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Long-term planning in the national park system is intended to answer the question: *What range of resource conditions and visitor experiences should be provided, and where?*

Dear Friend of Carter G. Woodson Home  
National Historic Site,

I am writing to announce the start of a comprehensive planning effort for Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, a brand new unit of the National Park System, at 1538 9<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, D.C. The NPS is working with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) in this endeavor. The result will be a new general management plan to guide how we develop, manage, and interpret the house and other resources of the national historic site and how we provide for visitors over the next 15 to 20 years. The photographs in this newsletter attest to the difficulty of the job ahead.

As a long-term vision for the management of the national historic site, the general management plan will provide guidance and set the direction for subsequent, more narrowly focused planning efforts to follow. The plan will not resolve every park issue or guarantee funding for the actions proposed in the approved plan. Specific facility designs or blueprints will be developed later following decisions made in the general management plan.

We invite your participation in this effort to develop a general management plan for the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site. It is important for the planning team to hear from you early in the process so that we can incorporate your ideas and concerns. There are several ways to share your thoughts:

- Return the enclosed pre-addressed comment folder to the planning team

- Mail your written comments to...  
Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE  
Washington, DC 20020-6722
- Enter your comments via the park planning website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CAWO>
- Attend a public meeting to be held November 12 (location and time to be announced on the park and ASALH websites)

Throughout the approximately 3-year planning effort, we will arrange public meetings at key stages of the planning process, publish newsletters, and provide numerous opportunities for members of the public to review and comment on the ideas and potential solutions that evolve. Please join us in this important endeavor as we define how to preserve and manage Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gayle Hazelwood

Superintendent



## WHAT IS A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Park planning is a decision-making process, and general management planning is the broadest level of decision making for national parks. General management plans, which are required for all units in the national park system, are intended to guide park management for the next 15-20 years.

As a long-term vision for the management of the park, the general management plan for the Carter G. Woodson Home will provide “big picture” guidance and set the direction for more program-specific planning efforts. The plan will not include specific facility designs, resolve all park issues, or guarantee funding for the actions proposed in the approved plan.

The general management plan for Carter G. Woodson Home is being developed by the park staff and planning professionals of the National Park Service (NPS). Participation by the full park staff, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), neighbors, other agencies, and the public will be crucial to the planning effort’s success.

The general management plan will define the fundamental management direction for this unit of the national park system. It will focus on why the park was established and what needs to be done to protect significant park resources while allowing for visitor enjoyment of those resources. Several possible visions for the park’s future (called management alternatives) will be developed and analyzed before a preferred direction is selected. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables the planning team to compare the advantages and disadvantages of the various courses of action.

Why do we write general management plans?

- To create a vision and clear direction for the future of the national historic site
- To establish preservation priorities for allocating resources
- To set and achieve goals for national historic site management

- To foster cooperative partnerships
- To comply with public law and NPS policies

### Purpose and Significance of Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site

#### Purpose

A purpose statement is a concise statement explaining why Congress established a unit of the national park system. The statement must be grounded in a thorough analysis of the establishing legislation and legislative history, including studies prior to authorization. Such statements help to guide management decisions.

The Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site was set aside by Congress “to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations the home [and legacy] of the preeminent historian and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the organization known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.” (2003 H.R. 1012; 108 H.R. 1012)

#### Significance

Significance statements express why the park unit’s resources and values are important enough to warrant national designation. Statements of significance describe why the national historic site is important within a global, national, regional, and system-wide context and are directly linked to the purpose of the park unit. These statements are substantiated by data or consensus, and reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions. Significance statements may change over time as new resources are discovered or a park’s resources are better understood.

Five significance statements were developed for the Carter G. Woodson Home NHS:

1. The Dr. Carter G. Woodson Home was his residence from its purchase in 1922 until his death in 1950 and served as the base for his pioneering work in African American history and publishing.

2. In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which he had founded in 1915, now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and, in 1921, he established Associated Publishers.
3. Because he was a leader, Dr. Woodson's home was an important community focus for the interaction of African Americans of diverse trades, professions, and economic backgrounds; Dr. Woodson both learned from and taught these many people, spreading appreciation for African American history through this nation and beyond.
4. Dr. Woodson founded Negro History Week (now Black History Month) that continues to have broad impact across America and the world.
5. Dr. Woodson initiated programs of scholarly research and education designed to reach both the academic community and a general audience.



## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The following interpretive themes are based on the purpose and significance of Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site. The themes connect the national historic site's fundamental resources and values to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, and beliefs. These themes support the desired interpretive outcome which is to increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the significance of national historic site resources and encourage stewardship of these resources.

- A. Dr Carter G. Woodson's life illuminates the struggles and triumphs of a man driven to change our understanding of American history.

Possible subthemes:

1. Impacts of the change (on American History)
2. Slavery
3. Dr. Woodson's origins
4. Dr. Woodson's education (example: struggle to get into Harvard)
5. Dr. Woodson in the context of his times
6. Dr. Woodson's single-mindedness

- B. Dr. Carter G. Woodson's scholarly work and entrepreneurial spirit have impacts across a broad spectrum of society.

Possible subthemes:

1. Dr. Woodson's promotion of the rich, intellectual and creative legacy of African Americans
2. The role of Dr. Woodson in the creation of greater African American identity and community
3. The importance of his library
4. Systematic study of African American history and culture
5. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History
6. Negro History Week, now Black History Month
7. Associated Publishers

8. Long and illustrious career
9. Possessor of critical vision

C. A visionary, Dr. Woodson devoted his life to education.

Possible subthemes:

1. Dr. Woodson, teacher
2. Dr. Woodson, educator
3. Dr. Woodson, community leader
4. Dr. Woodson, mentor to the next generation

D. The house provides a tangible link to Dr. Woodson, his social focus, his cultural legacy and his African American community resource.

Possible subthemes:

1. Home, office, national headquarters
2. The surrounding neighborhood
3. Dr. Woodson and the greater community
4. Connections to other historic properties
5. Work in the high schools

E. A realist, Dr. Woodson recognized that he could not accomplish his vision of American history without the participation of others through organization.

Possible subthemes:

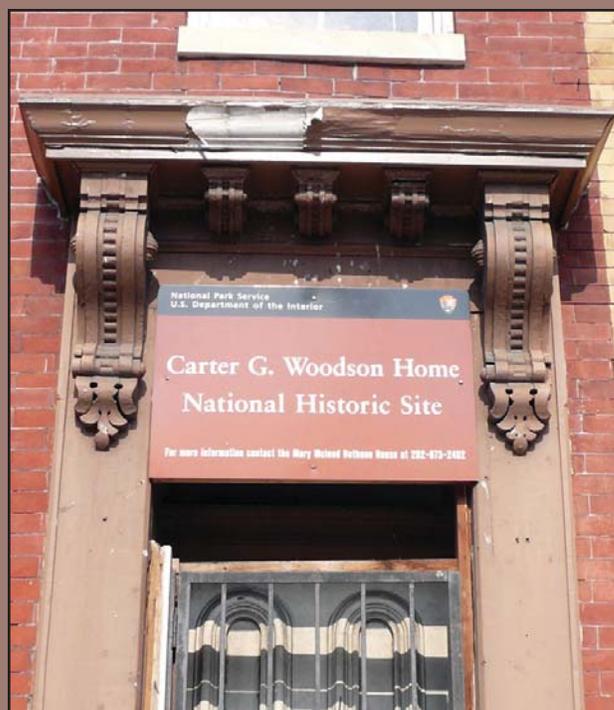
1. Dr. Woodson as founder and the establishment of ASALH in 1915
2. Dr. Woodson's legacy of organization and institution building in Black America
3. Dr. Woodson's focus on the need for the results of research and scholarship to reach the masses
4. Dr. Woodson's leadership in the creation of local history through ASALH branches
5. Dr. Woodson's encouragement of others to appreciate and experience culture as a means to celebrate diversity in America

## PLANNING TIMEFRAME

The general management planning process for the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site is expected to take 3-4 years to complete. A summary of the process and anticipated timeframe are presented below. The public will have opportunities to share ideas and comments throughout the process.

### Next Steps

After we receive your comments, the planning team will begin to identify alternative future visions for the Woodson Home. These broad descriptions of desired resource conditions and visitor experiences will form the basis for the development of alternative management strategies that address issues generated by the public and the planning team. The team will also develop management guidance that can be applied in various zones in and around the national historic site to achieve the desired future conditions for those places.



## SCHEDULE

STEP	TIMEFRAME	PLANNING ACTIVITY	HOW TO BE INVOLVED
1	Summer 2008	Project Initiation: the planning team assembles; defines the project scope; customizes the planning process; affirms the purpose; develops significance statements and interpretive themes; and identifies fundamental resources and values	
2	Summer/ Fall 2008	Planning team collects and analyzes relevant data and incorporates public comments received on this newsletter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read this newsletter</li> <li>2. Send your ideas, concerns, comments</li> <li>3. Attend public meetings</li> </ol>
3	Fall/ Winter 2008-2009	Planning team develops and evaluates preliminary alternatives using park staff and public input; the team explores what the park's future should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read preliminary alternatives newsletter</li> <li>2. Send your ideas, concerns, comments</li> </ol>
4	Spring/ Summer 2009	Planning team revises preliminary alternatives, continues data collection, develops draft general management plan	
5	Fall 2009	Internal National Park Service/Department of the Interior review of the draft plan	
6	Winter 2009-2010	A <i>Draft General Management Plan</i> and accompanying environmental document is published. The plan describes the alternatives and impacts. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the plan</li> <li>2. Send your comments</li> <li>3. Attend public meetings</li> </ol>
7	Spring 2010	Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed by Regional Director following public review and determination that no substantive comments have been received and changes may be reflected in an errata sheet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read errata sheet mailed to all commenters</li> </ol>
8	Spring/ Summer 2010	Begin funding request process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the park to implement the plan</li> </ol>

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## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

The planning team welcomes your thoughts, ideas, and concerns now and throughout the planning process. Your responses to this initial scoping effort will be most helpful if received by December 1, 2008. You may...

- return the enclosed pre-addressed comment card to the planning team
- mail your written comments to...  
Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East  
1900 Anacostia Parkway, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20020-6722
- submit your comments through the park planning website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CAWO>

We also encourage you to think about your vision for the Carter G. Woodson Home NHS, as well as any concerns or issues that should be addressed in this long-term plan, and bring them with you to one of our upcoming public meetings.



*Thank you for your interest in Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site!*