

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 21 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 10 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Walker-Knerr-Williams House

AND/OR COMMON

Walker House *use this***2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Knerr Road

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE 05

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Franklin S. and Elizabeth B. Williams

STREET & NUMBER

Knerr Road (Post Office Box 25)

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Washington County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Both historically and architecturally the Walker-Knerr-Williams House is a tangible reminder of the nineteenth century. Its Georgian style with Victorian trim presents a serene and dignified face to the world and is harmonious in its blend of brick, stone and wood. The house was built in two stages, with the front section completed in 1872, and the stem section, giving the house its basic T-shape, completed in 1878.

From every aspect the house pleases the eye. The strong T-shape is accentuated by four chimneys. The two bay windows on the north and south elevations of the front portion of the house, the two storey front portico, and the long second floor south gallery are features which adorn the basic structure. The facade, with its balanced windows, doors and pillars, has a look of simple but genuine elegance. Bracketed cornice work and paired segmental arched windows are typical around the front portion of the structure.

Inside, the original ceilings are the same height as when they were built (14 feet in the front, 12 feet in the stem). The large rooms, graced with much natural light, remain much the same as when originally constructed. Interior features of special note are the pressed tin ceiling on the second storey gallery, and etched transom windows.

Though a few minor changes have been made to allow for twentieth-century comforts, there have been no major structural changes since the house was completed in 1878. Minor alterations in 1910 enclosed the lower south gallery and added a back stairway. The house remains in excellent condition.

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House, the Gregg House¹, and Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus² have some important characteristics in common. W. Z. Mayes was the contractor for all three structures. The red brick used in each was locally produced from the same clay deposit and was fired by the same craftsman, John L. Kelton.

Some statistics on the Walker-Knerr-Williams House:

- 18 inch thick downstairs partitions
- 14 inch thick upstairs partitions
- 14 foot ceilings in the front section
- 12 foot ceilings in the stem section
- 8 fireplaces
- 7 double windows
- 4 chimneys
- 2 doors with bars and iron supports

¹ Gregg House, Washington County, Arkansas. Added to the National Register on September 17, 1974.

² Old Main, Washington County, Arkansas. Added to the National Register on June 15, 1970.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

married in the house. Eventually one Knerr granddaughter was married in the house, and in 1960, returned to live there with her family, the Franklin S. Williams family.

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House is quite similar to the Lafayette Gregg House in Fayetteville. Both structures are of two storey red brick construction with two storey wooden porticos and paired ornamental brackets. A third structure, Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus, was built by the same contractor and with the same type brick as the Gregg and Walker houses. Other exceptional features of the Walker-Knerr-Williams House are the paired and bay windows, arched entry ways, and the second storey gallery on the south elevation.

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House is significant both architecturally and as the home of one of Arkansas' most important political families in the nineteenth century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
— PREHISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION	
— 1400-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE	
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE	
— 1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
— 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER	
X 1800-1899	— COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	— TRANSPORTATION	
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		— INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. Z. Mayes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Walker-Knerr-Williams House is a two-storey brick structure on the south slope of Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It is known in local and state historical circles as the old Walker House, and more recently, as the Walker-Knerr-Williams House.

In 1872 Judge David Walker built the front portion of the T-shaped Georgian structure for his daughter Mary and her husband, James David Walker (no relation). The stem portion of the house was finished in 1878. The Walker family lived in the house for thirty-six years.

Judge David Walker came to Arkansas from Kentucky in 1829. Though affiliated with the Whig party, neither his political activities nor judicial activities were curtailed in Democratic Arkansas. In 1836 Walker was a leading member of the group which formed the first Arkansas constitution. Four years later, Walker was elected to the State Senate. His activities in the Senate led to his election as Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court in 1848.

Following the Civil War, during which time he served in a Confederate military court, Judge Walker was elected Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. He was ousted by the Reconstruction government, but was elected again in 1874 and served until his death in 1878.

Judge Walker's son-in-law, to whom he gave the house on East Mountain, was James David Walker. Born in Kentucky in 1830, J. D. Walker moved to Arkansas in 1847, and was admitted to the bar three years later. During the Civil War he served as a colonel in the Confederate infantry, and was captured and imprisoned for two years. Following the war he resumed his law practice in Fayetteville. In 1879 J. D. Walker was elected to the United States Senate and served one full term. Declining to seek re-election, he returned home and practiced law until his death in 1906. Like most of the Walker families, he was buried in the Walker family cemetery, located about one-half mile north of the house and adjacent to the Confederate cemetery.

In 1910 the George Frederick Knerr family from Iowa bought the Walker House and lived there for fifty years. During that time two Knerr daughters were

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Campbell, William S. One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928. Privately printed, 1928.
Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.
Kennedy, Lawrence F., chief compiler. Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 396450 3990800
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Franklin S. and Elizabeth B. Williams/ edited by Dianna Kirk

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

3-11-75

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

William E. Henderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/10/75

ATTEST:

DATE

JUN 9 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

Lemke, W. J., editor. Walker Family Letters. Fayetteville, Arkansas:
Washington County Historical Society, 1956.

Property Walker-Knerr-Williams House

Washington Co.

State Arkansas

Working Number 4.21.75. 737

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK cm
4.23.75

HISTORIAN

Accept
W. R. Luce
6/3/75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOUCH
4-25-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
6.3.75
OK
BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

[Signature]
JUN 9 1975

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 8-5-75

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUN 10 1975

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Walker-Knerr-Williams House

AND/OR COMMON

Walker House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Cyrus Sutherland

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

facade, viewed from west

PHOTO NO.

1

103

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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Walker-Knerr-Williams House

AND/OR COMMON

Walker House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

south elevation, viewed from the south

PHOTO NO.

2

203

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Walker-Knerr-Williams House

AND/OR COMMON

Walker House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

etched transom, interior

PHOTO NO.

3

303
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Walker-Knerr-Williams House

AND/OR COMMON

Walker House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1958

4 REQUIREMENTS

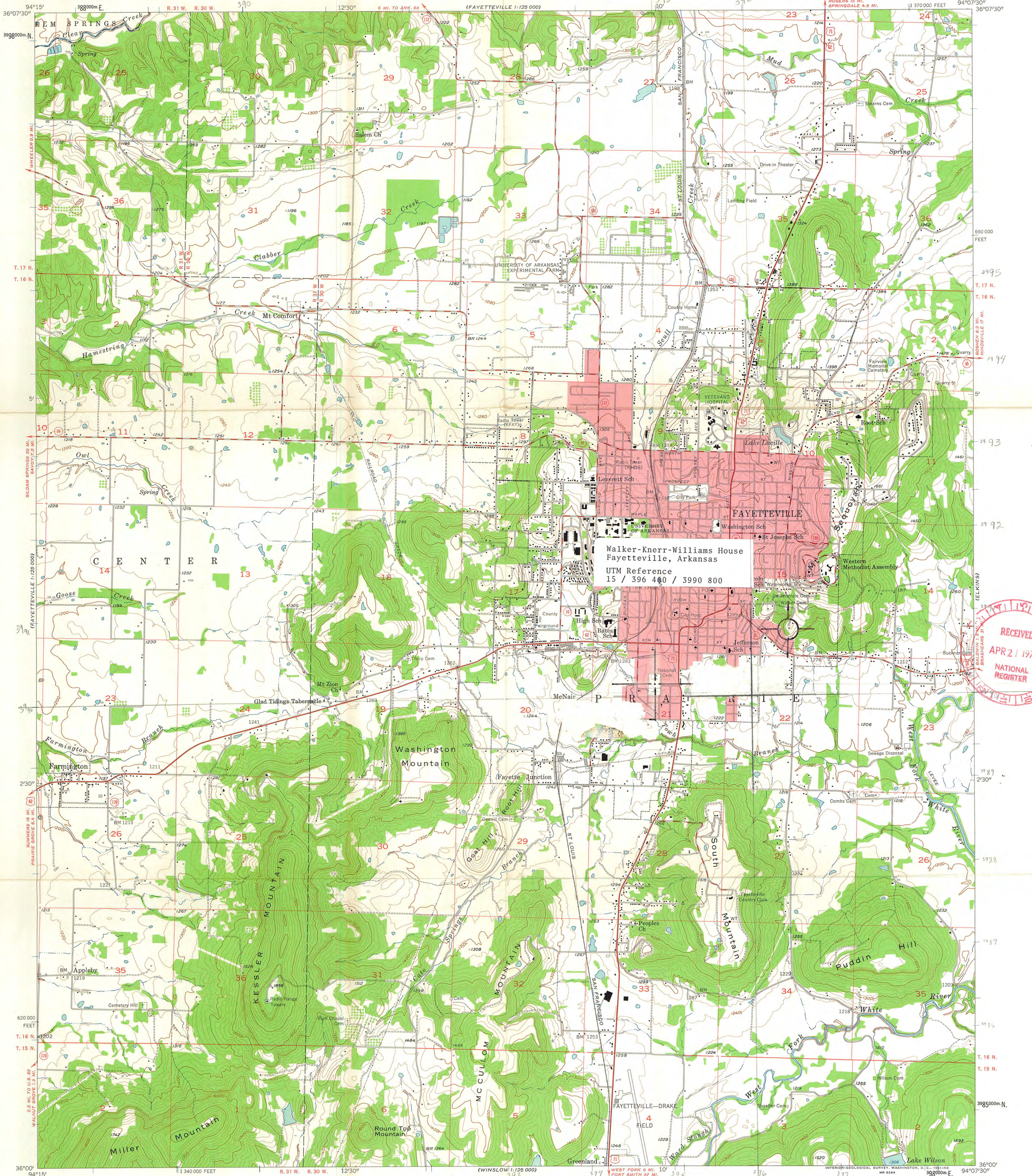
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

Walker-Knerr-Williams House

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

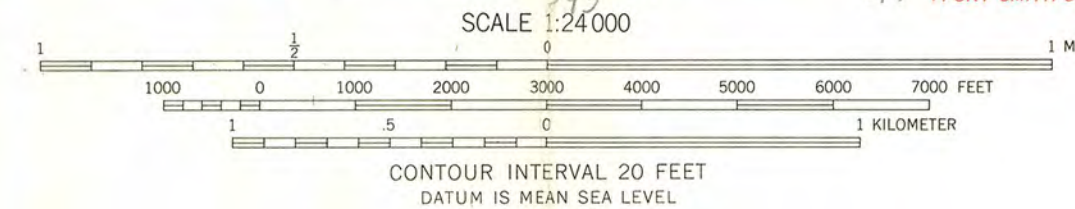
FAYETTEVILLE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—WASHINGTON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Walker-Knerr-Williams House
Fayetteville, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 396 440 / 3990 800



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.
N 3600—W 9407.5/7.5
1958

2

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered JUN 10 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Garland, Augustus, House	Little Rock Pulaski County
Walker House	Fayetteville Washington County
Womack Kiln	Community of Wave Dallas County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Dale Bumpers	Mr. William E. Henderson
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills	Director, Arkansas Department of
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt	Parks and Tourism
Hon. Ray Thornton	State Capitol
Regional Director, Southwest Region	Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR

MMott/row

6/12/75

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

✓ **1 NAME** as it appears on federal register: Walker House ✓ **2 OTHER NAMES:** Walker-Kneer-Williams House ✓ **3 date of entry:** 6.10-75 ✓ **4 county code:** 143

✓ **5 LOCATION** street & number Kneer Rd. ✓ **city / town** Fayetteville ✓ **vicinity of** AR ✓ **state** WASHINGTON ✓ **county** SW **6 NPS REGION:**

✓ **7 OWNER** ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name) **8 ADMINISTRATOR:**

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL **10 FUNDED?** ☐ YES ☒ NO **11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT** 3 **12 SOURCE of NOMINATION** ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME **14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?** ☒ YES, NAME **15 ACREAGE** 7 ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION ☒ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site **17 features:** ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
☒ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved
☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown
☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated
 INTERIOR ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0
☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ UNKNOWN-5
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8
 EXTERIOR ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☒ No Access ☐ Unknown **19 ADAPTIVE USE** ☐ YES ☒ NO **20 SAVED?** ☐ YES ☒ NO **IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?** ☐ yes ☒ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☒ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☒ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31
☒ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25
☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: residence **24 dates** of initial construction: 1872 **25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION**
 CURRENTLY: ditto major alterations: ell added 1878 historic events:

26 architectural style(s): ITALIANATE **27 architect:** **28 master builder:** **29 engineer:**

30 landscape architect / garden designer: **31 interior decorator:** **32 artist:** **33 artisan:** **34 builder/contractor:**

35 NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL: DAVID WALKER - STATE SENATOR & CHIEF JUSTICE OF STATE SUPREME COURT.
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

✓ **36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP** BRICK, 2 STORIES, MODIFIED RECTANGLE, LOW HIPPED ROOF, INTERIOR CHIMNEYS WITH CORBELED CAPS, 1ST- AND 2ND-STORY FRONT CENTER DOUBLE-DOOR ENTRANCES EACH WITH SEMIELLIPTICAL FANLIGHT, IN 2-STORY GALLERIED DISTYLE PORTICO WITH BRACKETED PEDIMENT, PAIRED SEGMENTAL-ARCHED WINDOWS IN SEGMENTAL-ARCHED REVEAL, 1-STORY POLYGONAL SIDE BAYS, 2-STORY RECESSED REAR ELL PORCH; ORNATE PRESSED TIN INTERIOR CEILINGS; ELL ADDITION, 1878; ELL PORCH 1ST-STORY ENCLOSED, 1910. ITALIANATE. BUILT FOR DAVID WALKER, STATE SENATOR AND POST-BELLUM CHIEF JUSTICE OF STATE SUPREME COURT.