

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Milner-Walker House

other names/site number Walker Hill, Milner Place

2. Location

street & number 708 South Hill Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Griffin

☐ vicinity

state Georgia code GA county Spalding code 255 zip code 30224

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 statewide x local

Signature of certifying official Dr. David C. Crass Title: Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date 24 Oct. 2019

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau 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

Date of Action 12/19/19

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural
outbuilding

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Granite; Rubble Stone

walls: WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: Asphalt Shingle

other:

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Milner-Walker House and outbuildings are located on three acres in Spalding County, south of downtown Griffin, in an area of mixed residential and commercial development. While the house originally fronted Hill Street, one of the city's primary thoroughfares, it was reoriented to face Milner Avenue in 1924 when Hill Street was widened to accommodate automobile traffic. The one-and-a-half-story, frame, vernacular Greek Revival style house was constructed c.1867. The original main block exhibits a cross-hall plan composed of five primary rooms and a center hallway on the first floor, with four rooms and an attic space on the upper floor. A one-story wing extends from the south (rear) façade of the main block. The earliest surviving documentation of this wing dates to 1925, but it is believed to be original. As part of a major renovation in 1933, this wing was expanded to connect to what is believed to be the property's original smokehouse, which today serves as a laundry room. This wing was further substantially renovated in 1971. Porches with simple Greek Revival detailing span the north and west elevations of the house's main block, accessing exterior doors featuring large multi-light sidelights and transoms. The house exhibits historic double-hung six-over-six windows on the first floor, and four-over-four windows on the upper floor. Walls are plaster throughout the main block, and exhibit historic trim including picture molding, door and window surrounds, and 12-inch baseboards. During the 1933 renovation, two sets of French doors were installed in the front hall, the original wide plank flooring was covered with 3-inch wide wood finish flooring, and fireplace surrounds in the front bedroom and parlor were covered with random rubble stone. Both fireplaces in the two rear bedrooms exhibit ornate wood surrounds that are also believed to have been installed in 1933. Accessed by an ornate wooden stair from the entry hall, the upper floor plan is comprised of three primary rooms, a utility room, and attic space. In the 1950s, the upper floor was converted into an apartment. The east bedroom was divided into a kitchen and bathroom, and an exterior door was added in the east wall. The west and north bedrooms on this floor have been carpeted, but retain historic plaster walls, door and window surrounds, and baseboards. The north bedroom also features a fireplace with a carved surround that appears to date to the house's construction. The original wide plank heart pine flooring is visible in the utility room on this floor, while the attic exhibits visible circular sawn lumber and cut nails. In addition to the house, the property includes four frame outbuildings. The animal barn and the equipment barn are known to have existed by 1925, but likely existed in some form by the late 19th century, based on agricultural census records. The c.1905 dairy barn and c.1932 milk house relate to the property's use as a dairy after purchase by J. Henry Walker in 1905. The property retains its layout and agrarian landscape from the historic period, supporting its integrity of design, setting, and feeling. While the house has evolved over time, it retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship to the historic period.

Narrative Description

Constructed c.1867, the Milner-Walker House is located upon the highest point in Griffin, at 973 feet. While the house originally fronted Hill Street, one of the city's primary thoroughfares, it was reoriented to face Milner Avenue in 1924 when Hill Street (GA SR-155) was widened to accommodate automobile traffic. A brick walkway and a circular driveway now serve the house.

Milner-Walker House

Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia

County and State

Constructed as a farmhouse by Benjamin M. Milner, a pioneer of the city of Griffin, c.1867, the one-and-a-half-story, frame, vernacular Greek Revival style house is built upon substantial piers of granite block. These piers were infilled in with rubble stone during the major renovation of the house in 1933. The original main block exhibits a cross-hall plan composed of five primary rooms and a cruciform hallway, the west portion of which has been converted into a bathroom, on the first floor, with four rooms and an attic space on the upper floor. A one-story wing extends from the south (rear) façade of the main block. The earliest surviving documentation of this wing dates to 1925, but it is believed to be original. As part of a major renovation in 1933, this wing was expanded to connect to what was once an outbuilding that is believed to be the property's original smokehouse, which today serves as a laundry room. This wing was further substantially renovated in 1971. Beneath the southwest wing of the house is what was once a root cellar, which now houses a furnace and modern systems. The house's roof is asphalt shingle, most recently re-shingled in 2016.

Aside from the former outbuilding now attached to the south façade, which is masonry, the frame house is sided in white weatherboard. The primary (north) façade features a large porch with four slender, squared, unadorned columns (photo 1) centered on the façade. The current porch floor, which is concrete lined with brick, concrete stair, and porch balustrade date to 1933. A four-light transom and three-light sidelights surround the four-panel, wood front door, which is also centered on the façade.

The house exhibits historic wood double-hung, six-over-six windows on the first floor, and tall, slender four-over-four windows on the upper floor. The windows on the upper floor are also historic, wood, and double-hung, and are paired in each of the house's gables. The north façade features four windows on the first floor (photos 1, 3). Much of the glass in the windows, sidelights and transoms of the Milner-Walker House is wavy, a characteristic of historic glass. It is unknown if the glazing is original. Green, louvered panel shutters accompany each of the house's windows, with the exception of three windows on the rear of the house.

On the west, and original primary, façade, a four-light transom and three-light sidelights surround the original entrance door of beveled glass and hand-hewn wood (photos 12, 13, 14). A large porch exhibits four squared columns identical to those on the north porch. The balustrade, added in 1933, wraps around the entirety of the porch's wooden floor. Like the north façade, this façade exhibits four, six-over-six double-hung windows on the first floor.

A one-story wing housing the dining room and kitchen extends from the south (rear) façade of the main block. Although the exact date of this rear wing is unknown, a 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map shows an identical wing in this same location. It is believed that this rear dining room wing is original to the house. The 1925 Sanborn map also shows a small outbuilding with a smaller addition, just south of the house's rear wing on the property. What is believed to be this outbuilding remains extant today. This outbuilding was connected to the house via expansion of the house's rear wing during the 1933 renovation of the house (photo 4). This building, now a rear room, of an unknown construction date, has thick walls constructed of brick and clad in stucco with a gabled corrugated metal roof (photo 6). The gable is sheathed in weatherboard siding. The historic function of this building has not been confirmed- oral tradition states that it originally served as a smokehouse because of its thick masonry walls and 14 meat hooks that hang from its ceiling, and an extant chimney exhaust in the ceiling, but its historic function could also have been as a stand-alone kitchen, or another type of outbuilding. A one story, one room frame addition, sheathed in board-and-batten and weatherboard siding, extends off the rear former outbuilding's south façade, and appears

Milner-Walker House

Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia

County and State

to have existed as early as 1925 (photos 6, 7). An entrance to this former outbuilding is located on its east elevation. Per historic photo documentation, this entrance and vestibule were historically a portion of a covered porch. This porch was enclosed in the 1930s, and is today sheathed in unpainted vertical boards (photo 5).

The west side of the south façade features a small, inset wooden porch that enters into the center hall. This was constructed during a 2008 renovation of the house, when a bathroom was added to the rear façade. A non-historic oval, ornamental window serves as the room's fenestration.

The house's only exterior chimney is attached to the east façade (photos 3, 4), constructed of coursed rubble stone and brick. Like the north and west façades, this façade exhibits four, six-over-six double-hung windows on the first floor within the main block, although they are oddly spaced due to an interior chimney that runs along the interior of the northernmost portion of this façade.

An integral side porch that formerly ran along the east side of the kitchen and dining room wing was enclosed during the 1930s, and two eight-over-eight, along with a pair of six-over-six, double hung windows were added at that time.

Also visible on this elevation is a steel exterior stair, added when the house was subdivided to create an apartment in the upper floor during the 1950s. A small, cantilevered awning was also added over the door opening cut into the upper floor at that time (photo 3).

Outbuildings

There are four contributing outbuildings located behind the Milner-Walker House. These include a 2,268 square-foot animal barn (photos 16, 22), a 920 square-foot equipment barn (photos, 17, 20), a 288 square-foot milk house that has been converted into a small residence (photo 19), and a dairy barn (photo 18).

The date of construction of the animal barn is uncertain, but this barn, about 200 feet southeast of the house, is believed to have existed in some form by the late 19th century. Census records from 1870 list Benjamin M. Milner, who purchased the property in 1866, as a farmer whose real estate was valued at \$10,000, and whose personal property was valued at \$7,000. Agricultural census records from 1880 show Milner as owning three head of cattle, 12 pigs and 16 chickens, and farming significant acreage for cotton, Indian corn, wheat, sweet potatoes, peaches and apples. The barn appears in the 1925 Sanborn map and in the earliest photos, which date to 1933. The barn is a transverse crib barn with a hay loft. It is wood frame with vertical wood siding. A center aisle runs from gable to gable, and both sides have shed roofs. It's an unpainted, large wooden barn with a hay door at its gable peak. Its roof is corrugated metal.

Like the animal barn, the construction date for the equipment barn is also uncertain, but it, too, is believed to have existed in some form by the late 19th century based on the research regarding Milner's operations. It is located about 100 feet south of the house. It is identified as a "cotton seed house" on the 1925 Sanborn map. It is board-and-batten, unpainted, with a corrugated metal roof. It has a hay door in the gable peak and two covered ports — one accessible from the front (east) façade, and another behind the barn. There are two doors opening into the south façade of the barn.

The dairy barn was constructed before 1925. It exists on the 1925 Sanborn map and is labeled as an automobile storage. Located about 250 feet south of the house, the building is a wide, single-story

Milner-Walker House

Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia

County and State

rectangular barn with a low-pitched corrugated metal roof. It has double wooden doors and, over its lifetime, may have served a variety of storage and livestock-related uses. It retains 12 animal stalls, and is discussed in family papers dating to 1932 as a dairy barn.

The milk house is roughly in the same location as a small "seed house" on the 1925 Sanborn map. Model plans for a milk house of this design dating to 1928 exist, and according to family papers, the example appears to have been constructed c.1932. The milk house is about 20 feet south of the equipment barn. It is a double pen building with a small bathroom addition on the southwest side. It has painted, wood weatherboard siding with a central entryway with a six-panel door. Each of the two rooms feature six-over-six windows on each side. The bathroom was added when it was converted to a residence in the 1950s.

Interior

The original main block of the house exhibits a cross-hall plan composed of five primary rooms and a center hallway on the first floor, with four rooms and an attic space on the upper floor. The north-south central hall (Rooms 102 and 105) spans the length of the main block. An east-west hall, that bisects the north-south hall, functioned as the original entry hall (room 104). The west half of this hall has today been converted into two bathrooms and a closet (rooms 106, 107, and 108). Four large rooms (101, 103, 109, 110) form the corners of the floor plan of the main block of the house.

The house's main block retains its original plaster ceilings which are 12 ½ feet high. Walls are also finished in plaster and feature picture molding at about 10 feet high. This is consistent throughout every room in this earliest part of the house. Additional historic trim, also consistent throughout this portion of the house, includes door and window surrounds, and a simple, 12-inch baseboard with quarter-round. The first floor retains the majority of its historic four-panel interior doors.

The current primary (north) entrance opens into a large hall that runs north-south through the center of the house (photos 23, 45). Double French doors, added during the 1933 renovation of the house, intersect the central hall creating a foyer (room 102) and a large hall (room 105). Double French doors added in 1933 also open into the parlor or family room (room 101) off of this hall.

In 1933, the original, wide pine plank flooring was covered with 3' ¼" wide heart pine finish flooring throughout the main block of the house. In the front bedroom (room 103) and parlor (room 101) the floors are a much darker finish — a style choice by the owner when the floors were installed.

The front bedroom (room 103) (photos 26, 27) and parlor (room 101) (photos 24, 25) each have fireplaces. The fireplace surrounds in both rooms were covered in random rubble stone 1933. The wooden mantel in the parlor is a plain shelf and painted white. The mantel in the bedroom is also wooden and painted white. Its design exhibits four dentils.

Immediately southwest of the French doors that divide the hallway is the former primary entry hall (photos 28, 29). This hall (room 104) is now used as a bedroom. On the east side of the north-south central hall the staircase leads up to the upper floor (photo 44). Beneath the staircase is a small storage space; its diminutive paneled door exhibits mortise and tenon joinery.

The east portion of the east-west hall has been converted into three, small rooms: a storage closet (room 107) and two bathrooms (rooms 106, 108). During a 2008 renovation, this space — then a

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

large bathroom — was renovated and divided. A slender, rectangular colored glass window was added between rooms 107 and 108. The floors are modern tile and the walls exhibit non-historic wainscoting (photo 35). Oral tradition states that the Milner family referred to this space as a birthing room when J. Henry Walker purchased the house in 1905.

Moving south, two rear bedrooms (rooms 109 and 110) are accessible from the east and west walls of the hall. Room 110 (photos 33, 34) has a fireplace which exhibits a wooden Queen Anne-style surround with pilasters. A decorative mirror is above the mantel. It is believed that the fireplace surrounds in this and room 109 are not original, but were purchased and installed during the 1933 renovation.

The wooden mantel in room 109 (see photos 30, 31) features pilasters with Ionic capitals and a decorative mirror. The fireplace surround is brick. During a 2008 renovation, a new bathroom was added off of this bedroom (photo 32). A four-light transom is above the door that accesses this bathroom, which occupies what was historically a window opening.

The rear wing of the house, which today houses the dining room (room 112), the kitchen (room 117), and the laundry room (room 113), as well as a rear entrance vestibule (room 114) with bathroom (room 115), and a utility room (room 116), has undergone substantial evolution over time. Today, the dining room (photos 36, 37) features several large wooden beams spanning the length of the stippled ceiling, all added during a 1971 renovation. Also in 1971, the majority of the south wall of the dining room was removed. The portion of the wall that remains extant today is composed almost entirely of a brick and stone fireplace, which was constructed in 1971. The dining room has hardwood floors and a four-inch baseboard. Extant door and window surrounds are historic.

The galley kitchen exhibits a vaulted, stippled ceiling and a non-historic tile finish flooring (see photos 38, 39). The back of the fireplace is brick and is exposed in the kitchen. Wood cabinets were added during the 1971 renovation.

A doorway in the south wall of the kitchen accesses what is today a rear entrance vestibule. This space was historically a porch, enclosed during the 1930s, and weatherboard siding is visible on the former exterior of the south wall of the kitchen (photo 42). The west and south walls of this vestibule are finished in painted laminate paneling, as are the walls of the half-bath (photo 48) that was added to the vestibule to create room 115 in 2008.

From the entrance vestibule, a wide door opening with a wide, simple wood surround accesses the masonry former outbuilding that today serves as the laundry room (room 113). This room has a non-historic tile floor, added in 2008. A six-over-six window is centered in the east wall.

A single door opening with a six-panel door accesses the small utility room (room 116) at the end of the wing from the exterior through the south wall (photo 7). According to photo documentation, this addition was accessed from the west wall as late as the 1930s. A six-light window is centered in the east wall of the addition.

The upper level of the Milner-Walker House is composed of two bedrooms (rooms 204 and 205), an unfinished utility room (room 206), a bathroom (room 207), a kitchen (room 202), and attic space. While the rooms were historically all used as bedrooms, in the early 1950s, the upper level of the house was converted to an apartment. A small hall (room 203), accessed by the stair from the lower

Milner-Walker House

Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia

County and State

level, connects the rooms. The original design consisted of three sleeping rooms and the unfinished utility room. The bathroom was added in 1933. Original wide plank floors remain extant, largely under carpeting. Ceilings are approximately 10 feet high and composed of plaster. The door surrounds on this level are less decorative than those on the first floor. Doors throughout the upper level are a mix of two, four, five and six panels designs.

The walls of rooms 202 (photos 56, 57), 204 (photos 51, 52), and 205 (photos 49, 50) are plaster, and feature picture molding at about eight feet high, and baseboard of approximately eight inches in height.

Room 204 is the sole room on the north side of the hall. Its fireplace exhibits a vernacular surround with pilasters supporting a shouldered keel arch (photo 51). This surround is believed to date to the house's construction. A door in the east wall of this room accesses the attic, which exhibits circular sawn framing and square nails.

On the south side of the hall, the kitchen and dining space (room 202) has prefabricated wood flooring dating to 2008 (photos 56, 57). A four-panel door was added in the west wall of this room as part of the apartment conversion. It accesses the exterior stair on the west side of the house.

The bathroom (room 207) exhibits a tile finish floor, also added in 2008 (photo 55).

Room 205 is the largest room on this level. The door accessing this room is composed of vertical planks with tongue and groove joinery. A closet build-out runs the length of half of the north wall of this room.

The partially unfinished utility room (room 206), features the house's original flooring, consisting of wide, heart pine boards, each measuring approximately 5 3/4" - 6" wide, with tongue and groove joinery (photos 58, 59). Historic lath is also visible. A line of a dozen small holes in the flooring adjacent to the west wall is believed to be a line of "sweep holes," so called because they are believed to have served to receive dust that could not be swept out because of the raised threshold.

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- ☐ 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1867-1933

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Drake, Gilman J.

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from c.1867, the date of construction of the house, to 1933, encompassing construction of all of the property's outbuildings, and the substantial renovation of the house by Charles Walker, the second generation of the Walker family to own the property, in 1933. With its extant historic outbuildings and landscape elements which evolved over time from the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries on minimally developed acreage, the property is one of limited residential properties in proximity to downtown Griffin that retain the more rural character of much of the area's late 19th and early 20th century development.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Benjamin M. Milner, a Barnesville businessman, first purchased property in Griffin in 1860, only 17 years after the city's incorporation. He commissioned Gilman J. Drake, a local builder, to construct for him a cross-hall Greek Revival-style house at what is today 570 South Hill Street. Milner would soon enlist in the Confederate Army, returning to Griffin in 1866. He sold the house at 570 South Hill Street in August of that year and purchased land about two blocks south at what is today 708 South Hill Street, upon which the Milner-Walker House was constructed c.1867. Based on the known pre-existing relationship between Milner and Drake, and its similarities in plan to Milner's previous house at 570 S. Hill Street, the Milner-Walker House is believed to be a Gilman J. Drake design as well. The Milner-Walker House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a representative example of a vernacular Greek Revival-style house in Griffin, likely designed by local builder and prominent citizen Gilman J. Drake. The house exhibits Greek Revival stylistic characteristics, including symmetrical primary elevations, multi-paned rectangular transoms and sidelights surrounding its entrances; six-over-six double-hung windows; classical bargeboard; and simple, slender square columns supporting its entry porches. As defined in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, the Greek Revival style was the first architectural style to appear statewide in Georgia, and was used from the 1840s through the 1860s. With its extant historic outbuildings and landscape elements that developed throughout the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries on minimally developed acreage, the property is one of limited residential properties in proximity to downtown Griffin that retain the more rural character of much of the area's late nineteenth and early twentieth century development.

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

The Milner-Walker House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a representative example of a late 19th century vernacular Greek Revival house in the town of Griffin, Georgia, attributed to notable local builder Gilman J. Drake.

The Milner-Walker House exhibits vernacular Greek Revival stylistic characteristics, including a square mass; symmetrical primary elevations; multi-paned rectangular transoms and sidelights surrounding its entrances, which are centered on their respective elevations; six-over-six double-hung windows; classical bargeboard; and simple, slender square columns supporting its entry porches.

Milner-Walker House

Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia

County and State

As defined in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, the Greek Revival style was the first architectural style to appear statewide in Georgia, and was used from the 1840s through the 1860s. The Greek Revival style represents a clear break with the state's earliest English architectural traditions. This style was the beginning of a romantic revival that drew directly from the original source, a sentimental imitation of the architecture of an ancient people that aimed at associations with Greek democracy. The Greek Revival style was used extensively throughout the United States at every level of society, and vernacular interpretations with simplified details are common in Georgia.

Gilman J. Drake had arrived in Griffin from New Hampshire in 1851 as an itinerant carpenter. By 1859, he was a noted Griffin builder- on June 9, 1859, the *Independent South* newspaper documented his activity building specifically along Hill Street in Griffin. Along with Milner's previous residence, Drake is believed to have designed at least three other extant cross-hall plan houses in the immediate vicinity. He also designed Griffin's oldest public school building, the Sam Bailey Grammar School building at East Poplar and Fourth streets, constructed in 1870 (listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973). The Milner-Walker House is therefore one of only five documented examples of Drake's work that remain extant in Griffin today.

The Milner-Walker House exhibits a cross-hall plan that centers on two large, intersecting halls linking four rooms and a back wing. The cross-hall portion of the Milner-Walker house retains three means of egress: one each at the north, west and south end of the halls. The house has evolved over the years, and the east and west sections of the east-west hall now serve as functional rooms. As part of this evolution, what may have historically been a fourth means of egress at the east end of the east-west hallway has been lost.

The cross-hall, or cruciform, plan is found in other area homes designed and built by Gilman J. Drake. This includes Benjamin M. Milner's first house in Griffin, today known as the Hill-Kurtz House, at 570 S. Hill Street. The Hill-Kurtz house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The Hill-Kurtz House exhibits a cross-hall plan, of which the plan for the Milner-Walker House appears to be a variant.

A Greek Revival style house built in 1859 by Drake at 603 S. Hill St. is cruciform in original plan. It has four points of egress at the end of each hall. The north south hall has been walled off, thus three large rooms on each side now flank the central east-west hall.ⁱ

Immediately across Hill Street, the two-story Greek Revival house at 604 S. Hill St., also constructed c.1859, resembles the Milner-Walker House most closely. The houses' rooflines and elevations are close to identical. This house is also believed to have been built with a cross-hall plan, although a wall now bisects the house through what would have been the central hall. According to the current owner, oral tradition states that this house was also built by Drake.ⁱⁱ

The house formerly located at 505 N. Hill Street also bore a notable resemblance to the Milner-Walker House. Demolished in the 1980s, that house was purportedly built in 1845, although no

ⁱ Reed, Scott. "Greek Revival Masterpiece Designed by Gilman Drake." CIRCA Magazine. <http://circaoldhouses.com/property/greek-revival-masterpiece-designed-by-gilman-drake/> (accessed October 26, 2016)

ⁱⁱ Inman, William; McNulty, Charlene. Interview with Arlene Langford. Griffin, Ga. Nov. 8, 2014

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

information regarding its designer has been found.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Milner-Walker House property retains four contributing outbuildings, including three barns and a milk house dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Each outbuilding is a representative example of a type of farm building identified in *Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage*, a statewide context.

The animal barn and the dairy barn are representative examples of one of Georgia's most common barn types, the transverse crib barn. As defined in *Tilling the Earth*, these frame barns consist of three or more adjacent cribs on either side of a wide runway (an open, pass-through space). These barns could serve a variety of uses, with space for hay, animals, and farm implements. Side shed extensions, as seen on the animal barn on this property, are common. Each of these barns exhibits openings in their gable ends, which is a character-defining feature of the type, as well as vertical siding, which is less common on this barn type in Georgia. The animal barn also features a hayloft, which is common for the type. The dairy barn was potentially not originally constructed as a transverse crib barn, as it is labelled as "automobile storage" on the 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of the property. However, it is discussed in Walker family papers as a dairy barn by 1932, so it is believed to have existed as a transverse crib barn by that date.

What is currently known as the equipment barn is identified as a cotton seed house on the 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map. *Tilling the Earth* identifies these as a type of specialty use barn found in Georgia. Built to store cotton seed, these resources come in a variety of configurations. Records indicate that cotton was being grown on the Milner-Walker House property by the 1910s.

According to *Tilling the Earth*, milk houses are an uncommon resource in Georgia. A dairy or milk house is a small building for storing milk at a cool temperature until it can be used or churned for butter. About 50 degrees was considered ideal, and milk houses typically employed a series of troughs full of cool water to keep milk cooled. According to the plans for the milk house on this property, a large cooling tank once occupied a corner of the interior. These buildings were often modified or demolished after mechanical refrigeration rendered obsolete the cooling practices they that they supported.

The property is one of limited residential properties in proximity to downtown Griffin that retain the more rural character of much of the area's late 19th and early 20th century development. Historic aerials reveal extensive build-out of South Hill Street between the late 1940s and early 1970s. As development progressed south on Hill Street from downtown Griffin, the area surrounding the Milner-Walker House transitioned from largely open land of a generally rural character, to a developed suburban neighborhood. The Milner-Walker House property is an increasingly rare intact multi-acre complex of historic residential and agricultural buildings evidencing the area's earliest decades of residential development.

ⁱⁱⁱ "House Hunting." Brown's Guide to Georgia, February 1981. Pg. 61, 87.

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

In 1833, General Lewis Lawrence Griffin began development of a rail line from Macon, Georgia to Forsyth, Georgia. Griffin's line was to intersect with lines connecting established Georgia trading centers, including Augusta and Savannah. Griffin believed that if these railroads developed fully, they would become important shipping and communication channels as they crisscrossed the state and connected the Atlantic Ocean to the Tennessee River, and Augusta to the Chattahoochee River.^{iv}

Griffin envisioned a prosperous town at the intersection of these rail lines. According to his calculations, they crossed at a spot on a farm owned by Bartholomew Still in what was then a part of Pike County. Griffin purchased 800 acres from Still and platted out the city that would bear his name. On June 8, 1840, he auctioned off the first lot in the new town. Two years later, the first steam engine rolled through town.^v The City of Griffin was officially incorporated on Dec. 28, 1843.

Benjamin M. Milner

Benjamin M. Milner, a Barnesville, Georgia resident, was a supporter of Georgia's early railroad expansion.^{vi} Milner amassed wealth during the California Gold Rush of 1849, and upon his return to Georgia, he purchased and operated sawmills, becoming a successful businessman in the area.^{vii}

In 1860, Milner moved to Griffin. During the Civil War, Milner equipped at his expense an artillery company known as the "Ben Milner Dragoons."^{viii} Milner is best known today for the former cavalry camp in Griffin that was named after him to honor his financial support of Confederate cavalry companies in Spalding County. Camp Milner was located on Pimento Avenue. In 1898, it was renamed Camp Northen in honor of Georgia Gov. W.J. Northen. During the Spanish-American War, the camp served as a training camp and mobilization center for the National Guard. Today, the area is a municipal park.

After the war, Milner turned his attention to farming, of which he had a considerable interest.^{ix} He returned to Griffin, and in August 1866, purchased "the elevated building lot fronting Hill Street" on which the Milner-Walker House is located, along with 150 surrounding acres, from J.B. Reid with the intent to farm. He is believed to have hired Gilman Drake again to design the Milner-Walker House, which he, his wife Margaret, and three children occupied from its construction through 1895. According to census records, Milner lived on the property and farmed cotton, corn, wheat, sweet potatoes, peaches, and apples. Milner spent more nearly 30 years living in the house and farming the land with his son, Bennie. According to census records, Milner had accumulated 305 acres by 1880. By that year, the farm produced cotton, corn, wheat, sweet potatoes, apples and peaches. The farm also raised poultry and swine, and operated a dairy. In 1895, Milner returned to Barnesville to live

^{iv} "Spalding County Historical Markers." Historical Markers by County.

http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/topics/historical_markers/county/spalding/history-of-griffin-georgia (accessed May 14, 2017)

^v "Spalding County Historical Markers."

^{vi} Myers, James. "Iron Horse Development 1830-1860." http://www.cityofbarnesville.com/our_community/iron_horse_development.php (accessed May 8, 2017)

^{vii} Lambdin, Augusta. "The History of Lamar County," Barnesville, Ga: The Barnesville News-Gazette (1932).

^{viii} Lambdin, pg. 385

^{ix} "Benjamin Moseley Milner Obituary" The Macon Telegraph, Jan. 5, 1904. Retrieved from <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=38469455> (accessed Oct. 1, 2017)

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

with his daughter. He died in 1904 at the age of 94.^x

Gilman J. Drake

Gilman J. Drake had arrived in Griffin from New Hampshire in 1851 as an itinerant carpenter. By 1859, he was a noted Griffin builder. During the Civil War, Drake, who enlisted with the Griffin Light Guards, was captured by Union forces and imprisoned for 18 months. He returned to Griffin after his release to reunite with his wife, Henryetta Reeves of Griffin, whom he had married in 1859, and to resume his vocation as a contractor.^{xi}

In 1873, Drake became the first President of the City National Bank, founded in Griffin that year. He served as its president until his death in 1885. By that time, he was also a city alderman. He had also run for Mayor of Griffin in 1874.

J. Henry Walker

The Milner-Walker House property continued to be used for farming into the 20th century. A year after Benjamin M. Milner's death, his heirs sold the house and surrounding 305 acres to Joseph Henry Walker, an educator who was superintendent of Griffin Public Schools from 1892 through 1905.

From 1905-06, Walker was Chair of Mathematics at the State Normal School, a former teaching college in Athens, Georgia, before taking a leave from the profession to return to Griffin to serve as secretary and treasurer of the Cherokee Cotton Mills. In 1909, Walker returned to his post as superintendent of schools in Griffin until his 1912 appointment to the presidency of the Monroe Agricultural and Mechanical School in Monroe, Georgia.^{xii} In 1929, the school would later be renamed the Georgia Vocational and Trades School. Walker served as the school's president until his death in 1933. The school was abolished in 1941.^{xiii}

According to the Walker family, Walker purchased the property with the intent to retire there, and as such, rented the house and the land to tenants for various agricultural enterprises between 1905 and 1933. Records show that during the 1910s, cotton was grown on the property, and it was used as a tree nursery for some time. Letters indicate that there was some level of dairy operation on the property as early as 1915. A 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map shows "Southland Dairy" as operating on the property in 1925, and dairy operation appears to have become a more active element of the property's operation through the 1920s, as a 1930 letter expresses an interest in renting the property by a Griffin Dairy and Ice Cream Company, and a 1932 letter expresses an intent to build a milk house similar to the one that remains extant on the property today.

The 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map shows the Milner-Walker House property in generally the same configuration as it exists today, prior to the 1933 extension of the rear wing on the house, and an apparent expansion of the property's animal barn.

Shortly after J. Henry Walker's death in 1933, his wife, Sarah, and son, Charles, moved from Monroe

^x "Benjamin Moseley Milner Obituary" The Macon Telegraph, Jan. 5, 1904. Retrieved from <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=38469455> (accessed Oct. 1, 2017)

^{xi} "Gilman J. Drake Obituary" The Griffin Weekly News, June 5, 1885.

^{xii} Stevens Walker Wood, Mary, "The Walker Heritage," Atlanta: Foote and Davies, Inc. 1956

^{xiii} Sams, Anita B. "Wayfarers in Walton: A History of Walton County, Georgia 1818-1967," Walton County Foundation, Inc. 2000

Milner-Walker House

Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia

County and State

to the property. Charles began a series of renovations, including adding hardwood floors over the wide plank floors, enclosing the side porch and connecting the kitchen to the house.

Charles Walker married Katherine Norman in 1940 and the couple had two children, Charles and Anita, whom they raised in the house. Charles Walker, Sr. continued to lease the land for agricultural use until his mother's death in 1953. Parcels of the land were then divided among Sarah and J. Henry Walker's four children and were sold off shortly thereafter. Charles Walker retained the house and the surrounding 10 acres, which are today owned and maintained by his daughter, Anita Hoffman.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Articles:

"Benjamin Moseley Milner Obituary" The Macon Telegraph, Jan. 5, 1904.

"Gilman J. Drake Obituary" The Griffin Weekly News, June 5, 1885.

Myers, James. "Iron Horse Development 1830-1860." Iron Horse Development 1830 1860.
http://www.cityofbarnesville.com/our_community/iron_horse_development.php.

Reed, Scott. "Greek Revival Masterpiece Designed by Gilman Drake," October 26, 2016.
<http://circaoldhouses.com/property/greek-revival-masterpiece-designed-by-gilman-drake/>.

Books:

Lambdin, Augusta, "The History of Lamar County," Barnesville, Ga: The Barnesville News-Gazette 1932.

Stevens Walker Wood, Mary, "The Walker Heritage," Atlanta: Foote and Davies, Inc. 1956

Sams, Anita B. "Wayfarers in Walton: A History of Walton County, Georgia 1818-1967." Walton County Foundation, Inc. 2000

Census Records:

1870 United States Census, City of Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia; p. 11, family 98, dwelling 88, lines 36-40; June 3, 1870

1880 United States Census, Production of Agriculture, City of Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia; p. 1, line 8. July 19, 1880.

Documents

Hoffman, Anita. *National Register of Historic Places-Historic Property Information Form*. "Milner-Walker House" 2014. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

Lyon, Elizabeth. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form*. "Hill-Kurtz House" 1972. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

Lyon, Elizabeth. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form*. "Sam Bailey Building" 1972. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

Interviews:

Arlene Langford, interview by William Inman and Charlene McNulty, Nov. 8, 2014
Anita Hoffman, interview by William Inman and Charlene McNulty, Sept. 9, 2014

Websites:

"Spalding County Historical Markers." Historical Markers by County.

http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/topics/historical_markers/county/spalding/history-of-griffin-georgia
http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/topics/historical_markers/county/spalding/history-of-griffin-georgia

"Griffin's History." <http://www.cityofgriffin.com/Home/History.aspx>

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): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.26 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.23600

Longitude: -84.26355

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

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

The boundary is identified by a heavy black line on the attached property survey, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property comprises the current legal boundary of the property, encompassing the house and outbuildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Inman and Charlene McAnulty
organization _____ date October 24, 2017
street & number 254 Washington Street, Ground Level telephone (404) 735-9240 / (651)503-7558
city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30334
e-mail winman@gsu.edu, charliecine@gmail.com

name/title Stephanie L. Cherry-Farmer
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date October 23, 2019
street & number 2610 Highway 155, SW telephone (770) 389-7843
city or town Stockbridge state GA zip code 30281
e-mail stephanie.cherry-farmer@dnr.ga.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Photographs:

City or Vicinity: Griffin

County: Spalding

State: Georgia

Milner-Walker House
Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia
County and State

Photographer: Charlie McAnulty

Date Photographed: November 2014; May 2016

Description of Photography

1 of 50

1. Exterior, front entrance, photographer facing south.
2. Exterior, eastside, photographer facing southwest.
3. Exterior, eastside, photographer facing west.
4. Exterior, eastside center, photographer facing west.
5. Exterior, eastside rear kitchen, photographer facing west.
6. Exterior, back of kitchen, photographer facing northwest.
7. Exterior, rear of house, photographer facing north.
8. Exterior, south side back porch, photographer facing north.
9. Exterior, back portion, west side, photographer facing east.
10. Exterior, center, west side, photographer facing east.
11. Exterior, rear of house, west side porch, photographer facing north.
12. Exterior, west side porch, south portion, photographer facing east.
13. Exterior, west side porch, center portion, photographer facing east.
14. Exterior, west side porch, north portion, photographer facing east.
15. Exterior, outbuildings from house, photographer facing south.
16. Exterior, north side Animal Barn, photographer facing south.
17. Exterior, east side Equipment Barn, photographer facing west.
18. Exterior, north side Dairy Barn, photographer facing south.
19. Exterior, north side Milk House/residence, photographer facing south.
20. Exterior, south side Equipment Barn, photographer facing northeast.
21. Exterior, west side Animal Barn, photographer facing east.
22. Exterior, west side close up Animal Barn, photographer facing east.
23. Interior, front door, photographer facing south.
24. Interior, northwest parlor room, photographer facing west.
25. Interior, northwest parlor room, photographer facing east.
26. Interior, northeast bedroom, photographer facing east.
27. Interior, northeast bedroom, photographer facing west.
28. Interior, hallway room, photographer facing east.
29. Interior, west entry, photographer facing west.
30. Interior, southwest bedroom, photographer facing southeast.
31. Interior, southwest bedroom, photographer facing northeast.
32. Interior, back bathroom entrance, photographer facing south.
33. Interior, southeast bedroom, photographer facing southeast.
34. Interior, southeast bedroom, photographer facing northwest.
35. Interior, east bathroom, photographer facing north.
36. Interior, dining room, photographer facing northwest.
37. Interior, dining room, photographer facing southeast.
38. Interior, kitchen, photographer facing east.
39. Interior, kitchen, photographer facing west.
40. Interior, smokehouse/laundry, photographer facing east.
41. Interior, enclosed porch, photographer facing south.
42. Interior, enclosed porch, photographer facing north.
43. Interior, hall, photographer facing northwest.
44. Interior, hall, photographer facing southeast.
45. Interior, hall, photographer facing north.
46. Interior, back storage room, photographer facing north.
47. Interior, smokehouse/laundry, photographer facing southwest.

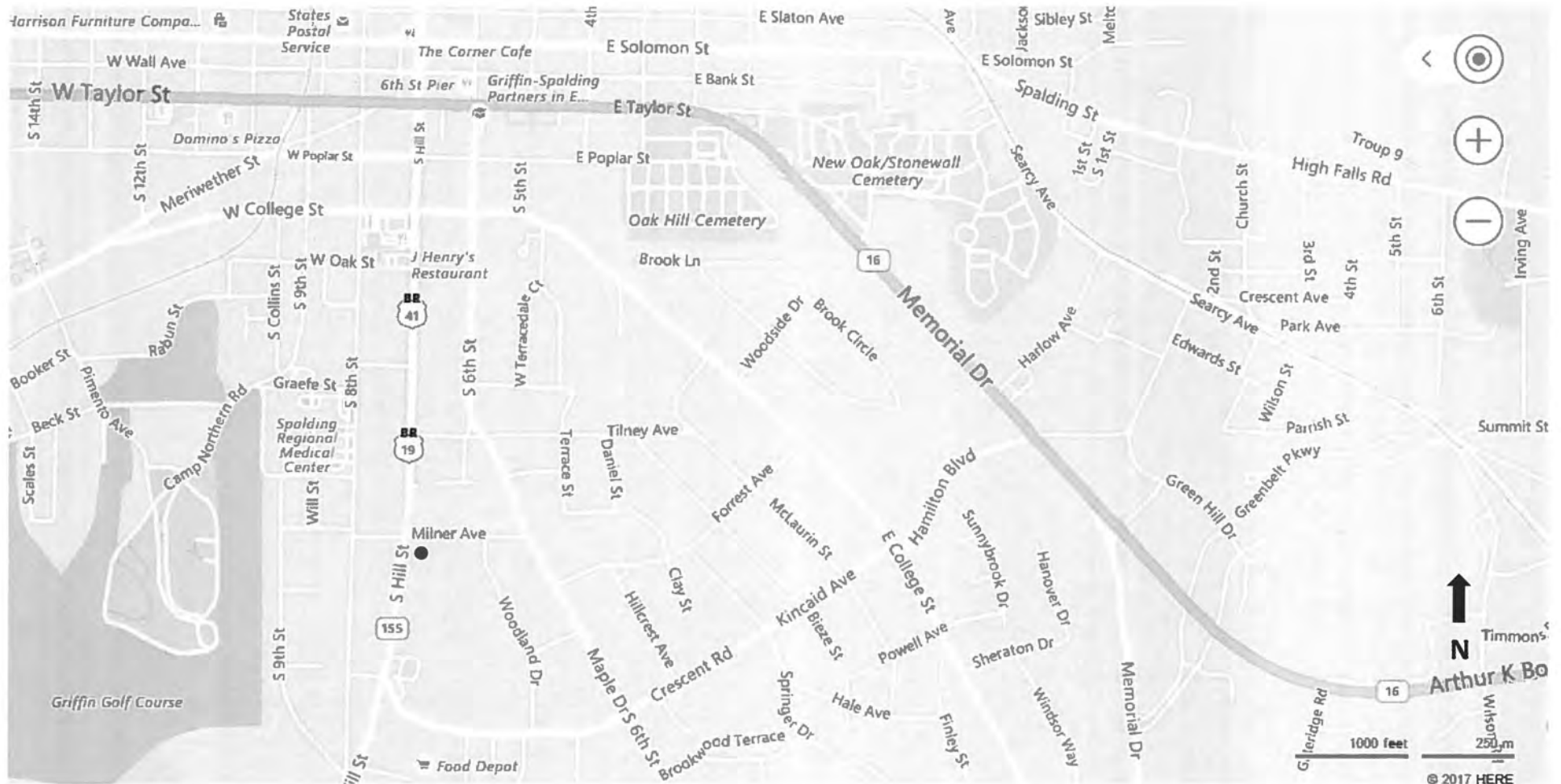
Milner-Walker House

Name of Property

Spalding, Georgia

County and State

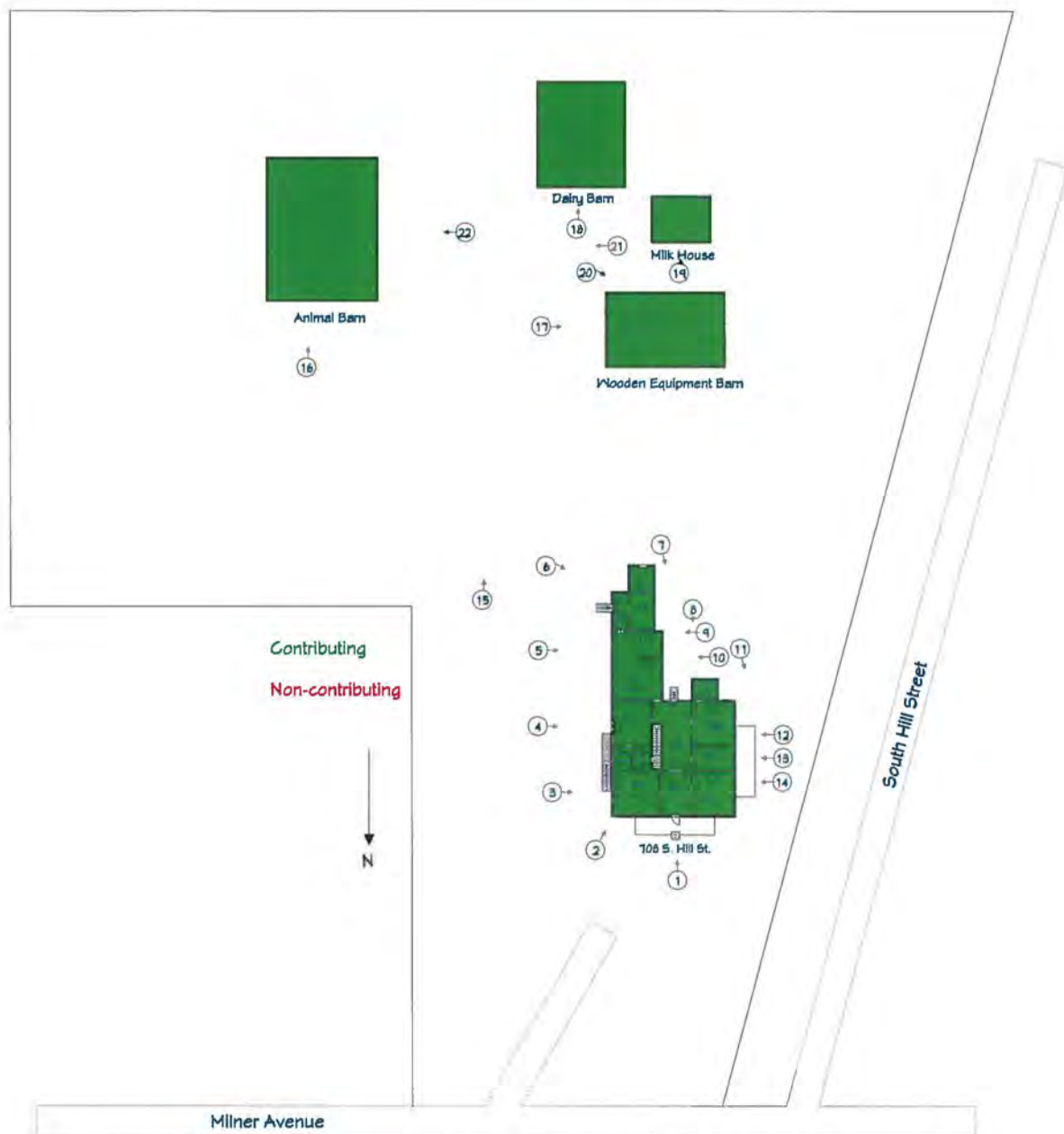
- 48. Interior, enclosed porch/bath, photographer facing southeast.
- 49. Interior, upstairs west bedroom, photographer facing southwest.
- 50. Interior, upstairs west bedroom, photographer facing northeast.
- 51. Interior, upstairs north bedroom, photographer facing northwest.
- 52. Interior, upstairs north bedroom, photographer facing southeast.
- 53. Interior, upstairs hall, photographer facing west.
- 54. Interior, upstairs hall, photographer facing east.
- 55. Interior, upstairs bath, photographer facing southeast.
- 56. Interior, upstairs kitchen, photographer facing southeast.
- 57. Interior, upstairs kitchen, photographer facing northwest.
- 58. Interior, unfinished room, photographer facing southwest.
- 59. Interior, unfinished room, photographer facing northeast.
- 60. Interior, upstairs north bedroom, photographer facing west.




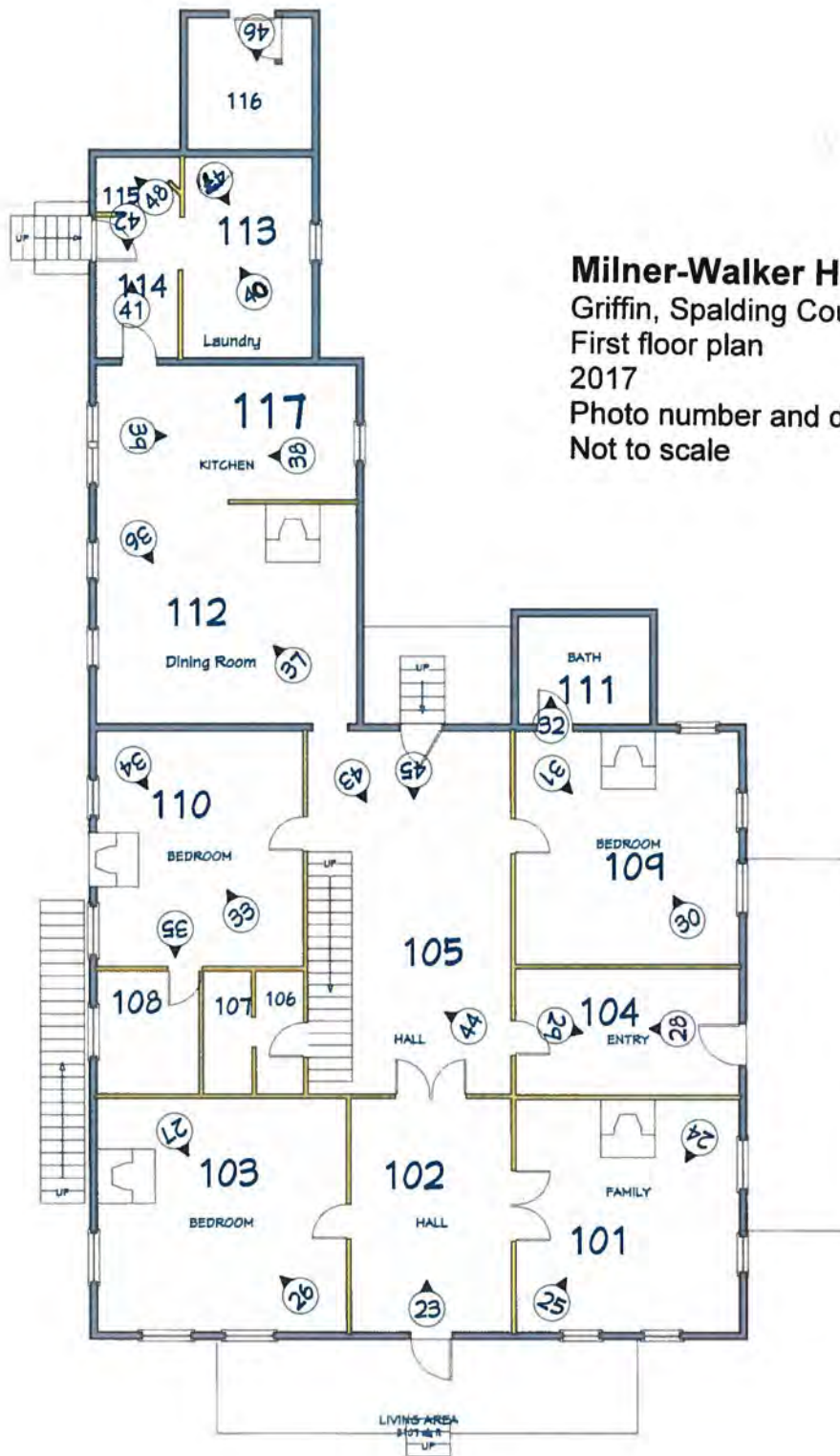
Milner-Walker House
 708 South Hill Street
 Griffin, Spalding County

Source: Bing Maps, 2017

Lat-Long: 33.23600, -84.26355



Milner-Walker House
 Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia
 Site plan
 2017
 Photo number and direction: 
 Drawn by Charlie McAnulty
 Not to Scale



Milner-Walker House

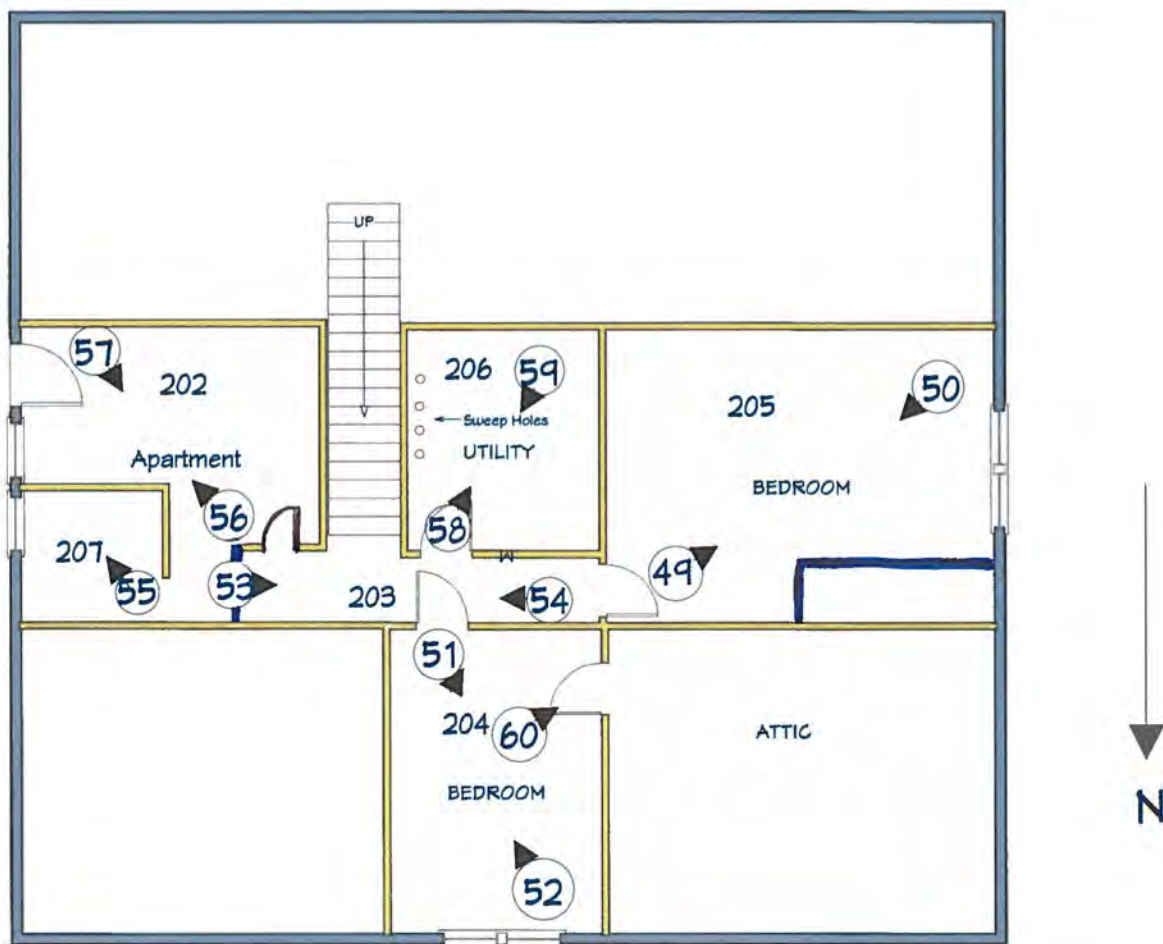
Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia

First floor plan

2017

Photo number and direction:

Not to scale



LIVING AREA
2201 sq ft

Milner-Walker House

Griffin, Spalding County, Georgia

Upper level plan

2017

Photo number and direction:

Not to scale

Created by Charlie McAnulty
Oct. 11, 2017

Addendum
Historic photographs of the
Milner-Walker House
(708 South Hill Street, Griffin, Spalding Co., Georgia)
c.1930s

Milner-Walker House
c. 1930s



Milner St. Front



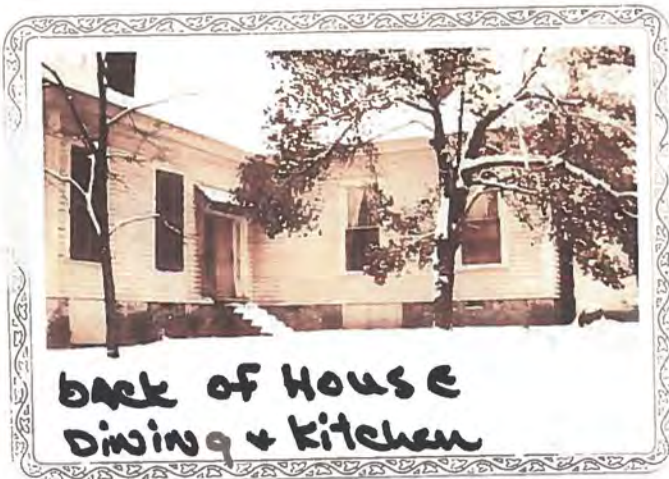
S. Hill St. front



OPEN BACK PORCH



ENCLOSED back porch



BACK OF HOUSE
Dining + Kitchen



South view - Smoke
House middle portion



























708































































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Milner-Walker House

Multiple Name:

State & County: GEORGIA, Spalding

Date Received: 11/4/2019 Date of Pending List: 12/6/2019 Date of 16th Day: 12/23/2019 Date of 45th Day: 12/19/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004786

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 12/19/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary NR Criterion: C.
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria AOS: Architecture; POS: c. 1867-1933; LOS: local

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 12/19/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

October 28, 2019

Kathryn Smith
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Ms. Smith:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Milner-Walker House, Spalding County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places.

- ☒ Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- ☒ Disk with digital photo images
- ☒ Physical signature page
- ☐ Original USGS topographic map(s)
- ☐ Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- ☐ Correspondence
- ☐ Other: Letters of support or notarized letters of objection

COMMENTS:

- ☒ Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- ☐ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- ☐ The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.
- ☐ Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Olivia Head
National Register Specialist