of granite and flat ground-level can also be found in the plot.

Iconography consists of common symbols such as oak leaves, ferns, rosebuds, and evening primrose. There are no evident maker's marks

Breakdown of Burials

1830-1839	1
1840-1849	2
1850-1859	2

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1860-1869 4

1870-1879 1

1880-1889 3

1890-1899 2

1900-1909 1

1910-1919 6

1920-1929 3

1930-1939 3

Modern Burials

1970-1979 2

1980-1989 1

There are three burials with unreadable dates.

Landscape

The Walker Family Plot is enclosed on all four sides by an historic iron fence on concrete coping. Access is through a gate on the south side of the plot. Plantings are limited to yucca. The fence has sustained damage from a recent ice storm and several trees were lost but repairs are scheduled.

The burials are primarily those of the Walker line but other names found are Duncan, Washington, Rees and Purdy. These are members who married into the family.

INTEGRITY

The Walker Family Plot is the resting place of the Walkers of Fayetteville. The plot is within the Walker Cemetery, which was established circa 1838 on land owned by the Walker family. The adjacent Fayetteville Confederate Cemetery is also located on former Walker land. The interred are primarily descendants of Jacob Wythe Walker, I, (b. 1778, d. 1838), and their

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spouses and children. Much of the political, educational, social and economic character of Fayetteville and the state was shaped and sustained by the family from statehood up to the early 20th century.

Ringling Fayetteville are the Ozark Mountains. Fayetteville became the Washington County seat in 1828 and is home to Arkansas's largest state university. Despite an explosion of development beginning in the 1980s, which eventually expanded the town boundaries far beyond its original limits, there are still many extant historic resources. Two of the earliest homes in the city were built by Judge David Walker (b. 1806, d. 1879) for his family. The 1845 Walker-Stone House (NR 09/04/1970) and the 1878 Walker-Knerr-Williams House (NR 06/10/1975). These two houses remain essentially intact. The town square, which was the center of early development, maintains a handful of 19th century structures. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is located to the northwest of the town square and the Walker Family Plot. Interstate 540 was completed in the last decade to the west of town bringing with it sprawling commercial development and expansive subdivisions. At the time of the first marked interment in Walker Cemetery in 1838, the burial ground was removed from the city center. Today, houses and apartment buildings have crept up all sides of Mt. Sequoyah. A small wooded area remains at the peak containing the city's waterworks, the Walker Cemetery, Fayetteville Confederate Cemetery and the Mt. Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center.

Despite this encroachment the two burial grounds on East Rock Street above the city seem removed from the development, which was likely one of the reasons for locating them there. There are three modern burials in the plot but they display a small scale and are composed of gray granite, which fits in esthetically with the historic stones. The area to the east and north is thickly overgrown and conceals seven separate family plots and other individual historic stones. Plans are underway to clean this area. The Fayetteville Confederate Cemetery to the west is surrounded by a stone wall erected in 1885. These features around the cemetery and the historic stones in the Walker Family Plot effectively relate the story of the Walker family who were active in shaping the town through their political careers and their contributions to the commercial and educational development of Fayetteville.

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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 grave
- ☒ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Social History

Period of Significance

1838-1900

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Judge David Walker

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

SUMMARY

The Walker Family Plot in Walker Cemetery, Fayetteville, Washington County, is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion B, Criteria Consideration C and D for the role of the Walker family members in the political and social formation of Fayetteville and Arkansas and the resultant cultural and economic impacts of those roles.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

ELABORATION

Town and County History

It seems that Washington County has long offered incentives for settlement. There is evidence of Peleoindian culture in the form of Clovis points, an indication that groups could sustain themselves on the land by 8500 B.C. By the Mississippian Period (900 to 1600 A.D.), Hernando de Soto recorded that the Ozarks were agriculturally developed and crops of corn, beans and squash were being raised by an increasing population. Cherokee and Osage tribes utilized the land for hunting during the years of European exploration.

Early accounts of the environment of Washington County (known as Lovely County from 1827 to 1828) state that it consisted of prairie land to the north with forested areas along stream bottoms and hills while the south featured more forestland. The area of Fayetteville exhibited prairie characteristics and was home to buffalo and other animals that fed on the grasses. Eastern migrants who had agitated for the right to settle in Northwest Arkansas prior to statehood were largely yeoman subsistence farmers with small concerns of fifty to ninety acres. The main cash crops at that time were tobacco and livestock.

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The county was attractive as a settlement because of its springs, oak-hickory forests, resultant wildlife and good cropland. It became more alluring to white settlers after the Arkansas territorial boundary was relocated to the former Cherokee reserve of Northwest Arkansas by treaty. Fayetteville was established when the county of Washington was created in 1828 but it was known as Washington Courthouse until 1829.¹

The town had a courthouse in the area of the town square in 1828 but Fayetteville was not incorporated until 1836. In the years between 1829 and 1904 Fayetteville had four courthouses in the same general area. The 1904 Washington County Courthouse (NR 02/23/1972), still standing at College and Center, was designed by Arkansas architect Charles Thompson. The current building used for county business is a 1995 structure at the corner of E. Dickson and College. By the time of statehood Fayetteville was a thriving town with many commercial ventures, churches and small industries; this despite being relatively secluded and compact. The closest railroad was one hundred miles away and the Arkansas River was fifty miles to the south. In 1840 the population was 425 and did not rise above 1000 residents until 1880.²

The Military Road, later known as the Old Wire Road was constructed from Jefferson City, Missouri to Fort Smith via Fayetteville in 1835. The road was later used by the Butterfield Stage line, which opened Fayetteville to increased business and population by the late 1850s and in 1860 telegraph wires were strung. The town's future character as a center of education began in the 1830s with private schools conducted in teacher's homes. In 1843 the Arkansas school system was organized and by that time Fayetteville already had two chartered schools. At the beginning of the Civil War the town boasted the first degree-conferring college in the state – Arkansas College.³

¹ Van Zbinden, "White River Bridge at Elkins," National Register nomination on file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR, (2007), Section 8, p 3; Joseph Neal, "History of Washington County, Arkansas," (Shiloh Museum: Springdale, AR, 1989), 86, 88; Matthew Bryan Kirkpatrick, "Washington County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, online article found at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=813>, accessed 02/02/2012.

² William Campbell, "One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928," (Self-published: Fayetteville, AR, 1928), 27; Charles W. Stewart, "Fayetteville (Washington County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, online article found at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1006>, accessed 02/03/2012.

³ Russell L. Mahan, "Fayetteville Arkansas in the Civil War," (Historical Byways: Bountiful, UT, 2003), 2-3; Campbell, 19, 53.

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This progress was interrupted in 1861 when the Confederate Army swept into Fayetteville. The original intent was to obtain supplies ahead of the Federals but by the time they left, the town's homes and businesses had been divested of their goods and possessions and the buildings were heavily damaged by fire to keep the Union troops from acquiring them. Fayetteville resident Reverend William Baxter wrote that "the very spirit of destruction seemed to rule the hour,"... and "the future seemed to have no promise." Union troops took over the town in 1862 and between the battles of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove in that year; Fayetteville remained in ruins and under the sporadic occupation of both armies. By the time of the Battle of Fayetteville in 1863 most of the town's residents had moved south. Vanquished Confederate General William Lewis Cabell considered burning what was left but felt that being under Federal control would be its own special hell and the remaining residents had been through enough.⁴

The slow resurrection of Fayetteville from a ruined battlefield and occupation center began with the May 26th, 1865 surrender of the Department of the Trans-Mississippi. Returning merchants and new residents began the process by 1866, coming back to the square to erect new businesses structures and reclaim their farms. Stage service and educational centers re-opened and those who helped settle the town and organize its government took up where they left off.⁵

The Walker Family of Fayetteville took part in the Civil War as soldiers and lawmakers. Their support roles in this dispute and during Reconstruction were a continuation of the leadership roles they had assumed during the early 19th century formation of the town, the county and the state. As the 20th century began the female members of the family gained recognition for their contributions to the society of Fayetteville as well. All are represented within the Walker Family Plot.

Jacob Wythe Walker

⁴ Mahan, 55, 70, 83.

⁵ *Ibid*, 106, General E. Kirby Smith, commander of the Department of the Trans-Mississippi, attempted to draw the war out after Lee's surrender. The demoralization of the troops brought an end to this effort and General Simon B. Buckner surrendered for Smith in New Orleans.

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Jacob Wythe Walker was the patriarch of the Fayetteville Walker clan. Jacob's 1838 burial is the earliest recorded interment in the Walker Family Plot. Jacob was born in Virginia in 1778, was married to Ann Hawkins and took up farming in Kentucky when he was 22. After

years of farming he became a lawyer in 1816. He moved his family to Edwardsville, Illinois to work as the director for Kentucky stockholders at the Bank of Edwardsville. After the bank failed he returned to Kentucky and resumed farming and his law practice.

Jacob's family was struggling financially by the mid-1830s and he was invited to move to Fayetteville, Arkansas by his son David Walker. He agreed and along with Jacob came his wife Ann (b. 1782, d. 1851), and seven of their children. In 1835 David was supporting his father and brothers and sisters as well as his mother-in-law's family but Jacob gained employment soon after arriving. The Bank of the State of Arkansas was authorized by the legislature in 1836. Jacob Walker was elected president of the Fayetteville branch of the State Bank by the general assembly and he remained in that position until he died in 1838. Jacob's grave is marked by a brick box tomb with a simple marble slab top. The slab has sustained extensive damage and is broken in several pieces but all fragments are still present. Jacob's wife, Ann is buried next to him in a similar box tomb.⁶

David Walker

David Walker (b. 1806, d. 1879), made an impact on young Fayetteville almost from the minute he arrived. Years of hard work and education acquired in Kentucky enabled him to further his career and take a place as a professional who shaped the political, educational and economic character of the town.

Prior to moving to Fayetteville he worked his father, Jacob Wythe Walker's farm in Kentucky and sporadically attended school. In 1826 David got his first professional position as a secretary for his uncle David Walker, county clerk of Logan County, Kentucky. He also worked as a deputy to the county sheriff while studying law. By 1829 he was granted a law license. His

⁶ Gary G. Heiss, "The Public Career of David Walker: The Antebellum Years," Master of Arts thesis submitted to University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, 1975, 9-10.

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practice was quickly successful but his location put him in competition with his father so David moved to Arkansas Territory.

Walker made his way to Fayetteville in 1830 where he became a member of the bar, trying numerous cases. The success he enjoyed in Kentucky was repeated in Arkansas and he

became a well-known and busy lawyer. The next year Governor John Pope appointed David to fill the position of resigning circuit attorney, Alfred W. Davis. He turned down the appointment, preferring to declare himself a candidate at the upcoming regular election. This was a favorable characteristic to his constituency and led to his election as prosecuting attorney of the third judicial circuit at the beginning of 1832.⁷

After his marriage to Jane Lewis Washington (b. 1813, d. 1847), of Kentucky, David Walker ran for re-election to the prosecuting attorney in 1833 and defeated Lewis B. Tulley, 1,100 to 997. In 1835 he was appointed to a brief term as prosecuting attorney pro tem in the second judicial circuit. Walker further advanced his political career by announcing as a House of Representatives candidate in the territorial legislature of 1835. His party affiliation was that of the moneyed planter class; Whigs.

Walker gained his seat on the legislature and was active in the issue of statehood for Arkansas. His first task was as an appointee to a joint committee charged with considering Governor William Fulton's push for drafting a constitution without an enabling act from Congress. The committee resolved to direct introduction of a bill to call a convention. The contentious issue of representation was debated, amended, committed to select committees and reconsidered repeatedly. As a member of these select committees Walker lobbied against property representation, knowing that white adult male basis for apportionment would give counties in the north and west control. A compromise amendment drafted by Walker and Absalom Fowler was accepted by the house and the bill for the formation of a state constitution was passed by the legislature.⁸

Other legislation favored and drafted by Walker as a member of the 1835 assembly included his work on a committee to graduate tax rates on land according to quality rather than

⁷ *Ibid*, 10-11, 13.

⁸ Heiss, 19, 23-24, 27, 32.

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quantity and to prevent those who had houses on federal land from paying taxes for them.⁹

Governor Fulton asked the legislature to introduce a memorial to Congress for the construction of two arsenals to station troops at Little Rock and the western border. Walker served on a select

committee that endorsed the memorial, which was passed by the House. The petition to incorporate Fayetteville was referred to a select committee including Walker representing Washington County.

David Walker was elected as a delegate to the constitutional convention in December of 1835. While a delegate he formed a standing committee to draft a declaration of rights for the state and authored that declaration, which was adopted by the convention. He threw his support behind an amendment to the constitution to create county courts in each county of the state. The constitution was approved with David Walker's full support and delivered to the Secretary of State.¹⁰

After Arkansas was admitted to the Union in 1836, Walker was elected by the People's party (Whigs) to serve as Washington County's elector-delegate for presidential candidate Hugh L. White. After White's defeat by Martin Van Buren, he took a hiatus to focus on his farming and law business and his family. At this point in his career Fayetteville was being surveyed for lots. Investments in commercial real estate were being snapped up. David Walker purchased seventeen lots on the town square and in an 1835 letter to his father he discussed his lack of finances as a consequence of purchasing land grants. A persistent man though, he began with 680 acres in 1836 and increased his holdings to nineteen town lots and 1,695 acres of agricultural land by 1840.

Fayetteville was not the only town Walker had a hand in forming. He partnered with Archibald Yell and William Haile in 1836 to purchase lots in what would become Ozark, Arkansas, the Franklin County seat. The founders held an auction in that year and it became a commercial and agricultural center on the Arkansas River. His dealings also included the purchase of 1600 acres on the Mississippi River.¹¹

⁹ Much of the land in Northwest Arkansas remained federal property in 1835.

¹⁰ Heiss, 34 -36, 39-40, 44, 47-48, 55, 58.

¹¹ *Ibid*, 61; Campbell, 6, 65-68; Goodspeed, "The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas," (The Goodspeed Publishing Company: Chicago, IL, 1889), 237; Melinda Meeks, "The Life of Archibald

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Advancement of education in the state and Fayetteville was a cause Walker supported also. While in the territorial legislature he backed a resolution to pass a law allowing the sale of the state's seminary lands for construction of a state university.¹² During that time he was an incorporator of the Fayetteville Female Academy, chartered in 1836 and also of Arkansas College; the first degree-conferring university in the state chartered in 1852. The Fayetteville Female Seminary founded in 1839 by Sophia Sawyer, was built on land donated by Walker.

In 1840 Walker returned to politics as a senator. As he had in 1835, he lent his support to opening and protecting the western regions of Arkansas. He advocated and received an appropriation from the congressional delegation to install military roads, which would encourage new settlement and facilitate protection of the western border. As a member of a joint committee on education in the legislature of 1842-43, he drafted the public school bill, which provided for a system of common schools. During his failed congressional campaign of 1843-44, Walker was appointed to a committee to organize a college-level school for Washington County. He served as a member of the Board of Visitors for the Far West Seminary, which burned soon after its completion in 1845.¹³

Walker was elected to the Arkansas Supreme Court in 1848 and served as an associate justice until he retired in 1855. He stayed in retirement on his farm in Fayetteville until the onset of the Civil War. A Unionist, he soon became involved in the secession movement within Arkansas. The 1861 legislature held an election to let the people decide on whether the state should hold a secession convention. The positive vote for a convention resulted in David Walker's election as a delegate. At the convention's first meeting in Little Rock he was elected president. A second meeting of the convention in the spring of 1861 found Walker willing to secede.

Walker was too old to serve as a soldier but he did serve as a judge advocate in the Trans-Mississippi Department of the Confederate military. He was sent to Richmond, Virginia in 1863 to meet with President Jefferson Davis as a consultant on the best methods of defense for

Yell: Chapter II, The Congressman From Arkansas," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 26, #2, (Summer 1967), 182.

¹² Seminary land in Arkansas was seventy-two sections in the territory set aside by Congress in 1827 to finance a "seminary of learning."

¹³ Heiss, 37, 68, 77, 79, 84, 87, 106, 108; Campbell, 53-54; Joseph C. Neal, "Washington County History," (Shiloh Museum: Springdale, AR, 1989), 126.

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Arkansas. After the war he returned to Fayetteville and politics in the newly organized military district of Arkansas. In 1866 he was elected chief justice of the state supreme court; however, he was removed because he refused to take an oath of allegiance. In 1874 he returned to the Supreme Court.¹⁴

The judge remained active in the post-war years and continued to contribute to the growth of education in the state. A resolution over the location for Arkansas's first university was reached through Walker's influence and efforts to support bond issues for financing construction. The Board of Trustees was persuaded by Walker to situate the Arkansas Industrial University (now University of Arkansas at Fayetteville) in Fayetteville in 1871. The judge also provided 280 acres of land to be used for the school.

He was a booster for railroads through the county. Walker submitted a report to obtain the completion of a railway from the Missouri state line through Bentonville, Fayetteville and Van Buren to Fort Smith. Governor Augustus Garland chose him to deliver an address on Arkansas at the national centennial celebration at Philadelphia, in 1876. Through the 1870s Walker was known for introducing improvements in breeding of domestic animals, grains and grasses as well as presenting better cultivation methods through improved machinery.¹⁵

Walker's contributions to the architectural environment of Fayetteville included a two-story brick house constructed in 1845. This building known as the Walker-Stone House (NR 09/04/1970) was one of two residences built by Walker that remain in Fayetteville today. Shortly before his death Walker had a house built on the south slope of Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville for his daughter Mary and her husband James David Walker. The 1872 Walker-Knerr-Williams House (NR 05/21/1975) is a two-story Georgian brick building. An addition was completed in 1878 giving it a T-plan. He built a home in West Fork, Washington County also; however, it was destroyed by the 1950s.¹⁶

¹⁴ Heiss, 112, 139; Mahan, 31-32, 34, 37, 45; Walker Family Papers, manuscript essays and articles, MC584, Box 1, Special Collections, Mullins Library, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

¹⁵ Walker Family Papers; Harrison Hale, "Glimpses of University of Arkansas History," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 6, #4, (Winter, 1947), 434; Sue H. Walker Papers, Correspondence, MC11, Box 1, Special Collections, Mullins Library, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

¹⁶ Cyrus Sutherland, "Walker-Stone House," National Register of Historic Places nomination, on file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR, (05/26/1970), Section 8, pg. 1; Franklin Williams, Elizabeth Williams, "Walker-Knerr-Williams House," National Register of Historic Places nomination form, (03/11/1975), on file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR., Section 8, pg. 1.

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In later years Judge Walker suffered from ill health but a spooked horse on a buggy ride at the county fair claimed his life in 1879. Judge David Walker's grave in the Walker Family Plot exhibits the largest monument in the cemetery, shared with his wife Jane. While the marker does not display typical mourning symbolism, it is the tallest obelisk found in the plot. This unembellished stone seems appropriate for Judge Walker as he was a simple man, not given to lavish displays of wealth, though he possessed it. His main concerns seemed to be the assistance he could give to his family and the burgeoning town, county, territory and state. The prominence of the monument would indicate his position in society.

James David Walker

James David Walker (b. 1830, d. 1906), was born in Kentucky, (No relation to Judge David Walker). He came to Arkansas in 1847 and attended Ozark Institute and Arkansas College. Walker studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1850, after which he worked as a lawyer in Fayetteville. Judge David Walker's daughter, Mary Walker (b. 1837, d. 1910), and James David Walker were married in 1857. Prior to the Civil War, J.D. Walker was appointed circuit court judge in the eighth circuit; however, when the war began he joined the Confederacy as a colonel.

Walker was captured in 1861 at the Battle of Wilson's Creek and was held as a prisoner of war for a year. When he was released he moved to Texas with his family. Upon his return in 1865 he took up his former law practice in Fayetteville. Walker served as solicitor general in Arkansas and he was named a presidential elector for the state in 1876.

In 1879 the Arkansas General Assembly elected Walker as a U.S. Senator for the state and he moved to Washington, D.C. He came back to Arkansas briefly to take part in a Senate committee charged with assessing improvements to the Mississippi River but he remained in Washington until he retired from the Senate in 1885. After his retirement he again practiced law in Fayetteville. He died in 1906 after he fell down a flight of stairs and fractured his skull. The large granite monument that marks the graves of James David Walker and his wife Mary, displays a hipped top and rubble detail on the sides and base with no epitaphs or iconography.

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The stone is dignified and austere and symbolic of an established family with a prominent position in society.¹⁷

Jack Walker

Jack Walker (b. 1869, d. 1923), was the third son of James David and Mary Walker and followed his father and grandfather's political and entrepreneurial path. Jack served as circuit clerk in 1892 and 1894. He was also the assistant cashier and head bookkeeper of McIlroy Banking Company in Fayetteville for many years until he was elected mayor of Fayetteville in 1900. After his term as mayor he joined the Price Clothing Company, later Price-Walker Company, as a partner. He was also a partner in the Citizens Laundry from 1908 to approximately 1918. In the early 20th century he served as Internal Revenue Collector in Woodrow Wilson's administration. After Wilson left office Walker returned to Fayetteville and resumed his position with the Price-Walker Company in 1921. Other efforts in Fayetteville included his position as a founding member of the Lion's Club and his role on the education committee charged with keeping the University of Arkansas Agricultural College from moving to Russellville from its campus in Fayetteville in 1923. He was also elected to the House in that year but he passed away in Fayetteville before the completion of his term. Jack Walker's monument is similar to James David Walker and Mary's marker, but it is smaller and features a pyramidal top. Like his parent's there is no funerary symbolism, simply his name and birth and death dates.¹⁸

Charles Whiting Walker

Charles Whiting Walker (b.1834, d.1924), was the son of Judge David Walker. He attended Princeton University, graduating with degrees in science and literature in 1858. Like his father he exhibited an interest in law and studied under Judge David Walker before attending the Law School at Lebanon, Tennessee. He was not able to finish his education because he enlisted

¹⁷ Mahan, 95; Stephen Teske, "James David Walker (1830-1906)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, online article at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID+4644>, accessed 01/27/2012.

¹⁸ Mahan, 102; Anthony Wappell and Ethel Simpson, "Once Upon Dickson: An Illustrated History, 1868-2000," (Phoenix International, Inc.: Fayetteville, AR, 2008), 107; *Fayetteville (Arkansas) Daily Democrat*, January 12, 1923, 1.

Walker Family Plot

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in the Confederate army at the outbreak of the Civil War. Charles fought in eleven battles, including the Battle of Prairie Grove and was the author of an eyewitness account of that event. He was discharged in Sulphur, Texas in 1865 and moved back to Fayetteville where he married Serena Jernigan in 1867.

Walker returned to the practice of law with his partner Thomas Gunter and soon entered politics. In 1868 he represented Washington County in the Constitutional Convention and in 1877 he was a member of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly. Locally, he was an alderman in Fayetteville and was elected mayor in 1884. Walker was also a councilman for Fayetteville Sewer District No. 1 in 1906. Philanthropically, he was a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows and a deacon in the Baptist Church for over fifty years. Charles and his wife Serena, share a square granite monument with rubbed shoulders and sides. The stone is simply marked with restrained scrollwork and exhibits the same understated form as the majority of the Walker family burials in the plot.¹⁹

Charles Ratcliff Buckner

Charles Ratcliff Buckner (b. 1842, d. 1910), was the husband of Nancy (Nannie) Walker, (b. 1842, d. 1910), daughter of James David Walker and Mary Walker. Buckner, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, moved to Little Rock in 1868. He had enlisted in the Confederate Kentucky Cavalry and after his service he went to New Orleans to read law until 1868 when he moved to Little Rock. In that year he brought his experience to Fayetteville, became a lawyer and married Nannie. The couple are buried side-by-side in a grave marked with a single ground-level granite marker embellished only with geometric borders around their names.²⁰

Other family members buried in the Walker Family Plot contributed to the development of the state and Fayetteville in less numerous and more understated ways. Judge David Walker's brother, *John James Walker* (b. 1817, d. 1886), served as a state representative from 1850-1851. He worked as a civil lawyer in Fayetteville until his death from an accidental shooting. Walker's grave is marked with a small marble obelisk on a Gothic cross-vault base embellished with oak leaves.

¹⁹ Goodspeed, 1034; Campbell, 32, 96.

²⁰ Goodspeed, 920.

Walker Family Plot

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Washington, AR

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Jacob Wythe Walker, II, (b. 1833, d. 1864), son of Judge David Walker, served as the first mayor of Fayetteville under the city charter system. Jacob joined the army during the Civil War and was killed at the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry. His grave is marked by a small marble obelisk with a rosebud signifying the passing of time.

Jacob Wythe Walker, III (b. 1866, d. 1928), was the son of James David and Mary Walker. As so many of the Walker family were; he was a lawyer in Fayetteville from 1888 to 1900. Jacob obtained the position of Arkansas state prosecuting attorney and presidential elector in 1908. Jacob's marker is a granite slant stone with rubbed sides and shoulders. Art Deco scrollwork is the only decorative feature.²¹

SOUTHERN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

After the Civil War southern women formed memorial associations to locate the remains of Confederate soldiers for re-interment in cemeteries specifically for Confederate war dead. These cemeteries were meant to be symbols of the Confederate cause. The associations would recruit men from the community to assist with maintenance and serve as speakers on Memorial and Decoration Days but the women were the organizers. Memorial associations were also at the forefront of the effort to erect Confederate monuments and rehabilitate structures associated with the Confederacy.

The earliest associations were formed in Virginia but Fayetteville organized their own group called the Southern Memorial Association in 1872. Confederate remains were gathered from Pea Ridge battlefield, Prairie Grove battlefield and other areas in Northwest Arkansas to be interred in a new cemetery on land in Fayetteville owned by Charles and Serena Walker. The Fayetteville Confederate Cemetery on Mt. Sequoyah was dedicated by the SMA in 1873. Through fund raising efforts by the women, sandstone markers were placed on the graves in 1876 (replaced in 1903 with marble), a cut-stone wall was constructed around the cemetery in 1890, a monument was erected in 1896, a gazebo was built at the turn of the century and a stone entrance was installed in 1926.

The Southern Memorial Association in Washington County is known as the oldest continuous non-profit founded by women in Arkansas. The association received the deed to the

²¹ Goodspeed, 633; Information provided by Donna Schweider, Fayetteville, AR, 01/30/2012; Campbell, 26.

Walker Family Plot

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Walker Cemetery in 2011 from Walker family descendants. The National Register-listed Confederate burial ground is west of the Walker Family Plot on East Rock Street. The formation of the SMA received support from the Walker family women during its inception and through the decades afterward.²²

Mary Walker

Mary Walker (b. 1837, d. 1910), was the wife of James David Walker and was a charter member of the Southern Memorial Association. Mary served as vice president of the association in 1908 and worked to have the group incorporated.²³

Susan Walker

Mary and James David Walker's daughter Susan (b. 1857, d. 1939), studied art in New York and was an art teacher in Missouri and California. Like her mother she served the Southern Memorial Association. She was recording secretary and other sources say she also held the office of president of the SMA. Sue authored articles on pioneer women of Northwest Arkansas and other famous figures in the state, which appeared in the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*. Her grave is simply marked with a small granite ground-level marker. Iconography is limited to a cross.²⁴

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Walker Family Plot contains the burials of the Walker family of Fayetteville and is a representation of the contributions that the individuals within made to the political, educational, and cultural legacies of the town and the state. Early nineteenth century Fayetteville and the territory and state of Arkansas benefited from the influence of Judge David Walker in establishing commerce, the formation of early state and county law and educational institutions for females and college-level students. David Walker was a major landholder who introduced more efficient agricultural methods and machinery to the local markets and he was instrumental

²² Caroline Janney, "Ladies' Memorial Associations," *Encyclopedia of Virginia*, online article at http://encyclopediaofvirginia.org/ladies_Memorial_Associations, accessed 01/17/2012; Mark Christ, "Fayetteville Confederate Cemetery," National Register of Historic Places nomination, (04/09/1993), on file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR, Section 8, pg. 1.

²³ Information provided by Gordon Hale, Berryville, AR, 11/10/2011; Christ, Section 8, pg. 2; Edward Meriwether, "Excerpts from an Address Given at the Confederate Cemetery in Fayetteville, Arkansas on June 2, 1940," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 3, #4, (Winter, 1944), np.

²⁴ Meriwether; *Fayetteville, (AR) Daily Democrat Centennial Edition*, (June 11, 1936).

Walker Family Plot

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in the transformation of Arkansas from a territory to a state. During the Civil War he struggled as a member of the secession convention to keep Arkansas in the Union. Fayetteville tended to lean toward Unionism even after secession. Walker ultimately voted for secession because of the actions at Ft. Sumter and Lincoln's rally for volunteers, which increased the pressure on those few holdouts – save one - to join the majority.

Other family members worked within the political and commercial arena to further Fayetteville's growth by serving as soldiers, lawyers, mayors, merchants, representatives and senators. As the century progressed, the female members of the family also became involved in the public arena by contributing to cultural development. Mary and Sue Walker were instrumental in the development of the Washington County chapter of the Southern Memorial Association and supported its efforts through their direct contributions. The Walker family lent their support to the formation of Fayetteville as an educational center; a distinction the town holds today. The architectural legacy of the town includes two antebellum houses constructed by David Walker in the historic center of downtown Fayetteville. The Walker Family Plot is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A, Criteria Consideration C and D with statewide significance as a representation of the settlement era of Fayetteville and Washington County.

The Walker Family Plot is part of the Walker Cemetery, which consists of seven separate plots and scattered individual burials established on Walker family land in the early 19th century. The simple markers in the plot tell the story of a prominent group of early settlers in Fayetteville and relate the contributions they made to the formation of the young territory, state, town and county. Three modern burials from 1970, 1978 and 1981 exist in the plot. The markers for these interments are constructed of the same materials as the bulk of the historic burials and exhibit the same sparse iconography so they do not detract from the funerary architecture. This plot contains no detailed high-style monuments although many of the family members were well-known and influential citizens. Some of the graves are missing elements, which were likely small obelisks or a small statue from a child's grave.

The cemetery was originally located in an area far removed from the center of town. Modern residential growth has encroached and surrounded the graves, yet a calm feeling prevails, which was likely one of the reasons for its selection. The view of Fayetteville's city

Walker Family Plot

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Name of Property

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center from the plot remains intact as well. The environment of the Walker Family Plot and the connections of the family buried there contribute to its integrity and provide a significant association with the settlement era of Fayetteville.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Walker Family Plot
Name of Property

Washington, AR
County and State

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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Walker Family Plot
Name of Property

Washington, AR
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☒ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15	Easting: 396278	Northing: 3991333
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at a point at the southeast corner of the Walker Family Plot in the Walker Cemetery, proceed north approximately 64 feet, thence west approximately 55 feet, thence south approximately 64 feet, thence east approximately 55 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all the property in the Walker Family Plot within the Walker Cemetery that retain its integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Holly Hope
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
street & number: 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center
Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: holly@arkansasheritage.org
telephone: 501 324-9148
date: 05/14/12

Walker Family Plot
Name of Property

Washington, AR
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Walker Family Plot

City or Vicinity: Fayetteville

County: Washington

State: AR

Photographer: Holly Hope

Date Photographed: 11/12/11

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 17 From SE
- 2 of 17 From SW
- 3 of 17 From W
- 4 of 17 From NE
- 5 of 17 From E

Walker Family Plot

Name of Property

Washington, AR

County and State

6 of 17 From S

7 of 17 From N

8 of 17 From E

9 of 17 From E

10 of 17 From E

11 of 17 From W

12 of 17 From S

13 of 17 From E

14 of 17 From W

15 of 17 From W

16 of 17 From N

17 of 17 From W

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.460 et seq.).

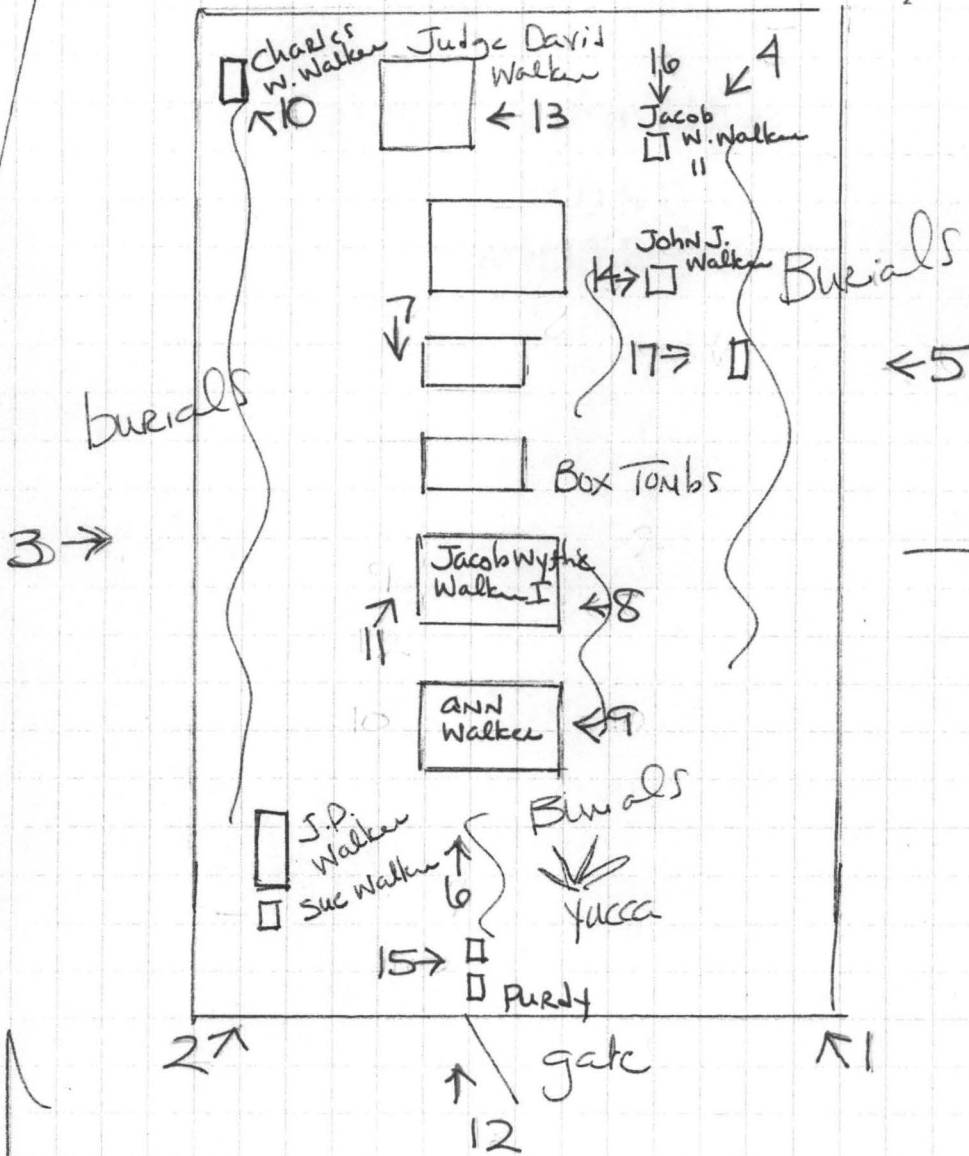
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

E Rock St

other plots

other plots

Confederate Cemetery



other plots

KNEER Drive

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Walker Family Plot
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 8/10/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/07/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/24/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/26/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000807

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/24/2012 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Family Plot of Persons collectively and individually had a
significant impact on the course of Arkansas & Fayetteville's history.
Most prominent is Judge Walker, who was involved in decision to
secede & to reconstitute the state.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B

REVIEWER J. Gabbey DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N Y see attached SLR Y/N N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Walker Family Plot
Washington, AR
#1



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar

#2



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar
3



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar

#4



Walker Family Plot
Washington, ac

5



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar
#16



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar

#7



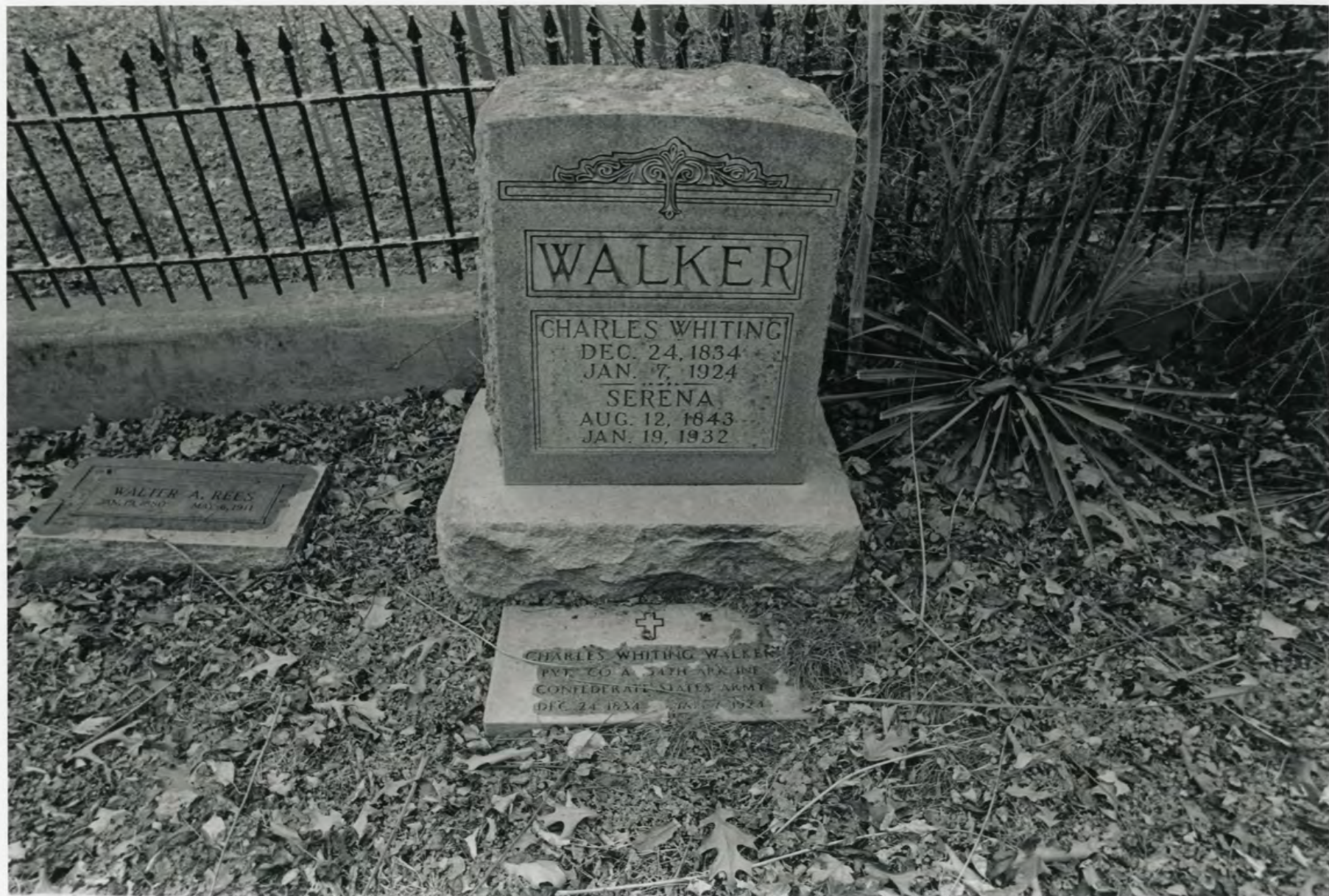
Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar

8



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar

#90



WALKER

CHARLES WHITING

DEC. 24, 1834

JAN. 7, 1924

SERENA

AUG. 12, 1843

JAN. 19, 1932

WALTER A. REES

JAN. 12, 1850 - MAY 18, 1911



CHARLES WHITING WALKER

PVT. CO. A. 34TH ARK. INF.

CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY

DEC. 24, 1834 - JAN. 7, 1924

Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar
#10



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar
#11



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar

12



Walker Family Plot
Washington, ac
#13



CAPT. JOHN J.
WALKER
BORN
JAN. 2, 1812
DIED
OCT. 2, 1886.

Walker Family Plot
Washington, DC

#14



ANNE
NEWMAN
WIFE OF
J.C. PURDY
NOV. 2, 1845
NOV. 18, 1912

*God's garden all things
changeable, flowers
in all colors*

PURDY

JACOB
CARMAN
PURDY
BORN
NOV. 24, 1834
WENT HOME NEW
YEARS MORNING
1916

PURDY

Walper Family Plot
Washington, DC

#15



Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar

#16

CHARLES R. BUCKNER

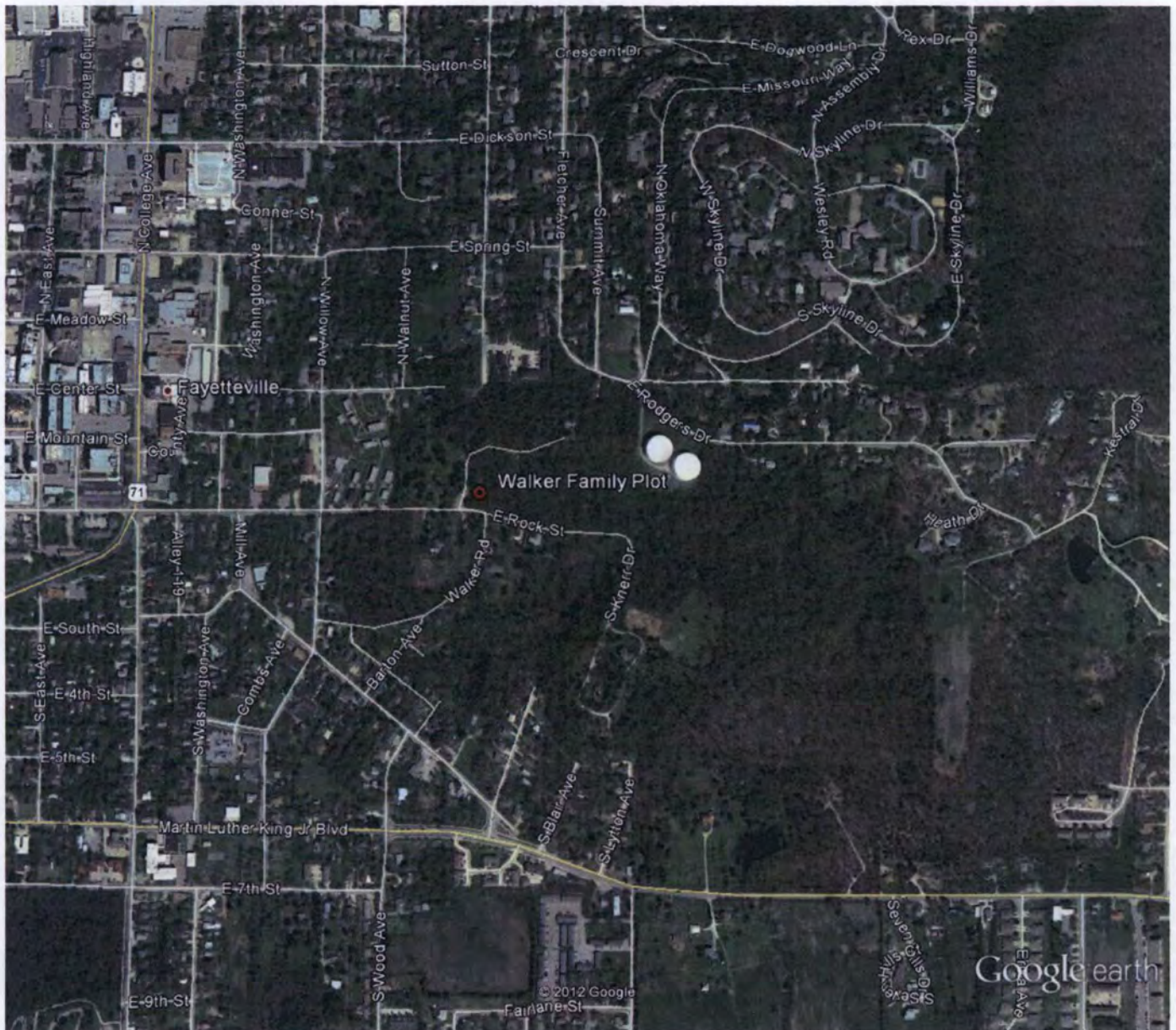
1842 ——— 1910

NANNIE W. BUCKNER

1842 ——— 1910

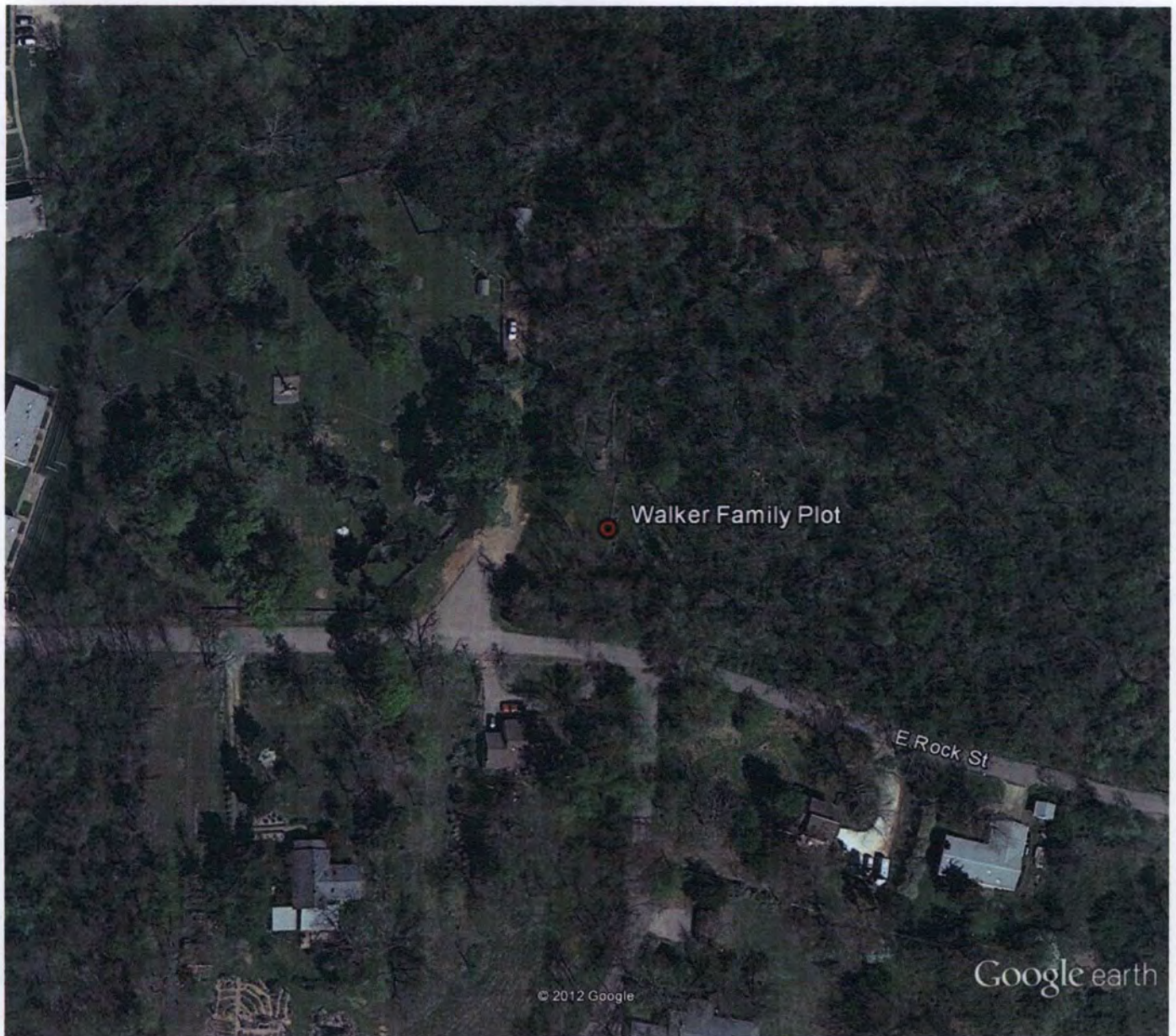
Walker Family Plot
Washington, Ar
#17

Walker Family Plot, Fayetteville, Arkansas



UTM Coordinates
Zone: 15S
Easting: 396269
Northing: 3991331

Walker Family Plot, Fayetteville, Arkansas



Google earth

feet 400
meters 100



UTM Coordinates
Zone: 15S
Easting: 396269
Northing: 3991331

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name

Walker Family Plot

County, State

Washington,
Arkansas

Reference Number

12000807

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☐ Photographs

☒ USGS Map (Non-USGS map present)



The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

*

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

*

Delta Cultural Center

*

Historic Arkansas Museum

*

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

*

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

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July 6, 2012

Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Walker Family Plot, Washington Co.

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are enclosing for your review the revisions for the above mentioned National Register nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Holly Hope of my staff at (501) 324-9148. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:hh

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

