

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 9/19/2012  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Washington County (Job #11WT02) Subject (Atlas ) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N  
Location: Brenham, 4800 Old Chappell Hill Road

### **JAMES WALKER LOG HOUSE**

THIS IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST SURVIVING LOG HOUSES IN TEXAS. IT WAS HOME TO JAMES AND CATHERINE (MILLER) WALKER AND THEIR DESCENDANTS FROM 1824 TO 1888. JAMES WAS ONE OF THE "OLD 300", ORIGINAL COLONISTS TO SETTLE IN STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S COLONY. HE AND CATHERINE SETTLED HERE WITH THEIR CHILDREN AFTER JULY 21, 1824, WHEN JAMES RECEIVED A LAND GRANT OF ONE LEAGUE (ABOUT 4,428 ACRES) ON NEW YEAR'S AND WOODWARD'S CREEKS. SONS JOHN AND JAMES, JR., PARTICIPATED IN THE 1836 TEXAS REVOLUTION AND DEVELOPED THE FAMILY LAND AFTER THEIR FATHER'S DEATH. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT AT AN UNKNOWN LOCATION DOWNHILL FROM THE PRESENT SITE. IT WAS MOVED TO THE HILLTOP IN 1888, WHEN JOHN WALLACE ACQUIRED THE PROPERTY. IN 1921 THE HOUSE WAS MOVED ABOUT 250 FEET TO THIS SITE BY THE BOCKHORN FAMILY, WHO USED IT AS A BARN.

THE 1 1/2-STORY DOUBLE-PEN LOG HOUSE IS BUILT OF ROUGH-HEWN CEDAR LOGS COVERED BY HORIZONTAL SIDING. THE SQUARE FLOOR PLAN INCLUDES A REAR SHED OF HEAVY TIMBER CONSTRUCTION. THE ORIGINAL ROOMS DATE FROM 1824, AND THE SHED IS ORIGINAL OR AN EARLY ADDITION. THE FRONT FAÇADE, WITH A THREE-BAY PORCH SUPPORTED BY SQUARE WOOD POSTS, HAS A SINGLE DOOR IN THE WEST PEN, AND A DOOR AND 6/6 PANE WINDOW IN THE EAST PEN. WINDOWS AND DOORS HAVE BOARD AND BATTEN SHUTTERS. A RUBBLE STONE CHIMNEY IS THE MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE ON THE EAST SIDE. THE HOUSE'S TWO MAIN ROOMS ARE CONNECTED BY A DOORWAY CENTERED IN THE LOG PARTITION WALL. INTACT INTERIOR MATERIALS INCLUDE EXPOSED LOGS CHINKED WITH LIME MORTAR, PINE CEILINGS, AND DOORS WITH ORIGINAL PAINT AND HARDWARE. A SERIES OF HIGH NOTCHES ON THE WALLS INDICATE THERE WAS A LOFT ROOM ABOVE. THE HOUSE WAS RESTORED IN 1986 USING STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE AND PERIOD HISTORIC DETAILS AS DESIGN SOURCES FOR MISSING ELEMENTS. TODAY THE HOUSE IS A MOST VALUABLE REMINDER OF THE EARLY HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF TEXAS.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2011

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:  
2011 Official Texas Historical Marker  
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid September 1, 2010 to November 15, 2010 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

**Proposed marker topic** (official title will be determined by the THC): James Walker Homestead

**County:** Washington

**Town** (nearest county town on current state highway map): Brenham

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:** 4800 Old Chappell Hill Road

**Marker Coordinates:**

**If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:**

UTM Zone    Easting    Northing

Lat:    Long:    (deg, min, sec or decimal degrees)

**Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here** (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek): 3 mi. E of Blue Bell Road on Chappell Hill Road

**NOTE:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

**Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

**Criteria:**

1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can

come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.

3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

**Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications:** If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B and Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madnrcrit.html> for National Register criteria.

Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NRHP.

#### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC (for RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; legal description of the property; site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure—please resize photographs to 1-2 MB, or approximately 1024 x 768 pixels).

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than November 15, 2010.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

#### **APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy,

consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

**As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:**

**X** Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

**CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:**

**Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair):** Wilfred Dietrich (APPROVAL BY PHONE, CONVERSATION WITH BOB BRINKMAN 10.26.2010)

**Mailing address:** 701 Milroy Drive City, Zip: Brenham TX 77833

**Daytime phone (with area code):** 979.836.3120 **Email address (required):**  
wilfred.bobbie@sbcglobal.net

**PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

**Property owner:** John and Jane Barnhill

**Address:**4800 Old Chappell Hill Road **City, state, zip:**Brenham, TX 77833

**Phone:**979/836-6717 **Email address:** [janeb@texasbb.com](mailto:janeb@texasbb.com)

**Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): Tract 184.1 of the James Walker League

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

**NOTE:** The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary. Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

**SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

**Marker sponsor** (may be individual or organization): John and Jane Barnhill

**Contact person** (if applicable): Jane Barnhill

**Mailing address:**     **City, zip:**

**Email address** (required):     **Phone:**

### **SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, residence addresses, post office box numbers and rural route numbers are not permitted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**Name:** Jane Barnhill

**Street address:** 4800 Old Chappell Hill Road   **City, zip:** Brenham, TX 77833

**Daytime phone** (required): 979/836-6717   **Email** (required): [janeb@texasbb.com](mailto:janeb@texasbb.com)

### **TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS**

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- XX** 27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)
- 27" X 42" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1500)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1000)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post\* (\$750)

\*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry
- metal
- other (specify)

### **SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)**

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: [markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us).

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
  - This application form
  - The narrative history (including documentation)
  - Legal description of the property
  - Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure
  - Detailed site plan of the property
  - At least one historic photograph
  - Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure

**RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC:** The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html>)

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276  
Phone 512/463-5853  
[history@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:history@thc.state.tx.us)



The James Walker Log House is one of the earliest surviving log houses in Texas and a rare example of a log house dating from the initial period of Anglo settlement in the state. Though twice moved, the structure retains much historic fabric and a rural setting. A 1986 rehabilitation project has preserved all surviving original/early materials, while restoring the exterior as closely as possible to its original appearance.

The Walker Log House is a 1 1/2-story, double-pen, log structure with a shed of heavy timber construction on the north. The original, double-pen was apparently constructed in 1824. The shed to the north was early or original, and was recently partially reconstructed, having been converted into farm vehicular storage in 1921. The building is roughly square in plan.

The entrance (south) front has a three-bay porch supported by square wood posts. The porch floor is of wood planks. The facade is asymmetrical with a single door emerging from the west pen, and a door and 6/6 pane window from the east pen. The window and doors have board/batten shutters; the doors and one shutter are original or very early. Modern, single-pane, inner doors have been installed to provide energy efficiency and security. Exterior walls are covered with milledwood 1/2" x 6" horizontal siding replicating original fragments found on the house.

The east side of the house has a 1 1/2-story central section with a continuation of the open porch to the south and shed portion to the north. Vertical trim planks define the original center pen, spreading to the north and south. The uncoursed rubble stone chimney is the major architectural feature on this facade; its lower portion is rectangular in shape and it narrows in a stair step fashion to a smaller, square flue. Corners of the house rest on sandstone blocks, and the

foundation is infilled with uncoursed, dry-stacked rubble. A six-pane window with board/batten shutter pierces the upper wall immediately north of the chimney, originally lighting the east loft.

The rear (south) elevation continues the siding, stone foundation and tapersplit cedar shake roof found elsewhere on the building. Fenestration is irregular: a small, 6/6 window and a board/batten door with modern single-pane glass, inner door are found on the eastern portion of the rear facade, while a standard 6/6 window is centered on the western half of the rear elevation. Again, the windows have board/batten shutters, and the doorway is sheltered by a small, shed porch supported by square posts. Two small skylights are on the shed roof.

The west elevation mirrors the east in its shape, with the open porch to the south and shed addition to the north. A standard 6/6 window is centered on the main block, and a smaller 6/6 window on the shed portion; both feature board/batten shutters.

The main block is entirely of cedar logs with half dovetail joinery. The logs forming the walls, beams and joists are hand cut to a rough hewn rectangle in section. These and unshaped log purling are 28 1/2 feet long. Rafters are small cedar logs; shingle laths are waney-edge cedar boards.

The log pens of the house confine two rooms connected by a doorway centered in the log partition wall. Each room has a doorway leading to the shed on the north and to the porch on the south. The smaller (west) of the two rooms has its original pine flooring, original 1" x 6" cedar wall sheathing, original pine ceiling supported by beaded joists, original window opening in the west wall and a reconstructed boxed-in staircase leading to the loft. The room also contains original beaded baseboards and two original door frames. (These elements are believed to be



original, as noted, but it is possible some were added at a very early date.)

The larger (east) room retains much historic fabric. Logs are exposed and have been chinked with lime mortar. Vertical notches on the logs and surviving nailer boards demonstrate that the room was originally sheathed in wood, matching the smaller room. A series of notches higher in the north and south walls indicate there was an original loft room above. As renovated, the room remains a 1 1/2-story space with exposed roof structure. The room has two window openings, one in the south wall and one in the east gable end. The new floor is milled from 19th century-cut pine and replaces one that was badly rotted.

The north section contains a small kitchen/dinner area directly to the north of large log room and a bath and hall with washer dryer closet to the north of the small log room. The reconstructed flooring is milled 19th century pine. Walls are covered with new horizontal sheathing similar to the original material in the small log room.

The west loft room retains its original pine floor, exposed cedar log walls and exposed ceiling structure. An original door opening, now overlooking the large log room, has been cased and fitted with a wood shutter and steel guard rail to meet health and safety code requirements.

Another simple, wood hand rail has been installed around and along the stair.

There are four original board/batten doors in the house; each of these retains mid-19th century latches and the two interior doors and their frames retain original paint. New doors used elsewhere reproduce the board/batten design, but are constructed with rectangular-headed nails. All doors have reproduction strap hinges matching the size and design indicated by ghost marks on the original doors. All reproduction windows are in original locations and four retain original

frames, although no historic sashes were found. Two in the shed are reconstructions; one exterior shutter remains in its original location, and others are reproductions.

The house was originally built at an undetermined location across County Road 80 and downhill (southwest) from the present location. It was moved to the hilltop near its present location in 1888. In 1921 it was moved northwest approximately 250' to this site. Here it was used as a barn and partially stripped of its usable lumber. The floor and part of the wall structure of the rear shed were removed to create a parking space for farm vehicles. At the same time, a crib was added in the location of the original porch.

The house was rehabilitated to its present condition in 1986 using structural evidence and period historic details as design sources for missing elements. Modern conveniences were added as required.

The house doubtless had ancillary buildings on its original site, but all are gone. No other buildings or structures are included in the present nominated site, although a windmill and other newer structures are in the vicinity, reinforcing the rural farm complex distribution no doubt familiar to the log house in its earlier uses.

The Walker Log House is approached by a gravel drive. While much of the area surrounding the house is wooded, trees and immediate vicinity of the house have been planted within the last few years. The nominated property slopes gently toward the north.

The Walker Log House was the home of James and Catherine Walker and their descendants from 1824 until 1888. Walker (c. 1780-1836) was one of the original 300 colonists from the

United States recruited by Stephen F. Austin after 1821 to settle Texas. Walker's sons John and James Jr. participated in the 1836 Texas war for independence from Mexico and continued to develop the family land after their father's death. The house is believed to have been built in 1824, making it one of the oldest Anglo dwellings in the state. Because of John Walker's participation in Texas' first major Anglo colonization efforts, his home meets National Register Criterion A. As a prime example of a double-pen log house with exterior and interior siding, it meets National Register Criterion C.

In 1821, Stephen F. Austin began recruiting his "Old Three Hundred" colonists to Texas, where the Spanish government had begun encouraging settlement. This marked the first major attempt at organized AngloAmerican settlement in Texas.

One of the "Old Three Hundred" was James Walker, born in Orange County, Virginia about 1760. One account shows him to be the son of Tandy Walker and brother of John Williams Walker, who became a State Senator in Alabama in 1819. In 1783 James Walker married Catherine Miller, and they began a family in Kentucky. Walker was attracted to Texas by the "beautiful country" and "good range" for hogs, cattle and horses. On 21 July 1824 Walker received a grant for one league of land, about 4,428 acres, in Washington County on New Year's and Woodward's Creeks. It is likely that the work on the house and land began immediately. An 1826 census lists Walker as a farmer and stockraiser over fifty years of age.

The log part of the house is a basic double-pen plan, with traditional origins in England and later in the Chesapeake Tidewater portion of Virginia. James and Catherine Walker's Texas home would likely have been considered more typical than exceptional when constructed, but with the

loss of most contemporaneous dwellings it has grown considerably in importance. Doubtless it had a complement of outbuildings and structures during the Walker family occupancy, but none survive.

Anticipating his death, Walker divided his land among his seven children in 1835; his homestead was on son John M. Walker's portion. Walker the elder died in 1836, and 1837 probate records show sales of the estate including three slaves and their children, 30 to 40 head of cattle, and sales of perishable property, notes and orders of collection valued at \$3,691.19 1/2. Catherine Walker kept some of the livestock and one slave, and continued to live at the homestead.

James Walker, Jr., and John M. Walker are registered in the Texas Muster Rolls several times between 1835 and 1837 as participants in Indian campaigns and the Texas fight for independence. James Walker, Jr., was listed as a private at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836, and a member of the 29th Texas Calvary during the Civil War in 1863. His brother John is recorded as a Texas ranger in a fight that took place in 1851 on the Arroyo Gatto 60 miles southeast of Laredo.

By 1857, the Walker children were well off, with large acreages, slaves and stock and crops described as "extremely fine." In a letter now at the Texas State Archives written in May, 1857, James Jr. stated that he was netting between \$800 and \$1000 per year from his farming activities. He also noted that his brother John was doing very well, and that he had "... a first rate Saw and grist Mill running by water and plenty of other good property " He continued, stating that the area "... is the best Country in the United States..." Earlier, in 1835, young James was equally enthusiastic about Texas when he wrote. "... I have seen a good [deal?] of Texas and I think it to

be as easy a country as I ever saw to make a living on a count of so good range.... it is true.... that hogs cattle horses is raised without and expense more than to keep them jintle [sic] this country produces cotton equal to any in the world corn grows very well."

John M. Walker died in 1869, leaving the homestead to his wife, Rebecca, and dividing the rest of the land among five of his children and two grandchildren. In 1882, Rebecca Walker gave the land containing the homestead to her son James for care and support until her death, which came in 1886.

In 1888, the younger James Walker sold the property to John Wallace, who moved the house from its original location to a hilltop position nearby, near the present site. Locational data was provided by members of the Bockhorn family, who acquired the property in 1904. It apparently continued to be used as a residence. In 1921, the Bockhorns moved the house a second time to its present site, at a location southwest of the 1888 locale. A bungalow was constructed on the second location and the Walker House converted into a barn. Some usable lumber was removed, and the rear shed portion opened to provide parking for a farm vehicle.

The property was later acquired by John and Jane Barnhill, who in turn replaced the hilltop bungalow by a substantial modern house. In 1985, the Walker House was documented with measured drawings by the University of Texas at Austin's Winedale Institute. Subsequently, it was analyzed for evidence of original detail and construction, and a rehabilitation program performed under the guidance of restoration architect John Volz of Austin.

The Walker Log House at the beginning of the project retained a surprising amount of historic fabric in spite of (or perhaps because of) years of neglect. Virtually all of the massive cedar logs

from which the double-pen house was constructed remain, along with cedar sheathing and pine ceiling in the smaller room, four board/batten doors, four window frames, one exterior shutter and upstairs flooring, all believed to be early or original. Ghost marks and structural evidence, period details from analogous neighborhood structures and modern operational requirements were used to determine the design of necessary replacement elements. In most respects, efforts were made to return the house to its historic appearance. Because the precise original location is unknown, historic archaeology was not possible. Similarly, dendrochronology with cedar logs is frequently unproductive and accordingly was not attempted. Historic photographs of the structure were unavailable and perhaps never taken.

The Walker Log House, while twice moved, retains an essentially rural setting, and remains on the original Walker and grant. It is one of three known extant homes of Old Three-hundred colonists.

The Period of Significance for the nominated property focuses on the Walker family occupancy, 1824-1888. Significant dates are 1824, the approximate date of construction; 1888, the year the house was first moved; and 1921, the year of the second and final move.

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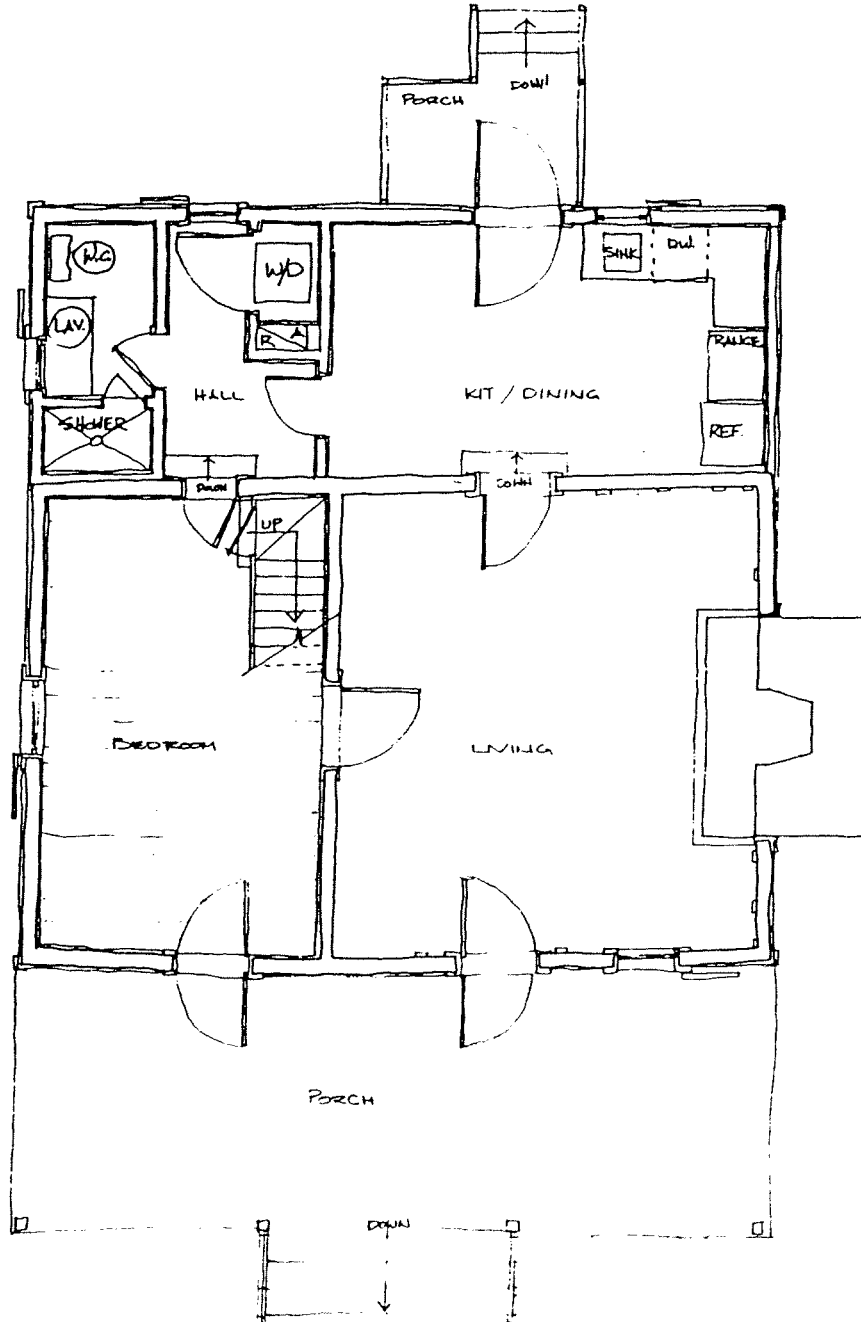
Walker, James Jr. to brother Thomas in Indiana 3 letters: 1853, 1855, 1847 as listed in the Texas State Archives.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

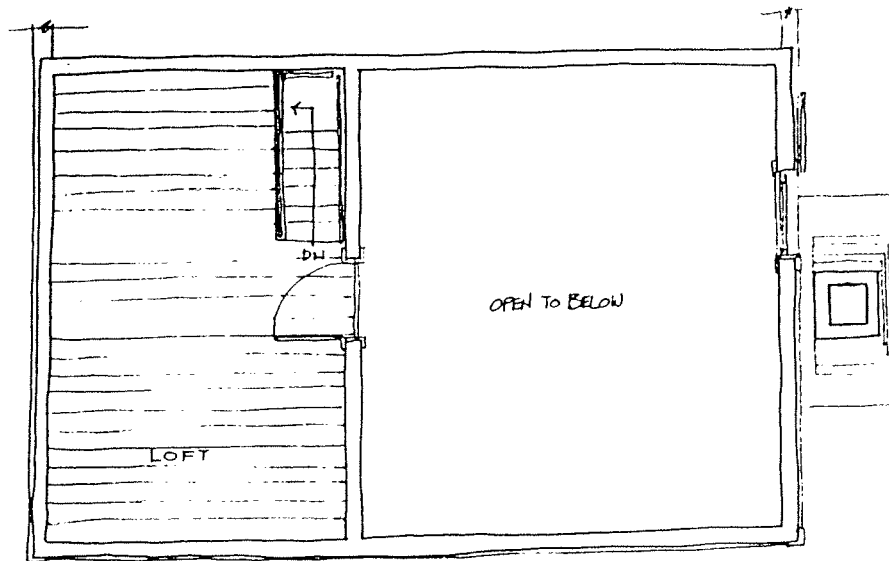


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

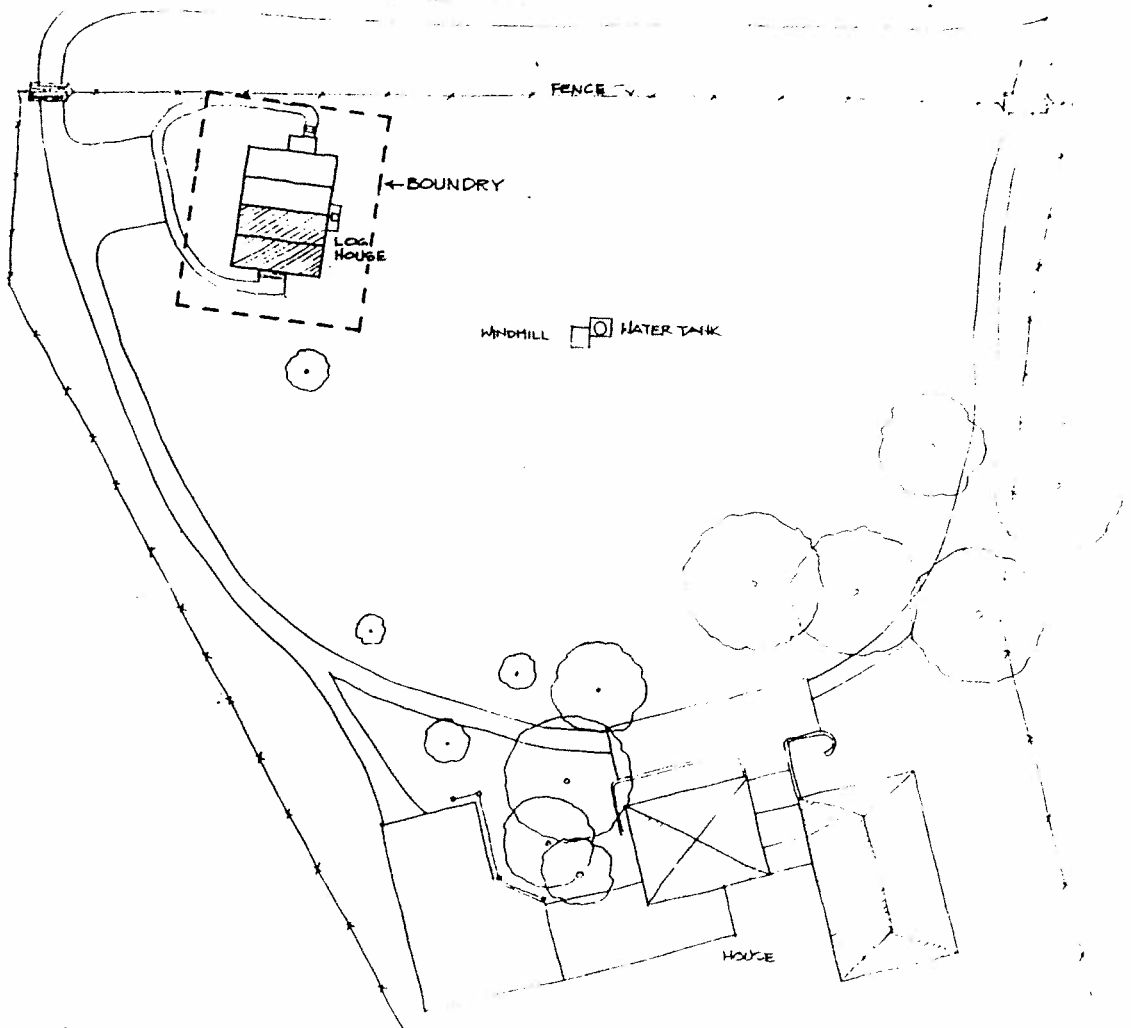
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

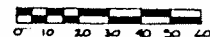
James Walker Log House



Continuation sheet Site Plan Item number 7:10 Page 3:1



SITE PLAN



## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### Authorization for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation

Date of RTHL designation: January 28, 2011

Property Name: James Walker Homestead  
 Physical Address: 4800 Old Chappell Hill Road  
 City: Brenham County: Washington Zip: 77833  
 Property reference number (Appraisal District/Tax Office property number, etc.): 0106-600-18400/R19204  
 Legal Description (Lot and block, metes and bounds, etc.): Tract 184.1 of James Walker League

Additional description ("property encompassing the bridge and abutments," "the 1936 portion of the County Consolidated High School building," "the historic homestead, including the main house, barn, windmill, smokehouse and water well," etc.):

The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation is awarded to historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. Authorized by the Texas Legislature under Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, RTHL is the highest honor the state can bestow on historic structures in Texas. Designated properties are afforded a measure of legal protection and become part of the recorded history of the state's built environment.

#### Benefits of the RTHL designation:

- Recognition that a property is of local, regional or state significance.
- Protection for up to 90 days from exterior alterations, including demolition or relocation.
- Ad valorem tax exemptions, where granted by local taxing authorities.
- Inclusion in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas.
- Technical preservation assistance through the THC.

#### Responsibility of the property owner under the RTHL provision, as noted in Texas Government Code, Chapter 442.006 (f):

*A person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving the notice, the commission may waive the waiting period or, if the commission determines that a longer period will enhance the chance for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not longer than 30 days. On the expiration of the time limits imposed by this section, the person may proceed, but must proceed not later than the 180th day after the date on which notice was given or the notice is considered to have expired.*

#### Additionally:

- The designation requires the public display of the RTHL marker. The marker is the property of the State of Texas and may not be removed or relocated without the prior permission of the Texas Historical Commission.
- RTHL status is a permanent designation which is retained with the property even upon transfer of ownership. Only the Texas Historical Commission may remove the designation.
- Structures designated as RTHLs do not have to be open to the public, but the marker must be accessible to the public.
- RTHL designation does not imply eligibility for federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.

I, the property owner or legal administrator of the property noted herein, signify below that I have read the information regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks and that I voluntarily seek the designation for the property. I further promise to comply with the provision noted in the Texas Government Code.

Name (print): Jane Barnhill  
 Mailing address: 4800 Old Chappell Hill Rd.  
 City, state, zip: Brenham, TX 77833  
 Signature: Jane Barnhill  
 Phone: 979-836-6717 Date: 2/24/2011



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
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