

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

352. CLI, 23.

353. Toogood, 68.

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

354. Ibid., 73.



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



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

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

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

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

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

40 In 2002, additional work was done on the trail to
41 correct safety hazards, including addition of
42 50 tons of native rock, fill dirt, and topsoil to
43 reshape the terrain in order that it did not exceed a
44 4:1 slope. Sections of recycled plastic boardwalk
45 were installed as part of an Eagle Scout project.³⁶⁰

46 In 2008, the park again undertook accessibility
47 improvements for a 0.3-mile-long segment of the
48 Carver Trail, incorporating switchbacks below the
49 cabin site to diminish the existing grade of
50 12 percent to 4.5 percent. A 150-foot-long dry
51 stacked stone retaining wall was added on the
52 uphill side of the trail.³⁶¹

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

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.

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.

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



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

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

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



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



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

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



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

3 **Associated Circulation Features.**

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



10 **FIGURE 125.** Carver Road forms the eastern boundary
11 of the park.

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

22 Court and the Diamond Special Road District,
23 based on the request of the park.³⁶³ The road was
24 again resurfaced in 1973 after being described as
25 nearly impassable following a severe winter.³⁶⁴ In
26 2005, the park received money to improve its road
27 system and parking lots. The park used some of
28 the funds to work with the Newton County
29 Commission and park neighbors to improve four
30 miles of road leading to the park from two state
31 highways. The park also successful petitioned to
32 have the speed limit in front of the park entrance
33 reduced from 45 to 35 miles per hour.³⁶⁵

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

38 **Highways.** Many visitors travel to the park from
39 Exit 11A or Exit 18 off **Interstate 44**, or Exit 35 off
40 Interstate 49. Both of these routes come within
41 eight miles of the park. Exit 11A is located 5 miles
42 to the west of the park, and connects to U.S.
43 **Highway 71 south**, which in turn leads to **County**
44 **Highway V**. Visitors follow Highway V south for
45 four miles before reaching Carver Road.

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

53 In 1994, the Superintendent's annual report noted
54 that U.S. Highway 71 was in the process of being
55 upgraded to interstate standards, with significant
56 rerouting of large portions of the highway. It also
57 noted that a new interchange would be situated
58 five miles west of the park.³⁶⁶ The park anticipated
59 completion of the road corridor by the end of
60 1995.

61 **George Washington Carver Historic Trail.** The
62 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.

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

17 **Missing Circulation Features.**

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

31 *Horse race track.* John Harris, a former Diamond
 32 area resident interviewed to record his memories
 33 of the property, recalled that Moses Carver’s
 34 neighbors brought their horses to the Moses
 35 Carver farm to race them on a one-half-mile track.
 36 Elza Winter remembered that “. . . Moses Carver
 37 got his money from raising race horses. Had a
 38 horse called Dog Legs because he was so ugly. Sold
 39 him. After that Dog Legs won races.” No
 40 additional documentation of this feature has been
 41 located to confirm the presence of a race track on
 42 Carver’s land.³⁷⁰

43 **Contributing Circulation Features.**

- 44 ▪ Park entrance road and north parking area
- 45 ▪ Maintenance area access road and
46 maintenance yard area parking
- 47 ▪ Access road leading southwest from the
48 maintenance area through and around fields
- 49 ▪ Internal access roads, including North-South
50 Road (west boundary)
- 51 ▪ Carver Trail
- 52 ▪ Concrete walks associated with the housing
53 complex and visitor center

54 **Non-contributing Circulation Features.**

- 55 ▪ Staff parking area adjacent to the maintenance
56 area
- 57 ▪ Picnic area spur road and parking
- 58 ▪ Concrete walk at picnic area
- 59 ▪ Contemplative Loop Trail
- 60 ▪ Steps and amphitheater associated with the
61 Carver bust
- 62 ▪ Wood ramps associated with park housing
63 complex buildings

64 **Adjacent and Nearby Circulation Features.**

- 65 ▪ Carver Road
- 66 ▪ Elder Road
- 67 ▪ Highways
- 68 ▪ George Washington Carver Historic Trail

69 **Missing Circulation Features.**

- 70 ▪ Carver farm lanes
- 71 ▪ 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

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

19 According to the List of Classified Structures
 20 (LCS), the Moses Carver house was first
 21 rehabilitated by the National Park Service between
 22 1952 and 1962. Based on review of superintendent
 23 annual reports, the building was in need of repairs
 24 and maintenance by the early 1960s. In response to
 25 the need for repairs, the National Park Service
 26 engaged Orville W. Carroll to prepare an HSR for
 27 the dwelling in 1964. Following completion of the
 28 HSR, the building was re-shingled, painted, and
 29 structural weaknesses repaired.³⁷⁴

30 In 1972, the Superintendent described a request
 31 for the services of a professional architect to assist
 32 the park in further restoration of the house.³⁷⁵ In
 33 1973, the house was described in poor condition
 34 and badly in need of repair and restoration. The
 35 park received funding for repair of the house in
 36 1974, and work continued through 1976. The
 37 Jones Brothers Construction Company of Joplin
 38 was engaged to perform much of the work, which
 39 included setting the building on a new
 40 foundation.³⁷⁶ In 1979, a copper roof was
 41 introduced on the rear porch of the house, and the

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

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

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

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

72 **Visitor Center** (Building No. 21). The George
 73 Washington Carver National Monument Visitor
 74 Center is located at the west end of the park
 75 entrance road and parking loop. The building was
 76 constructed in 1959–1960 as part of the Mission 66
 77 program. The original building was a low, one-
 78 story, brick and wood-sided building with cedar
 79 shake roofing. It contained 3,300 square feet of
 80 space, approximately 1,268 square feet of which
 81 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.



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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



53 **FIGURE 139.** The maintenance building, view looking
54 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

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

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



24 **FIGURE 143.** The utility building, view looking
 25 northeast.

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

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



47 **FIGURE 144.** The Superintendent’s residence, view
 48 looking northwest towards main front door.



49 **FIGURE 145.** The Superintendent’s residence, view
 50 looking east towards the rear deck.

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

383. Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1979.



1 **FIGURE 146.** Detail of a deteriorated wood ramp and
2 deck behind the Superintendent’s residence.



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

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

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

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

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

51 **Historian’s residence** (Building No. 24).
52 (Figure 148 through Figure 151) Located directly
53 west of the Superintendent’s residence is the
54 Historian’s residence. This one-story ranch style
55 rectangular structure is smaller in size but similar
56 in configuration to the Superintendent’s residence.
57 Currently the structure is being used as storage for
58 surplus equipment and supplies for the park. It is
59 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.



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

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

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

25 **Structures.**

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

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



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

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

50 **Footbridges along Carver Trail.** The George
51 Washington Carver National Monument contains
52 two pedestrian bridge crossings of Carver Branch.
53 Bridge 1 is located along the Carver Trail directly
54 adjacent to the Boy Carver statue (Figure 158).
55 Bridge 2 is also located along the trail immediately
56 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.

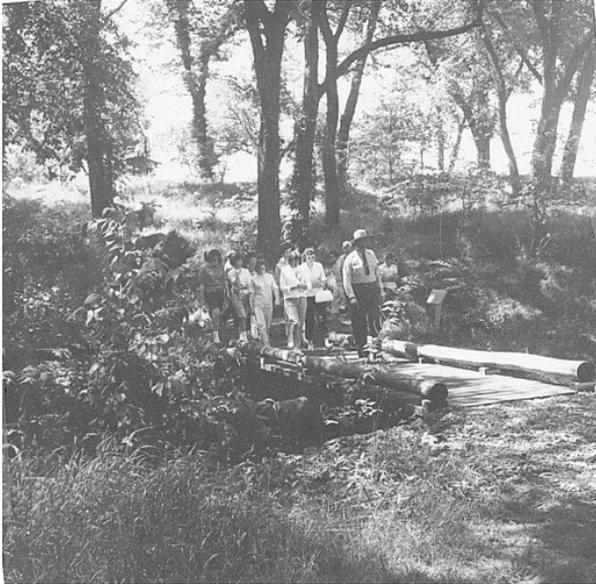
6 The bridges are identical in design, structure, and
7 material. The bridges utilize two Corten tubular
8 steel trusses with a 2x6 wood pedestrian walk
9 situated between the trusses. The bridge truss
10 assembly rests on thick concrete stem wall
11 foundations at either side of the stream
12 (Figure 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.