

1 foster quiet reflection (Figure 111). The trail is
2 variously surfaced with wood chip mulch and leaf
3 litter as it passes through the trees surrounding the
4 pond, and a mown grass surface where it passes
5 over the earthen dam on the west end of the pond.
6 A wood-edged recycled plastic plank boardwalk
7 carries pedestrians over a wet area south of the
8 pond (Figure 112).



9 **FIGURE 111.** The Contemplative Loop Trail arises from
10 the Carver Trail and leads around Williams Pond.



11 **FIGURE 112.** A wood-edged boardwalk conveys the
12 trail over a wet area on the south side of the pond.

13 The Carver Trail was one of the earliest features
14 developed at the park to connect visitors with
15 George Washington Carver's historic associations
16 with the property. Initially known as the Carver
17 Childhood Trail and the Carver Nature Trail
18 (Figure 113), it was intended "... to help visitors
19 understand Carver and experience nature the way
20 he experienced it from childhood.³⁵² Interpreted
21 along the route was the original slave cabin, the
22 hanging tree, open fields associated with the

23 Moses Carver Farm, Carver Spring and Branch,
24 the Moses Carver house, a walnut fence row, and
25 the cemetery. Native trees and wildflowers were
26 labeled for the benefit of visitors. Later, the Boy
27 Carver statue would be added near the spring.³⁵³



28 **FIGURE 113.** The Carver Trail pictured in August 1963.
29 Source: George Washington Carver National
30 Monument photo collection.

31 The trail as originally installed extended from an
32 overlook terrace atop the knoll east of Carver
33 Branch, and formed a large looping circle similar
34 to the trail today. The Boy Carver statue was sited
35 in 1960 along a gravel pavement, and the Carver
36 Branch crossing occurred via a wooden bridge.

37 By 1963, the National Park Service began to
38 identify problems with the trail and to develop
39 plans to improve it. In 1964–1965, the park was
40 able to secure sufficient funding to resurface the
41 trail, relocate a problematic section, and add a new
42 rustic bridge for the Carver Branch crossing
43 (Figure 114). However, a storm later that year
44 washed out rock work added to support the
45 bridge. The park subsequently paved the nature
46 trail from the visitor center to the Carver Branch
47 to protect visitors from wash outs and slippery
48 surfaces approaching the stream (Figure 115).³⁵⁴

352. CLI, 23.

353. Toogood, 68.

354. Ibid., 73.



FIGURE 114. The wooden bridge crossing Carver Branch in 1964. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument photo collection.



FIGURE 115. The trail was paved from the visitor center to Carver Branch in 1964. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument photo collection.

The trail continued to exhibit problems, however. In 1981, an assessment suggested that handrails were needed along steeper slopes, the bridges were in need of repair, and more benches were desired.³⁵⁵ Although the trail was repaired in 1982, a storm in 1983 washed out both bridges, and damaged the pavement.³⁵⁶ In 1984, the Missouri Army National Guard built four new bridges and an accessibility ramp, while the trail was again repaired and resurfaced.³⁵⁷ In 1988, a prefabricated steel bridge was installed to accommodate the crossings of Carver Branch.

355. Superintendent's Annual Reports, 1981, 1982.
356. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1983.
357. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1984.
358. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1994.

Sections of the trail were again reconfigured and resurfaced in 1991.

In 1994, an accessible comfort station was installed near the visitor center. To provide access to the building, the park built new sidewalks and extended the Carver Trail.³⁵⁸

In 2001, 400 linear feet of asphalt walk were replaced with a 4-inch-thick concrete sidewalk overlaid with recycled rubber surfacing, and accessibility improvements were made between the cabin site and the spring and near the confluence of the two streams using boardwalk. Two new prefabricated steel arched bridges were installed across Carver Branch to allow for the safe passage of the visiting public. The trail was also expanded in 2001 to include the 1/4-mile Contemplative Loop Trail around Williams Pond. The trail followed a mown grass route that had been established as early as 1979. New base rock and pea gravel were added to the trail surface.³⁵⁹

In 2002, additional work was done on the trail to correct safety hazards, including addition of 50 tons of native rock, fill dirt, and topsoil to reshape the terrain in order that it did not exceed a 4:1 slope. Sections of recycled plastic boardwalk were installed as part of an Eagle Scout project.³⁶⁰

In 2008, the park again undertook accessibility improvements for a 0.3-mile-long segment of the Carver Trail, incorporating switchbacks below the cabin site to diminish the existing grade of 12 percent to 4.5 percent. A 150-foot-long dry stacked stone retaining wall was added on the uphill side of the trail.³⁶¹

Based on consideration of these changes, the Carver Trail has been substantially altered since its original installation. Although it possesses diminished integrity of design, workmanship, and materials, the trail possesses sufficient integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association to

359. Superintendent's Annual Report, 2001.
360. Superintendent's Annual Report, 2002.
361. Superintendent's Annual Report, 2008.

1 contribute to the significance of the park
2 landscape.

3 **Walks.** Several concrete walks are present within
4 the park. These are located in the vicinity of the
5 visitor center and the housing complex. Concrete
6 walks edge the large island created by the looped
7 entrance road, and also edge the drop-off loop and
8 the bus parking bays in the south parking area
9 (Figure 116 and Figure 117 and refer to Figure 82).
10 A wide concrete walk, lined with ornamental
11 plantings, decorative benches, and quote stones,
12 leads from the drop-off loop to the front entrance
13 of the visitor center and around the north side of
14 the building to the Carver Trail trailhead
15 (Figure 118 and Figure 119). Another concrete
16 walk links the drop-off loop to the covered
17 breezeway between the visitor center and the
18 maintenance building (Figure 120).



19 **FIGURE 116.** A concrete walk that edges the visitor
20 center parking area.



21 **FIGURE 117.** Concrete walks also edge the large island
22 created by the looped entrance road.



23 **FIGURE 118.** A wide concrete walk leads from the
24 parking area to the front of the visitor center.



25 **FIGURE 119.** The wide concrete walk leads around the
26 visitor center to the north, providing access to the
27 Carver Trail trailhead.



28 **FIGURE 120.** A walk connects the drop-off area and
29 the breezeway between the visitor center and the
30 maintenance building.

Concrete walks connected the parking area with the visitor center as part of early park development (Figure 121). These have been altered and amended since 1960 to accommodate universal accessibility needs as well as the expansion of the visitor center. In 1981, the park assessed barriers to access for visitors. In order to meet access goals, the park identified a need to improve the restrooms and the north entranceway into the visitor center, which had been determined to be difficult to maneuver. In 1982, ramps were added to the visitor center entrance for enhanced accessibility. These were later removed. As part of the visitor center expansion, the walk system was reworked including access to the building and to its north. The present-day walks appear to follow similar alignments and configurations of the walks installed during the early park development period, but have since been replaced and possess diminished integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. They otherwise possess sufficient integrity to contribute to the significance of the park landscape.



FIGURE 121. Walks have been present along the road and parking areas since the early park development period. Source: George Washington Carver National Monument photo collection.

Concrete and asphalt walks link small parking bays with the concrete porches associated with the entrances into each of the three buildings in the housing complex. Wood ramps have been added to two of the three buildings (Figure 122). An additional concrete walk connects the two residences (Figure 123). Walks were installed at the Superintendent's residence and the Historian's residence at the time the buildings were constructed.

Concrete walks within the housing complex survive from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the park landscape.



FIGURE 122. Walks and ramps allow access to the two of the former park housing residences, now used for storage.



FIGURE 123. A concrete walk links the two former residences in the park housing complex.

Walk in picnic area. A short concrete walk is located along the edge of the picnic area spur road, providing access to a universally-accessible drinking fountain and a water pump (Figure 124). The walk was added in 1993 and postdates the period of significance. As such it does not contribute to the significance of the park landscape.



FIGURE 124. A concrete sidewalk in the picnic area allows access to a drinking fountain.

Associated Circulation Features.

Carver Road. The park is accessed via Carver Road, which parallels the eastern edge of the park (Figure 125). Carver Road extends between Interstate 44 to the north and Iris Road to the south. It is a rural county road. Carver Road has afforded access to the park since its establishment.



FIGURE 125. Carver Road forms the eastern boundary of the park.

In 1956, the road approaches to the national monument were improved following Carver Day celebrations that indicated concerns regarding their condition.³⁶² The road may have remained gravel- or dirt-surfaced until the 1960s. In 1966, public access to the park was further enhanced when Carver Road was resurfaced with asphalt. The new surfacing extended to the southeast corner of the park. The work was completed as a cooperative effort between the Newton County

Court and the Diamond Special Road District, based on the request of the park.³⁶³ The road was again resurfaced in 1973 after being described as nearly impassable following a severe winter.³⁶⁴ In 2005, the park received money to improve its road system and parking lots. The park used some of the funds to work with the Newton County Commission and park neighbors to improve four miles of road leading to the park from two state highways. The park also successfully petitioned to have the speed limit in front of the park entrance reduced from 45 to 35 miles per hour.³⁶⁵

Elder Road. The park's south boundary edges an unimproved earth and gravel road known as Elder Road. Gates in the park boundary fence afford access from Elder Road in two locations.

Highways. Many visitors travel to the park from Exit 11A or Exit 18 off Interstate 44, or Exit 35 off Interstate 49. Both of these routes come within eight miles of the park. Exit 11A is located 5 miles to the west of the park, and connects to U.S.

Highway 71 south, which in turn leads to County Highway V. Visitors follow Highway V south for four miles before reaching Carver Road.

These roads are also important routes that support visitation to the park. The significance of the birthplace along local highways began to be recognized in 1942 when the state installed a highway marker along U.S. Highway 71 near Diamond that noted the area to be the "Birthplace of George Washington Carver."

In 1994, the Superintendent's annual report noted that U.S. Highway 71 was in the process of being upgraded to interstate standards, with significant rerouting of large portions of the highway. It also noted that a new interchange would be situated five miles west of the park.³⁶⁶ The park anticipated completion of the road corridor by the end of 1995.

George Washington Carver Historic Trail. The George Washington Carver Historic Trail was

362. Toogood, 76.

363. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1966.

364. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1972.

365. Superintendent's Annual Report, 2005.

366. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1994.

created as a joint effort between the Boy Scouts of America, the Ozark Council, and the park. It links Carver's birthplace with the school in Neosho that Carver attended in 1876. In 1975, park staff worked with the Boy Scouts of America to initiate the trail, which opened later that year.³⁶⁷ In 1979, the Carver Birthplace Association placed a memorial marker in the yard denoting the property as the first public school George Washington Carver attended. The Association also placed a memorial marker in the yard of the home belonging to Andrew and Mariah Watkins where Carver lived while attending school in Neosho.³⁶⁸ In 1995, additional planning, development, routing, signing, and reopening of the 10.2 mile trail was completed.

Missing Circulation Features.

Carver farm lanes. The Moses Carver farm likely included a primary entrance lane that connected the farm precinct with a nearby public road corridor, and internal farm roads that led to crop fields. No evidence of these circulation features exists today, with the possible exception of the north boundary road. It is thought that the present-day Moses Carver house, although it currently "faces east, on its original site it faced south—an orientation that exploited winter sunlight and provided a view of the country lane that once ran past the Carvers' front porch towards the family cemetery."³⁶⁹

Horse race track. John Harris, a former Diamond area resident interviewed to record his memories of the property, recalled that Moses Carver's neighbors brought their horses to the Moses Carver farm to race them on a one-half-mile track. Elza Winter remembered that "... Moses Carver got his money from raising race horses. Had a horse called Dog Legs because he was so ugly. Sold him. After that Dog Legs won races." No additional documentation of this feature has been located to confirm the presence of a race track on Carver's land.³⁷⁰

Contributing Circulation Features.

- Park entrance road and north parking area
- Maintenance area access road and maintenance yard area parking
- Access road leading southwest from the maintenance area through and around fields
- Internal access roads, including North-South Road (west boundary)
- Carver Trail
- Concrete walks associated with the housing complex and visitor center

Non-contributing Circulation Features.

- Staff parking area adjacent to the maintenance area
- Picnic area spur road and parking
- Concrete walk at picnic area
- Contemplative Loop Trail
- Steps and amphitheater associated with the Carver bust
- Wood ramps associated with park housing complex buildings

Adjacent and Nearby Circulation Features.

- Carver Road
- Elder Road
- Highways
- George Washington Carver Historic Trail

Missing Circulation Features.

- Carver farm lanes
- Carver horse racing track

367. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1975.

368. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1979.

369. Harrington et al., 26.

370. Toogood, 40.

3.3.9 Buildings and Structures

There are six buildings and fifteen structures located within the park. The only building that survives from the nineteenth century is the circa 1881 Moses Carver house. The other five buildings were constructed by the National Park Service in 1959–1960 to accommodate visitor uses and park operations. One of these—the park visitor center—was substantially altered and expanded in 2007 to better accommodate interpretive exhibits and protect museum collections. The other four—the maintenance building, Superintendent’s residence, Historian’s residence, and four-unit seasonal housing building—survive from the early park establishment period with sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations and contribute to the significance of the park landscape. The three buildings located within the park housing complex, however, are slated for removal.

Of the fifteen structures, four date to the early park development period and constitute contributing features. They are the rebuilt stone wall that encloses the historic Carver family cemetery, a pair of stone boundary markers, and a springhouse foundation. The remaining structures are contemporary additions that postdate the period of significance and do not contribute to the significance of the park landscape. They include a storage shed, dam, piers, gates, fencing, footbridges, and a stone wall. The date of origin of two additional maintenance-related structures has not been determined.

Buildings.

Moses Carver house (also Moses Carver Late Period Dwelling; LCS ID 000442; HS-05). The Moses Carver house is believed to have been built circa 1881 by Moses Carver, possibly in response to the loss of an earlier dwelling to a tornadic event. The house was originally located to the south of Carver Branch, but moved to its present location north of the stream corridor in 1916 by subsequent owners of the property. The 1-1/2 story L-shaped wood-framed structure has open covered porches at the front (east) and rear (southwest).

The three-room house has intersecting gable roofs covered in sawn cedar wood shingles. The exterior finishes and materials include painted wood clapboard siding with painted wood four-over-four double-hung windows, wood trim, fascia, corner beads, and rubble stone faced foundation walls. Other details include varnished wood porch floors, unfinished open riser wood steps to the front and rear porches, and two brick masonry chimneys (Figure 126 through Figure 131).



FIGURE 126. The Moses Carver house, view looking southwest toward the side and principal facade.



FIGURE 127. The Moses Carver house, view looking northwest toward the principal facade.



1 **FIGURE 128.** The Moses Carver house, view looking
2 northeast towards the rear porch.



3 **FIGURE 129.** View of the rear porch stair and floor.
4 The porch stairs were rehabilitated in 2014.



5 **FIGURE 130.** The front porch of the Moses Carver
6 house.



7 **FIGURE 131.** Detail of the junction of the front porch
8 and the main house showing the separation of siding
9 and porch elements caused by settlement and
10 movement.

11 The house is generally in good condition and is
12 well maintained. The paint coating at exterior
13 wood siding, trim, and window sashes is
14 performing well, although the transparent porch
15 floor finish is worn and in fair to poor condition
16 due to wear and weathering. Some minor
17 settlement has occurred since the building was
18 rehabilitated in 2005. Evidence of this settlement
19 occurs at the southwest and southeast corners of
20 the house; the settlement is causing some
21 separation of wood trim elements at the porch
22 floors and wood siding (refer to Figure 131). The
23 rubble stone masonry foundation is in good
24 condition. It appears that the stone was repointed
25 in 2005, but it is unknown if the entire foundation
26 was rebuilt. The exterior wood doors are in good
27 condition; they are somewhat protected from the
28 elements by the cover offered by the porches. The
29 open riser wood stairs are in fair condition and
30 exhibit some wear and deterioration.

31 The house does not have an accessible route to the
32 porches or to the interior. The existing steps and
33 widths and sill heights of the historic doorways
34 currently prevent universal access.

35 As noted by Harrington et al., in *Springs of Genius*,
36 there is some reason to believe that the house

predates the 1881 construction date generally attributed to it. This date assumes that the house was built following destruction of an earlier dwelling by a tornado that swept through the area in 1880.³⁷¹ It is possible that this assumption is mistaken, and that the house could have been built during George Washington Carver's time on the farm. Harrington et al. suggest that the building's architectural style, construction materials, and building techniques all point to an earlier construction date. For example, the style of the house better reflects antebellum construction techniques, which had generally been replaced by the 1870s, as a mode of folk construction in Missouri, by balloon framing.³⁷² Harrington et al. also consider it possible that Carver built a new house earlier based on the wealth he had accumulated in the 1870s.³⁷³

According to the List of Classified Structures (LCS), the Moses Carver house was first rehabilitated by the National Park Service between 1952 and 1962. Based on review of superintendent annual reports, the building was in need of repairs and maintenance by the early 1960s. In response to the need for repairs, the National Park Service engaged Orville W. Carroll to prepare an HSR for the dwelling in 1964. Following completion of the HSR, the building was re-shingled, painted, and structural weaknesses repaired.³⁷⁴

In 1972, the Superintendent described a request for the services of a professional architect to assist the park in further restoration of the house.³⁷⁵ In 1973, the house was described in poor condition and badly in need of repair and restoration. The park received funding for repair of the house in 1974, and work continued through 1976. The Jones Brothers Construction Company of Joplin was engaged to perform much of the work, which included setting the building on a new foundation.³⁷⁶ In 1979, a copper roof was introduced on the rear porch of the house, and the

floor of the porch was replaced. Interior floors were treated with preservative.³⁷⁷

In 2005, the National Park Service conducted a second extensive rehabilitation effort that included installation of a new roof and porch, replacement of windows and siding, repainting the structure inside and out, removal of all lead-based paint, replacement of crumbling mortar in the chimneys, and replacement of the front and rear porches. Overseen by the National Park Service regional historical architect Al O'Bright, the project involved careful research and analysis, such as testing to determine the original paint scheme. Unfortunately, the newly painted siding served to attract squirrels. Detering squirrels from destructively gnawing the wood proved to be a multi-year challenge.

It is believed that George Washington Carver visited Moses and Susan Carver in this house on at least one occasion—circa 1884—prior to his leaving for Tuskegee in 1896.³⁷⁸ It is the only building in the park directly associated with his life.

In the early 1950s, the National Park Service included the Moses Carver house as an exhibit along the Carver Trail, creating a fenced yard precinct. The Moses Carver house survives with integrity from the early park development period in its current location and contributes to the significance of the park landscape.

Visitor Center (Building No. 21). The George Washington Carver National Monument Visitor Center is located at the west end of the park entrance road and parking loop. The building was constructed in 1959–1960 as part of the Mission 66 program. The original building was a low, one-story, brick and wood-sided building with cedar shake roofing. It contained 3,300 square feet of space, approximately 1,268 square feet of which were occupied by museum exhibits. A long

371. Ibid., 23.

372. Ibid., 25.

373. Ibid., 26.

374. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1964.

375. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1967.

376. Superintendent's Annual Reports, 1974, 1975, 1976.

377. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1979.

378. Toogood, 42.

1 overhang ran along the entire eastern side of the
2 building, connecting the visitor center with a
3 restroom building to the north and a maintenance
4 building to the south. The restroom building was
5 connected to the visitor center by a covered
6 breezeway.

7 In 2007, the building was expanded and
8 remodeled to accommodate
9 educational/interpretive programming. The
10 expansion involved adding space to accommodate
11 a multipurpose room, humanitarian room, kitchen
12 and storage area, science and history discovery
13 areas, science and history focus areas, a theater,
14 enlarged museum space, new offices, curatorial
15 facilities, and other support-function areas such as
16 a library-conference room and a computer room.
17 As part of the expansion of the building, the
18 heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
19 were replaced, and a new power generator
20 installed. The project entailed construction of a
21 large two-story addition to the west side of the
22 original visitor center and included the
23 development of a new entrance into a main lobby
24 located between the existing restroom building
25 and the original visitor center (Figure 132 through
26 Figure 138). In 2010, the administrative offices
27 were completed in the expanded visitor center
28 complex; park staff subsequently relocated from
29 offices in the housing complex buildings to the
30 new space.



31 **FIGURE 132.** View of the visitor center looking
32 southwest.



33 **FIGURE 133.** View of the renovated visitor center
34 entrance and entrance plaza.



35 **FIGURE 134.** View south of the breezeway connecting
36 the visitor center and the maintenance building.



37 **FIGURE 135.** View looking northeast of the expanded
38 visitor center.



FIGURE 136. View looking northwest of the original visitor center, foreground. Note the decorative limestone panels between the steel sash windows.



FIGURE 137. Detail showing the deteriorated siding and paint at the junction of the breezeway roof and the visitor center.



FIGURE 138. Detail of the warped and deteriorated wood siding and paint, as well as the damaged ridge vent, under the roof.

The surviving section of the original one story visitor center is clad with modular brick and painted shiplap cedar siding and is topped with a low slope roof. Windows in the original building are steel sash and arranged in horizontal bands, with limestone panels between each window group. The 2007 visitor center addition utilized jumbo brick veneer with a similar blend of brick colors as the original building, along with wood siding that matched the profiles of the original siding. Windows in the newly constructed areas are clad-wood units, either fixed or casement in operation. The new roofs have shallow slopes, matching the slopes of original roof elements. It appears that all roof surfaces received new asphalt shingles as part of the 2007 construction effort. The majority of the visitor center's doors and entrance systems are painted hollow metal with insulating glass at transoms and sidelights.

An open air breezeway or covered canopy connects the visitor center to the maintenance building. The breezeway canopy is constructed of exposed painted wood beams and columns, roof rafters and decking.

The visitor center is generally in good condition but contains some areas where materials are experiencing advanced deterioration. The brick masonry is in good condition, with no evidence of settling or deteriorated mortar. Limestone window sills and decorative panels, while containing some organic growth or dirt, are generally in good condition. The steel windows are in good to fair condition with some peeling paint and deteriorated sealant. New clad wood window units appear to be performing well and are in good condition. Three-tab asphalt shingles covering the roof are in good to fair condition. Most roof edges do not have gutters or downspouts and contain painted metal drip edging and wood fascia. Roof areas fitted with gutters and downspouts are located at the north and east entrance areas and at the high roof areas that drain to the courtyard between visitor center and maintenance building. The perimeter of these roof areas have half-round profile gutters and round downspouts painted to match the wood fascia. The majority of the wood fascia and metal drip

edges, gutters, and downspouts are in good condition, but paint failure is widespread. Wood siding is in various states of repair, from fair to deteriorated. Many areas of rotted wood siding were observed, especially at exposed high roof/wall junctions. The majority of the paint coatings at areas of wood siding was either faded or deteriorated. Other painted wood surfaces at underside of the eaves and the covered breezeway are in good condition.

Over the years, the building has required several repairs. In 1966, the superintendent reported having to make major repairs to the roof of the visitor center, which was leaking due to a built-in gutter.³⁷⁹

In 1979, park administrative offices were moved from the visitor center to the former Superintendent's residence. The larger office in the visitor center was converted into an audio-visual room, while the smaller office was converted for use by the interpreter. A vestibule was added to the front door of the visitor center at the time.

In 1994, an accessible restroom was installed in the vicinity of the visitor center, and changes were made in the Carver Trail to provide access to the new facilities.³⁸⁰ In 1995, the visitor center heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system was upgraded.

The building expansion conducted in 2007 was preceded by review of the park's Mission 66 features for their historic significance and integrity. The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office determined that the collection of mid-twentieth-century features had been altered substantially since their original construction and did not possess sufficient integrity to render them eligible for listing in the National Register of

Historic Places, and that they did not contribute to the national monument. The determination suggested that the proposed new construction would not have an adverse effect on the park.³⁸¹ The visitor center has been extensively altered since its original construction. It has lost integrity of design, association, materials, and workmanship. As such, it does not contribute to the significance of the park landscape.

Maintenance Building (Building No. 22). The maintenance building (Figure 139 through Figure 142) was constructed along with the visitor center in 1959–1960. As noted previously, it was built as part of the Mission 66 program.



FIGURE 139. The maintenance building, view looking southeast.

379. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1966.

380. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1994.

381 "Project Agreement, George Washington Carver National Monument, Remodel and Expand Visitor Center to Provide Multi-Purpose Facility and Storm Shelter," April 2004, File D22, ACF, GWCA, and Mark A. Miles, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, to Superintendent, 25 May 2004.



1 **FIGURE 140.** The maintenance building, view looking
2 northwest from the maintenance yard.



3 **FIGURE 141.** The maintenance building, view looking
4 northeast from the maintenance yard.



5 **FIGURE 142.** Detail of the deteriorated masonry wall
6 surrounding the maintenance yard.

7 The maintenance building is a simple rectangular
8 form capped with a gable roof. The one-story
9 building is set into the hillside and contains offices
10 and administrative areas along the northern side,

11 and a high bay shop area accessible at south side.
12 The south side of the building fronts a
13 maintenance yard, which is encircled with a low
14 brick masonry wall constructed of the same
15 modular brick as the maintenance building and
16 original visitor center. It is also edged by a small
17 brick utility building (see below). Windows are
18 steel sash units arranged in horizontal bands, with
19 limestone panels between each window group.
20 The shallow slope roof is covered in three-tab
21 asphalt shingles and does not have gutters or
22 downspouts. The roofs have painted metal drip
23 edges and wood fascia. The overhanging roof eave
24 has exposed rafters and dimension wood
25 sheathing, very similar to the covered breezeway
26 joining the maintenance building and visitor
27 center. The majority of the maintenance building's
28 doors and entrance systems are painted hollow
29 metal with some glass as sidelights. The five
30 overhead bay doors at the south maintenance yard
31 are fiberglass.

32 The maintenance building is generally in fair
33 condition but contains some areas which are
34 experiencing advanced deterioration. Brick
35 masonry is in good condition, with no evidence of
36 settling or deteriorated mortar. Limestone
37 window sills and decorative panels, while
38 containing some organic growth or dirt, are also in
39 good condition. Steel windows are in good to fair
40 condition, with some peeling paint and
41 deteriorated sealant. Three-tab asphalt shingles
42 and the majority of the wood fascia and metal drip
43 edges are in good condition, but paint failure is
44 evident. The overhead doors appear to be
45 operable and in fair condition. The low brick
46 masonry walls surrounding the maintenance yard
47 are in poor condition. Large areas of spalling
48 masonry and eroded mortar are evident at the east
49 and west sections of the enclosure wall.

50 In 2003–2004, the maintenance building, along
51 with the visitor center and three residences, was
52 assessed by the Missouri State Historic
53 Preservation Office for its significance and
54 integrity relating to the Mission 66 program. The
55 building was determined not eligible for listing in

the National Register of Historic Places.³⁸² Nonetheless, this building survives from the early park development period with a good degree of integrity and contributes to the significance of the park landscape.

Utility building. The utility building is a small, one-story rectangular structure located at the southeast corner of the maintenance yard (Figure 143). Constructed of brick masonry to match the visitor center and maintenance building, the utility building has a low slope gable roof covered in three-tab asphalt shingles. A set of concrete stairs is located at the south wall, and the west wall contains a pair of hollow metal access doors. The building houses the main fire pump and emergency generator for the visitor center complex and contains the generator exhaust stack and multiple fire department connections at the south exterior wall. The building masonry, doors, roof, and fascia are in good condition. The building houses a fire pump and emergency generator. This equipment is no longer needed by the park.



FIGURE 143. The utility building, view looking northeast.

Superintendent's residence (Building No. 23). (Figure 144 through Figure 147) Located at the southeast corner of the park near Carver Road is a group of three Mission 66-era structures designed and constructed in 1959–1960. One of these, a single-family dwelling, is known as the Superintendent's residence. This one-story ranch-

style rectangular structure was converted to the park headquarters in 1979. To accommodate office uses in the former Superintendent's residence, the garage was enclosed and finished, a six-space parking lot was constructed in front of the building, and a new concrete pad and step were added to the front of the building. Several changes were made to the interior.³⁸³ The structure is currently being used as storage for surplus equipment and supplies, and is being considered for demolition. All administrative functions formerly located in the building were moved to the renovated and expanded visitor center in 2010.



FIGURE 144. The Superintendent's residence, view looking northwest towards main front door.



FIGURE 145. The Superintendent's residence, view looking east towards the rear deck.

382. Superintendent's Annual Report, 2003, Ibid.

383. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1979.



FIGURE 146. Detail of a deteriorated wood ramp and deck behind the Superintendent's residence.



FIGURE 147. Detail of the west gable showing the deteriorated fascia and roofing.

The Superintendent's residence is rectangular in plan with a low slope asphalt shingled gable roof covering the structure. The roof has deep overhanging eaves, typical of ranch style homes, and metal gutters and downspouts. The exterior walls are clad with embossed beige-painted steel lap siding with painted metal fascia and soffits. At the front of the residence, a large pressure treated wood ramp has been added to provide an accessible route to the main entrance. Two sets of concrete steps and stoops mark the main front door and a secondary entrance. At the rear of the residence, a large hexagonal wood deck has been added, along with a ramp to provide universal access at the rear of the structure. Windows are double hung design, either single or paired, with wood sashes. All window openings have been

fitted with aluminum storm sashes painted in a dark brown color. All entrance doors have been retrofitted with newer steel clad doors with vision panel and lever type hardware.

The residence is generally in fair to poor condition. The siding, while mostly intact, shows signs of fading paint and deterioration. Some metal fascia panels are missing, and many are loose, allowing water into the cladding systems and causing deterioration of wood wall elements. Shingle roofing systems are also in fair to poor condition. Several loose and detached asphalt shingles are evident. Paint and sealant at the wood windows is also in poor and deteriorated condition. Both wood ramps and the rear deck contain organic growth and many warped and rotted members. Two large ground mounted HVAC units located at the rear of the house are ducted into the main house. These units are apparently still in use to provide heating and cooling to the residence but their age and condition is unknown.

In 2003–2004, this and the other Mission 66 era buildings were assessed by region and determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.³⁸⁴ Nonetheless, this building survives from the early park development period and contributes to the significance of the park landscape.

Historian's residence (Building No. 24). (Figure 148 through Figure 151) Located directly west of the Superintendent's residence is the Historian's residence. This one-story ranch style rectangular structure is smaller in size but similar in configuration to the Superintendent's residence. Currently the structure is being used as storage for surplus equipment and supplies for the park. It is being considered for demolition.

384. Ibid.



1 **FIGURE 148.** The Historian's residence, view looking
2 northwest towards the front door.



3 **FIGURE 149.** The Historian's residence, view looking
4 east towards the rear of the structure.



5 **FIGURE 150.** Detail of the rear wood deck.



6 **FIGURE 151.** Detail of the rear wood deck.

7 The Historian's residence is rectangular in plan
8 with a shallow slope asphalt shingled gable roof.
9 The roof has deep overhanging eaves and metal
10 gutters and downspouts. The exterior walls are
11 clad with embossed beige-painted composition
12 wood fiber siding with painted wood fascia and
13 soffits. At the front of the residence, a pressure
14 treated wood ramp has been added to provide an
15 accessible route to the main entrance. There is
16 evidence of an in-filled garage door at the south
17 wall where a rectangular section of siding does not
18 match the adjacent siding. At the rear of the
19 residence, two small rectangular wood decks have
20 been added.

21 Windows are double hung design, either single or
22 paired, with wood sashes. All window openings
23 have been fitted with aluminum storm sashes
24 painted in a dark brown color. All entrance doors
25 have been retrofitted with newer steel clad doors
26 with vision panel and lever type hardware.

27 The residence is generally in poor condition. The
28 siding is deteriorated, with fading paint and areas
29 of rot or deterioration. Wood fascias are warped
30 and have severely deteriorated paint coating. Paint
31 and sealant at the wood windows are also in poor
32 and deteriorated condition. The wood ramp and
33 two rear decks contain many warped, rotted, and
34 missing members.

35 In 2003–2004, the Historian's residence was
36 assessed by the Missouri State Historic
37 Preservation Office and determined not eligible
38 for listing in the National Register of Historic

1 Places.³⁸⁵ Nonetheless, this building survives from
 2 the early park development period and contributes
 3 to the significance of the park landscape.

4 **Four-unit seasonal housing building**
 5 (Building No. 25). (Figure 152 through Figure 156)
 6 The four-unit seasonal housing building is a one-
 7 story building located in the southwest section of
 8 the grouping of Mission 66 residential structures.
 9 It is currently used for storage and is slated for
 10 demolition.

11 The rectangular ranch style building is
 12 characterized by concrete masonry walls that
 13 subdivide the structure into four apartment units.
 14 Wall areas between parting walls are clad in
 15 painted cedar lap siding. The roof is a shallow
 16 slope gable covered in three tab asphalt shingles.
 17 The roof edges have painted wood fascia and
 18 metal gutters and downspouts. The front of the
 19 building has screened-in porches that also act as
 20 the main front door entrances for each unit. The
 21 rear of the building has one door for each unit
 22 leading to small concrete patio slab. Windows are
 23 double hung design, either single or paired, with
 24 wood sashes. All window openings have been
 25 fitted with aluminum storm sashes painted in a
 26 dark brown color. All entrance doors have been
 27 retrofitted with newer steel clad doors with vision
 28 panel.



29 **FIGURE 152.** The four-unit seasonal housing building,
 30 view looking northwest towards the front of the
 31 complex.



32 **FIGURE 153.** The four-unit seasonal housing, view
 33 looking towards the west facade.



34 **FIGURE 154.** The four-unit seasonal housing building,
 35 view looking northeast.



36 **FIGURE 155.** The four-unit seasonal housing building,
 37 view looking towards the east facade and rear of the
 38 complex.

385. Ibid.



FIGURE 156. Detail of the rear of the building, showing stoops, condensing units, and electrical service features.

The four-unit seasonal housing building is generally in fair to poor condition, and does not meet universal accessibility standards. The cedar siding, while mostly intact, contains large areas of paint failure and wood deterioration. Wood fascia boards have extensive paint failure and are warped. The asphalt shingle roofing is in fair to poor condition. Several loose and detached asphalt shingles are in evidence. Many downspouts are missing, allowing water to pool around building foundations. Paint and sealant at the wood windows is also in poor and deteriorated condition.

In 2003–2004, this and the other Mission 66 era buildings were assessed by the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office and determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.³⁸⁶ Nonetheless, this building survives from the early park development period and contributes to the significance of the park landscape.

Structures.

Storage area shed. The Superintendent's Report states that the storage shed was constructed in the maintenance shop area in 1997. The shed and associated storage area were moved to the southwest corner of the housing complex around 2004 to allow the construction of the expanded visitor center. The storage building

located in association with the fenced enclosure at the southwest corner of the housing complex postdates the period of significance and does not contribute to the significance of the park landscape (Figure 157).



FIGURE 157. A small storage shed is located in the fenced storage yard southwest of the housing complex.

Board fence enclosure at storage area. A wooden post and board fence forms a rectangular enclosure for the maintenance yard associated with the storage shed. The yard is used to store construction materials used in maintaining the park. Although its date of origin is not currently known, the fenced enclosure appears to postdate the period of significance and does not contribute to the significance of the park landscape.

Footbridges along Carver Trail. The George Washington Carver National Monument contains two pedestrian bridge crossings of Carver Branch. Bridge 1 is located along the Carver Trail directly adjacent to the Boy Carver statue (Figure 158). Bridge 2 is also located along the trail immediately south of the Moses Carver house (Figure 159).

386. Ibid.



1 **FIGURE 158.** Bridge 1, view looking north and
2 showing the approach ramp and bridge truss
3 configuration.



21 **FIGURE 160.** Detail of the concrete foundation stem
22 wall on Bridge 1.



4 **FIGURE 159.** Bridge 2, view looking south from the
5 approach ramp.



23 **FIGURE 161.** View of wood decking and the wood
24 railings.

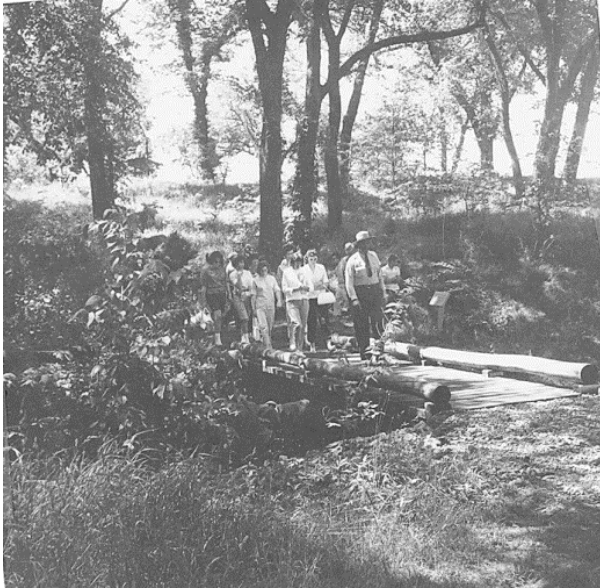
6 The bridges are identical in design, structure, and
7 material. The bridges utilize two Corten tubular
8 steel trusses with a 2x6 wood pedestrian walk
9 situated between the trusses. The bridge truss
10 assembly rests on thick concrete stem wall
11 foundations at either side of the stream
12 (Figure 160). Dimensional treated-wood approach
13 ramps edge the end of each bridge to match the
14 grade of the bridge walk surface with the trail
15 system. The steel truss bridge sides also contain
16 two 2x6 wood railings to fill the gaps between the
17 diagonal truss members. The center of the bridge
18 wood walking surface is painted with a gray
19 sanded paint to improve traction and prevent
20 slippage (Figure 161).

25 Identification tags on each bridge indicate that
26 they were constructed by Bridge America, Inc. of
27 Alexandria, Minnesota. Each bridge was
28 engineered to carry 100 pounds per square foot
29 (live load) and 6,000 pounds of vehicular load. The
30 bridges were installed in 1991.

31 Both bridges are in good to fair condition. The 2x6
32 wood railings are warped and contain organic
33 growth. Several elements of the wood approach
34 structures also have rotted wood components
35 including vertical posts and railings. Corten steel
36 elements appear to be in good condition and are
37 performing well. Paint at the wooden bridge floor
38 is worn in some areas and also contains organic
39 growth.

40 Wooden footbridges have been used to convey the
41 Carver Trail across park streams since at least 1963

1 (Figure 162). Bridges were also used during the
2 Shartel period to cross property streams
3 (Figure 163). The initial bridges were replaced in
4 1993, and again in 2001. They postdate the period
5 of significance and do not contribute to the
6 significance of the park landscape.



7 **FIGURE 162.** A footbridge crossing Carver Branch in
8 1963. Source: George Washington Carver National
9 Monument photo collection.



10 **FIGURE 163.** Footbridges were used to cross streams
11 during Shartel ownership, such as this bridge
12 pictured in 1938. Source: George Washington Carver
13 National Monument photo collection.

14 **Williams Pond dam** (LCS ID 070024; HS-37).
15 Williams Pond is impounded with an earth fill
16 gravity dam, fitted with a discharge pipe, that was
17 built in 1978 (Figure 164 and refer to Figure 66).³⁸⁷
18 An earlier dam, which was built of earth reinforced
19 with rock and mortar, was built in the 1930s by the
20 Shartels approximately 100 feet downstream from
21 the Williams Spring (Figure 165).³⁸⁸ The dam
22 formed a shallow one-half acre pond. Today, the
23 pond measures three-quarters of an acre. The
24 pond was named after Sarah Jane Williams, Moses
25 Carver's niece. William Moore Williams married
26 Sarah Jane Carver (Moses Carver's niece) in 1853.
27 They built a house on the Moses Carver farm
28 where they raised their family. The Williams
29 children are thought to have been playmates of
30 George Washington Carver.

31 The National Park Service excavated the land
32 adjacent to the original pond to enlarge it when
33 they repaired the dam to address safety and
34 aesthetic concerns in 1978. Repair work was
35 conducted according to a plan prepared by the
36 National Park Service in consultation with a U.S.
37 Soil Conservation Service Engineer.³⁸⁹ A survey of
38 park cultural resources in 1976 determined that
39 the dam did not contribute to the historical
40 significance of the national monument, so the use
41 of more contemporary materials in the dam's
42 reconstruction was not considered to be an issue.
43 The project ultimately entailed the removal of 600
44 cubic yards of dredge materials from the pond.
45 Much of the material was spread in the woods to
46 the east and north of the pond, at a depth of up to
47 3 feet. To prevent damage to the woodland trees,
48 the dredge material was later removed and spread
49 in nearby fields.

50 In 2004, the dam embankment was regraded to
51 enhance mowing safety by placing rock at the base
52 and backfilling with soil to diminish the steepness
53 of the slope.³⁹⁰ Today, the earthen structure is
54 maintained under mown turf.

387. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 40.

388 The LCS also notes a possible original period of construction circa 1920 to 1929.

389. Superintendent's Annual Report, 1978.

390. Superintendent's Annual Report, 2004.