



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT**Interpretive Signage**

Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site
1538 9th Street, NW
Washington, DC

NCPC FILE NUMBER

7330

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER

31.20(38.00)43489

SUBMITTED BY

National Park Service

ACTION TAKEN

Preliminary and final approval of
site development plans

REVIEW AUTHORITY

Approval
per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The National Park Service (NPS) has requested preliminary and final approval of site plans for the installation of two interpretive signs at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, located at 1538 9th Street, NW. Carter G. Woodson is considered to be the father of black history month and the founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Currently, information on the site is provided eight blocks away at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site at 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW. The disjunction between the Woodson home and the information display makes it difficult for visitors to understand the site's significance. Placement of the signs directly in front of the home will provide a direct link for visitors to understand the site's significance.

The two signs will be situated on the sidewalk in front of the Woodson home and the future visitor center, which will be located next door at 1540 9th Street, NW. One sign will be located in front of the Woodson home and one will be located in front of 1540 9th Street, NW. The signs will be approximately 3 feet by 2 feet and they will be placed in public space as the façades of the buildings sit on the property line. The signs will adhere to NPS signage standards and be mounted on a steel tube frame with the panels angled toward the reader so that they will be approximately 4 feet in height at the tallest point.

Pursuant to its regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NPS submitted a categorical exclusion determination (DO 12 C.5). The categorical exclusion NPS is relying upon applies to the "installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.", subject to the condition that no exceptional circumstances exist. With the categorical exclusion, NPS submitted an Assessment of Effect for the project's impact to cultural resources. The project qualifies for a streamlined Section 106 review under Section III of the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA). This PA was established in order to streamline the Section 106 review for routine activities related to the operation, management, and administration of NPS facilities. The installation of signs at the Woodson home meets the criteria of the PA, and NPS determined the project would have no adverse effect on historic properties.

NCPC staff has independently reviewed the project information and has determined that the project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(C)(2) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. Prior to applying this categorical exclusion,

NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA procedures. NCPC concurs with the NPS determination of no adverse effect to historic properties.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its December 14, 2011 meeting, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies, except NCPC. The representative for NCPC withheld coordination pending correspondence from the District Department of Transportation that it does not foresee any issues related to the location of the proposed signage in public space. Noting its coordination on the project, DDOT has indicated that it does not anticipate any issues. The participating agencies were the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

* * *

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site plans for the installation of two interpretive signs at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Historic Site located at 1538 9th Street, NW in Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 31.20(38.00)43489.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

[Date]