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# Chapter 2: Site History

## 1 Introduction

2 This chapter consists of a history of George  
3 Washington Carver National Monument with  
4 accompanying chronology, an evaluation of the  
5 significance of the property, and a series of period  
6 plans illustrating the character and features  
7 present on the site at key points throughout its  
8 history. This chapter provides background to the  
9 comparative analysis of historic and existing  
10 landscape conditions and the assessment of the  
11 site's historic integrity provided in the next  
12 chapter. Together, these sections support an  
13 understanding of what resources are character-  
14 defining for the historic landscape, support its  
15 significance, and relate to the important themes  
16 and contexts that connect the national monument  
17 to local, state, and national trends in history and  
18 design.

## 19 Initial Settlement of the 20 Moses Carver Farm

21 The first settlers of European descent arrived in  
22 Newton County, Missouri, in 1830. Sometime later  
23 in that decade, Moses Carver, his wife Susan, and  
24 his brothers George and Richard and their families  
25 arrived from Sangamon County, Illinois.<sup>25</sup> The  
26 Carvers settled approximately 2-1/2 miles

27 southwest of the present-day village of Diamond  
28 in Newton County.<sup>26</sup>

29 The region in southwest Missouri in which the  
30 Carvers settled is located on the western edge of  
31 the Ozarks in the Springfield Plain. Prior to the  
32 arrival of Euro-American settlers, the area was  
33 home to the Osage tribe.<sup>27</sup>

34 Upon arriving in Newton County, the Carver  
35 family is likely to have constructed a small log  
36 cabin. The homestead was included on an 1841  
37 plat map prepared by the U.S. General Land  
38 Office. The map noted three cabins and two large  
39 fields, approximately 20 to 30 acres in size, on the  
40 property at that date.<sup>28</sup>

41 The Carver family acquired title to the land under  
42 the right of preemption. This policy, which  
43 President James Madison extended to what was  
44 then the Missouri territory in 1814, allowed those  
45 living in the region the opportunity to purchase up  
46 to 160 acres of public land at a price of \$2 per  
47 acre.<sup>29</sup> This allowed settlers to occupy and farm  
48 the land prior to it being surveyed by the U.S.  
49 General Land Office. While Moses Carver settled  
50 the land in the 1830s, it was not until 1841 that the  
51 land was surveyed. As a result, it was not until  
52 1843 that portions of the land on which Carver  
53 had settled were made available for purchase. On

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25. Jason H. Gart, *He Shall Direct Thy Paths: The Early Life of George W. Carver, Historic Resource Study* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2014), 9–11.

26. John Harrington, Susan Haswell, and Evelyn Howell, with Arnold Alanen, *Springs of Genius: An Integrated Management Plan for George Washington Carver National Monument, Diamond, Missouri* (Madison,

Wisconsin: Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin, 1999), 57.

27. Ibid., 10.

28. Harrington et al., 58.

29. Gart, *He Shall Direct Thy Paths*, 14–15, citing R. Douglas Hurt, *Agriculture and Slavery in Missouri's Little Dixie* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1992), 43–44.

1 June, 1 1845, ownership of 160 acres of land was  
2 finally transferred from the federal government to  
3 Moses Carver.<sup>30</sup>

4 Moses Carver further expanded his land holdings  
5 in 1844, when he obtained 40 acres from his  
6 brother Richard for \$50.<sup>31</sup> In 1853, Moses Carver  
7 received a patent for an additional 40 acres of land  
8 from the U.S. General Land Office. Following  
9 these acquisitions, Moses Carver owned 240 acres  
10 of land, comprising portions of two sections.<sup>32</sup>

11 Moses Carver and his family began farming their  
12 holdings shortly after they first settled in  
13 southwest Missouri in the 1830s. The largest crop  
14 cultivated on the farm throughout the 1840s and  
15 1850s was corn. In addition to farming, Carver  
16 owned cattle, horses, mules, sheep, pigs, and oxen.  
17 A walnut grove and apple orchard were also  
18 present on the Carver property.<sup>33</sup> The walnut  
19 grove included more than 500 trees by the 1880s.<sup>34</sup>

20 Beginning in the 1840s, as Moses Carver gained  
21 title to the land he settled, improvements were  
22 made to the farm. While the extent of the  
23 construction undertaken by the Carver family at  
24 this time is unknown, it is likely additional  
25 structures such as outhouses, stock sheds and  
26 pens, smokehouses, and a barn were constructed  
27 as the farming operations grew.<sup>35</sup>

28 **The Carver Family Cemetery.** The Carvers  
29 established a small family cemetery on their  
30 property. Although the date of origin is not  
31 presently known, one of the graves marked in the

32 cemetery is that of Charity Dunn, who reportedly  
33 died in 1835. It is not clear, however, whether the  
34 Carver family had arrived in Newton County by  
35 this time, or if Dunn's death and burial at the  
36 cemetery predated their arrival.<sup>36</sup> The small  
37 graveyard is believed to have been originally  
38 surrounded by a dry stone wall constructed by  
39 Moses Carver.<sup>37</sup> In total, twenty-one known  
40 gravesites including those of Moses, Susan,  
41 Richard, and George Carver were established in  
42 the cemetery in the years 1835–1919.

### 43 **Slavery at the Moses Carver Farm**

44 Slavery was common in Missouri from the time of  
45 French and Spanish settlement until the U.S. Civil  
46 War. By 1860, slaves comprised 10 percent of the  
47 state's population overall, and up to 25 percent in  
48 counties along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers  
49 where larger plantations existed. In contrast, in  
50 southwestern Missouri, slaveholdings were  
51 typically quite small, with many only having  
52 possession of one slave. If a property only held one  
53 slave, that person was commonly a woman or girl  
54 who could work in both the house and the farm  
55 field. Although individual slaves in such a situation  
56 may have been somewhat socially isolated  
57 compared to slaves on large plantations, there  
58 were many opportunities for slaves from adjacent  
59 farms to interact at work events, church services,  
60 and social gatherings.<sup>38</sup> It was typical for slaves to  
61 work alongside their owners in farming the land,  
62 while also serving as household servants.<sup>39</sup> It was  
63 not uncommon for orphaned slave children to be  
64 raised in the farm household. Nor was it

30. Ibid., 16 citing Charles W. Porter III, "Report on an Investigation of George Washington Carver's Birthplace at the Old 'Diamond Grove' Plantation Near Diamond, Newton County, Missouri," February 24-March 5, 1943, 14, Boxes 187–188, George Washington Carver National Monument, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service-Region II Omaha, NARA-Central Plains (Kansas City).

31. Ibid.

32. Ibid.

33. Ibid., 16–18.

34. Ibid., 18, citing Porter, 9.

35. Ibid., 19.

36. Ibid., 8.

37. Robert P. Fuller, "Report on Project #4: Moses Carver and His Family" (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, George Washington Carver National Monument Park, October 18, 1955), 2.

38. Diane Krahe and Theodore Catton, *George Washington Carver National Monument Administrative History* (National Park Service, 2014), 21–23.

39. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 27, citing Diane Mutti Burke, *On Slavery's Border: Missouri Small-Slaveholding Households, 1815–1865* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2010), 131.

1 uncommon in the years immediately after the Civil  
2 War for emancipated slaves to remain at the same  
3 farm while they considered their new  
4 opportunities.<sup>40</sup>

5 In October 1855, with operations expanding and  
6 the farm becoming more prosperous, Moses and  
7 Susan Carver purchased a 13-year-old enslaved  
8 African American girl named Mary for \$700.  
9 Under the ownership of the Carvers, Mary was  
10 likely responsible for cooking, cleaning, washing  
11 clothes, and sewing, as well as farm-related tasks  
12 such as feeding livestock and maintaining  
13 gardens.<sup>41</sup>

14 In October 1859, Mary gave birth to a son, James.<sup>42</sup>  
15 The identity of James's father is unknown. Mary  
16 gave birth to a second son, George, circa 1865.<sup>43</sup>  
17 While the identity of George Washington Carver's  
18 father is not known, some including George  
19 believe his father was a slave owned by James  
20 Grant, a farmer from nearby Buffalo Township.<sup>44</sup>  
21 In addition to George and James, there is  
22 speculation that Mary also gave birth to two or  
23 three daughters while a slave of the Carvers.<sup>45</sup>

24 Mary and her children resided in a slave cabin that  
25 was likely near the home of Moses and Susan  
26 Carver. In the 1940s, Moses Carver's nephew,  
27 Tom Williams, described the cabin as follows:

28 [F]aced east with a single window in the west  
29 and a chimney on the north. It was built of  
30 hewn oak logs perhaps six inches through,  
31 notched at the ends and fitted together, the  
32 cracks then being filled with clay or chinking.  
33 The door was a plank door with wooden  
34 hinges . . . . The roof was of clapboards. The  
35 chimney was built of rock up to the

36 mantelpiece and of sticks and clay from there.  
37 The sticks were about two and one half inches  
38 in diameter.<sup>46</sup>

39 In 1865, prior to the conclusion of the Civil War,  
40 Mary and George were abducted from the Carver  
41 farm. Moses Carver sent John Bentley to recover  
42 Mary and George in return for 40 acres of land  
43 and a racehorse. While Bentley was able to locate  
44 George in Arkansas, he was unable to find Mary.  
45 George was suffering from whooping cough when  
46 he was discovered by Bentley. While various  
47 sources note that Mary was sold in Arkansas,  
48 others report that she died of pneumonia. Since  
49 Bentley only found George, he declined the land  
50 offered to him and only accepted the racehorse as  
51 payment.<sup>47</sup>

## 52 Emancipation

53 Although the Emancipation Proclamation, which  
54 was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on  
55 January 1, 1863, freed enslaved persons in  
56 Confederate-held lands, it did not free those slaves  
57 in the states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland,  
58 Missouri, Tennessee, or the portions of Virginia  
59 that were to become West Virginia. Slaves in  
60 Missouri were not emancipated until the State  
61 constitutional convention on January 18, 1865.  
62 Mary and James thus remained slaves after the  
63 Emancipation Proclamation was issued, while  
64 George was born just as the legal practice of  
65 slavery was ending. After the constitutional  
66 convention some slaves were driven off their  
67 former owners' lands, while others were not told  
68 they were now free. Other slaves remained as paid  
69 laborers.<sup>48</sup>

40. Krahe and Catton, 23, citing Burke, 148, 300.

41. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 37, citing Burke, 135–138.

42. Ibid., 32. James's birthdate is taken from the information on his grave marker erected at the time of his death in 1873.

43. The birth of George Washington Carver was not recorded and as a result the exact year of his birth is not known. For this study, a birth year of 1865 has been assumed based on the findings of the *Historic Resource Study*. See Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft).

44. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 35.

45. Ibid., 33.

46. Ibid., 38, citing Paul L. Beaubien and Merrill J. Mattes, "George Washington Carver National Monument: The Archeological Search for George Washington Carver's Birthplace," *Negro History Bulletin* 18, no. 2 (November 1954), 35.

47. Ibid., 46.

48. Ibid., 48, citing Burke, 301–303.

After emancipation, James and George, who were both young children and without parents, remained on the farm with Moses and Susan Carver.<sup>49</sup>

## The Moses Carver Farm after the Civil War

George Washington Carver lived on the Moses Carver farm from his birth until circa 1876. After emancipation, James and George initially remained in the former slave quarters, where they had resided with their mother. By 1870, census documents suggest that they shared this living space with Nickles Holt, Sr., an 88-year-old farmer from Tennessee, and his son or grandson, 14-year-old Nickles Holt, Jr.<sup>50</sup>

The Carver farm continued to be prosperous following the Civil War and through the 1870s, with corn, potatoes, oats, and rye being cultivated. In addition, a number of livestock were present on the farm. James and George worked as farm laborers during their time living on the farm. George, whose health was poor, participated in less physically demanding tasks, such as carrying water or preparing logs.<sup>51</sup>

In addition to his farm-related tasks, George Washington Carver's interest in nature was developed during his time on the farm as he explored the Carver property collecting various flowers and insects. During his early years on the farm, he also learned to read. Looking back at his childhood on the farm Dr. George Washington Carver noted, "Day after day I spent in the woods alone in order to collect my floral beauties and put them in my little garden I had hidden in brush not far from the house."<sup>52</sup>

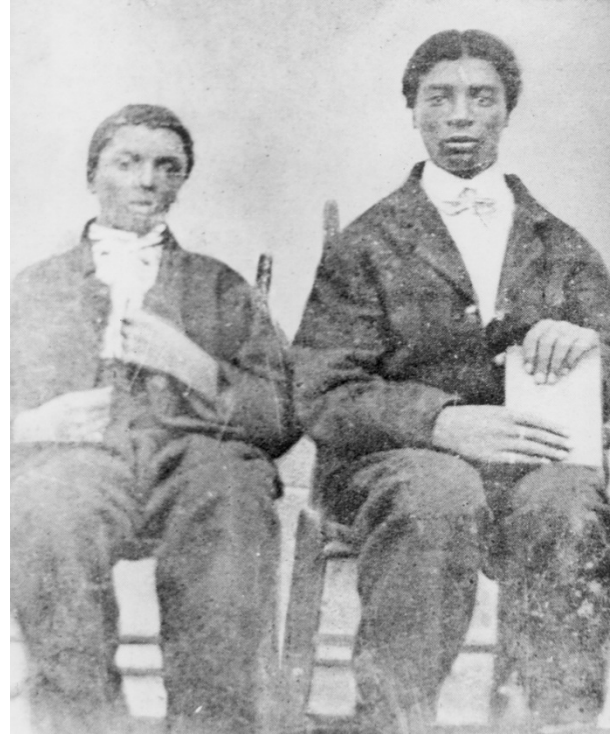
49. Ibid., 48.

50. Ibid., 53, citing "Moses Carver," 1870 U.S. Census, Marion, Newton, Missouri, 24, dwelling 169, Record Group 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census, NARA-DC.

51. Ibid., 56–57.

52. Ibid., 61, citing "A Sketch of His Early Life Written by George W. Carver in 1897 or Thereabouts for Mrs. W. A. Liston and Miss

In the 1870s, George and James briefly attended the Locust Grove School, which met at the Locust Grove Church, approximately one mile from the Moses Carver farm (Figure 10). Their time at the school was short, as the brothers learned they could not continue their studies due to their race.<sup>53</sup>



**FIGURE 10.** George and James Carver, circa 1870s. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection.

## George Washington Carver Leaves the Moses Carver Farm

In 1876, George Washington Carver, approximately 11 years old, was permitted by Moses and Susan Carver to attend the Neosho Colored School in nearby Neosho, Missouri (Figure 11). The Neosho Colored School was a school for African Americans located on the outskirts of Neosho near the small town of

Etta M. Budd," Reel I, Frame 0007, Microfilm 17,416, The George Washington Carver Papers in the Tuskegee Institute Archives, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

53. Ibid., 78, citing Gary R. Kremer, *George Washington Carver: A Biography* (Santa Barbara: Greenwood, 2011), 8–9.

1 Neosho City.<sup>54</sup> The school occupied a house at  
 2 639 Young Street, in a neighborhood with a  
 3 concentration of African American residents.  
 4 Founded in 1872, the Neosho Colored School  
 5 ceased operating in 1891, when students moved to  
 6 the newly constructed Lincoln School.<sup>55</sup>



7 **FIGURE 11.** George Washington Carver, circa 1876.  
 8 Source: George Washington Carver National  
 9 Monument Photo Collection.

10 Shortly before George left the farm to enroll in the  
 11 school, his brother James, 16 at the time, left for  
 12 Fayetteville, Arkansas, before returning to  
 13 Diamond and attending the school in Neosho with  
 14 George. James continued to stay with the Carver  
 15 family during this time, riding his horse to school

16 each day.<sup>56</sup> It is not known how long James  
 17 remained at the school. Eventually, James worked  
 18 as a plasterer or laborer for a railroad company in  
 19 Seneca, Missouri. He died in 1883 from smallpox  
 20 at the age of 23.<sup>57</sup>

21 Not long after enrolling at the school in Neosho,  
 22 George began residing in the home of Andrew and  
 23 Mariah Watkins, a middle-aged African American  
 24 couple who owned a home next door to the  
 25 school. Carver initially stayed with them during  
 26 the week, but eventually came to remain with them  
 27 on weekends as well. George Washington  
 28 Carver's enrollment in the Neosho Colored  
 29 School marked the end of his time on the Moses  
 30 Carver farm.<sup>58</sup> George reportedly returned on  
 31 several occasions to visit the Carvers. While it is  
 32 known that George Washington Carver visited the  
 33 farm in the fall of 1884, there is evidence that he  
 34 also returned during the summers of 1879, 1880, or  
 35 1881, prior to the death of Susan Carver in January  
 36 1882.<sup>59</sup>

37 Refer to Figure 12, period plan of the Moses  
 38 Carver farm, circa 1865–1876.

### 39 **George Washington Carver in Later** 40 **Years**

41 In 1878, George Washington Carver left Neosho  
 42 for Fort Scott, Kansas. Carver moved between  
 43 Kansas and Missouri over the next few years  
 44 before settling in Minneapolis, Kansas, where he  
 45 graduated high school.<sup>60</sup>

46 Carver attended Simpson College and Iowa  
 47 Agricultural College and Model farm (now Iowa  
 48 State University) between 1890 and 1896. During  
 49 this time, Carver received a bachelor of agriculture  
 50 degree, and a master of science degree in  
 51 agriculture. Following completion of his master's

54. Ibid., 82. Neosho City was also referred to as Martling, New Neosho, North Neosho, and Newtown. The town was incorporated into Neosho in 1881.

55. Susan Richards Johnson & Associates, *Historic Structure Report: 1872 Neosho Colored School* (National Park Service, George Washington Carver National Monument, July 17, 2012), 15–17, 38.

56. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 81–82.

57. Ibid., 101.

58. Ibid., 81–86.

59. Harrington et al., 6, citing Linda O. McMurtry, *George Washington Carver: Scientist and Symbol* (Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, 1981), 9, 50.

60. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 88–104.

degree, Carver joined the faculty of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute at the request of the school's president, Booker T. Washington. Carver became head of the newly formed agricultural department. Washington, like Carver, was born into slavery. Washington graduated from the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in 1875. He was named the head of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in 1880, shortly after its establishment by the Alabama State Legislature.<sup>61</sup>

Dr. Carver remained at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute until his death in 1943. In addition to his role as teacher and head of the agriculture department, Dr. Carver was a vocal proponent of sustainable agricultural practices. Dr. Carver recognized that farmers' overdependence on cotton crops was causing soil erosion and depletion of fertility. As a result, Dr. Carver promoted the use of organic mulches and compost as ways to restore topsoil. Dr. Carver taught methods of crop rotation to practicing farmers, encouraging them to alternate cotton crops with soil-enriching crops such as sweet potatoes, pecans, peanuts, and soybeans. In addition, Dr. Carver educated farmers and the general public about soil and forest conservation, organic farming, and the use of nontoxic products.<sup>62</sup>

Dr. Carver designed a mobile classroom to assist him in his teaching away from Tuskegee.<sup>63</sup> He also performed research and experiments on new uses for peanuts, soybeans, sweet potatoes, and an assortment of other crops. Dr. Carver also developed uses for agricultural crops in industrial applications. During World War I, Dr. Carver produced 500 different shades of dye from soybeans as a way to replace textile dyes formerly imported from Europe. He received three different patents for these innovations.

George Washington Carver died on January 5, 1943. Prior to his death, Dr. Carver provided money to Tuskegee Institute to establish the George Washington Carver Foundation. The goal of the foundation was to continue to fund agricultural research.

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61. Ibid., 111.

62. G. Annis, M. DeBacker, D. Diamond, L. Elliott, A. Garringer, P. Hanberry, K. James, R. Lee, S. Leis, M. Morey, D. Pursell, and C. Young, *George Washington Carver National*

*Monument Natural Resource Condition Assessment. Natural Resource Report NPS/HTLN/NRR (2011/425), 16–17.*

63. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 143.

for

George Washington Carver National Monument

Prepared by JMA, a CCRG company

Drawing No. GWCA 397 127384

PMIS No. \_\_\_\_\_

Legend

- 2014 GWCA Boundary
- 10-foot contour
- 1-foot contour
- Stream
- Spring
- Road
- Building or structure
- Rock wall
- Fence
- Woodland
- Fence row/orchard

Sources:

Historical base map (NOTE: many features on this map are conjectural; conjectural features are denoted on this illustration with an asterisk)

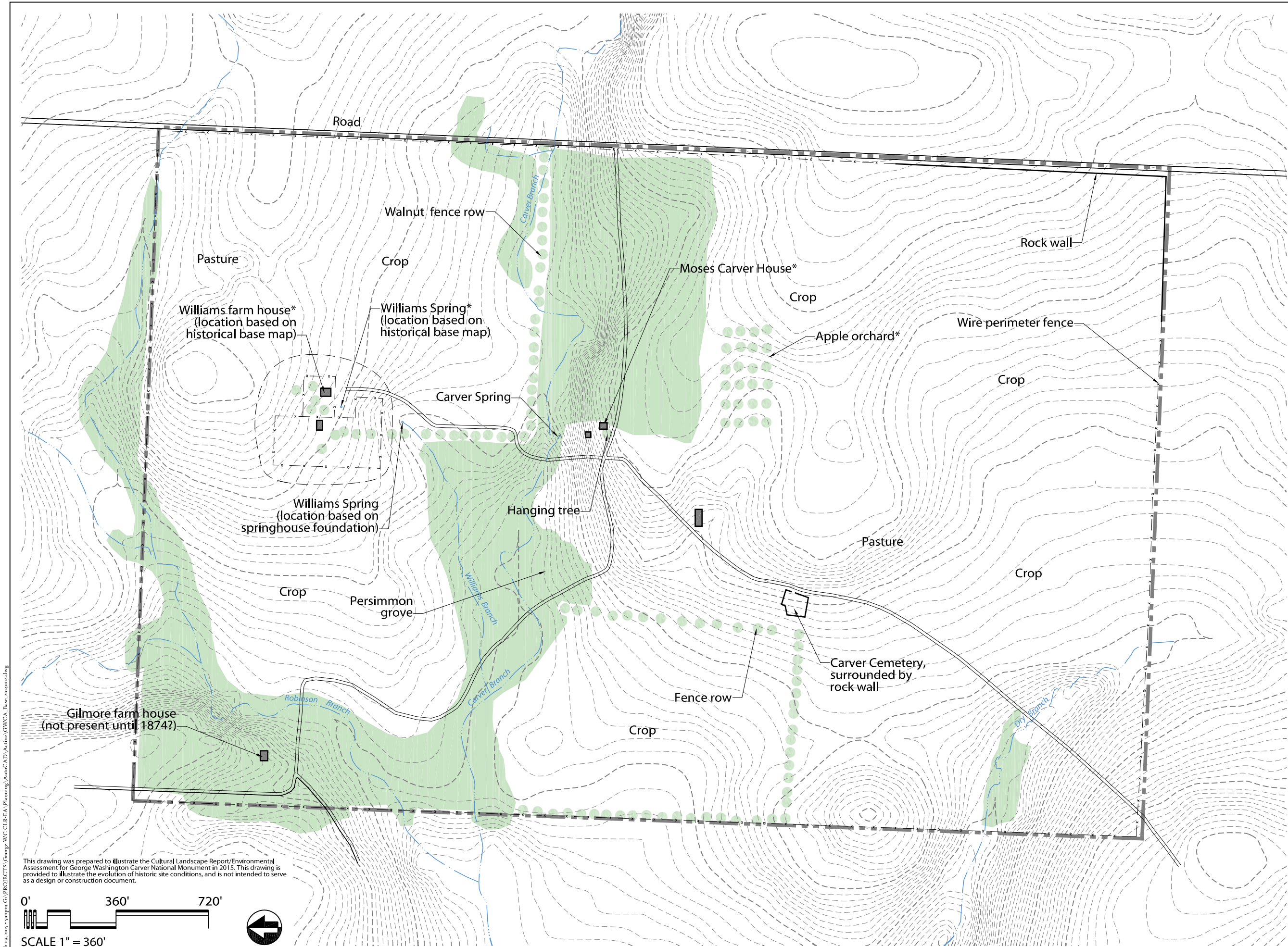
Contours created from 7.5 minute digital elevation data, USGS, 1998, Newton County, MO (published Rolla, MO).

Outstanding questions:

- Need clarification or confirmation of the location of Williams farm

DRAFT

Figure 12.  
Period Plan c.1865–1876





## **The Moses Carver Farm in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries**

On December 4, 1880, a tornado destroyed the Carvers' home, as well as the cabin where George Washington Carver was born.<sup>64</sup> In 1881 a new house was constructed at the farm. The two-story wood-frame house had a front porch, while the interior was complete with a living room and kitchen.<sup>65</sup>

Susan Carver died in January 1882. Shortly after Susan's death, Sarah Jane Williams, the daughter of Moses Carver's brother George, and her husband William Moore Williams acquired a portion of the land owned by Moses Carver. The Williams lived in a home located near a large spring on the Carver farm.<sup>66</sup>

In 1900 with his health failing, Moses Carver left the farm he had established near Diamond, Missouri, and moved to Galena, Kansas, to live with his nephew John Thomas Carver, the son of Moses Carver's brother Richard.<sup>67</sup> In 1901, Moses deeded his farm to two of his nephews and one niece.<sup>68</sup>

Moses Carver died in 1910 in Kansas. His body was returned to his farm in Missouri, where he was buried in the Carver family cemetery.<sup>69</sup>

In 1911, Moses Carver's heirs sold the 240-acre property to Samuel Warden. Warden owned the farm for only two years before C. M. Shartel purchased the property in 1913.<sup>70</sup>

Several changes were made to the property by Shartel, who was a real estate broker. In 1916, the house constructed in 1881 was moved and remodeled. That same year, the wall around the cemetery, believed to have been constructed by Moses Carver, was removed. Throughout the period during which the land was owned by Shartel, various tenants and employees lived on the property. Shartel also ran a thoroughbred cattle business on the land, resulting in a series of changes to the landscape.<sup>71</sup>

Between 1930 and 1939, an earthen dam was constructed on the property, creating Williams Pond.<sup>72</sup>

## **Establishment of the George Washington Carver National Monument**

In the summer of 1941, the St. Louis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) developed the concept of establishing a new national park on the Carver farm site to honor Dr. George Washington Carver and his achievements. Although several members of Congress supported the idea, NPS Director Newton Drury noted that memorial sites honoring living individuals had not been established by the NPS.<sup>73</sup> At the same time, the NAACP chapter did persuade the Missouri Highway Commission to place road signs directing visitors to the Carver farm, which were erected in early April 1942 near Diamond, Missouri, along U.S. Highway 71.<sup>74</sup>

64. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 25.

65. Orville W. Carroll, *Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, Part II, Moses Carver Late Period Dwelling, Building No. 5* (Diamond, Missouri: George Washington Carver National Monument, March 1966), 8, copy in George Washington Carver National Monument Library.

66. Harrington et al., 8.

67. Ibid.

68. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

69. Fuller, 7–9.

70. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

71. Harrington et al., 8.

72. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

73. Krahe and Catton, 29, citing John J. Dempsey, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, to John J. Cochran, U.S. House of Representatives, September 19, 1941; Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service, to Bennett Champ Clark, U.S. Senate, September 22, 1941; Drury to Walter C. Ploeser, U.S. House of Representatives, November 28, 1941, File L1417, RCF, GWCA.

74. Ibid., 30.

With the road signs in place, tourists began to arrive at the farm. The property owner, Stratton Shartel (C. M. Shartel's son), wrote to Sidney Redmond, president of the St. Louis chapter of the NAACP, to indicate that he was willing to consider selling 30 acres of land to establish a park at the site. Shartel wanted to retain the rest of the property to continue farming.<sup>75</sup>

At the same time, Dr. Richard Pilant, a social science professor at Washington University in St. Louis, and a distant cousin of Moses and Susan Carver, began to lobby for establishment of a national monument at the birthplace of Dr. George Washington Carver. Pilant wrote several hundred letters to U.S. Representatives and Senators, as well as to Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. In addition, Pilant sought well-known individuals who could lend their name to the movement to establish the monument. This group, known as the "George Washington Carver Memorial Associates," was never incorporated but served as a cooperating agency working with the park for several years.<sup>76</sup> Pilant said that the idea for a federal memorial at the site had originated during a 1938 reunion held at the Moses Carver farm. With the onset of World War II, Pilant emphasized the value of the memorial in promoting national unity and interracial harmony, as well as countering Nazi propaganda.<sup>77</sup>

Dr. Pilant contacted U.S. Representative Dewey Short in March 1942 to formally request legislation establishing a federal memorial.<sup>78</sup> At the same time, Shartel contacted Short to indicate that he was willing to sell a 25 to 30 acre parcel containing the site of the birth cabin and other structures for \$15,000.<sup>79</sup> The first congressional legislation relating to the establishment of the George Washington Carver National Monument at the Moses Carver farm was introduced by Short to the

U.S. House of Representatives on July 15, 1942. Parallel legislation was introduced to the U.S. Senate by Missouri Senator Harry S Truman on October 13, 1942. No immediate action was taken on either bill before the 77th Congress adjourned in December 1942.<sup>80</sup>

Dr. George Washington Carver died on January 5, 1943. The next day in the 78th Congress, the death of Dr. Carver was announced by Representative Samuel Hobbs of Alabama, and Representative Short reintroduced his national monument bill, now known as H.R. 647. Senator Truman reintroduced the bill in the Senate as S. 37. The final bill was approved and signed into law by President Roosevelt on July 14, 1943.

## Acquisition of Land and Early Park Planning

Based on the previous correspondence with Shartel that offered to sell a portion of the farm to the government for a price between \$15,000 to \$20,000, the final bill authorizing the establishment of the George Washington Carver National Monument allocated \$30,000 for the purchase of land and initial development of the park. This appropriation appeared adequate, as some local officials insisted that \$40 per acre was a typical price for undeveloped farmland in Newton County.<sup>81</sup> Also, county records indicated that (for tax purposes), the entire Shartel property, inclusive of buildings, was assessed at \$9,000.<sup>82</sup>

A survey of the future park was performed by the National Park Service in March 1943. A report was prepared that described the condition of the site under the ownership of the Shartel family, and also discussed the proposed development of the park. Recommendations for development included purchasing 210 acres of the 240-acre farm,

75. Krahe and Catton, 30–31, citing Stratton Shartel to Mr. S. R. Redmond, President, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, April 6, 1942, No. 2580, GWCA Collection of George Washington Carver Papers, GWCA Archives.

76. Toogood, 56–57.

77. Krahe and Catton, 32, 35.

78. Ibid., 37, citing Richard Pilant to Dewey Short, March 18, 1942, File 372, Dewey Short Papers, SHS-MO.

79. Ibid., citing Stratton Shartel to Dewey Short, Member of Congress, April 6, 1942, File 373, Dewey Short Papers, SHS-MO.

80. Ibid., 38–39.

81. Ibid., 48.

82. Ibid., 51.

1 marking the site of the birthplace cabin if its  
 2 location could accurately be determined, and  
 3 constructing a museum building to properly orient  
 4 visitors to the site. An area at the edge of the grove  
 5 of trees surrounding the then-present farm  
 6 buildings was suggested as a good location for the  
 7 museum, as it was near the county highway and  
 8 required little removal of existing trees.  
 9 Preservation of the Carver family cemetery and  
 10 construction of an interpretive trail were also  
 11 recommended. The development cost, not  
 12 including land acquisition, was estimated at  
 13 \$77,800.<sup>83</sup>

14 After the final passage of federal legislation in July  
 15 1943, Conrad Wirth, then chief of land planning  
 16 for the National Park Service, began negotiations  
 17 with Stratton Shartel. The initial appraisal of the  
 18 property by the federal government valued the  
 19 land at \$15,000 for 210 acres. By the end of 1943,  
 20 Shartel was asking for \$35,000 for the 210 acres,  
 21 and negotiations with the Park Service stalled.<sup>84</sup> A  
 22 new appraisal was conducted after the war, in  
 23 1946, which stated a value of \$30,000 for the 210  
 24 acres in question. By that time, however, Shartel  
 25 had increased his demand to \$73,000.<sup>85</sup> In May  
 26 1947, Shartel sold a 100-foot-wide easement for a  
 27 154-kilovolt electrical transmission line to the  
 28 Empire District Electric Company. (Also at some  
 29 time in the late 1940s, a 7,200-volt electrical  
 30 transmission line was erected across the eastern  
 31 edge of the property to the New-Mac Electric  
 32 Cooperative, to serve several local farms.)<sup>86</sup>

33 Early in 1948, the Department of Interior  
 34 contacted the Department of Justice to begin  
 35 condemnation proceedings on the property.  
 36 Meanwhile, on May 7, 1948, Shartel sold the farm  
 37 to a local physician and his wife, Dawson W. and  
 38 Nell Derfelt. Derfelt knew the significance of the

39 site but later said that he was unaware the NPS still  
 40 intended to purchase the property.<sup>87</sup>

41 The petition to condemn the parcel was filed with  
 42 the U.S. District Court in Kansas City on June 12,  
 43 1948. Following a jury trial in May 1949, on  
 44 July 23, 1949, the court judged the various right-  
 45 of-ways, mineral rights, and inholdings claimed by  
 46 utility companies and former owners at a total of  
 47 \$78,895.<sup>88</sup> As a result, Secretary of the Interior  
 48 Oscar Chapman submitted a bill to Congress  
 49 seeking to increase the appropriation to \$80,000  
 50 from \$30,000 first appropriated in 1943. In order  
 51 to provide some funds for site development, the  
 52 final version of the legislation signed by President  
 53 Truman on September 9, 1950, raised the total to  
 54 \$150,000.<sup>89</sup> On June 21, 1951, the District Court of  
 55 the U.S. for the Western District of Missouri,  
 56 Southwest District decreed the title for 210 acres  
 57 of land to the United States Government for the  
 58 establishment of the George Washington Carver  
 59 National Monument.<sup>90</sup>

60 While the condemnation and acquisition process  
 61 was being considered in the federal court and  
 62 Congress, Sidney J. Philips became involved in the  
 63 protection of the site. Phillips, who was influential  
 64 in the establishment of a memorial at the  
 65 birthplace of Booker T. Washington located on the  
 66 site of a former plantation in Franklin County,  
 67 Virginia, provided support to the creation of a  
 68 national monument at the birthplace of George  
 69 Washington Carver.<sup>91</sup> In July 1949, Philips and the  
 70 trustees of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace  
 71 Memorial, Inc., formed a new organization called  
 72 the George Washington Carver National  
 73 Monument Foundation. In November 1949, the  
 74 foundation signed a one-year lease with the  
 75 Derfelts for the farm, renewed in November 1950  
 76 for a second year. Even after federal acquisition of

83. Howard Baker, Regional Chief of Planning, Region Two. Planning Report Covering Boundary and Development Recommendations for (Proposed) George Washington Carver National Monument. National Park Service, Region Two. 1943.

84. Krahe and Catton, 62.

85. *Ibid.*, 63.

86. *Ibid.*, 66.

87. Toogood, 58; Krahe and Catton, 65.

88. Krahe and Catton, 69.

89. *Ibid.*

90. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

91. Purchased by S. J. Phillips and originally under private control, the Booker T. Washington birthplace was designated a National Monument in 1956. The memorial consists of a reconstruction of the slave cabin present on the site at the time of Washington's birth.

the site in June 1951, the foundation continued as caretaker of the farm. The National Park Service granted the foundation a special use permit from July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1952, to continue to care for the site and interpret it to visitors (Figure 13 and Figure 14). Even once Park Service personnel were on site from 1952, the foundation continued to farm the site until February 1954.<sup>92</sup>



**FIGURE 13.** Sign marking the Carver birthplace site, 1952. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection, image 605.



**FIGURE 14.** Sign marking the Carver birthplace site, 1952. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection, image 605A.

During this time, B. B. Gaillard, a representative of the foundation and a former student of George Washington Carver, was named site custodian. In March 1950, Gaillard took up residency in the large farm house constructed by the Shartels (Figure 15). The foundation's lease was extended

another year through 1953. Gaillard resigned as caretaker in July 1952, at which time Robert Fuller, a history teacher from Joplin, was named temporary caretaker.<sup>93</sup>



**FIGURE 15.** The stone farmhouse constructed by the Shartel family. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection.

It was anticipated that funds to operate the monument would not be available until July 1952. As a result, the NPS began and completed advance planning for the farm. During this time it was determined that all but one building on the property had been constructed by the Shartels, and therefore most of the structures did not date to the period of the Carver family's ownership of the site.

In 1952, a cast concrete bust of George Washington Carver was sculpted by Audrey Corwin and presented to the park (Figure 16).<sup>94</sup>

92. Krahe and Catton, 72–74.

93. Toogood, 59. Fuller was later named park historian and became the first African American professional employee of the Park Service.

94. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 27.



**FIGURE 16.** The cast concrete bust presented to the park in 1952 at the dedication of the site in 1953. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection.

On September 25, 1952, the first superintendent of the park, Arthur Jacobson, the park historian, Robert Fuller, and Jacobson's wife Valjher Jacobson, who served as clerk, began work at the site. The Jacobsons resided in the large farmhouse on site that had previously been occupied by the site custodians, and the Fullers occupied the former tenant house on the north side of Carver Branch.<sup>95</sup> Through 1952 and 1953, primary efforts consisted of demolishing many of the dozen agricultural outbuildings on the site.<sup>96</sup>

In the spring of 1953, Paul Beaubien, an archeologist with the National Park Service, made a series of archeological digs at a site identified by local residents to determine the location of the birthplace residence of George Washington Carver. Evidence discovered by Beaubien confirmed the likely location of the cabin,

95. Krahe and Catton, 85–86.

96. Ibid., 87. An October 1951 inventory identified three residences and twelve outbuildings, including barn, granary, cow shed, loafing shed, machine shed, another small shed, chicken coop, pig sty, feed storage and

although questions regarding the actual location of the cabin remain.<sup>97</sup> (See further discussion of archeological studies, below.)

Dedication of the George Washington Carver National Monument took place on July 14, 1953. Approximately 1,000 to 2,000 people were in attendance, including Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay (Figure 17 and Figure 18). Richard Pilant, an early proponent of the park, presented the NPS with the pen President Franklin D. Roosevelt used to sign the bill establishing the national monument in 1943.<sup>98</sup>



**FIGURE 17.** Dedication of the George Washington Carver National Monument, 1953. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection.

brooder house, garage, another storage building, and a combination spring and milk house. A wood footbridge crossed the stream below the spring.

97. Toogood, 63.

98. Ibid., 61–62.



**FIGURE 18.** The dedication of the George Washington Carver National Monument, 1953. Note the Shartel farmhouse in the background. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection.

Beginning in 1954, and continuing into 1955, the wall around the Carver family cemetery was reconstructed and gravestones were repaired. The reconstruction was based on archeological research conducted by the NPS, and the stone material for the wall was obtained from the park property.<sup>99</sup>

Other work accomplished by the NPS in the first few years following dedication of the national monument included rehabilitation of the stream bank to mitigate erosion, widening and surfacing of the entrance road, construction of an entrance sign, installation of four picnic tables, construction of pit toilets for public use, and replacement of the fence around the superintendent's house.<sup>100</sup> Also in the early 1950s, a trail was developed, likely following pre-existing footpaths on the farm for much of its length. This route later became part of the Carver Trail.<sup>101</sup> Stabilization work to preserve the Moses Carver house was finally completed in 1958.<sup>102</sup>

Refer to Figure 19, period plan, 1943–1953.

99. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 27; Krahe and Catton, 218.

100. Krahe and Catton, 88.

101. Ibid., 143. See also NPS Drawing No. 397-3000, "Existing Conditions - Development Area" (May 10, 1956).

102. Ibid., 219.

for  
**George Washington Carver National Monument**

Prepared by JMA, a CCRG company

Drawing No. GWCA 397 127384

PMIS No. \_\_\_\_\_

- Legend
- 2014 GWCA Boundary
  - 10-foot contour
  - 1-foot contour
  - Stream
  - Spring
  - Formal road
  - Unpaved road
  - Trail/footpath
  - Building or structure
  - Rock wall
  - Fence
  - Woodland
  - Utility line

Sources:

1953 Aerial photograph.

"Existing Conditions, Development Area," Drawing No. 397-3000, 5/1/1956.

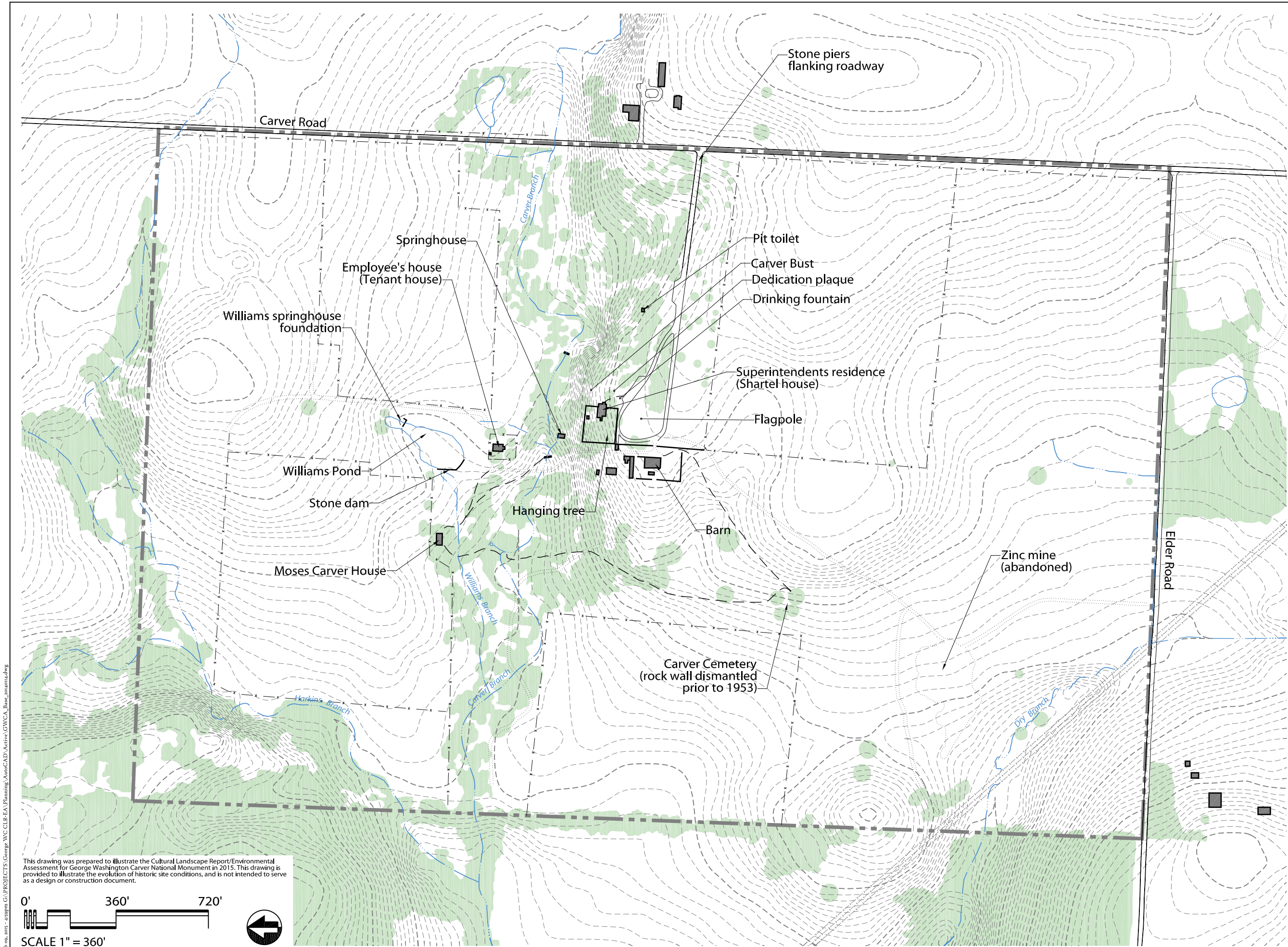
"Sign Program – Type and Location Plan, General Area," Drawing No. 397-2007, 5/1/1953.

"Existing Conditions at Monument Area," Drawing No. 397-2001A, 12/3/1952.

Contours created from 7.5 minute digital elevation data, USGS, 1998, Newton County, MO (published Rolla, MO).

**DRAFT**

Figure 19.  
Period Plan 1943–1953



This drawing was prepared to illustrate the Cultural Landscape Report/Environmental Assessment for George Washington Carver National Monument in 2015. This drawing is provided to illustrate the evolution of historic site conditions, and is not intended to serve as a design or construction document.

Feb-09-2015 4:59pm G:\PROJECTS\George\WC\CLRE\EA\Planning\AutoCAD\Active\GWCA\_Base\_2014.dwg



## Mission 66 Development at George Washington Carver National Monument

**The Mission 66 Program.** By the 1950s, conditions at national parks were generally in a state of deterioration. Improvements had not been made to public facilities since the New Deal era programs of the 1930s. The desperate need for building maintenance and funding was further amplified by the rapid increase in visitors to national parks following World War II. Despite the increase in visitation, park facilities remained essentially as they had been before the war. Limited National Park Service budgets led to cuts in staff, which, combined with the increasing number of visitors, jeopardized the integrity and condition of the existing natural resources. The increase in automobile usage further endangered the parks, which were generally ill prepared to accommodate an influx of vehicles.

In February 1955, NPS Director Conrad Wirth conceived a comprehensive conservation program to revitalize the national parks. The ten year capital program aimed to modernize and expand the National Park System.<sup>103</sup> Wirth chose to name the program “Mission 66,” as he thought the word “mission” successfully expressed the urgency of the park’s situation to Congress, while “66” was used to signify the end date of the program, which would be 1966, coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service. The Mission 66 plan not only sought to improve conditions at the parks through the construction of new roads, trails, and visitor facilities, but also through the establishment of increased operating budgets to maintain the parks in the future.

The goals of the Mission 66 program supported and accelerated a change in philosophy with regard to the design of buildings in the national parks. The postwar modernist architecture seen in

national parks featured low profiles and horizontal massing in addition to muted colors, which helped the buildings visually blend in with their natural surroundings. This was in direct contrast to the rustic style buildings primarily favored in park structures constructed prior to World War II, which, through their picturesque character, were highly noticeable in their context.<sup>104</sup>

## The Mission 66 Program at George Washington Carver National Monument.

When NPS began operation of the national monument, only a makeshift display area existed in the large farmhouse where the superintendent resided. The need for a new museum building was recognized by the NPS, and preparation of a museum plan began in 1954. This document would serve as a forerunner to the park’s Mission 66 prospectus.<sup>105</sup>

In the summer of 1958, the park’s Mission 66 prospectus was approved. Included in the document were plans to construct a visitor center and museum building. Modifications were made to the route of the existing trail that took visitors to the site of the George Washington Carver birthplace cabin, the open fields once farmed by the Carver family, the 1881 Moses Carver house, and the Carver family cemetery (Figure 20).<sup>106</sup> In addition, a sculpture of George Washington Carver as a boy was proposed (Figure 21 and Figure 22).<sup>107</sup>

103. Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 2007), 10.

104. *Ibid.*, 134–135.

105. Toogood, 66.

106. Compare NPS Drawing No. 397-3000, “Existing Conditions - Development Area” (May 10, 1956) to NPS Drawing No. 397-3022, “Road & Trail System Plan” (November 1, 1960).

107. *Ibid.*, 68.



1 **FIGURE 20.** The Carver Childhood Trail, 1963. Source:  
2 George Washington Carver National Monument  
3 Photo Collection.



4 **FIGURE 21.** The 1881 Moses Carver house, 1955.  
5 Source: George Washington Carver National  
6 Monument Photo Collection.



7 **FIGURE 22.** The 1881 Moses Carver house, 1965.  
8 Source: George Washington Carver National  
9 Monument Photo Collection.

10 In 1958, prior to beginning construction of the  
11 visitor center, the park undertook further  
12 archeological study of the farm site. Although no  
13 building locations were confirmed, additional  
14 information was obtained about the cemetery.<sup>108</sup>  
15 (See further discussion of archeological studies,  
16 below.)

17 Residences for the superintendent and the  
18 historian were completed in May 1959. The two  
19 residences, constructed south of the park  
20 entrance, were identical, with each one-story  
21 structure having a gable roof, horizontal siding, a  
22 screened-in porch, and a carport. The residences  
23 were built according to standard plans prepared in  
24 1957 by the NPS Eastern Office of Design and  
25 Construction. At the same time, a four-unit  
26 residence to house seasonal employees was also  
27 constructed. The one-story structure was similar  
28 in style to the single family residences, and had a  
29 gable roof, horizontal siding, and a series of  
30 enclosed porches (Figure 23).<sup>109</sup>

108. Krahe and Catton, 216–217.

109. Toogood, 69–70.



**FIGURE 23.** The four-unit employee housing building, Superintendent's residence, and Historian's residence, circa 1959. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection.

In the spring of 1960, the former main farmhouse was moved to another property nearby, where it remains today. Seven outbuildings were also removed at this time.<sup>110</sup>

Construction of the visitor center began in May 1959 to plans prepared by the Eastern Office of Design and Construction. The dedication of the new visitor center was held in July 1960 (Figure 24). The visitor center was a one and one-half story structure clad in brick and wood siding with low-sloped gable roofs, and an extended open covered porch at its perimeter. A breezeway at the south end of the building led to the utility area. Construction of an adjacent maintenance/utility building was included as part of the visitor center. The visitor center was located on the site of the former main barn of the Shartel farm. Construction of the visitor center in 1959 also included utilities for the site, such as a deep water wall, underground water lines, septic systems, natural gas lines, and overhead electrical lines.<sup>111</sup>



**FIGURE 24.** The visitor center, circa 1960. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection.

A new entrance road and gate, signs, parking areas, and fencing around the boundary of the monument were completed in time for the dedication of the visitor center (Figure 25 through Figure 27). The new entrance road followed the path of the earlier road into the farm. The roadbed was raised and contoured, drainage culverts and curbs were installed, and the road was paved with asphalt. A new spur was built leading into the picnic area. The original extension of the road past the new visitor center to the site of the main farmhouse (superintendent's house) and across Carver Branch to the tenant house (historian's house) was removed. The road work included reconfiguration of the parking area in front of the visitor center, shifting the parking loop southward.<sup>112</sup>

A cast bronze statue of George Washington Carver as a boy by Robert Amendola was installed and unveiled in 1960 during the visitor center dedication (Figure 28). The new statue at the national monument was placed on a limestone boulder near the Carver Branch.<sup>113</sup>

110. Krahe and Catton, 104.

111. *Ibid.*, 146.

112. *Ibid.*

113. Toogood, 69–70. The statue at the national monument was the second casting of this form by Amendola; the first was located in an urban park within the Carver Houses apartment complex at 101st Street in New York City.



1 **FIGURE 25.** Entrance to the park, shortly after the  
2 National Park Service assumed responsibility for the  
3 land. Source: George Washington Carver National  
4 Monument Photo Collection.



5 **FIGURE 26.** The entrance to the park, 1954. Source:  
6 George Washington Carver National Monument  
7 Photo Collection.



8 **FIGURE 27.** A view of the entrance to the park. Note  
9 the visitor center in the background. Source: George  
10 Washington Carver National Monument Photo  
11 Collection.



12 **FIGURE 28.** The Boy Carver statue, 1965. Source:  
13 George Washington Carver National Monument  
14 Photo Collection.

15 Ten mature elms were removed from the park  
16 after they were determined to be infected with  
17 Dutch elm disease in 1961. Trees in the main grove  
18 as well as other mature elms were sprayed to  
19 protect against the elm bark beetle. The spraying  
20 program continued for several years.<sup>114</sup>

21 Improved access to the site was also  
22 recommended as part of the Mission 66 Master  
23 Plan. Signs were erected at the intersection of  
24 State Highway 71 and County Road V in April  
25 1962. A directional sign was added on Interstate  
26 44 for eastbound traffic in 1963.<sup>115</sup>

27 Refer to Figure 29, period plan, 1953–1960.

114. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1961, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1962. The efforts continued through the 1960s and 1970s but were

ultimately unsuccessful; the last American elm in the park died and was removed in 1978.

115. Toogood, 71.

for  
**George Washington Carver National Monument**

Prepared by JMA, a CCRG company

Drawing No. GWCA 397 127384

PMIS No. \_\_\_\_\_

Legend

- 2014 GWCA Boundary
- 10-foot contour
- 1-foot contour
- Stream
- Spring
- Formal road
- Service road
- Trail/footpath
- Building or structure
- Rock wall
- Fence
- Woodland
- Fence row
- Utility line

Sources:

1966 Aerial photograph.

"Planting Plan and Miscellaneous Construction," Drawing No. 397-3017B, 6/1/1960.

"Planting Plan and Miscellaneous Construction, Memorial Area," Drawing No. 397-3019C, 6/1/1960.

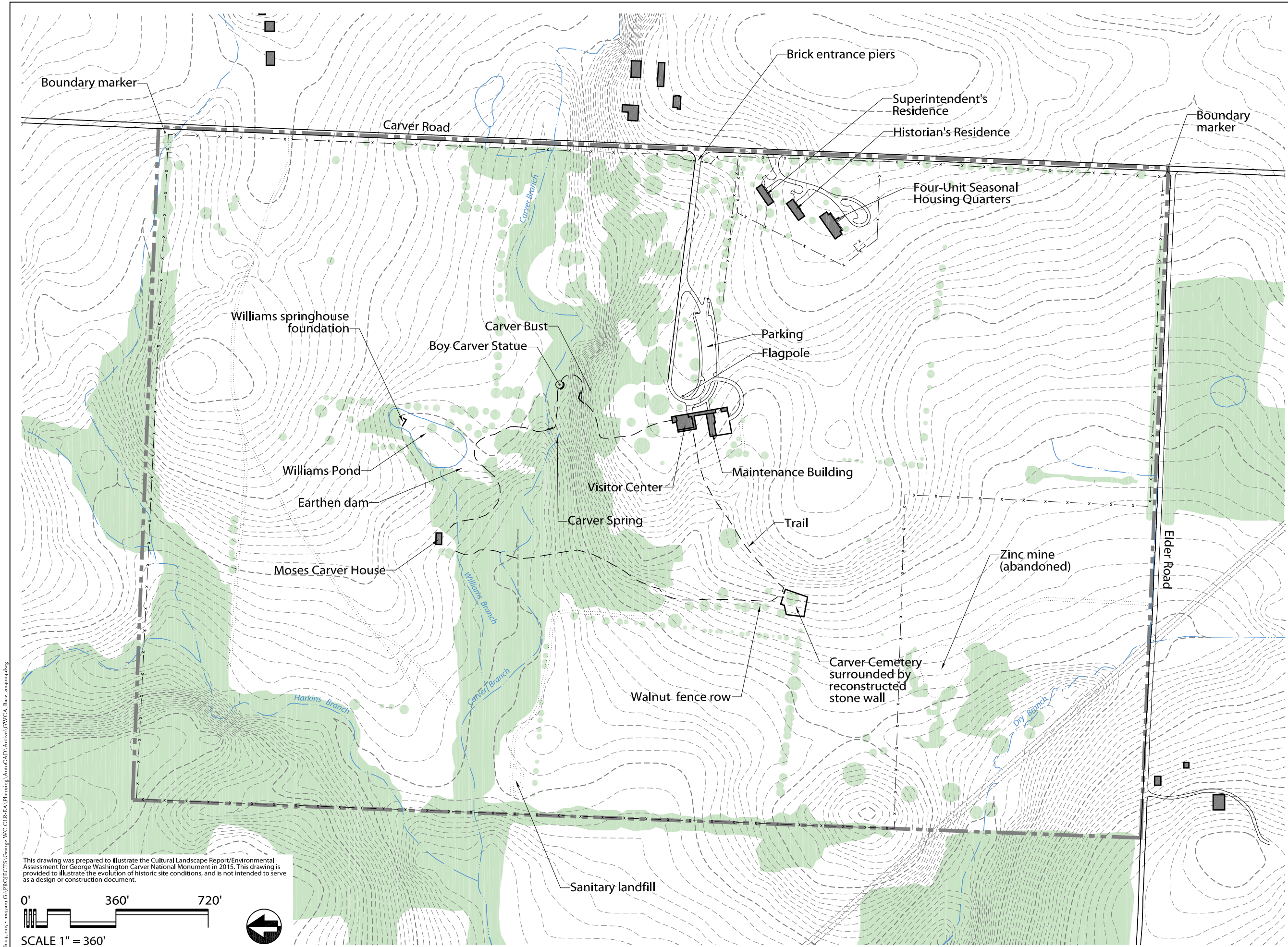
Contours created from 7.5 minute digital elevation data, USGS, 1998, Newton County, MO (published Rolla, MO).

Outstanding questions:

- Were fences surrounding fields still present in 1960?

**DRAFT**

Figure 29.  
Period Plan 1953-1960





## Continued Development of the National Monument, 1963 to Present

In the years following the completion of Mission 66-related construction at George Washington Carver National Monument, limited large-scale construction projects were conducted.

In the summer of 1963, repairs to the Moses Carver house were completed, including partial replacement of siding, reroofing, repainting, window repair, and repair of the brick chimney.<sup>116</sup>

A tree replanting plan was undertaken throughout the 1960s and 1970s to address tree loss to disease and storms. As elm trees gradually succumbed to Dutch elm disease and other trees were damaged by severe weather, they were replaced by a variety of other species such as hard maple, oak, walnut, native dogwood, and redbud trees; the picnic area grove formerly contained many elms.<sup>117</sup> New plantings were also placed to screen utilities and building foundations. For example, twelve junipers (*Juniperus scopulorum* 'Southland') were planted to screen the view from the Carver Trail of the visitor center mechanical units. Also, ornamental flower beds were added around the visitor center, including rose bushes near the entrance.<sup>118</sup>

Also at this time, a permanent sign system along the Carver Trail was completed. The green phenolic plastic signs with white lettering identified plants and historic points of interest along the trail (Figure 30 through Figure 32).<sup>119</sup>



**FIGURE 30.** Sign marking the birthplace cabin site, August 1963. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection, image 604A.



**FIGURE 31.** Signage along the Carver Trail, 1967. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection, image 3923.

116. Krahe and Catton, 219–220.

117. Ibid., 140.

118. Ibid., 141.

119. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1963, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1964.



**FIGURE 32.** Carver birthplace signage, date unknown.  
Source: George Washington Carver National Monument Photo Collection, image 602A.

The Carver bust, installed in 1952, was originally mounted on a temporary pedestal in the parking area. The bust was moved to a new location near the visitor center in 1963, and moved again to a different location near the visitor center in 1965. The cast concrete sculpture was installed on a new base at the time it was moved. The reason for the change of placement in 1965 was to move the bust to a location out of sight of the parking area, as park managers had noted that visitors frequently parked, went to view the bust, returned to their

cars, and left the park, without ever entering the visitor center.<sup>120</sup>

Also circa 1965, a new rustic bridge was constructed at the crossing of the Carver Branch.<sup>121</sup>

Approximately seventy diseased elms were removed in 1966. Walnut, oak, maple, sweet gum, and other native trees were planted in the winter to replace the removed elms.<sup>122</sup> A Historic Structure Report for the Moses Carver house was prepared in 1966.

In 1967, an agricultural land use contract was advertised. The contract called for 145 acres of land within the boundary of the monument to be maintained in their historic character as pasture or hay lands.<sup>123</sup>

A strong storm uprooted 100 trees and caused damage to the visitor center and residences in 1973. An Administrative History and Historic Resource Study were completed the same year.<sup>124</sup>

In 1976, extensive exterior renovations were completed at the 1881 Moses Carver house. A partial interior restoration of the house was also completed at this time, including placing the structure on a new foundation.<sup>125</sup> In 1977, extensive repairs were made to the earthen dam by park personnel.<sup>126</sup>

Williams Pond, constructed by the Shartel family in the 1930s, was expanded by the NPS in 1978.

The administrative functions of the park were relocated from the visitor center to Building

120. Krahe and Catton, 90, 109; Superintendent's Annual Report for 1963, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1965. The Superintendent's Report mentions the rustic bridge and references photographs (not attached to copy received), but does not describe its materials or construction.

121. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1964, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1965.

122. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1966, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1967.

123. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1967, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1968.

124. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1973, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1974.

125. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1975, George Washington Carver National Monument and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. January 28, 1976.

126. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1978, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1979.

No. 23 (the former Superintendent's residence) in 1979. The garage was also enclosed and finished at this time. In conjunction with the move, a new six-space parking lot was constructed in front of the building.<sup>127</sup>

In 1979, ten replica headstones and one footstone were replaced in the Carver family cemetery. The stones were replaced due to vandalism.<sup>128</sup>

In 1981, the park prepared a Resource Management Plan which included a fire management plan and a prescribed burn plan. A controlled burn of the prairie was conducted in May 1982 in conjunction with the Resource Management Plan. The prairie was later disked and native grass was planted. The prairie restoration project was documented with photographs.<sup>129</sup> This program continued into the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.

The last traditional agricultural lease in the park expired in 1983, replaced by a leasing arrangement that emphasized the planting of historically appropriate crops and hay for a smaller 66-acre tract, to run through 1989. At the end of this lease, the park ended the leasing program entirely, and the former agricultural area became prairie units 5, 6, and 7.<sup>130</sup>

Construction of a new barbed wire fence at the boundary of the park began in 1982.<sup>131</sup> Construction was completed in phases, with the project concluding in 1985.<sup>132</sup> Portions of this

fence have been subsequently replaced at a later date.

In 1983, a storm washed out both bridges along the Carver Trail, resulting in the flooding of the trail and damage to nearby fences. About 100 tons of crushed limestone pea-sized gravel was used to raise and level the trail surface. New wayside signs were installed, and a portion of the trail was paved with asphalt.<sup>133</sup>

Also in 1983, the wall around the Carver family cemetery was rebuilt in areas where deterioration was observed. Deteriorated headstones were also replaced.<sup>134</sup>

Following a severe storm in spring 1984, all four bridges along the Carver Nature Trail were replaced with new bridges later that year built by the Missouri Army National Guard. An accessibility ramp was also constructed at this time.<sup>135</sup> Also in 1984, the overhead electrical lines to the visitor center and maintenance complex were replaced with underground lines, and the septic system for the residential area was rehabilitated.<sup>136</sup>

The Carver family cemetery was vandalized in June 1987 and again in 1989; in 1992, the missing and destroyed gravestones resulting from this vandalism were replaced with replicas.<sup>137</sup>

In 1991, the George Washington Carver bust was moved and painted a metallic gold and coated with a waterproof sealer.

127. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1979, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1980.

128. Ibid.

129. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1981, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1982; Superintendent's Annual Report for 1982, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1983; Krahe and Catton, 225–229.

130. Krahe and Catton, 229–230.

131. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1982, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1983.

132. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1984, George Washington Carver National. February 18, 1985.

133. Krahe and Catton, 144.

134. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1983, George Washington Carver National Monument. February 14, 1984.

135. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1984, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1985.

136. Krahe and Catton, 146.

137. Ibid., 259.

1 A park-wide program to rehabilitate roads,  
2 parking lots, and sidewalks was completed in  
3 October 1991.<sup>138</sup>

4 In 1993, a new universally accessible 450-square-  
5 foot freestanding comfort station was built. The  
6 comfort station was located on the northeast side  
7 of the visitor center, at the same site as the present  
8 (2014) comfort stations. The detached comfort  
9 station was connected to the visitor center by a  
10 covered walkway.<sup>139</sup> As part of this construction, a  
11 new trail segment was added connecting the  
12 comfort station to the Carver family cemetery.<sup>140</sup>

13 The park began planning for further land  
14 acquisition in 1993, and a topographic survey of  
15 the 30-acre parcel at the southwest corner of the  
16 farm previously used to mine zinc and lead was  
17 completed in 1994. Mining operations had  
18 occurred in this area of the farm since the 1910s,  
19 and by 1943, a 40-foot-tall pile of mining waste  
20 had accumulated. As this parcel was not part of the  
21 original national monument, it became of specific  
22 concern to the park later, when consideration was  
23 given to adding it to the property.

24 Work began on a Long-Range Interpretive Plan in  
25 1996.<sup>141</sup> A new General Management Plan was  
26 completed in 1997.<sup>142</sup>

27 In 1996, the park acquired a surplus 12 foot by 60  
28 foot trailer, which was placed on the site just north  
29 of the former historian's residence, by then in use  
30 as the visitor services and resource management  
31 building. The trailer was opened to the public in  
32 April 1997 as the Carver Discovery Center, with an

33 emphasis on children's educational  
34 interpretation.<sup>143</sup>

35 The split rail fence around the yard adjacent to the  
36 Moses Carver house was replaced with assistance  
37 from a local Boy Scout troop in 1998.

38 From 1990 through 1999, phased installation of  
39 upgraded museum exhibits was completed at the  
40 park.

41 In 1999, the National Park Service commissioned a  
42 research team from the University of Wisconsin-  
43 Madison to prepare an Integrated Management  
44 Plan for the park. The plan, which documented  
45 the cultural and natural history of the site,  
46 identified twelve historic and prehistoric sites  
47 within the boundaries of the park, including a  
48 complex site associated with Carver's birthplace  
49 cabin.<sup>144</sup> The other sites included the Gilmore  
50 farm, Williams farm, north-south boundary site,  
51 several lithic flakes and scatters, and the extant  
52 Moses Carver house.

53 Several improvements and additions were made to  
54 the trails at the monument in 2001. The Carver  
55 Trail was enhanced as 400 linear feet of asphalt  
56 sidewalk were replaced with a new concrete  
57 sidewalk. A new accessible concrete trail overlaid  
58 with a lift of recycled rubber surfacing leading to  
59 the spring was also installed at this time. In  
60 addition, a 180-foot-long universally accessible  
61 boardwalk was constructed connecting the trail to  
62 the spring with the Boy Carver statue. Two new  
63 prefabricated steel arched bridges were  
64 constructed over the Carver Branch. A new  
65 mulch-surfaced trail, 1/4 mile long, was installed

138. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1991, George Washington Carver National Monument. March 5, 1992.

139. Information provided by NPS GWCA in correspondence with the authors, January 2015.

140. Krahe and Catton, 148–149. The Administrative History references the 1993 Superintendent's Report; the 1993 report, which was not available for review for the current study, may include further information about the new trail segment.

141. Superintendent's Annual Report for 1996, George Washington Carver National Monument. 1996.

142. National Park Service. George Washington Carver National Monument – General Management Plan 1997. 24 June 1997.

143. Krahe and Catton, 149.

144. Woolpert, LLP. *Environmental Assessment For Visitor Center Renovation and Addition, George Washington Carver National Monument* (Omaha, Nebraska: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 2004), 2–9.

around the Williams Pond. Granite benches were installed following the construction of the trail, along with granite stones engraved with George Washington Carver quotations.<sup>145</sup>

In 2002, a new plank and post fence was installed from the park's main entrance at the north boundary to the headquarters area. This project was completed by park personnel.<sup>146</sup>

For several years, the NPS had discussed acquiring the 30-acre parcel with Evelyn Taylor, who with her husband Bud had owned the 30-acre parcel since the mid-1950s. By 2004, the Superintendent's Annual report noted that:

The Association worked with the Monument and several other partners in 2003 and 2004 to ensure the last 30 acres of the original 240-acre Carver Birthplace Farm were donated and two hazardous mines were permanently closed and remediated. The value of the land donation is in excess of \$90,000 and the value of the remediation is in excess of \$40,000.

Remediation work was conducted through grants from the State of Missouri and collaborative work from the Diamond Road District. The State of Missouri oversaw all work and certified the site as hazard free at the conclusion of the project.<sup>147</sup>

In 2003, Evelyn Taylor donated the parcel to the Carver Birthplace Association. The Carver Birthplace Association subsequently transferred the deed for this land to the NPS on June 22, 2005.

In 2003, due to concerns related to lead contamination in the water from numerous abandoned mine sites in the county, the 1959 well was abandoned, and the park water system was switched over to a shallower backup well drilled in 2000. The 1959 well was permanently sealed in December 2004, and by the summer of 2005, the

park had been connected to the City of Diamond water system.<sup>148</sup>

The Moses Carver house underwent extensive restoration in 2005, including repairs to window trim and siding, repointing of the chimneys, replacement of the cedar shingle roof, replacement of the porches, removal of lead paint, and repainting of the entire interior and exterior in a historic color scheme.<sup>149</sup>

The entrance road, former residential area access road, and parking lot within the park were also resurfaced in 2005. At the same time, the park worked with Newton County to share the cost of resurfacing Carver Road leading to the park.<sup>150</sup>

The National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) conducted an intensive archeological investigation within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the expansion of the visitor center in April 2004. MWAC assisted in the completion of archeological preservation work at the park in 2006, including site condition assessment on all known archeological sites, shovel tests along the park entryway and in developed areas, and geophysical surveys of the cemetery and birthplace cabin site. (Refer to further discussion of archeological studies, below.)

Mitigation of tailings and other potentially hazardous deposits associated with lead and zinc mining of the parcel was completed in 2006.

On August 8, 2007, the extensively renovated visitor center was dedicated. The renovation included a 6,700 square foot addition to the 1960 building, with the addition of interactive and extended museum space, classrooms, an expanded theater, terrarium, archives, and library, as well as a tornado shelter. New exhibits were added to the museum as well as to the Moses Carver house. The renovation also included the addition of a

145. Superintendent's Annual Report for 2001, George Washington Carver National Monument. February 2, 2002.

146. Superintendent's Annual Report for 2002, George Washington Carver National Monument.

147. Ibid., 128, 208, 253; Superintendent's Annual Reports for 2003, 2004, and 2005, George Washington Carver National Monument, 2004, 2005, 2006.

148. Krahe and Catton, 147.

149. Ibid., 257.

150. Ibid., 145.

sustainable ground source heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system, and total replacement of the septic system. The expansion included a two-story addition to the west of the original building. The expanded visitor center is clad in utility brick and wood siding matching the colors of the original brick and siding. Both the new and original roofs were clad in asphalt shingles. During construction, the visitor center was housed in one of the former park housing structures near the entrance road.<sup>151</sup> With the completion of the visitor center complex, in 2008, the Discovery Center trailer was sold and removed from the park. In 2010, the administrative offices in the visitor center were completed, and park staff moved to the visitor center. After 2010, the former housing buildings were used for storage.

In 2009, conservation work was completed on the park's statuary. The work included professional conservation of the bronze dedication plaque, Boy Carver Statue, and the Carver Bust.

A Vegetation Management Action Plan was completed in 2011. The same year, MWAC performed an archeological survey in the park, which included geophysical surveys of the developed area east of the visitor center and Williams Homestead, and mapping and a geophysical survey of the cemetery. A pedestrian inventory of the 30-acre parcel was also completed. (See further discussion of archeological studies, below.)

Also in 2011, new wayside interpretive exhibits were installed along the Carver Trail.<sup>152</sup> At the same time, the interpretive structure at the Carver birthplace cabin site was replaced with a new structure of the same design and materials.<sup>153</sup>

151. Superintendent's Annual Report for 2007, George Washington Carver National Monument.

152. Krahe and Catton, 144.

153. Ibid., 261.

154. Information about prior archeological studies derived from summary prepared by Ann C. Bauermeister, RPA, National Park Service Midwest Region Archeological Center; see also Paul L. Beaubien, "Report of Archeological

In 2013, Missouri Resource Assessment Program vegetation mapping for the park was completed.

## Archeological Studies

Several archeological studies have been conducted at George Washington Carver National Monument, primarily by archeologists for the National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) and also by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, as described below.<sup>154</sup>

In April 1953, archeologist Paul Beaubien conducted archeological investigations in an effort to identify the location of the Carver birthplace cabin. Excavation sites selected based on oral history interviews uncovered two burned features and other "occupational debris in the southwest portion of the [then-] present flower garden."<sup>155</sup> However, no substantial archeological evidence was found to conclusively confirm the locations of the former cabin. Beaubien suggested that the park could place an interpretive marker at the location of the burned features to indicate the likely site of the cabin, and build a reconstructed cabin at another location for interpretive purposes.

In 1958, prior to beginning construction of the visitor center, the park undertook further archeological study of the farm site. Robert W. Neuman made four test trenches, two near the cemetery and two where oral history information indicated outbuildings were formerly located. Although no building locations were confirmed, the remains of fence posts for the cemetery were

Investigations – George Washington Carver N.M., Memorandum for the National Park Service, Region Two" (National Park Service, 1954); Bill Hunt, "Trip Report: Geophysical Inventory and Shovel Test Excavations at the Proposed Site of Visitor Center Expansion, George Washington Carver National Monument (GWCA)" (National Park Service, 2004).

155. Beaubien, 7.

1 seen, and two unmarked graves associated with  
2 the cemetery were discovered.<sup>156</sup>

3 In 1975, a magnetic survey was performed on  
4 portions of the site by John W. Weymouth of the  
5 University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Two  
6 additional archeological surveys were performed  
7 by Ervan Garrison and Robert Bray of the  
8 University of Missouri, Columbia in 1976. These  
9 three studies all focused on possible home sites  
10 near the Moses Carver house. Garrison and David  
11 Denman, also of the University of Missouri,  
12 performed another series of archeological  
13 investigations in 1978.<sup>157</sup>

14 In 1981, the NPS contracted with the Center for  
15 Archaeological Research at Southwest Missouri  
16 State University. These studies, led by principal  
17 investigator David W. Benn, focused on  
18 developing information about the site's prehistory.  
19 The survey resulted in the location of five  
20 additional prehistoric sites within the national  
21 monument and their listing with the  
22 Archaeological Survey of Missouri.<sup>158</sup>

23 In July 1981, MWAC archeologist Janis Emery  
24 conducted a magnetometer survey inside the  
25 cemetery and in two small areas to the south and  
26 the west of the cemetery wall. Emery also  
27 conducted a resistance survey along two transects  
28 within the cemetery, and used mapping developed  
29 by Paul Beaubien during earlier excavations to  
30 mark the locations of the two burned features.

31 In April 2004, MWAC archeologists Bill Hunt and  
32 Ann Bauermeister conducted fieldwork including  
33 a magnetic survey and a shovel test inventory of  
34 the area proposed for the expansion of the visitor  
35 center and associated facilities. The shovel test  
36 inventory revealed no significant archeological  
37 resources in the proposed construction areas,  
38 while interpretation of the magnetic survey results

39 indicated a possible pole-in-ground structure,  
40 garden enclosure, or corral.<sup>159</sup>

41 In September 2005, MWAC archeologists Ann  
42 Bauermeister and Michael Hammons investigated  
43 an area just south of the reconstructed birthplace  
44 cabin, using magnetic gradient and resistance  
45 survey methods. A square anomaly located  
46 southwest of the original cabin was interpreted to  
47 possibly represent a different building from the  
48 Moses Carver Farm, a structure associated with  
49 the twentieth-century Shartel Farm, or possibly  
50 the 1953 excavations by Beaubien. The 2005 study  
51 recommended analysis of spatial imagery to  
52 further understand the genesis of the anomaly.

53 In September 2011, MWAC archeologists Ann  
54 Bauermeister and Steve De Vore conducted large-  
55 scale geophysical surveys, mapping, and a  
56 pedestrian survey at the national monument. The  
57 work included additional and more intensive  
58 surveys of the park, with an emphasis on the  
59 developed area, the Williams Homestead, the  
60 Carver family cemetery, and a newly acquired 30-  
61 acre parcel. Magnetic and radar survey techniques  
62 and analysis revealed possible former historic  
63 building locations, including the location of  
64 Beaubien's 1953 excavation undertaken to search  
65 for evidence of the birthplace cabin. At the  
66 Williams Homestead, three previously  
67 documented mounds representing farmstead  
68 structures and/or associated debris were noted.

69 Evaluation of the 30-acre parcel comprising the  
70 southwest corner of the park, which included a  
71 former contaminated mine site that had been  
72 cleaned and filled by the Environmental  
73 Protection Agency circa 2006, did not reveal any  
74 archeological resources. The archeological study  
75 noted that the park planned to manage this area as  
76 a prairie. The Carver family cemetery was  
77 surveyed with non-invasive techniques to look for  
78 unmarked graves, and all above-ground cemetery

156. Krahe and Catton, 216–217.

157. *Ibid.*, 217.

158. David W. Benn, "An Intensive Archaeological Survey of George Washington Carver National Monument" (Springfield, Missouri: Center for Archaeological Research, Southwest Missouri State University, 1981).

159. Bauermeister, summary, citing Hunt 2004, 3.

1 components were documented with a detailed  
2 map, GPS readings, and digital photographs.

3 In September 2012, MWAC Archeologists Ann  
4 Bauermeister, Steve De Vore, and Ashley Barnett  
5 conducted additional investigations to follow up  
6 on the 2011 studies, expanding the previous study  
7 area to include the adjoining prairie that occurs  
8 across on the same landform. A GPR survey  
9 addressed the majority of the developed area  
10 except for the loop drive/parking area east of the  
11 visitor center, and resistivity surveys targeted the  
12 western section of the developed area including  
13 the reconstructed birthplace cabin, the 1953  
14 studies by Beaubien, and the area between the  
15 picnic area and Carver Road where former historic  
16 buildings locations were potentially located. The  
17 entire prairie component was also surveyed.  
18 Targeted investigations at two locations that  
19 provided magnetic and resistivity data confirmed  
20 the possible location of a non-extant historic  
21 structure, including a feature composed of  
22 numerous stacked, tabular rocks that may be part  
23 of a structural foundation.

24 In August 2014, MWAC archeologists Ann  
25 Bauermeister, Steve De Vore, and Ashley Barnett  
26 conducted studies at the Moses Carver house and  
27 Williams Homestead sites, including the Carver  
28 house, a significant portion of the adjacent prairie  
29 to the north, and a section of the prairie north of  
30 the Williams Homestead that was not included in  
31 the 2011 survey. The study focused on the middle  
32 of the three mounded areas present to investigate  
33 whether this area represents the former house  
34 location. Analysis of the geophysical data collected  
35 during the 2014 study is underway. Preliminary  
36 results indicate that a non-extant barn that was not  
37 previously identified may have been located in an  
38 area in the prairie to the west of the Williams  
39 Homestead.

40 Refer to Chapter 3 for further discussion of  
41 archeological studies as they pertain to specific  
42 resources and features.

43

### George Washington Carver National Monument Chronology

1830s	Moses and Susan Carver settled on the site that is currently the George Washington Carver National Monument.
1835–1848	The birthplace cabin is believed to have been built. The Carver family cemetery was established by Moses Carver.
1844–1894	Moses Carver purchased and obtained patents for the entirety of the 240 acres during this period.
1865–circa 1876 or 1877	George Washington Carver lived on the Moses Carver farm from his birth until circa 1876 or 1877.
1860–1880	By this date, Moses Carver had improved acres of crops and planted about 520 orchard trees. He also planted walnut trees and vegetables.
1880	December 4: A tornado reportedly destroyed the Moses Carver dwelling and the birthplace cabin.
1881	Moses Carver constructed the Moses Carver house.
1901	Moses Carver deeded his property to two nephews and one niece.
1911	The Moses Carver farm was sold by his heirs to Samuel Warden.
1913	Samuel Warden sold the farm site to C. M. Shartel.
1916	The Moses Carver house constructed in 1881 was moved to its current location and remodeled. The cemetery wall was removed.
1930s	The earthen dam was built, creating Williams Pond.
1913–1930s	New houses and agricultural outbuildings were built on the farm.
1942	The St. Louis chapter of the NAACP persuaded the Missouri Highway Commission to install directional signage to the farm, and tourists began to visit the farm. The first Congressional legislation relating to the establishment of the farm site as a national monument was introduced.
1943	January 5: George Washington Carver died. July 14: The law designating the farm site as George Washington Carver National Monument was enacted.
1948	May 7: C. M. Shartel's son, Stratton Shartel, sold the farm site to Dawson W. Derfelt. June 12: Condemnation petition for farm property filed in federal court.
November 1949–February 1954	George Washington Carver National Monument Foundation had an agricultural lease for the site and opened the farm to visitation.
1951	Title to 210 acres of land transferred to the U.S. for purposes of establishing a national monument.
1952	September 25: First NPS superintendent and park historian arrived at site.
1952–1953	NPS demolished some non-historic agricultural outbuildings.

1952	The bust of George Washington Carver was sculpted by Audrey Corwin and presented to the park.
1953	Archeological investigations were conducted of the presumed birthplace cabin site.
1953	July 14: Dedication of George Washington Carver National Monument. The dedication plaque was installed.
1954–1955	The cemetery wall was reconstructed by the park based on archeological research.
1953–1958	Erosion mitigation of stream banks; widening and surfacing of entrance road; installation of four picnic tables; construction of pit toilets; Carver Trail first developed; Moses Carver house stabilized.
1958	Additional archeological investigations were conducted of the farm site.
1959–1960	Visitor center, utility building, Superintendent's residence, Historian's residence, and a four-unit seasonal quarters building constructed. Utility infrastructure, expanded entrance road, parking area, and fencing built. Carver Trail modified with a new route in some portions.
1960	Farmhouse and other structures constructed by the Shartel family removed.
1960	The Boy Carver statue was created by Robert Amendola and placed at its present site beside the Carver Branch in 1960.
1961	Dutch elm disease first identified in park.
1963	Repair of Moses Carver house completed.
1965	George Washington Carver bust moved to a new location and installed on a new base.
1975–1978	Archeological studies conducted to investigate possible home sites.
1976	Extensive repairs to Moses Carver house, including new foundation.
1977–1978	Repairs to earthen dam. Williams Pond expanded.
1979	Superintendent's residence (Building No. 23) converted for use as administrative offices.
1979	Replica headstones placed in cemetery.
1981	Archeological studies conducted to develop information about site prehistory and to further investigate the cemetery.
1982	Prairie restoration began.
1982–1985	Barbed wire boundary fence built around park property.
1983	Carver Trail filled and leveled; portions paved with asphalt. Cemetery wall partially rebuilt to address deterioration.

1984	Four new bridges built on Carver Trail. Overhead electrical lines buried.
1990–1999	Phase installation of upgraded exhibits completed at the park.
1991	The George Washington Carver bust moved, painted metallic gold, coated with a waterproof sealer.
1992	Missing and vandalized gravestones replaced with replicas in cemetery.
1993	Universally accessible comfort station built.
1996–2008	Trailer placed just north of former historian's residence, opened as Carver Discovery Center, 1997–2007.
2001	Improvements and additions to Carver Trail, including construction of an accessible trail leading to the spring, new contemplative loop trail around Williams Pond, and two new prefabricated steel arched bridges over the Carver Branch.
2002	New plank and post fence installed from park entrance to northern edge of headquarters area.
2003	On December 3, a local land owner donated the final 30 acres of the original Moses Carver farm in a fee-simple arrangement to the Carver Birthplace Association.
2004	Archeological studies conducted of area proposed for expansion of the visitor center.
2005	On June 22, the Carver Birthplace Association transferred the deed for the final 30 acres of the Moses Carver farm to the NPS.
2005	Major repairs were made to the Moses Carver house.
2005	Archeological studies conducted in area near reconstructed birthplace cabin.
2007	The visitor center was extensively expanded and renovated.
2009	Conservation work conducted on statuary.
2010	Administrative offices moved into expanded visitor center; housing group buildings used for storage.
2011	New wayside exhibits along Carver Trail. New interpretive structure at birthplace cabin site (as assumed based on previous archeological studies).
2011	Archeological studies conducted in developed area, Williams Homestead, Carver family cemetery, and newly acquired 30-acre parcel.
2012	Additional archeological studies conducted, expanding areas investigated in 2011 and including adjoining prairie.
2014	Archeological studies conducted at Moses Carver house and Williams Homestead sites.



## Significance Evaluation

The significance evaluation identifies the important historical associations of the property, and comments on its architectural, archeological, and social value as they relate to the National Register of Historic Places. A property's significance is tied to a discrete period of time in which its important contributions were made and to relevant national, state, and local historic contexts. The section that follows describes the current National Register status of George Washington Carver National Monument and summarizes the information afforded in previous efforts conducted to evaluate the park's significance. This section also provides suggestions for modifications to previous evaluations based on current research and assessment.

### National Register Status of George Washington Carver National Monument

George Washington Carver National Monument was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, based on the National Historic Preservation Act. The significance of the property was documented through preparation of a National Register nomination that certified on September 28, 1976.<sup>160</sup> Revised National Register nomination documentation was in progress at the time this Cultural Landscape Report/Environmental Assessment was being prepared.<sup>161</sup>

The current draft National Register nomination Additional Documentation identifies the national monument as significant under Criterion A, associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and Criterion B, associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. The current draft

revised nomination documentation also cites Criteria Consideration C, a birthplace or grave, and Criteria Consideration F, a commemorative property. The current draft nomination cites several areas of significance: science, education, community planning and development (park), and conservation.

As stated in the current draft nomination Additional Documentation section:

The George Washington Carver National Monument is significant for its association with the early life of [Dr.] George Washington Carver (circa 1865–January 5, 1943), the scientist, agriculturalist, educator, and humanitarian. It is significant under Criterion B, at the national level, as the birthplace and boyhood home [of] George Washington Carver. The national monument is also significant under Criterion A, at the national level, as an outstanding example of a district that commemorates the life and accomplishments of a leading African American scientist and educator. The associated area of significance under Criterion A is Community Planning and Development (Park) and Conservation.<sup>162</sup>

In the nomination Additional Documentation section, the National Park Service Midwest Regional Office has clarified the determination of contributing and non-contributing resources as follows:<sup>163</sup>

### Contributing Resources

#### Buildings:

- Moses Carver Late Period House – (1 contributing building; CLI 120890; LCS 442; HS-05)

160. Richard L. Ortega, George Washington Carver National Monument, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, April 6, 1976, (NRIS Number: 66000114).

161. The current draft nomination, titled "George Washington Carver National Monument (Additional Documentation and Boundary

Increase)," was prepared by Jason Gart, Senior Historian, History Associates, Inc., Rockville, Maryland, and is dated September 26, 2014.

162. Gart, National Register Nomination Additional Documentation (draft).

163. Correspondence by NPS MRWO with the authors.

Sites:

- Entire National Monument Landscape – (1 contributing site; CLI 500391)
- Native Vegetation– (1 contributing site; CLI 140592)
- Carver family cemetery – (1 contributing site; CLI 120786; LCS 5039; HS-31)
- Carver Birthplace Cabin Site – (1 contributing site; archeological site 21NE119)
- Carver Spring – (1 contributing site; CLI 121336)
- Carver Branch – (1 contributing site; CLI 121338)
- Williams Branch – (1 contributing site; CLI 121340)
- Walnut Fence Row – (1 contributing site; CLI 121348)

Structures:

- Carver Family Cemetery Wall – (1 contributing structure; LCS 70020; HS-31A)<sup>164</sup>
- Birthplace Cabin Site – (1 contributing structure; CLI 120888)<sup>165</sup>
- Carver Trail – (1 contributing site; CLI 121332)

Objects:

- Bust of George Washington Carver – (1 contributing object; CLI 121340; LCS 5036; HS-26)
- Boy Carver Statue – (1 contributing object; CLI 120900; LCS 5038; HS-30)
- Dedication Plaque – (1 contributing object; CLI 120904; LCS 5037; HS-27)
- Monument Site Boundary Markers – (2 contributing objects; CLI 120892; LCS 70022; HS-35)<sup>166</sup>

**Non-contributing Resources**

Buildings:

- Visitor Center and Utility Building – (1 non-contributing building; CLI 121318)
- Superintendent’s Residence – (1 non-contributing building; CLI 121324)
- Historian’s Residence – (1 non-contributing building; CLI 121326)
- Four Unit Seasonal Quarters – (1 non-contributing building; CLI 121328)

Sites:

- Gilmore Cabin/Farm site – (1 non-contributing site; CLI 121316; archeological site 21NE120)
- Williams Cabin/Farm site – (1 non-contributing site; CLI 121312; archeological site 21NE121)

164. NPS MWRO has noted that the cemetery wall represents the commemorative period and therefore should be counted as a contributing resource separately from the cemetery, which represents the historic period. Correspondence, NPS MWRO with the authors.

165. NPS MWRO has described the Birthplace Cabin Site as “the NPS-created commemorative log structure that sits on top of the ground,” thus the resource is considered a structure rather

than a site. Correspondence, NPS MWRO with the authors.

166. Although the draft National Register Additional Documentation classifies the boundary markers as objects, Cultural Landscape Report guidelines do not consider objects; therefore, for purposes of the CLR analysis the boundary markers are considered structures. See chapter three for further discussion of the markers.

- 1 ■ Williams Pond/Spring – (1 non-contributing  
2 site; CLI 120894)
- 3 ■ Orchard – (1 non-contributing site;  
4 CLI 121352)
- 5 ■ Prairie – (1 non-contributing site; CLI 121350)
- 6 Structures:
- 7 ■ Williams Springhouse Foundation – (1 non-  
8 contributing structure; CLI 120902;  
9 LCS 70023; HS-36)
- 10 ■ Williams Pond Earthen Dam – (1 non-  
11 contributing structure; CLI 120896;  
12 LCS 70024; HS-37)
- 13 These resources and other site features are further  
14 discussed in Chapter 3: Existing Conditions  
15 Documentation and Comparative Analysis.

## 16 **LRIP and CLI Significance Evaluation**

17 In the Long-Range Interpretive Plan (2007) the  
18 park significance is summarized as:

- 19 ■ The national monument preserves  
20 Dr. Carver’s birthplace and childhood home,  
21 where the experiences of his formative years  
22 influenced his journey to becoming one of this  
23 nation’s most distinguished scientists and  
24 humanitarians.
- 25 ■ The national monument is the nation’s first  
26 memorial and unit of the National Park  
27 System to commemorate the achievements of  
28 an African American.
- 29 ■ The national monument is the first birthplace  
30 national monument of an individual other  
31 than a United States President.

32 The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)  
33 completed for the national monument in 2010  
34 noted that although the National Register  
35 nomination lists several twentieth century features  
36 associated with the park and its mission to honor

37 Dr. Carver, “the commemorative landscape aspect  
38 of the property, including criteria considerations,  
39 is not adequately documented.”<sup>167</sup>

40 In assessing the significance of the cultural  
41 landscape, the CLI notes both the significance of  
42 the setting in encouraging Dr. Carver’s interest in  
43 nature and agriculture, but also the importance of  
44 the commemorative character of the national  
45 monument, which honors Dr. Carver’s life and  
46 work:

47 The landscape, which is presented as being  
48 intentionally minimally designed, is  
49 commemorative in nature reflecting the  
50 National Park Service’s assessment of George  
51 Washington Carver’s formative boyhood years  
52 where he was exposed to agriculture and other  
53 life ways that shaped his personality and  
54 contributed to his many achievements. The  
55 landscape reflects the location, setting, feeling,  
56 and association of Carver’s formative years.

57 George Washington Carver National  
58 Monument is significant because it was the  
59 birthplace and home where Carver spent his  
60 formative years that set him on the road to  
61 becoming one of this nation’s most  
62 distinguished scientists and humanitarians. The  
63 park as an established national monument,  
64 memorializes the life, accomplishments and  
65 contributions of George Washington Carver,  
66 and preserves the landscape setting of the  
67 Moses Carver Farm where George was born  
68 into enslavement. The landscape captures the  
69 ambiance in which Carver began his earliest  
70 scientific observations about the natural world  
71 around him.<sup>168</sup>

72 In response to the findings of the CLI, the  
73 Missouri State Historic Preservation Office noted:

74 . . . we concur with your determination that the  
75 Cultural Landscape does contribute to the  
76 National Register of Historic Places listed

167. *Long-Range Interpretive Plan*; Cultural Landscape Inventory, 18.

168. *Ibid.*, 20. The term “lifeways” refers to a customary or traditional manner of living, including customs, practices, and arts.

George Washington Carver National Monument district.<sup>169</sup>

### **National Register Criteria for Evaluation.**

In order for a property to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, it must possess significance under one of four criteria. The Criteria for Evaluation document states:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.<sup>170</sup>

### **National Register Significance of George Washington Carver National Monument.**

The existing National Register documentation, together with additional research conducted on behalf of this study, served as the basis for evaluating the significance of the national monument conveyed herein.<sup>171</sup> The current draft nomination Additional Documentation in

progress is cited herein. This documentation was reviewed in terms of relevant National Register criteria and the guidance provided in the National Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.<sup>172</sup> In addition, the findings of the 2010 CLI relative to the significance of the cultural landscape were reviewed in developing this evaluation.

As noted in the draft National Register nomination Additional Documentation, George Washington Carver National Monument is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and under Criterion B for its association with the life of Dr. George Washington Carver, a person significant in our past. It is also significant under Criteria Consideration C, a birthplace or grave, as the birthplace of Dr. George Washington Carver, and under Criteria Consideration F, as a commemorative property.<sup>173</sup>

As noted in the draft National Register nomination Additional Documentation, the national monument is significant in the areas of science, education, community planning and development (park), and conservation.<sup>174</sup>

George Washington Carver National Monument is significant as the first national monument, park, or site to recognize an African American, and to recognize a citizen other than a United States President. The creation of a national monument to honor an African American was at least partially rooted in political concerns of the time. Mr. Richard Pilant, Professor of Social Science at Washington University in St. Louis and a strong advocate for the establishment of the national

169. Mark. A. Miles, Director and Deputy, State Historic Preservation Officer, to Roberta Young, Inventory Coordination, National Park Service, Midwest Region, re: George Washington Carver National Monument, July 12, 2010.

170. *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1995).

171. Gibbs; Gavin and Styles.

172. Patrick W. Andrus and Rebecca H. Shrimpton, eds., *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1990, revised 2002 for internet).

173. Gart, National Register Nomination Additional Documentation (draft)..

174. Ibid.

monument, explained in a letter to Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes:

... may I emphasize that this Memorial was pushed ahead in time of war, because its proponents considered it a war measure designed to furnish a worldwide symbol of racial goodwill for the United Nations now and a partial refutation of the most damaging accusations the Axis has been able to level against us in this war—charges relating to our treatment of the Negro... as soon as the site is acquired and takes on national official character that representatives of the different United Nations be invited to take part at the dedication thereof as the first memorial in world history consecrated to race peace... that this be an annual affair serving as a world sounding board for the doctrine of race peace and progress.<sup>175</sup>

The national monument is important as the birthplace of George Washington Carver. Dr. Carver is considered to be “one of the leading agricultural scientists and humanitarians to emerge in America during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In addition, he is considered to be one of the most significant African Americans of this same epoch. Since its inception, George Washington Carver National Monument has served as a symbol, for all Americans, of an individual who overcame tremendous odds to realize a number of nationally and internationally significant achievements.”<sup>176</sup> As noted in the CLI, as a reflection of his humble beginnings and formative childhood years. Echoing and building upon the National Register nomination, the CLI describes the influence of his early years as follows:

The natural environment, the self-sufficient lifestyle of the early farmer, and guidance from Moses and Susan Carver, as well as Andrew and Mariah Watkins during his stay in Neosho, were all strong factors during George’s formative years. In later life he spoke favorably

of his early experiences on the Moses Carver Farm. From this humble beginning, George Washington Carver rose to become a renowned scientist, educator and humanitarian. His contributions to scientific agriculture and his efforts in an extension service for rural farmers brought him nationwide recognition.<sup>177</sup>

As noted in *Springs of Genius*, although most of Dr. Carver’s accomplishments as an educator, botanist, agronomist, and humanitarian occurred at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, the farm achieves its significance as the place where Dr. Carver spent his formative years, assisting in the farm work and exploring the back woods.<sup>178</sup> The park interprets the landscape setting that influenced Dr. Carver as a young child and encouraged his development as a scientist, educator, and humanitarian. Upon acquisition of the Moses Carver farm by the NPS, few historic structures were present and little documentation remained of the period of Dr. Carver’s early life at the site. Interpretation therefore focused on the natural and agricultural surroundings that would have been present during Dr. Carver’s boyhood, and their influence on his life and work. As noted in the 1973 Historic Resource Study and Administration History, the addition of features for interpretive or commemorative purposes “... presented a challenge of how to appropriately represent and interpret a complex man of great achievement who preferred a quiet and simple lifestyle and little fanfare.”<sup>179</sup> In initial development of the site, the NPS sought a balance between restoration of the natural landscape (e.g., re-establishing plant communities) and the careful integration of interpretive features and memorials to George Washington Carver.

During the first decade after the NPS acquired the site, the majority of the structures associated with subsequent property owners were removed. A formal entrance to the site was created, with a

175. Pliant to Ickes, January 24, 1944, “Proposed George Washington Carver National Monument, Federal Record Center, Kansas City, Missouri, Accession No. 65A719, FRC 150293, cited in Toogood, 56.

176. Harrington et al., 1; *Resources Management Plan* (1993), 3.

177. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 20.

178. Harrington et al., 1; *Resources Management Plan* (1993).

179. Toogood, 32.

park-like setting of open lawn and large trees. A picnic area, visitor center, and interpretive trail were established to accommodate visitors and connect them with Dr. Carver's life through interpretive information, access to the landscape features known to Dr. Carver, and through provision of peaceful and contemplative spaces.

In particular, to interpret the way in which Dr. Carver experienced and learned about nature as a boy, the NPS developed the Carver Trail to enable visitors to experience the setting as Dr. Carver understood it. Along the trail are interpretive features designed to provide information without being visually intrusive. For example, a stone boulder with an inset bronze plaque was placed near the birthplace cabin site in 1953; a plaque commemorates the establishment of the park, noting: "Within this area by an Act of Congress of July 14, 1943, is preserved the birthplace of George Washington Carver who rose from slavery to become a distinguished scientist and great force in creating racial understanding."

The CLI notes that the trail

... is laid out to learn about Carver sequentially from birth into enslavement represented by the outline of the birth cabin, to the curious boy in a secret garden represented by the "Boy Carver Statue," to a young adult who visited Moses and Susan Carver represented by the late period house, past the cemetery which is not only reflective but also a reminder of his survival and perseverance, to the amphitheater where his inspirational audio message at the Carver bust "start for the top and say 'I Can,'" which allows for his message to still be delivered freely to all those willing to ask, and then on to the visitor center where education and the memorialization where Carver is presented not as a man of the past, but one of the present and future.<sup>180</sup>

The trail leads from the visitor center past the plaque and site of the slave cabin, into the woodlands along the stream where Dr. Carver spent many childhood hours exploring nature. The Boy Carver statue, designed and cast by Robert Amendola and erected on a limestone

boulder near Carver Branch in 1960, reminds the visitor of the young Carver's curiosity and love of nature. The trail continues past the Williams Pond to the Moses and Susan Carver house, constructed in 1881 and moved to its current location in 1916, which George Washington Carver visited as an adult. The trail then takes visitors to the Carver family cemetery, set aside by Moses Carver as a one-acre plot for use as a family cemetery shortly after he settled in Newton County. The cemetery contains the graves of Moses and Susan Carver, family members, and local residents. The 4-foot-high dry-laid stone wall protecting the graves from livestock was removed by subsequent landowners and reconstructed by the NPS in 1954.

The trail continues to an amphitheater and the Carver bust exhibit. The bronze-painted cast concrete bust, created by Audrey Corwin in 1952, features an audio recording of George Washington Carver speaking at a commencement address in 1942. The path then leads back to the visitor center, where further information about Dr. Carver's life and achievements is presented.

The national monument contains features that illustrate the natural setting of George Washington Carver's boyhood years as well as the memorialization of his life and work. The Carver family cemetery is the only remaining constructed feature that was present in the landscape during Carver's boyhood. The extant Moses Carver house may not have been present when George Washington Carver lived at the Moses Carver farm. Although archeological investigations have identified probable locations of the cabin where Dr. Carver was born, no above-ground evidence remains. The landscape and setting convey the character and resources—fields, woods, stream, and abundant trees, wildflowers, and other plants—that supported his development and interests in agriculture, nature, and science. The features added by the National Park Service as part of the establishment and initial development of the national monument circa 1960 contribute to the commemorative theme as part of the interpretive resources created to help visitors understand Dr. Carver's life and work. The landscape reflects

180. Ibid., 24.

1 NPS efforts to preserve the qualities of integrity  
2 related to setting, feeling, and association, while  
3 the trails illustrate the features implemented to  
4 support commemoration.

5 Many of the features that supported visitor needs  
6 and those of park operations were constructed  
7 between 1953 and 1960 through funding afforded  
8 by the NPS nationwide Mission 66 initiative.  
9 These features—the visitor center, entrance drive,  
10 parking lot, Carver Trail, park maintenance  
11 facilities, and the housing and administrative  
12 complex—survive today. The visitor center,  
13 however, has been significantly altered and no  
14 longer conveys its appearance as a Mission 66-era  
15 designed structure. The Carver Trail has also been  
16 substantially altered, but continues to contribute  
17 strongly to the theme of commemoration. The  
18 Mission 66 residences, as well as the utility area  
19 and maintenance building, were essential to  
20 operations and thus support the theme of  
21 commemoration through establishment and  
22 development of the park. These features, however,  
23 do not meet listing requirements as unusual  
24 examples of the type under Criterion C and are  
25 not indicated here as significant for their  
26 architecture.

27 **Period of Significance.** The suggested period  
28 of significance for George Washington Carver  
29 National Monument consists of two timeframes.  
30 The first period encompasses the years in which  
31 George Washington Carver lived at the site from  
32 his birth circa 1865 until he left at the age of eleven  
33 to attend the Neosho Colored School in 1876. This  
34 period includes the years in which Carver's early  
35 life on the farm formed his great appreciation for  
36 nature, and led to his lifelong work with plants for  
37 agriculture and medicinal uses. As noted in *Springs*  
38 *of Genius*, this period is of the greatest historical  
39 significance.<sup>181</sup> The draft National Register  
40 nomination documentation describes this period  
41 of significance as encompassing:

42 . . . the early life experiences of George  
43 Washington Carver, from his birth circa 1865,

44 through his childhood and formative years on  
45 the Moses and Susan Carver farm, to his  
46 departure from the property in search of a  
47 formal education circa 1876.<sup>182</sup>

48 The draft National Register nomination  
49 documentation also cites a second period of  
50 significance extending from 1943 through 1960,  
51 noting that this period

52 . . . represents the era in which local, state, and  
53 national officials, at the urging of Richard  
54 Pilant, and others, began actively promoting,  
55 and later developing, the landscape dedicated  
56 to memorializing the accomplishments of  
57 George Washington Carver. The period  
58 concludes in 1960 with the dedication of a  
59 Mission 66 visitor center that today serves as  
60 the key components of the commemorative  
61 landscape.<sup>183</sup>

62 The second period reflects land acquisition and  
63 establishment of park infrastructure by the NPS to  
64 support commemoration and interpretation of Dr.  
65 Carver's life and work. The draft nomination  
66 Additional Documentation provides a start date of  
67 1943 for this second period of significance, based  
68 on the date of establishment of the park.<sup>184</sup> The  
69 second period concludes with the dedication of  
70 the visitor center, as noted above.

71 The CLI suggests that the interpretive  
72 development of the cultural landscape through  
73 2007 is significant under the theme of  
74 commemoration. Although the NPS site  
75 restoration efforts continued through 2007 (and  
76 are ongoing), an end date of 1960, as noted in the  
77 current draft National Register documentation  
78 and confirmed by NPS MWRO, is considered  
79 appropriate for the period of significance in that  
80 this date is tied to completion of the initial physical  
81 development by NPS of the national monument.  
82 Alterations and additions constructed between  
83 1960 and 2007 are not linked to the establishment  
84 of the park that conveys its primary  
85 commemorative significance, and are therefore  
86 not considered inherently significant as part of the

181. Harrington et al., 1.

182. Gart, National Register Nomination Additional Documentation (draft).

183. Ibid.

184. Ibid.; correspondence, NPS MWRO with the authors.

- 1 theme of commemoration.
- 2 The dates followed for each period of significance
- 3 in analysis for this study are thus consistent with
- 4 those identified for the National Register
- 5 Additional Documentation, in progress at this
- 6 writing.