

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Carter G. Woodson House

AND/OR COMMON

Carter G. Woodson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1538 Ninth Street, Northwest

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

000

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C.

CODE

11

COUNTY

001

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER

Not in use

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History

STREET & NUMBER

1401 - 14th Street, Northwest

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

515 D Street, Northwest

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None Known

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ GOOD

☐ RUINS

☒ FAIR

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a Victorian row type, three-stories high with raised basement, and was built about 1890. The front is three-bays wide of hard burned red brick with narrow-lime mortar joints. the entrance steps, window sills and water-table are square-cut white marble. The window sashes are wooden double hung with a single vertical muntin in each sash. The doorway is to the right of the front and accented by two-wide wooden members extending from the sill to a bracketed console with three mutules between the brackets. The main cornice is quite wide with the same brackets and mutle design as the doorway. The handrail is cast-iron with floral relief, typical of the Victorian period.

The first floor originally had five rooms and a vestibule, but the removal of a partition between the parlor and sitting room has reduced the number to four. Both parlor and sitting room have marble fireplaces with half round openings. The second floor contains four rooms and a ceramic tiled bath. Dr. Woodson used the large front room on this floor as his office. The room also has a fireplace. The third floor has two rooms which were Dr. Woodson's living quarters. The stairway is located about midway of the first floor and is at right angle to the longitudinal axis of the house. Balusters and rail are simple in design. The stairs are in good condition. The exterior trim is typically Victorian and the majority of the doors have glass transoms over them.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

Afro-American History

SPECIFIC DATES	1915-1950	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Not Known
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Carter G. Woodson is of national historical significance because he was the fountainhead of knowledge regarding black history. He was a man who saw the existing neglect of black history and who spent his lifetime trying to erase that neglect. To this end he established the Association for the Study of Negro life and History (ASNLH), the Associated Publishers, The Journal of Negro History and The Negro History Bulletin, all of which are still in operation today. As a result of his many years of research and scholarship, Dr. Woodson was the author of numerous books, monographs and articles on subjects of Afro-American history.

Carter Godwin Woodson, the son of former slaves, was born on December 19, 1875 in New Canton, Virginia. Public education was not available to the black population of New Canton, consequently, young Woodson undertook the arduous task of teaching himself. As a teenager Woodson and his brother Robert Henry relocated to Huntington, West Virginia where they found increased opportunities in employment and education for blacks. To supplement his family's income, Woodson found employment as a coal miner.

In 1895, at the age of twenty, Carter Woodson began his formal education by entering Douglass High School in Huntington. Within two years he obtained his high school diploma and entered Berea College in Kentucky where he received his B.L. degree in 1897. Woodson continued to pursue his academic interests at the University of Chicago where he earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees. In 1912, Woodson was awarded the Ph.D. degree from Harvard University, following W.E.B. Du Bois in becoming the second black American to receive a doctorate from that institution.

In the fifteen years between the time he entered Berea College in 1897 and graduated Harvard in 1912, Carter G. Woodson held a number of teaching positions, both in the United States and abroad. In 1904, he accepted a position in the Phillipines as supervisor of schools during which time he learned to speak Spanish fluently. Leaving the Phillipines in 1906, Woodson travelled for a year visiting the continents of Asia and Europe. While in Europe, Woodson studied briefly at the Sorbonne where he acquired fluent communication skills in the French language. Upon his return to the United States, Woodson settled in Washington, D.C. in order to have access to the Library of Congress while completing his doctoral dissertation. Dr. Woodson taught English, Spanish, and French at the M Street High School in the District (now Dunbar High School) while he completed his dissertation.

Although Dr. Woodson's early professional life encompassed the teaching profession, his primary interest was in the history of black people. After years of teaching and studying, he was cognizant of

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Home Study Department. Washington, D.C.

Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Suggestions for the Observance of Negro History Week. Washington, D.C.

(PARTIAL LISTING)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 324480 4308530
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Carter G. Woodson House is located at 1538 Ninth Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. It is a row house. On the north and south sides are other private residences, while Ninth Street bounds the property on the east and an alleyway on the west (rear).

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

Lynne Gomez Graves, Historical Projects Director

ORGANIZATION

Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation

DATE

October 30, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1420 N Street, Northwest

TELEPHONE

(202) 462-2519

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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the widespread ignorance and scanty information concerning black life and history in the United States. Carter G. Woodson founded the ASNLH as a means of correcting this situation.

The ASNLH was founded on September 9, 1915 and incorporated on October 3. It was housed in the building at 1538 Ninth Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. with Woodson's residence located on the second floor and offices on the first and basement floors. Dr. Woodson saw a need to educate the American public to the contributions of black Americans in the formation of the nation's history and culture. The Association came into existence during a period when the pervasive influence of Jim Crow ideology within the country was quite evident. Such sentiment was symbolized by enforced segregation within departments of the federal government during the Wilson Administration.

Racist propaganda alleging black inferiority was painstakingly countered by the indefatigable Dr. Woodson through the ASNLH and its first publication, The Journal of Negro History. From its inception in January 1916, The Journal of Negro History solicited the work of scholars in almost every area of academic endeavor and maintained standards of excellence that rivaled those of many longer established historical publications.

Woodson alone ran the ASNLH for seven years after its founding. He trained researchers and other staff personnel, wrote books and articles on black history and continued teaching school. Following his work at the M Street High School, he also taught at Armstrong Manual Training High School and at the Miner Normal School. Dr. Woodson taught history at Howard University and served as Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Head of the Graduate Faculty from 1919 to 1920. He also served in the position of Dean at West Virginia Collegiate Institute (now West Virginia State College).

Dr. Woodson retired from teaching in 1922 in order to devote full-time attention to the ASNLH and to research and writing. In 1920 he founded the Associated Publishers, Inc. to handle the publication of research on Afro-American history and to serve as the fund-raising component of the ASNLH. Two of Dr. Woodson's books, The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861, (1915) and A Century of Negro Migration, (1918), were already published at the time the Associated Publishers was established. All of his subsequent works and the work of numerous other black scholars were published by Associated Publishers. Dr. Woodson's textbook, The Negro in Our History (1922) was of particular importance as a means through which students and the general public could become informed of Afro-American contributions in American history.

In line with his goal of making the general public more aware of the history of black people, Dr. Woodson instituted Negro History Week in 1926, with the intention of focusing on black history in order to reach all levels of the black community. This week was an observation which gained national support and the participation of many schools, colleges, and organizations across the country. Celebrated during the second week of February, Negro History Week has continued to be observed to the present.

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In 1927, Dr. Woodson organized a Home Study Department in the ASNLH which offered a black history course by mail. Scholars enlisted to work with the program included: Charles H. Wesley, Alain Locke, E. Franklin Frazier, Luther P. Jackson and Charles S. Johnson. In 1937, the ASNLH began publication of the Negro History Bulletin. The Bulletin was designed to reach the masses of people who might never come in contact with The Journal of Negro History which was primarily directed to the academic community.

So dedicated was Dr. Woodson to his organization that he was personally involved in every aspect of its operation and survival. Although the ASNLH usually operated on a less than adequate budget, Dr. Woodson was able to personally solicit some financial aid from foundations such as the Carnegie and Rockefeller Foundations.

For most of his adult life it was Dr. Woodson's dream to complete an Encyclopedia Africana and in 1944 he began to direct his time and energies toward the preparation of the six volume opus magnum. In April 1949, he began correspondence with many outstanding scholars to solicit help from them in completing this work. He selected scholars to form an editorial board which would determine policies and seek efforts of a larger number of scholars who would serve as consultants. Some of the individuals selected to serve on the board were: Lorenzo Greene, John Hope Franklin, Dorothy Porter, Charles Wesley, Benjamin Quarles, and Nick Aaron Ford. Unfortunately, this mammoth project was never completed because of the death of Dr. Woodson at his 1538 Ninth Street residence on April 3, 1950.

In the wake of his death, Dr. Woodson was posthumously paid tribute across the country. Numerous schools and other organizations began to bear his name in honor of his achievements. His alma mater, Berea College, established a Carter G. Woodson Professorship in Negro History. The National Education Association in Washington established a Carter G. Woodson award to be granted to an organization or local education association for its leadership in the promotion of Negro History Week. The Black Academy of Arts and Letters named him to its newly established Hall of Fame at its Annual Awards banquet on September 20, 1970. However, perhaps the most fitting tribute to his memory is the continued successful operation of the ASALH (presently know as the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History), the Associated Publishers, and the Journal and Bulletin.

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Journal of the National Medical Association. September 1970.

Logan, Rayford W. "Carter G. Woodson: Mirror and Molder of His Time, 1875-1950." Journal of Negro History. January 1973.