

PH0663301

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Walker (John P.) House
 AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1521 East Main Street __NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Ashland CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Oregon VICINITY OF 4th
CODE 41 COUNTY Jackson CODE 029

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 checked="" 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 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Raymond L. Locke and Vivian J. Locke
STREET & NUMBER 1521 East Main Street
CITY, TOWN Ashland STATE Oregon VICINITY OF 97520

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Jackson County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Main and Oakdale
CITY, TOWN Medford STATE Oregon VICINITY OF 97501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Ashland Historical Commission informed list of 25 local landmarks
DATE 1977 __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS City Hall
CITY, TOWN Ashland STATE Oregon VICINITY OF 97520

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

Construction dates of between 1856 and 1858 have been attributed to the house built for John P. Walker on the outskirts of the settlement of Ashland Mills--a settlement which evolved around a sawmill and flour mill established shortly before 1855. In any event, the two-story, clapboarded, frame house is squarish in plan and rests on a foundation of locally-quarried sandstone. It has a low, hipped roof with formally-placed brick chimneys with corbelled neckings on either side of a central belvedere. The latter has been missing for some years but is going to be reconstructed by the current owners. Fenestration is regular. Elongated windows/fitted with double-hung sash with four lights over four. The facade, facing what is now East Main Street--to the south, has a tripartite organization in which the central entrance bay with its double-hung side lights is flanked by paired window groupings. Boxed eaves overhang a simple, but classically detailed frieze, and corner boards are finished with small molded capitals.

The earliest available historic photograph of the house, presumed to have been taken in the 1880s, shows that the house has long had its full length front porch with coupled columns on pedestal bases and low, shingled hipped roof with overhanging eaves. Four formally-placed acroteria which originally decorated the porch eaves are no longer extant. The porch treatment, with its protected back wall finished with vertical boards and battens and its shadow pilasters, is nearly identical to a front porch which existed on the Patrick Dunn Ranch house south of Ashland (also a National Register nominee) at about the same time. A common source of supply for the porches is thus suggested.

The Walker House--surrounded by land traditionally zoned for farming and pasturage--stands approximately 60 yards north of East Main Street and about an eighth of a mile southeast of the Ashland city limits. The approach, or driveway to the house, offset to the east, is shaded by stately deciduous trees. Sixty yards behind the house is a spring-fed pond and a barn. Both house and barn exhibit some pegged joinery. In the current renovation, a dilapidated rear porch believed to have been added to the house shortly after the turn of the century was removed and replaced with an eight-foot extension and a 10-foot-wide U-shaped redwood deck which wraps around the rear of the house, extending no more than eight feet along either side wall.

Sometime in the early 1900s three rectangular sheds were built several yards behind the house. The central shed--the largest of the three--is now used as a workshop. The sheds on either side were used as a garage and a milk shed, respectively. Current plans are to remove the sheds and erect a rear garage and workshop in their place. The immediate grounds have been improved with a brick walk which leads from a paved front parking area past a pond and rose beds, grape arbor and areas of lawn to the front porch. Also under consideration is the possibility of enclosing the immediate grounds with a picket fence like that shown in a lithographed view of the property published by A. G. Walling in his History of Southern Oregon in 1884. The original half root cellar is intact. With its brick floor and walls of cut sandstone obtained in the immediate environs, the cellar is cooled by spring water drained off by a sump.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1856-1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The subject property is significant to Southern Oregon as one of the oldest dwellings in the Rogue River drainage basin. Essentially intact, it is believed to have been built between 1856 and 1858 for John P. Walker, one of Ashland's Applegate Trail pioneers, a rancher and advocate of public education.

John Walker was one of several Ashland area settlers who entered the Bear Creek Valley in 1853. Records of the Southern Oregon Pioneer Association recount that "Walker was born in Christian County, Kentucky in 1822. In 1829 he removed to Illinois with his parents, and 1839 moved to Iowa. There he engaged in farming until 1849, at which time the gold fields of California lured him across the plains to the Pacific Coast. He returned to Iowa after a few months' stay in California but, like most others who once experienced the environments of this coast, its fine climate, rich resources and promising future, he was not satisfied to remain away and concluded to come to Oregon, which trip he made via the southern route in 1853. He came direct to Jackson County."

While there seems to be no documented evidence as to the precise date he built the house, Walker is believed to have commenced construction in the later 1850s on a Donation Land Claim. Genealogical material abstracted from applications for Donation Land Claims in Oregon shows that Walker received the deed to Samuel and Elizabeth Grubb's Donation Land Claim in 1856. The Grubb barn, a well-known local landmark, stood across East Main Street from the Walker House until it collapsed several years ago. In removing layers of wallpaper from the interior of the house, current owners discovered newspaper bearing the date 1856. Newspaper fragments on the wall in one bedroom were found to describe cattle transactions conducted in the 1880s.

A brief biographical note on John P. Walker appears in A. G. Walling's History of Southern Oregon, published in 1884. Walker was married in 1855 to Mary Myer, daughter of a pioneer family of the district. The note states: "His family now consists of his wife and four children--Mary, Milo, Cassium and Annie. His home--a view of which appears in this history--is situated one mile south of Ashland and is among the most valuable and best improved farms in Southern Oregon." Giles Green's pamphlet, "A Heritage of Loyalty," discusses the history of Ashland's schools and points out that Walker was elected director of the local school board in 1857. In October of that year school taxes were levied for the first time, and for many years Walker was assessed more than anyone else, based on the extent of his holdings. Southern Oregon Pioneer Association records state that "John P. Walker, who died at the family homestead in East Ashland on February 16, 1911, lacked only ten days of being 89 years old on the day of his death. He was one of the well known and respected pioneers of Southern Oregon." An elementary school and one of the main streets of Ashland are named for Walker.

The house had been unoccupied for many years prior to its acquisition in 1959 by Elmo Stevenson, then President of Southern Oregon State College, who had hoped to restore it. In 1972 the current owners, Stevenson's daughter and son-in-law, commenced reclamation of the property.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one half acre (22,500 sq. ft.)

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>10</u>	<u>525750</u>	<u>4671375</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The one half acre encompassed by this nomination is described as follows: Commencing at the north line of East Main Street at its intersection with the east line of the driveway to 1521 East Main Street; thence north along the east line of said driveway 225 ft.; thence westerly in a line parallel with East Main Street ca. 100 ft.; thence south in a line parallel with the driveway 225 feet to the north line of East Main Street; thence east along said north line of East Main Street ca. 100 ft. to point of beginning.

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

Vivian Locke

ORGANIZATION

DATE
October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1521 East Main Street

TELEPHONE
(503) 482-9732

CITY OR TOWN

Ashland

STATE
Oregon 97520

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David G. ...

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 9, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Smith

DATE 3-14-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles ...

DATE 3-10-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon (Portland, 1884). Lithograph view of house, p. 420; biographical note on John P. Walker, p. 542.

"Resolutions on deaths of members," Southern Oregon Pioneer Association Records, Vol. 2, page 189.

Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims Abstracted from Applications by the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, Vol. 3 (1962).

Interview with Mrs. Gregg Lininger, whose English class at the Junior High School researched local history by means of an old-timers oral history project.

Green, Giles, "A Heritage of Loyalty" (1966). Pamphlet on the history of Ashland public schools.

Dunn, Mary M., "Undaunted Pioneers," n.d. Pamphlet by descendent of Patrick Dunn, one of Ashland's early settlers.