

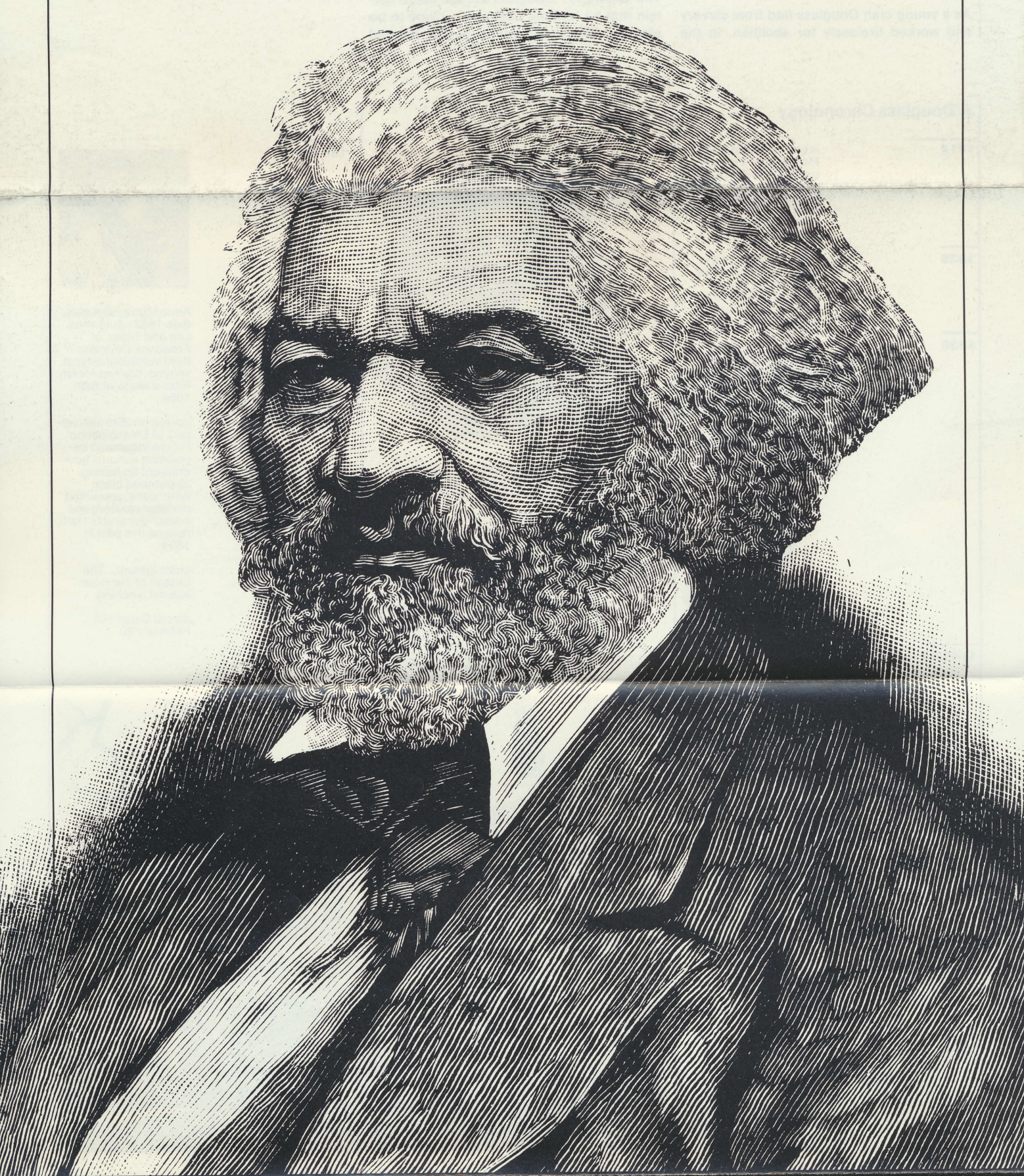
Frederick Douglass Home

Washington, DC

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

"To those who have suffered in slavery I can say, I, too, have suffered . . . to those who have battled for liberty, brotherhood, and citizenship I can say, I, too, have battled."



Welcome to Cedar Hill, the home of Frederick Douglass. A little more than a century ago Frederick Douglass, one of the most commanding figures in America's battle for equal rights, came to live in Washington, D.C. This black American and former slave lived at Cedar Hill, a beautiful Victorian home on the heights overlooking Anacostia with a view of the U.S. Capitol. Douglass, who never attended school, was wholly self-educated and became an eloquent spokesman for oppressed people, black and white.

As a young man Douglass fled from slavery and worked tirelessly for abolition. In the

years following the Civil War, he was the conscience of national politicians, never failing to remind them of the promises that they had made to the country's black citizens. As an advocate of women's rights, he was one of the first to join the movement, urging women to remember that blacks, like women, knew what it was to be without a political voice. And in his final years at Cedar Hill, he continued the reading and writing that was so important to his life's work.

The Growlery: Douglass always made certain that he had the time and a place to be alone to think and work in peace. He had

two places for this: a library in the main house and a small, one-room structure he called the "Growlery," which stood a short distance behind the main house. The Growlery was a special spot for Douglass. Inside could be found a large fireplace in which a few logs usually burned, a desk filled with books and papers, and a leather couch where he could stretch out to ponder or rest. The Growlery was reconstructed in 1981 and is now open to the public.

A Douglass Chronology

1818

is born in Talbot County, Maryland, in February, exact date unknown; son of a slave woman and unknown white man; is christened Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey

1836

is hired out as a carpenter to a Baltimore shipbuilder; meets many of Baltimore's free blacks, among them Anna Murray

1838

leaves Baltimore in September to go to freedom in the North; marries Anna Murray in New York City; settles in New Bedford, Mass., at end of month and adopts surname of Douglass, taken from Sir Walter Scott's *Lady of the Lake*



1841-47

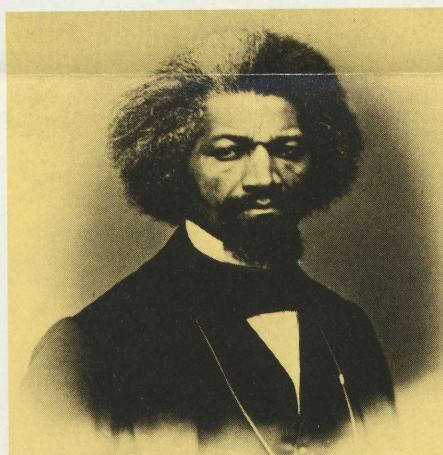
becomes prominent in abolition movement and friend of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison; gives lectures throughout New England and New York; publishes *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* in 1845; in August leaves for Europe to escape slave hunters now that he and his owner are revealed in his autobiography; English friends purchase his freedom December 12, 1846; returns to United States a national figure; begins publication of the *North Star*, later renamed *Frederick Douglass' Paper*, in Rochester, New York, in 1847

1855

publishes *My Bondage and My Freedom*, second autobiographical volume

1863

in wake of Emancipation Proclamation issues his "Men of Color, to Arms!" urging free blacks to volunteer for the U.S. Army; meets with President Abraham Lincoln on treatment of black soldiers



1868

works for election of Ulysses S. Grant as President and again in 1872

1872-81

moves to Washington, D.C., and purchases house at 316 A Street, NE; purchases Cedar Hill, 1877; and breaks "whites only" covenant in doing so; becomes U.S. Marshal of District of Columbia in 1877; becomes recorder of deeds for District of Columbia in 1881

1881-84



Anna Murray Douglass dies, 1882; publishes *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, third autobiographical volume; marries Helen Pitts, a white woman, 1884

1889

speaks on 26th anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation and denounces national government for having abandoned black Americans; appointed minister-resident and consul-general to Haiti; resigns this post in 1891

1894

gives lecture, "The Lesson of the Hour," against lynching

1895

dies at Cedar Hill, February 20



Cedar Hill

After Douglass's death in 1895, his second wife, Helen Pitts Douglass, spared no effort in preserving Cedar Hill intact as a memorial to him. The Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, which she organized in 1900, joined forces with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs in 1916 to open the house to visitors. In 1962 the National Park Service was entrusted with the care of the house and its continued preservation was assured.

The Visitor Center: Tours of Frederick Douglass Home begin at the visitor center, which contains exhibits and audiovisual programs

that reflect Douglass's life and work. A small sales area stocks publications and other items pertaining to Douglass. Public restrooms with facilities for the handicapped are also located here. Parking is available adjacent to the building. Organized groups should contact the Frederick Douglass Home for tour reservations in advance. Call 426-5960 or 426-5961.

How to Reach Cedar Hill: Frederick Douglass Home can best be reached by crossing the 11th Street Bridge. Go south on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue to W Street. Turn left and continue four blocks to the visitor

center parking lot. If you come via I-295, use the Pennsylvania Avenue Exit. Go east two blocks to Minnesota Avenue. Turn right on Good Hope Road, then turn left at 14th Street and continue to W Street. The house is open daily except January 1 and December 25.

Administration: Frederick Douglass Home is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The superintendent's address is National Capital Parks East, 1900 Anacostia Drive, SE, Washington, D.C. 20020.