

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Walker Farmhouse (REDACTED)

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Historic Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears

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

2. Location

Street & number: [REDACTED]

City or town: Welch State: Oklahoma County: Craig

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

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:)

Alexis Obernathy
Signature of the Keeper

9/9/2013
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: I-house

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/Weatherboard; OTHER/Masonite;
STONE/Sandstone; METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Walker Farmhouse is a side-gabled, asphalt-shingled one and one-half story house built in the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory in 1866 by George Washington Walker, a Cherokee citizen and survivor of the Trail of Tears. It sits on a long terrace near the base of a low ridge and faces south toward the Willow Creek valley in today's northern Craig County, Oklahoma. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Built of squared logs joined by wooden pegs and set on a sandstone foundation, it was originally an I-house, thirty-five feet by sixteen feet. A shed-roofed porch spans the south elevation. In the balanced Cumberland house style, two single front doors are evenly spaced between two pairs of windows.¹ Most doors and windows are original, although a door and window on the north elevation have been filled. A concrete well and cistern are located near the east side of the house. Before 1956 a kitchen, ten feet by nineteen feet, was added on the northwest corner, along with a

¹The Cumberland house, an example of folk architecture adopted by Indians as well as non-Indians, emerged in the Upper South and spread to frontiers such as the Indian Territory. It developed when builders placed two single-pen log houses side by side with each retaining its own entrance. Alyson L. Greiner, "Folk Architecture," The Oklahoma Historical Society, Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, <<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/f/fo002.html>> (April 12, 2013).

Walker Farmhouse

Craig, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

shed roofed porch extending to the northeast corner. A concrete and sandstone porch replaced the log front porch before 1956. The exterior log walls were also covered with weatherboard and masonite before 1956. Although the Walker Farmhouse is currently vacant, it is still owned and maintained by Walker family descendants. It is in fair condition and retains historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Setting:

The Walker Farmhouse is located in northern Craig County, Oklahoma [REDACTED]. Coal mining and livestock production have been primary components of the county economy since the nineteenth century. The landscape is fairly level prairie broken by low ridges, some of them timbered. Big Cabin Creek flows southward through the county. The Walker Farmhouse is on the north side of East 70 Road midway between South 4380 Road and South 4360 Road. According to family tradition, because the house sits near the section lines, county road builders curved East 70 Road southward around the house. A primary area is the Walker Cemetery, located one-quarter mile west of the Walker Farmhouse and named for its pioneer builders.

The Walker Farmhouse is situated on a long terrace on the south side of a low ridge. It is covered with small oaks, other deciduous trees, cedars, and brush. The house, oriented slightly east of south, faces toward the shallow valley of Willow Creek about a half-mile away. It is a tributary of Big Cabin Creek just to the east. The house site takes advantage of the sheltering ridge to the north and the pleasant open view to the south. Graveled driveways from the east and west converge on the house across a wide maintained lawn. Just north of the road and generally parallel to the south elevation of the house, there is a sandstone retaining wall lined with trees, shrubs, and perennials. On the east elevation of the house is a stone-bordered flower bed that encloses the concrete well and cistern. A small modern metal outbuilding, not included in the nomination, stands at the base of the ridge northeast of the house. A propane tank and two clothesline supports, not included in the nomination, stand to the west of the house. There are modern houses northwest, north, and northeast of the Walker Farmhouse but not visible from it.²

Historic Physical Appearance:

The Walker Farmhouse was built in 1866 as a side-gabled, one and one-half story I-house, with two rooms upstairs and two on the ground floor. Two single front doors evenly spaced between pairs of single windows on the south elevation demonstrate its style as a Cumberland house. The house was built of square-cut logs held together with wooden pegs. The oldest visible foundation is square-cut ashlar sandstone laid in a regular pattern. The original roofing material is not

² Velma Nieberding, "Indian Home, 90, Still Stands in Craig Co.," *The Tulsa (Oklahoma) World*, Sunday supplement, July 8, 1956, p. 36. This article and photograph of the house supplies important information about its construction and indicates the timing of alterations.

Walker Farmhouse

Craig, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

known; however, it had asphalt shingles by 1956.³ The dimensions of the original rectangular footprint were thirty-five feet on the east-west axis by sixteen feet on the north-south axis. A shed-roofed porch with steps on the west end spanned the main, or south, elevation. At some point before 1956 the Walker family added a kitchen, ten by nineteen feet, on the northwest corner of the house, and a small bathroom. They also added a shed-roofed, eight-foot wide porch on a concrete pad in the L created by the addition. However, the generally rectangular footprint, although enlarged to thirty-five feet by twenty-six feet, was maintained. The full-width front porch was originally built of square-cut logs. By 1956 porch renovations probably predating 1940 included a concrete floor and supporting walls of ashlar sandstone blocks with beaded mortar. They were laid in a random pattern over a concrete pad. Bungalow porch supports combined ashlar sandstone, beaded mortar, and concrete caps and bases topped with four by four wood posts. Adjacent to the house on the east side were a well and concrete-capped cistern.

Current Physical Appearance:

The Walker Farmhouse has a dark grey asphalt-shingled roof and is painted white with dark green trim on the eaves, windows, and doors. Although it is currently vacant, the mowed lawn, maintained plantings, and porch furniture make it appear inhabited. A propane tank is set northwest of the house, and there are two clothesline poles west of the house. A small modern metal utility building sits against the ridge on the northeast. A sandstone block retaining wall separates the house from the section line road. The tank, poles, utility building, and retaining wall are not included in the nomination.

The side-gabled roof has a red brick chimney on the ridge near the east end. The lower edges of the roof on the south and north elevations have a slight upward flare. On the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners, the main roof is a few inches wider than the front and rear porch roofs. On the northwest corner, the shed roof of the kitchen addition maintains the width of the original roof. However, there is a slight unevenness in the roof surface near the junction of the original roof, kitchen addition, and rear porch.

The primary elevation is the south elevation. The log walls are covered in six-inch-wide wood weatherboard, as are the west and east end walls of the front porch shed roof. It covers most of this elevation. Access to the porch is from the west end up a wide flight of cut sandstone steps. The highest has a concrete cap. The floor is a concrete pad that currently has some large cracks, making it uneven on the east end. It rests on two courses of ashlar sandstone blocks with beaded mortar. Below the sandstone blocks is a concrete foundation. There are five equally-spaced roof supports, and there is an extra four by four wood brace next to the eastern-most support. The supports are bungalow in style, consisting of ashlar sandstone blocks with beaded mortar. Above the blocks are concrete caps and wood four by four posts. The front porch shelters two doors and four windows in the Cumberland house style. All have wide dark green-painted casings and small crowns. The wood four-over-four double overhung windows are covered with wood-framed wire screens. Between the west pair of windows is a single modern wood door behind an

³ Logs, sandstone, and wood shingles were locally available building materials at the time of construction immediately after the Civil War.

Walker Farmhouse

Craig, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

older wood-framed screen door. Between the east pair of windows is an older single paneled wood door behind a wood-framed screen door. Beneath the sill a missing piece of weatherboard reveals a section of the original log wall.

The west elevation includes the original house as well as the kitchen addition. The wall on this elevation is covered with eleven-inch-wide masonite siding. It extends from the roof eave to the ground and conceals the foundation. There are two single wood-framed upstairs windows and one on the ground floor in the kitchen addition. Each of the upper windows is one-over-one and double-overhung. The ground-floor window is four-over-four and double-overhung. Each of the three windows has a wide, dark green-painted casing and an aluminum storm window. An exterior television antenna is attached to the southwest corner of the house.

The north elevation includes the kitchen addition on the west and the porch with the original house wall on the left. The kitchen addition has a shed roof extending from the original roof. The addition is nineteen feet long on the north elevation and extends seventeen and one-half feet out from the original house. The north elevation of the addition is covered in six-inch-wide weatherboard siding but has corrugated metal sheets covering the foundation. A single window in the addition has been covered with particle board. The north elevation of the original house is set under a shed-roofed porch. That wall is covered in six-inch wood weatherboard. It has a centered single door opening which is now covered and holds an air conditioner unit. On either side of the door are single wood four-over-four double overhung windows. Each has a wood-framed screen that is too short for the opening. Screen wire is tacked over the uncovered space above the screen. The door opening and windows have wide casings and small crowns painted dark green. The porch is shed-roofed and has a concrete floor. The east end of the porch roof is covered in six-inch-wide weatherboard. The roof rests on three supports. The one on the right is turned wood, while the other two are four by four wood posts.

The east elevation includes the original house as well as the east wall of the kitchen addition. The wall of the kitchen addition is covered in six-inch-wide wood weatherboard, while the original house wall is covered in eleven-inch-wide masonite. The masonite reaches from the roof eave to the foundation. The sandstone foundation, which is ashlar square-cut sandstone blocks, appears original although with some repairs evident. This elevation of the original house has two upstairs single one-over-one double overhung windows with wood frames. Each has a wide casing painted dark green and an aluminum screen. The east elevation of the kitchen extension has a single wood panel door on the left and a four-over-four double-overhung window with a wood frame on the right. The window also has a wood-framed storm window. Both the door and window have wide wood casings and small crowns painted dark green.

Also on the east elevation are the well and cistern. The well cap, about twenty inches high, consists of a wide, flanged metal pipe above a small concrete pad set near the foundation. The cistern, which sits about six feet from the house, has a square concrete slab cover four feet ten inches by four feet eight inches with small metal plates on the top and north side.

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
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.)

- 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

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage: Native American

Period of Significance

1866-1911

Significant Dates

1866, 1911

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

George Washington Walker

Cultural Affiliation

Cherokee

Architect/Builder

George Washington Walker

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Walker Farmhouse was built by George Washington Walker, or Tahlakitehi (1829-1911), a Cherokee Indian who survived the Trail of Tears as a child. Forced west by the United States government during the Cherokee removal in the late 1830s, the Walker family settled near Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation in today's Oklahoma. In the late 1850s George Walker moved to the Cherokee Neutral Lands in Kansas. Forced out again after the Civil War, Walker moved his family to the Cooweescoowee District in the Cherokee Nation and built the Walker Farmhouse in 1866. There he farmed, helped found Rogers Indian School in the Cherokee Nation's school system, and represented Cooweescoowee District on the Cherokee National Council. The Walker Farmhouse was his home until his death in 1911. The period of significance is then 1866-1911. The Walker Farmhouse is eligible under Criterion A because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It is eligible under Criterion B as the only extant building associated with George Washington Walker, a Cherokee Trail of Tears survivor who later attained prominence as a Cherokee Nation citizen, settler, soldier, and elected national official. The Walker Farmhouse is significant at the state level, and its area of significance is Ethnic Heritage, specifically Native American. Now 147 years old, the Walker Farmhouse remains the property of a Walker descendant.

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

The Walker Farmhouse in northern Craig County, Oklahoma is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Its builder was George Washington Walker, or Tahlakitehi. Born in Tennessee, he was the son of Kakala, or Timmothy Migs Walker, and Sahli, or Sally, Brewer, both Cherokees. George Walker was still a boy when the federal government forced the Cherokees to leave their home country for new lands west of the Mississippi River.⁴ He often told his children how the men and boys in his immigrating party walked all the way from Georgia to the Indian Territory, while the women and children rode in ox wagons. Rations provided by the federal government ran out long before the journey ended, he said, forcing their

⁴ Although George Washington Walker's tombstone gives his birth date as 1829, his son Henry J. Walker said he was born in 1823. In a 1956 interview, his son Lewis R. Walker said he would have been 133 then, also indicating an 1823 birth date. An Indian Territory census taken in 1900 listed his age as seventy and his birth date as November 1829. Both his sons in interviews stated their father was twelve years old when he survived the Trail of Tears. Interview of Henry J. Walker, 94:348, *Indian-Pioneer History*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma (hereafter cited as IPH); Nieberding, "Indian Home," *The Tulsa World*, Sunday supplement, July 8, 1956, p. 36; Mary May Oakley and Constance Ann Schofield, *Walker Cemetery: Tombstone Readings, Unmarked Burials, and Genealogy Information* (n.p.: 2002), 75. His birthplace on some records was Tennessee. See Gary L. Cheatham, "If the Union Wins, We Won't Have Anything Left": The Rise and Fall of the Southern Cherokees in Kansas," *Kansas History* 30 (Autumn, 2007):162, 170.

Walker Farmhouse

Craig, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

military escort to borrow money from their Cherokee charges. By the time their immigrating party reached Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, many had died.⁵ They arrived penniless in their new homeland, and, as George Walker told his children, few ever received repayment for the borrowed money. Timmothy Walker resettled his family near Tahlequah, the new Cherokee Nation capital. In the 1850s, though, George Walker joined about sixty other Cherokee families in the Cherokee Nation's Neutral Lands, an 800,000-acre rectangle in the southeast corner of today's Kansas and far northeastern Oklahoma. He married Rachel Rogers, with whom he had five children, and established a farm on the west side of the Neosho River near the village of Chetopa.⁶

Unfortunately, after rebuilding their lives following the Trail of Tears, disaster again struck the Walker family and other Cherokees during the Civil War. The decision whether or not to comply with the federal government's Indian removal policy had split the Cherokee Nation into hostile factions in the 1830s. Major Ridge, John Ridge, Elias Boudinot, and Stand Watie led those who reluctantly signed the Treaty of New Echota and moved west to today's Oklahoma. Principal Chief John Ross led those who opposed the treaty but were also forced to leave their homeland for the Indian Territory. Long after their arrival in the new Cherokee Nation, hostilities lingered over responsibility for Cherokee losses during the Trail of Tears. In 1839 assassins killed the Ridges and Elias Boudinot, setting off a seven-year civil war between the followers of Stand Watie and John Ross. In 1861 the question of allying the Cherokee Nation with the Confederate States of America revived factional bitterness. Stand Watie led the pro-Confederate faction, while Principal Chief John Ross called for Cherokee neutrality. That October Ross reluctantly agreed to a Cherokee Nation alliance with the Confederacy. By the summer of 1862, though, Union forces invaded their nation long enough to capture Ross and stoke a bitter, devastating Cherokee civil war within the larger American Civil War.⁷

By then George and Rachel Walker were living among the primarily mixed-blood Neutral Lands Cherokees who accepted slavery and favored the Cherokee-Confederate alliance. A "secession" meeting on June 4, 1861 near Chetopa created a pro-Confederate Cherokee home guard unit. George Walker signed up to protect his neighbors from pro-Unionists in the area. However, the unit was soon absorbed into Colonel Stand Watie's 2nd Cherokee Mounted Volunteers. In the Neutral Lands in late 1861 and early 1862, they harassed white squatters and twice raided Unionist Humboldt, Kansas. George Walker escaped arrest when Union forces retaliated against

⁵ While the Timmothy Migs Walker family is listed in Cherokee immigration roles, the Removal detachment they accompanied is not. No detachment went as far as Fort Gibson. Rather, most disbanded soon after reaching the Cherokee Nation. For thorough accounts of the Cherokee removal and descriptions of surviving properties associated with it, see Sara Parker and Philip Thomason, "Historic and Historical Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2003, and David G. Fitzgerald and Duane H. King, *The Cherokee Trail of Tears* (Portland, Ore.: Graphic Arts Books, 2007).

⁶ Nieberding, "Indian Home," *The Tulsa (Oklahoma) World*, Sunday supplement, July 8, 1956, p. 36; Grace Steele Woodward, *The Cherokees* (Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1963), 260; Oakley and Schofield, *Walker Cemetery*, 74-75; George Lisle to Hon. Nelson Case, August 1, 1892, in Nelson Case, ed., *History of Labette County, Kansas and Its Representative Citizens* (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1901), <<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/labette/1901/20-26.shtml>> (January 16, 2013).

⁷ William G. McLoughlin, *After the Trail of Tears: The Cherokees' Struggle for Sovereignty, 1829-1880* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993), 39-58, 176-207.

Walker Farmhouse

Craig, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

Chetopa. However, a second Union raid on November 19, 1863 demolished Chetopa. While George hid in the brush along the Neosho River, Union soldiers ransacked the Walker house, stable, corn crib, and other farm buildings and took all the livestock. Union troops then forced Cherokees out of their homes and interned Rachel Walker and her five small children at Fort Scott, Kansas. George, with nothing left of his farm, went south to join the Confederate-allied Cherokee troops.⁸ At the war's end in 1865, the reunited Walker family, along with other Neutral Lands Cherokees, began to rebuild. However, they were again "pushed out," according the Walkers' son Henry.⁹ In 1866, the federal government forced the Cherokee Nation to sell the Neutral Lands as part of making its peace with the United States. George Walker immediately moved his family south to today's Craig County, Oklahoma—then in the Cherokee Nation's Cooweescoowee District—along the headwaters of Big Cabin Creek.¹⁰

That year, 1866, the Walkers built the Walker Farmhouse. Like their Cherokee neighbors—the Hursts, Rogerses, and McGhees—who had also moved from the Neutral Lands to the Cooweescoowee District, they built sturdy log houses, according to Sylvester B. Hurst. There was good timber along Big Cabin Creek and native sandstone for foundations and stone walls. Hurst recalled the new houses usually had two rooms, but the better homes had three. With his growing family, George Walker built a home in the Cumberland house style with two rooms down and two up. He used squared logs held together with wooden pegs. A well next to the house supplied water which was stored in an adjacent cistern.¹¹

The Walker family prospered in the post war period using the resources of the district. After the death of Rachel Rogers Walker, George married Mary Jane Harlow Davis, a widow with one son, and had eight more children. George and his sons raised and trained saddle and carriage horses. According to his son Lewis R. Walker, "hundreds of horses" grazed in the pastures in the Big Cabin Creek bottom.¹² They also dug coal from deposits that surfaced in the area. Henry J. Walker, another son, recalled how his father used the Cherokee Nation common lands to provide a start for each of his eleven surviving children. Henry explained, "Back in the [18]80's my father would lease those large tracts of prairie land to white settlers." During a five- or ten-year lease, he allowed them to keep all the profits of their labor. When the lease ended, the improvements reverted to him, and he then had an improved farm to pass on to each child.¹³ Walker also provided for his children's education. He and neighbors Louis Rogers and Lark McGhee founded the Rogers Indian School in their neighborhood in 1869. It became a unit of

⁸ Cheatham, "Southern Cherokees in Kansas," 168-174. In his fine article, Cheatham places the raid that drove the Walkers out of the Chetopa area in late 1861. However, George Lisle, another civilian victim with whom Rachel Walker and her children left Chetopa, places their expulsion in the Willetts raid on November 19, 1863. Case, ed., *History of Labette County, Kansas*, 5, <<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/labette/1901/20-26.shtml>> (January 16, 2013); Emmet Starr, *History of the Cherokee Indians and Their Legends and Folk Lore* (Muskogee, Okla.: Hoffman Printing Co., Inc., 1984), 149.

⁹ Interview of Henry J. Walker, 94:354, IPH.

¹⁰ Cheatham, "Southern Cherokees in Kansas," 177.

¹¹ Interview of Henry J. Walker, 94:354, IPH; interview of Sylvester R. Hurst, 46:136; Nieberding, "Indian Home," *The Tulsa (Oklahoma) World*, Sunday supplement, July 8, 1956, p. 36. The well sits so close to the house, it may have been dug before the house was built.

¹² Nieberding, "Indian Home," *The Tulsa (Oklahoma) World*, Sunday supplement, July 8, 1956, p. 36.

¹³ Interview of Henry J. Walker, 94:354, IPH.

Walker Farmhouse

Craig, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

the Cherokee Nation school system but accepted white tuition students. Rebuilt in 1903, it later burned. In addition to farming, George Walker was elected to the Cherokee National Council, representing Cooweescoowee District in 1887-1891 and 1897-1899 as his nation fought the allotment of its lands, dissolution of its national government, and absorption into the new State of Oklahoma.¹⁴

George Washington Walker lived the last forty-five years of his eventful and busy life in the Walker Farmhouse. He never forgot the Cherokee Trail of Tears or the conditions and events of Cherokee history that brought him to that place. James R. Carselowey, a noted Oklahoma historian, boarded with the Walker family in the Walker Farmhouse in 1897 as he began his teaching career at Rogers Indian School. The "intelligent old Indian," he recalled, "told me of many hardships the Indians went through before they left the state of Georgia." They were "practically disenfranchised," Walker told Carselowey. Their land was taken for next to nothing, Walker said, along with their personal property, cows, hogs, cattle, and chickens. Carselowey summarized Walker's view that "Life was made so miserable for the Indian, that it would have been impossible to stay any longer."¹⁵ George Washington Walker died in 1911 and was buried just west of the Walker Farmhouse in the Walker Cemetery he started in 1871 at the death of his mother. He also buried four of his children, other family members, and neighbors there. His tombstone bears the seal of the Trail of Tears Association, Oklahoma Chapter, stating simply, "In honor of one who endured the forced removal of the Cherokees in 1838-1839."¹⁶

George Walker's children absorbed his stories from Cherokee history, reliving the Cherokee Trail of Tears through their father's memories. For them that experience was inextricably associated with their youth in the Walker Farmhouse, also passed down through the family to the present day. Lewis Walker told a reporter in 1956, "I like to visit the old home. It brings back many happy memories, many exciting ones. But most of all it brings back the stories my father often told us of his experiences on the Trail of Tears. That story is not a page in a history book to me. It is a tragic part of our family records."¹⁷

Log houses such as the Walker Farmhouse are rare in Oklahoma. The Civil War period left the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes devastated, with few buildings still standing by 1865. Only three log houses from Oklahoma are currently listed on the National Register: Sequoyah's Cabin, built in 1829 in Sequoyah County, and the Loesser Log Cabin in Cherokee County, which dates from the 1840s. Both are in the former Cherokee Nation and predate the Civil War. In Pottawatomie County the Beard Cabin was built near Shawnee Agency in central Indian Territory in 1892.

Fortunately, the Walker Farmhouse, built in 1866 by George Washington Walker, retains a high degree of historical integrity. The location is within in the bounds of the Cherokee Nation, to which Cherokees were removed in the late 1830s. It is also the area to which Neutral Lands

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 351-352; Craig County Genealogical Society, *The Heritage of Craig County & Cooweescoowee & Delaware Districts, Indian Territory*, vol. III (Rich Hill, Mo.: Bell Books, n.d.), 61.

¹⁵ Carselowey addendum to the Henry J. Walker interview, 94: 352-353, IPH.

¹⁶ Oakley and Schofield, *Walker Cemetery*, 67.

¹⁷ Nieberding, "Indian Home," *The Tulsa (Oklahoma) World*, Sunday supplement, July 8, 1956, p. 36.

Walker Farmhouse

Craig, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

Cherokees such as the Walkers, Hursts, Rogerses, and McGhees came in the mid-1860s when they were forced to remove again. Located in today's Craig County, Oklahoma, it is concurrently in District 4 of the modern Cherokee Nation. The setting has changed little since the Walker Farmhouse was built in 1866. The timbered ridge behind the house screens the three newer homes nearby. From the front porch the expansive view of fields, woods, and creeks appears little changed since George Walker's day. Because the kitchen addition is not visible from the primary approach to the house, the I-house design and Cumberland style are immediately apparent and suggest the mid-1800s. The materials and workmanship of the house are less evident because the exterior is covered with masonite and weatherboard. Still, that change was completed sometime before 1956, or at least fifty-seven years ago, and has helped preserve the log construction. Likewise, the existing front porch was also built before 1956, perhaps over the original log porch, according to Lewis R. Walker.¹⁸ The bungaloid style and details of construction, such as the beaded mortar, suggest it was before 1940. Likewise, it is not known when new materials may have replaced original materials on the well and cistern. However, they appear consistent with the period before 1956. These renovations did not change the style, scale, or impact of the Walker Farmhouse. The house immediately conveys the feeling of the nineteenth-century in which George Washington Walker lived much of his adult life. There is little sense of twentieth- and twenty-first-century intrusion on the landscape. Rather, the nearby Walker Cemetery with its antique and folk tombstones reinforces the association of the Walker family with the house, community, and area. Therefore, the Walker Farmhouse retains a high degree of historical integrity. Moreover, with the destruction of the Rogers Indian School by fire, it is the only remaining building associated with George Washington Walker, significant as a Trail of Tears survivor, leader of his community, and representative of Cooweescoowee District in the Cherokee Nation's government. Therefore, it is eligible for the National Register under both Criteria A and B.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Books and Articles:

Case, Nelson, ed. *History of Labette County, Kansas and Its Representative Citizens*. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1901, <<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/labette/1901/20-26.shtml>> (January 16, 2013).

Cheatham, Gary L. "If the Union Wins, We Won't Have Anything Left": The Rise and Fall of the Southern Cherokees in Kansas." *Kansas History* 30 (Autumn, 2007): 154-177.

Craig County Genealogical Society. *The Heritage of Craig County & Cooweescoowee & Delaware Districts, Indian Territory*. Volume III. Rich Hill, Mo.: Bell Books, n.d.

Fitzgerald, David G., and Duane H. King. *The Cherokee Trail of Tears*. Portland, Ore.: Graphic Arts Books, 2007.

Greiner, Alyson L. "Folk Architecture." The Oklahoma Historical Society. *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. <<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/f/fo002.html>> (April 12, 2013).

McLoughlin, William G. *After the Trail of Tears: The Cherokees' Struggle for Sovereignty, 1829-1880*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

Nieberding, Velma. "Indian Home, 90, Still Stands in Craig Co." *Tulsa (Oklahoma) World*, Sunday supplement, July 8, 1956, p. 36.

Oakley, Mary May and Constance Ann Schofield. *Walker Cemetery: Tombstone Readings, Unmarked Burials, and Genealogy Information*. N.p.: 2002.

Parker, Sara, and Philip Thomason. "Historic and Historical Archaeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2003.

Starr, Emmet. *History of the Cherokee Indians and Their Legends and Folk Lore*. Muskogee, Okla.: Hoffman Printing Co., Inc., 1984.

Woodward, Grace Steele. *The Cherokees*. Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1963.

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

Interviews:

Interview of Sylvester R. Hurst, 46:128, Indian-Pioneer History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

Interview of Henry J. Walker, 94:348, Indian-Pioneer History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

Or

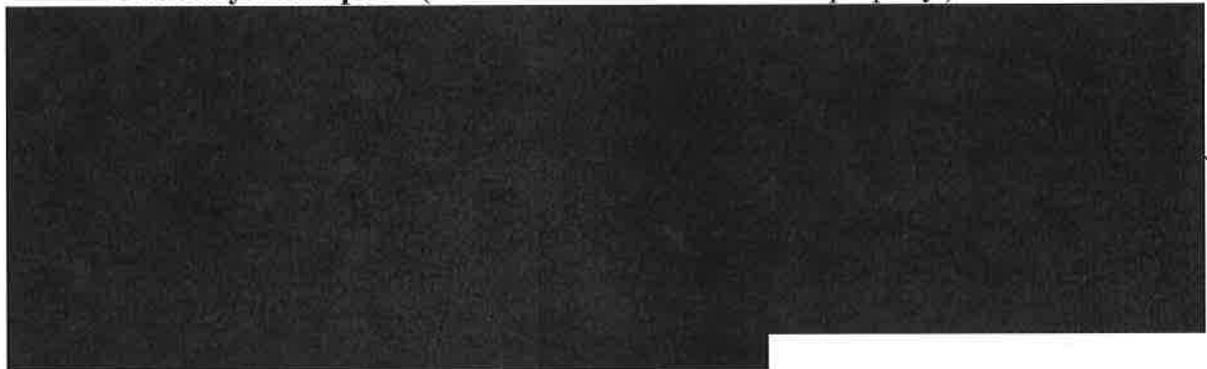
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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



Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the boundary historically associated with the Walker Farmhouse.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Mary Jane Warde
organization: _____
street & number: 3523 Willow Park Circle
city or town: Stillwater state: Oklahoma zip code: 74074
e-mail mary.warde2@gmail.com
telephone: 405-377-0412
date: February 8, 2013

Walker Farmhouse
 Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
 County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Walker Farmhouse

City or Vicinity: Welch Vicinity

County: Craig

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Mary Jane Warde

Date Photographed: January 10, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph number	Subject	Camera Direction
0001	South elevation and setting from East 70 Road	North-Northwest
0002	West and South elevations	Northeast
0003	South elevation detail of original log wall	North-Northwest
0004	North and west elevations with kitchen addition	Southeast
0005	East and north elevations	Southwest
0006	East elevation	West

Walker Farmhouse
Name of Property

Craig, Oklahoma
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Walker Farmhouse
Welch Vicinity, Craig County, Oklahoma

Map Redacted