

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUL 17 1984

date entered AUG 16 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rally Hill

and/or common Walker, James House

2. Location

street & number 319 W. Eighth Street N/A not for publication

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Maury code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Susan Moore Simmons

street & number 319 W. Eighth Street

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 38401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Daeds

street & number Maury County Courthouse

city, town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Rally Hill is located one quarter mile southwest of the Public Square of Columbia, Tennessee. The house is situated toward the rear of a wooded and landscaped lot of about two acres and is surrounded to the north, south, and west by many blocks of Victorian era and early-twentieth-century homes; the downtown commercial district begins one-half block to the east. Built about 1840, Rally Hill is a two-and-one-half-story, rectangular brick structure with a low-pitched gabled roof. The architectural character of the building is transitional between the Federal and Greek Revival styles.

The original house presented a symmetrical configuration, with a five-bay facade on the front, which faces due north, and two one-storied, one-room wings to the east and west. Prior to 1890 a two-storied addition was built on the west end of the house and incorporated the original west wing. The house now presents a six-bay facade with the original one-storied east wing still visible. Stone lintels with bullseye corner blocks are still visible on the original structure; the addition of c.1890 has wooden lintels. There are four porches, one on each side of the house, the largest and most decorative being on the front; the front porch is wooden, supported by four wooden pillars, and extends to the bottom of the second story. This porch is not original, as evidenced by the way it is built covering the decorative, large lintel over the front door and the ghosts of two pilasters beside newer pilasters. Four brick chimneys straddle the roofline of the original section, two at each end. Shuttered, six-over-six windows surround the house; one gabled dormer has been added to the west addition. The front door has three-quarter-length sidelights and a full-length rectangular transom. The original house has a dentil motif on the cornice, while the addition has brackets with pendants, all in wood. The brick is laid in common bond.

The floor plan of the house consists of two double parlors downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs, with a wide central hallway extending the depth of the building downstairs. A semicircular staircase leads to a half-length upstairs hall, onto which the bedrooms open. Large sliding wooden doors divide the two double parlors. Poplar mantels in each room are original to the house, as is the poplar flooring throughout the entire house. The mantels are Greek Revival in style with simple Doric pilasters. The window and door surrounds are basically Federal in character with bullseye corner blocks similar to those of the building's exterior lintels.

Four outbuildings are on the property. The original kitchen, a two-storied structure behind the house, is no longer connected to the dining room by a covered walkway. Two frame additions were made to the kitchen in the 1960s, and it is presently used as rental space. A frame house (one-storied, two-bedroom) was built on the northeast corner of the property in 1903 for use as a physician's office. A kitchen and bathroom were added in the 1920s. There is one garage on each side of the main house; both are frame structures built in the 1920s and are used for storage and work space.

The rear of the house faces south toward Ninth Street, from which two driveways lead to the house, one to each garage. The half basement and root cellar of the house are intact and are used for storage. The chimney of the old kitchen building is in serious need of attention as it is cracked and leaning.

The grounds are informally landscaped with mature trees and shrubs.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1840, c. 1890 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Rally Hill is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its architectural and historical significance to Columbia and Maury County, Tennessee. The house was constructed around 1840 for James Walker (1784–1864), who was a prominent newspaper editor, businessman, and political figure in south central Tennessee prior to the Civil War. The building is an excellent local example of an architectural design combining the Federal and Greek Revival styles.

James Walker founded Maury County's first newspaper, The Western Chronicle, in 1811 and became its printer, editor, and publisher. He co-founded the county's first bank, was owner of a Tennessee River steamboat, and he was a founder in 1829, of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, serving for many years as Senior Warden of the Vestry. Walker became the War Department contractor to furnish provisions for the impoverished Chickasaw Indians. A moving force in the Tennessee Democratic party, Walker was instrumental in the rise to the Presidency of his brother-in-law, James K. Polk. He was also on the first board of trustees of the Columbia Female Institute, owned a successful store on the public square and served as Mayor of Columbia in 1830 and 1831. Walker also served as a Chancellor of Maury County. The value, in 1850, of James Walker's real estate holdings was \$100,000. During the Civil War three of James Walker's sons served in the Confederate Army, two as generals, one as a colonel. His granddaughter, Maria Polk Walker, was married in the house during April 1863 to Confederate General Frank C. Armstrong. James Walker died in 1864; his wife, Jane Maria Polk Walker, died in 1876.

The house remained in the Walker family until 1900, when it was bought by Dr. William M. Biddle. A prominent Maury County physician, Biddle built an office on the northeast corner of the property in 1903. He was also elected Mayor of Columbia after retiring from medical practice; Dr. Biddle died in 1912. Mrs. Susan Moore Simmons purchased Rally Hill in June 1983. She wishes to maintain its present use as a private residence.

Architecturally Rally Hill is a good illustration of the change from the Federal to the Greek Revival style in south central Tennessee. The dentilated cornice and the bullseye corner blocks of the exterior lintels and interior surrounds are traditional Federal details in the area. Examples of the Greek Revival influence can be seen in the trabeated mantels and the front doorway with simple sidelights and transom.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Garrett, Jill. "Rally Hill - the old Walker House." Daily Herald (Columbia),
October 5, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.6 acres

Quadrangle name Columbia, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	9	6	4	7	0	3	9	4	0	8	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is bounded on the north by Eighth Street and the south by Ninth Street and on the east and west by adjoining property lines. The nomination includes only the remaining land historically associated with the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas D. Simmons

organization N/A

date November 1, 1983

street & number 1110 Palmer Drive, Apartment 1

telephone 615/895-2605

city or town Murfreesboro

state Tennessee 37130

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Byer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 7/11/84

For NPS use only

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

~~Entered in the~~
National Register

date 8-16-84

for *Melores Byer*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

