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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Cook
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Dr. Daniel Hale Williams House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
445 East 42nd Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Illinois CODE: 17 COUNTY: Cook CODE: 031

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Albert Morris

STREET AND NUMBER:  
445 East 42nd Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Cook County Recorder of Deeds - County Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
118 North Clark Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None known

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Cook
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(minor) (Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dr. Williams residence at 445 East 42nd Street is located on the south side of 42nd Street, facing north. The building is situated about 1/2 block east of Dr. Martin Luther King Drive on a block of lower-middle or working class structures, most of which are in fair to good condition. The area is pleasant.

The structure itself is of frame construction, two stories, being about 26'x45'. The home is unpretentious, being of a style described as "cottage" with Queen Anne or picturesque details. The exterior was originally lapped wood but now is covered with asphalt siding.

The interior of the home is little changed for the most part with no apparent structural changes.

The present owner, Mr. Morris, said his mother bought the home from Dr. Williams in 1929. According to property records and city directories it would appear that Dr. Williams lived here from 1905 or 1906 to 1929. Style-wise the house also appears to have been built at about this time, therefore, Dr. Williams could quite possibly have been the first owner. There are no building permits for the home in the city's files.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1856-1931 (Williams) c. 1905-1929 (Williams residence in house)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |  | <u>Afro-American History</u>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Daniel Hale Williams, an outstanding black doctor, is best known for his pioneer work in heart surgery. Though his work in this area was a great feat in itself, it does not begin to define the scope of his magnificent career which spanned nearly half a century.

Daniel Hale Williams was born in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1856, the fifth of seven children. When young Dan was eleven, his father died. His mother apprenticed him to a Baltimore shoemaker and moved to Rockford, Illinois. At twelve years old he traveled West, working in barber shops and on lake boats. He later moved to Janesville, Wisconsin, where he worked part time in Harry Anderson's Tonsorial Parlor and Bathing Rooms and attended school. In 1878, a year after Williams graduated from the Classical Academy in Janesville, the town's leading physician, Dr. Henry Palmer, Wisconsin's Surgeon-General, accepted Dan and two whites as apprentices. By the fall of 1880, the three young men were enrolled in the Chicago Medical College, an affiliate of Northwestern University. Boarding with a distant cousin and subsisting on a succession of loans, Dan Williams completed his course in March, 1883, after having served an intership in Mercy Hospital.

Dr. Williams was the fourth Negro doctor in Chicago when he opened an office at 3034 Michigan Avenue, in a well-to-do racially mixed neighborhood. As his reputation as a good practitioner grew, his clientele swelled.

During this period in medical history, surgeons developed as cases were thrust upon them. They learned techniques as they operated. Dr. Williams found an opportunity to perform minor operations regularly by securing an appointment to the surgical staff of the South Side Dispensary. As he operated he gave clinical instruction to Chicago Medical College students. He also served as one of the school's demonstrators of anatomy. Due to these professional affiliations, when a former professor retired, Williams was appointed to replace him as staff physician of the Protestant Orphan Asylum, an unpaid job but a valuable one for experience and prestige. Williams later became a surgeon for the City Railway Company, and in 1889 and 1891 was appointed to the Illinois State Board of Health.

Although he was given many opportunities to develop as a surgeon and as a general practitioner, Dr. Williams keenly felt the need for a hospital where black interns, nurses, and physicians - usually rejected by white-controlled hospitals - could train

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Buckler, Helen. Daniel Hale Williams, Negro Surgeon. New York: Pitman Publishing Corp.

"Daniel Hale Williams: Pioneer Surgeon and Father of Negro Hospitals," reprint of address by Ulysses Grant Dailey, M. D., before the National Hospital Association, August 18, 1941.

Morais, Herbert M. International Library of Negro Life and History. The History of the Negro in Medicine. New York: Publishers Co., Inc., 1967.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds			
NW	° ' "	° ' "			
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

UTM: 16.448900.4629620

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Marcia M. Greenlee, Historical Projects Director**

ORGANIZATION: **The Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation**      DATE: **2 July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1420 N Street, Northwest**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, D. C. 20005**      STATE: \_\_\_\_\_      CODE: **11**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#8 Significance - page 2

and enjoy staff privileges. In 1890 he launched a drive to found a hospital. On January 23, 1891, the Provident Hospital and Training School Association was incorporated. Provident was the first hospital in America founded and fully controlled by blacks. Under Dr. Williams' exacting leadership, Provident set high standards, had an integrated staff and patients, built a good reputation, and soon became a mecca for black interns, nurses, and patients from all over America.

The Provident Hospital and Training School Association included a Nursing School which soon became a distinct source of pride for the black community. It was the first such training school set up for Negro nurses in the United States and Dr. Williams allowed no compromises in his nurses' training program. The training period was set for eighteen months, as long as any in the city, and the instruction was "most rigid," including all details of anti-septic preparation and nursing for surgery and care of serious medical cases.

Within a few months, the hospital's excellent standards were widely known and it became necessary to move the student nurses into rented quarters nearby to make room for the influx of patients. At the end of the first year, Dr. Williams made a public report of the hospital's work. Of 189 sick and injured, twenty-three had improved, three had not, twenty-two died, and 141 recovered entirely, a ratio of which any hospital would be proud.

It was here that Williams performed his famous heart operation on July 9, 1893. James Cornish, a Negro expressman, was rushed to Provident Hospital with a stab wound in the region of the heart. Medical thinking of the day demanded that heart punctures be left, either to heal themselves or prove fatal. Dr. Williams dared to do the unthinkable, risking his reputation and that of his fledgling hospital, to save his patient by operating on the wounded heart.

Six doctors were invited to attend the operation. Williams had to thread his way through an uncertain, highly dangerous network of blood vessels and nerves as he entered the thoracic cavity and proceeded to perform a surgical exploration of the heart. At the same time, he had to be certain to do nothing to interfere with the continuous beating of the life mechanism. It should be noted that all of this operation was done without the benefit of experience or the aid of X-ray, modern anesthesia, or life-support systems now considered common and necessary to such cases. Williams found that the pericardium, the sac surrounding the heart, had been punctured by the knife and that the heart muscle, too, had been nicked, but did not require suturing. Dr. Williams deftly repaired the damage, sewing up the pericardium, and successfully completed the operation. Cornish walked out of the hospital in fifty-one days and lived another twenty years.

Extensive nationwide newspaper publicity was given to the unprecedented operation. Four years later, medical journals learned that a similar operation, unknown to Williams at the time, had been performed by Dr. H. C. Dalton in St. Louis in 1891, but his patient remained hospitalized 103 days and it was not known how long he lived thereafter. Standard texts continued to list Williams' case as the first fully successful heart operation, a major contribution toward modern heart-transplants.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) #8 Significance - page 3

In years following this highly publicized case, Dr. Williams succeeded in many other daring operations far ahead of his time, including two stabbed heart cases, several Caesarean deliveries, removal of difficult uterine tumors, brain surgery, and suturing of the spleen. Many of these operations were recorded in national medical journals as "firsts" or "only such" cases: for example, his removal of an eighteen pound uterine tumor from a pregnant woman, saving both the mother and child; and his ability to suture the spleen despite common medical opinion that this could not be done successfully due to the tendency of the spleen to tear when sewn. The publication of Dr. Williams' papers and lectures regarding procedures and techniques employed in these operations, afforded the medical world knowledge previously unavailable.

Dr. Williams' work with Provident Hospital and his reputation as an outstanding surgeon influenced President Grover Cleveland to appoint him surgeon-in-chief of the 200 bed Freedmen's Hospital and Asylum in Washington, D. C. Dr. Williams served for four years in this position, during which time he elevated the run-down institution to respectable status. Dr. Williams assembled a staff of twenty nonsalaried specialists and systemized the hospital into seven departments: medical, surgical, gynecological, obstetrical, dermatological, genitourinary, and throat and chest. He also set up two modern adjuncts, a pathological department and a bacteriological department, and an ambulance system. His next step was to set up a system of internships to supplement the staff of twenty doctors. This move almost completely did away with the need for two former paid assistants and placed within the reach of young black medical graduates an opportunity for advancement which was accorded them only at Provident.

Dr. Williams next turned his attention to establishing a nurses' training program. His big difficulty lay in the prior existence of a so-called Training School for Nurses undertaken by the Howard University less than two years before. The Howard plan offered only out-moded didactic instruction two evenings a week with a promise of "some" practical experience in Freedmen's Hospital. In order to reduce the high mortality rate at Freedmen's, Dr. Williams wanted to eliminate all unfit attendants. He knew that carefully selected student nurses could, when supervised by a qualified superintendent and her assistants, give the bulk of the services in the hospital at the same time they were learning. The University agreed to carry on both schools, side by side. By the end of the year, the disgraceful mortality rate of the hospital had tumbled to an unprecedented low.

Dr. Williams resigned his post at Freedmen's in 1898 and returned to Provident and his Chicago practice. He served on the surgical staff of Cook County Hospital from 1900 to 1906, and became associate attending surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital from 1907 through 1931. After his return to Chicago, many southern blacks traveled to Provident to be attended by Williams. Forbidden entrance to white hospitals, or treated offensively when they were admitted, many southern Negroes died by the thousands annually from lack of proper medical attention.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) #8 Significance - page 4

With these practices by white hospitals in mind, Dr. Williams decided to again impress upon Booker T. Washington the need for a medical and surgical center for blacks in the South. It was a matter he had already suggested, but without success. Again, the idea was not accepted. In 1889, however, he was approached by George W. Hubbard, aging dean of Meharry Medical College in Nashville. Hubbard asked and Williams agreed to go to Meharry as visiting professor of clinical surgery for a week or ten days each year without recompense. The situation, however, demanded more than a yearly visit. Hospital facilities were mandatory. Patients required postoperative care, and no black doctor or intern was allowed in the hospitals of Nashville.

In 1900, due chiefly to Dr. Williams' insistence, Nashville's black community opened its own hospital. Here Dr. Williams held his clinics, the great event of the Meharry medical year, attended not only by students but by alumni and doctors from the country over. He opened the whole field of modern surgery to Meharry's faculty and students as he had done at Howard and Provident.

Meharry was just the beginning of a new dimension in Dr. Williams' career. Soon, despite his heavy private practice and the demands upon him in Chicago, Dr. Williams was traveling at the call of black doctors who asked for his assistance. He was willing to assist any individual, group, or school interested in providing first rate medical care and training for blacks. Within a few years, under his forceful persuasion and guidance, blacks in some thirty cities throughout America founded hospitals.

An inspiration to countless young doctors, he was so wrapped up in his work and so little attuned to medical politics that he failed to pander to powerful people and to protect himself. Undercut and outmaneuvered, he was forced to resign in 1912 from the staff of Provident. Prior to his resignation, however, he was appointed associate attending surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital. Dr. Williams served in this capacity from 1907 through 1931. His remarkable reputation was not impaired and it preceded him wherever he went. His reputation was such that in 1913 he became a charter member of the American College of Surgeons, and for many years was the only black accepted in that body.

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams died on Tuesday, August 4, 1931, in his home in Idlewild, Michigan.

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams is of national historical importance because he performed the first fully successful heart operation. He advanced theories and practices in gynecology by several decades and he advanced the medical training of young black doctors throughout the country by his association with hospitals and medical societies. He established and administered the first hospital funded and controlled by blacks in the United States. Dr. Williams also founded the first training school for black nurses in the United States and was a charter member of the American College of Surgeons.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#9 Major Bibliographical References - page 2

Ploski, Harry A., and Kaiser, Ernest. The Negro Almanac. New York: The Bellwether Co., 1971.

Toppin, Edgar A. A Biographical History of Blacks in America Since 1528. New York: David McKay Co., Inc.

Williams, Daniel H. "Ovarian Cysts in Colored Women, with Notes on the Relative Frequency of Fibromas in Both Races." Chicago Medical Recorder, XX (1901).  
"Penetrating Wounds of the Chest, Perforating the Diaphragm, and Involving the Abdominal Viscera. Case of Successful Spleen Suture for Traumatic Haemorrhage." Annals of Surger, VI (1904).

(PARTIAL LISTING)