THEME 8: CONTEMPLATIVE SOCIETY, 8a-Literature, 8c-Education, 8d-Intellectual currents
THEME 9: SOCIETY AND SOCIAL CONSCIENCE, 9a-American Ways of Life, 9b-Social and Humanitarian Movements

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
William E. B. Du Bois Boyhood Homesite

AND/OR COMMON
William E. B. Du Bois Boyhood Homesite

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Route 23 — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Great Barrington — X VICINITY OF Egremont — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE
Massachusetts — CODE 25 — COUNTY Berkshire — CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	X PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial Foundation, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 525

CITY, TOWN
Pamona — __ VICINITY OF — STATE New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Great Barrington — STATE Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None Known

DATE — __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

(110)

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	X RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Du Bois Homesite property consists of a five-acre plot of land located on the north side of Route 23, approximately two miles west of the center of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The property forms the outline of an inverted "U". An open grassy field is situated in the central rear section of the property. To the north of this open field area is a cluster of pine, elm and maple trees. These trees are arranged in a semi-circle while the grassy area rises on a small knoll to the south, thus giving the appearance of a natural amphitheater. The ruins of the original black Burghardt Homesite are located on the southwest section of the lot. The ruins of the foundation, consisting of the original flooring, the chimney, constructed on rubblestone, with the hearthstone remaining, and the cellar hole, are all that remain of the original structure.

The irregular shape of the property boundary is caused by the presence of a private residence situated in the front center section of this open field area. This house sits a short distance off Route 23, to the east of the site of the original Burghardt house. This lot, less than one acre, separates the Du Bois historic property (originally owned by the Burghardt) into an eastern and western section with the central area to the north. (This gives rise to the listing on the deed as parcels 1 and 2.) On either side of the private lot are access roads leading onto the Du Bois property. These roads have direct access to the rear section on which is located this central grove area.

The Du Bois house, as originally stood, was a two-story structure with clapboard siding and a gabled roof. There was a shed, used for wood storage, on the east side of the house. On the interior there was a central hallway off of which was a large living room/parlor. This parlor contained a large open fireplace. Towards the rear of this level was the flagged kitchen which was a half-step below the other section. From the hallway, a stairwell, with balustrade, rose to the second level of the house which contained three bedrooms.

note lack of dates !!

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	X LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	X PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		Afro-American History

SPECIFIC DATES 1868-1963; 1868-1885 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (pronounced "Du Boyce") is generally recognized as one of the most incisive thinkers and profound scholars of his time. Too scholarly and arrogant to have a large following of his own, he influenced much of the twentieth century black protest and helped to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

W. E. B. Du Bois was one of the founders of the Niagara Movement as well as the NAACP, two organizations which sought to further the cause of black equality in the United States and which treated the problems of achieving full civil rights through nationwide publicity and agitation. As editor of The Crisis, he was responsible for the publicity of the NAACP's fight for black equality through the American courts and the education of as many people as possible on issues affecting the black man's full enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as guaranteed him in the U.S. Constitution. He was a founder of the Amenia Conference on Negro Affairs, a national effort by leaders of widely divergent political views to promote, to the extent possible, a unity of purpose. He spurred the Pan-African Movement and was a guiding force in promoting African Liberation by conducting five Pan-African Congresses. He was one of America's most outstanding scholars and the first Afro-American to receive the Ph.D. degree from Harvard University. He was the author of over twenty books including: Dusk of Dawn, The Souls of Black Folk, The Quest of the Silver Fleece, and Black Reconstruction in America; as well as several hundred articles and pamphlets; editor of one of the most effective polemical magazines in the United States; a novelist; and a poet. To many, throughout the world, Du Bois was patron saint, teacher and prophet.

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born February 23, 1868. He grew up on his grandfather's farm in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, a town with few blacks. However, Du Bois held a strong attachment to his family home (see Attachment #1) at Great Barrington where he spent the first seventeen years of his life. Showing his apparent scholarly abilities early in life, Du Bois, the only black in his high school graduating class, was recognized as the outstanding pupil of his class. A resulting scholarship sent him to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1885.

After graduating from Fisk in 1888, he attended Harvard University, receiving an A.B., cum laude, in philosophy in 1890, and spent another two years of graduate study in political economy and history. He studied abroad for two years, primarily sociology at the University of Berlin. After his return, he taught at Wilberforce University in Ohio and completed his dissertation for his Ph.D. (sociology) from Harvard in 1895. Published in 1896, Du Bois' dissertation, The Suppression of the African Slave Trade, became the first volume in the Harvard Historical Studies.

In 1896, he became a sociology instructor at the University of Pennsylvania, and carried out a pioneering sociological investigation that became his second book, The Philadelphia Negro . From 1897 to 1910, he taught at Atlanta University where he wrote and edited ten of the sixteen monographs of the Atlanta University Studies.

While teaching in Atlanta, Du Bois challenged the accommodationist leadership of Booker T. Washington. In 1905 he called for a national meeting of race leaders to protest attempts to deny the Negro his civil and political rights and economic equality. The meeting ended with the organization of the Niagara Movement which in 1909-1910 was superseded by the NAACP. Du Bois left Atlanta University to serve as NAACP Director of Research and Publicity as its only black officer. In 1910 he became founder and editor of the NAACP's monthly magazine, The Crisis. The first issue appeared in November of that year with a circulation of 1,000. By 1919, the circulation had increased to 104,000.

Du Bois used The Crisis as an effective weapon to protest disfranchisement, poor housing, the plight of the Negro, and to foster Pan-Africanism, labor solidarity, racial chauvinism, and a seperate black economic-cultural order, contradicting the NAACP's integrationist platform. He attempted to make it the representative, collective voice of the Negro race's cry for human dignity and justice. On several major issues the NAACP and The Crisis worked hand-in-hand. The Crisis exposed and reported the news while the NAACP took appropriate steps to correct the injustice. From 1910 to 1923 both waged a continual campaign against lynching. In 1914, after having supported Woodrow Wilson's candidacy, they protested enforced segregation by his administration in the federal governmen When the United States invaded Haiti on the suspect justification of preserving "democratic" principles The Crisis and the NAACP presented strong opposition to American presence there.

Despite such friendly cooperative efforts, Du Bois maintained The Crisis as a separate entity, nominally under the auspices of the NAACP. The Crisis was more than the official publication of the NAACP, it was the voice of the Negro race, and more especially, the publication of W. E. B. Du Bois. In his efforts to maintain a high degree of independence for the magazine within the structure of the NAACP, he constantly came into conflict with fellow directors.

In 1934 Du Bois resigned from the NAACP and returned to Atlanta University for a decade. There he founded and edited Phylon, The Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture. In 1944 he returne to the NAACP as Director of Research, serving for four years. Although Du Bois was not a man of wealth and lived in those cities where he was employed, his friends recognized his attachment to his boyhood home and purchased the property for him. From 1928 to 1954, he owned the "House of the Black Burghardts" and spent his spare time and quiet moments in the house of his ancestor. (The

Burghardt property had been in his family for over 200 years.)

During most of his career, Du Bois was an avid Pan-Africanist. He participated in the Pan-African Conference of 1900 held in London and in the First Universal Races Congress of 1911, also in London. From 1919 to 1927 he organized four Pan-African Congresses. In 1945 he was accredited as a Consultant to the San Francisco Conference which organized the United Nations and in that same year he served as Co-chairman of the Fifth Pan-African Congress in Manchester, England. From 1949 to 1954 he was Vice-chairman of the Council on African Affairs, a private organization which gathered and disseminated valuable information about the "black" African colonies.

During his fifteenth trip abroad, 1958-1959, Du Bois made extensive journeys to the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China where he received many single honors. In 1961 he publicly announced his application for membership in the American Communist Party. The same year, he also accepted an invitation from President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana to reside in Accra. In 1963 he became a Ghanian citizen. Until the eve of his death in Accra, August 27, 1963, he devoted much of his time to a projected Encyclopedia Africana. He was given a state funeral and buried in Accra.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Du Bois, W. E. B. The Souls of Black Folk. Greenwich, Connecticut: Fawcett Publications, Inc., 1961.

Du Bois, W. E. B. The Autobiography of W. E. B. Du Bois. New York: International Publishers, 1968.

(PARTIAL LISTING)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	632820	4607630	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET: VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, ITEM #10, PAGE TWO

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Lynne Gomez Graves, Historical Projects Director

ORGANIZATION
Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation

DATE
October 30, 1975

STREET & NUMBER
1420 N Street, N.W., Suite 101

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 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

GPO 892-453

Kellogg, Charles Flint. NAACP, A History of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Vol. 1. Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press, 1967.

Logan, Rayford W. "The Historical Aspects of Pan Africanism, 1900-1945" in Pan Africanism Reconsidered. edited by the American Society of American Culture. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962.

Logan, Rayford W., ed. W.E.B. Du Bois, A Profile. New York: Hill and Wang, 1971.

Rudwick, Elliott M. W.E.B. Du Bois, A Study in Minority Group Leadership. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1960.

PARCEL 1: Beginning at an iron pipe driven into the ground on the north side of a state highway known as Route 41 and 23, which pipe is located at the southwest corner of land now or formerly of one VanKadish; thence, north 8 degrees 55 minutes and the west 200 feet along land of said VanKadish to an iron pipe in line of land to be conveyed; thence north 77 degrees east 66.5 feet to an iron pipe; thence north to an iron pipe in the northerly line of land, said point being approximately 241.5 feet from the westerly boundary of land 241.5 feet to an iron pipe in the westerly line; thence south along the westerly line 625 feet, more or less, and along a fence line to a stake in the northerly line of said state highway first mentioned above; thence along the northerly line of said state highway 208 feet, more or less, easterly to an iron pipe in the northerly line of said highway which is the place of beginning.

PARCEL 2: A certain tract of land located on the northerly side of a state highway leading from Great Barrington to the Village of South Egremont in the town of Great Barrington, said highway being known as Route 41, said tract being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe driven into the ground at the southeast corner of land now or formerly of one VanKadish, which pipe is located in the northerly line of said highway and is the southwest corner of the tract herein described; thence north 14 degrees 45 minutes west 186 feet to an iron pipe driven into the ground at the northeast corner of land now or formerly of said VanKadish; thence south 77 degrees west 66.5 feet more or less to a point in the easterly line of the grantors herein; thence north along the easterly line of the grantors herein 350 feet more or less to the southerly line of land now or formerly of one Whitman; thence south 83¼ degrees east 240.5 feet more or less to the westerly line of land now or formerly of one Tibbetts; thence south 248 feet more or less along the westerly line of land now or formerly of said Tibbetts to an iron pipe driven into the ground at a corner of land now or formerly of said Tibbetts; thence south 8 degrees 30 minutes east 175 feet along the westerly line of land now or formerly of said Tibbetts to an iron pipe driven into the ground in the northerly line of said highway mentioned above; thence westerly along the northerly line of said highway 150 feet more or less to an iron pipe driven into the ground in the northerly line of said highway, which is the place of beginning.

Dr. Rayford Logan
3001 Veazey Terrace, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
October 30, 1975

Mr. Walter Wilson
W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Foundation
East Chatham, New York
October 30, 1975