

Developmental History



The Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site is located in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C., on Lot 819 in Square 365 at 1538 Ninth Street, NW. The home is one of a series of nine, three-story, brick row houses dating from the early 1870s constructed on rectangular lots measuring 120 feet deep and 17 feet 9 1/3 inches wide. Lot 819 is bounded on the east by Ninth Street, NW, and on the west by a 10-foot wide alley.

The Carter G. Woodson Home was designated a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 11 May 1976 and was listed in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites on 3 March 1979. It is also located within the Shaw Historic District and the Mount Vernon West National Historic District. In 2003, legislation was enacted authorizing the U.S. Department of the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Carter G. Woodson Home in order to establish the site as a unit of the National Park System (Public Law 108-192, 117 Stat. 2873, 19 December 2003). The National Park Service purchased the home on June 10th, 2005. The property is located in Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2C01.

Previous Studies:

The National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form provides a physical description of the property and an evaluation of significance. Additional historical and descriptive data is provided in Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) No. DC-369 documentation (1983). Several studies to assess the potential use of the Carter G. Woodson Home as a historic site have been completed. These include the Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site and Management District Study, authored by the Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development and the Institute for Urban Development Research, School of Business and Public Management, George Washington University (1991). This study was prepared to assess options for the management of the site within the greater context of its urban environment. Included in the appendix of this report is a draft field assessment prepared in 1988 by the National Park Service that recorded detailed information on the condition of the building. Finally, the Special Resource Study: Carter G. Woodson Home (2002) was produced by the National Park Service to evaluate the potential for the future management and operation of the site and determine its suitability of becoming a unit of the Park Service.

Period of Significance:

The period of significance for the Carter G. Woodson Home covers the period 1922 through 1950. These dates correspond to the years in which Dr. Carter G. Woodson owned and occupied the house, using it as a residence and as an office for the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and its publishing agency, the Associated Printers, Inc. Woodson is recognized as the father of black history who worked tirelessly to promote scholarly research, collect primary source materials, and disseminate knowledge through teaching and publications such as *The Journal of Negro History* and *The Negro History Bulletin*. (See Figure 2-001) In 1926 Woodson established Negro History Week, the foundation for today's Black

History Month. Woodson made outstanding contributions to American history as a scholar, bibliophile, educator, and publisher. He lived amid a flourishing neighborhood that served as the cultural, economic, and social center for the city's African-American population. His home, now a National Historic Landmark, is a tangible reminder of his legacy – one that continues to serve as a lasting connection to his life and the lives of his African-American contemporaries.



Figure 2-001: Woodson with a copy of the *Negro History Bulletin*, 1948 (From Jacqueline Goggin, *Carter G. Woodson: A Life in Black History*)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Overview:

The Carter G. Woodson Home is a late-nineteenth century Italianate Style row house located in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C., four blocks east of Logan Circle. The brick row house represents a typical form of speculative housing constructed on a large scale in Washington during the post-Civil War era as a means of providing for the city's rapidly expanding population. Originally constructed between 1872 and 1874, the Carter G. Woodson Home was first used as a single family house owned by Clarinda S. Henkle. As a result of its association with Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who occupied it for 28 years starting in 1922, the house has achieved a historical significance worthy of its being designated a National Historic Landmark.

Currently unoccupied, the property is being evaluated by the National Park Service for future use as a historic site open to the public.

Subdivision of the Land and Construction of the House:

On 16 July 1790 The United States Congress passed the Residence Act authorizing President George Washington to select a site for the new national capital. The following year, Washington chose a diamond-shaped tract located at the convergence of the Potomac and the Anacostia Rivers that would become the District of Columbia, and within this tract was a smaller area designated as the City of Washington. Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker surveyed the land contained within the District – which consisted of 100 square miles, 64 square miles ceded from Maryland and 36 square miles from Virginia –

Figure 2-002: Topographical Map of the District of Columbia by Albert Boschke (From Iris Miller, *Washington in Maps, 1606-2000*)



and established boundaries.¹ Peter (Pierre) Charles L'Enfant, a French artist, officer and engineer, was selected to draw up a plan for the new city within the District. L'Enfant used the natural features of the landscape and the topography of the land to define the city's limits – the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers to the south and east, Rock Creek to the west, and the Wicomico Sunderland escarpment to the north.²

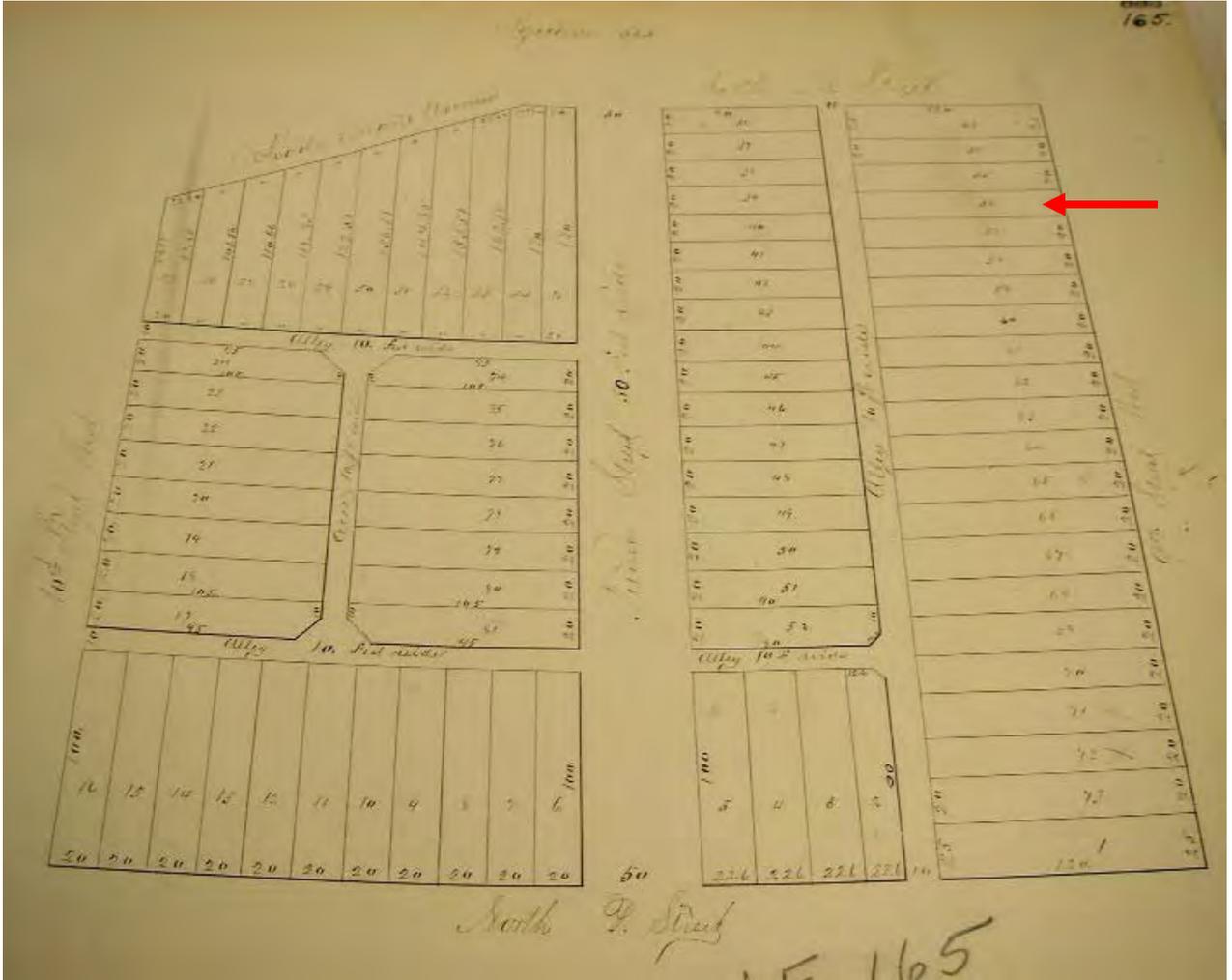


Figure 2-003: Turner's subdivision of Square 365, 1866 (From Liber W.F., Folio 165, Office of the Surveyor)

¹ Iris Miller, *Washington in Maps, 1606-2000* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 2002): 48.

² Robinson & Associates, Inc., "Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site National Register of Historic Places Documentation" (Washington, D.C., 2004): 97. The city was located on land comprised of three river terraces that rose gradually to an elevation of about 100 feet along the Wicomico Sunderland escarpment. For further information see Kenneth R. Bowling, *Creating the Federal City, 1774-1800: Potomac Fever* (Washington, D.C.: American Institute of Architects Press, 1988): 93.

Washington, D.C., a region sparsely populated and largely undeveloped, was officially established as the new capital city in 1800. In this year, building stock was comprised of “109 habitable brick houses and 263 wooden.”³ Land consisted mainly of fields, woods, and farmland for growing tobacco, corn, and other crops; the area possessed little in terms of infrastructure. Slowly, however, the city began its transformation. Following L’Enfant’s plan, federal buildings were constructed, streets were laid, and newcomers moved in and made Washington their home.

Square 365, the future site of the Carter G. Woodson Home, was platted and recorded by the Office of the Surveyor on 26 August 1797. The square was described as being bound on the north by Q Street (297 feet 5 inches), the east by Ninth Street (450 feet), the south by P Street (490 feet), the west by Tenth Street (364 feet 2 inches), and the northwest by Rhode Island Avenue (210 feet 9 inches). At this time the square was owned by Samuel Blodgett. Blodgett was one of several financiers and speculators who purchased farm properties in the city, drawn to the area by the prospects of the future capital city.

The city grew slowly during the first half of the nineteenth century. A map published by Albert Boschke provides a clear illustration of the extent of development prior to the Civil War and shows that the blocks adjacent to Rhode Island Avenue, including Square 365, were still largely undeveloped by 1861, with construction limited to the area south of O Street. (See Figure 2-002) Washingtonians, however, would soon experience a major transformation in the urban character of their city. In the decade after the Civil War the population of the District of Columbia jumped from approximately 75,000 in 1860 to 132,000 in 1870.⁴ Federal workers and newly freed slaves made up a large portion of the city’s new residents, most of who lived within a two-mile radius of the White House. In 1866, Square 365 was subdivided into 81 parcels by Henry Turner. Parcel 1 and parcels 53 through 73 faced Ninth Street, NW, and measured 120 feet deep, with the corner lots measuring 25 feet wide and the lots between slightly smaller at 20 feet wide.⁵ (See Figure 2-003) Four years later, Joshua Whitney and Brainard H. Warner replatted lot numbers 54 through 61 of Turner’s subdivision into nine lots, A through I, measuring 120 feet deep by 17 feet 9 1/3 inches wide (2,134 square feet).⁶ Thus, by further subdividing the land, Whitney and Warner were able to create nine lots from the original eight, allowing for the future construction of an additional structure and ensuring a greater return on their investment. (See Figure 2-004)

³ Constance McLaughlin Green, *Village and Capital*, vol. 1 of *Washington: A History of the Capital 1800-1950* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962): 4.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 21.

⁵ Turner’s subdivision was recorded on 17 January 1866 in Liber W.F., Folio 165, Records of the Office of the Surveyor.

⁶ The Whitney and Warner subdivision was recorded on 1 April 1870 in Liber C.H.B., Folio 223, Records of the Office of the Surveyor. Brainard H. Warner was highly active in the real estate business during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He developed the nearby row at 917-931 French Street, NW, and in 1890, he founded and developed the town of Kensington, Maryland.

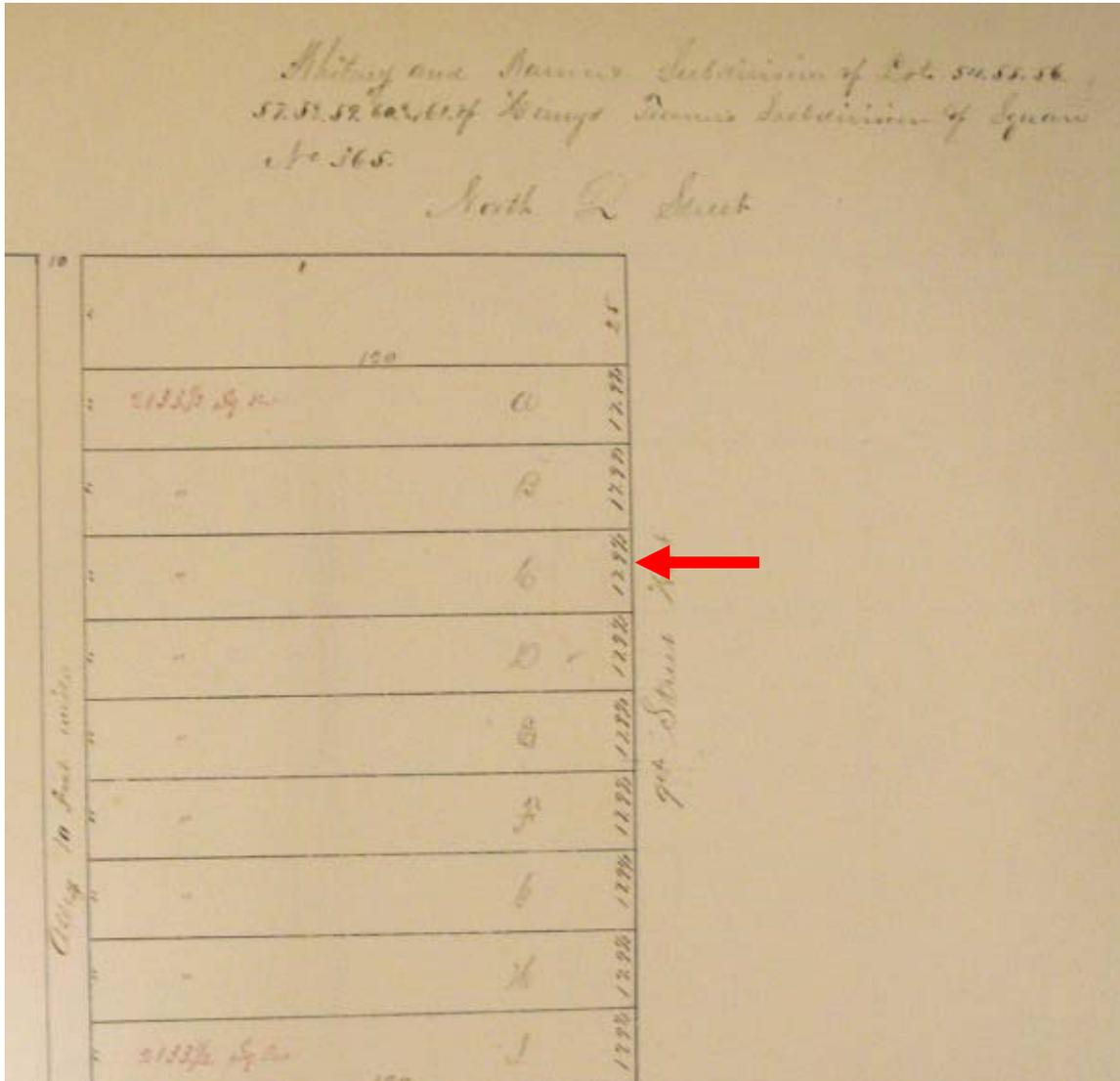


Figure 2-004: Lot C, at 1538 Ninth Street, NW, was created with Whitney and Warner's subdivision of Square 365, 1870 (From Liber C.H.B., Folio 223, Office of the Surveyor)

During the period of influence of the city's territorial government (between 1871 and 1874) municipal improvements fell to the Board of Public Works. Alexander "Boss" Shepherd served as director of the board until he became the territorial governor in 1873. The board was responsible for significantly altering the streetscape of the city – roads were regraded, paving and sewer lines were laid, sidewalks were improved, and trees were planted. Annual reports published by the board included maps to illustrate street improvements. By 1873, Ninth Street, NW, had been fully modernized with concrete paving and a sewer line and, by 1874, gas mains and water pipes were laid – assets that no doubt added to the value of the Whitney and Warner subdivision. (See Figures 2-005 and 2-006)

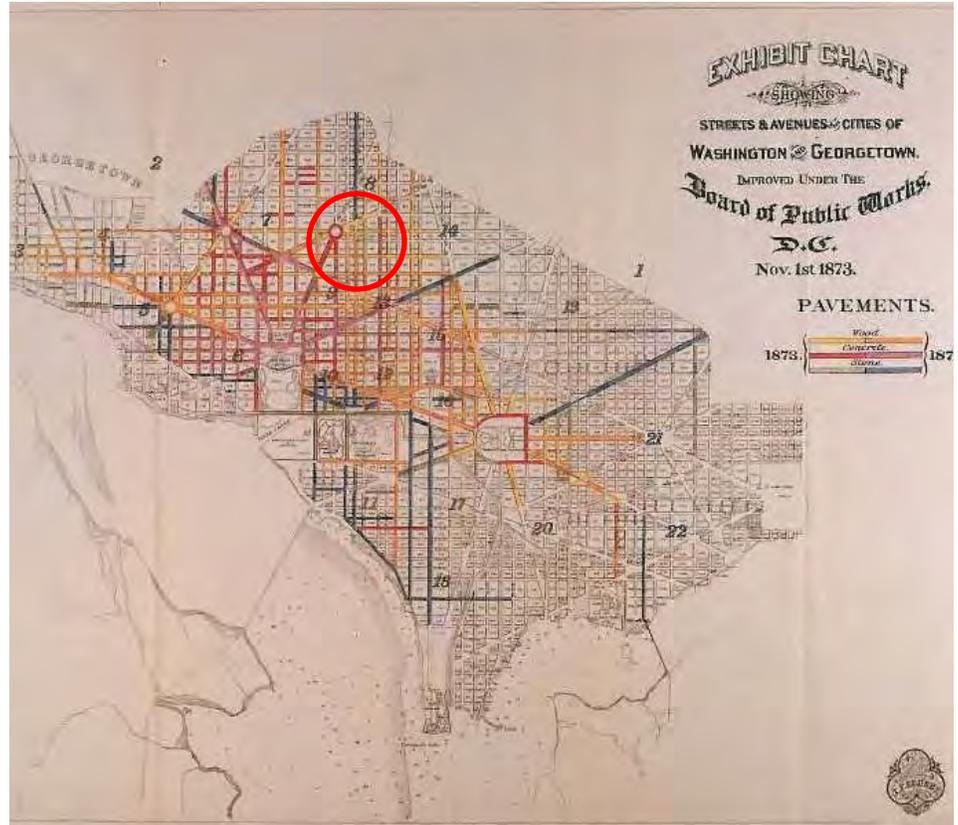


Figure 2-005: Map illustrating streets improved with pavement, 1873 (From John W. Reps, *Washington on View*)

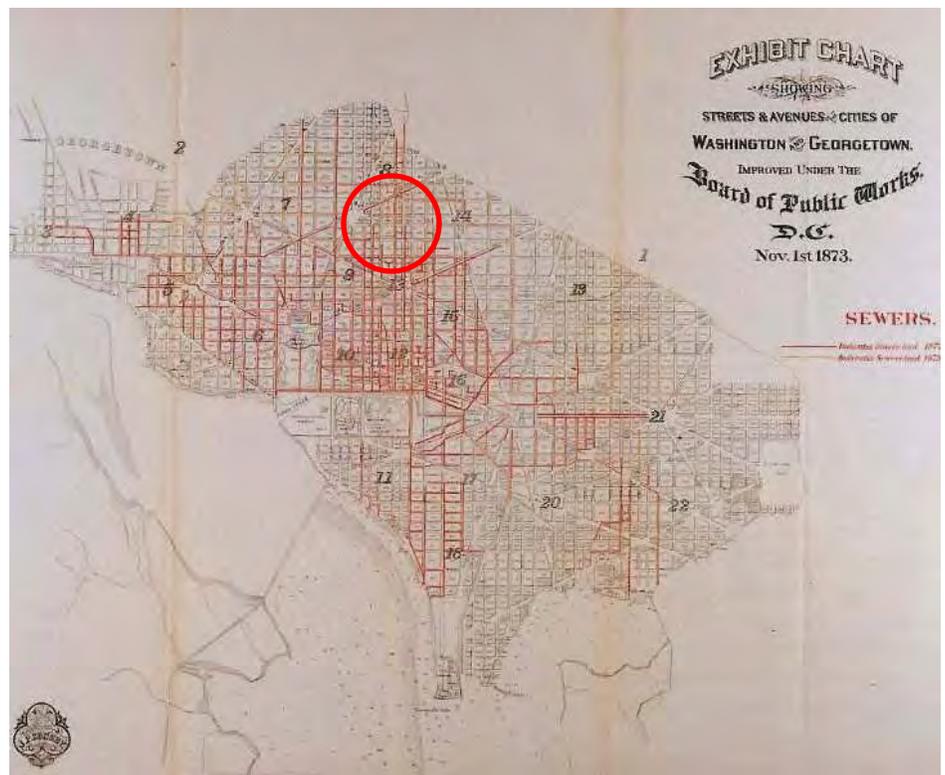


Figure 2-006: Map illustrating streets improved with sewer lines, 1873 (From John W. Reps, *Washington on View*)

In concert with Shepherd's comprehensive public works programs, Washingtonians took up the business of real estate with great enthusiasm, with over 1,200 new buildings constructed in 1872.⁷ Housing multiplied throughout the city with "some designed by expensive architects for individual clients," and "more of them contractor-built...red brick rows," and speculative building was common.⁸ In their chronicle of the evolution of Baltimore row houses, Hayward and Belfoure describe the development of what contemporary writers called "second-class houses." While the houses facing Baltimore's major squares and parks typically had facades measuring over 20 feet, the second-tier housing stock was typically "three-story, three-bay Italianate houses only sixteen to eighteen feet wide. Not only were they narrower, the main house was generally only one room deep (about thirty feet), containing a long parlor with bedrooms above. The dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and servants rooms were located in the back building, which also had a doorway opening into the rear areaway between houses, and a second set of stairs. The houses sold for about two-thirds the price of their first-class counterparts, yet still had embellishments such as scroll-sawn brackets supporting door and window cornices, full-height French parlor windows, and marble steps and basements. Such houses filled block after block of west and east Baltimore, before and after the Civil War."⁹ Although expressly written about a certain subset of Baltimore's row houses, this passage comes close to describing the Carter G. Woodson Home and its row. (See Figure 2-007)

⁷ Green, *Village and Capital*, vol. 1, 355.

⁸ Constance McLaughlin Green, *Capital City 1879-1950*, vol. 2 of *Washington: A History of the Capital 1800-1950* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962): 12.

⁹ Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999): 67.

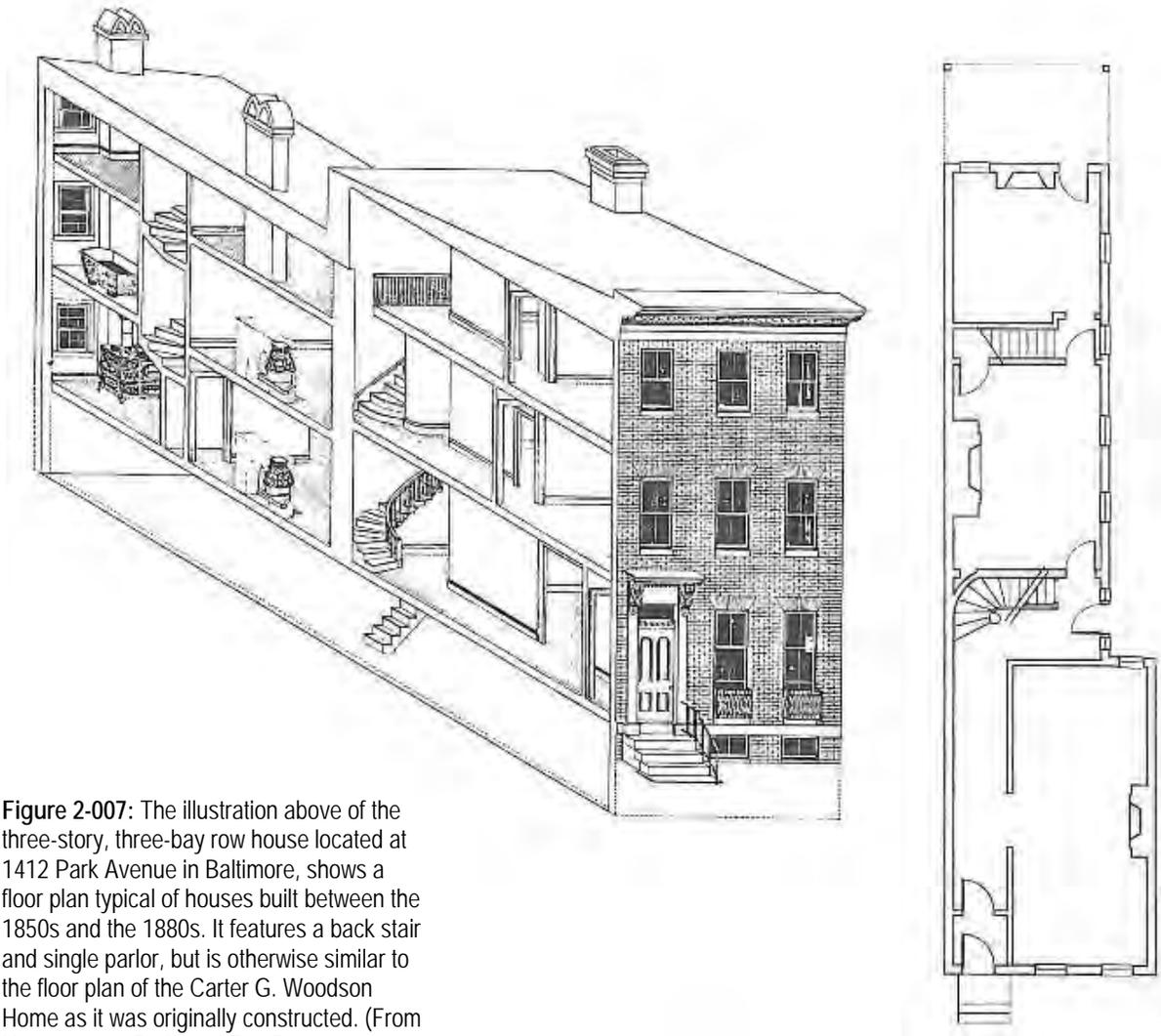


Figure 2-007: The illustration above of the three-story, three-bay row house located at 1412 Park Avenue in Baltimore, shows a floor plan typical of houses built between the 1850s and the 1880s. It features a back stair and single parlor, but is otherwise similar to the floor plan of the Carter G. Woodson Home as it was originally constructed. (From Hayward and Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*)

General assessment records for 1872-73 valued each of the nine lots of the Whitney and Warner subdivision at \$854 based on a rate of \$0.40 per square foot.¹⁰ In 1874, the assessed values of the same properties increased to \$3,500. This assessment was based on the same rate per square foot of land, but was re-valued to include “improvements” on the properties – a row of three-story brick houses.¹¹ Using the information from the general assessment and real estate directories, it is possible to identify a construction period for the house on Lot C – the Carter G. Woodson Home – as 1872 to 1874. The historic records researched to date do not identify an architect or builder for the row.

¹⁰ General Assessment Books, Corporation of Washington, Volume 14 (1872-73).

¹¹ *Real Estate Directory of the City of Washington, D.C.* (Washington, D.C.: E.F.M. Faetz and Fred. W. Pratt, 1874).

The continuous row of buildings constructed on the Whitney and Warner subdivision (1526-1542 Ninth Street, NW) represent a vernacular interpretation of the Italianate style. As originally constructed, the brick facades were flat and relatively simple, with decorative detail limited to the cornice and door surrounds. For both exterior and interior elements, builders took advantage of the availability of mass-produced architectural components. "Fireplace mantels, windows, doors, interior wood work, stair elements, gas light fixtures, bathroom fixtures, as well as brackets, finials, molded bricks and cast iron stairs were all mass produced elements which were purchased and pieced together by residential buildings in infinite varieties."¹² Insurance and real estate maps of Washington, D.C., provide more specific information about the appearance and construction of the house as it was originally built.¹³ The structure was L-shaped in plan and was built of brick with a slate or tin roof. The front of the house, which faced east onto the street, was three stories (36 feet) high and had a wood cornice. The rear portion of the house was two stories high. The house had 8-inch thick masonry walls, and the party wall on the south side had a party wall that rose 12 inches above the roof between 1536 and 1538 Ninth Street.

In 1880, the house was enlarged through the construction of a two-story brick addition built onto the back of the house. According to building permits, this addition was to be constructed of brick and would measure 18 feet by 13 1/2 feet.¹⁴ Insurance maps dating from 1888 indicate that at some point between 1880 and 1888 a small one-story frame addition was constructed behind the brick addition and a one-story frame structure or shed was built at the rear of the lot. The frame addition does not appear in insurance maps from 1903-16, indicating that it had been removed by 1903. Furthermore, maps show that the structure at the back of the lot was taken down between 1916 and 1924. (See Figures 2-008, 2-009, 2-010 and 2-011)

¹² Laura V. Trieschmann, Anne Sellin, and Stephen Callcott, National Register of Historic Places – Registration Form, "Greater U Street Historic District," 1 December 1998.

¹³ See *Insurance Maps of Washington, District of Columbia* (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company) for the years 1888, 1903-1916, 1927-28, and 1927-60; *Real Estate Plat Book of Washington, District of Columbia* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins) for the years 1887 and 1892; *Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia* (Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist) for the years 1903, 1913, 1924, 1948, and 1957.

¹⁴ "Application for Permit for Repairs, Alteration, &c., Permit No. 1632," Building Division, District of Columbia. This permit, dated 23 June 1880, lists the property owner as C.S. Henkle. The permit identifies the property has a "dwelling" occupied by one family. The cost of the proposed improvement is listed as "about \$600," and the nature of the proposed alteration is "to enlarge and repair the back building by extending wall" and to make "general repairs."

Figure 2-008: The Sanborn map from 1888 provides information on the construction of the original house, the 1880 two-story addition, the one-story frame addition, and the frame structure at the rear of the lot. (Library of Congress)

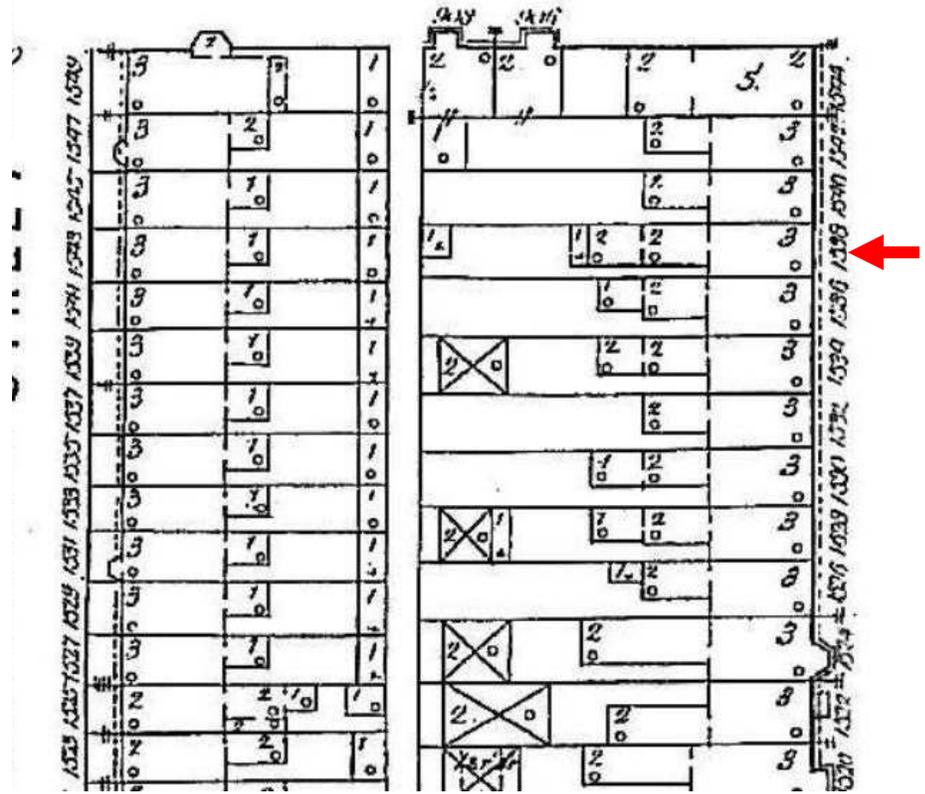
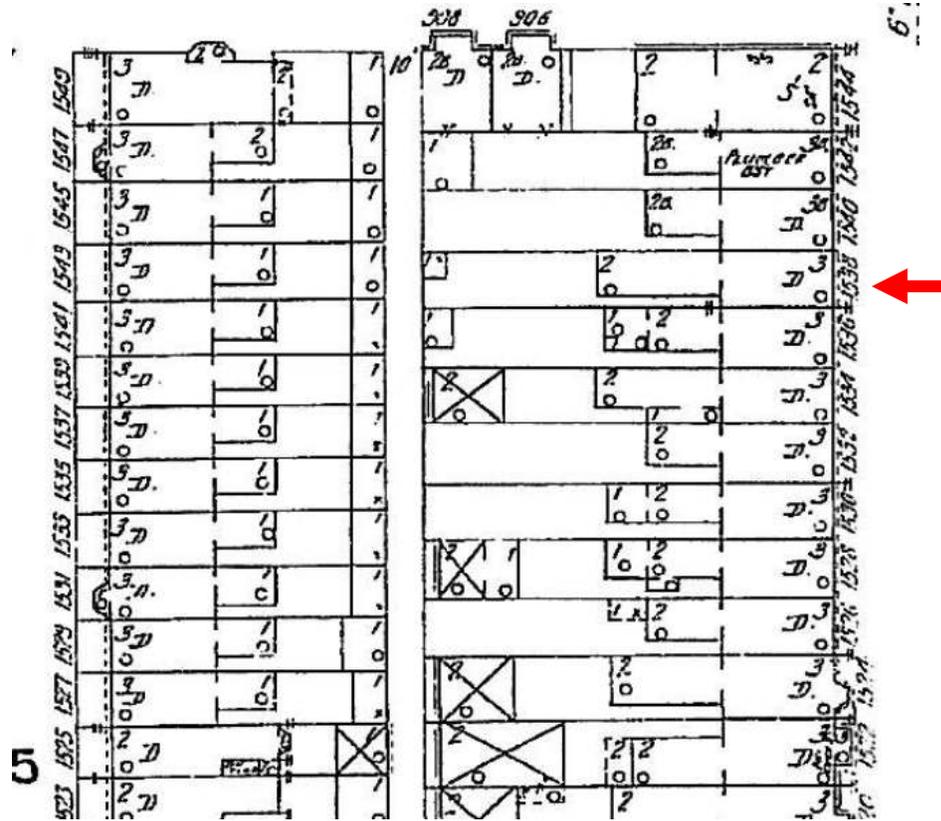


Figure 2-009: The 1903-1916 Sanborn map illustrates that the frame addition was taken down by 1903. (Library of Congress)



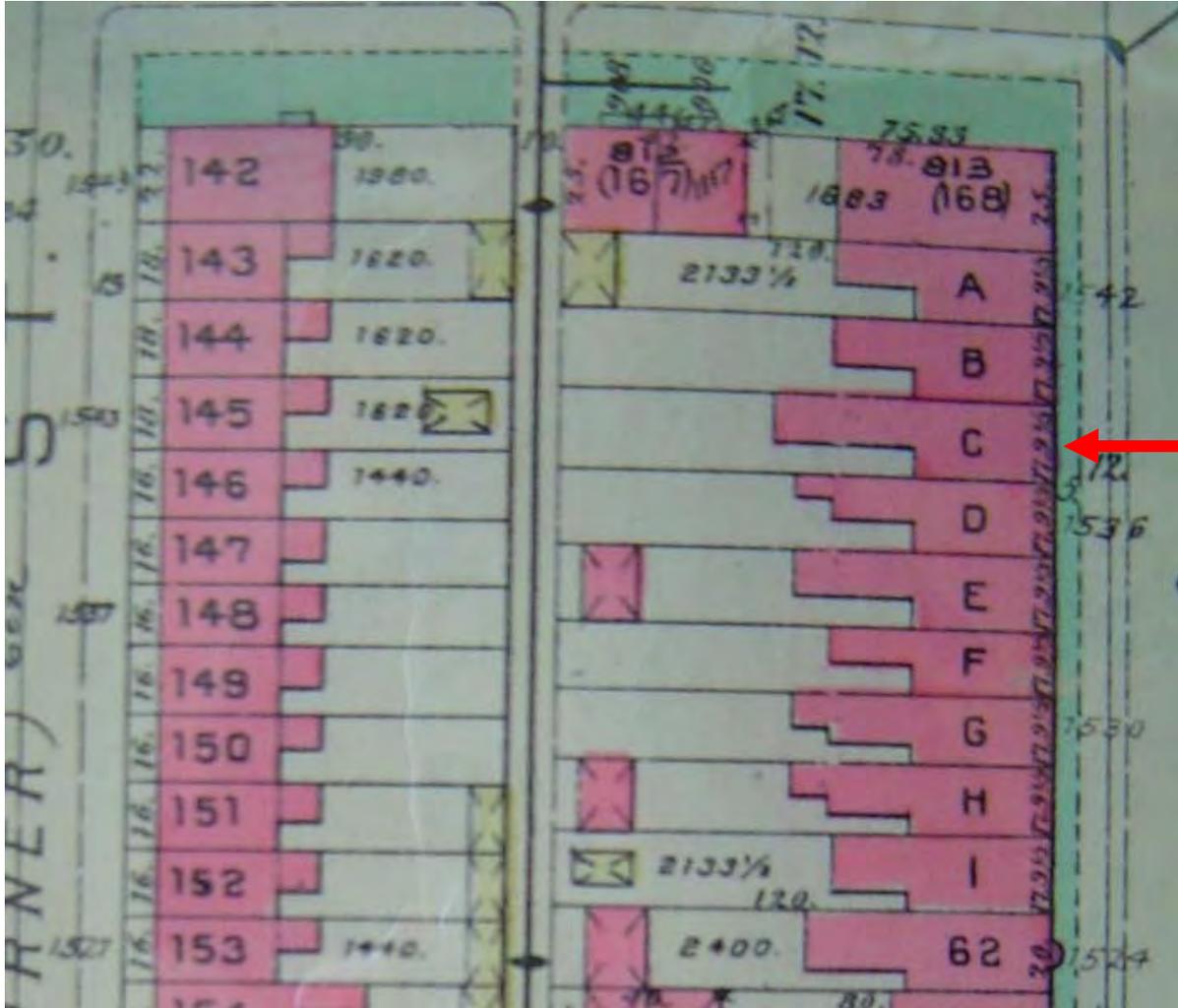


Figure 2-010: The Baist map from 1924 illustrates that the structure at the rear of the lot was removed by 1924. (Historical Society of Washington, D.C.)

When the house was sold in 1899 by the family of its original owner, it was purchased by Jacob Xander, who is identified in census records as a landlord. Historical documents indicate that in the early years of the twentieth century, the house no longer served as a single-family residence. In 1920, for example, the house was occupied by 10 people, none of whom was the property owner. During this time, one can speculate that modifications were made to the interior spaces of the house in order to accommodate multiple families; however, building permits or other records have not been found to substantiate this assumption.

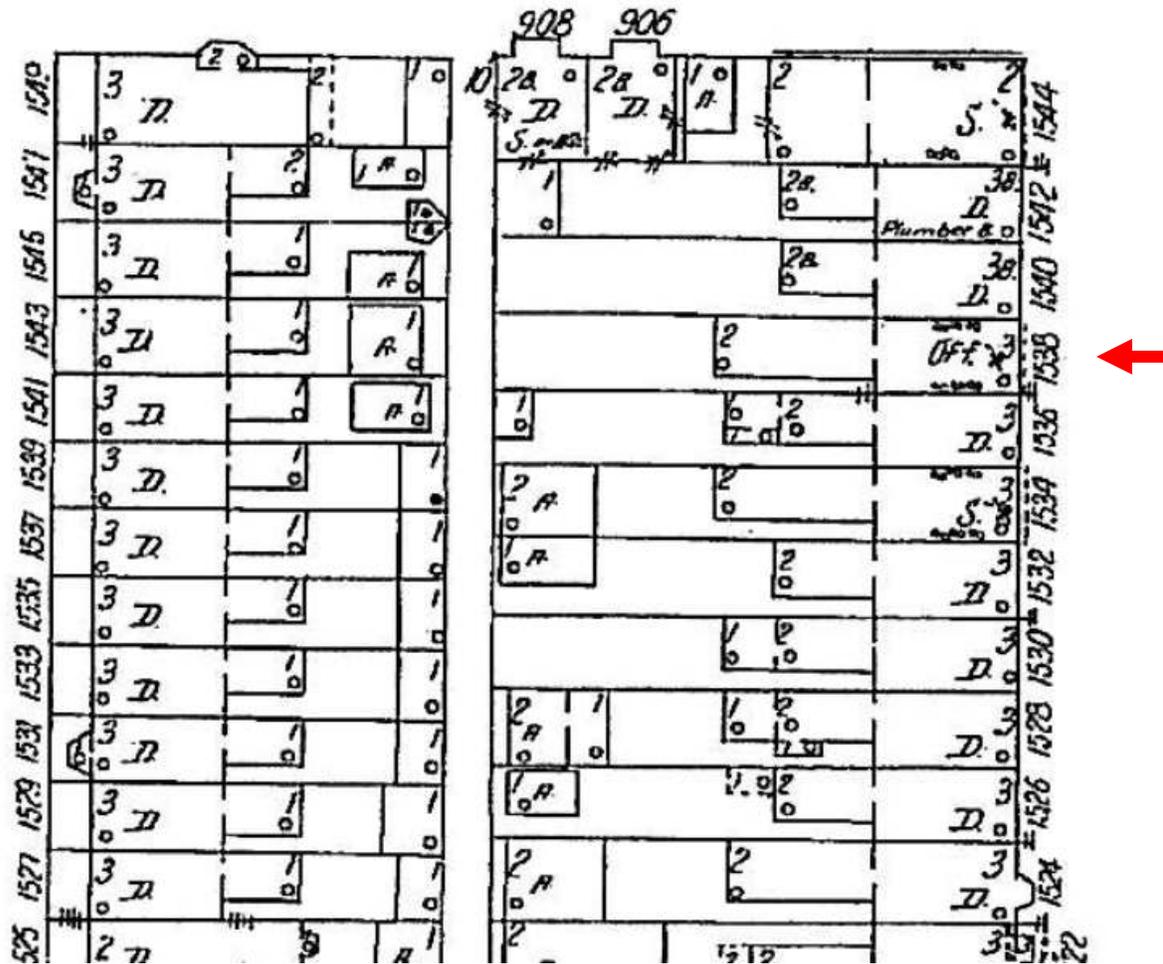


Figure 2-011: The 1927-29 Sanborn map illustrates the footprint of the house during the early years of Woodson's occupancy. (Library of Congress)

Little photographic evidence exists to document the appearance and condition of the house during the period of significance outside of what the consultant team was able to find at the Scurlock Photo Archives at the Smithsonian Institute. One photograph of the exterior of the house as it appeared during Woodson's occupancy features a metal and wood sign on the front facade that reads "The Associated Publishers Inc." Woodson received a permit to erect this sign in 1923.¹⁵ (See Figure 2-012) In general it appears as if under Woodson's ownership the house's facade retained most of its original features including the sash windows, wood cornice, and bracketed lintel over the main entrance. Photographs discovered to date of the interior show little detail about architectural features, room layout, or furnishings. However, sketches of the floor plans of the house, produced from memory by Willie Leanna Miles, one of Woodson's employees in the 1940s, for an article published in *The Journal of Negro History* provide information as to how interior spaces within the house were arranged and how public and private space was divided. (See Figure 2-014) Note that the floor plans were erroneously labeled, and that there are discrepancies

¹⁵ "Application for Permit to Erect Sign. Permit No. 6444," Building Division, District of Columbia.

between the illustration and Miles' written description of the room functions of the rooms, which has been reproduced on page 28 of this report.)

Existing conditions within the house suggest that changes were made to the interior by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (later the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History), the organization that took ownership of the property after Woodson's death. For example, the current configuration of interior walls on the first and second floors differs from what was described by Miles. Research to date has not been able to identify when these alterations were made.

Owners and Occupants:

From city directories, census records, and deeds, it is possible to reconstruct the ownership history and evaluate the patterns of use of the Carter G. Woodson Home. The first owner of the house was Clarinda S. Henkle, who purchased Lot C in Square 365 on 18 August 1874 from Brainard H. Warner and associated parties.¹⁶ Little is known about Clarinda Henkle; however, her brother, Gen. Saul S. Henkle, who was listed in city directory of 1875 as a resident of the house, was a prominent and celebrated member of the District bar. Henkle was a native of Ohio, where he served as on the state Senate and was married and had a son, Edward A. Henkle. (His first wife died before he moved to Washington.) In 1880 he married Clara Emery, the daughter of Matthew Emery, who was the mayor of Washington City between 1870 and 1871.¹⁷

The 1876 city directory lists Clarinda, Edward, a student, and Gen. Henkle as residents of the house. Additional information on the Henkles is provided by the 1880 census.¹⁸ Gen. Henkle is listed as the head of household. He was a white male, 52 years old, and a widower. Edward is listed as a single white male, 23 years old. Edward's occupation is given as "at home," and the census indicates that he was "maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled." (This seems to contradict information provided in city directories, which variously list Edward's occupation as a stenographer and a printer. For 1880, the year of the census, the city directory lists Edward as a printer working for the firm Henkle & Sheiry.) Clarinda, whose occupation is listed as "keeping house," was 49 and single. The Henkles had an black servant living with them whose name was Mary Brisco. She was a native of Washington, D.C., and at the time of the census she was 29 and single.

¹⁶ Deed of Trust recorded 31 August 1874 in Liber 757, Folio 434, Land Records.

¹⁷ Gen. Henkle first showed up in the Washington city directories in 1869. At that time, he was listed as a lawyer living and working at 215 F Street, N.W. In 1871 Henkle was listed as partner of the firm Henkle & Ingersoll at 412 5th Street, N.W., and was living at the St. James Hotel. Henkle's address changed again the following year, when he was listed as living and working at 460 Louisiana Avenue. In 1873 and 1874 he remained at the 460 Louisiana Avenue address, but his firm had changed to Henkle & Arrick. See *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W.H. Boyd) for the years 1869-1875 and "Sudden Death of Gen. Henkle, A Prominent Member of the District Bar and Active in Church Work," *The Washington Post*, 22 May 1895.

¹⁸ 1880 United States Federal Census.



Figure 2-012: Exterior image of the Woodson Home during his occupancy, n.d. (From Jacqueline Goggin, *Carter G. Woodson: A Life in Black History*)

Gen. Henkle was no longer living at 1538 Ninth Street, NW, when he died in 1895. Edward Henkle eventually married and relocated to Philadelphia. Classified ads reveal that rooms in the house were rented in 1889, when two notices appeared in the newspaper advertising furnished rooms for rent in 1538 Ninth Street, NW, for \$50.¹⁹ Renting rooms was not uncommon in Washington. It was a means of “providing income for the homeowner and affordable housing for single people and young families in an era prior to the widespread development of the apartment building.”²⁰ The last known year in which Clarinda Henkle was recorded as a resident of the house is 1894. The house remained in the Henkle family until 1899.

In January 1899, Edward Henkle sold the house to Jacob Xander.²¹ In this year the property was assessed at \$3,714.²² According to census records for the year 1900, Jacob Xander, a landlord, was a 52-year-old white male, married, originally from Germany. His residence is listed as 3719 Brightwood Avenue. One can speculate that Xander purchased the property as an investment and rented the rooms.²³ In 1912 Jacob Xander sold the house to J. Edward Giles, who owned it for only a few days before transferring it to Ida J. Heiberger.²⁴ For the nine years in which Ida J. Heiberger owned the house, she also used it as a rental property. City directories provide a snapshot of the type of people living in the house over the years. Occupants included Joseph Gennari, a rigger, in 1914; Thomas Midgett, a driver and chauffeur, from 1916 to 1920; and Thomas M. Galloway, an assistant secretary for the Service Men’s Club of the YMCA, in the early 1920s.²⁵

What is now referred to as the Shaw neighborhood was originally developed in the late nineteenth century as a racially and economically mixed community where “black and white, rich and poor, upper-, middle-, and lower-class persons all made their homes.”²⁶ Nearby streetcar lines provided convenient transportation for residents, and the area was only a few blocks from the F Street and Seventh Street commercial corridors, the Northern Liberty Market, and the fashionable Logan Circle neighborhood. These factors made Shaw the “preferred neighborhood for middle-class white residents” – such as the Henkles – until around the turn of the century.²⁷ Concurrently, many of the thousands of freed slaves who poured into the capital in the post-Civil War period took up residence at the Wisewell Barracks, the Boundary Street refugee camp, and the Freedmen’s Hospital – all in the vicinity of the Shaw neighborhood.²⁸ These camps and hospitals

¹⁹ Classified ads, *The Washington Post*, 11 July 1889 and 23 August 1889.

²⁰ Trieschmann, National Register of Historic Places – Registration Form, “Greater U Street Historic District.”

²¹ Deed recorded 7 January 1899 in Liber 2345, Folio 445, Land Records.

²² General Assessment Books, Corporation of Washington (1899-1900).

²³ 1900 United States Federal Census

²⁴ Deed recorded 31 December 1912 in Liber 3595, Folio 136 and Deed recorded 2 January 1913 in Liber 3599, Folio 7, Land Records.

²⁵ *Boyd’s Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W. H. Boyd) for the years 1914-1921.

²⁶ Kathryn Schneider Smith, ed., *Washington at Home* (Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988): 120.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 121.

²⁸ Michael Andrew Fitzpatrick, “Shaw, Washington’s Premier Black Neighborhood: An Examination of the Origins and Development of a Black Business Movement, 1880-1920” (master’s thesis, University of Virginia, 1989): 10.

provided a safe haven for the freedmen and refugees who relocated to the city from the deep South. Over the years, however, as the city center grew increasingly dense and transportation improved, white residents with the means to do so relocated into the new “suburban” developments in the higher elevations of the city, and, during the 1890s, “the racial composition of the neighborhood shifted toward black residential prominence.”²⁹ Many single-family row houses in Shaw were converted into apartments or rooming houses to meet the demands of the growing city.

The situation at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., in the year 1920 demonstrates this trend. According to census data, the house was occupied by the Midgett family, which included Thomas, a chauffeur, his wife and two children, and six additional boarders – Harry and Vera Little, husband and wife, two single females, and a Phillipino immigrant and his American-born wife. The Littles were white, in their twenties, and were born in Pennsylvania. Harry Little worked as an electrician. The single female boarders were twenty-six years old and worked as government clerks. The immigrant from the Philippines worked as a typist for the Philippine Mission.³⁰

Prohibited from many areas of the city by restrictive housing covenants, African-Americans elected to stay in the Shaw neighborhood, and by 1920 made up the majority of residents. In a city where most white-operated establishments refused service to black patrons, Shaw and the nearby U Street corridor (known as the “Black Broadway”) provided a place for disenfranchised African-Americans facing discrimination and exclusion to live in a separate black community where advancement could be obtained through “racial solidarity, cooperation, and separate economic and institutional development.”³¹ This philosophy of self-sufficiency was supported by many influential leaders and businessmen in Washington’s African-American community including W. Calvin Chase, editor of *The Washington Bee*, and Andrew Hilyer, founder of the Union League. Thus, over several decades, the Shaw neighborhood and U Street corridor became a thriving African-American enclave where thousands of black-owned businesses – from barbershops to banks, from printing companies to photography studios – developed and prospered. Thus, the neighborhood provided a socially, commercially, and culturally supportive environment for Woodson as he made the decision in 1922 to purchase the house at 1538 Ninth Street, NW as his home and office.

City directories provide a glimpse into variety of occupants living on the 1500 block of Ninth Street during Woodson’s occupancy. For the years 1923 through 1925, residents included Amedeo Michienzi (later listed as McKenzie), a shoemaker, who lived and worked at 1534 Ninth Street, NW and Harry Taylor, a museum foreman, who lived next door to Woodson. Other occupants of the street included Bert Singman, a painter, John M.

²⁹ Ibid., 12.

³⁰ 1920 United States Federal Census.

³¹ Karl John Byrand, “Changing Race, Changing Place: Racial, Occupational, and Residential Patterns in Shaw, Washington, D.C., 1880-1920” (Ph.D. diss., University of Maryland, 1999): 2.

Connor, a plumber, Annie White, a cook, various laborers, an upholsterer, and a dressmaker. The lot on the corner of Ninth and Q streets was a grocery store for many years. Its owners included Abraham Nimetz, followed by Phillip Golden, in the 1930s, and Alexander Berez starting in 1941.³²

Purchase by Dr. Carter G. Woodson:

Dr. Carter G. Woodson had been living in Washington for over a decade before he purchased the house from Ida J. Heiberger on 30 August 1922 for \$8,000. Documents related to the sale indicate that Woodson paid a deposit of \$250 “to be applied as part payment of purchase price of Lot ‘C’ in Square 365 with improvements thereon.” According to the terms of sale, he paid \$1,500 cash and assumed two loans for \$2,700 and \$3,800 to be paid with interest at a rate of 7 percent in monthly increments of \$75.³³



Figure 2-013: Dr. Carter G. Woodson at his desk, n.d. (Scurlock Collection, Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of American History)

³² *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W. H. Boyd) for the years 1921-1948.

³³ Sales Contract, 18 July 1922, Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress and Deed recorded 9 September 1922 in Liber 4734, Folio 290, Land Records.

Woodson lived and worked out of this brick row house for 28 years, until 1950. (See Figure 2-013) It served as the offices of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) and its publishing agency, the Associated Publishers, Inc. Woodson founded the ASNLH on 9 September 1915. It was a learned society, one that was, in his own words, “the first systematic effort of the Negro to treat the records of the race scientifically and to publish the findings to the world.”³⁴ On 1 January 1916 the ASNLH published its first issue of *The Journal of Negro History*, and – finding it difficult to get publishers to produce scholarly publications by African-Americans – the Associated Publishers, Inc. was incorporated in 1920. Financial difficulties were a constant concern for the first few years; but starting in 1921 the Association received several substantial grants from charitable associations to support their work. Woodson purchased his house in 1922 and moved the headquarters of the Association with him. Starting in 1937, in an effort to reach a broader audience, the Association also began the production of *The Negro History Bulletin*, which had the following purpose: “To inculcate an appreciation of the past of the Negro.”³⁵ From his home Woodson carried forth his mission to promote the study of African-American life and history through the publication of scholarly and popular books and journals and the collection of sociological and historical documents related to black history. He also managed the administrative operations of the ASNLH from the house. Executive council meetings were attended by prominent activists, scholars, and academicians including Mary McLeod Bethune, who served as the president of the Association between 1936 and 1951. From his house Woodson trained researchers and educators, engaged in personal research, and assembled a substantial collection of archival materials related to American history. Thus, the home is a nationally recognized cultural landmark and an important African-American heritage site, significant for its association with Dr. Carter G. Woodson – historian, editor, and collector – the “Father of Black History.” (See Figure 2-015)

A few months after purchasing the house, Woodson received a building permit to erect “one metal and wood sign” that read “The Associated Publishers, Inc.” (See Figure 2-012) The sign lay flat against the house, was hung 8 to 10 feet above the sidewalk, and measured 11 feet 6 inches wide by 2 feet high. The permit application indicates that the John A. Garver Co. was the painter of the sign.³⁶ Later in the year, Woodson made cash payments for bookcases and office furniture.³⁷ In May 1935 Woodson received a construction permit to erect “one corrugated metal fence 6 feet high.”³⁸ For the year 1936 Woodson’s bills include payments to the District of

³⁴ Carter G. Woodson, “An Accounting of Twenty-Five Years,” *The Journal of Negro History* 25, no. 4 (Washington, D.C., 1940): 422.

³⁵ As published in the front matter of the *Negro History Bulletin*. Later editions include an expanded mission: “To inculcate an appreciation of the past of the Negro and to promote an understanding of his present status.”

³⁶ “Application for Permit to Erect Sign. Permit No. 6444,” Building Division, District of Columbia.

³⁷ Cash payments for August 1924 include \$100 to W.B. Moses & Sons for office furniture and \$136.80 for bookcases. Additional payments of \$100 in September and \$71.50 in October were made to W.B. Moses & Sons for office furniture. See Cash Book 1921-39, Microfilm Real 26, Series 140404(a), Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress.

³⁸ “Building Permit No. 180851,” dated 27 May 1935, Building Division, District of Columbia.

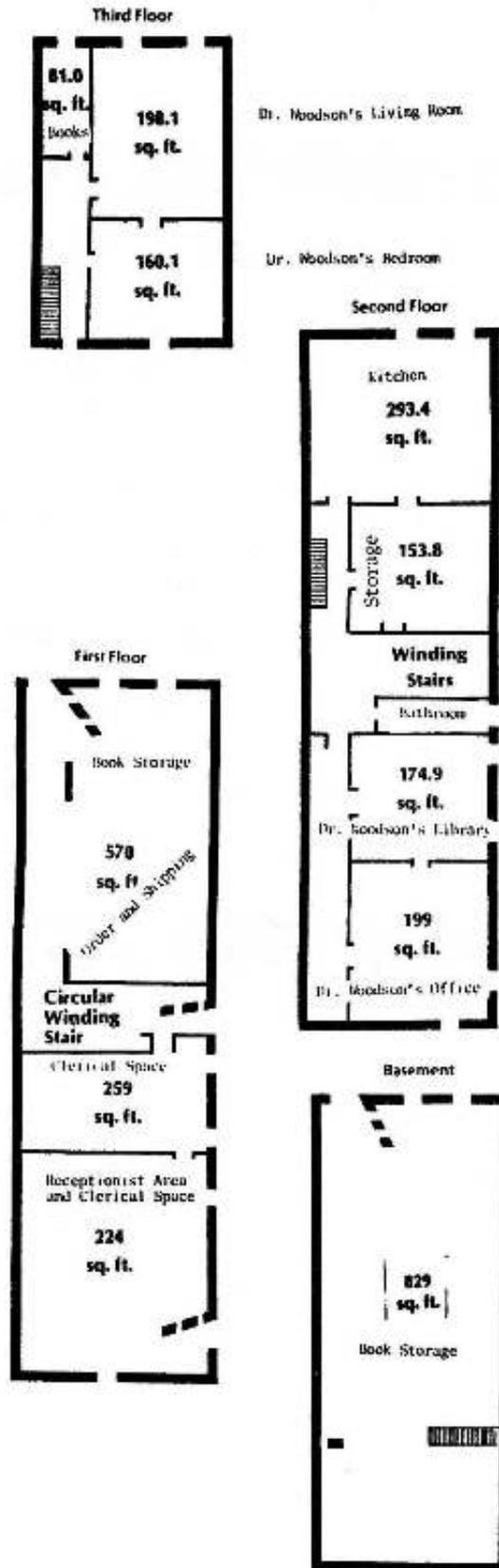


Figure 2-014: Floor plans and spatial use of the Carter G. Woodson Home during the period of his occupancy, n.d. (From Willie Leanna Miles, *The Journal of Negro History*) Note that the illustration has been mislabeled. See page 30 for an accurate description of how Woodson utilized the spaces in the house.

Columbia Water Register, the Standard Oil Company, the Gulf Refining Company for furnace oil, the Potomac Electric Power Co., the Washington Gas Light Company, and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.³⁹

Willie Leanna Miles was an employee of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and the Associated Publishers, Inc. for seven years. In an article published in *The Journal of Negro History*, she described her experiences working with Woodson in the 1940s. Her memoir provides insight into how public and private space was differentiated and organized and how the structure was used as both a house and office. Miles described the layout of the house as thus: “His bedroom and living room were on the



Figure 2-015: Dr. Woodson in the house with his collection, February 1948 (Scurlock Collection, Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of American History)

³⁹ Miscellaneous bills, Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress.

third floor. The kitchen and bath were located on the second floor back. His office and library were on the second floor front. The first floor front and back was where order and shipping, processing of *The Negro History Bulletin* and *The Journal of Negro History* and other miscellaneous clerical work was accomplished. The basement and every other available space in the building were used for storage of books, Bulletins, Journals, etc.⁴⁰ (See Figure 2-014) Thus, the third floor was reserved for Woodson's private use. The second floor was occupied by Woodson's office and library, and, in the back, a storage room and kitchen. The ground level was public space with room for a receptionist area, clerical space, book storage, and an area for orders and

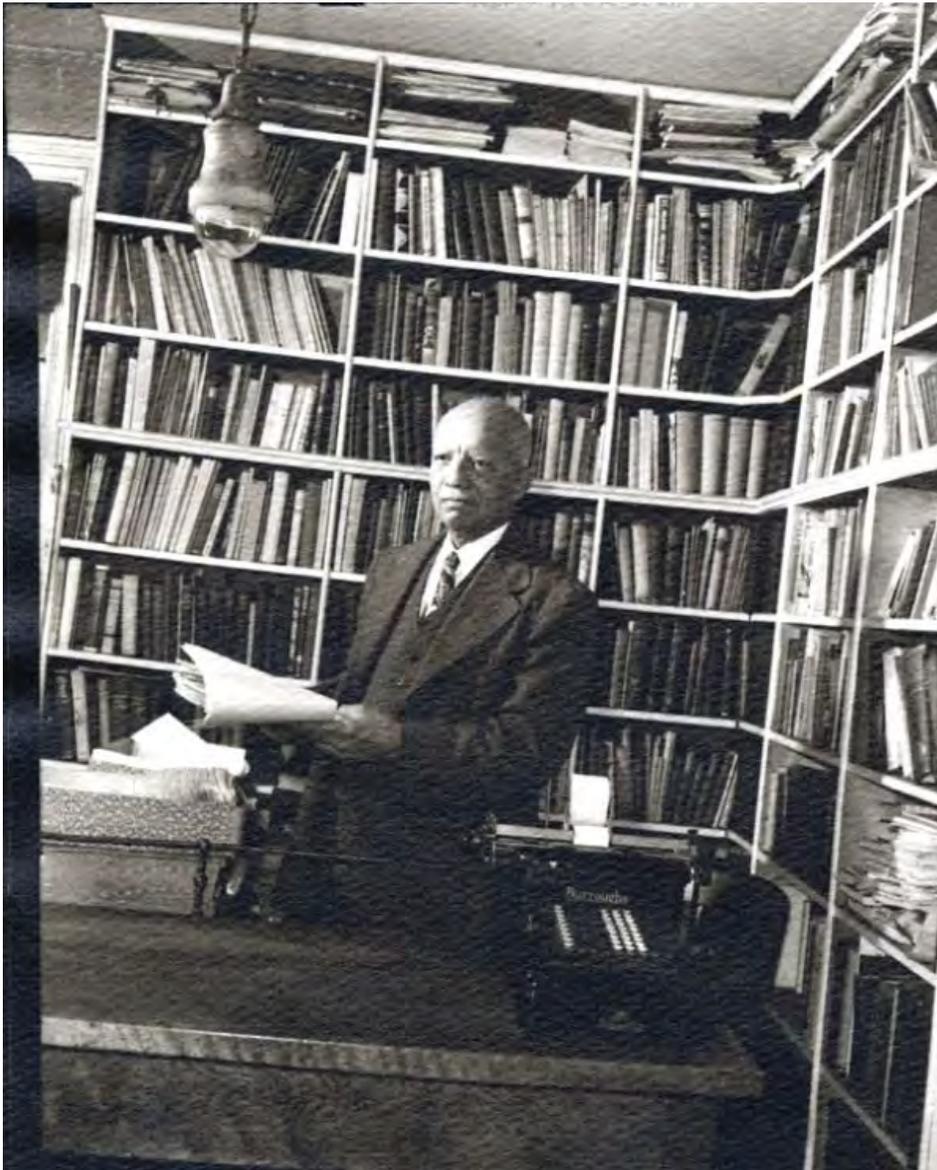


Figure 2-016: Dr. Woodson with a manuscript, February 1948 (Scurlock Collection, Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of American History)

⁴⁰ Willie Leanna Miles, "Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson as I Recall Him, 1943-1950," *The Journal of Negro History* 76, no. 1/4 (Winter-Autumn, 1991): 92.

shipping. The basement space was utilized for book storage. Poet Langston Hughes worked briefly for Woodson and his responsibilities were to "...open the office in the morning, keep it clean, wrap and mail books, assist in answering the mail, read proofs, bank the furnace at night..."⁴¹

Many of the historical accounts written by persons associated with Woodson or at one time employed by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History or the Associated Publishers, Inc. remark on the sheer volume of books and research materials stored at the office.⁴² During his days in graduate school at Howard University, Roland C. McConnell had the opportunity to meet with Woodson whom he described as "seated at the side of his overflowing desk in a room on the second floor walled with books and journals."⁴³ (See Figure 2-013) The "overflowing" amount of literature described is not surprising for the offices of a publishing company. However, the substantial collection must have also included Woodson's personal library as well as the Association's archive and manuscript collection. Jacqueline Goggin, author of *Carter G. Woodson: A Life in Black History*, describes this collection and its significance in the following passage:

By the mid 1920s Woodson had made significant progress in assembling a substantial collection of source materials at the library housed at association headquarters. In 1926 he reported that: 'Probably the most valuable part of the library is the rapidly growing collection of manuscripts. Realizing the value of the abundant manuscript materials now scattered in the homes of various Negroes and whites throughout the country, persons interested in the preservation of these records are inducing them to give them to the Association where they may be preserved in its archives.'⁴⁴

As Executive Director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and editor of *The Journal of Negro History*, Woodson would eventually collect and preserve over five thousand documents – primary sources on African-American history. The collection spanned the period 1803 to 1936 and is now held in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress as the Carter G. Woodson Collection of Negro Papers and Related Documents. Another extensive and primary Carter G. Woodson collection can be found at Emory University.

⁴¹ Photocopied materials, Vertical Files, Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library.

⁴² In his memoir entitled *Selling Black History for Carter G. Woodson, A Diary, 1930-1933*, Lorenzo J. Greene recalls that Woodson struggled with the promoting and retailing his publications. He wrote: "[Woodson] then said he wanted to talk to me concerning the books of the Association, which were mildewing in the basement." See Greene, *Selling Black History for Carter G. Woodson, A Diary, 1930-1933* (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1996): 21.

⁴³ Photocopied materials, Vertical Files, Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library.

⁴⁴ Goggin, Jacqueline. "Carter G. Woodson and the Collection of Source Materials for Afro-American History." *American Archivist* 48, no. 3 (1985): 261-271.

In 1925, the ASNLH held its annual meeting in Washington. Concurrent with the event, which featured travelers to Africa who spoke about the “the African background,” the Association presented an exhibition of “engravings of the antique work of art of Benin, together with rare books and manuscripts” in their row house.⁴⁵

Management by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History

Woodson died in the house on 3 April 1950. According to his will, the majority of his estate was bequeathed to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.⁴⁶ The Association used the house as their national headquarters through the 1950s and 1960s. Identifying funding to adequately maintain the house and continue programming was challenging, and by January 1960, the ASNLH formed a Building Fund Committee to raise \$50,000 in order to maintain the facilities carry on their work.⁴⁷ Throughout this period, the neighborhood realized substantial change. Restrictive housing covenants were no longer legal, opening up new neighborhoods to Washington’s African-American middle class. The process of desegregation also resulted in increased competition for the businesses along the U Street corridor, and many were forced to close or relocate. This economic instability, in combination with an aging housing stock and increased density, contributed to the decline of the Shaw neighborhood.

The Urban Renewal movement emerged in the United States during the post-war period to combat blight and revitalize inner-city neighborhoods. Planners saw urban renewal, the process of clearing impoverished, overcrowded neighborhoods and decrepit or underutilized building stock followed by reconstruction and rebuilding urban centers and public works, as a solution to the problems that plagued many of the nation’s cities. The Southwest Washington, D.C., Urban Renewal Area was one of such efforts in the United States and the first in Washington, D.C. Later, the creation of the Shaw School Urban Renewal Area and the Downtown Urban Renewal Area were seen as an opportunity to revitalize the areas of the city most affected by the riots and civil disturbances that occurred following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, which caused millions of dollars of property damage. The Shaw project was approved in 1969, and the goals established by National Capitol Planning Commission (NCPC) were to “eliminate physical blight and deterioration” and to establish an environment in which “the socio-economic problems confronting the residents...will be ameliorated and increased opportunities provided for employment and education, health and social services.”⁴⁸ Responding to

⁴⁵ “Racial Problems Will Be Discussed at Meetings Here,” *The Washington Post*, 6 September 1925. It is not clear from the newspaper article which room was used for this exhibition.

⁴⁶ Will, 30 November 1934, Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress. The ASNLH changed its name to the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History in 1972 and is now known as the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History.

⁴⁷ Carter G. Woodson Building Fund Committee; National Park Service, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, DcWaMMB; NCNW Archives; Series 10, Box 1, Folder 22.

⁴⁸ Gillette, Howard, Jr., *Between Justice and Beauty: Race, Planning, and the Failure of Urban Policy in Washington, D.C.* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995): 183.

criticism about the wholesale displacement and relocation that typically accompanied redevelopment, the NCPC directed a landmarks study of the Shaw neighborhood so that “historical or architectural buildings” could be identified and where possible “restored or rehabilitated.”⁴⁹ In 1967, *The Washington Post* reported that the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History planned to build a new building to house its headquarters and the local Washington chapter noting that “the present national headquarters building is in an urban renewal area and will be raised before long.”⁵⁰ Although the NCPC study did not identify the Carter G. Woodson Home as a landmark, redevelopment did not, as speculated, result in the house or its row being razed.

The Association ceased using the house as its headquarters in 1971. Lacking the funding necessary to provide adequate upkeep or renovate for a new use, the house stood vacant for many years and fell into a state of disrepair with broken windows and crumbling steps.⁵¹ The house was designated a National Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 11 May 1976 and was listed in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites on 3 March 1979. Perhaps in response to this increased local and national recognition, the Association solicited bids for the exterior restoration and interior rehabilitation of the house.⁵² (See Figure 2-017) Financial support for the project was provided by the Historic Preservation Grant-in-Aid from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior. The extent of work completed as a result of the grant is unknown.

For a brief period in the mid- to late- 1980s, the Association rented the house to the publishers of *American Visions* magazine. The magazine, which covered African-American culture, was published between 1986 and 2000. Physical investigations indicate that interior improvements were made to the house in the 1980s most likely in preparation for its re-occupancy. Work included the installation of security grilles on windows, the construction of new partition walls and a bathroom on the first floor, putting in new bathroom fixtures on the second floor, and installing a new boiler and water heater. In 1989, the Association received a permit to do electrical work at the house which included the installation of fire alarm pull stations, control panel, and bells, the addition of new surface mounted outlets, and adding light fixtures.

In 2000, the National Park Service conducted a study of the house and its suitability for federal management. Preservation organizations rallied behind the cause. In 2001, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the property on their list of 11 Most Endangered Places. The same year, citing the “leaking roof, broken windows, and other interior damage,” the D.C. Preservation League included the property on its Most Endangered Places

⁴⁹ National Capital Planning Commission, *Shaw School Urban Renewal Landmarks* (Washington, D.C.: National Capital Planning Commission, 1968).

⁵⁰ “Negro Study Group Plans Chapter Here,” *The Washington Post*, 28 May 1967.

⁵¹ “Bringing Black History Home to Shaw,” *The Washington Post*, 14 June 1979.

⁵² 125 Bids and Proposals, *The Washington Post*, 27 July 1979.

list. In May 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded a Washington Convention Center Authority Historic Preservation Grant to the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History to provide security and stabilization measures. Work included the installation of a single ply membrane roof and filling window and door openings with concrete block. On 10 June 2005 the National Park Service purchased the house from the Association for \$465,000.



Figure 2-017: The front facade of the Carter G. Woodson Home, 1979 (Photo by Walter Smalling, HABS No. DC-369-2)

Historical Timeline:

The following timeline presents the construction chronology of the Carter G. Woodson Home from 1792 to 2006. The information presented is based on historical documentation with corroboration from the architectural analysis of existing conditions and materials analysis. While not the focus of this project, biographical information about Dr. Carter G. Woodson and highlights of his career are included.

1797 The land owner of Square 365 in 1797 is Samuel Blodgett. The square is recorded in the surveyors plat books on 26 August 1797, and the boundaries are recorded as follows: north by Q Street North (297 feet 5 inches), east by Ninth Street West (450 feet), south by P Street North (490 feet), west by Tenth Street West (364 feet 2 inches), and northwest by Rhode Island Avenue (210 feet 9 inches).

[Rec. 2 Folio 365, Records of the Office of the Surveyor]

1861 The Boschke map of Washington indicates the areas of the city where development has occurred. The map shows that there are no buildings on Square 365 and that development is mainly concentrated south of O Street, N.W.

[Topographic Map of the District of Columbia by Alfred Boschke, 1861]

1866 By 1866, Henry Turner is the owner of Square 365. On 17 January 1866, he records a subdivision with the Office of the Surveyor, which parcels the property into lots numbered 1 through 81.

[Liber W.F., Folio 165, Records of the Office of the Surveyor]

1870 On 1 April 1870 Joshua Whitney and Brainard H. Warner subdivided Lots 54-61 of Turner's subdivision into Lots A-I. With this subdivision, Lot C (now known as Lot 819) with the address of 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., is created. The lot measures 120 feet deep by 17 feet 9 1/2 inches wide.

[Liber C.H.B., Folio 223, Records of the Office of the Surveyor]

1872-73 Tax assessment records indicate that Square 365, Lot C is 2,134 square feet and valued at \$854.

[General Assessment Books, Corporation of Washington, Volume 14 (1872-73)]

1874 The assessed value of Square 365, of Lot C is \$3,500 (at \$0.40 per square foot). Records indicate an "improvement" on the property of "1 brick" structure. Using assessment records it is possible to identify the construction date of the structure as 1872-1874. (A plat map of Washington published the

same year demonstrates that most of the lots on Square 365 have been developed. The map also shows the alley that runs north-south in the middle of the block.)

[*Real Estate Directory of the City of Washington, D.C.* (Washington, D.C.: E.F.M. Faetz and Fred. W. Pratt, 1874)]

The house on Lot C is purchased by Clarinda S. Henkle on 18 August 1874 from Brainard H. Warner.

[Deed of Trust recorded 31 August 1874 in Liber 757, Folio 434, Land Records]

1875 The Boyd's city directory lists Gen. Saul S. Henkle as the resident of 1538 Ninth Street, N.W. (His office is located at 460 Louisiana Avenue.)

According to his obituary, Henkle was "a native of Ohio, and one of the most prominent members of the District bar." His first wife, with whom he had a son, Edward Henkle, died before he moved to Washington. Later Henkle married Clara Emery, the daughter of Matthew Emory, who was the mayor of Washington between 1870 and 1871.

On 19 December 1875, Carter G. Woodson is born in New Canton, Virginia.

[*Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W. H. Boyd) for the years 1869-1875 and "Sudden Death of Gen. Henkle, A Prominent Member of the District Bar and Active in Church Work," *The Washington Post*, 22 May 1895]

1876 The Boyd's city directory lists the residents of 1538 9th Street, N.W., as Clarinda Henkle, Edward A. Henkle, a student, and S.S. Henkle, lawyer. Clarinda Henkle, who is listed on the deed as the owner of the property, is Gen. Henkle's younger sister.

[*Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W. H. Boyd, 1876)]

1878 The city directory indicates that Clarinda, Edward, and Gen. Henkle are residing in the house. Edward Henkle's profession is given as stenographer. Later, he is associated with the printing company Henkle and Sheiry.

[*Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W. H. Boyd) for the years 1878 and 1880]

1879 City tax records indicate that the total assessment value was of the house and land is \$3,674.

[Taxbooks, Washington City, Volume 176 (1879)]

- 1880** The 1880 census record provides additional information on the Henkles at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W. The head of household is Saul S. Henkle who is listed as a white male, 52 years old, a widower, and a lawyer. Edward is listed as a white male, 23 years old, and single. Clarinda, whose occupation is listed as “keeping house,” is 49 and single. The Henkle’s have a servant named Mary Brisco who is black, 29, single, and was born in Washington, D.C.
- In 1880 the Henkle’s put an addition onto their house. A permit, dated 23 June 1880, lists the property owner as C.S. Henkle. The permit identifies the property has a “dwelling” occupied by one family. The cost of the proposed improvement is listed as “about \$600,” and the nature of the proposed alteration is “to enlarge and repair the back building by extending wall” and to make “general repairs.” The dimensions of the proposed addition are 18 feet by 13 1/2 feet.
- [1880 United States Federal Census and “Application for Permit for Repairs, Alteration, &c., Permit No. 1632”]
- 1885** The city directory lists the residents of 1538 Ninth Street as Edward A. Henkle and Clarinda S. Henkle. (At some point Gen. Henkle remarried and presumably moved out of his sister’s house.)
- [*Boyd’s Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W. H. Boyd, 1885)]
- 1886** Square 365, Lot C measures 2,134 square feet and is assessed at rate of \$0.50 per square foot. The value of the ground is \$1,069, and the value of improvements is \$2,000.
- [General Assessment, Washington City (1886-87)]
- 1888** The house at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., is illustrated as a three-story row house constructed of brick with a slate or tin roof and a frame cornice. The house extends into the back of the lot – first with a two-story brick addition with a slate or tin roof then with a one-story frame addition. The map indicates a one-story frame structure at the end of the lot near the alley. At this time, all of the parcels along the west side of Ninth Street have been developed. Development is residential, except for the two corner lots. The structure at the northwest corner of Ninth and Q streets is labeled as a store, and the structure at the opposite end of Ninth Street is a church. (This is the Hamline M.E. Church, which later became Shiloh Baptist Church.)
- [*Insurance Maps of Washington, District of Columbia* (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company) for the year 1888]
- 1889** A notice appears in the classified section of the paper in July advertising the following: “For Rent – Houses: 1538 9th Street NW, fur, 6 rs.”

- A second advertisement in August reads: "For Rent: 1538 9th Street, nw, 7 rooms, fur. \$50."
- [*The Washington Post*, 11 July 1889 and 23 August 1889]
- 1894** Lot C is assessed to Gen. Henkle, and the ground and improvements are valued at a total of \$4,347.
- [General Assessment, Washington City (1893-94)]
- 1895** On 21 May 1895 Gen. Saul S. Henkle dies. According to his obituaries, Henkle was "the son of a Methodist minister and was educated to the legal profession." In Washington, "as a criminal lawyer, as one of the attorneys in the star route cases, and in the prosecution of claims against the government he had been justly celebrated. At the time of his death he was the attorney in a number of big interests, notably the Choctaw claims. He was largely interested in real estate and other business enterprises, and leaves property valued at about a quarter of a million dollars."
- ["Sudden Death of Gen. Henkle, A Prominent Member of the District Bar and Active in Church Work," *The Washington Post*, 22 May 1895]
- 1899** In January, Edward A. Henkle, sole heir of Gen. Henkle, sells the property to Jacob Xander. The tax assessment for this year values the ground and improvements at \$3,714.
- [Deed recorded 7 January 1899 in Liber 2345, Folio 445, Land Records and General Assessment, Washington City (1899-1900)]
- 1900** The 1900 census provides biographical information on Jacob Xander. Xander is a white male, 52 years old, married, and from Germany. He resides at 3719 Brightwood Avenue and his occupation is listed as landlord.
- [1900 United States Federal Census]
- 1903** Maps indicate that the house at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., is a three-story brick rowhouse with a two-story rear addition. A one-story wood framed shed stands at the rear of the lot. This map indicates that the one-story faddition on the rear of the house is no longer extant. Also, the map records that there is a fire wall (the height of which extends 12 inches above the roof) between 1536 and 1538 Ninth Street. The property is assessed at \$3,821.
- [*Insurance Maps of Washington, District of Columbia* (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company) for the years 1903-1916 and General Assessment, Washington City (1902-03)]
- 1903-1907** Woodson is living in the Philippines, working as a school supervisor.
- 1908** Woodson receives his masters degree from the University of Chicago.

- 1912** Jacob Xander transfers the property to J. Edward Giles.
[Deed recorded 31 December 1912 in Liber 3595 Folio 136, Land Records]
Woodson receives his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University.
- 1913** Ida J. Heiberger (unmarried) purchases the property at 1538 Ninth Street, N.W., from J. Edward Giles. For the nine years in which Ida J. Heiberger owns the house, she uses it as a rental property. City directories provide a snapshot of the type of people living in the house over the years – Joseph Gennari, a rigger, in 1914; Thomas Midgett, a driver and chauffeur, from 1916 to 1920; and Thomas M. Galloway, an assistant secretary for the Service Men’s Club of the YMCA.
[Deed recorded 2 January 1913 in Liber 3599, Folio 7, Land Records and *Boyd’s Directory of the District of Columbia* (Washington, D.C.: W. H. Boyd) for the years 1914-1921]
- 1915** Woodson organizes the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) (now the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History) at a meeting in Chicago. Through this organization Woodson “vigorously promoted the collection and preservation of documents that related to the black experience in the United States, Latin American, Europe, and Africa.”
[Jacqueline Goggin, “Carter G. Woodson and the Collection of Source Materials for Afro-American History,” *American Archivist* 48, no. 3 (1985): 261-271]
- 1916** Woodson establishes *The Journal of Negro History* (now *The Journal of African-American History*).
- 1920** The 1920 census indicates that the house is occupied by 10 people.
[1920 United States Federal Census]
Woodson establishes the Associated Publishers Inc.
- 1922** Woodson purchases the house from Ida J. Heiberger on 30 August 1922. Documents related to the sale indicate that Woodson paid a deposit of \$250 “to be applied as part payment of purchase price of Lot ‘C’ in Square 365 with improvements thereon known as 1538 9th Street, N.W., in the District of Columbia.” Woodson purchased the property for \$8,000. According to the terms of sale, he paid \$1,500 cash, assumed loans for \$2700 and \$3,800 to be paid with interest at a rate of 7 percent, which was paid off in \$75 monthly increments.
[Sales Contract, 18 July 1922, Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress and Deed recorded 9 September 1922 in Liber 4734, Folio 290, Land

Records] *Note: The deed book at the D.C. Archives where this deed is recorded is currently inaccessible.*

1923 Woodson received a permit, dated 22 January 1923, that gives him permission to erect "one metal and wood sign" with dimensions of 11 feet 6 inches wide by 2 feet high. The permit stipulates that the sign is to have no lights and is to lie flat against the wall of the house. On the accompanying application for the permit (dated 16 January 1923) it is indicated that the sign will read "The Associated Publishers, Inc." and will be erected 8 to 10 feet from the sidewalk. The painter of the sign is listed as the John A. Garver Co.

Woodson's home and office is valued at \$5,441.

[*"Application for Permit to Erect Sign. Permit No. 6444"* and General Assessment, District of Columbia (1923-24)]

1924 Cash payments for August 1924 include the purchase of items presumable to help set up the office, i.e. - \$100.00 to W.B. Moses & Sons for "office furniture" and \$136.80 for "bookcases." Additional payments of \$100.00 in September and \$71.50 in October were made to W.B. Moses & Sons for "office furniture."

[Cash Book 1921-39, Microfilm Real 26, Series 140404(a), Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress]

1926 Woodson establishes Negro History Week.

1927 Maps provide additional information on the dimensions and construction details of the house. The height of the building is 36 feet and each of the three stories has 8 inch exterior walls. Additionally, the building is now indicated as an "office," rather than a "dwelling." By this date, the one-story frame structure at the rear of the lot has been removed.

Woodson's house is assessed at \$7,041.

[*Insurance Maps of Washington, District of Columbia* (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company) for the years 1927-28 and General Assessment, District of Columbia (1928-29)]

1930 The 1930 census lists Dr. Carter G. Woodson as the sole occupant of the house. He is 54 years old, single, and listed as working as the editor of the Association for the Study of Negro History and Life.

[1930 United States Federal Census]

1934 In this year, Woodson prepares his will giving \$500 to each of his two brothers and to his sister. The remainder of his estate (including the house at 1538 Ninth Street, NW) is bequeathed to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

- [Will, 30 November 1934, Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress]
- 1935** Woodson receives a permit, dated 27 May 1935, to erect “one corrugated metal fence 6 feet 0 inches high entirely upon land of owner.”
- ["Building Permit No. 180851"]
- 1936** Woodson's bills include payments to the District of Columbia Water Register, the Standard Oil Company, the Gulf Refining Company for furnace oil, the Potomac Electric Power Co., the Washington Gas Light Company, and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.
- [Miscellaneous Bills, Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress]
- 1937** Woodson establishes *The Negro History Bulletin*.
- 1939** Woodson's house is assessed at \$6,314.
- [General Assessment, District of Columbia (1939)]
- 1949** In December 1949 Woodson receives a permit for repairs.
- ["Permit A-3183" dated 28 December 1949] *Note: The permits held at the National Archives stop at 7 September 1949, and there is no record of this permit at the D.C. Archives.*
- 1950** Woodson dies in his residence on 3 April 1950. One of his obituaries reads, "Mrs. Jessie Robinson, office manager of Associated Publishers, Inc., the venture founded by Dr. Woodson in 1922, told *The Courier* that she heard him stirring in his quarters, located on the third floor of the office building, earlier in the day and that he had evidently retired again. He had been suffering from a heart ailment for the past several years, she disclosed, but she did not become uneasy until he failed to 'come down to the office' at 12:30 as usual."
- After Woodson's death, possession of the property transfers to the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.
- ["Noted Historian Gave Meaning to Past of Negroes," *The Pittsburgh Courier*, 8 April 1950 and Will recorded 30 November 1934, Woodson Papers at the Library of Congress]
- 1956** The Association receives a permit for a fence at the property.
- ["Permit B-8859" dated 15 March 1956] *Note: The D.C. Archives does not have a record of this permit.*
- 1960** Maps indicate that the building at 1538 Ninth Street, NW, is used as a store.

[*Insurance Maps of Washington, District of Columbia* (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company) for the years 1927-60]

1966 In May 1966, the area boundaries for the Shaw School Urban Renewal Area are defined as West by Fifteenth Street, East by North Capitol, South by M Street, and North by Florida Avenue.

1968 The boundaries of the Shaw Urban Renewal Area are officially recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, making it eligible for federal funding.

[Smith, Kathryn Schneider, ed., *Washington at Home*]

The National Capital Planning Commission completes an inventory of landmarks in the urban renewal area so that “historical or architectural buildings and places are identified and when possible, restored or rehabilitated.” This study does not identify the Woodson house as a landmark.

[National Capital Planning Commission, *Shaw School Urban Renewal Landmarks*]

1971 The Association moves out of the house, no longer using it as their headquarters.

1976 On 11 May 1976 the Carter G. Woodson Home is designated a National Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

[National Register Number 76002135]

1979 On 3 March 1979, the Carter G. Woodson Home is listed in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites.

1985 Jacqueline Goggin, in her essay “Carter G. Woodson and the Collection of Source Materials for Afro-American History,” writes:

By the mid-1920s Woodson had made significant progress in assembling a substantial collection of source materials at the library housed at association headquarters. In 1926 he reported that:

‘Probably the most valuable part of the library is the rapidly growing collection of manuscripts. Realizing the value of the abundant manuscript materials now scattered in the home of various Negroes and whites throughout the country, persons interests in the preservation of these records are inducing them to give them to the Association where they may be preserved in its archives.’

[Jacqueline Goggin, “Carter G. Woodson and the Collection of Source Materials for Afro-American History,” *American Archivist* 48, no. 3 (1985): 261-271]

For a brief period in the mid- to late- 1980s, the Association rents the house to the publishers of *American Visions* magazine. Interior improvements are made to the house in the 1980s, most likely in anticipation of its re-occupancy. Work included the installation of security grilles on windows, the construction of new partition walls and a bathroom on the first floor, putting in new bathroom fixtures on the second floor, and installing a new boiler and water heater.

1988 The National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Region, prepares a field assessment to document the building's condition. The assessment identifies repair and restoration work, including patching of the front door and repair of the front stoop railing.

1989 The Association receives a permit for electrical work. Drawings accompanying the permit include floor plans.

["Permit No. B339515"]

1991 Willie Leanna Miles was an employee of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and the Associated Publishers, Inc. for seven years. In an article published in *The Journal of Negro History*, she described her experiences working with Woodson in the 1940s. Miles described the layout of the house as thus: "His bedroom and living room were on the third floor. The kitchen and bath were located on the second floor back. His office and library were on the second floor front. The first floor front and back was where order and shipping, processing of *The Negro History Bulletin* and *The Journal of Negro History* and other miscellaneous clerical work was accomplished. The basement and every other available space in the building were used for storage of books, Bulletins, Journals, etc."

[Willie Leanna Miles, "Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson as I Recall Him, 1943-1950," *The Journal of Negro History* 76, no. 1/4 (Winter-Autumn, 1991): 92]

The Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development and the Institute for Urban Development Research at George Washington University author the Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site and Management District Study.

2001 The Carter G. Woodson Home is placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of 11 Most Endangered Places and the D.C. Preservation League's Most Endangered Places list.

2002 The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History receives a Washington Convention Center Authority Historic Preservation Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to stabilize the house and make improvements related to security. Work included the installation of a single ply membrane roof and filling window and door openings with concrete block.

A study by the National Park Service titled "Special Resource Study: Carter G. Woodson Home" is produced to evaluate the future management and operation of the site and determine its suitability of becoming a unit of the Park Service.

2003

On 19 December 2003, legislation is enacted authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the Carter G. Woodson Home in order to establish the historic site as a unit of the National Park System.

[Public Law 108-192, 117 Stat. 2873]

2005

On 10 June 2005, the National Park Service purchases the house from the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History for \$465,000.

[District of Columbia, Recorder of Deeds, Online Public Records]

CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE

OVERVIEW

The development of the Carter G. Woodson Home can be divided into five periods that represent the times during which the most significant changes of use and construction occurred. Each of these periods will be described sequentially, outlining to the best of our knowledge, changes both physical and in use, on the interior and exterior of the building. Period 1 represents the house's original construction and spans the years from 1872 to 1879. Period 2 extends from 1880 to 1921, during which time the massing and interior layout of the house changed significantly. Period 3, dating from 1922 to 1950, represents the time during which Dr. Carter G. Woodson occupied the home. Period 4 (1951 to 1971) saw changes in use and layout as a result of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History using the house as their headquarters. In 1971, the ASALH outgrew the house and moved to new headquarters, beginning Period 5, the last period of change, including changes under both ASALH and NPS ownership.

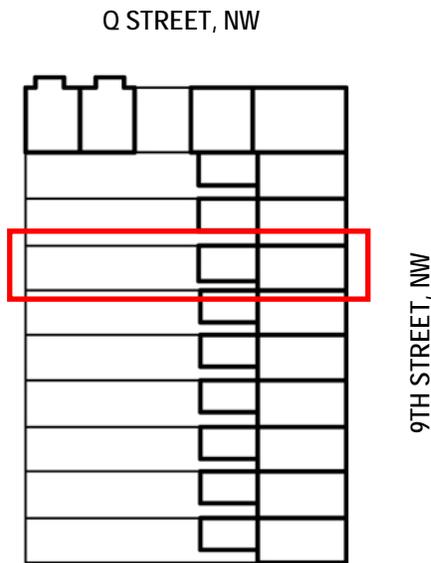


Figure 2-018: Period 1 site map with the Carter G. Woodson Home property highlighted.

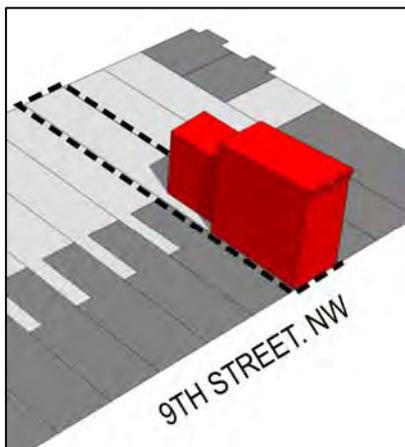


Figure 2-019: Three-dimensional view of the Carter G. Woodson Home as it was originally built.

METHODOLOGY

A narrative description of each period of the home is provided below. Accompanying each narrative are scaled floor plans diagramming the alterations and changes of use that occurred to the interior, as well as three-dimensional sketches showing how the massing of the structure changed.

PERIOD 1 – 1872 to 1879

Per the review of the real estate directories and the tax assessment records it can be identified that the Carter G. Woodson Home was constructed between 1872 and 1874 and was used as a single family house. The initial owner has been identified as Clarinda Henkle and the ownership of the property stayed within the family during this period.

Exterior:

- *Massing and overall arrangement* - The house was constructed with an L-shaped plan, with a three-story front portion measuring 18'-0" wide by 32'-3" deep and a rear extension measuring 12'-9" wide by 20'-4" deep. The principal façade of the house (18 feet wide by 36 feet tall) is three stories with a basement and is capped by a painted wood cornice. Due to the main entry being several steps up from the sidewalk, the basement is partially visible on this elevation.

A clear separation joint in the brick construction and change of the type of red brick used (from Brick Type 3 to Brick Type 4) for the existing two story rear extension clearly delineates the Period 1 boundary of that extension (see Fig. 2-020).



Figure 2-020: View of joint showing end of Period 1 two-story structure on the left and beginning of Period 2 two-story structure on right. (Photo: BBB, 2006)

- *Windows and Door Openings* – The locations of original windows and doors that date to this period have not been significantly altered on the East, South and West Elevations. The original East Elevation windows were two-over-two double hung units with narrow wood muntins. Paint analysis evidence as well as the operation devices for the sashes show that the window frames, casings and sills for these East Elevation windows date to this period but that the sashes were replaced at a later period. The six-over-six double hung windows on the South and West Elevation date to Period 1.

Doors to Rooms 001, 101, and 103 - The three exterior doors that would have existed during this period (D001, D101, D103A) have been removed or replaced during later periods. However, paint and nail analysis at the door frame to D101 indicates that the frame does date to Period 1 although there were repairs to the paneling of the door frame at the side panels and transom during Period 5 as was noted in the NPS 1988 field assessment. Similarly, wood and nail remnants of the frame to D103A also date the opening to Period 1.

Door to Room 109 - An adjacent townhouse that still retains its 1870's configuration shows a door on the West Elevation of the two story addition. The existing opening D110 corresponds with that door location and would coincide with the Room 109 use as a kitchen and pantry, requiring direct access to the outside.

- *Foundation*: The L-shaped two- and three-story structure was constructed over a basement formed by brick foundation walls. A brick areaway was constructed below the East Elevation entry stoop to provide an exit from the basement to street grade. The basement windows at the East Elevation have no areaway and were installed with sills located directly at the sidewalk grade. The brick foundation walls still remain. Brick buttresses extend from this masonry wall into the basement at the three locations that correspond with the fireplace locations on the first floor.

- *Brick*: The primary East Elevation was constructed with a hard burned red brick with narrow lime mortar joints set in a running bond pattern. This brick exists today and lime mortar exists as well, although in many cases it has been covered up by sealant. The West and South Elevation were constructed with common red brick set in a common bond pattern with headers every eighth course.

- *Marble*: The East Elevation window headers and sills and the water course were all constructed with white marble that dates to Period 1 and still exists today.

- *Front Stoop*: As was common with townhouse construction of the 1870's, solid marble steps and landing were provided as part of the front entrance stoop design. These marble elements survive today. Similarly, mass produced iron elements were also frequently used. The newel posts and railings date to Period I. Portions of the railing were removed during



Figure 2-021: Front Stoop. (Photo: BBB, 2006)

Period 5 and documentation in the NPS 1988 Field Assessment Report indicates that it was stored and reinstalled.



Figure 2-022: Room 205 fireplace with wing wall at left edge of photo. (Photo: BBB, 2006)



Figure 2-023: View of basement west wall showing brick piers. (Photo: BBB, 2006)



Figure 2-024: Room 207. (Photo: BBB, 2006)

Interior:

General Layout – Paint analysis has helped with the dating of the wood elements; however there has been no conclusive paint evidence as to the Period 1 interior wall configurations. Descriptions of room layouts in townhouses that date to this period were found in *The Baltimore Row House* by Hayward Belfoure and *Bricks and Brownstone; the New York Row House 1783-1929* by Charles Lockwood. Both documents describe a typical row house that would have existed during Period 1 to have a front entry and narrow hallway leading to either one large room or two small rooms with fireplaces on the first floor serving as parlors. The kitchen and bathrooms would have been located in the back of the building and bedrooms on the upper floors accessed by a decorative staircase. In the case of the Baltimore Row House description, Belfoure did emphasize that bathrooms were often on the second floor and located to the rear of the house. This was likely the case in the Woodson house as well, which at this time was used as a single family residence.

- *Rooms 104 and 105:* The existing wing wall along the south side of Room 105 and the location of the two existing fireplaces in that room as well as Room 104 confirm that the Period 1 layout would have included two parlors on the first floor. The interruption of lath at the ceiling in Room 105 confirms that there would have been a north wing wall as well, thus framing an opening between Room 104 and Room 105. This opening allowed the rooms to be defined as separate while allowing them to flow together.
- *Room 109.* The finishes of this room were replaced in Period 5. However, as was mentioned earlier, the evidence of brick piers in the basement directly below the west elevation of this room would suggest that there was a fireplace in this location. The fireplace would indicate that the room was used as a kitchen which would be in alignment with the descriptions provided in the previously mentioned books.
- *Room 207:* The bathroom in its current configuration dates to the 1980's as was confirmed by the manufacturer's date located on the inside of the toilet tank indicating June 1989. Square cut nails located in the studs at the wall separating Room 207 and 208 confirm that this wall was in place during Period 1. Furthermore, the cast iron sanitary piping and the square cut nails hooks used to anchor it to the exterior masonry on the South Elevation confirm that there was plumbing in this room during Period 1. The typical row house descriptions do place a bathroom in a house of the 1870s at the rear of the building on either the first or second floor. Alterations to door D207 and the base around this door indicate changes to this location which are a result of the installation of a modern tub in during Period 5.
- *Heating* – The manufacturers of the fireplace grilles, J. L. Mott Ironworks and Jackson & Sons, made these grilles to have metal tubes or

ducts attached to the back side to allow for hot air to be vented through the grilles. Holes in the basement wall were noted with metal tubes in them that extended to the first floor and beyond. These tubes were part of an early heating system. They would be attached to a furnace and run up the flues, elbowing out to attach to grilles set in the fireplaces or in the walls. This heating system dates to Period 1 based on the identification of similar grilles in catalogs of the previously listed manufacturers.



Figure 2-025: Cover of 1882 illustrated catalogue of artistic fireplace grates from J.R. Mott Iron Works.

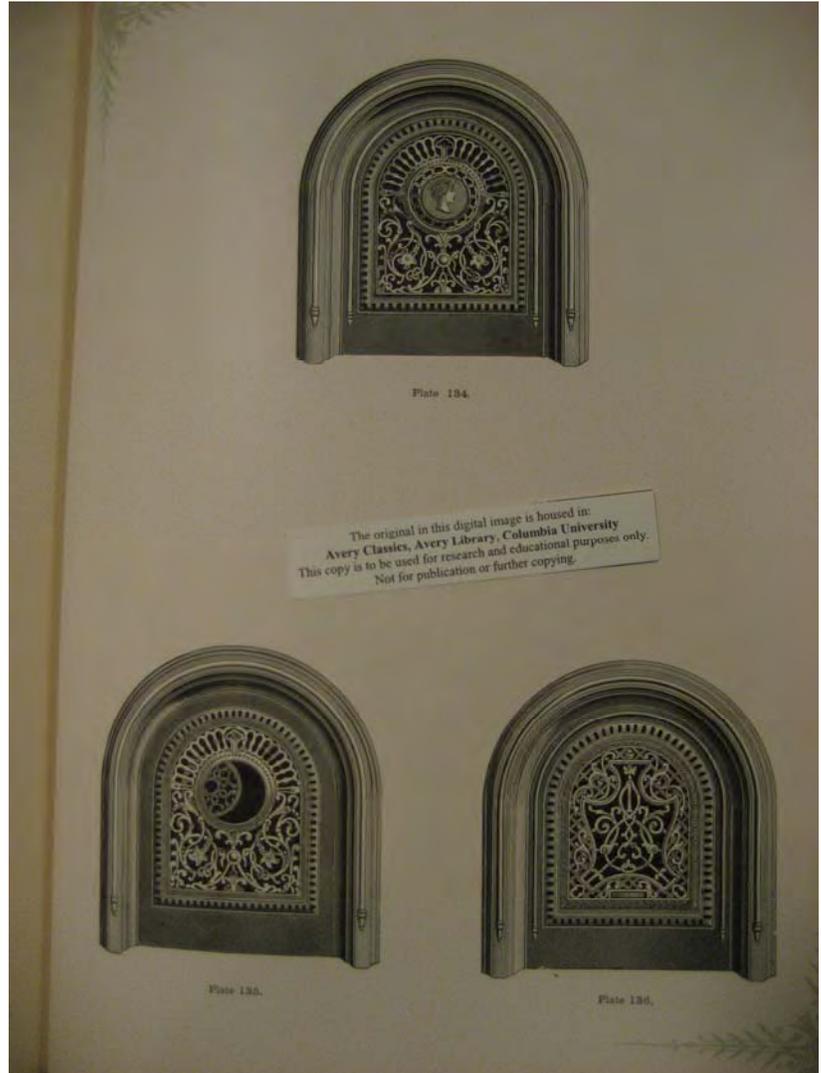


Figure 2-026: Illustrations of artistic fireplace grates from J.R. Mott Iron Works.

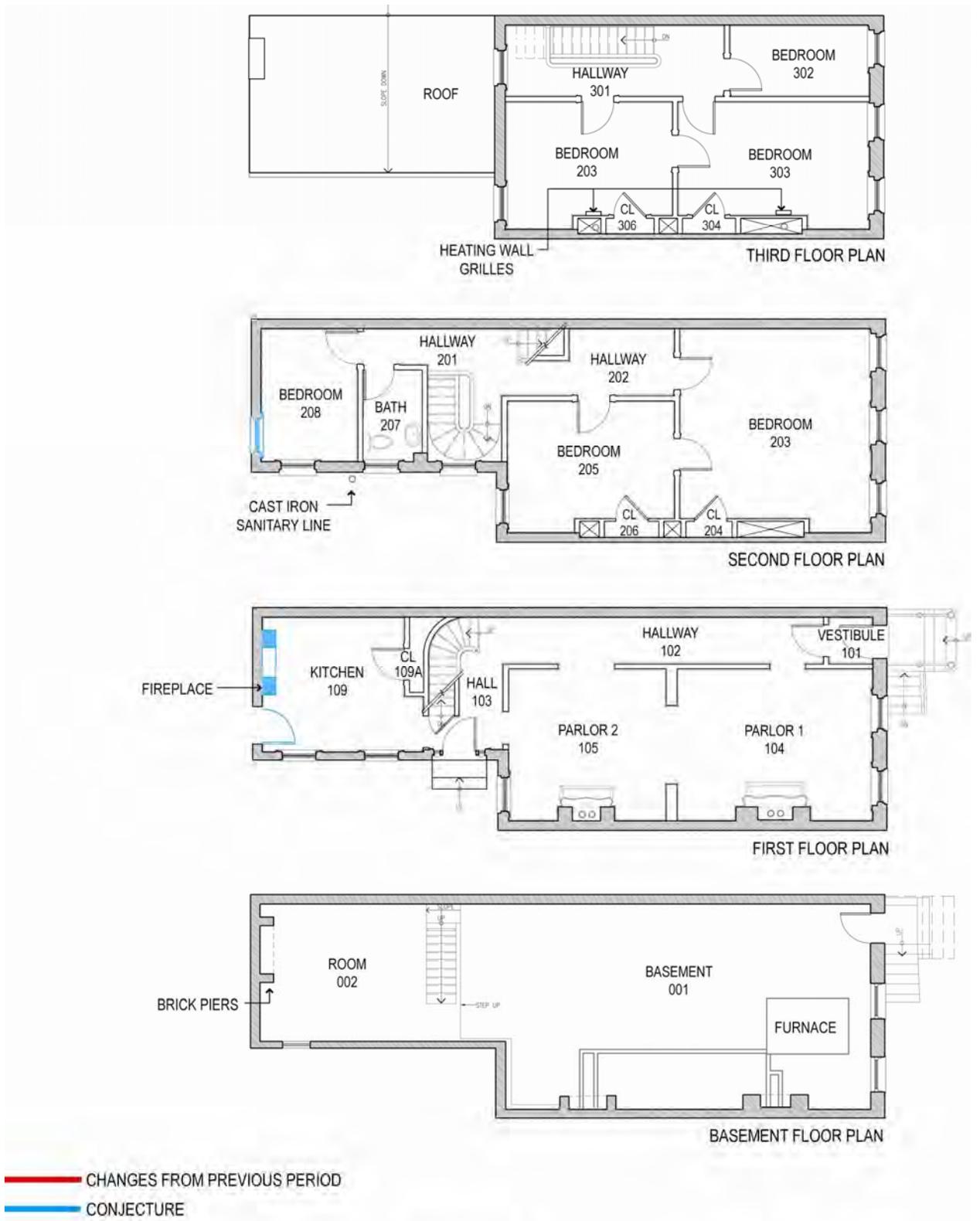


Figure 2-027: **PERIOD 1**
 (1872-1879)



Figure 2-028: Rear elevation with 1880 Addition. (Photo: BBB, 2006)

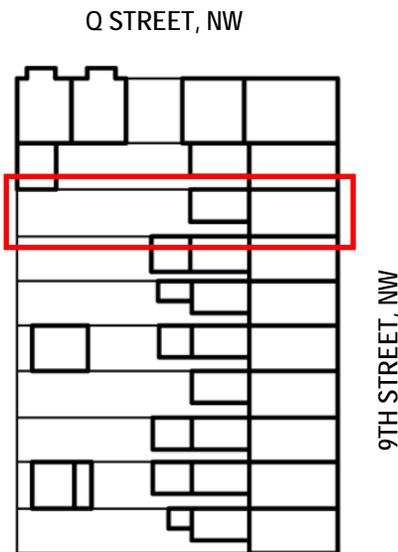


Figure 2-029: Period 2 site map with the Carter G. Woodson Home property highlighted.

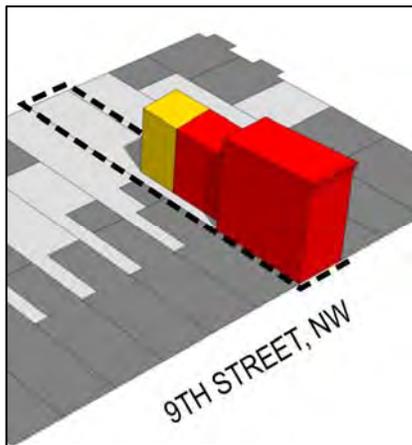


Figure 2-030: Three-dimensional view of the Carter G. Woodson Home as of 1880.

PERIOD 2 – 1880 to 1921

The Henkle family continued to own the Carter Woodson Home until 1899. Several additions were made to the house and property during their ownership, only one of which still survives. In 1899 the property was sold and transferred hands several times. Its primary use after the Henkle ownership period was as a rental property with multiple tenants.

Exterior:

- *Massing:* During Period 2 the most significant change to the structure was a two-story addition at the rear of the structure. This structure can be dated to 1880, when a permit application was filed. The addition is 12'-9" wide to correspond with the existing two story ell and extends 18'-3 1/2" into the rear yard.
- *Windows and Door Openings:* Five additional windows were added as a result of the addition, but all original windows were contained within the addition, leaving all windows from Period 1 intact. These new six-over-six double hung wood windows matched the previous South and West Elevation windows.
- *Door to Room 110* – A door opening was added as part of the addition to give access from the exterior to the first floor room. This door was completely filled in during Period 5 as a result of the rotting and failure of the wood frame as well as the deterioration of the brick surrounding the opening.
- *Brick:* The addition was constructed of a common red brick of slightly different color than that of the original two-story L. The North, West and South Elevations were re-pointed sometime during Period 5 as an effort to repair and stabilize the masonry.
- *Foundation:* The two-story addition was built over a crawl space on brick foundations.
- *Roofing:* The 1880 Sanborn map indicates that the roof of the house is either slate or tin. Given the roof of the three-story portions of both of the adjacent townhouse have tin roofs; the roof would therefore have been tin during period 2. A membrane roof was installed during Period 5 as a stabilization measure. The 1880 addition would have required that at least the two-story addition be partially or fully re-roofed to accommodate the extension.
- *Other Additions:*
One Story Shed - The 1888 Sanborn map shows that a one story wood structure was added to the two story addition. This structure was removed by the 1903 Sanborn map. The existing West Elevation does have a cementitious coating that extends from mid point of the elevation to the roof which may indicate the height or extent of that one-story shed.

Q STREET, NW

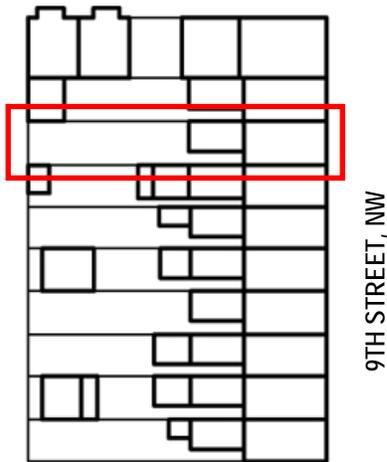


Figure 2-031: Sanborn Map of 1888 with the Carter G. Woodson site highlighted.

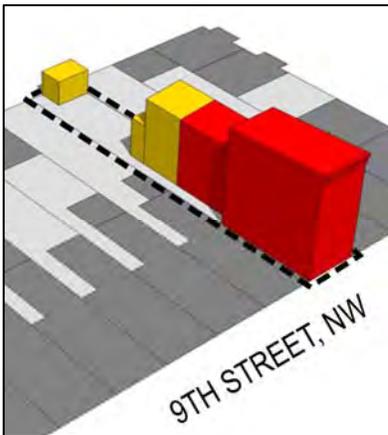


Figure 2-032: Three-dimensional view of the Carter G. Woodson Home as of 1888.

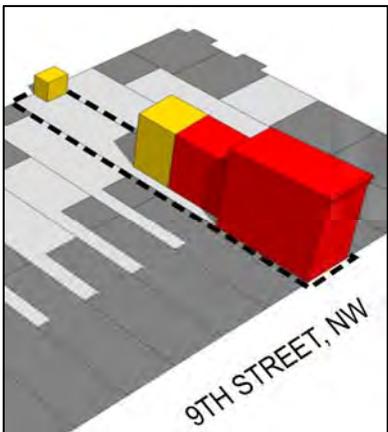


Figure 2-033: Three-dimensional view of the Carter G. Woodson Home as of 1903-1916 Sanborn Map.

One-Story Free Standing Structure – Both the 1888 and 1903 Sanborn maps show a one-story structure at the West End of the property. Without further archaeological research it would be difficult to determine the use of this shed.

Interior:

General Layout – As a result of the two story addition, the room layouts on both the first and second floors at the west end of the house changed. Given the current arrangement of the fireplace in Room 110, the kitchen was moved from Room 109 to Room 110 during this period. Internally, the additional rooms were accessible only through existing rooms from Period 1 and those rooms were slightly enlarged. By the end of Period 2 the house was occupied by 10 tenants, suggesting that all rooms on the second and third floors were used as bedrooms.

- *Room 110* – The old fireplace that was once part of Room 109 was removed and a new fireplace was installed in Room 110. This suggests that the Kitchen was relocated from Room 109 to Room 110.
- *Door to Room 109 from Room 110* – The door to Room 109 that was once an exterior door became an internal door separating Room 109 from Room 110 as part of the Period 2 changes. The matching molding profile and paint analysis confirmed this.
- *Room 109* – This room, formerly the kitchen, was extended to include an additional 3'-0". Given the adjacency to the kitchen, this room was probably used as a dining room.
- *Room 210* – The room on the second floor of the addition most likely served as another bedroom. The chimney of the new fireplace extends through the wall that divides Room 208 from 210.
- *Room 209* – A large closet was added to Room 209 in addition to the extension of the room by 3'-0". This closet is the largest in the house. Although the closet walls are lined with gypsum wall board which was added during Period 5, the wall board was nailed to wood lath which was attached to timber studs. In the south east corner of Room 209, it was observed that one of these studs had a cut nail, dating this wall to Period 2.
- *Steel in Basement* – The steel beams and columns in the basement were made by Phoenix Steel as is evidenced by the markings on the structural members. The size and shape of the steel sections identifies them as early versions of steel dating to them to post 1886 when Phoenix Iron Works started making steel. Although they could not have been installed during the time of the 1880 addition, they could have been installed post 1886 as part of the other miscellaneous additions. It was common to install steel at the basement level to align with the walls that defined the separation between corridor and occupied rooms on the upper floors even though the 9 3/4" x 2" wood members were of an adequate size to span the 18'-0" width of the row house.

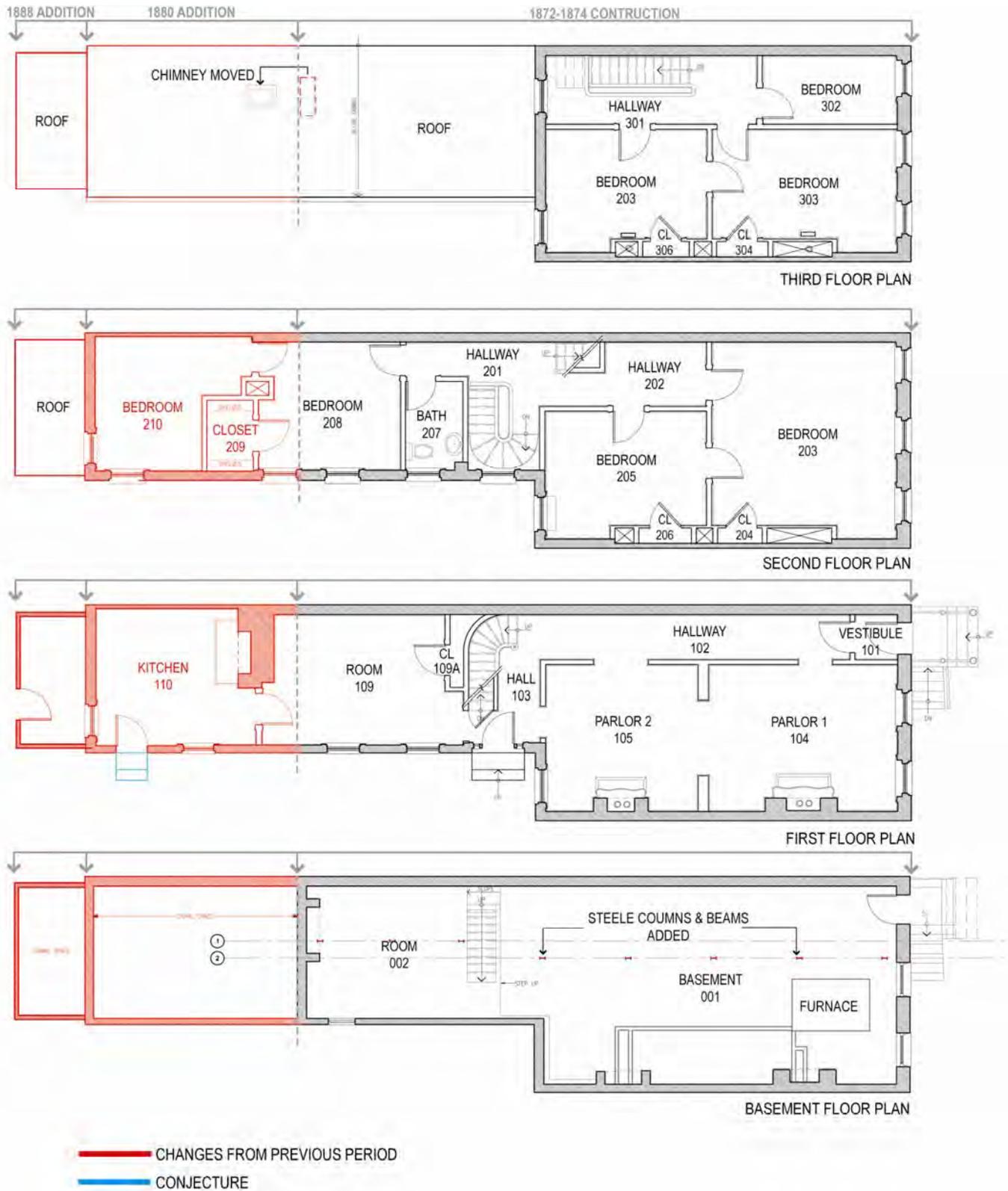


Figure 2-034: **PERIOD 2**
 (1880-1921)



PERIOD 3 – 1922 to 1950: PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

As evidenced by documents of sale, Dr. Carter G. Woodson purchased the house from Ida J. Heiberger in 1922. Mr. Woodson lived and worked in the house from date of purchase until his death in 1950, thus defining Period 3. During this time, Mr. Woodson used his home as the headquarters for the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which he founded. Several room changes were made during this Period to allow for the first floor to be more effectively used as office space.

The house retains a high level of architectural integrity as an example of Italianate row house design in the late 19th century. Its architectural significance is surpassed, however, by the historical significance of Dr. Carter G. Woodson; it is this association which merited listing in the National Register of Historic Places and designation as a National Historic Landmark. Because of its connection to Dr. Carter G. Woodson and his use of the house both as a home and the office where he conducted his important work, Period 3 has been identified as the period of significance for the restoration and interpretation of the building.

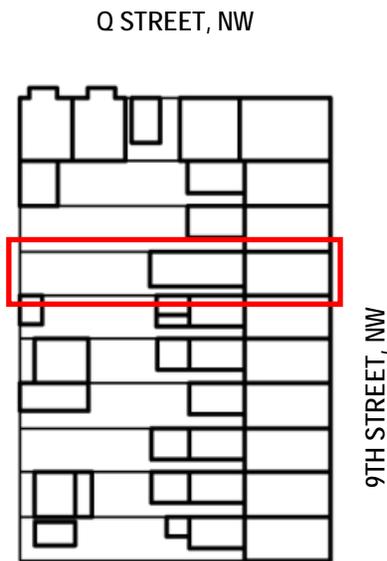


Figure 2-035: The 1927-1929 Sanborn Map with the Carter G. Woodson Home site highlighted.

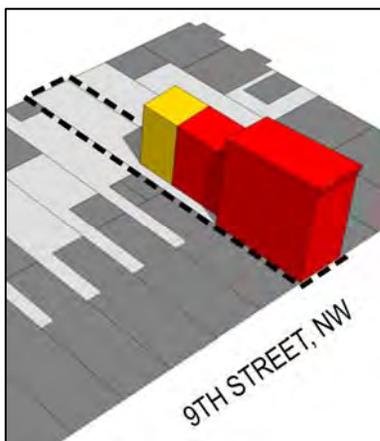


Figure 2-036: Three-dimensional view of the Carter G. Woodson Home as illustrated in the 1927-1929 Sanborn Map.

Exterior:

- *Massing:* There was no significant change to massing during Period 3 with the exception of the elimination of the one story free standing structure at the west end of the lot at some point between 1916 and 1924, as is evidenced by the Sanborn maps.
- *Windows:* As can be seen in a photograph of the exterior taken during Dr. Carter G. Woodson's occupancy of the house (See Figure 2-012 – Page 17), wood and wire screens were applied to the exterior of the windows on the East Elevation. The hooks for these screens are still visible on the window frames and date to Period 3.
- *Signage Brackets:* Dr. Carter G. Woodson was using the property both as his home and as the office for the Association. To advertise the fact that he was writing and publishing materials for the Association in the building, Mr. Woodson hung a sign on the East Elevation of his home. The permit records from 1922 indicate that he filed for a permit to install a metal and wood sign on the East Elevation measuring 11'-6" wide by 2'-0" high. Although the sign no longer exists, the ferrous metal brackets that once held the sign are still visible above the windows on the first floor.

Interior:

General Layout – Much of what is known about the interior of the house as it was used during Dr. Carter G. Woodson's occupancy is derived from the oral history of Willie Leanna Miles, mentioned earlier in the Developmental History. Her description in conjunction with black and white photographs of Dr. Carter G. Woodson in his home allow for an accurate understanding of the use of the rooms. The diagram provided in 2-014 indicates the correct used for the rooms during Woodson's occupancy of the house, but not the

correct locations. The written description on pages 29 and 30 gives a more accurate description than is conveyed in the floor plan diagrams. The east rooms on the first floor were used for administrative support for the Association, while the back rooms were used for support and storage. The east rooms on the second floor were used as Dr. Carter G. Woodson's office and library. Room 208 served as a kitchen and Room 210 was used as storage. Gas and plumbing were found in Room 208, confirming its use as a kitchen. Also, the historic photos of Mr. Woodson in his library (Fig 2-001, 2-014 and 2-015) confirm that Rooms 203 and 205 were his library and office. In Figure 2-015, one can see Door D203B with windows W202 and W203 beyond and a view to 9th Street in the background. The third floor was used exclusively by Mr. Woodson as his bedroom and living room. The following physical changes or use changes occurred during this period:



Figure 2-037: Historic radiator images.

- *Wall Along Hallway 102* – The wall along Hallway 102 was removed during this period as well a partial piece of the wall dividing Rooms 104 and 105. These changes were made so that Rooms 104 and 105 were treated as one large room. The large room was used for a reception area for the Association with clerical space designated for the west part of the room.
- *Room 109* – This room was designated as Order & Shipping to assist the Association with distribution of their publications.
- *Room 110* – This room was designated as storage, replacing its previous use during Period 1 and 2 as a kitchen.
- *Room 203* – In Figure 2-001 and Figure 2-014 in the Developmental History Section represent photographs taken in of Dr. Carter G. Woodson using this room. The photographs confirm that the wood base molding and window casings that were there during his occupancy still exist. Paint analysis dates those wood trim pieces to Period 1. The photos also confirm that he used this room as his office during Period 3.
- *Room 205* – Figure 2-015 and Figure 2-016 in the Developmental History Section suggest that Dr. Carter G. Woodson used Room 205 as his library. Evidence of the door and transom in the photo with a room visible beyond confirms that location from which the photograph is taken. The bookshelves represented in the photograph were removed during Period 4.
- *Room 208* – Room 208 was converted to use as a kitchen during Period 3. Although the kitchen layout was removed during Period 5, the sink plumbing and gas line for an oven still exist. A shadow of the outline of cabinetry and an oven can still be seen on the floor.
- *Radiators* – Most of the radiators located in the various first, second and third floor rooms of the house are clearly labeled as having been made by American Radiator Co. After a search of archival American Radiator catalogs, the radiators were identified as either the Three- or Four-Column Peerless, or Corto radiator models, which date them to no earlier than May of 1921 when they were patented. As a result, it is assumed that the

radiators were installed as part of a heating system upgrade immediately following Carter Woodson's purchase of the house. At this time, the ducted hot air system described in the Period 1 description was removed as well as the furnace. A boiler was installed to feed the radiators with hot water.

- *Plaster Wallboard Ceilings* – Samples of the plaster ceiling board have been closely inspected and have been identified to be an early version of Rock-lath that was used frequently in the early 20th century and continued to be used into the 1920's. This board was used at the ceilings in Rooms 203, 205, 301, 302, 303 and 305 and nailed directly to the wood studs as a substitute for wood lath. Once nailed in place only a finish coat of plaster was applied to finish off the ceiling. The use of this material suggests that Dr. Carter G. Woodson did extensive interior improvements to the interiors during his occupancy. The remainder of the rooms currently have gypsum wall board ceilings nailed wood lath or plaster ceilings applied to wire mesh (Rooms 103 and 202). The gypsum wall board was installed during Period 5 which would indicate that it was a replacement for failing plaster since the lath remained. Thus it can be assumed that these ceilings were plaster on lath during Dr. Woodson's occupancy of the house.
- *Lighting* – Figure 2-016 on page 24 of the Developmental History Section clearly shows a pendant incandescent light fixture hanging over Dr. Carter G. Woodson's desk in his second floor library, with Mr. Woodson in the background. All interior lighting was replaced in Period 4 and again in Period 5.

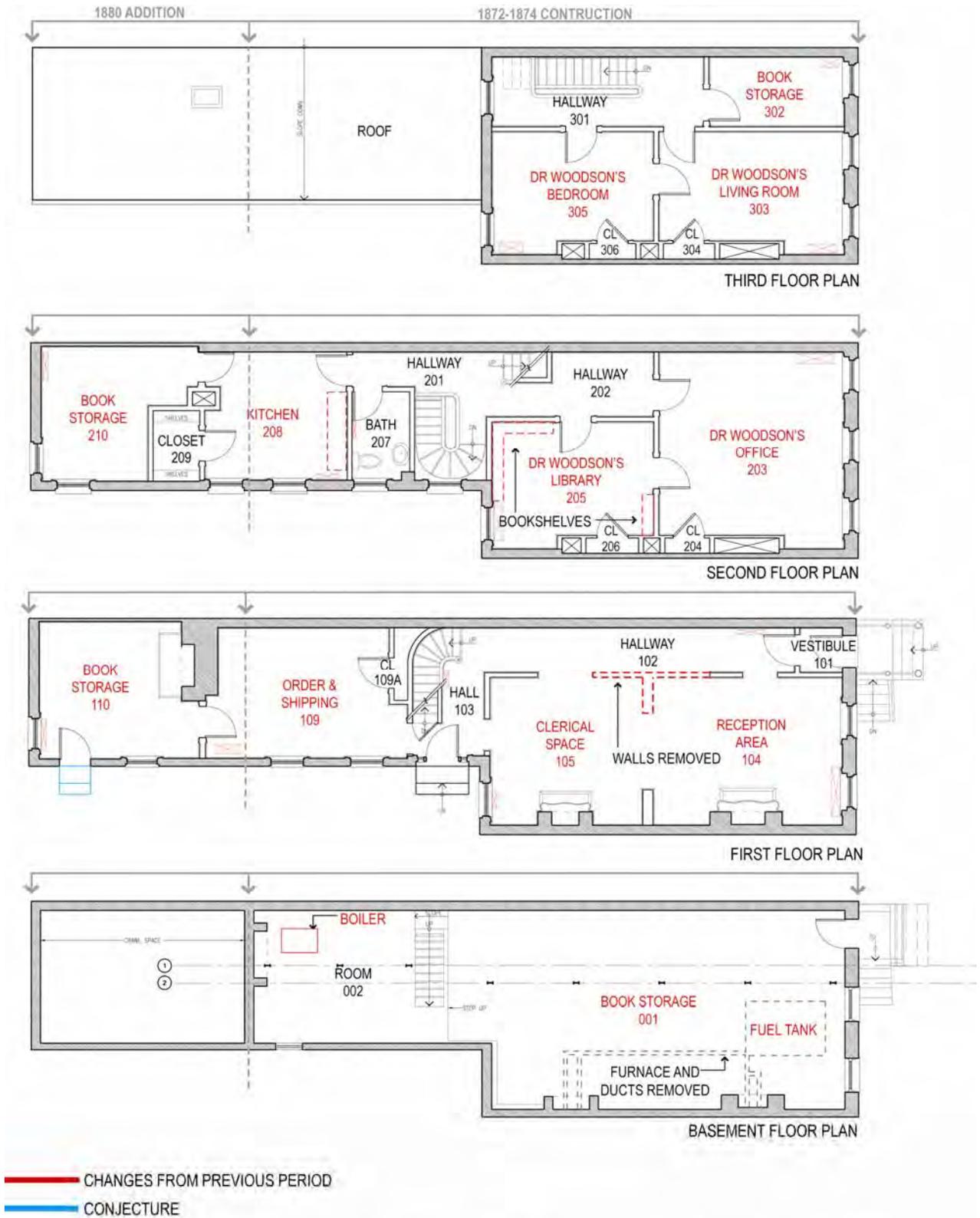
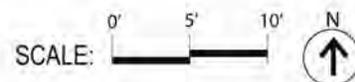


Figure 2-038: **PERIOD 3**
 PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1922-1950)



PERIOD 4 – 1951 to 1971

Period 4 marks the time, following Carter Woodson's death, that the Association for the Study of African American Life and History occupied the house. In 1971 the Association moved out of the house to larger quarters, leaving the house vacant. During Period 4 the Association did not rearrange partitions but according to our research they did use the rooms on the first floor in a slightly different manner.

Exterior:

No significant changes were noted during this period regarding the exterior massing, elevations or roofing.

Interior:

- *General Layout* – The first floor was used during this period by the Association as offices. Room 104 and 105 are both identified as an open office area. The use of Room 109 has changed slightly from "Order & Shipping" to "Publication & Dispensing." We found no further documentation as to how the Association used the remainder of the rooms, however as noted above no major changes to partitions were noted since Period 3.
- *Basement Storage* – During Period 4 the Association built storage cubicles in the basement to assist with storing the publications. Boxes of these publications were still on site when the survey work was conducted.

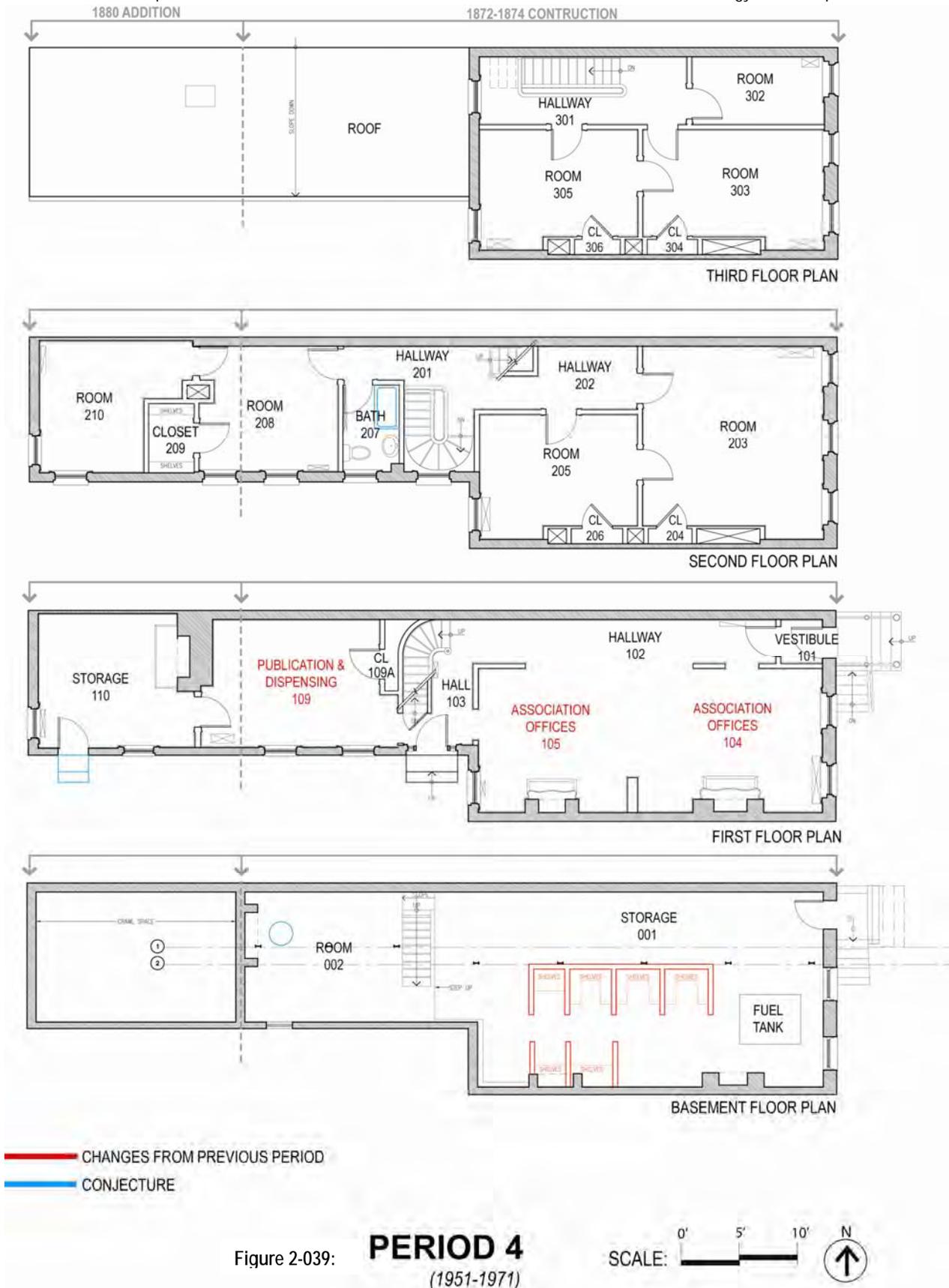




Figure 2-040: Streetscape HABS photo.



Figure 2-041: Front door HABS photo.



Figure 2-042: Front door at present. (Photo: BBB, 2006)

PERIOD 5 – 1972 to Present

Period 5 represents the time after the Association moved out of the building until the present day. For a brief period in the mid- to late- 1980s, the Association rented the house to the publishers of *American Visions* magazine. Significant changes to the layout and select features in the 1980's suggest that improvements were made in preparation for re-occupancy. An assessment of the property in 1988 followed by filed permit drawings indicate significant deterioration of exterior materials and noted specific repairs. The National Park Service purchased the building from the Association in June of 2005.

Exterior:

- *Roofing* – A single ply membrane roof was installed in 2002 as a temporary measure to arrest constant water penetration. The National Park Service Field Assessment Report from 1988 noted that the roofing was a built up roofing. It was unclear from the documentation whether this roof replaced the tin roof from Period 1 and 2 or another built up roofing system.
- *Window Grilles* – After the 1983 HABS documentation occurred, iron security grilles were installed on windows W102 and W103 of the East Elevation and all windows on the North, West and South Elevations.
- *Door Grilles* – Hinged iron security grilles were added after 1983 to the front door and the basement door.
- *Front Door and Door Surround* – The 1983 HABS documentation shows an exterior entry door. This door was of stile and rail construction with two-over-two recessed panels and applied molding. This door was replaced sometime after 1983. The 1988 NPS assessment report does indicate repairs to the door, the molding at the paneled returns and repairs to miscellaneous molding around the door which resulted in replacement of some molding. The replacement molding does not match the Period 1 molding in profile. The molding at the transom does date to Period 1 and is intact.
- *Window Sashes* – The East Elevation window sashes are double hung two-over-two set on aluminum tracks with spring operation. If these window sashes were to date to Period I, they would have been operated by pocketed counterweights and pulleys. The lack of significant paint accumulation and the serious deterioration of the sashes in the 1983 HABS photos suggest that these sashes were replaced in Period 5.
- *Concrete Block at Windows and Door Openings* – In an effort to stabilize the structure and protect it from vandalism, the Association installed concrete masonry units in all windows in Room 105, 109 and 110 in 2002. Concrete masonry units were also installed in the exterior door opening to Room 110 because the wood frame had rotted and the masonry surrounding the opening was failing. Additionally, the Association filled in the window openings on the second floor in Rooms 205 and 210 with concrete block.



Figure 2-043: Joint showing line of infill for opening to room 105. (Photo: BBB, 2006)



Figure 2-044: Gypsum wall board fur out at room 109 south wall. (Photo: BBB, 2006)

- *Door to Room 103* – The door and most of the frame for the exterior door that leads from the alley to Room 103 were removed and concrete block was installed at the opening at the same time that the windows were filled in. A rotting frame and rotting structure at the floor of Room 103 required that the opening be filled in.

Interior:

- *General Layout* – During Period 5 a new bathroom was introduced on the first floor and new gypsum wall board partitions were added to the first floor parlor rooms to separate them into distinct rooms.
- *Rooms 104 & 105* – New partition walls were added between Room 104 and Room 105 and the large opening connecting Room 105 to Hallway 102 was filled in, creating two separate rooms off the hallway. As a result, Room 104 can only be entered from Hallway 102 and Room 105 can only be entered from Hall 103. The partition wall installed to separate Room 104 and Room 105 was placed in a peculiar location directly abutting the fireplace in Room 104.
- *Bathroom 106* - The documentation during the late 1980's presents conflicting information. Drawings prepared by Bryant and Bryant Architects and labeled "Existing Conditions Drawings" indicate that there was not a bathroom on the first floor. These drawings can be found in Appendix D of this report. The 1988 electrical drawings filed by Princeton Electrical reflect the same floor plan layouts. However, the bathroom on the first floor was clearly installed in the 1980's because the manufacturing date noted on the inside of the toilet tank is 1980. It can be assumed that the first floor toilet room and the adjacent closet were installed in the late 1980's. The installation of this bathroom required the demolition of a closet (Room 109A) that dated to Period 1. This closet was noted as existing on the Bryan and Bryant drawings.
- *Room 109* – The walls in this room have been furred out with wood studs and lined with 5/8" modern sheetrock. These improvements were made at the same time as the installation of the bathroom. At a probe in the south wall it was observed that the wall beyond the gypsum wall board fur-out was the exterior brick. However, from a probe in the east wall of Room 110, a plaster wall could be seen behind the furred-out wall.
- *Room 207* – The bathtub and shower do not appear on the existing drawings created by Bryant and Bryant Architects in the 1980's. The tile at this room extends below the tub indicating that the tub was installed at a later date than the tile floor. The toilet was installed in 1989 or later because the date of the manufacture noted on the inside of the toilet tank is 1989. Therefore the bathtub and shower most likely installed some time after 1989. All walls in this room were lined with gypsum wall board when the tile was installed in the 1980's. This wallboard was nailed to existing wood lath wall construction as can be seen from a probe in the wall in Room 208. Cut nails, wood lath and irregular sized studs that were observed at this probe confirm that the east and west wall dates to Period 1. A probe should be

implemented at the north wall by Door D207 to confirm the wall construction and that it dates to Period 1.

- *Door to Room 207* – When the tub and shower were installed, door D207 and its frame were reduced in width. One can see the patching of the plaster at the location where the opening was reduced to accommodate the width of the tub within.
- *Fire Alarm* – The 1988 electrical drawings indicate the installation of fire alarm pull stations, a fire alarm control panel, and fire alarm bells.
- *Electrical Outlets and Lights* – The 1988 electrical drawings indicate the installation of new surface mounted electrical outlets in every room of the house. Similarly new light fixtures were installed in all of the occupied rooms and bathrooms, but not the hallways.
- *Bathroom 207* – Although it is assumed that Room 208 has continued to be used as a bathroom since Period 1, the manufacturer of the existing sink matches that of the first floor bathroom, which was installed in the 1980's, supporting the assumption that that the sink, toilet and shower were all installed at the same time as part of a renovation of this bathroom in the 1980's. All finishes and materials, with the exception of the entry door and frame, date to Period V. The entry door dates to Period 1.
- *Fuel Tank* – The fuel tank, installed in Period 3, was removed in Period 5 and may coincide with the changes in the late 1980's.
- *Boiler and Water Heater* – A new gas operated boiler and water heater were installed in the late 1980's as well.

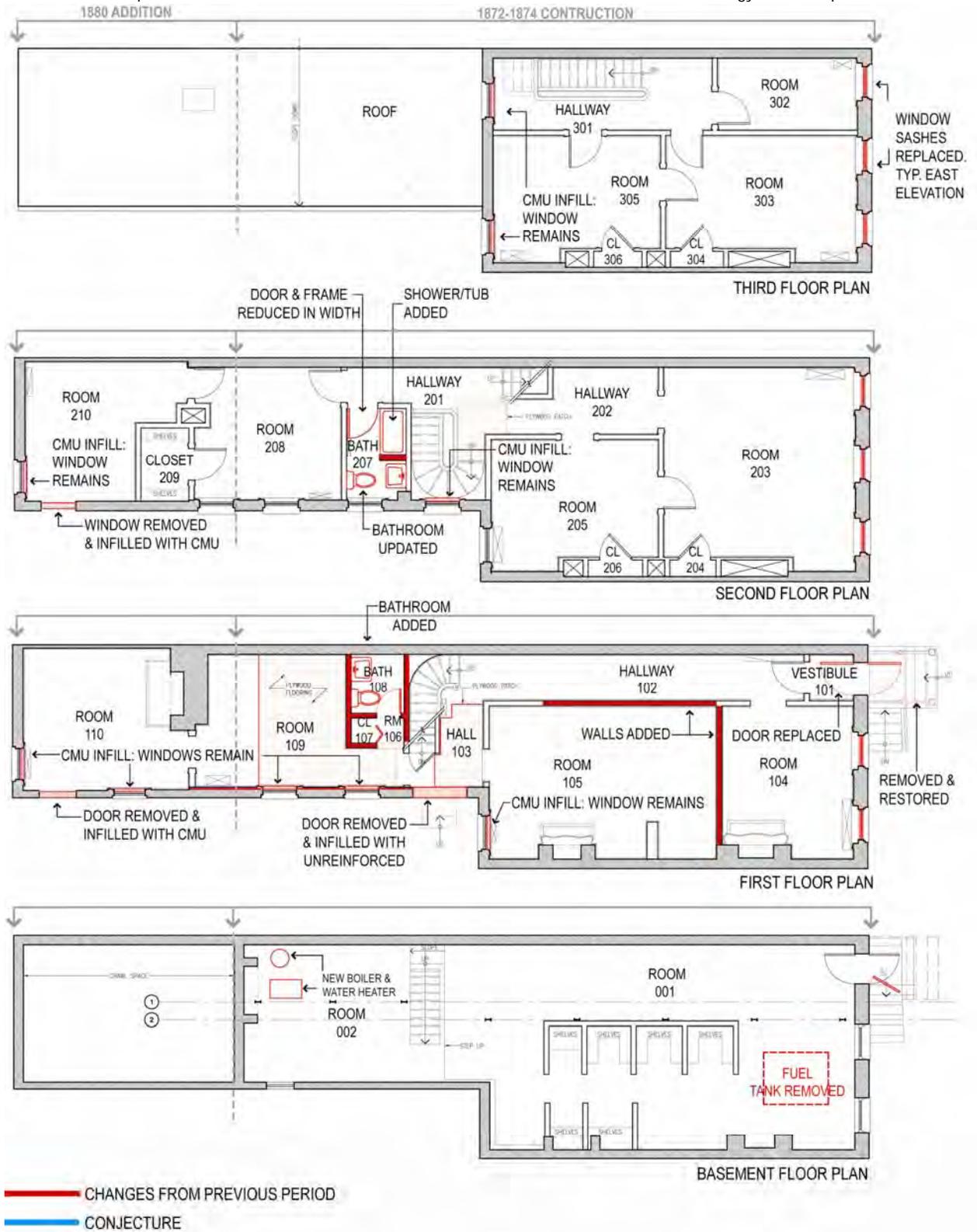


Figure 2-045: **PERIOD 5**
 (1972 - PRESENT)