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Special Resource Study  
**Carter G. Woodson Home**



January 2001

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Carter G. Woodson Home  
Washington, D.C.



**CARTER G. WOODSON HOME  
SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Public Law 106-349, enacted October 24, 2000, (Appendix A) authorized and directed the National Park Service to conduct this special resource study to evaluate the potential for the future management and operation of the Carter G. Woodson Home and to determine what role or roles the Federal Government might assume here in the future.

One of the responsibilities of the National Park Service is to identify nationally significant natural, cultural, and recreational resources and assist in their preservation both within and outside the National Park System. The areas owned by the National Park Service are one part of a national inventory of special and protected areas managed by innumerable federal, state, and local agencies and the private sector. Consequently, addition to the National Park System is only one of many possible alternatives for ensuring the preservation of significant national resources for public enjoyment and benefit. The purpose of this study is to provide the United States Congress with a professional analysis of whether the nationally significant Carter G. Woodson Home is suitable and feasible for designation as a unit of the National Park System.

In addition, this special resource study presents alternatives for the future protection, interpretation, and management of the Woodson Home, including a "no action alternative" in order to provide a basis of comparison with the other identified alternatives.

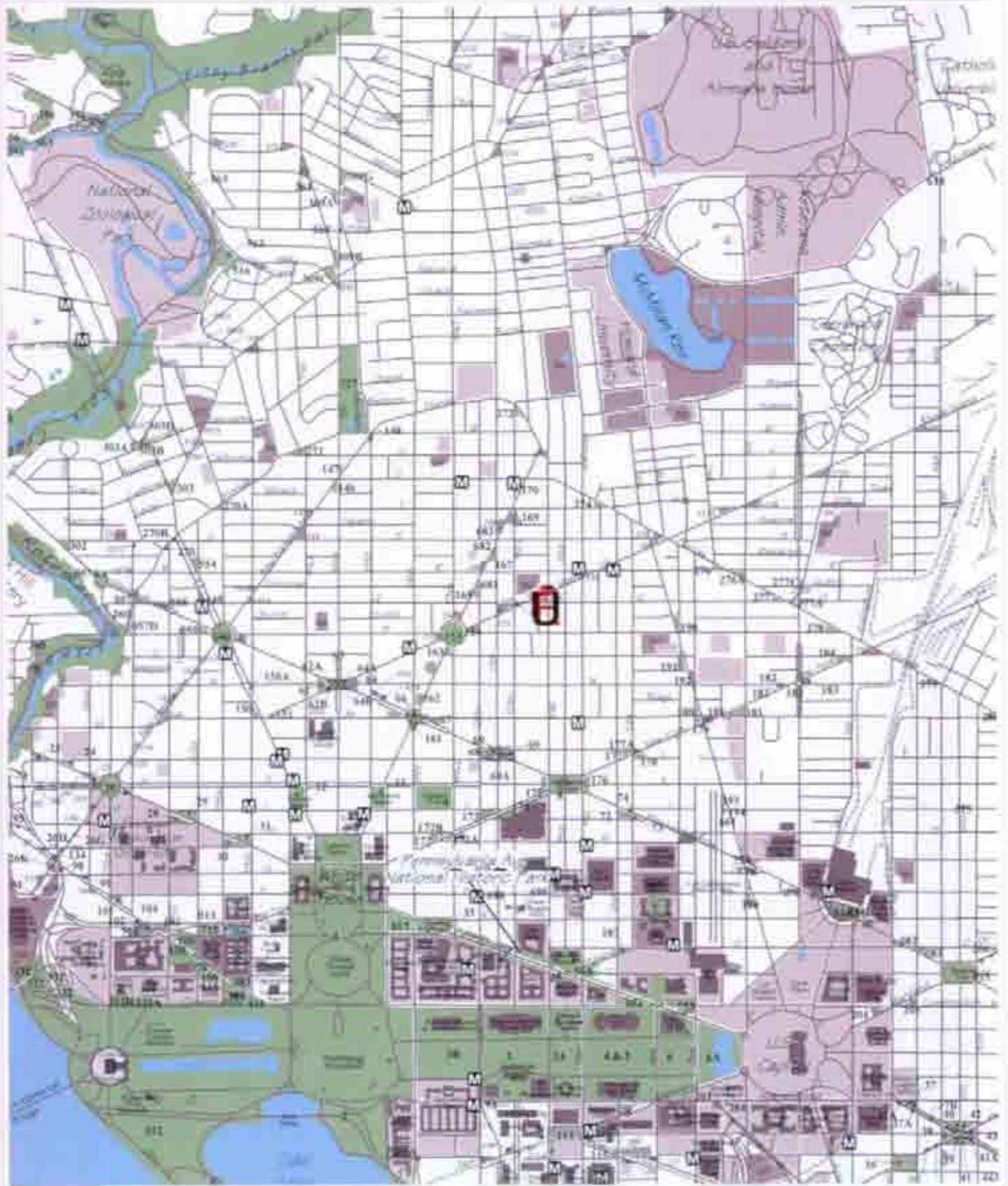
## **BACKGROUND**

The Carter G. Woodson Home, which was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 11, 1976 (Appendix B) for its national significance in African-American cultural heritage, is an important component of a neighborhood undergoing rapid positive change. Dr. Woodson is of national historical significance because he was the fountainhead of knowledge regarding African-American history. In 1915, he founded The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in this home. This organization, which is now called The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, owns the home and used it as their headquarters for 20 years after Dr. Woodson's death in 1950. The home is now unoccupied and awaiting rehabilitation.

### **A. Dr. Carter G. Woodson**

Dr. Woodson, the son of former slaves, earned his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1912, becoming only the second black American to receive a doctorate from Harvard after the great W.E.B. DuBois. Dr. Woodson's personal educational achievement was extraordinary, especially since he had been denied access to public education in Canton, Virginia, where Woodson was born in 1875. As a result, Dr. Woodson did not begin his formal education until he was 20 years old, after he moved to Huntington, West Virginia, and received his high school diploma two years later. He then entered Berea College in Kentucky, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1897. Woodson continued his education at the University of Chicago where he earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees.

During much of Dr. Woodson's life, there was both very little information and a lack of knowledge concerning African-American life and history. Through his extensive studies,



Carter G. Woodson Home  
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153

NPS Jurisdiction

157

D.C. Jurisdiction



0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles



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Location Map





Woodson almost single-handedly established African-American historiography. Dr. Woodson's research literally uncovered black history and helped to educate the American public about the contributions of African Americans to the Nation's history and culture. Through scholarly and painstaking historical research, his work has aided in overcoming the stereotypical portrayals of black people that have limited our history as a Nation.

To remedy these stereotypes, in 1915 Dr. Woodson founded The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, since renamed The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. Through the Association, Dr. Woodson dedicated his life to educating the American public about the extensive and positive contributions of black Americans to the Nation's history and culture. This enlightening work has played an indispensable role in reducing prejudice and clarifying the need for civil rights remedies. One of the enduring accomplishments of the Association under Dr. Woodson's leadership was the initiation in 1926 of Negro History Week to be observed during the week in February of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Today Negro History Week has expanded into Black History Month and gained support throughout the country as people of all backgrounds celebrate it.

To assure publication under Dr. Woodson's leadership, the Association in 1920 also founded The Associated Publishers for the publication of research on African American history. In 1922, Dr. Woodson published his seminal work, The Negro in Our History, and many others by The Associated Publishers. The publishing company provided an outlet for scholarly works by numerous other black scholars. The Association also circulated two periodicals, the *Negro History Bulletin*, designed for mass consumption and the *Journal of Negro History*, which was primarily oriented to the academic community. Dr. Woodson directed the Association's operations from his home on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, where he lived from 1915 until his death in 1950. From there, he trained researchers and staff and managed the Association's budget and fundraising efforts while at the same time pursuing his own study of African-American history.

## **B. The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History**

Carter G. Woodson founded The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (Association) on October 3, 1915. The Association is currently headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland and operates local, state, and international branches to promote greater knowledge of African-American history through programs of education, research, and publishing of the *Negro History Bulletin*, and the quarterly *Journal of Negro History*. The Association owns Dr. Woodson's extensive library which includes upwards of 100 first editions of works relevant to African-American history. Now in storage in 1,200 boxes, Dr. Woodson's library has been appraised at \$600,000 to \$1 million. The Association owns the house and occupied it as their national headquarters until the early 1970s.

## **C. The Woodson Home and Its Setting**

### **1. The Structure**

A fine example of a Victorian row house, three stories high with raised basement, the Woodson Home is dignified in appearance and provides an authentic example of a



Woodson Home



Woodson Home



Backyard of Woodson Home



1500 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street viewing south



1500 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street viewing north

popular architectural style characteristic of Washington in the 1890s. The building is relatively small, with an 18-foot frontage on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and contains 3,380 square feet of interior space, including the basement. The modest rear yard, which backs up to an alley, is covered with weed vegetation and is surrounded by a chain link fence.

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 mutule 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 partition between the parlor and sitting room was removed at some point to create one larger room. The parlor and sitting room had marble fireplaces with half round openings which both survive. The second floor contains four rooms and a ceramic tiled bath. Dr. Woodson used the large front room on this floor as his office. This 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 a 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.

Neither the entrance nor the interior stair is handicapped accessible. Attempting to make the building accessible would significantly alter its historic integrity. Various options for achieving accessibility from 9<sup>th</sup> Street as well as to all three floors must be investigated.

Although the street facade is in relatively sound condition, there is evidence of cosmetic and structural deterioration caused by water leaks at a number of places on the interior of the structure. An architectural plan for each floor is included in Appendix C. A comprehensive list of studies, professional evaluations and immediate safety, security and repair actions which are required is contained in Appendix D. These evaluations would result in a refined cost estimate for restoration and future use of the structure. These recommended studies and actions would cost approximately \$175,000 and could be completed in a 2-year period.

## 2. The Neighborhood Setting

The Woodson Home is not of sufficient size or commanding presence to assume the role of a major element of stability in the neighborhood. Rather, it is one of a number of significant components of Shaw.

The immediate setting for the home is the 1500 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and particularly the row of houses of which it is a part. Much of the Woodson Home's architectural identity is derived from the clean, strong linearity of this row of eight virtually identical buildings. Although it is beyond the scope of this study, maintaining and enhancing this streetscape as part of the historic district should be an objective of high priority. The

park at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Rhode Island Avenue, which is owned by the District of Columbia, has the potential for providing the visual and physical linkage between the Woodson Home and the Phyllis Wheatley YWMC and has been suggested as a possible area for commemoration of Dr. Carter G. Woodson

The Shiloh Baptist Church and its adjoining modern Henry C. Gregory, III Family Life Center building dominate half of the western frontage of the 1500 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. These new buildings, which are generally consistent in materials and color with the church itself, are out of scale and style with the 19<sup>th</sup> century row houses. However, this modern building is distant enough from the Woodson Home itself and is visually buffered by the rest of the row so that their relationship is acceptable. The Shiloh Baptist Church also owns the three row houses to the south of the Woodson Home as well as two row houses to the north of the home. The National Park Service understands that the church may intend to restore and adaptively reuse them as an assisted living facility which is highly compatible with the future public use of the Woodson Home.

Despite their differing architectural styles, the buildings opposite the Carter G. Woodson Home on 9<sup>th</sup> Street are an important part of its historic context, and their preservation is necessary to maintain the original residential character of the street. (See photographs in Appendix E.) The loss of three buildings within the frontage opposite the Woodson Home has affected the block's line of visual continuity and infill development must be sensitive to its context. At the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and P Streets, the removal of another historic structure has resulted in the introduction of an open-air used-car sales lot, which detracts from the dignity of the frontage occupied by the Shiloh Baptist Church, its related facilities, the Woodson Home, and the adjoining row houses.

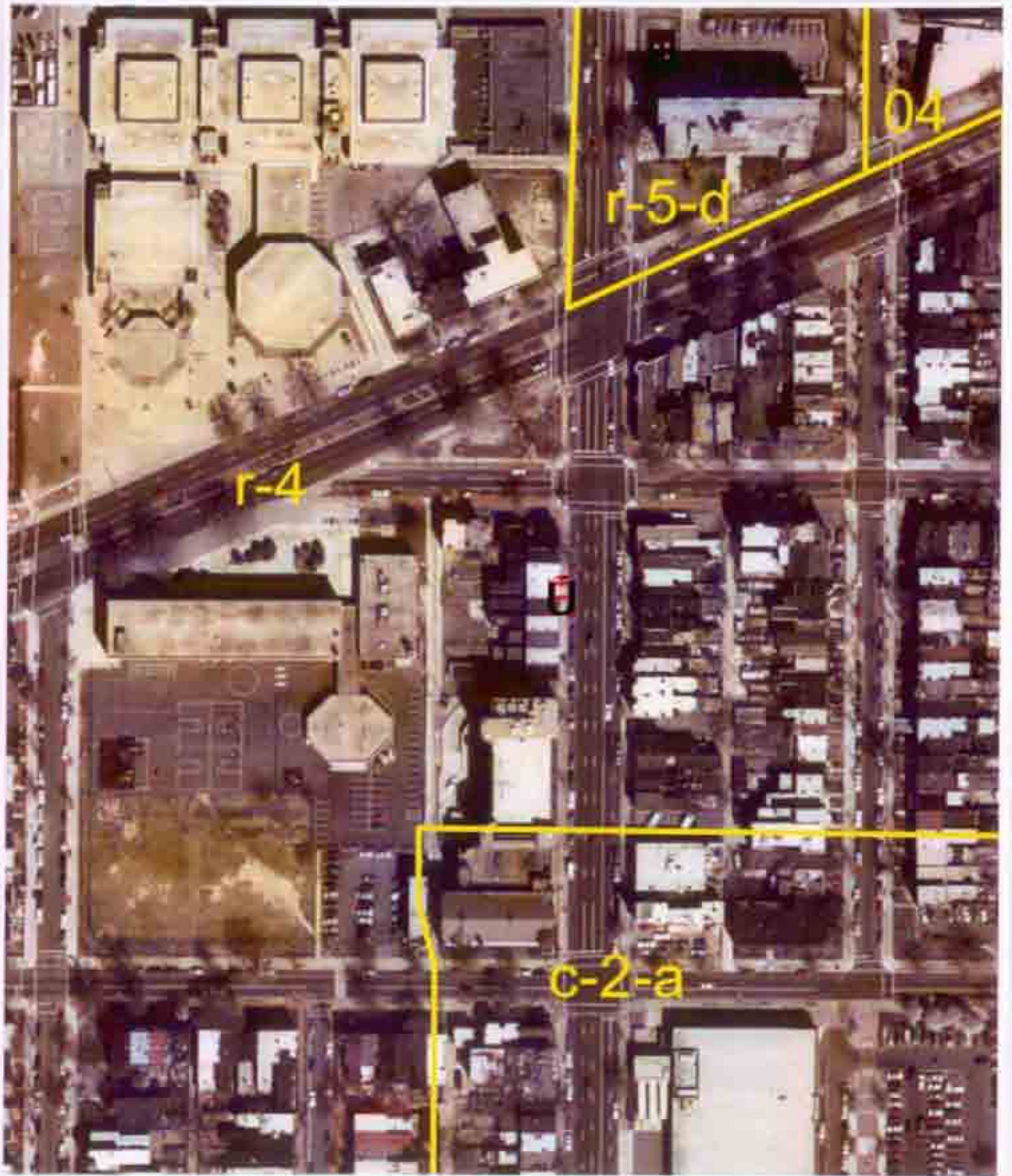
Of the 18 buildings opposite the Carter G. Woodson Home, 10 are occupied as residential, three are unoccupied, two are used for retail and three are for sale or lease. The Shiloh Baptist Church Community Outreach Center and parking lot occupies a modern building, which probably replaced several original row houses, and is not of the same traditional style of the other buildings on the corridor. (See photographs in Appendix E.)

On the west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, three of the row houses contain ground-floor retail use. One building in the architectural ensemble to the north of the Woodson Home is unoccupied and boarded up. Two other buildings on the same frontage just north of the Woodson Home are occupied by ground-floor neighborhood retail.

Immediately west and separated by an alley, is the Seaton Elementary School, with its associated playground and parking lots. To the north of Rhode Island Avenue is the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA where Carter Woodson took all of his meals.

### 3. Zoning

The zoning for the street is R-4, which is that major residential zone in the District of Columbia that includes row houses of this type. Although churches are permitted as a



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Zoning

matter of right and ground-floor retail uses are allowed as special exceptions, the purpose of the zone is residential. However, the southern end of the street is zoned C2-A, a low to moderate density commercial zone, which is designated as community business center, permitting office, retail and residential with a maximum height of 50 feet.

#### 4. The Community Setting

The Carter G. Woodson Home is centrally located in Shaw. This historically significant sector of northwest Washington, which lies generally south of Florida Avenue, and is bounded on the west by 15<sup>th</sup> Street, on the south by M and N Streets and New Jersey Avenue, and on the east by North Capitol Street. It includes approximately 150 city blocks, parts of three major avenues (Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Jersey), and parts of several major arterial streets. Shaw has been called the "heart of Black Washington," and perhaps no other city in the United States can boast of as many cultural features of such historic significance in African-American culture as can be identified in the Shaw neighborhood today. At least 70 sites within Shaw can be singled out as being significant in the African-American heritage of the city itself. These sites, and the personalities and events from which they derive their significance, comprise the larger cultural context of the Carter G. Woodson Home. Its period of significance overlaps that of Dr. Woodson. He lived and worked here during the period when Shaw flourished.

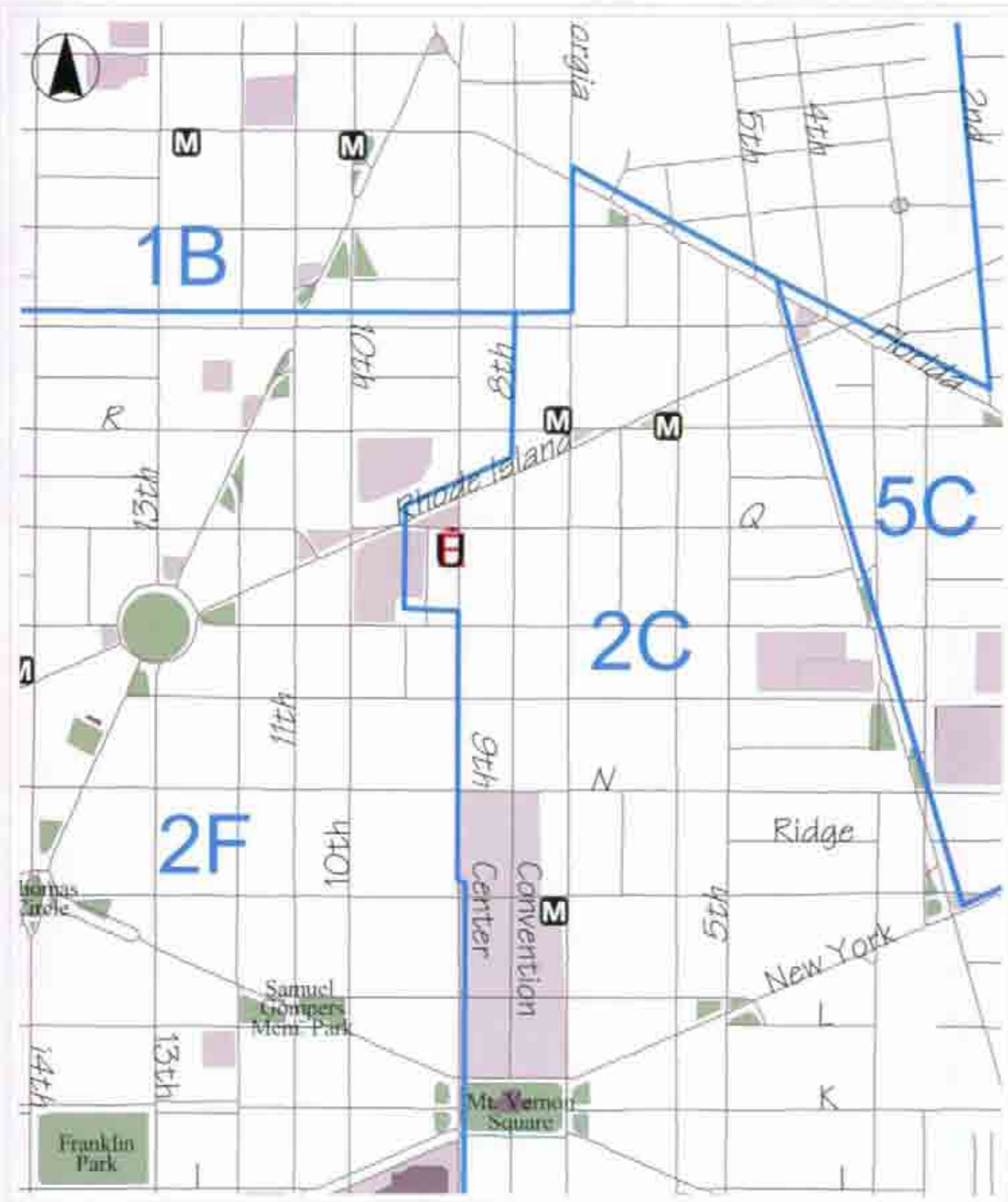
The Woodson Home is also located within the boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2C. Each of the eight wards of the District of Columbia is subdivided into a number of ANCs. These commissions are composed of locally elected commissioners who conduct public forums for community participation in planning, permitting and zoning proposals that result in votes by the commissioners to establish positions on behalf of the community. These positions, by law, must be given "great weight" by local decision-making bodies.

The Shaw area includes a rich and diverse architectural heritage featuring classic turn-of-the-century row houses, many of which have retained their original character. The following 5 of Washington's 39 Historic Districts established pursuant to D.C. Law 2-144 are located within or adjacent to the Shaw area.

LeDroit Park - Noted for the picturesque architectural design of its homes, this was a neighborhood historically home for the "black elite" in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Logan Circle - Noted for its Victorian row houses, the circle is the only residential circle remaining in the city from L'Enfant's original plan.


Greater U Street - The Greater U Street Historic District extends generally north from R and S Streets to Florida Avenue. It contains the U Street restoration area and several restored African-American historic sites such as the Lincoln Theater, Anthony Bowen YMCA (formerly the 12<sup>th</sup> Street YMCA) and Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge.



-  Carter G. Woodson Home
-  Advisory Neighborhood Commission Boundaries
-  NPS Jurisdiction:  Metrostops
-  D.C. Jurisdiction:

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ANC Boundaries



Blagden Alley Naylor Court – This area contains significant remnants of a specialized form of settlement within the patterns of the L'Enfant Plan that later became the focus of a major movement in humanitarian housing reform.

Shaw - From L Street north to Rhode Island Avenue and east of the Logan Circle Historic District to 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets, the recently established Shaw Historic District contains many sites important to the African-American history of the city.

The Historic Context Map identifies the location of these features and other cultural resources of the Shaw Area which Woodson enjoyed.

## 5. Access and Transportation

Major streets and thoroughfares in the vicinity of the Carter G. Woodson Home are in good condition. Traffic channelization and paving improvements have been carried out to upgrade Rhode Island and Vermont Avenues, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, U Street, and several related intersections. These projects should obviate the need for disruptive public works in the environs of the Woodson Home for several years.

The opening of the Green/Yellow Line Metrorail service in the Shaw area in 1991 introduced a new positive force for change in Shaw, one with major implications for establishing and sustaining a new historic preservation effort centered on the Woodson Home. After nearly two decades of disruption by tunneling and related construction activities, the U Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street corridors have been restored to active service and public access to the very heart of Shaw has been enhanced immeasurably.

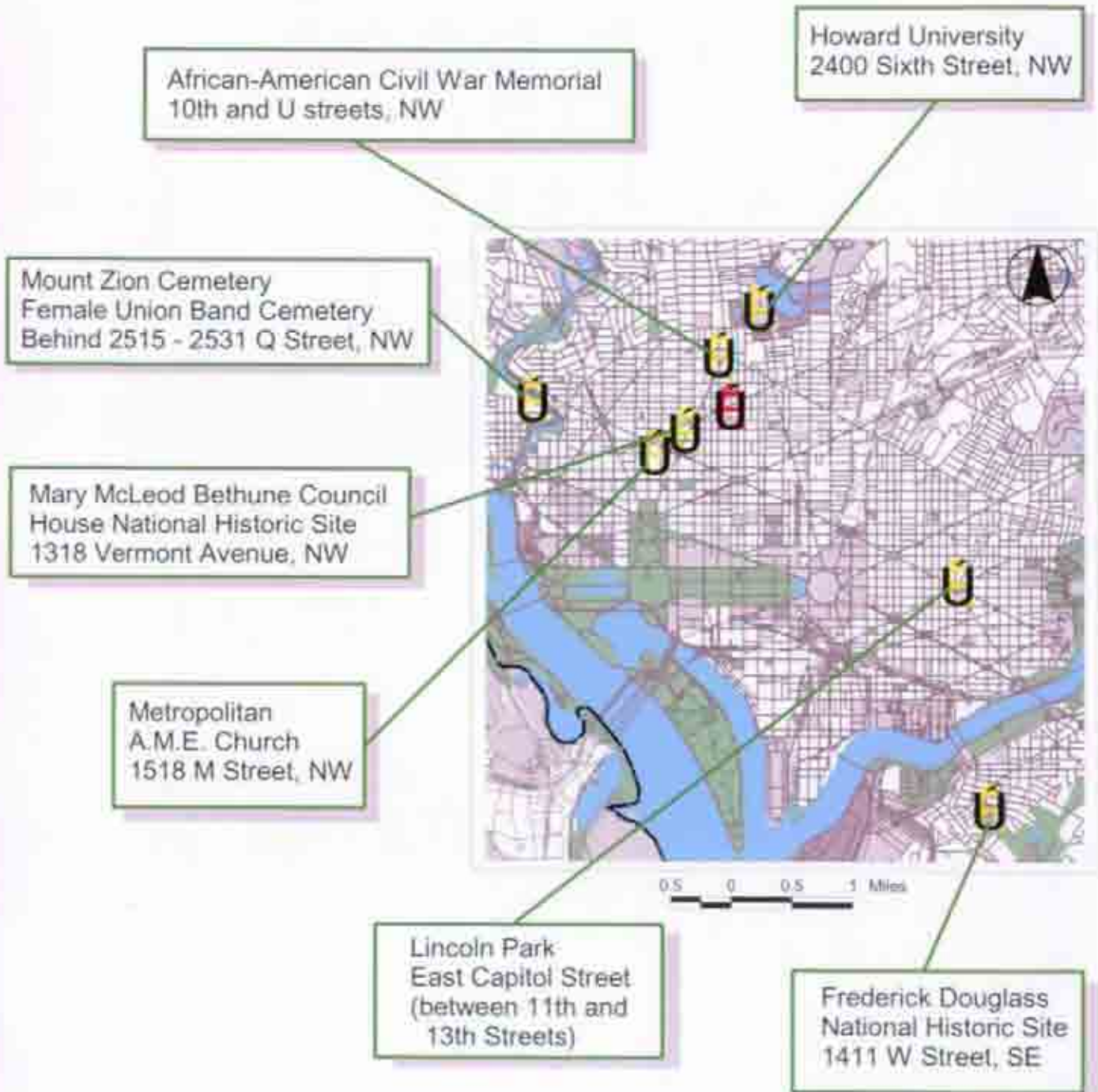
The Woodson Home is located less than a 3-minute walk away from the Shaw-Howard University METRO station along Rhode Island Avenue to 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Metrorail, linking many of the most important historic and monumental sites in the city, is becoming the transportation mode of choice for tourists. It now offers great potential for use by families and others seeking to visit African-American cultural heritage sites.

Metrorail service in the Shaw area has also accelerated the process of development and speculation in land and buildings near its three new stations. There is clear evidence of real estate activity in the immediate vicinity of the U Street-Cardozo station, where numerous older buildings, long abandoned, have been rehabilitated attractively and rented or sold to new occupants. Even these buildings are only a 10-minute walk away from the Woodson Home. The same pressures for market-driven renewal can be expected to increase land and building prices all along the new Yellow/Green Line route.

The Woodson Home is one of the cultural resources featured on the Washington, D.C. Black History National Recreation Trail which is dedicated to his memory. As can be seen on the Trail map, in addition to the Woodson Home, three other Shaw area sites are included as historic features on the Trail. There are many more historic features in Shaw which might be added to the Trail to broaden the base and variety of the Trail exploratory experience.



# Black History National Recreation Trail



Carter G. Woodson Home

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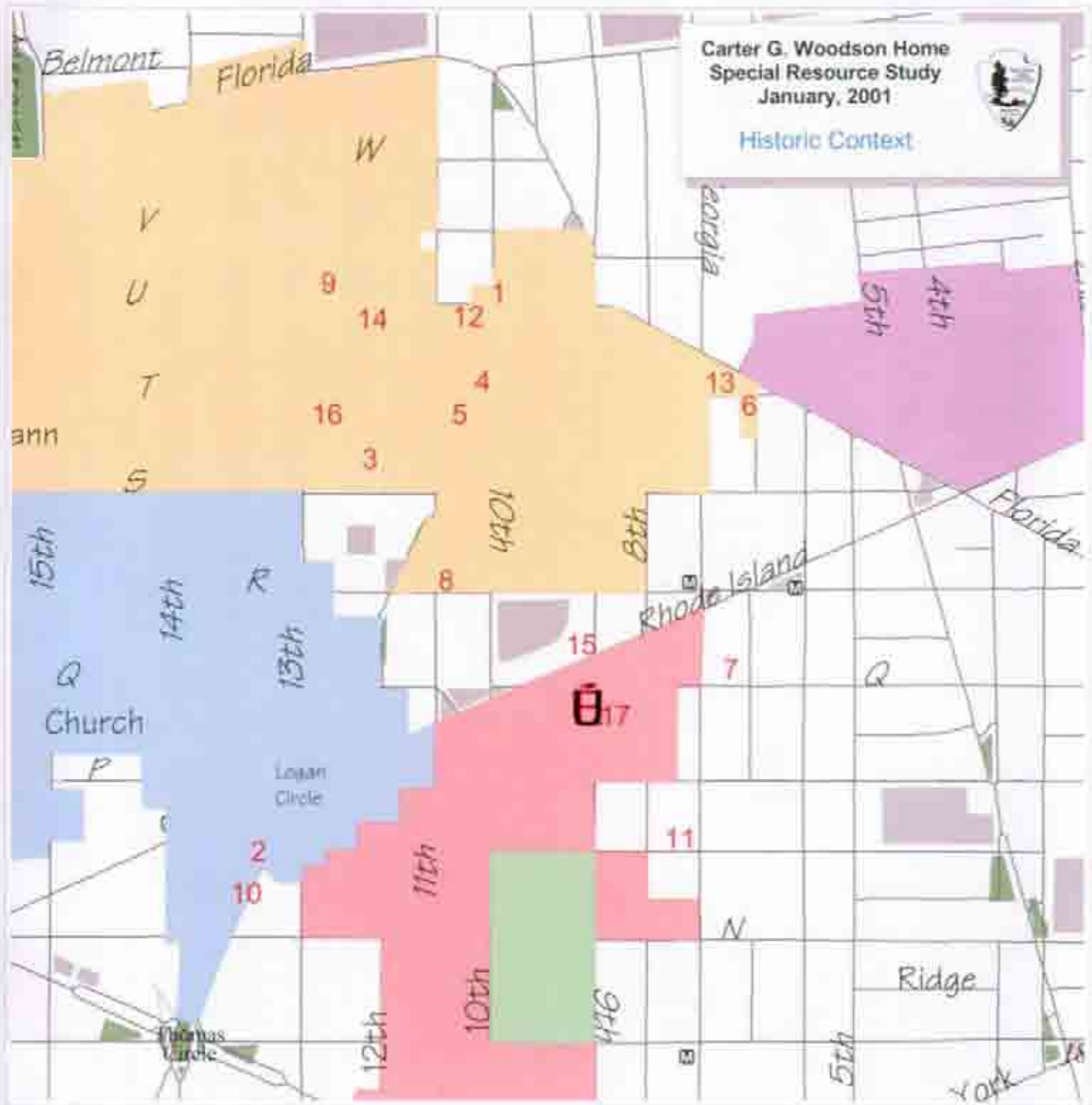
Black History Trail

## 6. Public Facilities

The District of Columbia is currently constructing the new Convention Center in the area bounded by K, N, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets which will result in increased activity and a prospective clientele for Shaw cultural facilities. Additional efforts, supported by a combination of District of Columbia Government agencies and private interests, have resulted in renovation of the historic Lincoln Theater and the historic 12<sup>th</sup> Street (Anthony Bowen) YMCA as the Thurgood Marshall Community Center as well as the erection of an African-American Civil War Soldiers Memorial at 10<sup>th</sup> and U Streets. These efforts have enriched the quality and broadened the range of cultural and recreational facilities within easy walking distance of the Woodson Home.

The Woodson Home is located close to several public schools for which it might serve as an educational and cultural resource. It is also located close to the Watha T. Daniel Public Library, with which it might have a strong affinity of interests. Any major initiative to enhance the presence of the Woodson Home in the Shaw area will afford District of Columbia school officials and historic preservation planners an important opportunity to integrate their future facilities plans and educational programs with those of the Woodson Home.

As can be seen on the Historic Context Map on page 13 and in photographs on page 14, the 17 major historic African-American attractions in the Shaw community could readily be linked together along an historic walking tour route that could easily be accomplished by the visitor in a day. This tour would give the visitor an understanding of the rich heritage of this unique African-American community. The Woodson Home could serve as the orientation center for such a trail as long as that function did not detract from the major interpretive theme of Dr. Woodson's life. The much larger Prince Hall Masonic Temple at 10<sup>th</sup> and U Streets, which has been suggested for such an orientation center and contains appropriate space, should be considered by others as an alternative.



### Shaw Community Cultural Features

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. African-American Civil War Soldiers Memorial | 13. Southern Aid Society Building/Dunbar Theater   |
| 2. Mary McLeod Bethune House                    | 14. True Reformer Building   |
| 3. Anthony Bowen YMCA                           | 15. Wheatley YWCA  |
| 4. Evans-Tibbs House                            | 16. Whitelaw Hotel   |
| 5. Froling Huyson University Goodwin House      | 17.  Woodson Home |
| 6. Howard Theater                               |  |
| 7. Lafayette Apartment Building                 |  |
| 8. Lincoln Congregational Temple United Church  |  |
| 9. Lincoln Theater                              |  |
| 10. Mount Olivet Lutheran Church                |  |
| 11. O Street Market                             |  |
| 12. Prince Hall Masonic Temple                  |  |

**Historic Districts**

-  Blagden Alley
-  LeDroit Park
-  Logan Circle / Greater 14th Street
-  Shaw
-  Greater U Street



African-American  
Civil War Soldiers Memorial



Shiloh Baptist Church



Wheatley YWCA



Mary McLeod Bethune Council House  
National Historic Site

## CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

### A. Significance

The National Park Service has developed criteria to evaluate the national significance of a site. These criteria, listed in the National Park Service *Management Policies*, state that a resource will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following requirements:

- It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.
- It offers superlative opportunities for recreation, public use and enjoyment, or for scientific study.
- It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of resources.

The *Management Policies* further state: "Nationally significant cultural resources include districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting our heritage and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association."

While the Woodson Home's national significance has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark since 1976, all proposed sites must also be evaluated against criteria for suitability and feasibility before consideration for inclusion in the National Park System.

### B. Suitability Analysis

To be suitable for inclusion in the National Park System, an area must represent a theme that is not already adequately represented in the system or is not comparably represented and protected by another public agency. Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the proposed area to other units of the National Park System for differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resources as well as opportunities for public appreciation.

To evaluate the suitability of the Woodson Home for inclusion in the National Park System, other sites in the country were examined to determine the extent of representation of sites related to the historic theme of African-American educators, scholars, historians, chroniclers, academic institutions and African-American leaders in Washington, D.C. that are preserved and interpreted. Those sites are as follows.

#### 1. Related Historic Sites Managed by the National Park Service

#### UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

*Booker T. Washington National Monument - Hardy, Virginia.* This site was the birthplace and early childhood home of the famous African-American leader and educator who lived from 1856 to 1915.

*Boston African-American National Historic Site - Boston, Massachusetts.* The site contains 15 pre-Civil War African-American history structures, linked by the 1.6-mile Black Heritage Trail. The Meeting House is the oldest, standing, African-American church in the United States. Augustus Saint-Gaudens' memorial to Robert Gould Shaw, the white officer who first led African-American troops during the Civil War, is located along this trail.

*Frederick Douglass Home National Historic Site - Washington, D.C.* From 1877 to 1895, this site was the home of the nation's leading 19<sup>th</sup> century African-American spokesman. Douglass was a leader in the effort to abolish slavery prior to the Civil War, and after the war he was active in the struggle to ensure that the newly-freed slaves would enjoy the full measure of their civil rights under the Constitution.

*Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site - Atlanta, Georgia.* The birthplace, church, and grave of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader during the 1950s and 1960s, are the principal sites in this park. The neighborhood also includes the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. The surrounding 68.19-acre Martin Luther King National Historic District includes Sweet Auburn, the economic and cultural center of Atlanta's African-American community since the 1920s.

*Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site - Washington, D.C.* This house was the headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women, established by Mary McLeod Bethune in 1935. It commemorates Bethune's leadership in the black women's rights movement from 1943 to 1949. Bethune was a founder of Bethune-Cookman College in Florida.

*Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site - Tuskegee, Alabama.* Booker T. Washington founded this college for African-Americans in 1881. The college remains an active academic institution, and the site includes the brick buildings constructed by students, Washington's home, and the George Washington Carver Museum, which serves as the visitor center.

## 2. Related Historic Sites Managed by Others

### NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

*Hampton University - Hampton, Virginia.* Formerly called the Hampton Institute, it is now a liberal arts college. The institute was founded by the American Missionary Society in 1868 to offer vocational education to former slaves. Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, was a graduate.

*Howard Hall - Washington, D.C.* Howard Hall, a National Historic Landmark, was the home of General Oliver Otis Howard, who served as third president of Howard University from 1869-1874. It is the only one of four original buildings that has survived.

## PROPERTIES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

*Howard University - Washington, D.C.* In 1866, Howard University was founded to provide an institution of higher learning for the freedmen. Dr. Woodson served at Howard briefly as a teacher of history and Dean of the School of Liberal Arts from 1919-1920.

*M Street High School - Washington, D.C.* The M Street High School represents one of the finest educational facilities for African-Americans constructed during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Faculty members provided academic training in the liberal arts, rather than the industrial arts, and encouraged African-American students to pursue graduate and professional education at leading American universities to break down society's racial barriers. Carter G. Woodson and Charles Hamilton Houston are among the school's most illustrious graduates.

## SITES NOT LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

*John Philip Sousa Junior High School - Washington, D.C.* In 1950 Gardner Bishop lead a campaign to integrate John Philip Souza Junior High School, which had been reserved for white students living in southeast Washington, D.C. James Nebrit, an attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, filed a lawsuit, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, to effect the integration of the District's public schools. This case would later become one of the school desegregation cases before the Supreme Court when it rendered its historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

### Summary of Suitability Analysis

As the above list of related sites indicates, there are numerous African-American sites protected throughout the country by the National Park Service and others. However, none of them provides the opportunity to present the story of Dr. Woodson, his work and his legacy. Although some sites are directly related to his experience as a student and teacher, none of these sites addresses Dr. Woodson or African-American history as a general subject. Dr. Woodson used the home for his entire career. There he championed the importance of African-American history during a time when it was given scant notice by most academic historians. He died there in 1950. He is known as the father of African-American history for his publishing of the *Negro History Bulletin* and *The Journal of Negro History*. Further, the home offers the opportunity to interpret other aspects of the community in which he worked and lived, such as education, numerous landmarks and historic districts and the black middle class who lived here during the period of significance of Shaw. Based on this evaluation, the Woodson Home is suitable for inclusion as a part of the National Park System.

### C. Thematic Framework of American History

Beyond the suitability analysis above, the National Park Service uses a thematic framework of American history and prehistory in studying and interpreting historic sites. Until 1990, the publication *History and Prehistory in the National Park Service and the National Landmark*

*Program (NPS 1987)* was used for that purpose. The revised thematic framework outline is reflected in this study and points to two primary history themes to which Dr. Carter G. Woodson's contributions can be attributed: Theme II: Creating Social Institutions and Movements and Theme III: Expressing Cultural Values.

#### Theme II: Creating Social Institutions and Movements

This theme focuses on the diverse formal and informal structures, such as schools or voluntary associations, through which people express values and live their lives. Americans create enduring institutions to define, sustain, or reform these values. Sites such as Women's Rights National Historical Park and the Eugene V. Debs National Historic Landmark illustrate the diversity and changeable nature of social institutions.

#### Theme III: Expressing Cultural Values

This theme covers expressions of culture – people's beliefs about themselves and the world they inhabit. For example, Boston African-American National Historic Site reflects the role of ordinary Americans and the diversity of the American cultural landscape. This theme also encompasses the ways that people communicate their moral and aesthetic values. The gardens and studio at the Augustus Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in New Hampshire are also an example of this theme.

### **D. Feasibility Analysis**

To be feasible as a new unit of the National Park System, an area's historic setting must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resource and to accommodate use by the public. It must also have potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost. Other important feasibility factors include land ownership, acquisition costs, access, threats to the resource, and staff or development requirements.

#### 1. Size, Configuration and Land Ownership

The home itself is too small to accommodate the administrative and interpretive needs of a National Historic Site open to the general public. For example, there is not enough square footage available to provide for furnished rooms restored to the Woodson period of occupancy, interpretive exhibits about Carter G. Woodson, staff offices to manage the property, and an outreach program to interpret the Shaw neighborhood. These needs could be fully addressed only if adjacent property were acquired. Also, the availability of sufficient historic documentation to determine the feasibility of restoration of the interior to the Woodson period is unknown at this time.

The Woodson Home, which is owned by the Association, is an integral component of a row of eight similar buildings along the west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The Shiloh Baptist Church owns the three buildings to the south and two the north and may intend to adaptively reuse them. Discussions with the church leadership has been initiated to determine the possibility of acquisition of one or both of their houses to the north. This would permit



the accommodation of administrative and interpretative needs as well as preservation of the integrity of the Woodson Home setting.

## 2. Accessibility

To meet the criteria set out in the American Disabilities Act of 1991, the Woodson Home must be made as accessible as possible without compromising its historic integrity. There is now no direct access to the home without negotiating a change in elevation. In order to accommodate all visitors, including those with physical limitations, an alternate means of access needs to be developed. Also, space for handicapped parking would need to be designated.

The study team explored several options for access to the Woodson Home. Options considered include an elevator tower in the rear yard or access through the adjacent building to the north. At grade access from 9<sup>th</sup> Street could be provided from the non-historic row house north of the Woodson Home, shown in a photograph on page 5. Since these properties are owned by Shiloh Baptist Church, access could be provided by this means only if they were acquired.

Building codes require at least two means of egress from each floor. So a second stair needs to be available from each floor. This should be accomplished with the least impact on the historic structure.

## 3. Potential Neighborhood Impacts

Designation as a National Historic Site would attract visitors to the site and surrounding area. The exact number of potential visitors each year is difficult to predict. However, similar existing National Park Service historic sites in urban areas, such as the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, have annual visitation ranging from 10,000 to 30,000.

Increased visitation would generate a variety of challenges:

- On-street parking space is limited in this mixed residential/commercial neighborhood. However, opportunities may exist to secure additional off-street parking, in cooperation with the Seaton School or Shiloh Baptist Church, for special events scheduled to avoid conflict with school or church activities
- The demand for public services, such as police, fire and emergency medical services, would increase as a result of more visitors to the neighborhood. However, it is unlikely that the demand would exceed the capabilities of the District of Columbia's resources.
- In an effort to respond to visitation, requests for permits or zoning changes for commercial use might grow. However, there are other nearby appropriate locations in the city where visitors can obtain products or services without imposing on this residential neighborhood. Thus, efforts to alter existing uses based on the Woodson

Home visitation should be discouraged unless they conform to existing zoning and would preserve existing historic structures.

### **E. Conclusion of Suitability, Feasibility and Thematic Framework Analyses**

The Carter G. Woodson Home is suitable for inclusion in the National Park System because of his place in American history as a pre-eminent educator and historian who was the father of African-American history. No other existing unit of the National Park System, or similar area managed by another entity, matches the potential of the Woodson Home to create a public understanding and appreciation of his contributions to American history. Furthermore, the Carter G. Woodson Home is suitable for inclusion in the National Park System because of the high degree of historic integrity demonstrated by both the structure and its setting.

The Carter G. Woodson Home is feasible for inclusion in the National Park System as a National Historic Site either as a unit or as an affiliated area. The General Authorities Act defines a unit of the National Park System as “an area of land or water administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service.” An affiliated area must meet the same criteria of national significance as a unit but can be most efficiently and effectively managed by another entity while standards applicable to National Park Service units are maintained. Irrespective of whether it were to be included in the National Park System as a unit or an affiliated area, the establishment of a Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site would require designation by Congress.

The Woodson Home would be a feasible addition to the National Park System as a unit provided that the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History were willing to sell or donate the home to the National Park Service and adjacent property could be acquired for public access and administrative uses. If the National Park Service acquired the property, the upper floors of the Woodson Home or adjacent property could be leased to the Association for use as offices. This use would be consistent with the site’s significance and would perpetuate the work that Dr. Woodson initiated. The acquisition and development costs as well as anticipated staffing requirements are considered to be reasonable. Of course, as a new unit of the National Park System, the site would have to compete with existing units for available funding.

As an Affiliated Area, management responsibility would lie primarily with the Association. The National Park Service could easily and efficiently partner with the Association to administer the site. Anticipated costs associated with National Historic Site designation as an Affiliated Area of the National Park System are considered to be reasonable.

### **ALTERNATIVES FOR MANAGEMENT**

In addition to establishing the national significance of the resource and measuring the site against criteria for suitability and feasibility, this study has explored four alternative management frameworks for the Carter G. Woodson Home that examine differing operational and administrative approaches and visitor experiences. They are based on the dual goals of ensuring continued protection for this nationally significant resource and providing a quality experience to

the visiting public. It should further be recognized that the four alternatives offer broad distinctions largely based on the level of involvement of the National Park Service. Many of the specific components of the individual alternatives could change.

### **Alternative A - Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site - Unit of the National Park System**

Under this alternative, the Woodson Home would become congressionally authorized as a fully operational National Park Service unit as a National Historic Site. The proposed boundaries of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site would include the home as well as one or two of the adjacent structures to the north. These two or three structures would be owned and managed by the National Park Service and would contain Dr. Woodson's residence, library and offices, which would be restored if there were sufficient documentation or interpreted if not, as well as a National Park Service visitor orientation, administrative and operations facility. The new unit would focus on interpretation of Dr. Woodson's life and work as well as his legacy embodied in The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, which would be a National Park Service partner and whose offices would be in the home as they were historically. Working cooperatively with the Association and other local historic, cultural and community organizations, the National Park Service would also foster some interpretation of Shaw's African-American heritage.

#### Role of the National Park Service

The National Park Service would act as the lead agency for preservation, interpretation, management and maintenance of the Woodson Home. Principal funding would come from federal appropriations on a permanent basis. The National Park Service would provide interpretive programs to the general public, including personnel services, exhibits, media, and other programs. In addition, agreements could be established with the Association to develop and provide educational programs, reinforce community linkages, and coordinate local interpretation efforts. Similarly, the National Park Service could enter into agreements with entities responsible for related historic properties in the surrounding area to develop interpretive and educational programs and effectively present them to the public.

The National Park Service would develop and implement a general management plan for preservation, interpretation, management and maintenance of the unit's structures and would staff and manage the Woodson Home and the adjacent visitor orientation center.

#### Role of The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History

In that Carter G. Woodson founded and housed this Association in this home, it is historically important to continue that administrative use here. Once the unit was established, an assessment of how much of the home could be used for administrative versus public exhibit areas would have to be accomplished. Currently the Association has a requirement for six employees, which might require utilization of portions of another building as well.

The Association would form a partnership with the National Park Service to preserve the home as well as to develop educational programs, pursue additional funding, and provide important links to the both community and related historical and cultural institutions. They could enter into agreements with the National Park Service to receive technical assistance funds for interpretive and educational programs, and could receive funds for a variety of activities related to the site.

Additionally, the Association would sell or donate the Woodson Home to the National Park Service.

### Interpretation

The primary themes of the National Historic Site would be the life, work and legacy of Dr. Carter G. Woodson. The National Historic Site might be able to house Woodson's library, but, due to inadequate space, it would not become an archive for African-American history in general. Rather, it would focus on the organizations he created to promote the study of that history. If historic photographs can be found, the home could be furnished to simulate his use of it for offices and his personal residence. Concentrating on the period of significance from 1915 to 1950 would enable National Park Service personnel to emphasize the building's role in its historic context.

The Shaw neighborhood retains a great deal of architectural as well as cultural integrity. Important links should also be established through agreements with other institutions and facilities to interpret the theme and context comprehensively. The adjacent orientation facility could also be the starting point for guided tours through the building and the Shaw neighborhood.

### Facilities

Visitors would have the benefit of a full-service site, with an important historic resource as its focus, and a visitor orientation center developed, staffed, and maintained by the National Park Service. The Woodson Home would remain the centerpiece of the unit's interpretive program.

In the adjacent orientation facility, visitors would learn more about the Shaw neighborhood and take part in programs. Support spaces, such as offices, meeting space, curatorial storage, and volunteer work areas for both the National Park Service and the Association would also be accommodated. Development of an accessible entrance to the two building complex as well as an elevator service within it would be studied and implemented.

### Land Ownership

The National Park Service would acquire by donation and/or purchase the Woodson Home and the proposed visitor orientation center.

There is a mixture of private and non-profit ownership of other sites that contribute to the story of Shaw. The National Park Service could enter into agreements with these owners to support their interpretation. A similar model is used at the Boston African-American National Historic Site, where National Park Service staff lead walking tours along a black heritage trail, consisting of 15 sites owned by others, most of which are interpreted from the exterior.

Preliminary Cost Estimates

The following preliminary 2001 cost estimates were developed for preservation and enhancement of facilities and for on-going operation of the site. These are defined as "Class C" estimates, since they are general and will be subject to considerable refinement and modification as the planning process continues.

Woodson Home Preservation and Enhancement	\$ 675,000
Visitor Orientation Facility Development	\$1,500,000
Interpretive Exhibits for Both Structures	\$ 750,000
Land Acquisition	\$ 900,000-\$1 million
National Park Service Annual Operating Costs	\$ 100,000

**Alternative B - Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site – An Affiliated Area of the National Park System**

Areas are defined as affiliated with the National Park System if Congress determines that they meet criteria for national significance, that the resources can be most efficiently and effectively managed by a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service instead of direct operation as a unit of the National Park System, and that the National Park Service has some continuing responsibility for technical or financial assistance and oversight of the area's management. To be suitable and feasible as an Affiliated Area, the site's owner must need some special recognition or technical assistance beyond what is available through existing National Park Service programs, document that a cooperative arrangement with the National Park Service and contributions from other sources will be adequate to assure long-term protection of the resources, and be able to establish and continue a standard of maintenance, operations, public service and financial accountability consistent with requirements applicable to units of the National Park System.

This alternative would establish a Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site as an Affiliated Area of the National Park System. The Affiliated Area would be designated by Congress as a National Historic Site, but it would maintain its present status as an independent institution managed by the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History with long-term aid from the National Park Service. The proposed Affiliated Area would have the same property configuration as Alternative A, which includes the Woodson Home and a visitor orientation facility. These buildings, forming the Affiliated Area core, would be owned by the Association

or others. They could work with local organizations for the interpretation of key sites in Shaw that would provide important links to the Woodson story.

#### Role of the National Park Service

The primary roles of the National Park Service would be to support the Association in preserving and interpreting the historic home and establishing an associated visitor facility as well as to provide technical assistance to the Affiliated Area. Through the Affiliated Area status, the National Park Service could provide funds to the Association to assist with planning and implementation of a comprehensive interpretive program for the general public. National Park Service technical assistance provided could include expertise in such areas history, historic architecture, engineering, exhibit design and operations. Funding for the Affiliated Area could be appropriated by Congress as grants administered by the National Park Service and personnel would be assigned to coordinate federal activities at the site, and act as liaisons between the Association and other National Park Service entities.

#### Role of the Association

The Association would continue as an independent, non-profit organization which owns and manages the Affiliated Area, supported and assisted by the National Park Service. In addition to National Park Service funding, the Association would utilize fund-raising campaigns for acquisition and development, programs and staff. Both the administrative staff of the Association and staff for the site would be housed here. The Association would act as the lead organization for administration, operations, and interpretive and educational programming, and continue to foster its important links to the community as well as to related cultural and historic institutions. It would also coordinate local interpretation efforts to identify sites appropriate for interpretation in the surrounding areas.

#### Interpretation

In keeping with its current purpose, the Association would support and produce interpretive experiences surrounding Dr. Woodson's life and work. The National Park Service could lend technical assistance in developing the programs.

#### Facilities

Facilities would be the same as in Alternative A, consisting of a full-service site with the Woodson Home as its focus, and a visitor orientation/administrative facility owned or leased by the Association.

#### Land Ownership

The Association would own the Woodson Home and own or lease the visitor orientation facility, and develop them in cooperation with the National Park Service.

### Preliminary Cost Estimates

The preliminary 2001 cost estimates were developed for acquisition and development of facilities and for on-going operation of the Affiliated Area and are the same as Alternative A, except for land acquisition. Of course it is unknown at this time how much of these costs would be private versus public. These estimates are defined as "Class C" estimates which mean the most general and thus subject to considerable refinement and modification as the planning process moves along.

Woodson Home Preservation and Development	\$ 675,000
Visitor Orientation Facility Development	\$1,500,000
Interpretive Exhibits	\$ 500,000
Land Acquisition	\$ 500,000-750,000
Annual Operating Costs (NPS: 50%, Association: 50%)	\$ 100,000

### **Alternative C - Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site - An Affiliated Area of the National Park System in Co-Stewardship with the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

This alternative would establish a Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site - Affiliated Area of the National Park System. The Affiliated Area would be designated by Congress as a National Historic Site, which would maintain its present status as an independent institution managed by The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History in co-stewardship with the National Trust for Historic Preservation (National Trust). The proposed Affiliated Area would include the Woodson Home as the only structure which would continue to be owned by the Association. The Association offices would be located here as they were historically and limited interpretation of Dr. Woodson would be provided by them.

#### Role of the National Park Service

The primary roles of the National Park Service would be to assist the Association in preserving and developing the historic home and to provide technical assistance to the Affiliated Area. Through the Affiliated Area status, the National Park Service could provide funds to the Association to assist with interpretative planning and expand the existing programs in order to provide a comprehensive interpretive program to the general public. The National Park Service could also offer expertise to the Association in areas of architectural preservation, engineering, exhibit design and operations. Funding for the Affiliated Area could be appropriated by Congress as grants and National Park Service personnel would be assigned to coordinate federal activities at the site, and act as liaison between the Association and other National Park Service entities.

#### Role of the Association

The Association would continue as an independent, non-profit organization which owns and manages the Affiliated Area, supported and assisted by the National Park Service. In

addition to National Park Service funding, the Association would utilize fund-raising campaigns for acquisition and development, programs and staff. They would house the administrative staff for the Association here. The Association would act as the lead organization for administration, operations, and interpretive and educational programming, and continue to foster its important links to the community as well as to related cultural and historic institutions.

#### Role of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust would enter into a cooperative agreement with the Association under which the National Trust would participate in forming a new non-profit entity whose sole responsibility would be to raise funds for the restoration cost and operation of the Carter G. Woodson Home. The new non-profit entity would become an independent, self-perpetuating organization, with one full voting board member from the National Trust and one from the Association.

Once the non-profit organization were formed, the National Trust would sign a co-stewardship agreement with the new entity. Under the co-stewardship agreement, the National Trust would maintain ultimate management oversight under the terms of its cooperative agreement with the Association and would assist with marketing and fundraising activities. The National Trust currently has 10 co-stewardship properties, including among others, Montpelier, President James Madison's home in Orange County, Virginia, and the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, Illinois. Each co-stewardship agreement is unique, and the specific terms of the co-stewardship agreement for the Woodson Home would have to be developed, once the board of the new non-profit entity were in place.

#### Interpretation

In keeping with its current purpose, the Association would support and produce interpretive experiences surrounding his life and work.

#### Facilities

Facilities would be limited to the Woodson Home as its focus. Of course, the option of the National Trust or the Association acquiring the adjacent property from a willing seller in the future to accommodate handicapped access and for a visitor orientation center would always be available.

#### Land Ownership

The Woodson Home would continue in the ownership of the Association.

#### Preliminary Cost Estimates

As part of this study, very preliminary cost estimates were developed for acquisition and development of facilities and for on-going operation of the Affiliated Area. These



estimates are defined as “Class C” estimates which mean the most general and thus subject to considerable refinement and modification as the planning process moves along.

Woodson Home Preservation and Development	\$ 675,000
Interpretive Exhibits	\$ 500,000

### **Alternative D - No Action - Continue National Historic Landmark Status with Management by the Association**

The Association would continue their ownership and management with no federal involvement. The Association would function at its current funding level at first, but would seek additional funds to secure and restore the home.

#### Role of the National Park Service

The role of the National Park Service would be limited to providing some technical assistance as it does for other National Historic Landmarks, and the recognition that the site is part of the Black History Trail.

#### Role of the Association

In this alternative, the Association would be the central management entity. Funding would be received essentially from the same sources providing it today. Those sources include private charitable donations and memberships, foundation and government grants, and charges for services and products.

#### Interpretation

If funds became available, interpretation might occur.

#### Facilities

The Association would continue to operate at their offices in Maryland. Preservation of the Woodson Home would occur if monies became available. However, a lack of funds could delay its preservation, limiting access to the building and interpretive programs, and possibly putting the structure at risk.

#### Land Ownership

The home would continue in the ownership of the Association. Buying, selling, and leasing would be carried out by any willing private, non-profit, and/or government entity.

#### Preliminary Cost Estimates

In this alternative, there are no costs to the federal government because it would not be involved in the home or associated sites.

## **COMPARISON OF MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES**

The final step in the Special Resource Study process is to compare the management alternatives and to determine which approach will best meet the needs of protecting, preserving, and interpreting the cultural resources associated with the Woodson Home. Under any of the three options, the costs are reasonable in the context of other similar historic properties in the National Park System. Of course, the Affiliated Area status contained in Alternative B and Alternative C results in less cost to the National Park Service in that neither includes operating costs for a full unit of the National Park System. Each alternative's principal advantages and disadvantages are discussed below.

### **Alternative A - Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site – Unit of the National Park System**

#### Principal Advantages

This alternative would create a unit of the National Park System to preserve, interpret, and maintain in perpetuity the Woodson Home. National Park Service funding would be provided to preserve the home and to acquire, restore and develop physical facilities. The prestige of a unit of the National Park System in Shaw focused on the story of Dr. Woodson, his work and his legacy will potentially aid in the ongoing revitalization efforts of this significant neighborhood.

#### Principal Disadvantages

In today's fiscal climate, it could be very difficult to fund the new site at an adequate level to provide a high quality visitor experience as envisioned. In the short term, funding levels would fall below desired needs. As a new addition to the National Park System, it would compete with other park sites for funding and attention. As there is already a backlog in building maintenance throughout the Service, the historic structure might not receive the attention it needs in a timely manner. Also, the current constrained financial picture in the National Park Service would limit the amount of interpretation possible in the surrounding neighborhood. Regulations and policies that guide National Park Service management might limit the flexibility which the Association needs to carry out its goals for the site.

### **Alternative B - Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site - Affiliated Area of the National Park System**

#### Principal Advantages

This alternative would establish a National Historic Site as an Affiliated Area of the National Park System. An advantage of this alternative is that it would establish a partnership between the National Park Service and the Association, thus reinforcing the preferred direction of the National Park Service nationally for this management concept where appropriate. With National Park Service assistance for historic preservation, the

Association would have the resources to invest in developing programs and exhibits to interpret the life of Dr. Woodson. The National Park Service would commit fewer resources while confident that the resource would be well-protected, well-interpreted and well-managed. Affiliation with the National Park Service should strengthen the Association's ability to obtain funding commitments from the private sector. The National Park Service's long-term commitment to the site would provide stability and continuity to a site that is deserving of its support and compatible with its mission. National Park Service staff could play an important role in providing professional assistance and advice to Association staff, but the Association would retain its autonomy as the prime manager of the site. Affiliated Area designation could heighten visibility of the site and enhance local efforts to promote preservation of both the home and its historic neighborhood.

#### Principal Disadvantages

One principal disadvantage of Alternative B is that coordination between the National Park Service and Association would involve more time and effort than needed by a single management entity. Funding for programs, visitor services and other management needs would depend on adequate fund-raising by the Association and thus could fluctuate.

### **Alternative C - Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site - An Affiliated Area of the National Park System in Co-Stewardship with the National Historic Trust for Historic Preservation**

#### Principal Advantages

This alternative would limit the site to the existing structure which would significantly reduce the costs of the project. The Association's partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation brings access to private funds administered by them as well as the prestige of that organization. The National Park Service would still be a source of funds through its various grant programs as well as professional advice and technical assistance.

Visitation would be significantly lower due to the limited scope of the interpretive program. This would result in less impact to the community from increased visitation and parking.

#### Principal Disadvantages

The site would be restricted to the home itself without the visitor orientation facility. Thus, the scope of the programs, activities and visitation would be less.

## **Alternative D – No Action – Continue National Historic Landmark Status with Management by the Association**

### Principal Advantages

The principal advantage to this alternative is that the Association could do what they are doing now or try new things without interacting with a federal organization and its regulations, policies and standards.

### Principal Disadvantages

Continuing the status quo could increase the threat to the historic resource if funds were insufficient for preservation and maintenance of the historic home. By not affiliating the Association with the National Park Service, an important historic site would forego the advantages of affiliation, such as credibility and stability. The Association would lose access to expertise in relevant areas such as historic preservation and interpretation; the National Park Service would lose the anticipated benefit of affiliation with the site and would miss the opportunity to expand its mission and support an outstanding resource.

## **OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Four management alternatives are presented in this report. The study team considered but rejected others including:

- National Park Service acquisition of façade easements on both sides of 9<sup>th</sup> Street from P to Q Streets to protect the Woodson Home
- Establishment of an African-American History Center as part of the site

These alternatives were rejected for the following reasons:

- Acquisition of facade easements of the row houses on 9<sup>th</sup> Street to protect their historic integrity was deemed too expensive and cumbersome for the National Park Service to manage. Most, if not all of these buildings require restoration and the oversight of that activity by the private sector is best left to the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Office. Further, the combination of residential zoning and an historic district overlay should result in responsible development of this block.
- African-American History Center - Experience has shown that such a facility needs extremely large modern buildings with high levels of sophisticated climate control and security which would be out of scale with the historic scene and would overwhelm the purpose of telling the story of Carter G. Woodson.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of presenting a range of management alternatives to Congress and describing the respective environmental consequences for each option presented in this study. These management alternatives have been developed by the NPS pursuant to the Carter G. Woodson Home Special Resource Study.

A Special Resource Study is used by the NPS to evaluate a resource for national significance and to assess its suitability and feasibility for inclusion into the National Park System. As a part of this study, the study team developed and is now presenting a range of possible management alternatives that represent options for use and protection of the resource, with various levels of federal and private involvement.

Upon completion of the Carter G. Woodson Home Special Resource Study and final NPS approval of its form and contents, this study will be transmitted to Congress. Ultimately, Congress will decide on the appropriate course of action. At that time, legislation may be introduced by Congress to authorize a new unit of the National Park System.

#### *PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE STUDY*

Located in the Shaw neighborhood in Northwest Washington, D.C., the Woodson Home is a 3-story brick row house located at 1538 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in this home in 1915. Considered the father of African-American history, Dr. Woodson lived and worked in this home until his death in 1950. The organization he founded, now called The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, still owns the Woodson Home.

In October 2000, Congress directed the NPS to prepare a Special Resource Study of the Carter G. Woodson Home in Washington, D.C. The National Capital Regional Office of Lands, Resources and Planning, together with designated outside experts, prepared the study. In order for an area to become a unit of the National Park System, it must meet all three criteria identified in the NPS "Criteria for Parklands" of national significance, suitability, and feasibility. The study process calls for the development of a range of management alternatives for the study area.

Having applied the "Criteria for Parklands," the NPS study team reached the following conclusions:

*The report concludes that the Carter G. Woodson Home represents a site directly related to Dr. Woodson, his work and legacy. Although the historic theme of African-American educators, scholars, historians, chroniclers and leaders is represented in the National Park System, none of the sites addresses Dr. Woodson or African-American history as a general subject. No other existing unit of the National Park System, or similar area managed by another entity, matches*

*the potential of the Woodson Home to create a public understanding and appreciation of his contribution to American history. Further, the Woodson Home offers the opportunity to interpret other aspects of the community in which he lived and worked, such as education, numerous landmarks and historic districts and the black middle class who lived here during the period of significance of Shaw.*

The following sections generally describe the resources currently under study and the proposed management alternatives, and summarize their environmental consequences. In Section 2.0, the study area is addressed by describing the resources related to the Shaw community's historic and cultural features. Section 3.0 includes summaries of four proposed management alternatives and their associated environmental consequences. Finally, Section 4.0 identifies governmental and community organizations consulted.

## **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA**

### *PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION*

A fine example of a Victorian row house, three stories high with raised basement, the Woodson Home is dignified in appearance and provides an authentic example of a popular architectural style characteristic of Washington in the 1890s. The building is relatively small, with an 18-foot frontage on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and contains 3,380 square feet of interior space, including the basement. The modest rear yard, which backs up to an alley, is covered with weed vegetation and is surrounded by a chain link fence.

The first floor originally had five rooms and a vestibule, but the partition between the parlor and sitting room was removed at some point to create one larger room. 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 third floor has two rooms which were Dr. Woodson's living quarters. The exterior trim is typically Victorian and the majority of the doors have glass transoms over them.

Neither the entrance nor the interior stair is handicapped accessible. Attempting to make the building accessible would significantly alter its historic integrity. Various options for achieving accessibility from 9<sup>th</sup> Street as well as to all three floors must be investigated.

### *NEIGHBORHOOD SETTING*

The Woodson Home is not of sufficient size or commanding presence to assume the role of a major element of stability in the neighborhood. Rather, it is one of a number of significant components of Shaw.

The immediate setting for the home is the 1500 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and particularly the row of houses of which it is a part. Much of the Woodson Home's architectural identity is derived from the clean, strong linearity of this row of eight virtually identical buildings. Although it is beyond the scope of this study, maintaining and enhancing this streetscape as part of the historic district should be an objective of high priority. The park at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Rhode Island Avenue, which is owned by the District of Columbia, has the potential for providing the visual and

physical linkage between the Woodson Home and the Phyllis Wheatley YWMC and has been suggested as a possible area for commemoration of Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

The Shiloh Baptist Church and its adjoining modern Henry C. Gregory, III Family Life Center building dominate half of the western frontage of the 1500 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. These new buildings, which are generally consistent in materials and color with the church itself, are out of scale and style with the 19<sup>th</sup> century row houses. However, this modern building is distant enough from the Woodson Home itself and is visually buffered by the rest of the row so that their relationship is acceptable. The National Park Service understands that the church may intend to restore and adaptively reuse them as an assisted living facility which is highly compatible with the future public use of the Woodson Home.

Despite their differing architectural styles, the buildings opposite the Carter G. Woodson Home on 9<sup>th</sup> Street are an important part of its historic context, and their preservation is necessary to maintain the original residential character of the street. The loss of three buildings within the frontage opposite the Woodson Home has affected the block's line of visual continuity and infill development must be sensitive to its context. At the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and P Streets, the removal of another historic structure has resulted in the introduction of an open-air used-car sales lot, which detracts from the dignity of the frontage occupied by the Shiloh Baptist Church, its related facilities, the Woodson Home, and the adjoining row houses.

Of the 18 buildings opposite the Carter G. Woodson Home, 10 are occupied as residential, three are unoccupied, two are used for retail and three are for sale or lease. The Shiloh Baptist Church Community Outreach Center and parking lot occupies a modern building, which probably replaced several original row houses, and is not of the same traditional style of the other buildings on the corridor.

On the west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Street, three of the houses contain ground-floor retail use. One building in the architectural ensemble to the north of the Woodson Home is unoccupied and boarded up. Two other buildings on the same frontage just north of the Woodson Home are occupied by ground-floor neighborhood retail.

Immediately west and separated by an alley, is the Seaton Elementary School, with its associated playground and parking lots. To the north of Rhode Island Avenue is the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA where Carter Woodson took all of his meals.

### *SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT*

Washington, D.C. occupies 68 square miles and supports a population of 572,000. The Carter G. Woodson Home is centrally located in Shaw, a historically significant sector of northwest Washington, which lies generally south of Florida Avenue and is bounded on the west by 15<sup>th</sup> Street, on the south by M and N Streets and New Jersey Avenue, and on the east by North Capitol Street. It includes approximately 150 city blocks, parts of three major avenues (Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Jersey), and parts of several major arterial streets. Shaw has been called the "heart of Black Washington," and perhaps no other city in the United States can boast of as many cultural features of such historic significance in African-American culture as

can be identified in the Shaw neighborhood today. At least 70 sites within Shaw can be singled out as being significant in the African-American heritage of the city itself. These sites, and the personalities and events from which they derive their significance, comprise the larger cultural context of the Carter G. Woodson Home. Its period of significance overlaps that of Dr. Woodson. He lived and worked here during the period when Shaw flourished.

The cultural communities are supported by local religious, educational, and social institutions. The neighborhood remains a mix of residential and commercial activity. The Shaw area includes a rich and diverse architectural heritage featuring classic turn-of-the-century row houses, many of which have retained their original character.

### **3.0 SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES**

As recommended under NPS guidelines for completion of Special Resource Studies, a study team typically proposes three or more management alternatives for the study area. These alternatives offer options which ensure that any significant resources are protected, preserved, and interpreted to the most appropriate degree. The following alternatives were developed by the study team in consultation with The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Shiloh Baptist Church, other NPS staff, city officials and other interest groups. This section describes the proposed alternatives and summarizes their potential environmental consequences. Since some of these alternatives make recommendations for development of unspecified buildings, the evaluation of those environmental consequences is fairly broad.

#### *ALTERNATIVE A: DR. CARTER G. WOODSON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE – UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM*

This alternative would authorize a fully operational National Park Service Unit to include the Woodson Home at 1538 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and a visitor/operations center located in one or two adjacent row houses which could include a library, exhibit and educational space, plus support space for curatorial, collections, offices, maintenance and research. Landownership within the National Park Service would include 1-3 structures and would occur by acquisition. The NPS would be responsible for interpreting Dr. Woodson's life and work as well as his legacy in The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. The Association would be the NPS partner and would be housed here. Working cooperatively with the Association and other local historic, cultural and community organizations, some interpretation of historic structures in the neighborhood related to Shaw's African-American heritage would be fostered

#### *ALTERNATIVE B: DR. CARTER G. WOODSON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE – AFFILIATED AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM*

This alternative would establish an Affiliated Area of the National Park System. The Affiliated Area would be designated by Congress and funded by private and federal sources. The Carter G. Woodson Home would remain an independent entity managed by The Association for African-American Life and History. The proposed Affiliated Area would have the same configuration as Alternative A, which includes the Woodson Home and a visitor/orientation



facility. The NPS would aid in preservation, development and interpretation, as well as provide technical assistance. The Association would manage the site and, as in Alternative A, interpret related historic structures in the neighborhood.

*ALTERNATIVE C: DR. CARTER G. WOODSON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE - AFFILIATED AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM IN CO-STEWARDSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION*

This alternative would establish a Dr. Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site - Affiliated Area of the National Park System. The Affiliated Area would be designated by Congress as a National Historic Site, which would maintain its present status as an independent institution managed by The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History in co-stewardship with the National Trust for Historic Preservation (National Trust). The proposed Affiliated Area would include the Woodson Home as the only structure which would continue to be owned by the Association. The Association offices would be located here as they were historically and limited interpretation of Dr. Woodson would be provided by them.

The primary roles of the National Park Service would be to assist the Association in preserving and developing the historic home and to provide technical assistance to the Affiliated Area.

The National Trust would enter into a cooperative agreement with the Association under which the National Trust would participate in setting up a new non-profit entity whose sole responsibility would be to raise funds for and manage the Carter G. Woodson Home. The new non-profit entity would become an independent, self-perpetuating organization, with one full voting board member from the National Trust and one from the Association.

Once the non-profit organization were formed, the National Trust would sign a co-stewardship agreement with the new entity. Under the co-stewardship agreement, the National Trust would maintain ultimate management oversight under the terms of its cooperative agreement with the Association and would assist with marketing and fundraising activities. The National Trust currently has 10 co-stewardship properties, including among others, Montpelier, President James Madison's home in Orange County, Virginia, and the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, Illinois. Each co-stewardship agreement is unique, and the specific terms of the co-stewardship agreement for the Woodson Home would have to be developed, once the board of the new non-profit entity were in place.

*ALTERNATIVE D: NO GOVERNMENT ACTION*

In this alternative, the NPS would take no action with regard to the Woodson Home. The Association would continue in its present role and would maintain its current funding sources. It would seek additional funds to restore the Home.

*IMPACTS TO NATURAL RESOURCES*

*Alternative A:* The proposed park unit would be located within an area of intense urban development in which any existing natural resources have already been highly impacted. There

are no threatened and endangered flora or fauna inhabiting the study area. Also, there are no wetlands located within Shaw. Development of the proposed National Park unit will not contribute to further degradation of water or the integrity of other natural resources. Any physical impact would be limited to alterations of existing structures. However, should any evidence of soil and/or groundwater contamination be encountered, an investigation for the presence of hazardous materials would be conducted in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency and Departmental guidelines.

*Alternative B:* As in Alternative A, development of an Affiliated Area of the National Park System will not contribute to any further degradation of natural resources within the study area.

*Alternative C:* This alternative would result in no further impact on the area's natural resources.

*Alternative D:* This alternative would result in no further impact on the area's natural resources.

### *IMPACTS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES*

*Alternative A:* Under this alternative, the NPS would act as the lead agency for preservation, development, and interpretation of the Woodson Home, and work in partnership with The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History as well as local institutions. The Association, as a partner, would continue to provide some interpretive programs. Any rehabilitation of historic structures would be carried out in consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer and would be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. However, in order to comply with the American Disabilities Act where applicable, there may be some impact on the historic fabric of the adjacent row house. Impacts resulting from ADA compliance will likely be similar under all the proposed alternatives.

*Alternative B:* Under this alternative, the NPS would assist the Association in the preservation, development and interpretation of cultural resources, and provide technical assistance. As an Affiliated Area of the National Park System, it would be necessary to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and ADA guidelines as described above.

*Alternative C:* Under this alternative, the NPS would assist the Association in the preservation, development and interpretation of the Woodson Home, and provide technical assistance. As an Affiliated Area of the National Park System, it would be necessary to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and ADA guidelines as described above. The National Trust for Historic Preservation would be responsible for compliance as it would be assuming all restoration and operational responsibility for the Home.

*Alternative D:* This alternative does not propose any federal action. Conservation of structures and cultural resources will rely exclusively on the economic well-being of the Association. Lack of secure funding sources may lead to negative impacts on cultural resources.

## *IMPACTS TO SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT*

*Alternative A:* The Woodson Home study area is presently a mixed residential and low density commercial district. The District of Columbia is currently constructing the new Convention Center in the area bounded by K, N, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets which will result in increased activity and a prospective clientele for Shaw cultural facilities. Additional efforts, supported by a combination of District of Columbia Government agencies and private interests, have resulted in renovation of the historic Lincoln Theater and the historic 12<sup>th</sup> Street (Anthony Bowen) YMCA as the Thurgood Marshall Community Center as well as the erection of an African-American Civil War Soldiers Memorial at 10<sup>th</sup> and U Streets. These efforts have enriched the quality and broadened the range of cultural and recreational facilities within easy walking distance of the Woodson Home. Visitation is likely to increase under any of the alternatives presented; however, the rate of this increase may be more immediate with an NPS presence.

*Alternative B:* As in Alternative A, the implementation of this alternative may affect the commercial activity in the neighborhood. As an Affiliated Area of the National Park System, visitation is expected to increase, although slightly slower than in Alternative A.

*Alternative C:* As in Alternatives A and B, the implementation of this alternative may affect the commercial activity in the neighborhood. As an Affiliated Area of the National Park System, visitation would be expected to increase, but much more slowly than in Alternatives A and B, therefore, the impact on the local economy is expected to be less immediate.

*Alternative D:* If the Association received funding to restore the Home, visitation would be expected to increase, but much more slowly than in Alternatives A, B and C; therefore, the impact on the local economy is expected to be less immediate.

## *IMPACTS TO AIR QUALITY, PARKING AND TRAFFIC*

*Alternative A:* As an urban residential and commercial neighborhood, heavy automotive traffic is common and some visitor and bus parking is available near the site. Currently the area is most accessible by the city's public transportation system. The inclusion of the Woodson Home into the NPS should not measurably exacerbate air quality problems. Although this alternative would add to the vehicular traffic, it should not cause any significant impact.

Major streets and thoroughfares in the vicinity of the Carter G. Woodson Home are in good condition. Traffic channelization and paving improvements have been carried out to upgrade Rhode Island and Vermont Avenues, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, U Street, and several related intersections. These projects should obviate the need for disruptive public works in the environs of the Woodson Home for several years.

The opening of the Green/Yellow Line Metrorail service in the Shaw area in 1991 introduced a new positive force for change in Shaw, one with major implications for establishing and sustaining a new historic preservation effort centered on the Woodson Home. After nearly two decades of disruption by tunneling and related construction activities, the U Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street

corridors have been restored to active service and public access to the very heart of Shaw has been enhanced immeasurably.

The Woodson Home is located less than a 3-minute walk away from the Shaw-Howard University METRO station along Rhode Island Avenue to 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Metrorail, linking many of the most important historic and monumental sites in the city, is becoming the transportation mode of choice for tourists. It now offers great potential for use by families and others seeking to visit African-American cultural heritage sites.

Metrorail service in the Shaw area has also accelerated the process of development and speculation in land and buildings near its three new stations. There is clear evidence of real estate activity in the immediate vicinity of the U Street-Cardozo station, where numerous older buildings, long abandoned, have been rehabilitated attractively and rented or sold to new occupants. Even these buildings are only a 10-minute walk away from the Woodson Home. The same pressures for market-driven renewal can be expected to increase land and building prices all along the new Yellow/Green Line route.

*Alternative B:* An Affiliated Area of the National Park System in Shaw should not further exacerbate air quality problems. Although greater visibility through a long-term NPS presence may add to vehicular traffic, it should not cause any significant impact.

The Woodson Home is located less than a 3-minute walk away from the Shaw-Howard University METRO station along Rhode Island Avenue to 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Metrorail, linking many of the most important historic and monumental sites in the city, is becoming the transportation mode of choice for tourists. It now offers great potential for use by families and others seeking to visit African-American cultural heritage sites.

*Alternative C:* An Affiliated Area of the National Park System in Shaw should not further exacerbate air quality problems. Although greater visibility through a long-term NPS presence may add to vehicular traffic, it should not cause any significant impact.

The Woodson Home is located less than a 3-minute walk away from the Shaw-Howard University METRO station along Rhode Island Avenue to 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Metrorail, linking many of the most important historic and monumental sites in the city, is becoming the transportation mode of choice for tourists. It now offers great potential for use by families and others seeking to visit African-American cultural heritage sites.

*Alternative D:* Under the No Action alternative, the Woodson Home may receive increased visitation in the future if the funds were acquired to rehabilitate the Home. Such an increase should not have a significant impact on air quality or traffic congestion.

### *ECONOMIC IMPACT*

*Alternative A:* Increased tourism to Shaw area could have an impact on the local economy. The Woodson Home as a unit of the National Park System could draw a significantly increased number of visitors; especially those interested in African-American history.

*Alternative B:* Increased tourism to Shaw area through an affiliation with the NPS could have an impact on the local economy. The Woodson Home could draw visitors especially those interested in African-American history.

*Alternative C:* Increased tourism to Shaw area through an affiliation with the NPS could have an impact on the local economy. The Woodson Home could draw visitors especially those interested in African-American history.

*Alternative D:* Under this alternative the economic impact resulting from increased visitation to the surrounding community is expected to be less immediate.

#### **4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

During the study the team consulted and coordinated with numerous public and private organizations. Also considered in this Environmental Assessment were results derived from meetings and interviews that were conducted by the NPS staff, which also includes those people and organization listed below:

Association for African-American Life and History  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Shiloh Baptist Church  
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office



# APPENDICES

PUBLIC LAW 106-349—OCT. 24, 2000

114 STAT. 1359

Public Law 106-349  
106th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Carter G. Woodson Home in the District of Columbia as a National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

Oct. 24, 2000  
[H.R. 3201]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site Study Act of 2000".

Carter G.  
Woodson Home  
National Historic  
Site Study Act of  
2000.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Dr. Carter G. Woodson, cognizant of the widespread ignorance and scanty information concerning the history of African Americans, founded on September 9, 1915, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, since renamed the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History.

(2) The Association was founded in particular to counter racist propaganda alleging black inferiority and the pervasive influence of Jim Crow prevalent at the time.

(3) The mission of the Association was and continues to be educating the American public of the contributions of Black Americans in the formation of the Nation's history and culture.

(4) Dr. Woodson dedicated nearly his entire adult life to every aspect of the Association's operations in furtherance of its mission.

(5) Among the notable accomplishments of the Association under Dr. Woodson's leadership, Negro History Week was instituted in 1926 to be celebrated annually during the second week of February. Negro History Week has since evolved into Black History Month.

(6) The headquarters and center of operations of the Association was Dr. Woodson's residence, located at 1538 Ninth Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 4. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which funds are made available for such purpose, the Secretary, after consultation with the Mayor of the District of Columbia, Deadline.



shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a resource study of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Home and headquarters of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, located at 1538 Ninth Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify suitability and feasibility of designating the Carter G. Woodson Home as a unit of the National Park System; and

(2) include cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, operation and maintenance, and identification of alternatives for the management, administration, and protection of the Carter G. Woodson Home.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved October 24, 2000.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3201:**

SENATE REPORTS: No. 106-322 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 146 (2000):

Feb. 15, considered and passed House.

Oct. 5, considered and passed Senate.



Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) **THEME 8: CONTEMPLATIVE SOCIETY, Education and Intellectual Currents**

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

SEE 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

CITY, TOWN  
Washington

STATE  
D.C.

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
11

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
000

COUNTY  
001

CODE  
001

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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

VICINITY OF

STATE  
D.C.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
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  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Afro-American History

SPECIFIC DATES **1915-1950** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Not Known**

### 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

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE TWO

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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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE      ITEM NUMBER #8      PAGE THREE

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 known as the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History), the Associated Publishers, and the Journal and Bulletin.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

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.

**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	1,8	3,2,4	4,8,0	4,3	0,8	5,3,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				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

**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

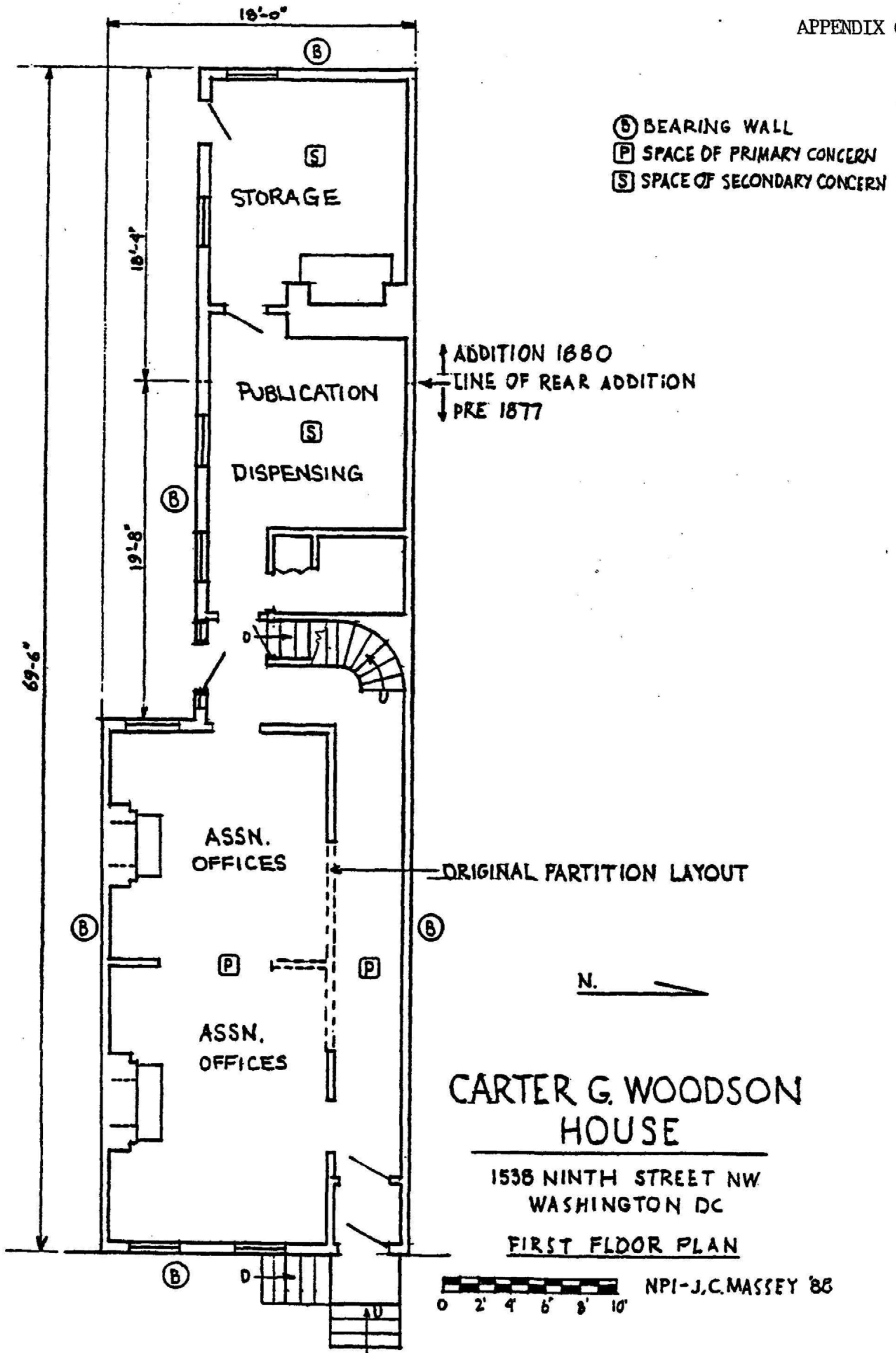
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

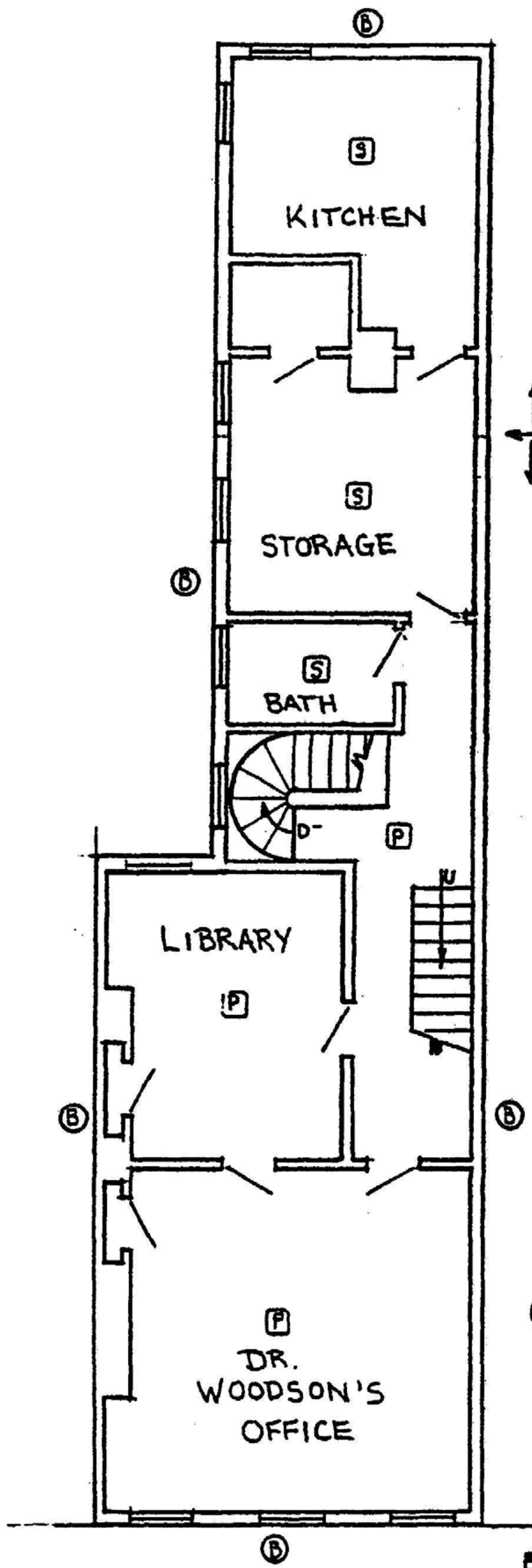
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER







- ⓑ BEARING WALL
- Ⓟ SPACE OF PRIMARY CONCERN
- Ⓢ SPACE OF SECONDARY CONCERN

↑ REAR ADDITION 1880  
 ← LINE OF REAR ADDITION  
 ↓ PRE 1877



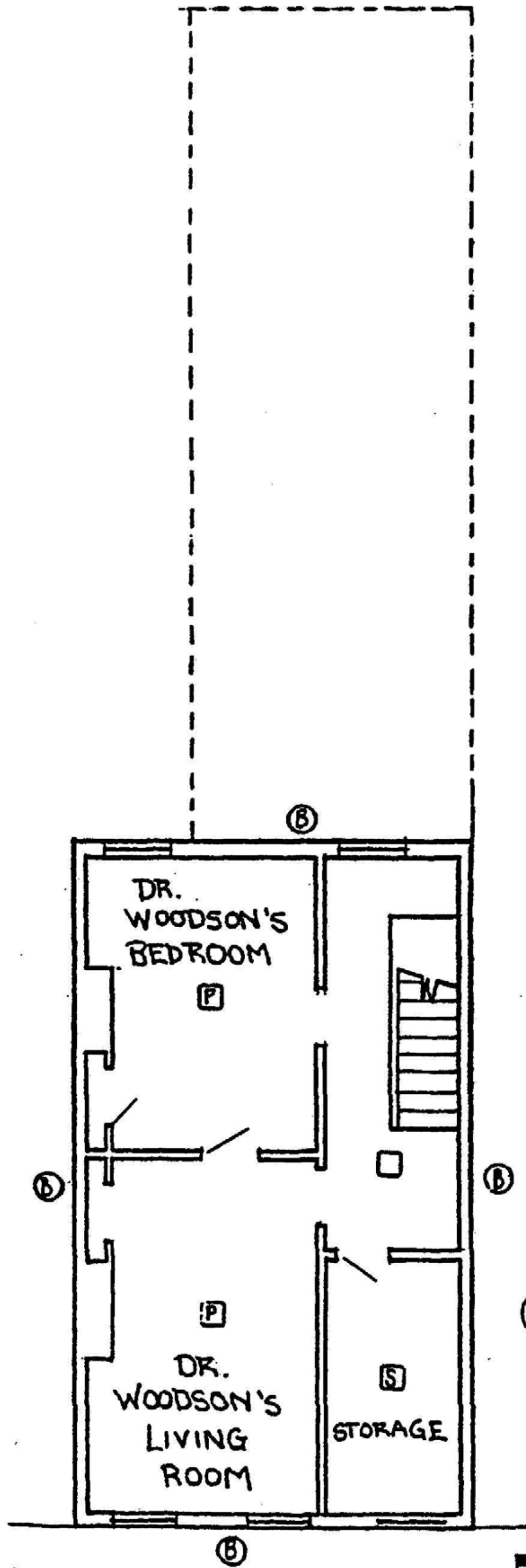
## CARTER G. WOODSON HOUSE

1538 NINTH STREET NW  
 WASHINGTON, DC

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

0 2 4 6 8 10' NPI-J.C.MASSEY '88

- ⓑ BEARING WALL
- Ⓟ SPACE OF PRIMARY CONCERN
- Ⓢ SPACE OF SECONDARY CONCERN

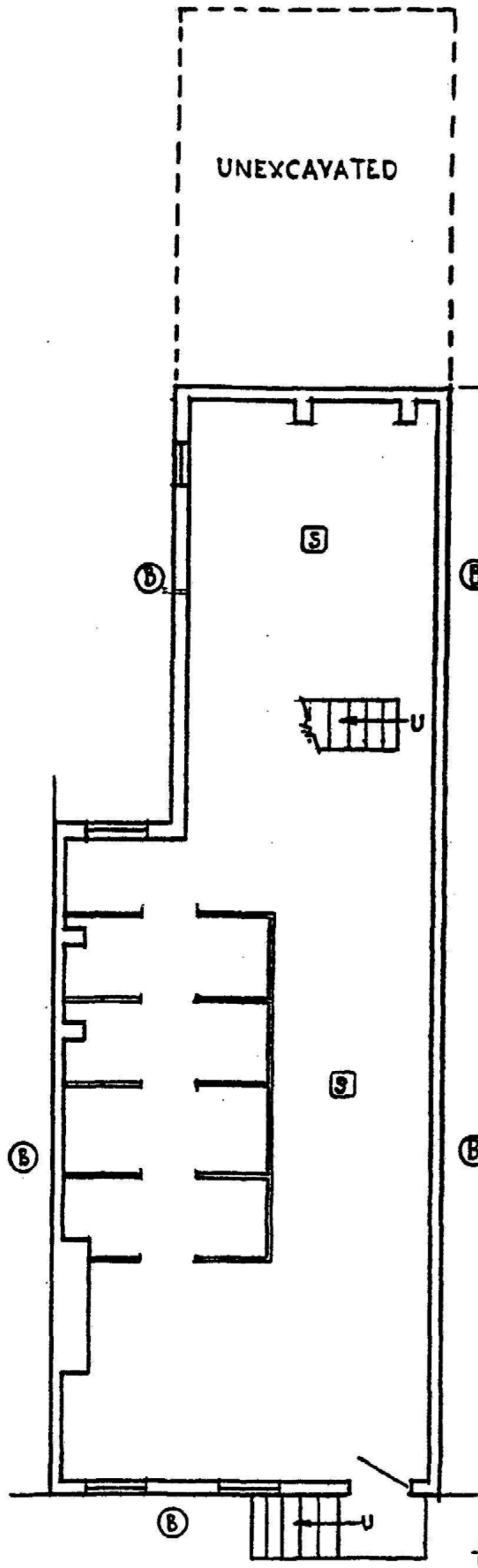


CARTER G. WOODSON  
HOUSE

1538 NINTH STREET NW  
WASHINGTON D.C.

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

0 2' 4' 6' 8' 10' NPI-J.C.MASSEY '88



- ⓑ BEARING WALL
- Ⓢ SPACE OF PRIMARY CONCERN
- Ⓣ SPACE OF SECONDARY CONCERN

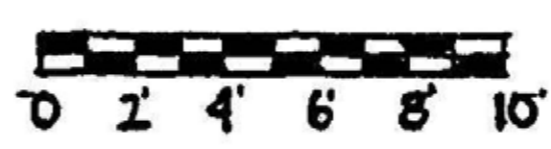
↓ PRE 1877



CARTER G. WOODSON  
HOUSE

1538 NINTH STREET NW  
WASHINGTON DC

BASEMENT PLAN



NPI - J C MASSEY '88

## REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL EVALUATIONS AND IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

### **SAFETY ANALYSIS**

Analysis and evaluation includes development of recommended solutions to correct deficiencies, but does not include the production or costs of construction documents. All the safety analysis work would be conducted prior to occupancy of the structure.

1. Structural analysis	\$ 15,000
2. Fire egress and general life/safety code analysis for office use and public exhibit space	\$ 10,000
3. Evaluation of the adequacy of domestic water supply and waste water systems	\$ 3,000
4. Evaluation of the electrical power supply and distribution system to and within the building	\$ 3,000
5. Universal Access analysis	\$ 15,000
6. Hazardous materials (lead, asbestos, and radon) inspection and evaluation of the site and house	\$ 5,000

### **REQUIRED BASELINE INFORMATION**

1. Historic American Building Survey measured drawings of the building	\$ 60,000
2. Historic Structures Report, Parts 1 and 2 (The six reports described above would be included in the Historic Structures Report, Part 2.)	\$ 80,000
3. Revise the draft cost analysis prepared in 1988 Field Assessment on the basis of the safety analysis reports and Historic Structure Report	\$ 3,000
4. Cultural Landscape Inventory	\$ 3,000
5. Collection survey of the paper materials stored in the building to determine their significance/value for retention with the building	\$ 5,000

### **EMERGENCY/SECURITY ACTIONS**

1. Preparation of contract documents and install temporary cover over opening in roof to prevent additional water infiltration	\$ 2,000
2. Removal of debris from building and site in conjunction with collections survey of paper materials stored in the building	\$ 1,000
3. Installation of security/ventilating window sash (See NPS preservation brief on moth balling buildings)	\$100/window
4. Repair broken glass in window sash that will remain in place	\$ 50/pane
5. Rodent, vermin and termite eradication program	\$ 3,000
6. Installation of temporary lighting within the building	\$ 500
7. Installation of exterior security light behind the building	\$ 500
8. Installation of protective coverings on steps, floor, and handrails and other interior decorative features to prevent additional damage during planning and construction phases	<u>\$ 5,000</u>

Approximate Total                      \$175,000

Appendix E

9<sup>th</sup> Street East Side Facade Study (North to South)



