

Carter G. Woodson Home

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Parks–East
Carter G. Woodson Home
National Historic Site



“IF YOU TEACH THE NEGRO THAT HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED AS MUCH GOOD AS ANY OTHER RACE HE WILL ASPIRE TO EQUALITY AND JUSTICE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE.”

— EXCERPT FROM *THE MIS-EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO* WRITTEN BY CARTER G. WOODSON IN 1933

The Carter G. Woodson home, built in the 1890's provides an authentic example of a popular architectural style: the "Victorian Row House" characteristic of Washington, DC's Shaw community. Located on 1538 9th Street, NW, this red bricked 3,380 square foot structure became Woodson's primary residence in Washington, DC in 1915 until his death in 1950.



Carter G. Woodson in his library. Photo courtesy ASALH.

This structure served as Woodson's home where this great scholar researched, preserved rare collections of African American and African Diaspora History, and founded The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, since renamed The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH).

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, Woodson almost single-handedly established African American historiography.

Dr. Woodson's research continues to educate and inspire the American public about the contributions of African Americans to this great nation which in turn has impacted the world.

Today, ASALH continues Woodson's tradition of disseminating information about black life, history, and culture to the global community.

Woodson's legacy is perpetuated in the partnership between the National Park Service and ASALH for this and future generations.

Woodson Time Line

- 1875 ~~~~~ Carter Goodwin Woodson is born in New Canton, Virginia on December 19, 1875
- 1897 ~~~~~ Woodson receives his Bachelor's degree from Berea College in Kentucky
- 1912 ~~~~~ Woodson earns his Ph.D. from Harvard University in Cambridge, MA
- 1915 ~~~~~ Dr. Woodson, known as "The Father of Black History," founds the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (changed in 1972 to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History or ASALH).
- 1918 ~~~~~ Dr. Woodson writes *A Century of Negro Migration*
- 1918-1919 Dr. Woodson is Principal of Armstrong Manual Training School, Washington, DC
- 1919-1920 Dr. Woodson is a Professor of History at Howard University
- 1922 ~~~~~ Dr. Woodson retires from teaching to give all of his attention to ASALH
- 1926 ~~~~~ Dr. Woodson and ASALH establish Negro History Week—celebrated in February between the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and President Lincoln. It is now celebrated as Black History Month.
- 1926 ~~~~~ Dr. Woodson receives the Spingarn Medal
- 1933 ~~~~~ Dr. Woodson completes and publishes *The Mis-Education of the Negro*
- 1937 ~~~~~ The *Negro History Bulletin* begins publication
- 1941 ~~~~~ West Virginia State College awards Dr. Woodson an honorary Doctor of Laws
- 1950 ~~~~~ Dr. Woodson dies and is buried in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Suitland, MD

- 1976 ~~~~~ The Woodson Home is designated a National Historic Landmark
- 2003 ~~~~~ Public Law 108-192 establishes Carter G. Woodson's Home as a National Historic Site and authorizes the National Park Service to acquire it. The legislation is introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
- 2005 ~~~~~ The National Park Service acquires the home from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- 2006 ~~~~~ The Carter G. Woodson Home NHS becomes the 389th unit of the National Park Service system



Carter G. Woodson's Home at 1538 9th Street NW, photographed in 2006 before restoration. NPS Photo.

Related Points of Interest

Shaw Historic District

The Carter G. Woodson Home NHS is part of the Shaw Historic District. The Victorian row house is one of a number of significant components of Shaw. 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. Dr. Woodson lived on the top floor using lower floors for his office and the basement for his book warehouse during the period when Shaw flourished.

African American Heritage Trail

The Carter G. Woodson Home NHS is among the sites included in the African American Heritage Trail of Washington, DC. To learn more about the Shaw area and to obtain your free copy of the African American Heritage Trail of Washington, DC, contact the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS at 202 673-2402.

How To Get There



The Carter G. Woodson Home is located at 1538 9th Street NW

METRO:

Shaw–Howard University Metro Station on the Green Line. From 8th and R walk west on R to 9th Street, then south to 1538 9th Street NW.

Information

For updates on our progress:

Call:

202 673-2402

Or Write:

Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site
c/o Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site
1318 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3607

Website: www.nps.gov/cawo

The Carter G. Woodson Home is closed and awaiting rehabilitation. A plaque is on the exterior of the home to identify the historic structure.