

ADDENDUM

CH-345
Walker House, DEMOLISHED
Charles County, MD
La Plata
Cathy Hardy, July 2003

7. Description

The Walker House, more commonly known as the Sydney Mudd House, was first identified by J. Richard Rivoire in the 1970's. Extensively damaged during the tornado of April 2002, the building, which faced St. Mary's Avenue at the intersection of Centennial Street, was later demolished. A close replica of the structure incorporating much of the original interior woodwork has been erected on the site.

Originally, the home of Congressman Sydney Mudd, after his death, the home passed out of the Mudd family. In 1986 it was purchased and restored by descendants of Sydney Mudd and was used as the law offices of Mudd, Mudd and Fitzgerald until the 2002 tornado. The firm has recently re-constructed the dwelling and plans to resume business at the site.

8. Significance

The Walker House was the home of lawyer and Congressman Sydney E. Mudd, Sr. who purchased the home in 1896. As La Plata's most prominent political figure, Mudd represented Maryland's Fifth Congressional District from 1896 until his death in 1911. Throughout his term Mudd maintained an active law practice in Town. His son, Sydney E. Mudd, Jr., entered Congress after his father's death.

10. Geographical Data

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

The site stands on the northeast corner of St. Mary's Avenue and Centennial Street.

Property Address <u>106 St. Mary's Avenue, La Plata, Charles County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Ira and Katherine Newcomb, 118 St. Mary's Ave., La Plata, MD 20646</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1900</u>

Description:

The Walker House was previously surveyed by the Charles County Planning Department; the date of the survey is unknown. Since the time of the previous survey, the property has been restored and converted to offices. There have been no other changes to the property.

National Register Evaluation:

The Walker House, constructed circa 1900, was previously surveyed by the Charles County Planning Department. The property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as a representative example of a Folk Victorian house. The house is one of the few houses remaining from the time La Plata was founded in 1896, and it has not been altered. The structure retains integrity of form and materials, including the original windows, porch railings, and brackets. The setting of the house has not been significantly affected by development. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundaries of the Walker House follow the current property lines of 106 St. Mary's Avenue (Charles County Tax Map 113, Parcel 96). This 0.27 hectare (0.66 acre) parcel is bounded on the north and east by adjacent tax parcels, on the west by St. Mary's Avenue, and on the south by Queen Anne Street. The boundary encompasses the house and a parking area. The parcel is the property historically associated with the house.

*incorrect map location
see new tax map.
JLCM
4/07*

MHT CONCURRENCE:			
Eligibility	<u>X</u>	recommended	_____ not recommended
Criteria	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>X</u> <u>C</u> _____ D _____
Considerations	_____ A	_____ B	_____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G _____ None
Comments: _____			
<u>Suzanne Pickens</u>	<u>07/21/1997</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>4/4/01</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date	Reviewer, NR program	Date

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

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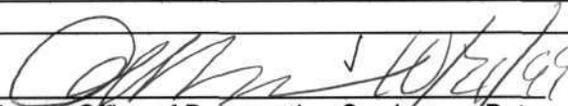
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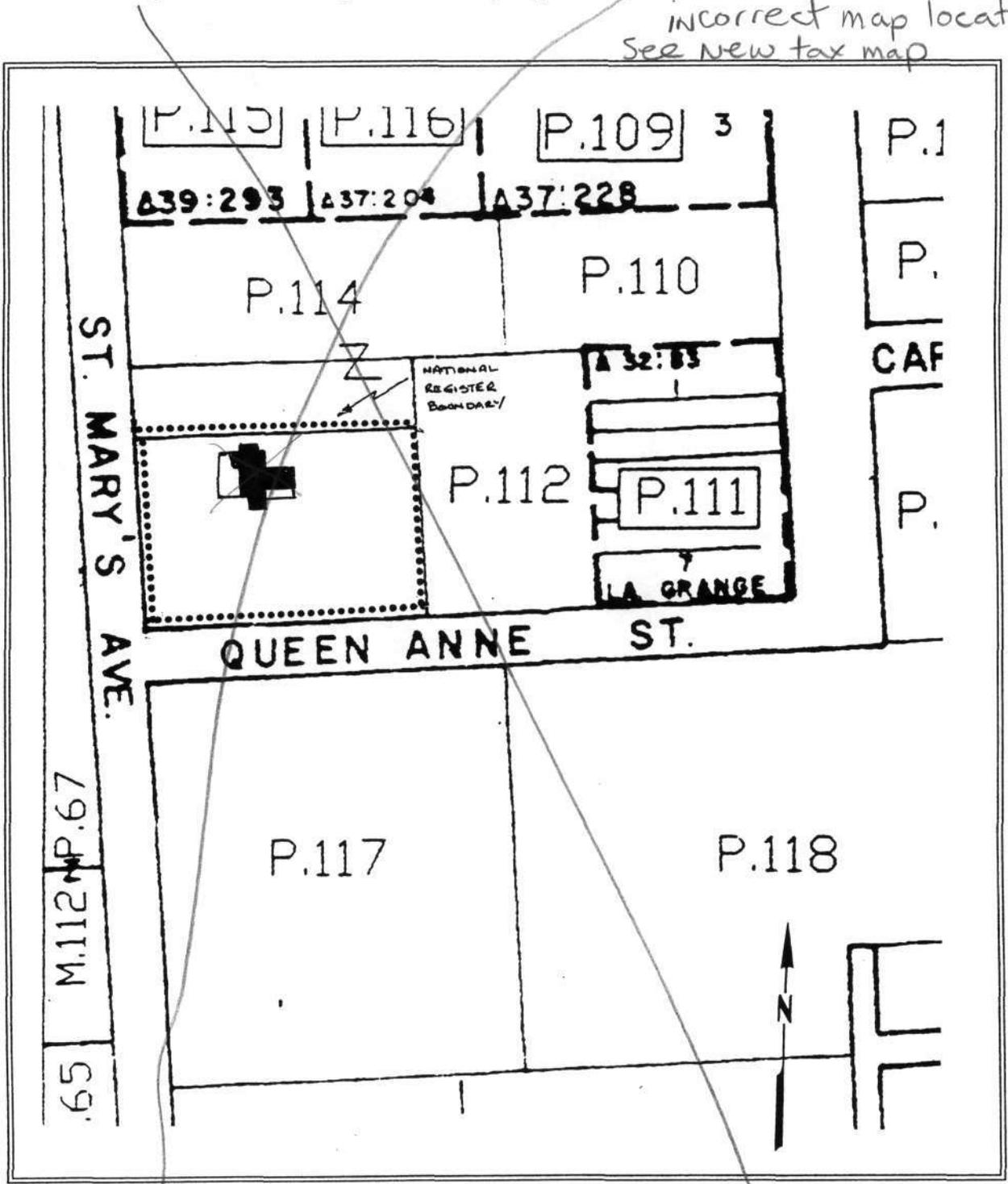
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MHT CONCURRENCE:			
Eligibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> not recommended	
Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
Considerations	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments:	_____ _____ _____		
	Date	Reviewer, NR program	Date

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

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Owner Name/Address Ira and Katherine Newcomb, 118 St. Mary's Ave., La Plata, MD 20646
Year Built circa 1900

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

Survey # CI15 CH345

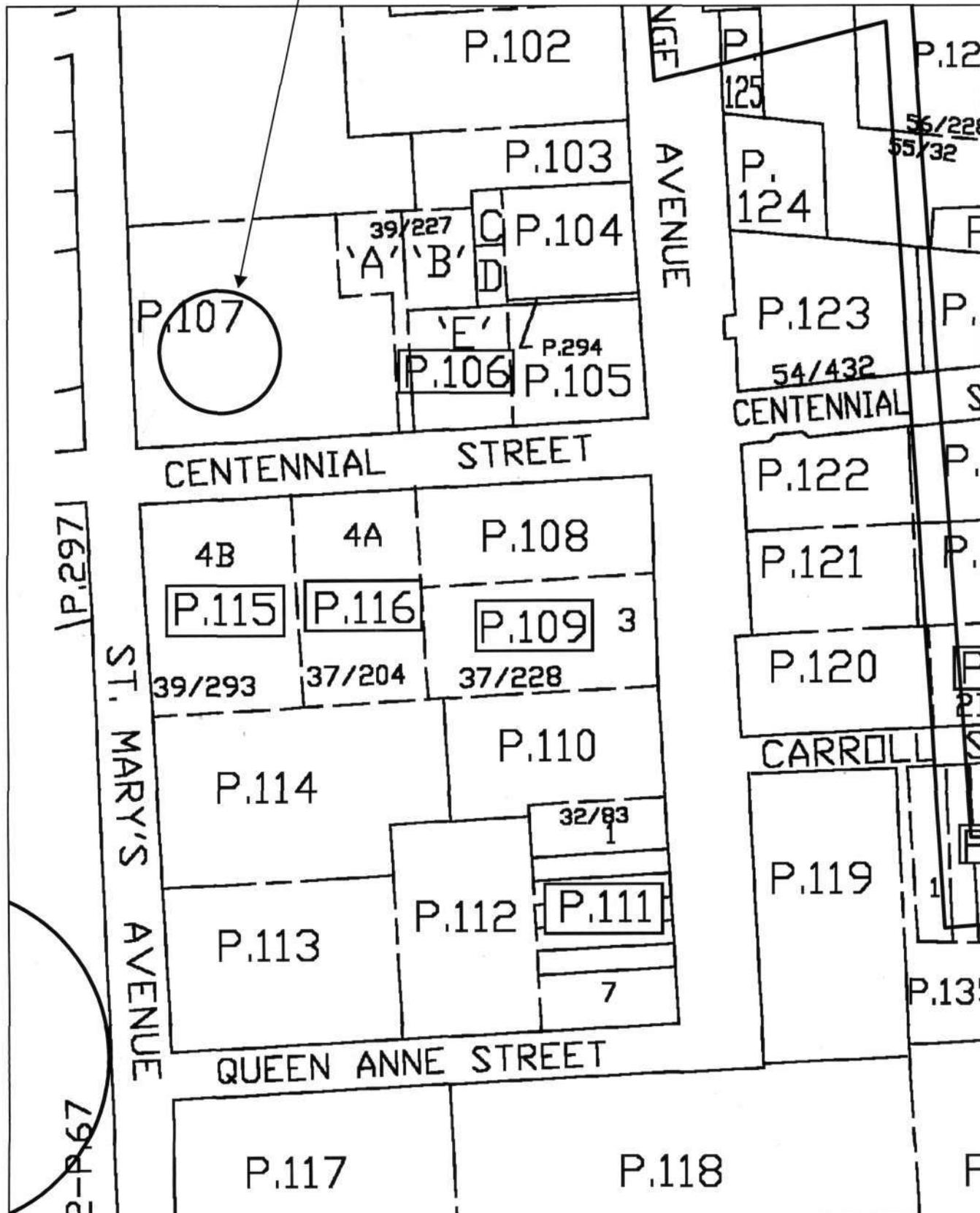
Property Name WALKER HOUSE

Town/County LA PLATA/Charles Co.

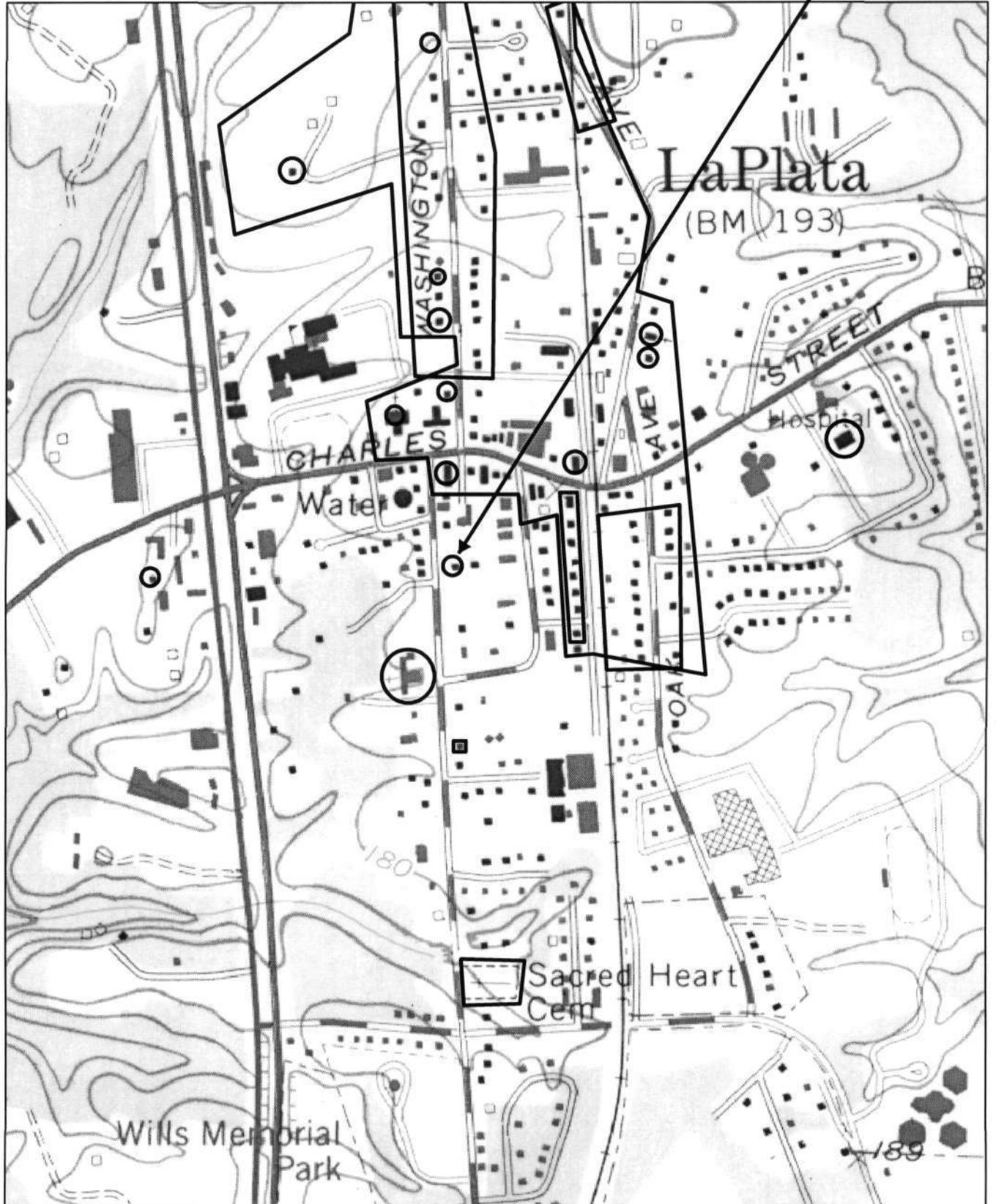
Quadrangle La Plata



CH-345
Walker House
106 Saint Mary's Avenue
La Plata
La Plata Quad
Tax Map 113, Parcel 107



CH-345
Walker House
106 Saint Mary's Avenue
La Plata
La Plata Quad
Tax Map 113, Parcel 107





- 1 CH-345
- 2 Walker House, Charles County, MD
- 3 Bryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.L Spero and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, # 412, Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 106 St Mary's Avenue South and West elevations Northeast view
- 6 1 of 3



- 1 CH-345
- 2 Walker House Charles County, MD
- 3 Bryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 West
Chesapeake Ave, #412, Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 106 St. Mary's Avenue South elevation,
North View of house
- 6 2 of 3



- 1 CH-345
- 2 Walker House, Charles County, MD
- 3 Ryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.C. Spero and Company, 40 W Chesapeake Ave, #4112, Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 106 St Mary's Avenue North and east elevations South west view
- 6 3 of 3

CHAS-345
WALKER HOUSE
La Plata
Private

circa 1900

A large, rambling, two-story, late Victorian-style building, the Walker House is one of the most architecturally distinctive and best preserved of the few early private homes remaining from the time the county seat was formally established at La Plata in 1896. Among its many interesting features is an attractively designed two-part porch across the west front that has block and turned posts, a full balustrade with turned newels, and elaborately scrolled brackets. The whole of the exterior remains much the same as when built, and includes two-story projecting bays on the ends and front of the main block, a large entrance door with over and side lights, and wide cross gables on both sides of the roof of the rear wing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-345

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGI # 0903455604

1 NAME

HISTORIC WALKER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of St. Mary's Avenue

CITY, TOWN La Plata VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME James Walker

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN La Plata VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20646

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The Walker House, an attractive example of Victorian architecture, is located on the east side of St. Mary's Avenue, approximately one-tenth of a mile south of the Charles County Courthouse.

Basically cross-shaped in plan, the Walker House is of frame construction and two-storys in height. The principal facade faces onto St. Mary's Avenue and has a slightly off-centered "tower" fronted by a three-sided, two-story bay. Extending across the front of the house and tower is a two-part, one-story porch. At the first floor level to the left of the bay are two windows and a large entrance door with side and over lights. On the opposite side is a smaller transomed door flanked by two windows, the upper sash of the latter decorated with small multi-colored panes surrounding a larger clear pane. On the second floor level there are two windows to the left of the tower and one to the right. Above the roof of the bay, in the gable of the tower, is a small half-round window. The porch fronting this elevation has block and turned posts with elaborate jig sawn brackets and a full balustrade. All first floor windows are of one-over-one sash while those of the second floor are of two-over-two sash. All are fitted with louvered exterior blinds. Two interior chimneys with corbeled caps are located on the back slope of the front roof.

The south side elevation is of visual interest due to its many irregularities, though it is not as formally designed as the front. The south end of the front section has a three sided two-story bay with one-over-one sash windows at both floor levels, and has a small half-round window in the gable above. The first floor level of the rear section is six bays in length, with entrance doors occupying the third and fifth bays from the east end. Two thirds of this elevation is covered by a one-story porch, less sophisticated but similar in design to that of the front. In later years a small room was built out over the porch from the back wall of the front section.

The Walker House appears to be in good repair despite the fact that it has been unoccupied for several years. It is built on low brick foundations, has German siding on the exterior walls and a painted tin roof.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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. 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A large, rambling, two-story, late Victorian-style building, the Walker House is one of the most architecturally distinctive and best preserved of the few early private homes remaining from the time the county seat was formally established at La Plata in 1896. Among its many interesting features is an attractively designed two-part porch across the west front that has block and turned posts, a full balustrade with turned newels, and elaborately scrolled brackets. The whole of the exterior remains much the same as when built, and includes two-story projecting bays on the ends and front of the main block, a large entrance door with over and side lights, and wide cross gables on both sides of the roof of the rear wing.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



CHAS-345

WALKER HOUSE

View From SW JRRivoire, 1978



CHAS-345

WALKER HOUSE

West Front J.R.Rivoire, 1978