NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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REGISTRATION FORM	a constitution of the cons	NATION/ REGISTE	R	2.
1. Name of Property	-			=====
historic name: Walker, Evelyn Gill, House				
other name/site number: N/A				
2. Location	====		======	======
street & number: <u>18 S. Spruce St.</u>	=====			
		not for p	publicat	ion: N/A
city/town: Paris		-	vici	nity: N/A
state: AR county: Logan c	ode:	AR 083	zip co	de: <u>72855</u>
3. Classification	=====			======
Ownership of Property: Private	_			
Category of Property: <u>Building</u>				
Number of Resources within Property:				
Contributing Noncontributing				
Number of contributing resources previousl Register: $\underline{N/A}$	y lis	sted in the	e Nation	al
Name of related multiple property listing:	_N/A	A	13.5	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the lof 1986, as amended, I hereby certify request for determination of eligibilistandards for registering properties in Historic Places and meets the procedurate forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my op does not meet the National Registersheet.	that this <u>X</u> nomination ty meets the documentation n the National Register of al and professional requirements inion, the property <u>X</u> meets
Cathun A. Slater Signature of certifying official	August 9/993
Signature of certifying official	Date /
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets Register criteria See continuation	does not meet the National on sheet.
Signature of commenting or other offic	ial Date
State or Federal agency and bureau 5. National Park Service Certification	=======================================
I, hereby certify that this property i	Hational Regists
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the	Selver 3/16/93
National Register removed from the National Registe	r
other (explain):	
	Signature of Keeper Date of Action
6. Function or Use	=======================================
Historic: Domestic	Sub: single family dwelling
Current : Domestic	Sub: single family dwelling

======================================
See "other"
Other Description: Rustic
Materials: foundation <u>Stone</u> roof <u>Asbestos</u> walls <u>Stone</u> other <u>Concrete</u>
Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.
8. Statement of Significance
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: <u>Local</u> .
Applicable National Register Criteria:C
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A
Areas of Significance: Architecture
Period(s) of Significance: 1938-1943
Significant Dates: N/A
Significant Person(s): N/A
Cultural Affiliation: N/A
Architect/Builder: Gill, Tolbert E.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. \underline{X} See continuation sheet.

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Summary

The Evelyn Gill Walker House is a one-and-one-half story, steel-reinforced concrete and stone veneer residence designed in a stone rubble aesthetic style resembling the later style that would become known as Rustic but which actually is unique to its builder, Tolbert E. Gill. Gill began construction on this property about 1938 after the completion of his own residence, and like that structure, several years were needed for its completion. The actual plan of the house is essentially simple - a central, one-and-a-half-story rectangular section covered by a gable roof with a flat-decked front porch and a flat-decked rear ell. This plan, however, is overwhelmed by the picturesque texture created by the irregular stone veneer and the wealth of the integrated concrete sculpture. There is one modern noncontributing outbuilding on the property. Located at 18 South Spruce Street, the Evelyn Gill Walker House is in excellent condition.

Elaboration

The Evelyn Gill Walker House is a one-and-one-half story, steel-reinforced concrete and stone veneer residence designed in a stone rubble aesthetic style resembling the later style that would become known as Rustic but which actually is unique to its builder, Tolbert E. Gill. Gill began construction on this property about 1938 after the completion of his own residence, and like that structure, several years were needed for its completion. The plan of the house is essentially simple - a central, one-and-a-half-story rectangular section covered by a gable roof with a flat-decked front porch and a flat-decked rear ell. This conglomeration rests upon a continuous concrete and stone foundation. The gable roof is sheathed with asbestos shingles that resemble slate and is adorned by a decorative ridgepole of concrete that is formed to resemble a bark-covered log pole. Similar poles outline the rake, and the eaves feature hollowed, half-logs which serve as gutters. There is one tall rubble-stone chimney that rises through the rear deck at the southwest corner of the gable.

The front, or eastern, elevation is formed by a flat-decked, single-story porch projecting from the gable end. Supported by two large square columns, the deck is outlined with a concrete balustrade that is sculpted to resemble log poles resting on tree stumps. Underneath, the wall is uncomplicated, with a single-leaf door and a pair of modern, one-over-one double-hung windows with black anodized aluminum frames (unless specifically mentioned, all of the other windows on the house are wood-framed). The deck is accessed by a modern, single-leaf wood-panelled door flanked by two narrow one-over-one, aluminum-frame windows with projecting concrete drip molds formed to resemble two split logs. A similar narrow shed roof supported by concrete log brackets shields the doorway. Above, a concrete log viga projects beyond this

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shed roof and has a light fixture attached. A cylindrical attic vent, also shielded by a concrete drip mold, is located at the gable peak.

The northern elevation is fenestrated by three conventional-sized one-over-one windows and one smaller bathroom-sized one-over-one window. All are considerably inset due to the thickness of the wall. Other than the split-log styled concrete drip molds over the windows, this elevation is not ornamented.

A one-story, flat-decked ell extends across and projects beyond (to the south) the rear, or western, elevation. This ell is anchored at each end (and on the southeastern corner) by massive rounded-corner buttresses that, in conjunction with the balustrade, provides a castellated effect. Two one-over-one windows light the northern half of this elevation; the southern half is not fenestrated but contains a single-leaf entrance. Above, the deck is outlined with the aforementioned concrete log-and-stump balustrade that is similar to that found on the front porch, but also features "sharpened log ends" between the stumps that do not support the log poles. At the terminus of each log pole, the ends are sculpted to appear "spliced" and attached with a concrete nail. The entrance to the second story differs from its front porch counterpart only by the addition of a modern light fixture on the viga and the deletion of the attic vent drip mold. An imposing concrete throne is created within the space provided by each of the three rounded corners on the deck. These chairs are sculpted to appear constructed from exposed log blocks and hewn wood planks for the seat, back, and armrest. As with Gill's other sculpture, the concrete used to form the nail heads is of a different, rusty color.

The southern elevation of the ell is flanked by two of the rounded-corner, "towers" and was originally a one-car garage bay. It has since been enclosed with a window and two French doors. A concrete staircase curves around a stone tower with a conical turret and accesses the deck from the ground level on the eastern elevation of the ell. A sculpted concrete eagle, of far greater sophistication than the one over the arch at the Tolbert E. Gill House, adorns the top of the turret, which appears to have originally had an outlet onto the deck and could have been a dumb waiter from the garage below. The staircase is enclosed by a curved, rubble wall with a sculpted concrete-log handrail. Between the tower and the wall of the main section of the house, another concrete throne is placed on the ground level. There are a pair of small one-over-one windows located at the western end of the southern wall of the main section. The concrete steps/stoop (scored to resemble stone) that leads to the staircase also accesses a door, which is covered by the characteristic concrete shed roof and viga, into the main section of the house. This stoop is bordered on the east by a short rubble wall and a flower planter constructed to resemble a deteriorated tree stump. The remainder of the southern elevation wall is fenestrated by two one-over-one double-hung windows.

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Although the Tolbert E. Gill House contains great quantities of outdoor sculpture, the Evelyn Gill Walker House features just two examples, a concrete birdbath on a rubble-stone pedestal located southeast of the southern elevation entrance and a large, craggy, drippy appearing flower bed planter in front of the porch that is reminiscent of similar sculpture in the T. R. Pugh Park in North Little Rock.

By comparison, the interior is much plainer, although it does feature the original plaster walls with an unusual curve inward at the unadorned juncture with the ceiling. The original wood flooring, door and window moldings also remain intact. The only principal alteration has been the enclosure and interior panelling of the garage.

There is one modern noncontributing storage shed located behind the house. Located at 18 South Spruce Street within sight of the Tolbert E. Gill House (the backyards of the two houses intersect), the Evelyn Gill Walker House is in excellent condition.

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Summary

The Evelyn Gill Walker House is the second structure designed by Tolbert E. Gill and exhibits the same "naturalistic" or "rustic" style that he earlier established when constructing his own residence. Although architecturally significant if only for its association with Gill, the Evelyn Gill Walker House is distinct from the earlier structure in that it reflects the maturing of Gill as a designer, craftsman, and builder. Whereas Gill was confined in the design of his own residence by an existing frame structure, the Evelyn Gill Walker House afforded him with the opportunity to incorporate much of his considerable concrete sculpting abilities into the actual design rather than as applied decoration or outdoor sculpture. For these reasons, the Evelyn Gill Walker House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

Elaboration

Paris, Arkansas was the first Logan County seat, achieving that status in 1874 via the authority of a county-wide election held to determine the location of the center of county government (though there were probably settlers of European descent living in the area prior to that time, it is not clear how many there were and to what extent they formed a cohesive community of any kind). Paris grew gradually and prospered, largely due to its location on one of the major overland roads between the rich, cotton-growing land of surrounding rural Logan County and both the Arkansas River and the Little Rock-Ft. Smith Railroad that ran along its north bank. It became an important regional hub, therefore, not only for the conducting of official county business but also for trading, social activities, and obtaining other services.

Paris also grew as a result of the German-Swiss immigration that occurred during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The explosive growth of the railroad industry in Arkansas after the Civil War tied many of the heretofore rural and relatively isolated parts of the state into a national and international network that would generate far-reaching social and economic implications. One of the earliest was the realization on the part of the railroads that their fortunes would only be enhanced through the encouragement of new settlement from outside the state, thereby increasing the demand for both passenger and freight traffic. European immigration in particular increased dramatically after the cessation of hostilities that had closed many Southern ports and rendered even some Northern ports unsafe. Many of those that arrived from such countries as Germany, Italy and parts of Eastern Europe were usually poorer people from rural areas that possessed few work skills, typically knowing only one of the building trades or farming.

One need shared by all immigrants to the United States, however, was land, and this was one

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commodity the railroads in particular possessed in abundance. The railroad industry had been rather successful in convincing the federal government that large land grants along their railroad lines were necessary to create the nationwide rail infrastructure that the government (and the railroad owners) desired. This was certainly true of the fledgling Little Rock-Fort Smith Railroad that completed its line between the two cities in 1876 and in the process gained an abundance of unclaimed land on both sides of the Arkansas River with which to lure immigrants to the valley. Even the new immigrants that did not purchase their property directly from the railroads frequently followed other countrymen who did in order to remain part of a familiar and culturally-cohesive community. Paris certainly received its share of German-Swiss immigration, due in part to its status as a governmental and commercial hub for the region, but due also to its relatively close proximity to the fledgling Benedictine abbey at Subiaco, located approximately five miles to the east, which would become a religious and cultural focus for these largely Roman Catholic immigrants.

By one account, Tolbert E. Gill -- himself either a German immigrant or a first-generation American descended from German immigrants -- first came to Paris, Arkansas as early as 1918; however, virtually all sources agree that he relocated to the northern county seat of Logan County (northern and southern districts had been created by 1900, with Booneville becoming the seat of the southern district) by 1920, at which time he began work on this residence. Gill's principle vocation was a clothing and dry cleaning service that he owned and operated in downtown Paris, though he purportedly worked as a barber prior to his arrival there.

Clearly, Mr. Gill acquired some construction expertise along the way (one informant recalled having heard that a local architect, Mansill "Max" Sutton, designed both Gill's own residence and the Evelyn Gill Walker House; however, though it is known that Mr. Mansill did design several buildings in Paris, interviews conducted with several members of the extended Mansill family did not produce any documentation of this, either written or recalled). Located across State Highway 22 (known locally as West Walnut Street) from the home of his in-laws, Gill began with a small, wood frame building already on the site. Doing the vast majority of the construction work himself, Gill expanded and elaborated the existing building to create this residence for himself and his family over the next fifteen years. Though the overall design of the house itself is not unusual -- a one-and-one-half story gable roof core with a single-story, wrap-around section that includes both an open porch and an enclosed room -- the style and construction technique reflect a clear confidence and proficiency with masonry construction. Gill's previous construction experience is not known, but given the fact that he built this himself and over a period of fifteen years, it is quite conceivable that he was self-taught. Nevertheless, this three-dimensional, bouldered aesthetic is unique and without known precedent (there is no reason to believe that the similarity to the Crystal River Tourist Court

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buildings is anything other than circumstantial), as are the bouldered stone walls, bird baths, planters, and other landscape features designed in the same style.

The concrete sculpture surrounding the residence, however, is another matter entirely. In its essentials it bears a remarkable resemblance to the concrete sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez, the sculptor of Mexican ancestry who worked out of his studio in San Antonio, Texas. Rodriguez designed and installed his unique sculptural work at sites in Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee during the 1930's, with one of his largest and best known installations occurring at the T. R. Pugh Park in North Little Rock, Arkansas. His rendering in concrete of such natural forms as mushrooms, logs, and stumps was decidedly distinctive during his lifetime and has since become the focus of substantial scholarly and curatorial study to understand and appreciate his work more completely. While there have been artists who have attempted to imitate Rodriguez and his sculptural style, such study has uncovered no known stylistic antecedents.

There is substantial evidence to support the contention that Mr. Gill was, in fact, directly exposed to both the work of Rodriguez and the concrete techniques Rodriguez employed to craft his sculpture. One informant who was raised in Paris during Mr. Gill's lifetime recalls that Mr. Gill spent time in North Little Rock helping Rodriguez with the work in T. R. Pugh Park in the mid- to late-1930's, during which time he was also finishing the house and, presumably, beginning the landscaping work on the surrounding yard. This account of Mr. Gill's experience is corroborated by another local resident who knew Mr. Gill personally during Gill's later years. Mr. Ray Blaty recalled that Mr. Gill had told him of spending some "slack time" over the course of several summers in North Little Rock, working with Rodriguez on the creation and installation of the various sculptures there. It is known that Rodriguez frequently employed such assistants; and though Rodriguez could speak little English, he apparently experienced little problem in communicating his techniques to his helpers. Even a cursory comparison of Gill's concrete sculpture with that of Rodriguez reveals the remarkable stylistic similarities, and so virtually confirms the influence of Rodriguez. However, it is important to note that Mr. Blaty and others specifically remember Mr. Gill working on and producing these works himself, and later he even opened a small studio and store on the south side of town for the purpose of making and selling his creations; and thus there is no reason to suspect that he simply brought some of Rodriguez's own work for installation in his yard.

Although he was occupied with his outdoor sculpture through World War II, Gill managed to begin construction circa 1938 on a house as a wedding gift for his daughter, Evelyn Gill Walker. Completed approximately five years later (the interior may not have been finished until 1945), the Evelyn Gill Walker House is the second structure designed by Tolbert E. Gill and exhibits the same "naturalistic" or "rustic" style that he earlier established when

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constructing his own residence. Although architecturally significant if only for its association with Gill, the Evelyn Gill Walker House is distinct from the earlier structure in that it reflects the maturing of Gill as a designer, craftsman, and builder. Whereas Gill was somewhat confined in the design of his own residence by an existing frame structure, the Evelyn Gill Walker House afforded him with the opportunity to incorporate much of his considerable concrete sculpting abilities into the actual design rather than as applied decoration or outdoor sculpture. For these reasons, the Evelyn Gill Walker House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References
X See continuation sheet.
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:
X State historic preservation office Other state agency Federal agency Local government University Other Specify Repository:
10. 6
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property: <u>Less than one</u>
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A <u>15</u> <u>433330</u> <u>3905440</u> B C D D
See continuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.
The south half of Block 13 (measuring 100 X 200 feet) in the Labissa Waddel addition to the City of Paris.
Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.
This boundary contains all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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Bibliography

Blaty, Ray, Interview, April 2, 1993 and May 25, 1993.

Czaplicki, Karen, Interview, December 3, 1992.

Workers of the Writers' Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with a new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987 (original copyright 1941).

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 21, 1993

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

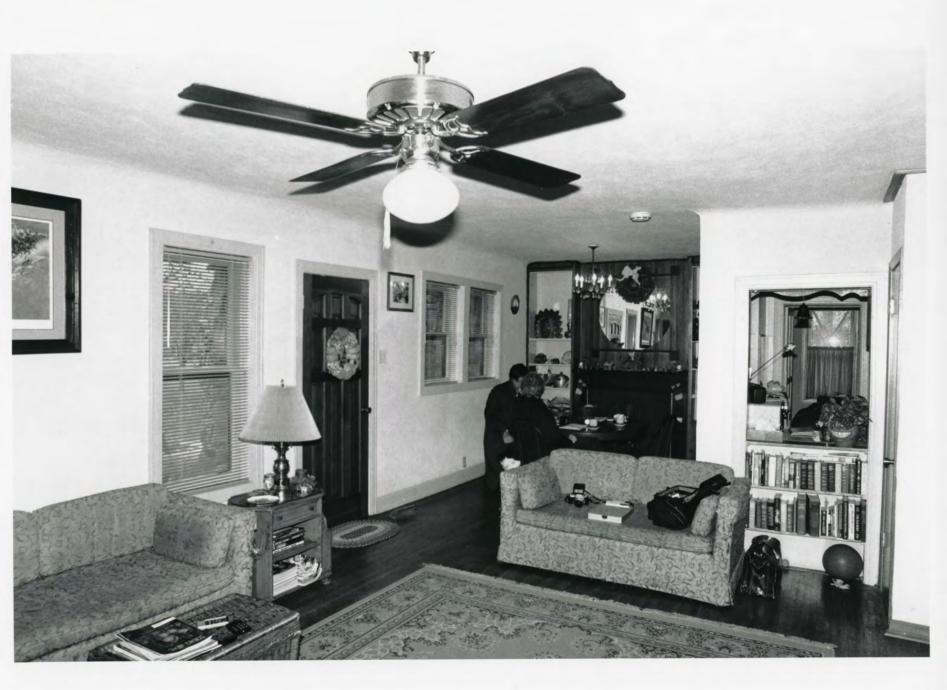
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINAT	PION		
PROPERTY Walker, Evelyn NAME:	Gill, House		
MULTIPLE NAME:			
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS,	Logan		
DATE RECEIVED: 8/20/ DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/16/ DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	93 DATE	OF 45TH DAY:	10/04/93
	lder/Archikees e paragraph) 8		
NOMINATOR: STATE			
REASONS FOR REVIEW:			completeness
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: OTHER: N PDIL: REQUEST: N SAMPLE:	N PERIOD: N SLR DRAFT:	N LESS THAN 50 Y N PROGRAM UNAPPR N NATIONAL:	OVED: N
ACCEPT RETURN ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	REJECT	/6 /93 DATE	stional Registra
			JEOGRAPHICAL DA
		rning this nomina	
RECOM./CRITERIA	Phone		Signed

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

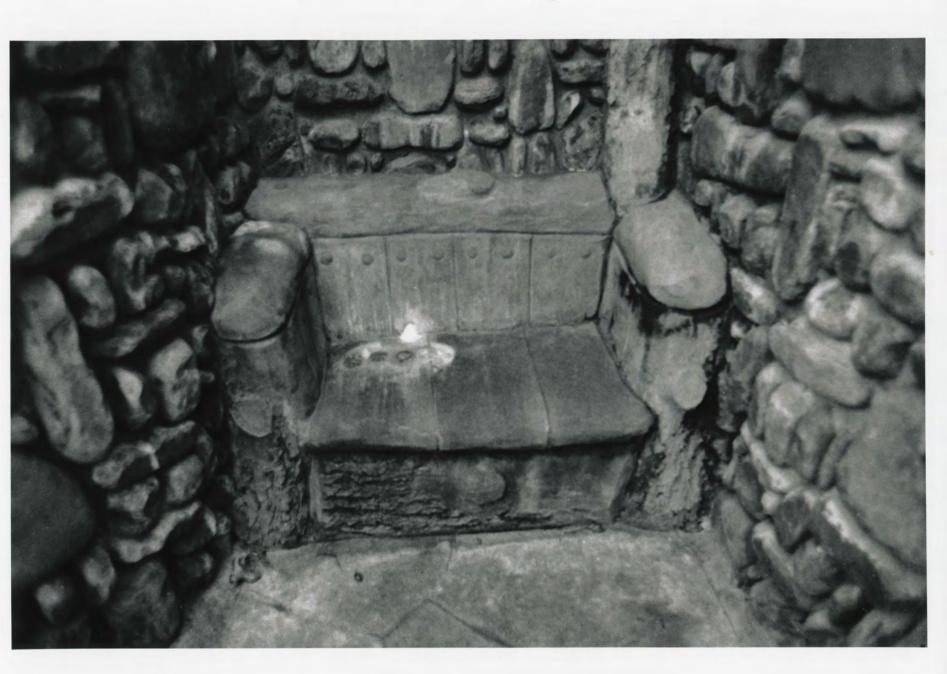
CLASSIFICATION		
countresource type		
STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION	-	
FUNCTION REAL REPORTS	EVALUATIO	<u> </u>
historiccurrent		
DESCRIPTION	Evelyn Gill, Ho	PROPERTY Walker,
architectural classificationmaterials		
descriptive text		
SIGNIFICANCE Period Areas of SignificanceCh	eck and justify	below HTGL TO BYAC
Specific dates Builder/ Statement of Significance (in one para	Architect ngraph)	
summary paragraph		NOMINATOR: STATE
completenessclarity		
applicable criteriajustification of areas checkedrelating significance to the resourcontextrelationship of integrity to signifjustification of exception	Ce HT W	APPRAIS N DATA PI OTHER: N POILS REGITERT: N SAMPLE COMMENT WAIVER: N
other		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA acreageverbal boundary desUTMsboundary justificat	cription ion	
ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATIOsketch mapsUSGS mapsphot		
OTHER COMMENTS	graphspres	entation
Questions concerning this nomination m	ay be directed t	•
	Phone	RECOM./CRITERIA
Signed	Date	PRVIEWBR



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Go., Arkansas Protograph by Kenstory December 1912 Negative on file at AHPP View of living room



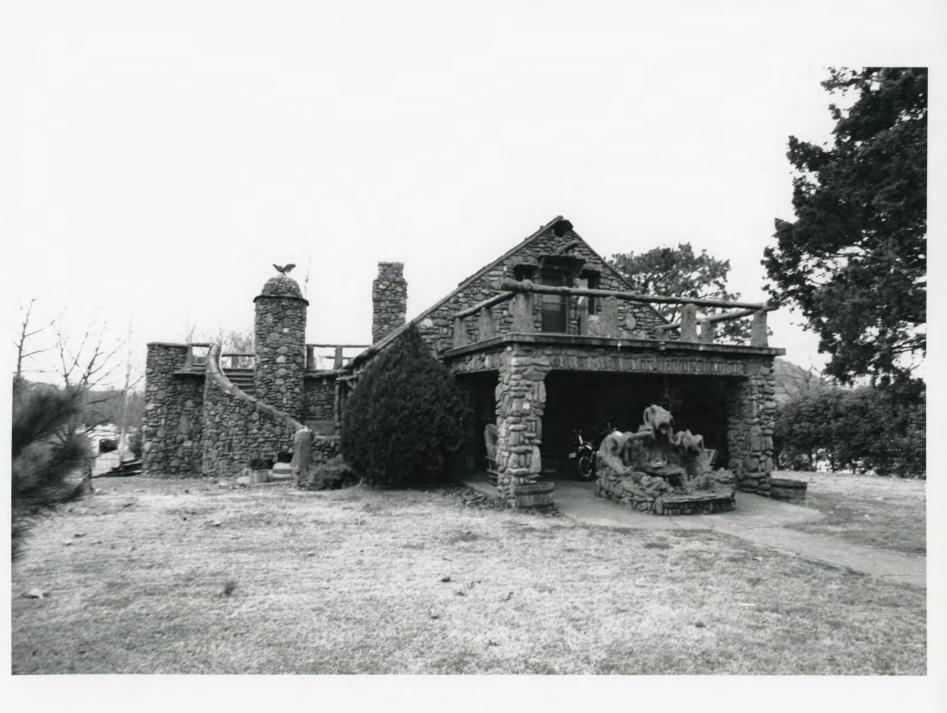
Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Go., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View of inderior mandel



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansus Photograph by Kenstory December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View of inset chair next to exterior staircase from the east



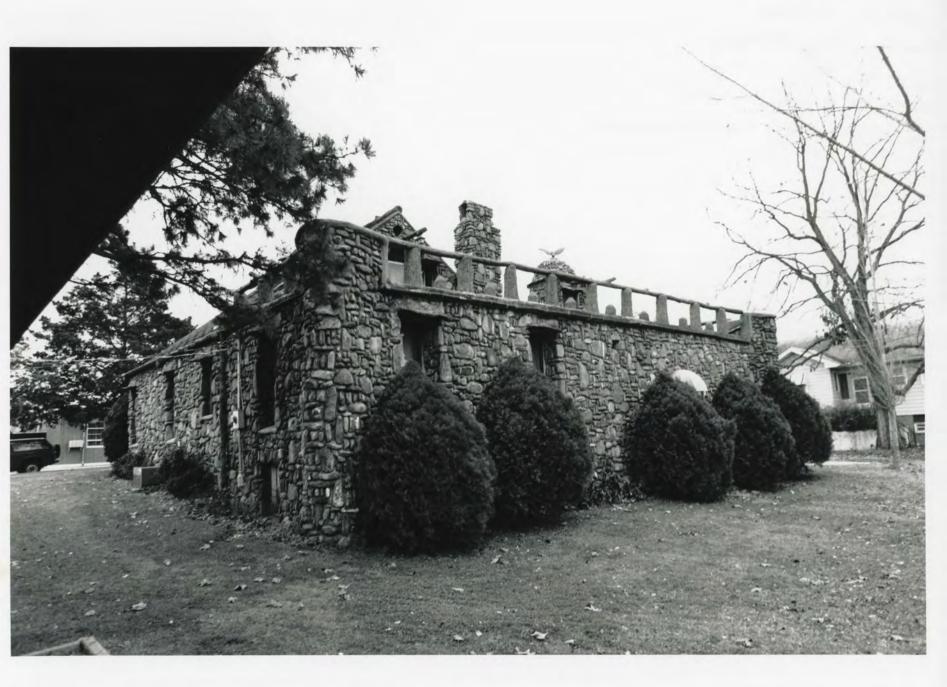
Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View of southern elevation from exterior staircase



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Ken Story
December 1992
Negative on file at AITPP
View of front elevation from the east



Evelyn G:11 Walker House Logan Go., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View from the northeast



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansas Photograph by Kon Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View from the west/northwest



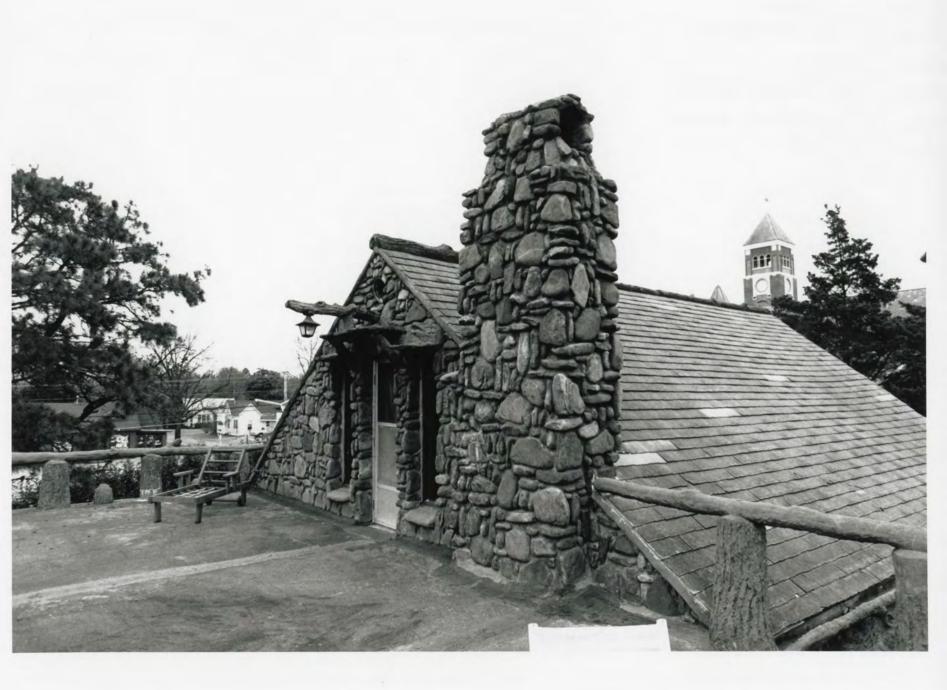
Evelyn Gill Walker Hoose
Logan Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Ken Story
December 1992
Negative on Pile at AHPP
View from the southwest



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan a., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View from the southeast



Evelyn Gill Walker House Lagan G., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View of garage area (now enclosed) from the south



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View of lear deck from the southwest



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Go., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP Vrew of turnet from the south



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHAP View of balustrade from the east



Evelyn Gill Walker Hoose Logan Co., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View of gable-end detail from the west



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative on file at AHPP View of stoop from the Southeast



Evelyn Gill Walker House Logan Co., Arkansas Photograph by Ken Story December 1992 Negative file at AHPP View of the "throne" from the north east



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

RECEIVED

August 9, 1993

AUG 2 0 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Walker, Evelyn Gill, House

Paris, Logan County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater

State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:kg

Enclosures





1500 Tower Building • 323 Center • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • Phone (501) 324-9880