

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: City of Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Ellen Glasgow House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Branch-Glasgow House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1 West Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE: Virginia 23220      CODE:      COUNTY: City of Richmond      CODE:     

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Mrs. John W. Riley, President  
Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2705 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE:     

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
10th and Broad Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE:     

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/3

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1st Street and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Washington,      STATE: D.C.      CODE:     

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ellen Glasgow House is a two-story, rectangular brick structure with a hipped roof and interior chimneys. Its three-bay front is faced with stucco, and has a single-story entrance porch with two Greek Doric columns. The house was built in 1841 for David M. Branch, in a style which is transitional between Federal and Greek Revival. It was the residence of the novelist Ellen Glasgow from 1887 to 1945. A rectangular ell was added to the rear of the house in approximately 1900. A carriage house stands behind this extension.

The interior of the house is designed around a central hallway. Double parlors are to the right of the entrance. To the left are a library and dining room connected by sliding doors. In the rear of the dining room, a doorway leads into the extension, which contains the pantry, kitchen, and servant's quarters.

A veranda extends across the rear of the original portion of the house. The garden is sparsely planted, but is little changed in outlay, except that the carriage house has been enclosed by a picket fence.

Upstairs, two large rooms are on each side of the hall. The northwest room is a study in which Miss Glasgow did most of her creative work. The southeast chamber was her bedroom. Both rooms retain the wallpaper which she imported from England.

Structurally, the property is virtually unchanged since Miss Glasgow's time. The major exception is the carriage house, which has been remodeled on the interior to serve as an office. Changes to the main house include: replacement of wooden floors with linoleum tile in the basement and in some of the rooms in the extension; the exchange of a marble mantle, formerly in the basement, with a wooden one, originally in the extension; and the repainting of all rooms except Miss Glasgow's bedroom and upstairs study.

Only a few of the novelist's furnishings remain: a gilt-edged mirror, a refrigerator, a collection of china dogs, and several framed honorary degrees. The chandelier in the front parlor belonged to the original owner of the house, but was not used by Miss Glasgow, and was returned to the house subsequent to her residency.

The property is owned by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. It is administered by the William Byrd Branch of the APVA. The house is leased to the University Center in Virginia, Inc., an academic services organization, which uses the library and dining room as its offices. The President of the University Center resides in the bedroom and study formerly used by Miss Glasgow. The other upstairs bedrooms serve as lodgings for students. The University Center allows interested members of the public to visit the interior of the house on a restricted basis.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                |              |                                     |                |                          |                 |                          |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal     | Education    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric    | Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Religion/Phi-  |                          | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic       | Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | losophy        | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |                          |
| Agriculture    | Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Science        | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |                          |
| Art            | Landscape    |                                     | Sculpture      | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |                          |
| Commerce       | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Social/Human-  |                          | _____           |                          |
| Communications | Literature   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | itarian        | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |                          |
| Conservation   | Military     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Theater        | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |                          |
|                | Music        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |                          |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Ellen Glasgow is among the most significant of this nation's twentieth century novelists. Her works, such as Barren Ground and The Romantic Comedians have a scope, wit and realism which give them enduring interest and which made them an influence on the development of American letters. All except one of her nineteen novels are set in Virginia, and together they comprise a social history of that state from the 1850's through the writer's own times. Her primary concern, however, was not the manners of a region, but rather human nature itself. The theme which unifies her work is the survival of essential values in the face of adversity, pretension, and change. The house at One West Main Street was almost continuously her home from girlhood until her death in 1945. In its relatively unchanged condition, it commemorates her life and the urban millieu which some of her best novels depicted.

Biographical Sketch

Ellen Glasgow was born in Richmond in 1873. She was a delicate child, and received much of her education at home. In 1888, her family moved to the residence at One West Main Street. Miss Glasgow began writing while still very young, but destroyed her earliest full-length manuscript. Her first published novel appeared in 1897. Although her realism ran counter to the popular taste of the era in which she began her career, Miss Glasgow quickly achieved a wide audience. Early critical reception of her work was generally favorable, although it was not until the publication of Barren Ground in 1925 that she became known as one of the major writers of her time.

With the appearance of The Sheltered Life in 1932, Miss Glasgow reached the peak of her reputation. In This Our Life was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the best novel for 1941. Perhaps as a reaction to the adulation which it received during her lifetime, Miss Glasgow's work suffered a period of relative neglect after her death in 1945, although it continued to be the object of serious scholarship. A revival of interest in her as a personality occurred in 1954, with the publication of her autobiography, The Woman Within. While estimations of Miss Glasgow's fiction vary, she is clearly a major literary figure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Glasgow, Ellen, The Woman Within, New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1954.  
 Historic American Buildings Survey.  
 McDowell, Frederick P.W., Ellen Glasgow and the Ironic Art of Fiction,  
 Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1960.  
 Rouse, Blair, Ellen Glasgow, New York: Twayne Publishers, Inc. 1962.  
 Also Consulted  
 Hoffman, Frederick J., The Modern Novel in America, 1900-1950, Chicago:  
 Henry Regnory Company, 1951.  
 Spiller, Robert, et al, Literary History of the US, NY: Macmillan Company,  
 1960.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37 32 34	77 26 42	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Edmund Preston, Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and  
 Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE 11/16/70

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 801 - 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, STATE D.C. CODE

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY City of Richmond	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance: Ellen Glasgow House

The critic J. Donald Adams has written:

"I ... rank her among the best we Americans have produced. In one respect she stands pre-eminent. She is the wittiest novelist in our history, bar none, and one of the best stylists ..."<sup>1</sup>

Although she travelled frequently, and sojourned for a time in New York, the house at One West Main Street was Miss Glasgow's home throughout her productive life. As she remarks in her autobiography: "This is the square gray house ... where I have written all my books, with the exception of Life and Gabriella."<sup>2</sup>

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1. Rouse, Blair, Ellen Glasgow, p. 138
  2. Glasgow, Ellen, The Woman Within, p. 26