
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007 Revised for Conditon 2013



Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A)

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

- 3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

Frederick Douglass was an African American abolitionist, publisher, orator, author, statesman, reformer, and champion of human rights who is generally recognized as the father of the civil rights movement. The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is an 8.07-acre site located in the Anacostia Historic District of Washington, D.C.'s southeastern quadrant. The property is located above the shore of the Anacostia River where streams and rivers shaped the tidal watershed over time, leaving behind a series of terraces. The Douglass property is situated on top of one of these terraces which has been tiered to allow for more suitable human habitation.

The National Park Service acquired the Frederick Douglass property in 1962. As a national historic site, the property was automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. The listing for the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home was in name only as no additional documentation was prepared at the time. The existing National Register Nomination for the site was prepared and submitted in 1969. The nomination focused only on the house, which was in poor condition at the time. The documentation did not adequately inventory the landscape of the property. The property was officially designated the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in 1988, and its period of significance is generally recognized to be the 17-year period of Douglass' occupancy, 1877-1895. The site preserves the landscape and home of Frederick Douglass.

The region was first identified by Captain John Smith's 1612 map of the area as the Indian village of Nacochtanke. After European settlement, the area was part of a tract named Chichester, owned by John Marbury and Enock Tucker. In 1854, John W. Van Hook, John Dobler, and John Fox formed the

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Union Land Association, paid \$19,000 for the Chichester tract of 237 acres, and offered lots for sale. From 1865-1886, the neighborhood (later known as Anacostia) was called Uniontown, and was the first development outside of Washington City's historic limits. Between 1855 and 1859, a brick structure, the original part of the Douglass house, was built and inhabited by John W. Van Hook. Van Hook was forced to sell his property after a financial panic in 1873 resulted in the failure of the Union Land Company.

In 1877, in defiance of laws prohibiting the purchase of property in the area by African Americans, Douglass bought the 9.5-acre holding from Freedman's Savings and Trust Company in 1878, Douglass purchased an additional 5.23 acres and proceeded to construct several structures, including a cistern, a well, a carriage house, a barn, a privy, a chicken coop, a corn crib, and living quarters for guests or workers. Douglass improved outdoor walkways and stairs and planted trees, shrubs, and edibles. He also reconfigured the driveway to accommodate changes made to the elevation of Jefferson Street (modern W. St.), the northern border of the plot, during the widespread civic renovations made in the District under the administration of Alexander "Boss" Shepherd in 1892.

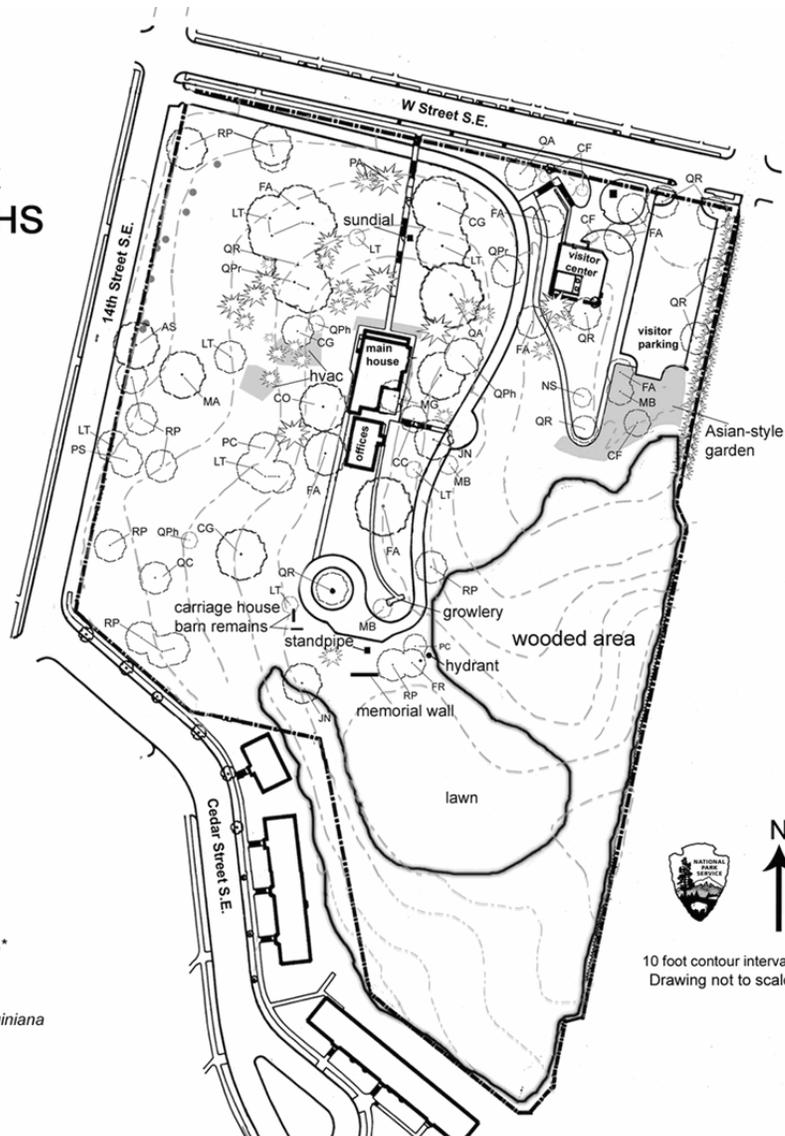
Eighteen months after the death of his first wife in August of 1882, Douglass married Helen Pitts, a Caucasian woman. Eleven years later, on February 20, 1895, Douglass died of stroke at Cedar Hill. In 1900, at Helen Pitts Douglass's request, Congress chartered the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association (FDMHA), to whom Mrs. Douglass bequeathed the house. In 1916 the FDMHA appealed to the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) for assistance in preserving the Douglass home. The NACWC agreed to help and the mortgage was paid off by 1918. Restoration of the home began in September of 1921, and a dedication of the "Frederick Douglass Memorial Home" was held on August 12, 1922. Due to a lack of funding, and despite the addition of a caretaker and cottage built in 1928, the house and landscape deteriorated over time and proved to be too large a burden for the NACWC to shoulder. The NACWC, in an attempt to decrease maintenance costs, sold portions of the property to developers. However, after increasing preservation needs, and the devastation to the property caused by 1956's Hurricane Hazel, the association, recognizing the need for preservation of the property, entrusted the site to the federal government. The property was added the National Park system on September 5, 1962, and was designated the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site on February 12, 1988.

The historic site displays the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association through the retention of landscape characteristics and features that contribute to its historic integrity as one cultural landscape. These landscape characteristics are natural systems and features, spatial organization and topography, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, and views.

The landscape at the Frederick Douglass NHS is in good condition. (Indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition). It retains integrity for the period of significance (1877-1895). The most pressing issue on-site may have to do with stormwater management, and the erosion of the grassy terraces.

Site Plan

FREDERICK
 DOUGLASS NHS
 SITE PLAN
 2007



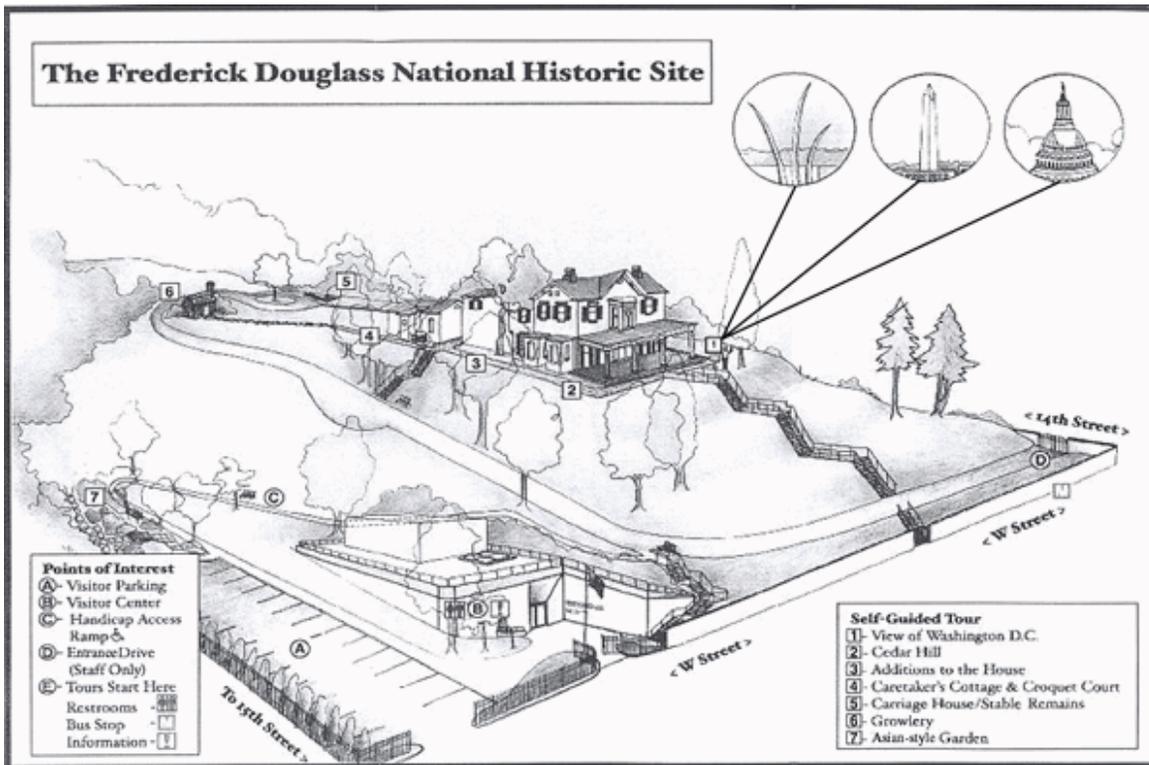
- Legend**
- Symbol Feature
- Deciduous tree
 - ✻ Coniferous tree*
 - Stump

* All conifers are *Juniperus virginiana* unless otherwise specified



KEY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	KEY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
AS	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	NS	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black tupelo
CF	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	PA	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce
CG	<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut hickory	PC	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Common pear
CO	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	PS	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry
FA	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash	RP	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust
JN	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black walnut	QA	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak
LT	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip poplar	QC	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet oak
MA	<i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry	QPh	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow oak
MB	<i>Malus baccata</i>	Siberian crabapple	QPr	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	Chestnut oak
MG	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Southern magnolia	QR	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern red oak

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site site plan. (NCR CLP, 2007).



This illustrative site plan of the FRDO NHS illustrates the considerable elevation changes between the street and the home. (NPS).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
Property Level: Landscape
CLI Identification Number: 600033
Parent Landscape: 600033

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code: Frederick Douglass National Historic Site -FRDO
Park Organization Code: 3543
Park Administrative Unit: National Capital Parks-East

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Inventory was written by Saylor Moss, Historical Landscape Architect with the Cultural Landscapes Program of the National Capital Region (NCR). The CLI represents the documentation of the landscape of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted, and resources from both within and outside of the National Park Service were utilized.

The following human, paper and electronic resources provided valuable insight during the inventory process: Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect with the NCR, Christopher M. Stevens, Regional CLI Coordinator, Historical Landscape Architect with the NCR, Judith Earley, Historical Landscape Architect with the Cultural Landscapes Program of the NCR, Cathy Ingram, Curator, NACE, Darwina Neal, Chief Cultural Resource Preservation Services, NCR, Julie Galonska, FRDO NHS Site Manager, Donna M. Wells and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center of Howard University, The National Park Service Museum Resource Center, The Washingtoniana Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library of Washington, D.C., The NCR Beautification Files, maps and plans from the Denver Technical Information Center, the Anna Cox Toogood Historic Grounds Report of 1968, and the Landscape Restoration plan prepared in 1976 by Craven Reeves.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/23/2013
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/10/2007

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site CLI on 09/10/2007, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of National Register Eligibility Concurrence refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of listing on the National Register.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

September 12, 2013

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: Acting Superintendent, National Capitol Parks-East
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Frederick Douglas NHS Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Gopaul Noojibail, Acting Superintendent of National Capital Parks-East, concur with the condition reassessment for the Frederick Douglas NHS cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Frederick Douglas NHS is hereby approved and accepted.


Acting Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East

9/23/13
Date

National Capital Parks-East Superintendent Statement of Concurrence signed on 9/23/2013.

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United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

August 6, 2007

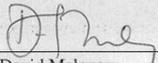
Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Acting State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia Acting State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site Cultural Landscapes Inventory as submitted on August 6, 2007.


David Maloney
District of Columbia
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

9-10-2007
Date

District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office Statement of Concurrence.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Other

Revision Date: 09/23/2013

Revision Narrative:

The Frederick Douglass NHS cultural landscape was reevaluated for condition in Sept. 2013. Its condition remained unchanged as Good.

The superintendent concurred with this condition on 9/23/2013. See Concurrence chapter.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is located in the Anacostia Historic District of southeast Washington, D.C. near the east coast of the United States. The site itself is situated on a terraced knoll surrounded by single-family detached dwellings, row dwellings & flats, and low-density apartments.

The site is located at 1411 W Street, S.E. Washington D.C., bounded on the north side by W Street, S.E. and on the west side by 14th Street, S.E.. The western boundary continues in a southeasterly

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direction behind the apartment buildings facing Cedar Street, S. E. The eastern boundary angles slightly north to approximately 70 feet south of the terminus of Butler St., S.E. At that intersection, the border continues in a northerly direction between the woodsy east side of the property and the apartment buildings to the east, until it intersects with the northern boundary at W St S.E.

State and County:

State: DC

County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 8.07

Boundary Coordinates:

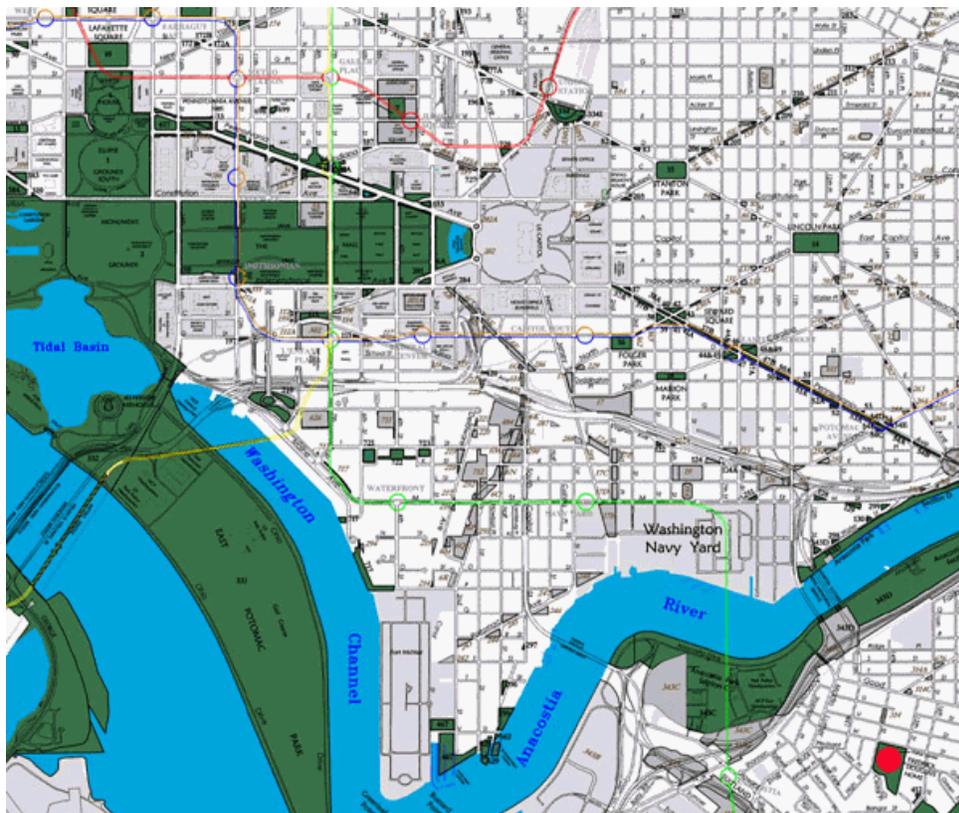
Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Latitude: -76.9849981993

Longitude: 38.8631041960

Location Map:



The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is located within the historic Anacostia District of the southeast quadrant of Washington, D.C. It is denoted here with a red circle. (NPS 869/80,462)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/27/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is nationally significant, and its cultural landscape contributes to the historic significance of the property.

The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The National Park Service acquired the Frederick Douglass property in 1962. As a national historic site, the property was automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. The listing of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home was in name only as no additional documentation was prepared at the time. The existing National Register Nomination for the site was prepared and submitted in 1969. The nomination focused only on the house, which was in poor condition at the time. The documentation did not adequately inventory the landscape of the property. The property was officially designated the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in 1988, and its period of significance is generally recognized to be the 17-year period of Douglass' occupancy, 1877-1895. The site preserves the landscape and home of Frederick Douglass.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Douglass, Frederick, National Historic Site
NRIS Number:	66000033
Other Names:	Frederick Douglass Home

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Site
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	CE 1877 - 1895
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Facet:	Abolitionism
Other Facet:	Civil Rights Movement

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Politics - Government
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Ethnic Heritage
Area of Significance Subcategory:	Black

Statement of Significance:

The 8.07-acre Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is located at 1411 W. St. S.E. on a terraced knoll in the Anacostia Historic District in the southeastern quadrant of Washington, D. C. The property is significant for its association with Frederick Douglass, the African American abolitionist, publisher, orator, author, statesman, reformer and champion of human rights who is generally recognized as the father of the civil rights movement.

The National Park Service acquired the Frederick Douglass property in 1962. As a national historic site, the property was automatically listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. The listing for the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home was in name only as no additional documentation was prepared at the time. The existing National Register Nomination for the site was prepared and submitted in 1969. The nomination focused only on the house, though, which was in poor condition at the time. The documentation did not adequately inventory the landscape of the property. The property was officially designated as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in 1988

The period of significance for the site, 1877-1895, spans the time of purchase of the property by

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Douglass to his death, which occurred at the home. The site is significant on a national level under National Register Criterion B (association with the life of a person significant in the nation's past), in the area of politics and government and social history.

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Born a slave and son of a white father and an African American mother, he learned to read and write at an early age and escaped to the North, changing his name to Douglass to avoid recapture. After fleeing north in September of 1838, he married Anna Murray, a free black woman, and became active in the abolitionist cause. By 1841, he was the agent of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. Fearing capture, Douglass fled to England, where friends purchased his freedom.

In 1845, Douglass published his famed autobiography, *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, the first of his three autobiographies. Fearing his capture, he fled to Great Britain and Ireland. Douglass returned a free man to New York in 1847, after his freedom had been purchased by friends in England. Douglass became a lecturer, leader of Rochester's Underground Railroad, and editor and publisher of the *North Star*, an abolitionist newspaper. In the summer of 1863, he convinced President Lincoln to enlist black men as soldiers in the Union army. Shortly thereafter, his own sons, Lewis and Charles, joined the newly formed 54th Massachusetts Colored Regiment. In 1872, Douglass came to Washington, D.C., and purchased a home near the Capitol. In March 1874, he became president of Freedmen's Bank, a savings bank established for newly freed slaves. In 1877, President Hayes named him U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia, and four years later, he was appointed recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. In 1889, President Harrison appointed him minister-resident and consul general to Republic of Haiti and chargé d'affaires for the Dominican Republic. Because of his contributions to improving the social welfare of African Americans, Douglass became recognized as the "father of the civil rights movement."

The property on which the house stands was formerly part of a tract named Chichester owned by John Marbury and later Enock Ticker. In 1854 John W. Van Hook, John Dobler, and John Fox formed the Union Land Association, paid \$19,000 for the Chichester tract of 237 acres and offered lots for sale. Between 1855 and 1859, a brick structure, the original part of the present house, was built and inhabited by Van Hook. From 1865-1886, the area (later known as Anacostia) was called Uniontown, and was the first development outside of Washington City's historic limits. Van Hook was forced to sell his property after a financial panic in 1873 which resulted in the failure of the Union Land Company.

Defying the Uniontown housing laws that prevented blacks from purchasing property in the segregated neighborhood, Frederick Douglass managed to acquire a loan from an abolitionist friend and purchase Van Hook's 9.5-acre property from the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company for \$6,700 in 1877. In 1878, Douglass purchased adjoining lands increasing the acreage to 14.73 acres. Douglass nicknamed the property "Cedar Hill" for the abundance of cedar trees upon the site. Douglass, known locally as the "Sage of Anacostia," and his family inhabited the home for 17 years. Many improvements and additions to the property were implemented during those years.

Following the death of his first wife, Douglass married Helen Pitts, a Caucasian woman. Eleven years

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later, on February 20, 1895 Douglass died of stroke at Cedar Hill. At Helen Pitts Douglass's request, Congress in 1900 chartered the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association (FDMHA), to whom Mrs. Douglass bequeathed the house. The FDMHA joined the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) and, with their assistance, paid off the mortgage by 1918. Restoration began in 1922 and dedication of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home took place in 1921. Due to a lack of funding, and despite the addition of a caretaker and cottage built in 1928, the house and landscape deteriorated over time and proved to be too large a burden for the NACWC to shoulder. The NACWC, in an attempt to decrease maintenance costs, sold portions of the property to developers. However, after increasing preservation needs, and the devastation to the property caused by 1956's Hurricane Hazel, the association, recognizing the need for preservation of the property, entrusted the site to the federal government. The property was added the National Park system on September 5, 1962, and was designated a National Historic Site on February 12, 1988.

The landscape of Cedar Hill during the historic period included usage as a “gentleman’s” farm (as opposed to a working farm), a family home, and a retreat.

Uses of the landscape relating to a gentleman’s farm included the growing and tending of gardens, orchards, fruit, and nut trees that supplemented the diet of both the family and livestock. Livestock, including horses, cows, chickens and possibly goats, were sources for food and labor. Care of these animals necessitated Douglass’ construction of a barn, a cistern, and a chicken coop.

Use of the landscape as support for the house and family included, among other things, the advantageous employment of shade. The vegetated property rendered the hot and humid summers of Washington, D.C. tolerable by providing shade for inhabitants and guests of Cedar Hill while they lounged about the great lawns or participated in croquet, a favorite pastime of the family.

The landscape as a retreat was partially manifested in Douglass’ use of fragrant and flowering plants to enhance the home’s surroundings. Douglass was well known as an admirer of nature, and memoirs of the landscape from Douglass’ time agree that plantings recall his use of ostentatious annuals, perennials, vines, and shrubs. Douglass and his guests prized wooded sections of the landscape for their wildness. The unique setting, size, vegetated quality of the property, and the juxtaposition of the wooded setting in relation to the urban landscape rendered it a desirable destination for friends, family and associates of the Douglass’.

Cedar Hill demonstrates the characteristics of a romantic cottage in natural surroundings. While the landscape has been altered over time, it does retain historic integrity for the period of significance. The property’s role in housing Frederick Douglass and his family during the time when Douglass was one of the most well known African Americans in Washington, D.C. and the nation lends it a high degree of historic significance at the national level.

Cultural landscape characteristics and features were omitted from the original National Register nomination. Therefore, this inventory recommends that the National Register nomination be amended to include the property’s cultural landscape.

State Register Information

Name: The D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites

Explanatory Narrative:

The D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites is the official list of historic properties maintained by the Government of the District of Columbia. Properties listed are deemed worthy of recognition and protection for their contribution to the cultural heritage of the city that is both the nation's capital and home to more than a half million residents.

The Frederick Douglass home, built in 1855-1859, was purchased by the famous abolitionist and statesman in 1877 and served as his residence until his death in 1895. Douglass made several alterations to the building and landscape during the entire length of his residency. Changes included two wing additions and a number of outbuildings; the property was restored in the 1920's and in 1962-64. It was given a National Capital Park designation September 5, 1962, and a National Historic Site designation June 25, 1964. It was listed in the National Register on October 15, 1966 (documented March 24, 1969), and it was included as part of the National Underground Railroad Network May 17, 2001, and included within the Anacostia. Historic District designated 1964. (From DC Inventory of Historic Sites Index and Maps: http://planning.dc.gov/planning/frames.asp?doc=/planning/lib/planning/New_Inventory_Sep_2004.pdf).

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Single Family House

Primary Current Use: Historic Furnished Interior

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
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Single Family House	Historic
---------------------	----------

Historic Furnished Interior	Current
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Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Frederick Douglass NHS	Current
Frederick Douglass Memorial Ho	Historic
Van Hook Mansion	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1855 - 1869	Built	2 ½-story brick wall home with metal roof, stone foundation built by Van Hook in “Uniontown,” modern Anacostia.
CE 1872	Moved	Douglass family moves to A St. NW in DC.
CE 1877	Purchased/Sold	Douglass buys 9 ¼-acre house and property and names it “Cedar Hill” for cost of \$6,700.
	Altered	Growlery (so-named by Douglass from Dickens novels), Built date unknown.
	Established	Survey shows one rectangular building on the property.
CE 1877 - 1895	Cultivated	Trees on site supply nuts to visitors of the property.
	Cultivated	Vegetable gardens slope down glen or valley on each side of the house. Gardens exist on either side of the hill.
	Cultivated	Sweet potato plants grow among an orchard of young pear trees.
	Cultivated	Orchard grows behind the house with peach, apple, pear, persimmon, and cherry trees.
	Cultivated	Garden exists on western edge of property. Crop described as 8’ Indian corn by Miss Catherine Impey in 1892.

Maintained	Vine cover and fragrant shrubs surround the Growlery, reflecting Douglass's desire to work in a natural setting. A dirt floor and stone walls contribute to the rusticity.
Maintained	The house is approached by two steep flights of steps with around three landings and over 100 steps. Steps are bordered by a light handrail and shaded by tall tulip trees.
Maintained	A brick walk leads from the back door, through the grape arbor and across the back lawn leading to the Growlery.
Cultivated	Grapes grow on arched, latticework bower arbor on the back lawn. It extends 50 feet south from the east side of the house.
Maintained	The driveway intersects with W St S.E. towards the east side of the property. It ascends southward along the east side of the hill to the upper terrace where it makes a right-angle bend beyond the Growlery and continues along the west side of the hilltop towards the north to the front of the house where it terminated in a circle around a red oak tree.
Maintained	Post and rail fence borders the outer edge of the driveway ascending the hill. Interrupted at the carriage turnaround and across from the Growlery.
Maintained	According to Mr. Taylor, terraces were more beautifully-shaped, more sharply-defined and steeper than "today (1968)" and were planted with a variety of shrubbery.
Maintained	On the top terrace, two large Norwegian spruce stand on either side of the walkway leading from the edge of the hill to the front porch.
Maintained	Rocking chairs, garden seats, and hammocks are set out on the front porch and lawn in the summer.
Cultivated	Mr. Taylor recalls that honeysuckle, not sweet potato, protected steep banks from erosion.
Cultivated	Flowers on the hillside, along with strawberries and vines help to lessen erosion. Especially the steep west side.

Planted	Lilac and strawberry are grown on the property.
Maintained	“...Row of cedars followed the line of the (west) hill from in front of the house to a short distance behind it and they dotted the hillside below (Toogood:44).”
Maintained	Red, white, and pin oaks grow on the west hill.
Graded	East hillside is split into 2 sections, divided by driveway terrace.
Maintained	Several large trees are located above driveway on the east side-possibly ten trees, three of which were cedar.
Maintained	Magnolia between side walkway and house on east side. It, and other trees (probably a cedar seen in photos) shaded 2 deep bay windows to the south. A few smaller trees grew on the slope below the drive. According to Mr. Taylor, the valley below was richly vegetated.
Maintained	A large oak tree grows on the hilltop northeast of the front of the house.
Maintained	Steep flight of wooden steps lead from carriage turn-around on driveway to the valley.
Maintained	Mr. Taylor recalled seeing cherry, black walnut, apple and persimmon trees in the east glen.
Maintained	Cherry tree stands to the left of the well.
Maintained	Boundary between Douglass and Pitt property to the east may have been delineated by row of closely planted cedars according to Mr. Taylor. Other sources do not support this recollection.
Cultivated	Orchard located across the drive to the south of the house and lawn. It winds down the hill and into the valley east of house. Beyond were meadows and woods.
Maintained	In the spring and summer, in the back area, a wide variety of vines and trees with colors and fragrances flourished.

	Cultivated	Roses grow on a latticework fence with other shrubs near the west side of the house.
	Maintained	Open space on southern end of back lawn provides a croquet playing area.
	Maintained	On the back lawn, six or seven lofty trees (including one large ash and several black walnuts) provide shaded areas for hammocks and garden seats.
	Maintained	Two small trees (maybe fruit trees) grow behind the Growlery, a few feet from the driveway.
	Maintained	Three giant oaks grow on the hillside between the side steps and the Growlery on the east side.
	Maintained	Forsythia and lilies of the valley grow on the edge of the top terrace east of the house.
	Maintained	Oak, chestnut and locust trees grow along the west edge of the top terrace (near the barn).
CE 1878	Purchased/Sold	Douglass buys an additional 5.23 acres one year after he purchases property.
CE 1881	Purchased/Sold	13,333 hard bricks are purchased from Martin and Brothers.
	Built	Douglass builds a Carriage house south of the house on the edge of the hill. The doorway faces east and is served by a branch from the drive. The back houses 5 livestock stalls, while the front holds 3 carriages.
	Built	Douglass builds a chicken coop.
	Paved	Douglass hires William Fletcher to asphalt sidewalk around dwelling for \$138.00.
CE 1886	Purchased/Sold	Douglass buys 1000 paving bricks from Richard Rothwell.
CE 1888	Rehabilitated	Bill for repair work on steps reveals that steps may have been repaired with brick cement sand. It is not clear how many flights were treated.

CE 1892	Maintained	A frame structure (likely a barn set atop a brick chicken house) forms an ell with the north side of the carriage house. It may have faced east. Chicken yard faces east across back yard.
	Built	District lowers W St. 20 feet and Douglass builds road entrance from southwest corner of property to the top of the hill. It connected with the main drive in front of the carriage house and stable.
	Established	Seven outbuildings stand within original 9 1/4 acres.
	Maintained	Miss Catherine Impey describes a path through the woods.
	Maintained	12' x12' corn crib with wooden slats with a door facing the driveway; crib is located south of the carriage house.
	Maintained	1892 survey shows outline of small structure, likely a privy, on edge of hill at rear of house.
	Maintained	An unidentified structure stands in line and between the barn and (likely) privy.
	Maintained	A frame structure stands at the foot of the hill almost directly south of the house. Mr. Taylor recalled that it was a 4-room cottage. It may have been guesthouse and later, servants' quarters.
CE 1894	Built	Douglass constructs a new driveway from corner of Pierce and Jefferson (14th and W) across the front, and around to the original roadway leading up to the rear of the house.
	Abandoned	Back entrance road abandoned.
CE 1895	Removed	Douglass dies of a heart attack, or stroke (undetermined) at Cedar Hill.
	Maintained	Douglass's wife inherits 14 acres of land with gardens, orchards and outbuildings.

	Maintained	Washington Evening Star reports a concrete walk running from the top of each stairway to the house.
	Maintained	Washington Evening Star describes a large spring at the foot of the hill in the rear of the house.
CE 1900	Developed	Second wife, Helen Pitts Douglass (d.1903) organizes the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, chartered by Congress later that year.
CE 1908	Abandoned	Cedars along drive to Pitt's property die and drive between Douglass and Pitt properties disappears in new tree growth (according to Taylor).
CE 1908 - 1909	Maintained	Trustees of Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association (FDMHA) clean and repair cistern and lay a boardwalk, replace outlying privy with sanitary closet connected to the house.
CE 1916	Purchased/Sold	FDHA asks The National Association, of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) to help with the home.
CE 1918	Purchased/Sold	The FDMHA and NACWC join forces and the mortgage is paid off in 1918.
CE 1921	Restored	Restoration of the home begins in September.
	Altered	NACWC hires Robert Brown of Anacostia to slightly change the terrace contours and plant trees and shrubs.
CE 1922	Preserved	Frederick Douglass Memorial Home dedicated on August 12.
CE 1928	Altered	Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs construct a 1075 sq. ft., 1.5-story brick caretaker's cottage.
	Altered	The parking lot is graded and filled.
CE 1928 - 1939	Inhabited	Pierre McKinley Taylor and his wife serve as caretakers and live in new house.

Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
 Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

CE 1930 - 1940	Destroyed	Chestnuts perish in a blight.
CE 1930	Built	Memorial arch of brick built to the south of the house beyond the driveway.
CE 1932 - 1939	Preserved	Schoolchildren plant cedar trees on property and are asked to donate a penny each to aid in preservation of the house. A Frederick Douglass Memorial Fountain is dedicated. Located on the top terrace, near the west front of the house (Toogood, 51).
CE 1936	Altered	WPA hires 50 National Youth Administration. (NYA) trainees to beautify the grounds. 245 students over two years, under the direction of landscape architect Randall R. Evans clear the grounds, grade and terrace the landscape. They prepare soil, plant flowers seed and sod the lawn and terraces, move shrubbery, re-grade the driveway, and do concrete work.
CE 1939	Destroyed	Taylor says after he moved out of the caretaker's cottage, NYA plantings were deliberately burned.
	Neglected	Beginning of gradual deterioration of house and landscape due to inadequate maintenance.
CE 1940	Inhabited	Gladys Parham is hired by FDMHA trustees as caretaker and she moves into the caretaker's house.
CE 1962	Land Transfer	Portion of land on south side of property is sold, leaving the current configuration.
CE 1956	Destroyed	Growlery destroyed by Hurricane Hazel.
	Destroyed	Carriage house reduced to ruins after Hurricane Hazel.
CE 1962	Land Transfer	Property entrusted to NPS. On September 5th, Congress passed bill S. 399 designating home as part of park system in National Capital.
CE 1964	Preserved	Caretaker's cottage is preserved.

Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
 Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

	Preserved	125' well located in lawn east of main terrace, capped for safety reasons (Zeik, 9).
CE 1965	Established	Parham, still living in the caretaker's cottage, is added to the NPS payroll.
CE 1969	Planned	Development plan for site is issued by NPS.
CE 1971	Excavated	Archeological investigation conducted by Denver Service Center, National Cap Team Staff Archeologist Robin D. Ziek. Investigation locates well to the east of the house, construction of the stables, surfacing material of driveway and historic grade, and full dimensions of chicken house north of the stables.
CE 1972	Excavated	Gardner and Gluckman conduct archeological work, establish location of cistern, root cellar, and cedar trees.
CE 1976	Planned	Landscape report completed by Craven Reeves.
CE 1976 - 1978	Planted	Trees, shrubs and perennials recommended in Phase I of Reeves plan planted on site.
CE 1978	Excavated	Matthews conducts archeological research on the well, the root cellar, the privy, and the carriage house brick floor.
CE 1981	Reconstructed	Growlery is reconstructed by NPS.
CE 1981 - 1982	Built	Entrance drive paved and edged with brick curbing. Rotary drive on south end of upper terrace constructed.
CE 1982	Built	Visitor center constructed. Installation of parking lot with curbs, trench drain and catch basin, flagpole, lighting, and concrete terrace. (Dwg # 833 80,000).
	Built	Alteration of retaining wall between street and visitor center to support installation of stairs from visitor center to entrance road and accessible path from south end of parking lot to entrance road. (Dwg # 833 80,000B).
	Planted	Trees and shrubs planted to accompany new accessible walkway and stairs. (Dwg # 80,000B).

Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

CE 1988	Planted	Peonies, hosta, alyssum, lilies -of-the-valley, Christmas fern are planted on-site.
CE 1989 - 1990	Built	Black wrought- iron perimeter fence installed surrounding site.
CE 2003	Planted	Asian-style garden installed at south end of parking lot.
CE 2005	Rehabilitated	Caretaker's cottage is rehabilitated.
	Rehabilitated	Milling and paving of entire length of drive, replacement of broken brick curbing, rehabilitation of light poles in parking lot, and drainage under caretaker's house piped to ivy beds on both east (one outlet) and west (two outlets) slopes.
CE 2007	Rehabilitated	House reopens to public after a three year, 2.7 million dollar restoration and rehabilitation project.

Physical History:

Pre-history-1877: Before Douglass

In 1608, Captain John Smith sailed up the Eastern Branch, now known as the Anacostia River, in search of the main branch of the Potomac River. He found the area of land inhabited by Necostan or Anacostan Indians (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/dc90.htm>). Smith's 1612 map identifies the area as the Indian village of Nacochtanke. In 1793, Jefferson suggested the Latinized version of the Nacochtanke name, Annokostia, to U. S. surveyor Andrew Ellicott for inclusion on his 1793 map of the area (Smith: 97-105). After European settlement, the area became a shipping center for merchants and tobacco growers who utilized the land to support large estates. During the War of 1812, the area was abandoned to British troops, and access to it was diminished when the 11th Street bridge crossing the Eastern Branch was burned down by the American troops to delay an attack on Washington.

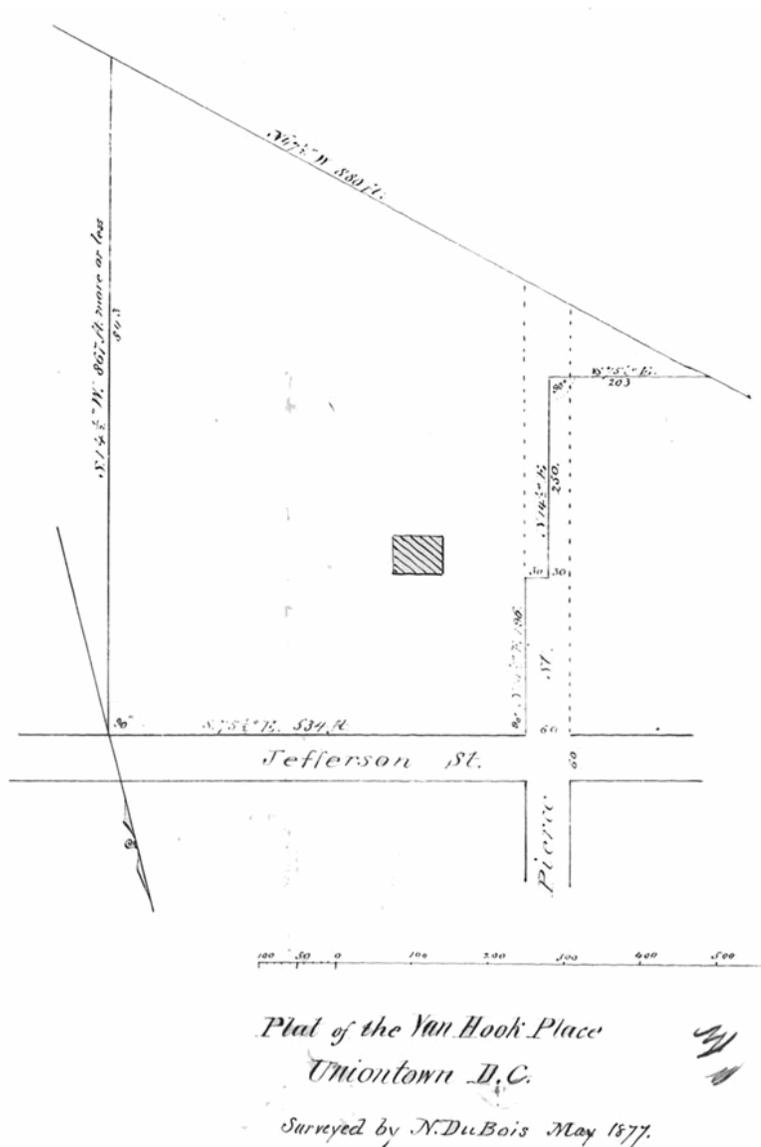
After the reconstruction of the bridge in 1846, a community grew up around the industry and jobs created by the Navy Yard and perpetuated by the St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital in the Barry's Farm vicinity. Barry's Farm itself was a black community where newly freed blacks, with assistance from the Freeman's Bank, could purchase lumber and lots to build upon. Monies from these purchases would partially fund the 1867 establishment of Howard University.

The study area, north of Barry's Farm, was part of a tract named Chichester, owned by John Marbury and Enock Tucker. In 1854, John W. Van Hook, John Dobler, and John Fox formed the Union Land Association, paid \$19,000 for the Chichester tract of 237 acres, and offered lots for sale. From 1865-1886, the neighborhood (later known as Anacostia) was called Uniontown (Smith: 98), and was the first development outside of Washington City's historic limits. Residents here enjoyed modern lifestyles, returning from work in the District to the comfort of a rural setting. Yet, the rewards of this lifestyle were only available to native-born whites in a time when growing populations of blacks were migrating to nearby areas.

Between 1855 and 1859, a 2.5-story brick structure, the original part of the Douglass house, was built on a prominent hill in Uniontown and inhabited by Van Hook. The property was valued for its broad views of Washington, the river and the surrounding hills. Van Hook was forced to sell his property after a financial panic in 1873 resulted in the failure of the Union Land Company. 1874 saw the failure of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, or Freedman's Bank (1865-1874). This event happened as a man named Frederick Douglass assumed presidency of the organization in 1874 (http://www.nbccongress.org/lifestyle/freedmans_saving_and_trust_company.asp).

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born into slavery on the Tuckahoe plantation, owned by Col. Edward Lloyd, in Talbot County, Maryland in 1818 (estimated birth year). Nearly 21 years later, in 1838, he escaped slavery, adopted the surname Douglass, and married Anna Murray, a free black woman whom he met in Baltimore. Douglass, an abolitionist, became a lecturer, author, publisher, and defender of human rights. He is also known as the father of the civil rights movement. Douglass was a father and husband and one of the most

prominent and influential figures in Washington, D. C. during his own lifetime.



*An 1877 survey reveals the Van Hook property as home to a single structure.
(Library of Congress, Manuscript Division).*

1877-1895: Frederick Douglass' Cedar Hill

Despite having lost much of his own money in the Freedman's Bank's failure, and in spite of restrictions on black property ownership in Uniontown, Frederick Douglass managed to acquire a loan from an abolitionist friend named Dr. Charles Purvis. Douglass purchase Van Hook's 9.5-acre property for \$6,700 in 1877 (Toogood: 9) from the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. Prior to establishing residency in Uniontown, Douglass had been living in the District on A Street, NW since leaving Rochester, New York after a house fire in 1872 (Toogood: 9).

He lived in the house in southeast D.C. for the next 17 years of his life with his family, including his wife of 44 years, Anna, until her passing in 1882. Douglass then remarried, wedding his secretary and neighbor Helen Pitts, a white woman, in 1884 (Toogood: 11). During his time in Anacostia, Douglass served as both U.S. Marshal for Washington, D.C., Recorder of Deeds for Washington, D.C. He also published the third of his autobiographical volumes; *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, and served as minister-resident and consul-general to Republic of Haiti and Chargé d'affaires for the Dominican Republic.

From his own writings and the recollections of those who knew him, Douglass appears to have had a great reverence for nature. He renamed Van Hook's property "Cedar Hill" for the abundance of cedar trees on the property. Douglass increased the size of his holding to just over 14 acres after purchasing 5.23 adjacent acres in 1878 (Toogood: 14). Along with his many civic duties, Douglass established a "gentleman's farm" at Cedar Hill. Douglass embarked on several additions and alterations to enhance both his home and landscape during his stay.

A taped interview with Mr. Pierre McKinlay Taylor was conducted in New York City in 1968 by Anna Coxe Toogood, author of the 1968 Frederick Douglass Home Historic Grounds Report. Mr. Taylor was a 7-year-old member of the McKinlay family in 1908, when they moved to the converted stables at Cedar Hill 13 years after Douglass's death. He later returned to the property with his wife as a caretaker from 1929-1939. Along with the other data collected by Toogood, Mr. Taylor's interview has been a particularly useful resource in piecing together the historic landscape of Douglass's Cedar Hill.

Surveys from 1877 show just one rectangular building, representing the brick home, on the Cedar Hill site, but by 1892, there were seven (Toogood: 14). Additions included a 12' x12' wood-slatted corncrib, a barn, a carriage house, a privy, and an unidentified structure between the barn and the privy. It has been speculated that the unidentified structure could have been for cold storage. Mr. Taylor recalled a four-room cottage located to the south of the house, which may have been this structure.

In addition to the buildings, a cistern, a well, and a root cellar were part of the landscape at Cedar Hill. A round brick cistern covered by a square cement top was located on the south side of the stable and carriage house by archaeologists Gardner and Gluckman in 1972. According to Mr. Taylor, water was gathered from the roof via a downspout directing water into the container. Water was then pumped to a trough for livestock. Further water resources were discussed in Toogood's investigation which references an article in the *Washington Evening Star* that recounts "A large spring at the foot of the hill in the rear of the house yields a plentiful supply of pure water" (Toogood: 40). Toogood speculates that this spring was located on land to the south of Cedar Hill that was sold by the FDMHA in the early twentieth century (Toogood: 40, 41). The root cellar (shown in a photograph dated from the 1930s) was located a few feet to the south of the staircase leading from the east side of the house to the carriage turnaround.

Receipts for the purchase of 13,333 bricks from Martin and Brothers suggest that the carriage house was built in 1881. It was located on the south side of the top terrace of Cedar Hill. Along

with space for at least three carriages, it housed stalls for horses and cows. In the same year, a frame construction chicken coop was built adjacent to the carriage house. The coop rested on a brick foundation and provided support for the barn (LCS) (Toogood: 36). 1881 continued to be a busy year for improvements at Cedar Hill. Receipts show that a Mr. William Fletcher installed an asphalt sidewalk around the house for \$138.00 (Toogood: 28).

The construction date of the small stone structure known as the Growlery, located to the south of the house, is unknown. A 1981 archeological investigation of the ruins of the original structure found a post 1855 snuff bottle on the oldest section of the floor which supports the theory that construction occurred between 1855-1859 (Herron: 65). The shelter was quickly adapted by Douglass to serve as his private study. He called the study a “Growlery”, a title used by characters of Dickens in the novels *Barnaby Rudge* and *Bleak House* to describe “a retreat for times of ill humour.” Douglass was known to find his Growlery a comfortable sanctuary where he was able to study and write in peace. The structure is thought to have fulfilled Douglass’s desire to work in a natural setting. It was described as being “Covered with vines and surrounded by fragrant bushes (Toogood: 22).” Mr. Taylor recalled that orange blossom, strawberry, wisteria and lilac provided color and fragrance around the structure (Toogood: 48).

Nursery and store receipts, memoirs and dated photographs offer clues to plantings on the site. Oral and written histories yield further evidence of the Douglass home landscape from 1877-1895. According to Mr. Taylor, in Douglass’s time, the terraces were more beautifully shaped, more sharply defined and steeper than “today” (1968) and were planted with a variety of shrubbery (Toogood: 42).

George Albert Townsend, aka “Gath,” a notable reporter for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, visited Cedar Hill in 1886 and described the estate:

“Before you is a moderate-sized mansion on an elevation, surrounded by full-grown trees, cedars and firs and forest trees. This gives delightful shade and protection from the winds. The house is about fifty to seventy feet above the road, and high flights of steps lead up to it. A carriage drive goes around on the left and ascends the hill, and is trailed around the house after the fashion of the more elaborate residences of white men. In the rear of the house is a good large stable, and the outbuildings show attention to comfort and even luxury. I might suppose that this property, as it stands in no particularly stylish portion of Washington City, was worth \$12,000 to \$15,000 (Toogood: 13).”

Several trees framed the view ascending along the main drive to the house. A post and rail fence followed the right side of the drive and as many as ten trees dotted the east side of the property (Toogood: 43, 46). Reports indicate that three of the trees were cedars, and three were giant oak trees (Toogood: 48). A row of closely planted cedar trees defined the eastern property line between the Douglass and Pitt properties here (Toogood: 31.32).

Taylor recalled that the valley between the Pitt’s property line and the base of the eastside

terrace was richly vegetated (Toogood: 45). Mrs. Catherine Impey, an English visitor to Cedar Hill, and author of a personal journal, which was a source of Toogood's research, remembered the valley as a place where "only a few smaller trees grew (Toogood: 45)." The contradiction in descriptions could derive from differing observation periods, Impey's descriptions being limited to only those of trees, or from Taylor's imperfect memory of the property.

To the east of the house, along the ascent to the upper terrace, the road was widened in one area to allow for a carriage turnaround. Here, the post and rail fence was interrupted by a steep staircase that led from the turnaround below the house on the top terrace, down into the valley or "glen" below. Two small trees, which may have been fruit trees, stood several yards beyond the turnaround to the rear of the Growlery, just a few feet from the drive (Toogood: 48). Six or seven large trees, including a large ash and several black walnuts, were integrated into the yard between the Growlery and the house (Toogood: 47). The trees provided shade for lounging in hammocks and garden seats, both on the lawn and on the porch of the house. The yard was a favorite place for Douglass and his friends and family to play croquet, a sport they loved. The road turned at a right angle beyond the Growlery and ran along the west side of the top terrace. Red, white and pin oaks grew on the lower elevations of the west side of the property (Toogood: 44). Near the front of the house, the drive ended in a rotary terminus, within which a red oak grew (Toogood: 30).

On the top terrace, in front of the house, two Norwegian spruce trees stood on either side of the walkway leading from the edge of the hill to the front porch (Toogood: 42). It is possible that these were planted in 1881 as one of Douglass's receipts for six Norwegian spruce trees indicates (Toogood: 42). Unconfirmed recollections also report the presence of peonies flanking the walkway on the north side of the house from the steps to the front door. This walkway, leading away from the front door terminated at the northern edge of the top terrace where it met with a steep 2-flight staircase which Impey remembers as being edged with a light handrail and two tulip trees (Toogood:25). Mr. Taylor had no recollection of the trees and suggested that Miss Impey may have been recalling trees along the side of a different staircase (Toogood: 27). After Douglass's death, his wife Helen supposed that the strain of climbing these stairs contributed to his fatal heart attack (it is undetermined whether Douglass died from a heart attack or stroke).

Impey refers to the existence of a large magnolia tree shading two deep bay windows (Toogood: 45). This tree was in or near the location of the current specimen, that currently shades bay windows on the east side of the house.

Both the east and west slopes leading away from the house were reported to host vines and other plants, including sweet potato, honeysuckle, flowers, and strawberries that helped minimize erosion on the steep slopes (Toogood: 20, 43). Farther down the slopes on both the east and west sides were gardens. A kitchen garden existed on the west side and a larger garden with fewer crops was located on the east slope. On the lower terrace, west of the vegetable garden, corn grew in a rectangular plot extending from the edge of four large pear trees to 14th Street, the western boundary of the property (Toogood: 43). Catherine Impey describes the crop as 8-foot Indian corn. The term "Indian corn" was used here by a European

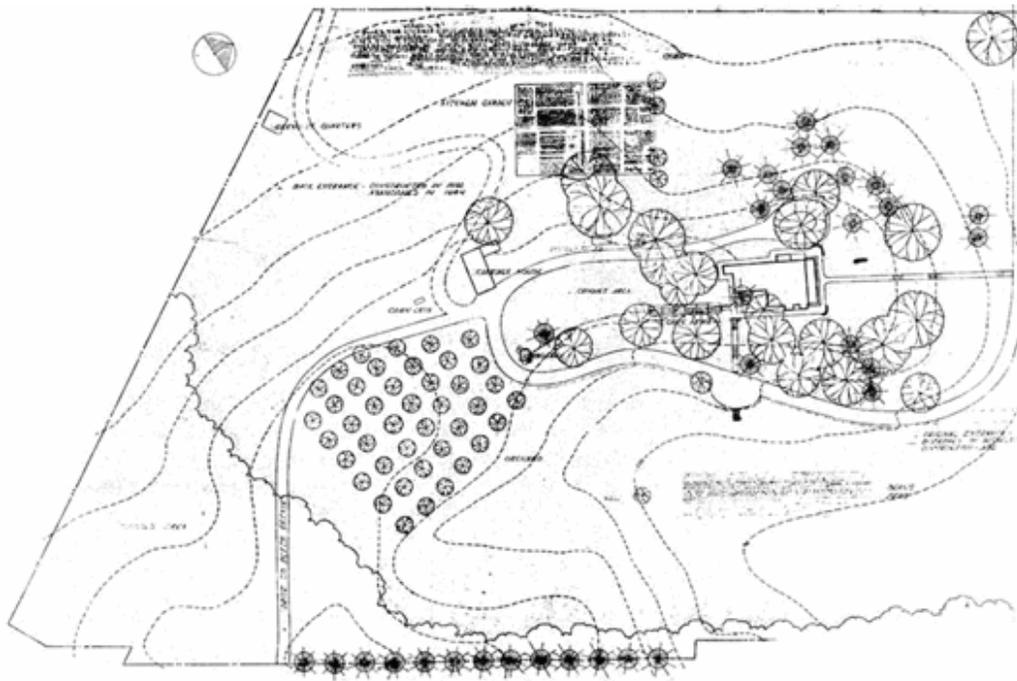
to describe the variety of corn found in America (Toogood: 43). This corn was presumably grown to feed Douglass's livestock and was stored in the corn crib located south of the carriage house.

In 1892, the city was under the administration of Alexander "Boss" Shepherd, a member of the Board of Public Works, which, in three-year "frenzy," modernized the infrastructure of the city. While Douglass was working abroad as the minister to Haiti, the city lowered the elevation of Jefferson St. (modern W St S.E.) by twenty feet. This grade change forced Douglass to build a new driveway. He installed a back road entrance (shown on the Reeves landscape plan of 1976) which itself was abandoned when a more desirable route was built in 1894 at a cost of \$500. Starting at the corner of Pierce (modern Fourteenth St.) and Jefferson, the new route wound around the front and connected with the old road on east side of property (Toogood: 29, 30).

The Douglass family and their many guests enjoyed chestnuts, hickories, and black walnuts collected from the grounds (Toogood: 18). Other tree fruits on the property included peaches, apples, pears, persimmons, and cherries from the orchard located behind the Growlery, to the southeast of the house and lawn (Toogood: 20). The orchard extended down the hill to the valley east of house, and beyond it laid meadows and woods. Other reports of fruit trees place them in the east glen, where the modern visitor center is located, and near the well located southeast of the house at the bottom of the hill (Toogood: 40, 46).

Taylor recalls that in the spring and summer, colorful and fragrant vines and trees flourished in the back yard area to the south of the house. Mr. Taylor also recalled roses, which grew on a latticework fence and bushes near the west side of the house (Toogood: 47, 48). Other ornamental plantings near the house included forsythia and lilies of the valley, which grew on the east side of the house terrace (Toogood: 48). Closer to the house on the back lawn, grapes grew on a latticework arbor that extended 50 feet to the south, and, according to Taylor, a brick walk passed through it as it ran from the house's back door to the Growlery. Mrs. Fanny Douglass, widow of Douglass's grandson Joseph Douglass, in an interview with Toogood in 1968, also recalled a brick walk that wound from the library on the east side of the house to the Growlery.

Douglass's life ended when he suffered a heart attack or stroke at the home in 1895.



Craven Reeves' 1976 Landscape Restoration Plan is considered the best representation of the historic layout of the Cedar Hill grounds. (Reeves, 1976).



A horse-drawn carriage makes its way up the hill towards the Douglass home at Cedar Hill c. 1890. (Historic American Buildings Survey Russell Jones, Photographer June 1963 EAST VIEW ca. 1894-1900 HABS DC, WASH,166-1).



Frederick Douglass's granddaughter plays croquet, a favorite pastime of the family, on the shaded lawn to the south of the house. (Howard University, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center).



The south side of the home pre-1928. (Courtesy of the Washingtoniana collection of MLK Jr. Library. Photo by I. Pidgeon, Evening Star).



A figure ascends the staircase on the east side of the house in 1893. Handrails, an arbor, a trellis, and a magnolia tree characterize the landscape during this period. (Source unknown).

1895-1962: Preservation

After the death of her husband, Helen Douglass founded the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association (FDMHA), chartered by Congress in 1900, in the hopes of securing the property as a memorial. This was a major feat as Douglass himself only had his will signed by two witnesses instead of the required three (Hinds: 21). Because of this indiscretion, the house should not have been turned over to his wife as Douglass had intended but instead, divided between his heirs who were not interested in designating the property as a memorial.

Helen borrowed \$15,000 to buy the children's property rights, hence the mortgage on the property. At the time of Mrs. Douglass's death in 1903, the property, the house, and its contents were turned over to the association's trustees, in accordance with her wishes. At that time, the stables in the carriage house were converted into living quarters to house the McKinlay (Mr. Taylor's) family who then assumed the duties of caretakers.

In 1908, the FDMHA funded the cleaning and repair of a cistern and pump on the site. In addition, the association assembled a boardwalk and replaced the aforementioned privy with a sanitary closet adjacent to the house (Toogood: 50). According to Taylor, in the same year, cedars along a drive to Pitt's property died, and an unconfirmed drive which connected the Douglass and Pitt properties disappeared beneath new tree growth (Toogood: 31,32).

In 1916, FDMHA asked the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) to help with the care of the home. The two organizations joined forces and paid off the mortgage within a year. A few years later, the NACWC suggested changing the contours of the terraces by lessening the slope to provide easier pedestrian access. They hired Robert Brown of Anacostia in 1921 to slightly change the terrace contours and plant trees and shrubs. Mr. Norris L. Wells was also hired by the association to install cement [sic] walks and steps on the property (Toogood: 51). The location of the installations was unspecified in the report.

In 1928, the rotary terminus of the driveway on the top terrace of the property was filled with cinders and graded. This was done to accommodate a 1.5-story, 1075 square foot brick cottage behind the house. Mr. Taylor and his wife moved into the cottage and acted as caretakers for the property until 1939.

Schoolchildren were largely involved in property maintenance during the 1930s. In order for children to pay tribute to Douglass, students from Negro [sic] public schools were involved in restoration of trees at Cedar Hill. During the decade, chestnut trees on the property were reported to have perished from blight (Toogood: 49). Black schoolchildren from D.C.'s Burville School planted the first new cedar trees on the site in 1932. Black schoolchildren throughout the District were asked to donate a penny each in 1934 to establish funds for upkeep of the property. This effort was followed up by schoolchildren of the Negro [sic] public schools who ceremoniously planted trees again in 1933 (Toogood: 51).

In 1939, to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the District's free public school for black schoolchildren, a memorial fountain was dedicated near the west façade of the house,

and two cedar trees were planted next to it. Another addition to the landscape was made in the 1930s, when a memorial arch made of brick was installed to the south of the Growlery (Toogood: 52).

In the late 1930s, Mary McLeod Bethune (a noted educator, speaker, organizer, presidential advisor, Vice President of the NAACP, among others), FDMHA trustee and then Director of Negro Affairs for the National Youth Administration (NYA), (which was a New Deal agency in the United States operating from 1935 to 1943 as part of the Works Progress Administration,) initiated the involvement of the NYA in conjunction with Phelps Vocational to utilize the property to teach students landscaping, gardening, and horticultural skills. From 1936-1938, 245 young men worked under Landscape Architect Randall R. Evans at Cedar Hill. The students seeded and sodded terraces, transplanted trees and shrubs, cleared underbrush, graveled, graded, and tilled the roadway, among other tasks (Poole: 4). Curiously, Mr. Taylor stated in his 1968 interview with Toogood that after the men left, the shrubbery they installed was deliberately burned.

1939 was the last year in which substantial improvements were made to the property before it was acquired by the NPS in the 1960s.

In 1940, Mrs. Gladys Parham took up residency in the caretaker's house. For the next 22 years, Mrs. Parham alone cleaned, safeguarded, and maintained the house as well as she could manage, and without pay. In 1952, the associations sold a portion of the land on the south side, which reduced the size of the property to its current proportions. Despite the reduction in size and Parham's best efforts, the landscape and structures on Cedar Hill deteriorated and 1956's Hurricane Hazel further exacerbated the property's condition by destroying the Growlery and carriage house.

In 1961, despite their attempt to raise money, the FDMHA and the NACWC failed to generate sufficient funds to maintain and preserve the property. The associations, in an effort to preserve the property as a national shrine, donated the property to the federal government.



National Youth Administration workers repair the original Growlery as part of improvements made to the Douglass property in the 1930s. (Image from New Deal Network, owner U.S. National Archives and Records Administration Still Picture Branch).



During the preservation years, structures like the barn and Growlery seen here were neglected and vegetation at Cedar Hill diminished due to lack of funds for upkeep on the property. (Division of History Files).



In 1938, a caretaker's cottage was built behind the south end of the Douglass mansion. (Division of History Files).

1962-Present: Under NPS Management

The property was entrusted to the NPS on September 5, 1962 when Congress passed a bill establishing the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home (It was later redesignated on Feb. 12, 1988 as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site). It was the third National Historic site to

honor the contributions of black Americans. The two other sites honored Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. Gladys Parham remained in the caretaker's house and was added to the NPS payroll in 1965 (Poole: 5).

Both historic grounds and structures reports for the site were conducted and issued by the NPS in 1968. 1969 saw the initial development schedule for the site. It included budgets for roads and trails, parking areas, plantings, buildings and utilities (including a visitor center) and restorations of the home itself. The plan was revised for implementation in fiscal year 1971.

Archeological investigations were conducted in 1970 and 1972 by Gardner and Gluckman, by Matthews in 1976, Herron in 1981, and by Robin D. Ziek in 1981. These surveys uncovered the locations of the cistern, the root cellar near the east-side steps, and the cedar trees; the dimensions of the chicken house and the surfacing material of the driveway and carriage house, the construction of the stables, and the Growlery (Ziek: 1).

Vegetation on the site had been drastically altered, and by 1972, no original cedars existed on the property that Douglass had named Cedar Hill.

A report on the restoration of the grounds was issued by Craven Reeves in 1976. The plan drew from the historic configuration of the landscape during the time of Douglass, and was intended to be installed in two phases. The first phase included the planting of several trees, mainly cedars, and the installation of shrubs, including flowering quince, strawberry bush, and winter jasmine, which were used as to screen utilities including an air conditioning unit and an electrical box on the west side of the house. Small planting beds on both corners of the east-west walkway in front of the house were also installed. Planting was completed by fall of 1978. The second phase was intended to be implemented after removal of the caretaker's cottage, which, as of early 2007, is still standing and serves as the park staff headquarters. Phase II installations included the reconstruction of a path that led from the stairs on the east side of the top terrace to the west, grape arbor and rose trellis installation, and reconstruction of the orchard behind the Growlery.

The early 1980s involved several construction projects at FDNHS. In 1982, a visitor center and parking lot were built on the northeast corner of the property in the area known as the "east glen." The bulk of the structure was located underground. Along with the center itself, a parking lot with concrete curbs, a trench drain, catch basins, lighting, a flag pole, and a concrete terrace were built. In a later phase of the construction, stairs that led from the visitor center plaza to the entrance road, and an accessible path from the parking lot to the entrance road were added. Trees and shrubs accompanying both the walkways and parking lots, and to screen the concrete edges of the visitor center were also installed during this phase of construction.

In the same year, the Growlery, which had been demolished by Hurricane Hazel in 1956 was reconstructed on its original site.

In 1981 and 1982, the entrance road was paved and edged with brick curbing. The rotary at the

south end of the upper terrace was also installed.

In a 1988 report, Mel Poole said the grounds were approximately 80-percent complete and the home was fully restored to its Victorian era appearance. He noted that in 1988, peonies, hosta, alyssum, lily-of-the-valley, and Christmas fern were some of the plants installed on the site. Poole also found that the current (1988) walks are in alignment with 1895 walks and restored to their historic brick patterns. The only non-restored path is one that ran east-west south of the house. The caretaker's cottage was built and still stands where the path used to be (Poole: 5, 7).

In 1989/1990, a black wrought-iron fence was installed around the perimeter of the property in response to vandalism occurring on the site.

In the 1990s, the narrow curvilinear beds in front of the house that were installed in the 1970s in accordance with the Reeves plan, were enlarged and planted with annuals, instead of perennials, as the plan specified. (Memo from Darwina Neal June 12, 2000 to Robert Defeo. On subject of FRDO floral displays)

Deterioration of the both the landscape and the home continued via neglect and vandalism, and in 1996, the surrounding Anacostia Historic District SE was first listed by the D.C. Preservation League as one of Washington's most endangered places. An investigation was done by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) State of the Parks Program, who assesses condition of natural and cultural resources at national parks. In 2001, Cedar Hill was among the first properties to rank on the NPCA's most endangered list. The 2003 assessment assigned the Douglass home a rating of 57 out of 100 (one point above a rating of 'poor'). Ratings were based in the areas of archeology, cultural landscapes, historic structures, museum collections, and archives, ethnography, natural resources, and stewardship capacity. The report offered recommendations on how the NPS could improve the current condition of the home, and what measures to take for future preservation of the property.

In November 2000, Frederick Douglass Gardens, Inc. created a national memorial and gardens to honor the life and legacy of Frederick Douglass on Interior Department land in the District of Columbia. The contemplative garden was designed by Anne Gleeson of Environmental Restoration, LLC, and installed by Frederick Douglass Gardens, Inc. in cooperation with the TKF Foundation (a private grant-making foundation who partners with organizations to create "sacred places" to increase a sense of community). Maintenance of the garden was assigned to the NPS. The garden was not part of the historic landscape on the site and was not recommended in any cultural landscape management plans drafted by the NPS. Many argued that the maintenance of the garden would detract from time and energy needed for upkeep of the traditional historic landscape on the property. It was installed in 2003, despite the fact that National Capital Region (NCR) staff determined that the installation of the garden would contribute an "adverse effect" on the historic integrity of the site.

2005 saw a rehabilitation of the drive and rotary. Surfaces were milled and paved, and broken brick curbing was replaced. This project also included rehabilitation of lighting in the parking lot,

Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

and the implementation of an underground drainage system at the caretaker's cottage. Water from the roof of the structure flows from the downspouts and underground into two outlets in the ivy beds on the west side of the slope, and one on the east.

February 2007 marked the completion of a 2.7 million dollar, three-year preservation project at the house. The project included new climate control and HVAC system, as well as the restoration of windows and wallpaper, replacement of shutters, and the addition of a fire protection system. Site work also included the resurfacing of the entrance drive, repair and realignment of curbing along the drive, and the addition of lighting along the accessible walk from the visitor's center. The grand re-opening of the house was celebrated in April 2007, in conjunction with the kick off of National Park week, and was presided over by Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, Mary Bomar, Director of the NPS, and others including Douglass's great-great-great-grandson, Kenneth Morris, Jr..



Douglass's great-great-great grandson (at the podium) joined Secretary Kempthorne, Director Bomar and others in April 2007 at a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the reopening of the property after a rehabilitation project (NCR CLP 2007).



A view into the property from the northeast edge of the property reveals the visitor center, parking lot and the edge of the non-historic contemplative garden (NCR CLP 2007).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Introduction

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site cultural landscape by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1877-1895) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are comprised of landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually, and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the Douglass property are natural systems and features, spatial organization and topography, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, and views. The buildings and structures, already documented through the List of Classified Structures (LCS), are described here in the context of the landscape setting. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

The Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. Although property boundaries have changed over time, the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site occupies its historic location atop a knoll in Anacostia. The location of the cultural landscape retains integrity for the entire 18-year period of significance.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. The circulation and building patterns on-site remain, with buildings adjacent to paths and roads, just as they were during the historic period. In addition, key spatial characteristics such as the yards, both behind and in front of the house remain. Due to preservation efforts, the main residence itself reflects the design styles of the historic period. Within the property, all of the buildings remaining and preserved since the 1962 acquisition by the NPS and additions, such as the reconstructed Growlery and the visitor center contribute to a better understanding of the site. Plantings during the historic period were for both utilitarian and enjoyment purposes. Vegetable gardens supplemented food needs, vines stabilized slopes and fragrant and colorful perennials, shrubs, vines and trees created an atmosphere that the renowned nature lover Douglass valued. Currently, the vegetable gardens are no longer extant, but colorful and fragrant plants, as well as some that are used to minimize erosion on slopes, are maintained on site to lend a degree of authenticity to the landscape. Despite the loss or diminished status of many of the built elements on the property and the alterations made to slopes, plantings, and buildings, the property has maintained its characteristic zones and other design elements of the historic period. While some intentional changes have been made to the design of the property, such as the realignment of the entrance drive at the south and southeastern portion of the site and the addition of the caretaker's cottage, the evolved cultural landscape retains integrity of design for most of the period of significance.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. The overall rural-feeling hilltop setting with the broad views of the surrounding landscape of Washington, D. C. that influenced the location of the house on Cedar Hill remains. The setting outside of the property and the elements surrounding the estate have changed over time to reflect the communities' growth during the twentieth century. However, the surrounding neighborhood remains primarily residential, and the area is designated a historic district. The setting within the estate itself has also changed over time due to reduced vegetation, loss of structures, the addition of the caretaker's house, visitor center, parking lot, reconstructed Growlery, and modern contemplative garden. Integrity of the setting has been diminished largely by loss of historic vegetation and the addition of the contemporary Asian-style contemplative garden. The addition of the caretaker's cottage has prevented the restoration of the back (south) yard to include the grape arbor and large trees that, during Douglass' time provided shade for playing croquet and lounging on hammocks and garden seats in the yard. Despite this loss, the property's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. Building remnants and the house itself are composed of original materials or complementary and compatible materials. The majority of walkways and stairs are composed of brick, as many of them were during the historic period. There is an absence of plants existing from the historic period, (with the exception of the large oak tree on the upper terrace on the northeast end of the house, and possibly the magnolia on the southwest corner of the house); much of the vegetation on the property has been replaced with variations of species that were known to have grown there during the historic period. Many species, including some of the namesake cedar trees, are missing or exist in small quantities. Overall, the property is much more sparsely vegetated than it was during the historic period. Despite the diminished vegetation, and changes in surface materials of paths

and the entrance drive, and the latter's realignment at the south end, the property's cultural landscape retains integrity of materials.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The home itself, as well as the building remnants, and reconstructed Growlery reflect nineteenth century workmanship as they have been preserved, rehabilitated, or reconstructed. Additionally, the home, existing from the historic period, despite modern preservation work, demonstrates nineteenth-century workmanship, and the cultural landscape retains integrity of workmanship.

6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. The property's open hilltop setting, views, rural feel in an urban environment, remnants of buildings from the historic period, and the existence of the home are perhaps the greatest contributors to the historic feeling of the site. They are lasting witnesses of the events from the period of significance. Integrity of feeling on the site could dramatically be improved by the replacement of the missing historic vegetation. The existing trees on the property do have some integrity of feeling simply because they are taller and more abundant than any others in the adjacent neighborhood. These, along with the aforementioned elements, contribute to the integrity of feeling on the property.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is associated with the life of abolitionist and human rights advocate Frederick Douglass. The property is a museum and interpretive center where visitors are given the opportunity to learn about Douglass as a person, and his role in ending slavery and promoting human rights during the 19th century. This is done with the aid of multimedia presentations at the visitor center, by walking through the landscape, and by touring the house that he and his family occupied for 17 years. The cultural landscape partially reflects the links to the historic period and retains a high integrity of association for the entire 17 year period of significance.

Landscape Characteristic Narrative

Landscape features, those elements that collectively make up landscape characteristics, are classified in three ways. They are "contributing" if they were present during the property's period of significance. They are "non-contributing" if they appeared after the period of significance. Non-contributing features may be considered compatible when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. The third classification of landscape features is "undetermined." In these cases, further primary research, often outside the scope of a CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date.

In addition to the documentation of extant landscape characteristics and features, the analysis and evaluation section is based on historic photographs and writings relating to the landscape. One of the

most useful documents for investigations into the Frederick Douglass property is the 1968 historic grounds report prepared by Anna Coxe Toogood. Toogood conducted interviews with caretakers and relatives of Douglass who had first hand experience with the property. Toogood gathered landscape descriptions through these interviews, as well as from written accounts by former guests and members of the Douglass family. Another invaluable resource comes from Craven Reeves who authored a 1976 grounds restoration plan, which offered recommendations for restoration of the historic landscape based primarily on Toogood's report and materials including receipts for gardening supplies and materials purchased from the local hardware store, and correspondence describing the grounds. Reeves' plan of the historic period landscape is considered the most accurate depiction of the historic landscape of Cedar Hill.

The following narrative analyzes and evaluates the cultural landscape's integrity by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1877-1895, with existing conditions.

Cedar Hill demonstrates the characteristics of a romantic cottage in natural surroundings. The historic character of the landscape is of a "gentleman's farm" and private residence of Frederick Douglass, the 19th century abolitionist, and human rights advocate who was considered one of the most influential lecturers and authors in American history, and was deemed the "Sage of Anacostia" by his contemporaries.

Conclusion

After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, the findings of the CLI are that the landscape of the Frederick Douglass NHS retains integrity from the period of significance.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

The landscape characteristic "spatial organization" refers to the historic arrangement of elements creating the vertical and horizontal planes that define and create space and exist today. The landscape characteristic "topography" is defined as the historic three-dimensional human-developed configuration and manipulation of the landscape surface characterized by features and orientation that still exist today. The Frederick Douglass home is uniquely situated

on an elevated knoll high above the surrounding neighborhood. The topography of the site was a driving factor in the spatial organization, or arrangement of built elements on the property. As topography and spatial organization are so integrated on the property, they are found together in this evaluation.

HISTORIC

The principal spatial organizing element of the landscape is promontory, or elevation. The home on Cedar Hill is situated on an elevated terrace overlooking Washington, D.C., the Anacostia River, and the surrounding hills. The home faces towards the north, where broad views of the city and surrounds can be observed from its front porch.

The hillside terraces are the most significant features in this category that remain from the historic period. Before changes to Jefferson Street (now called W St., S.E. was lowered during civic improvements in the 1890s), the elevation of the property rose from approximately 90 feet at the lowest point in the east glen area, to approximately 140 feet in the rear of the orchard area to the south of the house. The house and adjacent ground were located at approximately 120 feet above sea level (after the changes to the street, the property rose from approximately 70 feet above sea level at the lowest point, to the aforementioned 140-foot elevation at the top of the hill). The use of terraces made the steep topography more manageable. The terraces were reported to have been more distinct during the historic period than in modern times. At the request of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) in 1921, the terraces had been modified to create the existing more gentle grades.

A second organizing principle of the property was clustering. Utilitarian buildings added by Douglass were clustered on the upper terrace near the house. This facilitated easy access to the buildings by Douglass, who ran a gentleman's, rather than a commercial, farm on his property. Buildings were also situated close to the home for easy access. The steep topography of the property also contributed to the clustering of structures, as there was a limited amount of flat terrain to build upon.

The carriage house, barn, chicken coop and corncrib were located on the southwest edge of the top terrace. A privy and one unidentified structure were located a short distance from the carriage house cluster, closer to the house. The Growlery was on the southeast of the top terrace on the house side of the drive.

EXISTING

Currently, ruins of the carriage house, stable, chicken coop, and barn cluster are preserved as relics of the historic period. Deterioration of the relics has reduced this cluster to a small portion of concrete lying flush with the lawn. The privy and the unidentified structure (seen on historic land maps) are no longer extant and have yet to be discovered through archaeological investigation. No trace of either structure remains in the modern landscape. The existing spatial organization of the site reflects, through preservation, its historic organizing principles with the clustering of structures (home, caretaker's cottage, Growlery) occurring upon the promontory

top terrace, or level of the property. The visitor center, parking lot, surrounding walkways, and non-contributing Asian style garden make up a second cluster of development. All features in this cluster are located in the area referred to during Douglass's time as the east glen.

EVALUATION

While the property has changed from its historic use as a family estate to its current state as a house museum and visitor center, some of the spatial organization, including the clustering of built structures upon the elevated terrace, remains and contributes to the site's historic character. The introduction of the non-contributing modern cluster, including the Asian-style garden, visitor center, and parking lot, however, detract from the integrity of spatial organization on the site, since they do not reflect historic organizational patterns.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Terraced hillsides
Feature Identification Number:	120938
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Carriage House ruins
Feature Identification Number:	120940
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Visitor center, parking, Asian garden
Feature Identification Number:	120946
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non contributing – compatible
Feature:	Stable, chicken coop, and barn cluster
Feature Identification Number:	120942
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Natural Systems and Features

The landscape characteristic “natural systems and features” is defined as the natural aspects that historically influenced the development and form of the landscape and still exist today.

HISTORIC

The tidal watershed of the lower Anacostia River is surrounded by a landscape created by streams and rivers rising and falling while adjusting to a changing sea level over time. Cedar Hill was located on a terrace that was left behind as a river valley deepened.

The presence of spring water on the property is remembered by people who visited the property during the historic period. It is speculated that the spring was located on the portion of the property sold to private interests by the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical

Association (FDMHA) in the early 1950s.

EXISTING

Douglass's Cedar Hill property overlooks the Anacostia Historic District within the southeast quadrant of the District of Columbia. No streams or springs exist on the property now. Lateral tributaries, which may have traversed the property in the past have been diverted, culvertized, and piped to accommodate the extensive residential development that has occurred over the last 200 years.

Since the hillside terraces were altered in 1921 to create gentler grades, erosion has occurred on the slopes that should be corrected before it becomes more severe.

EVALUATION

The home of Frederick Douglass still stands on its original elevated terrace in Anacostia. Although the terraced slopes were modified to smooth their grades and there are a few eroded areas, these can be corrected, so the character of the landscape at Cedar Hill basically retains integrity in the category of natural systems and features.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The terraced slopes at Frederick Douglass NHS are subject to erosion. On-going maintenance is needed to correct and prevent future erosion and protect the cultural landscape (NCR CLP 2006).

Land Use

The landscape characteristic “land use” is the historic organization, form and shape of the landscape in response to land use that still exists today.

HISTORIC

Prior to European settlement, the landscape of Cedar Hill and its immediate surroundings was likely used by indigenous peoples for subsistence harvesting and trading of natural resources, primarily fish, from the river. After European settlement, agriculture became a foundation of the lower Anacostia River tidal watershed, made possible by the rich sedimentary soils and close proximity to the river, where irrigation and shipping were accessible.

Before the 1850s, the property was part of a large agricultural tract called Chichester. John Van Hook purchased the property as part of the Uniontown development as farmlands gave way to development, and built his home upon the cedar-shaded hilltop. Frederick Douglass bought the Van Hook home in 1877 and renamed it Cedar Hill. He lived on the property, which he managed and farmed as a source of pleasure and support for his family, rather than a sole means of income. As such, it was considered a "gentleman's farm" rather than a commercial enterprise. Douglass and his family raised edibles in the vegetable garden and orchards, grew fragrant and flowering annuals, perennials, shrubs and vines, and raised cattle, horses and chickens (and possibly goats [Herron]) for food and labor.

EXISTING

Currently, Cedar Hill is situated in one of the most densely populated areas surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. The property is now designated a National Historic Site, a small protected area of historic significance. The home is a house museum where Douglass's own objects illustrate his life there. The property also includes a parking lot and a visitor center where the public can learn more about Douglass and his time by viewing Douglass's artifacts and multimedia presentations developed by the Park Service.

Currently the landscape is no longer used to raise crops or livestock. A reconstruction of the Growlery building stands in the original's location, and relics of the original chicken coop and carriage house have been preserved on-site. A portion of the southeast section of the property, at the end of the visitor center parking lot contains a non-contributing, incompatible Asian-style contemplative garden installed by Frederick Douglass Gardens, Inc. in 2003.

EVALUATION

Land use at Cedar Hill has changed over time, as it is no longer a residence and gentlemen's farm. On portions of the property, such as the areas where the visitor center, parking lot and Asian-style garden are found, land use has changed altogether and retains no integrity of the historic period.

Other areas and features do retain integrity of land use. Paths and roads that Douglass built and traversed are now used by visitors to negotiate their way around the property, as they were during the historic period. The upper terrace of the site, where the house is situated, is still the primary space used by visitors on-site today.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Land use at Frederick Douglass NHS has evolved from a family home to a memorial site to its present state as a historic house museum, visitor center and cultural landscape managed by the NPS (Division of History files, NCR CLP 2007).

Circulation

The landscape characteristic “circulation” includes the spaces, features and materials that historically constituted systems of movement, particularly roads and paths, and still exist today.

HISTORIC

Historic circulation on the property consisted primarily of access roads and paths connecting buildings, structures, and gardens, as well as the public domain lying just outside of the property line.

Driveway

Early maps show the main driveway entering the property from its northeast corner, and continuing to the house upon the upper terrace. In 1892, the city lowered the elevation of Jefferson (modern W St., S.E.) Street by twenty feet. Douglass then built a road that entered the site from the property’s southwest corner, but was not satisfied with its outcome. Finally, Douglass discontinued use of the drive from the southwest corner of the property and built a driveway that entered the property from the northwest corner, then headed in an easterly direction, before joining the original drive on the east side of the house. The drive gained elevation along the east side of the property, then turned west on the upper terrace just past the Growlery, and ran north to terminate at a rotary directly adjacent to the west side of the house.

Paths

Period paths on the Douglass property included three known sets of stairs. One led from the front (north) side of the house down to Jefferson (modern W St., S.E. Street), another ran from the east side of the house down to the carriage turnaround, and a third led down to the east glen from the carriage turnaround on the east side of the house.

Other paths extant during the historic period include a continuous walkway from the west side of the house, around the front of the house, and to the east side of the house. From the east side of the house it extended southward beyond the back of the house, under a grape arbor, and to the lawn. It is likely that stepping stones extended from the end of the path just to the southeast of the house and on to the Growlery. It is also likely that a path from the top of the stairs on the east side of the top terrace crossed the back yard and led to the west side of the top terrace. It is probable that additional paths or stepping stones led from the west side of the top terrace down the hill to the west glen, but current archeological evidence does not support this theory.

Walkways surrounding the house are currently comprised of brick. Receipts dating from 1881 show that Douglass paid to asphalt the sidewalk around the dwelling, so sidewalks were composed of something else before that time.

Before the NACWC changed the terrace contours, the Washington Times reported that the steps were made of stone. Other reports cite the existence of brick and cement, not stone, and receipts from 1884 for brick and paving work to the stairs further complicate the question of the historic composition of the materials used to build the stairs.

EXISTING

At present, most of the historic circulation patterns can be found on the property.

Driveway

The modern drive exists largely upon the path of the historic one. After phase I of Craven Reeves' 1976 landscape restoration plan was completed, a non-historic parking lot on the top terrace, built to support the caretaker's cottage, was removed and replaced with a rotary terminus at the top of the hill to the south of the house. At the same time, the entrance road was paved and edged with brick curbing. The road, curbing and rotary construction occurred in 1981 and 1982. The rotary design echoed the original rotary due west of the house itself, which was impossible to recreate in modern times due to grade changes in the terraces and the installation of a large air conditioning unit.

Paths

Currently, paths on either side of the house, and two sets of stairs remain in place from Douglass's time. The staircase from the carriage turnaround to the east glen is no longer extant, and many paths have been added to the site since Douglass's time. These include: the parking lot in the former "east glen" of the property, the stairs leading from the visitor center to

the driveway, the accessible ramp connecting the parking lot to the driveway, the brick path on the top terrace leading from the rotary to the house, the path to the Growlery, and the path through the contemplative garden installed in 2003.

As of 1976, existing walkways were "...basically in alignment with those which existed in 1895, with the exception of the walk to the west of the caretaker's house" (Reeves: 4). Absent from the property was "a walk running along the east side of the main house, from the front walk to the side steps and...a walk which ran behind the house, connecting the west walk with the eastside steps" (Reeves: 4). The caretakers cottage is currently in the way of the installation of the path connecting the west walk to the east steps, and a path from the south end of the house which passed under a grape arbor and ran along to the Growlery.

EVALUATION

Changes to the landscape include modern materials such as asphalt paving, concrete paths, parking lots, and ramps. Circulation on the property is much as it was during the historic period, and greatly contributes to the historic character of the property.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Driveway

Feature Identification Number: 121150

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stairs on north and east sides of home

Feature Identification Number: 121152

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Paths circling house

Feature Identification Number: 121154

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Parking lot in east glen

Feature Identification Number: 121156

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Path from parking lot to driveway

Feature Identification Number: 121158

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Stairs from visitor center to drive

Feature Identification Number: 121160

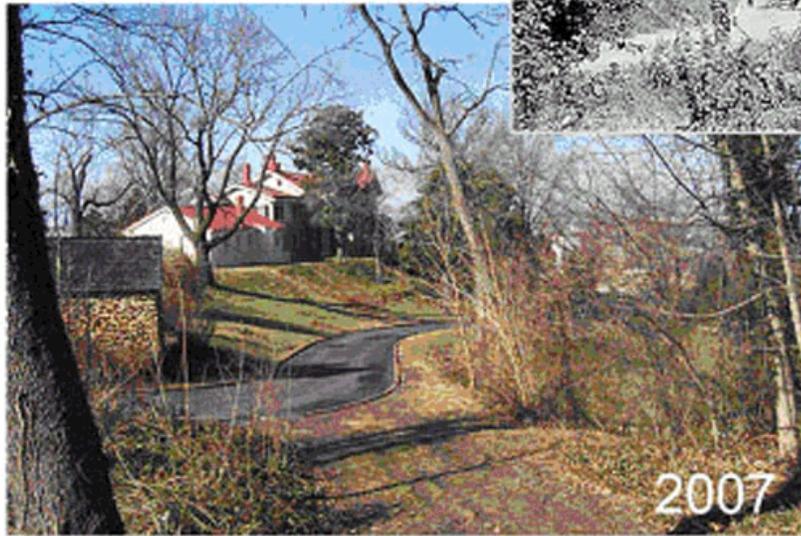
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Paths in Asian-style garden

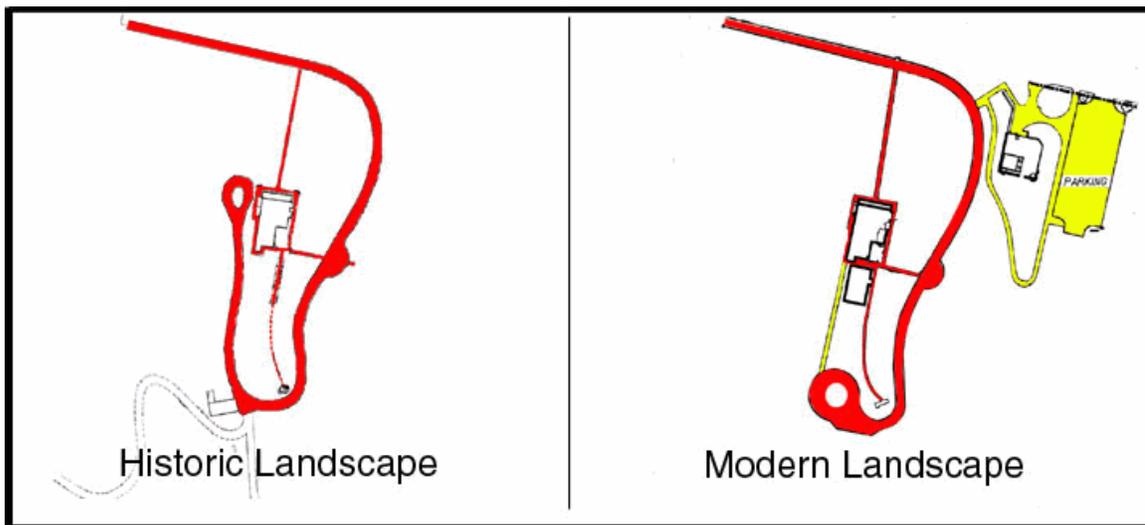
Feature Identification Number: 121162

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Circulation along walkways and the drive are largely true to the historic period. New circulation has been added to access to the visitor center and parking lot. (1930s Image from New Deal Network, NCR CLP 2007).



The red lines in the graphic above illustrate similarities in circulation from past to present. The yellow in the Modern Landscape depicts paths and parking installed after the historic period

Vegetation

The landscape characteristic “vegetation” represents historic indigenous or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous materials still existing today.

HISTORIC

Historically, the property was host to many trees, which led Douglass to name the estate “Cedar Hill.” There were descriptions of numerous cedars on the property. Gardner, Gluckman, Fanale and Walker noted, in an archeological investigation report, that since the property exists on the geologic fall line separating the coastal and upland regions, the cedars could have been a mix of Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), commonly found in the Piedmont plane, and Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) a variety common to the coastal plain. Deciduous trees also existed on the property as evidenced in much of the archive materials. Douglass utilized shrubs, groundcovers, and annuals for flowers and fragrance, and for utilitarian needs such as food and slope stabilization. Vegetable gardens and orchards supplemented the family and livestock’s food needs.

Trees

Historically, several large trees, including a large ash and several black walnuts, were integrated into the lawn area located directly behind the house on the top terrace. Other sections of the property were wooded in some areas, and red cedar trees were plentiful upon the site, so much so that they influenced the naming of Douglass’s estate.

Additional trees mentioned in archive materials include a large oak tree on the northeast side of the house; a magnolia shading the bay windows on the east side of the house; tulip trees along the staircase in front (north) of the house; red, white, and pin oaks, around the property and

specifically, and a red oak in the middle of the rotary terminus on the west side of the house. A row of cedars between the Pitt and Douglass properties is also referenced in archives. Post 1881, photographs and receipts for Norway spruces placed them in front of the house on either side of the walkway. Fruit-bearing trees existed in an orchard to the southeast of the Growlery, near the well in the east glen area of the property and near the field of corn on the west side of the property.

Shrubs, Vines and Perennials

Douglass, a lover of nature, was known to enjoy fragrant and flowering plants, and he used them to accent his home. According to photos and written memoirs, mock-orange, strawberry bush, perennial peony, wisteria vine, forsythia, and lilac were among the plants grown on the site during the historic period. The Douglass home also had a walk-through arbor running from the southwest side of the house towards the Growlery that was covered in grape vines.

Ground covers and gardens

Most of the property was likely covered in grass, clover, and forbs, the length of which was determined by grazing animals. Lilies-of-the-valley were also mentioned to have grown on the property.

Vegetable gardens were cultivated on both in the eastern dell and in a flat area below the west terrace. The western garden was historically a kitchen garden with a wide assortment of vegetables, and the east garden was a larger area with fewer crops. Corn was planted near the vegetable garden on the west side of the property along 14th Street.

Both the east and west slopes leading away from the house were host to vines, including sweet potato, honeysuckle, flowers and strawberries to help minimize erosion on the steep slopes.

EXISTING

Currently, the only known vegetation from the historic period is the white oak located on the lawn to the northeast of the house (and possibly the magnolia on the east side of the house). In the 1930s, historic chestnut trees on the property were lost to blight. The last of the original cedars on the property were lost by 1972. Existing cedars were planted in the late-1970s (or are replacements of those plantings) as prescribed by the Reeves plan.

New vegetation on-site includes plantings that were installed to screen and soften the visitor center, parking lot, and associated walkways. None of these plantings are considered contributing. Fragrant and colorful trees and shrubs can be found about the site, particularly near the Growlery, and as a screen for the HVAC unit located to the west of the house on the top terrace. The row of evergreens along the east side of the property buffering the parking lot from the alley may be considered compatible as they are evocative of the row of cedars Douglass used to define the property line between his and the Pitt's properties. At this time, the status of the cedar row is undetermined.

Turf grass is currently in place throughout the landscape, necessitating a rigorous mowing regime. To stabilize slopes, ivy has taken the place of potato vines, honeysuckle and strawberries. Currently, no fruits or vegetables are grown for harvest on the property.

The planted beds in front of the home were enlarged in the 1990s. They derived from smaller beds which were installed during implementation of the Reeves plan between 1976 and 1978. While mention is made of plants (perennials) along the path leading from the front of the home to the stairs leading down towards W Street, at this time, no record of beds in front of the house during the historic period have been found

The non-contributing and incompatible Asian-style contemplative garden that was installed to the south of the parking lot in 2003 is not associated with the historic period in design or material, and does not even attempt to utilize plant materials that would have been used in the landscape of the historic period, and was not included in any recommendations by NPS cultural landscape management. Consequently this garden, installed, by Frederick Douglass Gardens Inc, detracts from the planting and maintenance of existing historic or compatible vegetation on-site.

EVALUATION

Existing historic vegetation on the property includes the oak tree on the front side of the house. The magnolia tree on the west side of the house is considered either historic, or a compatible replacement of a magnolia that existed in or near the same place during the historic period.

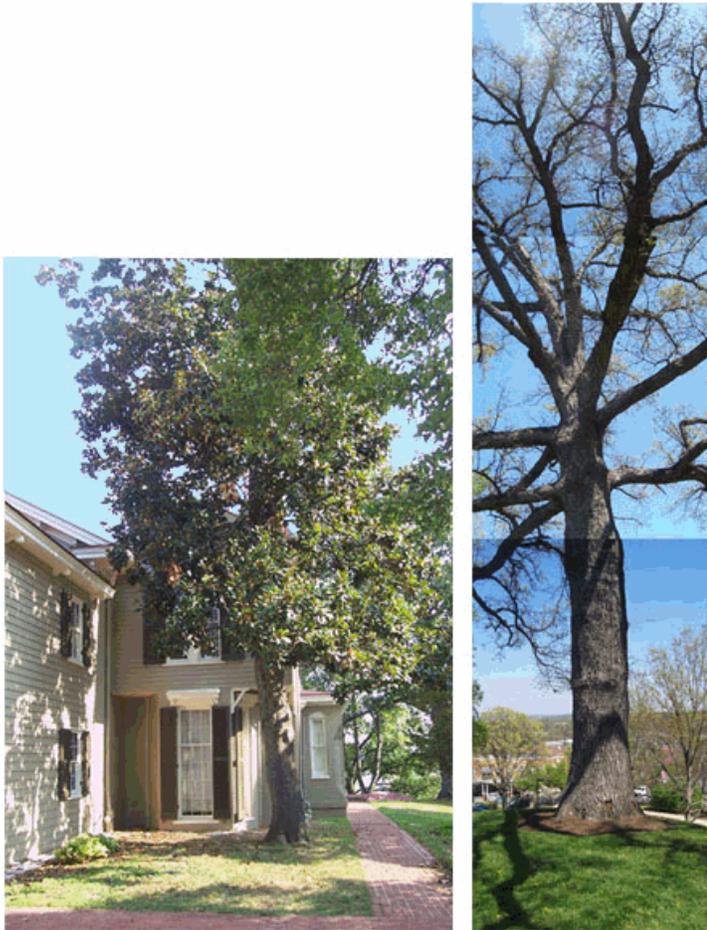
Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Oak tree in front yard of home
Feature Identification Number: 121164
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Magnolia tree on east side of home
Feature Identification Number: 121166
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- Feature: Cedar trees (replacements)
Feature Identification Number: 121168
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The cedar trees, seen here during the 1890s, inspired the name "Cedar Hill". Variations in the trees may be due to use of hybrids or the existence of two types of cedars. (National Park Service, FRDO NHS # 5216).



One of the largest trees in the district, the oak tree in front of the house (right) may be the only vegetation deriving from the historic period. The compatible magnolia tree (left) is located on the east side of the home. (NCR CLP 2007).

Buildings and Structures

The landscape characteristic “buildings and structures” includes structures that were present during the historic period and still exist today.

HISTORIC

During the historic period, several buildings and structures were added to the property. It is known that the house existed before Douglass’s ownership (the brick structure was built between 1855 and 1859) and it is likely that the Growlery was built before Douglass’s time. Additional buildings and structures constructed during Douglass’s time at the residence included a cistern, a well, a carriage house, a barn, a privy, a chicken coop, a corn crib, and living quarters for guests or workers, which, in a 1972 memo from Howard University’s Stephan J. Gluckman to the Northeast Regional Office’s Dr. John Cotter, is speculated to have been located on property sold off and turned in to the Glen Gardens development.

EXISTING

Currently, the Douglass family home serves as a living museum of the Douglass's life in the late nineteenth century. The home has recently undergone a 2.7 million dollar preservation project, and has reopened to the public after a 3-year closure.

Located directly to the home's south is the caretaker's cottage (built in 1928) that currently serves as a park administrative headquarters. Further south on the upper terrace is the Growlery, a compatible reconstruction of the original, which was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1956. Across the drive to the west are the remains of the carriage house and chicken coop. Remains of a memorial arch installed around 1930 can be found across the drive to the south of the Growlery,. The 1982 visitor center near the northeast corner of the property is the newest structure on the site.

EVALUATION

Despite the additions that were executed after the historic period, the existence of the home, the reconstructed Growlery and the preserved remnants of the chicken coop and carriage house reflect the historic period and lend integrity to buildings and structures on the site.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Main house

Feature Identification Number: 121170

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 419

LCS Structure Name: Frederick Douglass House - Res. 716

LCS Structure Number: 013

Feature: Chicken coop remains

Feature Identification Number: 121176

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 102218

LCS Structure Name: Frederick Douglass House; Chicken Coop Ruins

LCS Structure Number: 013-04

Feature: Carriage house remains

Feature Identification Number: 121178

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100158

Frederick Douglass Nat'l Historic Site
Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

LCS Structure Name: Frederick Douglass House, Carriage House Ruins

LCS Structure Number: 013-02

Feature: Growlery

Feature Identification Number: 121182

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 5358

LCS Structure Name: Frederick Douglass House, The Growlery

LCS Structure Number: 014

Feature: Caretaker's house

Feature Identification Number: 121184

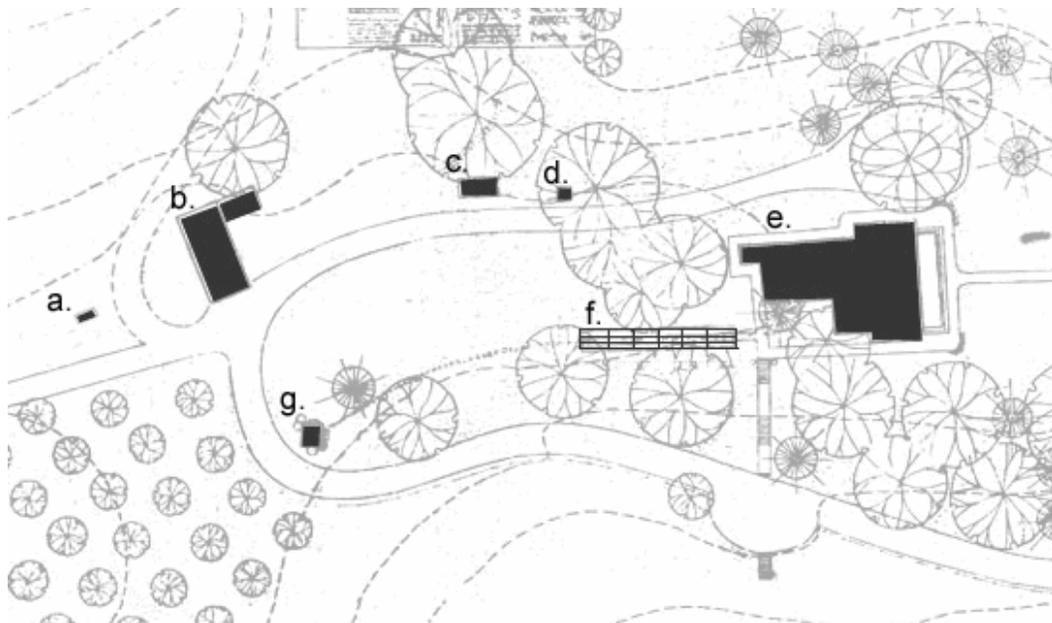
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

IDLCS Number: 5357

LCS Structure Name: Frederick Douglass House, Caretaker's Cottage

LCS Structure Number: 013-01

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



(Clockwise from top left) a. corn crib, b. carriage house cluster, c. unidentified structure, d. the privy (no archeological evidence to support this), e. house, f. grape arbor g. the Growlery. (Reeves, 1976).



Current photo of the remains of the carriage house, stable, chicken coop, and barn cluster building cluster on the southwestern side of the top terrace. (NCR CLP 2007).



The north façade of the Douglass home is much the same today as it was in 1877 as seen in the black and white photo above. (HABS Russell Jones, Photographer June 1963 NORTH VIEW ca. 1887 HABS DC, WASH, 166-5, NCR CLP 2007).



The house itself has been preserved to closely match the state it was in during Douglass's time, seen c. 1890 on the left. (Left, National Park Service, FRDO NHS, FRDO #2921, right, NCR CLP 2007).

Views and Vistas

The landscape characteristic “views” include features that historically create or allow either natural or controlled ranges of vision and still exist today.

HISTORIC

Reports from both newspapers and visitors to the home during Douglass' time describe the view of the District of Columbia, the Anacostia River and the surrounding hills as an asset to the property. The noteworthy views described were from the top terrace of the property looking north and northwest

EXISTING

Views of the District of Columbia, the river and the surroundings can still be seen from the top terrace, as well as from other locations on the Douglass site. While some of the elements visible within the landscape have changed over time, existing views still are largely composed of the District of Columbia, the river and the surrounding neighborhood

EVALUATION

The views of the District of Columbia, the river, and surrounds from the property are well preserved. Due to the diminished number of trees on the property, views are likely more broad today than they were in the past. Historic views from the grounds remain and contribute to the overall historic character of the property.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Views from top terrace of property
Feature Identification Number: 121188
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The 2007 view, includes downtown Washington, D.C. and the Anacostia River, just as it did during the historic period. (NCR CLP 2007).

Small Scale Features

The landscape characteristic “small scale features” is defined as elements that historically provided detail and diversity combined with function and aesthetics, and remain today.

HISTORIC

Small-scale features from the period of significance include those related to the farm and home site. Noteworthy small-scale features that can be seen in historic photographs or are discussed in memoirs of the property include a post and rail fence that ran along the outside edge of the driveway on the east side of the house, and handrails along the staircases. Also, a photograph from the historic period shows evidence of a trellis on the southeast side of the house which supported a vine (see photo, pg. 67). Additionally, a grape arbor that ran south of the home towards the Growlery.

EXISTING

None of the historic small-scale features from the historic period exist in the landscape at this time. Some of the features on the property from outside of the time period include handrails, brick piers, curbs, signage, the memorial arch located to the south of the Growlery, and the sundial and pedestal donated by the Married Women’s Culture Club of Pittsburgh in 1922. Modern small-scale features also include trash receptacles, and benches. Additionally, a black wrought-iron perimeter fence was installed in the late 1980s/early 1990s to curb vandalism.

EVALUATION

The lack of small-scale features from the historic period, detract from the historic character of the cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Lighting
Feature Identification Number: 121196
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Signs
Feature Identification Number: 121204
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Curbs
Feature Identification Number: 121206
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Brick entrance piers
Feature Identification Number: 121222
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Perimeter fence
Feature Identification Number: 121226
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Retaining walls
Feature Identification Number: 121230
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Small-scale features on-site are modern additions which include, among others, (from top left) the sundial and pedestal, benches and curbs, and brick piers and fencing. (NCR CLP 2007).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/23/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site retains integrity to the period of significance and is in good condition. In order to maintain the site in good condition, routine maintenance programs should continue cyclic maintenance of the landscape

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/27/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site retains integrity to the period of significance and is in good condition. In order to maintain the site in good condition, routine maintenance programs should continue cyclic maintenance of the landscape.

This includes the recognition of the difference between intentionally planted vegetation and weeds, the careful removal of ivy and other vines from deliberately planted trees and shrubs, and the removal of weeds and saplings from the ivy and shrub beds and lawn areas. Proper maintenance also includes the replacement in-kind of vegetation as needed, and the prevention of the encroachment of the woods into areas maintained as lawns and meadows. To maintain existing vegetation, proper pruning during the right time of year is crucial. For instance, the proper time to prune tea roses back to 4-5 strong canes is during their dormant season.

Areas on site that are affected by erosion, should be noted, monitored, and maintained in a timely fashion to make sure that further damage to the surrounds is not exacerbated by neglect. Among these areas are the points on the slopes (two on the west side and one on the east side) where water from the roof of the caretaker's cottage is piped and released, and those areas adjacent to the entrance drive where stormwater flows into lawn areas.

Maintaining the site also includes the clearing and maintenance of storm drains, downspouts, outlets, and catch basins.

It is essential to evaluate contractor maintenance techniques on a periodic basis to ensure that the practices they use are appropriate for the landscape. Contract specifications should be evaluated and re-written, if necessary, to ensure that contractors are aware of the schedule and actions necessary to maintain the vegetation in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 01/14/2002

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Verbal approval of condition was given by NACE for the condition assessment on 9/30/02. Written approval of the concurrence will follow in October 2002.

Stabilization Measures:

Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is requesting funding for a comprehensive stormwater management plan, which will prescribe actions necessary to manage water on the site. Funds are also sought to finance interpretation of the cultural landscape of the property.

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The vegetation requires routine pruning, pest management and replacement and weeding.
Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Some spot erosion degrades quality of terraces on property.
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Severe weather may damage vegetative and structural resources on-site.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Inappropriate maintenance practices have severely damage resources. The use of chainsaws to remove ivy from trees, and the use of weed whackers to weed or trim ivy have been seen on-site and are considered unacceptable practices. Mower height must be monitored (perhaps by raising the blades) to minimize the gouging of slopes already prone to erosion. Raising the blades will also lessen the bare ground effect caused when mower blades are configured to too low of a setting. Distinction between weeds and deliberately planted vegetation, and proper pruning techniques and timing is also imperative to maintaining vegetation in good condition.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal

Impact Description: Its intended installation as an erosion control measure is not effective and is in fact exacerbating erosion on this slope. The ivy should be removed and some other anti-erosion methods should be implemented.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Restoration

Approved Treatment Document: Other Document

Document Date: 05/01/1976

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The Craven Reeves Landscape Restoration Plan of 1976 was prepared to instruct site managers on how to restore the landscape to its historic configuration to provide better interpretation of the life of Frederick Douglass. It is the most recent document in existence that is intended to guide the restoration of the historic landscape. The plan was designed to be installed in two phases; phase one was completed in the late 1970s and phase two was to be completed after the removal of the caretaker's cottage. Reeves made recommendations for the driveway, sidewalks, steps, structures, planting beds, outbuildings, fences, a trellis, the well, the caretaker's house, HVAC units, a drinking fountain, planting, the orchard, the back lawn, garden furniture, and lighting. The report also includes lists of historic plant material. Reeves recommended that landscape maintenance methods practiced, and tools used during the historic period should be implemented on-site as part of interpretation of the historic period. Many of the Reeves recommendations were implemented after the report was issued. Notable recommendations not yet realized on site are the removal of the caretaker's cottage, the reconstruction of the grape arbor, the trellis, and the planting of the orchard, among others. Although phase one of the 1976 plantings was completed by 1978, those that died since have not been replaced.

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 05/01/1976

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- Citation Author:** Callum, Agnes Kane
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Year of Publication: 1968
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- Citation Author:** Gardner, William A., Gluckman, Stephan J., Fanale, Rosalie,
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Year of Publication: 1972
Citation Publisher: USDI/NPS
- Citation Author:** Gluckman, Stephan J.
Citation Title: Memo to Dr. John Cotter, NE Regional Office.
Year of Publication: 1972
- Citation Author:** Herron, John G
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Citation Publisher: USDI/NPS

- Citation Author:** Hinds, James R.
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Citation Publisher: USDI/NPS
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Citation Publisher: Windsor Publications
- Citation Author:** Stevens, Rebecca
Citation Title: List of Classified Structures: Frederick Douglass Home, Chicken Coop Ruins
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Citation Publisher: NPS
- Citation Author:** Stevens, Rebecca
Citation Title: List of Classified Structures: Frederick Douglass Home, Caretaker's Cottage
Year of Publication: 2006
Citation Publisher: NPS

Citation Author: Stevens, Rebecca
Citation Title: List of Classified Structures: Frederick Douglass Home, Carriage House Ruins
Year of Publication: 2006
Citation Publisher: NPS

Citation Author: Stevens, Rebecca
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Year of Publication: 2006
Citation Publisher: NPS

Citation Author: Unknown
Citation Title: Washington D.C.: A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary, Anacostia Historic District.
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Citation Publisher: NPS

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Van Hook Place, Uniontown, D.C., Plat of, 1877 (Series: Subject File)
<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/>

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Year of Publication: 2003
Citation Publisher: National Parks Conservation Association

Citation Author: Unknown
Citation Title: National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form
Year of Publication: 1969
Citation Publisher: NPS

Citation Author: Ziek, Robin D.
Citation Title: Archeological Investigations on the Grounds of The Frederick Douglass Memorial Home, Anacostia, D. C.
Year of Publication: 1981
Citation Publisher: USDI/NPS

Supplemental Information

Title: Evening Star Photograph by I. Pidgeon of the back of the Douglass Home
Description: Provided by the Washingtoniana Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. library of Washington, D.C.