

PH000 1848

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Walker, John, House

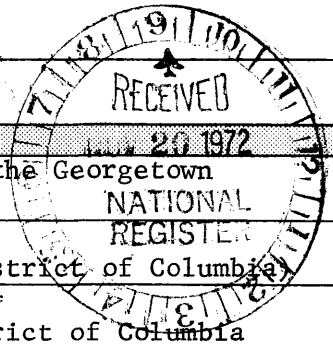
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Owens, Isaac, House (Gannt-Williams House)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: (Within the boundaries of the Georgetown  
2806 N Street, N.W. Historic District)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington (Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, District of Columbia)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
District of Columbia	11	District of Columbia	001



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
John Walker

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2806 N Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	District of Columbia	11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
6th and D Streets, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	District of Columbia	11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	District of Columbia	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Walker House is located in Georgetown at 2806 N Street, N.W. The Federal style brick townhouse faces north with a 30 foot frontage on N Street.

The Walker House was built in 1816-17 and reflects the typical Georgetown Federal style of building. The facade is three bays wide of red brick laid in Flemish bond. It was sandblasted in the early 1940's to remove many coats of paint. The lack of a string course gives a vertical emphasis to the 2-1/2 story building which has a raised basement. The entrance door with its semicircular fanlight surrounded by a stone archivolt with keystone is located on the west end of the front facade and is approached by seven brick steps (not original). Under the brick arches of the front entrance steps are steps (which are later additions) leading to a basement entrance.

The windows of the first and second storys are 6/6-light double-hung rectangular openings with rusticated splayed stone lintels with keystones and each window is enframed by double-panel louvered shutters, painted green. The basement windows are 3/3-light with similar lintels and have shutters which are not louvered. The wooden dormers are nicely detailed with round-headed double-hung windows enframed by a wooden triangular pediment supported by moulded pilasters.

The denticulated brick cornice is very simple and is surmounted by a shingled east-west gabled roof with a chimney on the east end.

The rear and side facades reflect the changes made to the original rectangular house. The rear of the main house contains French windows on both basement and first floors; and two plain wooden dormers with rectangular 6/6-light double-hung windows; all are later additions.

The house is approximately 75 feet deep including three additions. The first addition is approximately 14 feet long and 11 feet wide (2 bays deep and 2 storys high). The next addition is approximately 19 feet long and 13 feet wide and is also two bays deep and two storys high. There is a wooden porch addition on the rear. The first two wings each contain a chimney.

The interior of the house has been altered but still retains a sense of the original scale and dignity. The entrance hall contains a finely designed interior arch with moldings and keystone. The opening between the original first floor rooms of the main house has been enlarged and the remaining interior space has been altered.

The proportion and beauty of the house is typical of this period in Georgetown, and it is of interest to compare it to the house next door (John Stoddert Haw House, 2808 N Street, N.W.) which was built at approximately the same time. The Haw House has a very similar facade arrangement, but instead of stone over the windows and door it has wood trim painted to resemble stone.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1816-1817 date constructed

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | <u>Local History</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | <u>1817</u>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the John Walker House a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The house has long been known as the Gannt-Williams House and its date of construction thought to be circa 1805, but research in the Georgetown deed and assessment records shows that the house was not built until 1816-1817 when it was the property of Isaac Owens. The house represents a typical Federal style townhouse found in Georgetown in the early nineteenth century. It retains the scale, proportion and simplicity of its nineteenth century facade as do other houses on this 2800 block of N Street. In the twentieth century, the Walker house has been the home of Washington newspaper columnist Drew Pearson and John Walker, former director of the National Gallery of Art.

The land upon which the house is built was subdivided by Thomas Beall and sold to John M. Gannt in 1804 and to Elisha Williams in 1809. Deed and assessment records, however, indicate that there were no major improvements on the property, the eastern half of lot 159, until after it was purchased by Isaac Owens in 1816. The Georgetown Assessment Books contain a July 9, 1817, citation under Owens' name of a two-story brick house, valued at \$4,000. The inclusion in the 1818-1819 Assessment Book under Owens' name of a two-story brick house, valued at \$5,500 on lot 159, confirms that the 1817 citation is for the present Walker House.

The heirs of Isaac Owens sold the house to William S. Nichols in 1835, and in 1856 a commission merchant, John W. Lumsden, purchased the house at public auction after Nichols defaulted on his debts. The Lumsden family lived in the house through the 1870's and in 1887 they sold it to Sallie C. Jones, a widow. Mrs. Jones occupied the house for about a decade and after she sold it in 1903 it was used as a rental property. The decline in Georgetown's social status is evidenced by the occupation of the house from 1914 to 1922 by Isaac Davis, a day laborer. Still, if the occupation of a house by its owner instead of a renter can be used as a measure of its status, the Walker House has had a more stable existence than its neighbor, the John Haw House, which seems to have been rented out from about 1840 to 1921.

In 1921 the Walker House was purchased by Katherine B. Cunningham and building permits indicate that she spent more than \$2,000 in that year installing new bathrooms, enclosing the second floor verandah, rebuilding the rear verandah, and doing other work. As is the case with the adjoining Haw House, the 1920's initiated a period of major investments in the property which has continued to the present.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Columbia Real Estate Title Company. Title Search Records.

Davis, Deering; Dorsey, Stephen P.; Hall, Ralph Cole., Georgetown Houses of the Federal Period. Bonanza Books - New York. 1944. pp. 24-29.

Washington D.C. City Directories. Washingtoniana Room, District of Columbia Public Library.

2806 N Street N.W. Folder., Peabody Room, Georgetown Public Library.

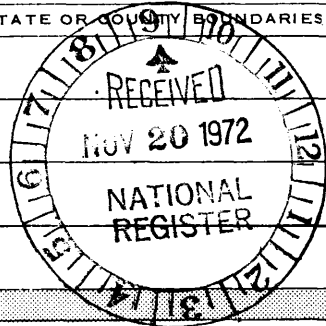
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	38°	54'	22"
NE	0	'	"	77°	33'	27"
SE	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4,575 square feet

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Leonard Gerson, Urban Historian  
Suzanne Ganschinietz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: 21 August 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature] Title: Deputy Mayor-Commissioner Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 6 73

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance - Walker House

From 1926 to 1928 the house was owned by Washington newspaper columnist Drew Pearson but he only lived there in 1927. Since 1940 it has been the home of John Walker, director of the National Gallery of Art from 1956 to 1969.

