

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC WALKER-EWING LOG HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Noblestown Road near Baldwin Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Collier Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

18th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Allegheny

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

STREET & NUMBER

The Old Post Office, Allegheny Square West

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
 COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegheny County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

414 Grant Street

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

STATE
Pennsylvania**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

DATE

1967

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

STATE
Pennsylvania

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

The actual construction date of the Walker-Ewing House is somewhat of an enigma. One of the fireplace stones bears a crudely carved date of 1762. However, the original Walker log house was burned by Indians in 1782. The present structure appears to have been built c. 1790. According to documentary evidence the house was built several years before it was given as a wedding present to Isaac Walker's daughter in 1808.

The Walker-Ewing House is a full two stories with an attic and basement. The house walls are of dark stained logs, saddled notched at the corners. The steep pitched gable roof has modern slate shingles. The fenestration is fairly symmetrical on the front and south elevations and the rather small sashed windows are multi-paned with six-over-six lights. The gable walls are windowless. It is the west wall against which the great triangular chimney abuts. It is interesting that this sturdy stone construction, save for the broad low stack on the roof is not visible on the exterior, being enclosed within the wall. There is a door with a modern pent roof at one side of the east wall, and one at the back of the basement which opens onto a small modern covered porch, which, in turn overlooks the road leading to the Ewing farm house. There are indications in the great beam that demarcates the second floor, that there was at one time a verandah extending across the main facade, but this has long since disappeared.

In front of the east wall with its two doors is a modern stone terrace, at one side of which is the old well fitted with a windlass and bucket under a shed roof. Incorporated in the short stone stairway leading to this terrace is a circular millstone from James Ewing's mill on Robinson's Run.

On the interior, the basement, dominated by the great arched foundation of the chimney, contains modern kitchen and laundry facilities. A steep ladder-like staircase leads to the first floor which is divided into two rooms separated by a thin board partition. Each room has a fireplace opening from the triangular chimney which type of construction was common in these early log houses because it enabled one chimney to heat a number of rooms. One of these fireplaces, in the early days, would have been used for cooking.

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WALKER-EWING LOG HOUSE - Allegheny County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description (continued):

A steep staircase enclosed by a board partition rises against the east wall and leaps steeply to the second floor where the room and fireplace pattern is repeated.

The Walker-Ewing house has been acquired by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and restored by that group as a house/museum. Restoration work consisted of new downspouts and gutters, reworking of 5 partial logs on east side of the house, and interior painting. A new bath and kitchen were also installed in the basement area.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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

c. 1790

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Walker and Ewing families were among the earliest settlers of this area of western Pennsylvania. Alexander Ewing moved to the area from Maryland in 1778 and Gabriel and Isaac Walker arrived shortly thereafter. Both families acquired large tracts of land and both began milling operations. The Walker Mills near Carnegie were particularly successful. In 1808 William Ewing, Alexander's son, married a daughter of Isaac Walker. Isaac gave his daughter the log house and surrounding property as a wedding gift. The house has remained in the same family until its recent acquisition by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

The Walker-Ewing House is a refined example of a log house. Its plan: attic, basement, full second story, and two fireplaces are definite improvements over its ^{earlier} eighteenth century predecessors. The Walker-Ewing House is in a good state of preservation and has local architectural importance. It is in the process of restoration by its owners, the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. When completed it will be a museum to depict early nineteenth century wilderness life in Western Pennsylvania.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Walker-Ewing Log House, James D. Van Trump, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 acres

UTM REFERENCES

SPR	A	<u>17</u>	<u>517,113,7,0</u>	<u>14,417,314,6,0</u>	B						
		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
STATE	C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Walker Ewing Log House is situated on the east side of the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The house is a two-story structure built of log and is one of the few remaining log houses in the city. It was built by James D. Van Trump in 1763. The house is located on the corner of 14th and 15th Streets, West of the city center. The house is a fine example of early American log construction and is a valuable historical resource. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

James D. Van Trump, Director of Research

ORGANIZATION

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

DATE

March, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

Old Post Office, Allegheny Square West

TELEPHONE

412-332-1204

CITY OR TOWN

Pittsburgh

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

William D. Howe

TITLE

Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

12/18/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

