

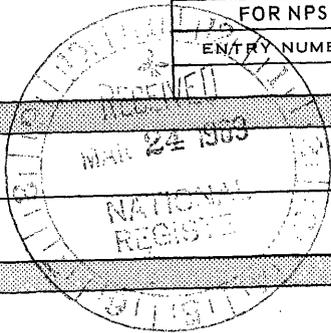
PH0001708

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Already in
National
Register

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **Frederick Douglass Memorial Home**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Cedar Hill: Van Hook Mansion**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **1411 W Street, S. E.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**

STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08** COUNTY: **District of Columbia** CODE: **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> closed
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: **United States of America (NPS)**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Recorder of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **6th & D Streets, N. W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.07 acres**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by Joint Committee on Landmarks**

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **National Capital Planning Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER: **726 Jackson Place, N. W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Frederick Douglass Home at 1411 W Street, S. E., is situated at the top of Cedar Hill facing northeast, and overlooking Anacostia and Washington. The original circa 1855-1859 structure was probably a rectangular brick 2-1/2 story central hall house with a gable-ended roof and four first-floor rooms (parlor, library, sitting room, dining room), four second-floor bedrooms, and attic. Later additions include a two-story frame kitchen wing on the west, and on the east a second-story wing over the library and two one-story bays off the front parlor. These additions, as well as a number of outbuildings, all appear to have been constructed while Douglass lived there, and, they will be maintained or rebuilt when the National Park Service restores the estate to its appearance in 1895, the year Douglass died.

The house is now painted buff yellow with green trim. A single story porch extends across the entire 43' width of the north front. This porch, three wooden steps above grade, has a wooden floor and trim and four wooden Doric columns which support a latticework strip, cornice, and roof. The first floor has a central double door, each section of two panels, flanked by double-hung side lights and surmounted by a transom. On either side of the door, two 6/12 light double-hung windows extend the full height of the porch and have wooden exterior shutters. The second floor has a central three-sided bay with French door in front and 4/4 light double-hung windows at the sides. On either side of the bay is a 6/6 light double-hung window with shutters. Over the central bay there is a triangular gable with a small round window in it. There is an ornate bracketed cornice and a standing seam metal roof.

On the east side of the house two single story rectangular bays with molded brick and 1/1 light double-hung windows are obvious later additions. The frame second-floor wing over the library has one small bedroom and was probably built in 1892. The west frame kitchen wing built flush to the east wing, although at a different time, and extending south of it, consists of a large kitchen, three small rooms and stairway on the first floor and a bedroom, bathroom, and large hall on the second. Most side and wing windows in the house are 6/6 light double-hung with wooden exterior shutters. The third floor has four small sloped-ceiling rooms.

The house is in very poor condition and has been closed pending restoration. All of its historic contents have been removed and placed in storage. Restoration will involve replacement of much of the roof, strengthening of the walls and floor, reconstruction of the outbuildings, and the accurate refurnishing of the interior. Detailed descriptions and period photographs of the principal interior rooms exist and should permit accurate restoration. The National Park Service has prepared two excellent studies on the appearance of the estate in 1895. One of these deals with the house and its furnishings; the other, with the grounds which have changed greatly since Douglass' death. Of the outbuildings--carriage house and stable, [growlery,] bar, corn crib, and privy--which stood on the property in 1892, only the ruins of three are still visible. The caretaker's cottage connected to the rear of the house by a breezeway was not built until 1922. Most of the huge cedar trees which gave the property its name have long since died, as have many other trees and shrubs.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

8 SIGNIFICANCE

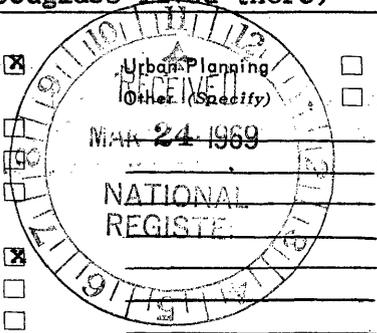
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1877-1895 (years Douglass lived there)**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Frederick Douglass Home a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. When funds are appropriated, the National Park Service plans to restore it as an "historic house museum interpreting the life of its famous owner and his place in American history." Frederick Douglass--runaway slave, abolitionist, orator, writer, civil servant, diplomat, and perhaps the outstanding American Negro of the 19th Century--has often been called the Father of the Civil Rights Movement. Both the house and the grounds of the estate where Douglass made his home for the last 17 years of his life are in poor condition and will require extensive repairs to restore them to their 1895 appearance.

Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, a slave, in February 1817, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He learned to read and write at an early age, and at 21 he escaped to the North where he married Anna Murray, a free Negress, and changed his name to Douglass to escape recapture. By 1841 he was an agent of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. In 1845 he published The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. Fearing recapture, Douglass fled to England where Quakers purchased his freedom. He returned to Rochester, New York in 1847 and within 10 years was a well-known lecturer, leader of Rochester's Underground Railroad and the editor and publisher of the North Star, an abolitionist newspaper. During the Civil War, Douglass promoted the idea of Negro soldiers. Two of his sons served in the Union Army. Following the war as the leading spokesman for the free American Negro, he continued to work for Civil Rights. In 1872 Douglass came to the District of Columbia where he first bought a house at 316 A Street, N. E. (now the Museum of African Art). In his later years as one of the first Negroes appointed to public office, he served as D. C. Marshall (1878), D. C. Recorder of Deeds (1882), and U. S. Minister to Haiti (1889-1891).

The property on which the Frederick Douglass Home stands was originally part of a tract named Chichester owned by John Marbury and later Enock Tucker. In 1854 John W. Van Hook, John Dobler, and John Fox formed the Union Land Association, paid \$19,000 for this tract of 237 acres, and offered lots for sale in the early development of Anacostia. Between 1855 and 1859, the Association built a brick structure which was the original part of the present house. Van Hook, himself, lived in the building from 1863 until 1876-77, when ownership was transferred to the Freedman's

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Douglass, Frederick. The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass Written by Himself, His Early Life as a Slave, His Escape from Bondage, and His Complete History. New York: Collier Books, 1962. Hinds, James R. Frederick Douglass Home, Cedar Hill, U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, January 11, 1968. Toogood, Anna Coxe, Frederick Douglass Home, Cedar Hill, U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, May, 1968. Historic American Buildings Survey, 8 sheets (1964) including plot plan, plans, elevations, sections, details, 7 ext. photos (1963), 2 photocopies (c. 1894-1900, c. 1897), 6 data pages (1964).

(A) 18/327940/4303280
 (B) 18/327920/4303280

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38 ° 51 ' 50 "	76 ° 59 ' 10 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38 ° 51 ' 48 "	76 ° 59 ' 04 "				
SE	38 ° 51 ' 40 "	76 ° 59 ' 06 "				
SW	38 ° 51 ' 42 "	76 ° 59 ' 12 "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM Ref
 12-N-700000
 (A) 18/327820/4303040
 (B) 18/327950/4303080
 (C) 18/327940/4303160

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nancy C. Taylor

ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission** DATE: **Feb. 25, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
726 Jackson Place, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Nancy C. Taylor*

Title: Deputy Mayor-Commissioner

Date: March 24, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST: *Nancy C. Taylor*

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

(A) 18/327820/4303040
 (B) 18/327950/4303080
 (C) 18/327940/4303160
 (D) 18/327840/4303120
 (E) 18/327680/4303330

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance--Frederick Douglass Home

Savings & Trust Company. On September 1, 1877, Douglass paid the Company \$6,700 for the house on its 9-3/4 acre lot and moved there soon afterward. On September 24, 1878, he bought 5-3/4 additional acres south of his property from Edna R. Talburtt. Between 1879 and 1895 Douglass devoted much time, effort, and money to the improvement of Cedar Hill, adding several wings to the house, a number of outbuildings and many trees.

Seventeen months after his first wife died in 1882, Douglass married Helen Pitts, a white woman. Douglass died of a stroke at Cedar Hill on February 20, 1895. His will was declared invalid; and, in order to preserve the house as a memorial to him, Helen Pitts Douglass purchased the home from the heirs for \$12,000 in 1898. At her instigation, Congress in 1900 chartered the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association to which she bequeathed the house at her death in 1903. In 1916 this Association joined with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, who preserved the estate and opened the house to visitors. When the National Park Service under Public Law 87-663 took over maintenance of the house and its historic contents on June 25, 1964, the structure was in a dilapidated and dangerous condition. The furniture and other memorabilia are now in storage and the house is closed pending funds for restoration.

