

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*Codification
District of
Columbia
Official Code*

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To designate the triangular park located at the intersection of 9th Street, N.W., Q Street, N.W., and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Reservation 157, in Ward 2, as the Carter G. Woodson Memorial Park.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Carter G. Woodson Memorial Park Designation Act of 2001".

Sec. 2. Findings.

(a) Carter Godwin Woodson, the father of African American history, was born on December 19, 1875, in New Canton, Virginia. The son of former slaves, Dr. Woodson worked as a coal miner in his youth to supplement his family's income.

(b) Carter G. Woodson earned undergraduate degrees from Berea College in Kentucky and the University of Chicago, where he also earned a master's degree. He added to his knowledge of foreign languages while working as an educator in the Philippines and studying at the Sorbonne in Paris. In 1912, Dr. Woodson became the second African American to earn a doctoral degree from Harvard University.

(c) Carter G. Woodson first came to Washington, D.C., in 1909 to have access to the Library of Congress during the preparation of his doctoral dissertation. While working on his dissertation, he taught English, Spanish, and French at M Street High School (now Dunbar High School). Dr. Woodson later became the principal of Armstrong Manual Training School. At Howard University, he taught history, served as the dean of the School of Liberal Arts, and headed the graduate faculty. He retired from teaching in 1922 to devote his energies exclusively to the promotion of African American history.

(d) After years of study and teaching, Carter G. Woodson was concerned about the lack of knowledge and availability of accurate information on the history of the African American experience. To counter this, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) in 1915, which was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in the District of Columbia. In 1916, he established *The Journal of Negro History*. Dr. Woodson also founded the Associated

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Publishers, Inc., in 1921 to publish *The Journal of Negro History*, various books, and *The Negro History Bulletin*, which began publication in 1937.

(e) Carter G. Woodson wrote 3 of the earliest books on the subject of African American History, *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861* (1915), *A Century of Negro Migration* (1918), and *The Negro in Our History* (1922). He authored or edited 19 other books, in addition to his contributions to the "Journal" and "Bulletin".

(f) In 1926, Carter G. Woodson established "Negro History Week", to be celebrated nationally during the second week of February, to focus the attention of the general public on African American history. Fifty years later, in 1976, this week-long observance was expanded to the entire month of February, becoming Black History Month. This nationwide annual celebration, also known as African American History Month, continues to be observed to this day.

(g) Carter G. Woodson made his home and office at 1538 9th Street, N.W., from 1922 until he died there on April 3, 1950. That building, which is listed on the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places, stands less than one-half block from the park that has been chosen to bear his name. Dr. Woodson walked past the park daily on his way to take meals at the Phyllis Wheatley Club Y.W.C.A., located at 901 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., directly across from the park. The park is also less than one block away from Shiloh Baptist Church, located at 1500 9th Street, N.W., of which he was a longtime and active member, and where his funeral services were held. It is therefore fitting that this park should be named in Dr. Woodson's honor.

Sec. 3. Pursuant to section 401 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01) ("the Act"), the Council of the District of Columbia designates the triangular park located at the intersection of 9th Street, N.W., Q Street, N.W., and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., (Reservation 157), as the "Carter G. Woodson Memorial Park."

Note,
§ 9-204.01

Sec. 4. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 5. The Secretary to the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, after it becomes effective, to the Surveyor of the District of Columbia, who shall record in the Office of the Surveyor, "Carter G. Woodson Memorial Park" as the name of the park located in the 900 blocks of Rhode Island Avenue, N.W. and Q Street, N.W.

Sec. 6. This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), approval by the Financial

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Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority as provided in section 203(a) of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995, approved April 17, 1995 (109 Stat. 116; D.C. Official Code § 47-392.03(a)), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia