



**Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission  
HISTORIC PROPERTY DATA FORM**

DATABASE ID# \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN Newport VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 65 Friendship Street PLAT/LOT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(s) Louis and Sarah Walker House/Eleanor Walker Keys House

PROPERTY TYPE Bld OWNERSHIP Priv

STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

NR DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

USES: Select terms from National Register table

CURRENT Multiple Dwelling HISTORIC Multiple Dwelling

SITING: SETBACK 10 ft LOT SIZE 2,178 sq ft

STORIES 2 ROOF(s) Gable

MATERIALS: Select terms from National Register table

ROOF Asphalt WALL Vinyl

FOUNDATION Concrete OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

WINDOWS 1/1 double-hung vinyl



Photo ID NEWP\_FriendshipSt\_65\_W

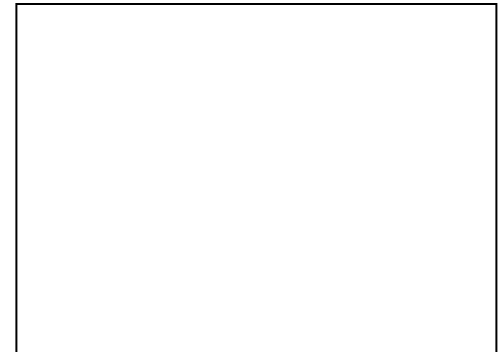


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ALTERATIONS:	PORCH	WINDOWS	TRIM	OVERALL
Material	Maj	Maj	Maj	Mod
Configuration	Mod	Min	None	None

INTEGRITY Excellent  Good Fair Poor Destroyed

PROPERTY COMPONENTS: List & number in order of importance. Include the primary component of the resource as number 1.

Component Type	Code	Count	Component Type	Code	Count
(1) House	B-C	1	(4)		
(2) Garage (Shared)	B-C	1	(5)		
(3)			(6)		

EVENT	DATE	SOURCE	NAME (person/firm/organization)	ROLE
Original Construction	1907-1921	Maps	Louis and Sarah Walker	Owners
Shared Garage Built	1921-1950	Maps	Louis and Sarah Walker	Owners

ARCHITECTURE: If more than one, list & number in order of importance

TYPE Side Hall STYLE(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SURVEYOR PAL DATE March 2019 REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Use reverse for comments, history, and bibliography

This form was produced as part of a survey of resources associated with the twentieth-century African American Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island and provides a summary of information relevant to that historical context. The surveyed property may have associations with additional historical contexts that are not discussed.

### **History:**

The house at 65 Friendship Street was built by Louis and Sarah Walker between 1907 and 1921 (Richards 1907; Sanborn 1921). The Walkers also owned the houses at 63 Friendship Street (where Louis had previously lived with his Virginia-born parents and his siblings) and 98 Kay Street, just around the corner (U.S. Census 1910). In 1925, Louis and Sarah lived at 98 Kay Street (originally designated 100 Kay Street) with their son Louis Jr., daughters Sarah and Eleanor, and Louis' brother Edwin (Ancestry.com 2013). Their other houses were partially occupied by family members and may also have been used as rental properties.

Beginning in 1945, or possibly earlier, Louis and Sarah lived in the house at 65 Friendship Street with their daughter, Eleanor Walker Keys (1922–2012), and her husband John (*Newport Mercury* 1945; Eastern Publishing Co. 1950; CNRPR 2250/27). Eleanor and John purchased the house from Eleanor's parents in 1958 and continued to live there until 2012, when Eleanor sold it to the current owner (CNRPR 195/173). John Keys worked as a mechanic at the City Garage. Eleanor worked as a draftsman at the Naval Central Torpedo Office on Goat Island in Newport until 1946, then at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center until her retirement in 1986. In 1963, she was awarded \$15 for suggesting that working conditions could be improved by the installation of pull-down utility shelves (*Newport Daily News* 1963).

Eleanor was involved in various civil rights organizations in Newport, including the NAACP and the Women's League Newport. In 1960, she was a chairperson for the local NAACP branch and by 1970 headed the branch (*Newport Daily News* 1960; *Newport Mercury* 1970). Eleanor was active in promoting the understanding of black history in Newport, delivering presentations about black historical figures to Newport classrooms. She also belonged to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and the Newport Historical Society. Eleanor received numerous awards for her civic work, including the City of Newport "Medal of Honor" Award, the *Newport Daily News* Community Service Award, and the 1978 George T. Downing Award (Memorial Funeral Home 2012).

### **Bibliography:**

Ancestry.com

2013 *Rhode Island, State Censuses, 1865–1935*. Ancestry.com, Provo, UT.

City of Newport Real Property Records (CNRPR)

1958 Book 195/Page 173 Louis and Sarah Walker to John and Eleanor Keys

2012 Book 2250/Page 27 Eleanor Keys to Daniel Foley

Eastern Publishing Co.

1950 *City Directory of Newport*. Eastern Publishing Co., Newport, RI.

L. J. Richards & Co.

1901 *Atlas of the City of Newport and towns of Middletown and Portsmouth, RI*. L.J. Richards & Co., Springfield, MA.

*Newport Daily News*

1960 "NAACP Chapter Starts Member Drive." 19 May, p. 3.

1963 "CTO Employee Awarded \$150." 20 February, p. 2.

*Newport Mercury*

1945 "Local Briefs." 17 August, p. 7.

1970 "NAACP Membership Will Cost More In '70." 2 January, p. 10.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co.

1921 *Atlas of Newport, Jamestown, Middletown, and Portsmouth, Rhode Island*. Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1910 *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910* (T624, 1,178 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.