
Chapter 2: Site History

1 Introduction

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

19 Initial Settlement of the 20 Moses Carver Farm

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

27 southwest of the present-day village of Diamond
28 in Newton County.²⁶

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

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

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

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

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

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

27. *Ibid.*, 10.

28. Harrington et al., 58.

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

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

4 Moses Carver further expanded his land holdings
 5 in 1844, when he obtained 40 acres from his
 6 brother Richard for \$50.³¹ In 1853, Moses Carver
 7 received a patent for an additional 40 acres of land
 8 from the U.S. General Land Office. Following
 9 these acquisitions, Moses Carver owned 240 acres
 10 of land, comprising portions of two sections.³²

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

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

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

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

43 **Slavery at the Moses Carver Farm**

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

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

31. Ibid.

32. Ibid.

33. Ibid., 16–18.

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

35. Ibid., 19.

36. Ibid., 8.

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

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

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

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

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

14 In October 1859, Mary gave birth to a son, James.⁴²
15 The identity of James's father is unknown. Mary
16 gave birth to a second son, George, circa 1865.⁴³
17 While the identity of George Washington Carver's
18 father is not known, some including George
19 believe his father was a slave owned by James
20 Grant, a farmer from nearby Buffalo Township.⁴⁴
21 In addition to George and James, there is
22 speculation that Mary also gave birth to two or
23 three daughters while a slave of the Carvers.⁴⁵

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

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

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

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

52 Emancipation

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

40. Krahe and Catton, 23, citing Burke, 148, 300.
41. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 37, citing Burke, 135–138.
42. *Ibid.*, 32. James's birthdate is taken from the information on his grave marker erected at the time of his death in 1873.
43. The birth of George Washington Carver was not recorded and as a result the exact year of his birth is not known. For this study, a birth year of 1865 has been assumed based on the findings of the *Historic Resource Study*. See Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft).

44. Gart, *Historic Resource Study* (draft), 35.
45. *Ibid.*, 33.
46. *Ibid.*, 38, citing Paul L. Beaubien and Merrill J. Mattes, "George Washington Carver National Monument: The Archeological Search for George Washington Carver's Birthplace," *Negro History Bulletin* 18, no. 2 (November 1954), 35.
47. *Ibid.*, 46.
48. *Ibid.*, 48, citing Burke, 301–303.

1 After emancipation, James and George, who were
2 both young children and without parents,
3 remained on the farm with Moses and Susan
4 Carver.⁴⁹

5 **The Moses Carver Farm after the** 6 **Civil War**

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

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

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

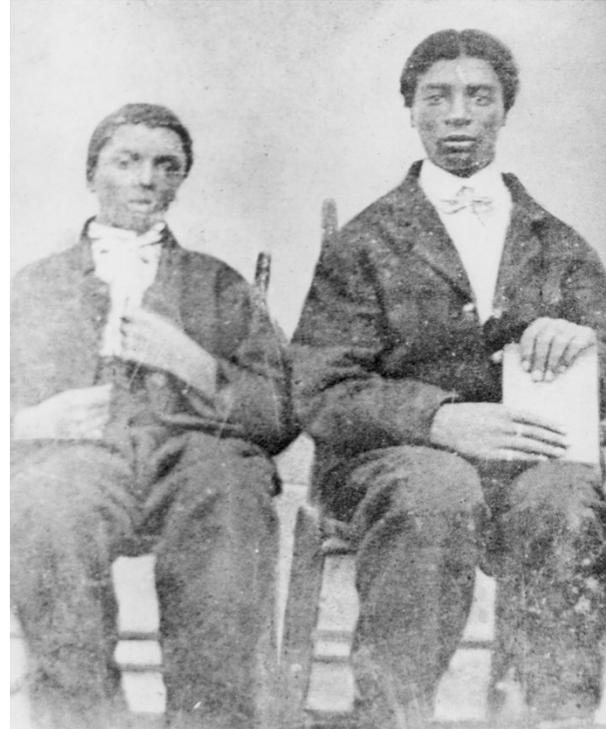
49. Ibid., 48.

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

51. Ibid., 56–57.

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

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



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

45 **George Washington Carver Leaves** 46 **the Moses Carver Farm**

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

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

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

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



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

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

16 each day.⁵⁶ It is not known how long James
 17 remained at the school. Eventually, James worked
 18 as a plasterer or laborer for a railroad company in
 19 Seneca, Missouri. He died in 1883 from smallpox
 20 at the age of 23.⁵⁷

21 Not long after enrolling at the school in Neosho,
 22 George began residing in the home of Andrew and
 23 Mariah Watkins, a middle-aged African American
 24 couple who owned a home next door to the
 25 school. Carver initially stayed with them during
 26 the week, but eventually came to remain with them
 27 on weekends as well. George Washington
 28 Carver's enrollment in the Neosho Colored
 29 School marked the end of his time on the Moses
 30 Carver farm.⁵⁸ George reportedly returned on
 31 several occasions to visit the Carvers. While it is
 32 known that George Washington Carver visited the
 33 farm in the fall of 1884, there is evidence that he
 34 also returned during the summers of 1879, 1880, or
 35 1881, prior to the death of Susan Carver in January
 36 1882.⁵⁹

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57. Ibid., 101.

58. Ibid., 81–86.

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

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

1 degree, Carver joined the faculty of the Tuskegee
2 Normal and Industrial Institute at the request of
3 the school's president, Booker T. Washington.
4 Carver became head of the newly formed
5 agricultural department. Washington, like Carver,
6 was born into slavery. Washington graduated from
7 the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in
8 1875. He was named the head of the Tuskegee
9 Normal and Industrial Institute in 1880, shortly
10 after its establishment by the Alabama State
11 Legislature.⁶¹

12 Dr. Carver remained at the Tuskegee Normal and
13 Industrial Institute until his death in 1943. In
14 addition to his role as teacher and head of the
15 agriculture department, Dr. Carver was a vocal
16 proponent of sustainable agricultural practices.
17 Dr. Carver recognized that farmers'
18 overdependence on cotton crops was causing soil
19 erosion and depletion of fertility. As a result, Dr.
20 Carver promoted the use of organic mulches and
21 compost as ways to restore topsoil. Dr. Carver
22 taught methods of crop rotation to practicing
23 farmers, encouraging them to alternate cotton
24 crops with soil-enriching crops such as sweet
25 potatoes, pecans, peanuts, and soybeans. In
26 addition, Dr. Carver educated farmers and the
27 general public about soil and forest conservation,
28 organic farming, and the use of nontoxic
29 products.⁶²

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

41 George Washington Carver died on January 5,
42 1943. Prior to his death, Dr. Carver provided
43 money to Tuskegee Institute to establish the
44 George Washington Carver Foundation. The goal
45 of the foundation was to continue to fund
46 agricultural research.

47

61. *Ibid.*, 111.

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

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

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

for

George Washington Carver National Monument

Prepared by JMA, a CCRG company

Drawing No. GWCA 397 127384

PMIS No. _____

Legend

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

Sources:

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

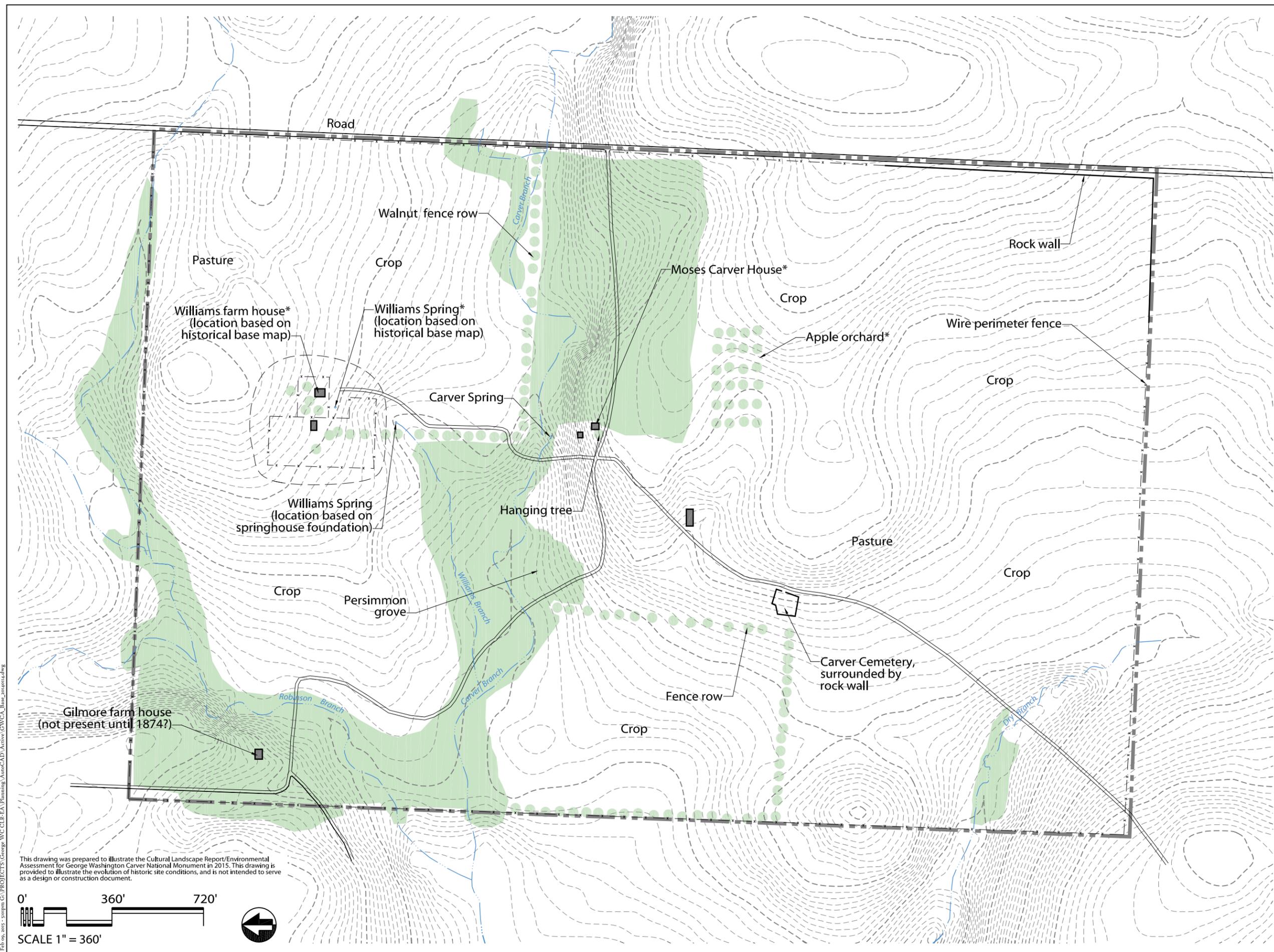
Contours created from 7.5 minute digital elevation data, USGS, 1998, Newton County, MO (published Rolla, MO).

Outstanding questions:

- Need clarification or confirmation of the location of Williams farm

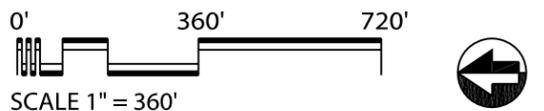
DRAFT

Figure 12.
Period Plan c.1865–1876



Feb 09, 2015 5:58pm G:\PROJECTS\George\WC CLR\EA\Planning\AutoCAD\Active\GWCA_Base_2015.dwg

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



1 **The Moses Carver Farm in the Late** 2 **Nineteenth and Early Twentieth** 3 **Centuries**

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

11 Susan Carver died in January 1882. Shortly after
12 Susan's death, Sarah Jane Williams, the daughter
13 of Moses Carver's brother George, and her
14 husband William Moore Williams acquired a
15 portion of the land owned by Moses Carver. The
16 Williams lived in a home located near a large
17 spring on the Carver farm.⁶⁶

18 In 1900 with his health failing, Moses Carver left
19 the farm he had established near Diamond,
20 Missouri, and moved to Galena, Kansas, to live
21 with his nephew John Thomas Carver, the son of
22 Moses Carver's brother Richard.⁶⁷ In 1901, Moses
23 deeded his farm to two of his nephews and one
24 niece.⁶⁸

25 Moses Carver died in 1910 in Kansas. His body
26 was returned to his farm in Missouri, where he was
27 buried in the Carver family cemetery.⁶⁹

28 In 1911, Moses Carver's heirs sold the 240-acre
29 property to Samuel Warden. Warden owned the
30 farm for only two years before C. M. Shartel
31 purchased the property in 1913.⁷⁰

32 Several changes were made to the property by
33 Shartel, who was a real estate broker. In 1916, the
34 house constructed in 1881 was moved and
35 remodeled. That same year, the wall around the
36 cemetery, believed to have been constructed by
37 Moses Carver, was removed. Throughout the
38 period during which the land was owned by
39 Shartel, various tenants and employees lived on
40 the property. Shartel also ran a thoroughbred
41 cattle business on the land, resulting in a series of
42 changes to the landscape.⁷¹

43 Between 1930 and 1939, an earthen dam was
44 constructed on the property, creating Williams
45 Pond.⁷²

46 **Establishment of the George** 47 **Washington Carver National** 48 **Monument**

49 In the summer of 1941, the St. Louis chapter of the
50 National Association for the Advancement of
51 Colored People (NAACP) developed the concept
52 of establishing a new national park on the Carver
53 farm site to honor Dr. George Washington Carver
54 and his achievements. Although several members
55 of Congress supported the idea, NPS Director
56 Newton Drury noted that memorial sites honoring
57 living individuals had not been established by the
58 NPS.⁷³ At the same time, the NAACP chapter did
59 persuade the Missouri Highway Commission to
60 place road signs directing visitors to the Carver
61 farm, which were erected in early April 1942 near
62 Diamond, Missouri, along U.S. Highway 71.⁷⁴

64. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 25.

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

66. Harrington et al., 8.

67. *Ibid.*

68. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

69. Fuller, 7–9.

70. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

71. Harrington et al., 8.

72. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

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

74. *Ibid.*, 30.

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

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

30 Dr. Pilant contacted U.S. Representative Dewey
31 Short in March 1942 to formally request legislation
32 establishing a federal memorial.⁷⁸ At the same time,
33 Shartel contacted Short to indicate that he was
34 willing to sell a 25 to 30 acre parcel containing the
35 site of the birth cabin and other structures for
36 \$15,000.⁷⁹ The first congressional legislation
37 relating to the establishment of the George
38 Washington Carver National Monument at the
39 Moses Carver farm was introduced by Short to the

40 U.S. House of Representatives on July 15, 1942.
41 Parallel legislation was introduced to the U.S.
42 Senate by Missouri Senator Harry S Truman on
43 October 13, 1942. No immediate action was taken
44 on either bill before the 77th Congress adjourned
45 in December 1942.⁸⁰

46 Dr. George Washington Carver died on January 5,
47 1943. The next day in the 78th Congress, the death
48 of Dr. Carver was announced by Representative
49 Samuel Hobbs of Alabama, and Representative
50 Short reintroduced his national monument bill,
51 now known as H.R. 647. Senator Truman
52 reintroduced the bill in the Senate as S. 37. The
53 final bill was approved and signed into law by
54 President Roosevelt on July 14, 1943.

55 **Acquisition of Land and Early Park** 56 **Planning**

57 Based on the previous correspondence with
58 Shartel that offered to sell a portion of the farm to
59 the government for a price between \$15,000 to
60 \$20,000, the final bill authorizing the establishment
61 of the George Washington Carver National
62 Monument allocated \$30,000 for the purchase of
63 land and initial development of the park. This
64 appropriation appeared adequate, as some local
65 officials insisted that \$40 per acre was a typical
66 price for undeveloped farmland in Newton
67 County.⁸¹ Also, county records indicated that (for
68 tax purposes), the entire Shartel property,
69 inclusive of buildings, was assessed at \$9,000.⁸²

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

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

76. Toogood, 56–57.

77. Krahe and Catton, 32, 35.

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

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

80. *Ibid.*, 38–39.

81. *Ibid.*, 48.

82. *Ibid.*, 51.

1 marking the site of the birthplace cabin if its
2 location could accurately be determined, and
3 constructing a museum building to properly orient
4 visitors to the site. An area at the edge of the grove
5 of trees surrounding the then-present farm
6 buildings was suggested as a good location for the
7 museum, as it was near the county highway and
8 required little removal of existing trees.
9 Preservation of the Carver family cemetery and
10 construction of an interpretive trail were also
11 recommended. The development cost, not
12 including land acquisition, was estimated at
13 \$77,800.⁸³

14 After the final passage of federal legislation in July
15 1943, Conrad Wirth, then chief of land planning
16 for the National Park Service, began negotiations
17 with Stratton Shartel. The initial appraisal of the
18 property by the federal government valued the
19 land at \$15,000 for 210 acres. By the end of 1943,
20 Shartel was asking for \$35,000 for the 210 acres,
21 and negotiations with the Park Service stalled.⁸⁴ A
22 new appraisal was conducted after the war, in
23 1946, which stated a value of \$30,000 for the 210
24 acres in question. By that time, however, Shartel
25 had increased his demand to \$73,000.⁸⁵ In May
26 1947, Shartel sold a 100-foot-wide easement for a
27 154-kilovolt electrical transmission line to the
28 Empire District Electric Company. (Also at some
29 time in the late 1940s, a 7,200-volt electrical
30 transmission line was erected across the eastern
31 edge of the property to the New-Mac Electric
32 Cooperative, to serve several local farms.)⁸⁶

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

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

41 The petition to condemn the parcel was filed with
42 the U.S. District Court in Kansas City on June 12,
43 1948. Following a jury trial in May 1949, on
44 July 23, 1949, the court judged the various right-
45 of-ways, mineral rights, and inholdings claimed by
46 utility companies and former owners at a total of
47 \$78,895.⁸⁸ As a result, Secretary of the Interior
48 Oscar Chapman submitted a bill to Congress
49 seeking to increase the appropriation to \$80,000
50 from \$30,000 first appropriated in 1943. In order
51 to provide some funds for site development, the
52 final version of the legislation signed by President
53 Truman on September 9, 1950, raised the total to
54 \$150,000.⁸⁹ On June 21, 1951, the District Court of
55 the U.S. for the Western District of Missouri,
56 Southwest District decreed the title for 210 acres
57 of land to the United States Government for the
58 establishment of the George Washington Carver
59 National Monument.⁹⁰

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

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

84. Krahe and Catton, 62.

85. *Ibid.*, 63.

86. *Ibid.*, 66.

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

88. Krahe and Catton, 69.

89. *Ibid.*

90. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 26.

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

1 the site in June 1951, the foundation continued as
2 caretaker of the farm. The National Park Service
3 granted the foundation a special use permit from
4 July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1952, to continue to care
5 for the site and interpret it to visitors (Figure 13
6 and Figure 14). Even once Park Service personnel
7 were on site from 1952, the foundation continued
8 to farm the site until February 1954.⁹²



9 **FIGURE 13.** Sign marking the Carver birthplace site,
10 1952. Source: George Washington Carver National
11 Monument Photo Collection, image 605.



12 **FIGURE 14.** Sign marking the Carver birthplace site,
13 1952. Source: George Washington Carver National
14 Monument Photo Collection, image 605A.

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

21 another year through 1953. Gaillard resigned as
22 caretaker in July 1952, at which time Robert Fuller,
23 a history teacher from Joplin, was named
24 temporary caretaker.⁹³



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

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

37 In 1952, a cast concrete bust of George
38 Washington Carver was sculpted by Audrey
39 Corwin and presented to the park (Figure 16).⁹⁴

92. Krahe and Catton, 72–74.

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

94. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 27.



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

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

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

95. Krahe and Catton, 85–86.

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

23 although questions regarding the actual location of
 24 the cabin remain.⁹⁷ (See further discussion of
 25 archeological studies, below.)

26 Dedication of the George Washington Carver
 27 National Monument took place on July 14, 1953.
 28 Approximately 1,000 to 2,000 people were in
 29 attendance, including Secretary of the Interior
 30 Douglas McKay (Figure 17 and Figure 18).
 31 Richard Pilant, an early proponent of the park,
 32 presented the NPS with the pen President
 33 Franklin D. Roosevelt used to sign the bill
 34 establishing the national monument in 1943.⁹⁸



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

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

97. Toogood, 63.

98. *Ibid.*, 61–62.



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

6 Beginning in 1954, and continuing into 1955, the
7 wall around the Carver family cemetery was
8 reconstructed and gravestones were repaired. The
9 reconstruction was based on archeological
10 research conducted by the NPS, and the stone
11 material for the wall was obtained from the park
12 property.⁹⁹

13 Other work accomplished by the NPS in the first
14 few years following dedication of the national
15 monument included rehabilitation of the stream
16 bank to mitigate erosion, widening and surfacing
17 of the entrance road, construction of an entrance
18 sign, installation of four picnic tables, construction
19 of pit toilets for public use, and replacement of the
20 fence around the superintendent's house.¹⁰⁰ Also
21 in the early 1950s, a trail was developed, likely
22 following pre-existing footpaths on the farm for
23 much of its length. This route later became part of
24 the Carver Trail.¹⁰¹ Stabilization work to preserve
25 the Moses Carver house was finally completed in
26 1958.¹⁰²

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

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

100. Krahe and Catton, 88.

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

102. Ibid., 219.

for

George Washington Carver National Monument

Prepared by JMA, a CCRG company

Drawing No. GWCA 397 127384

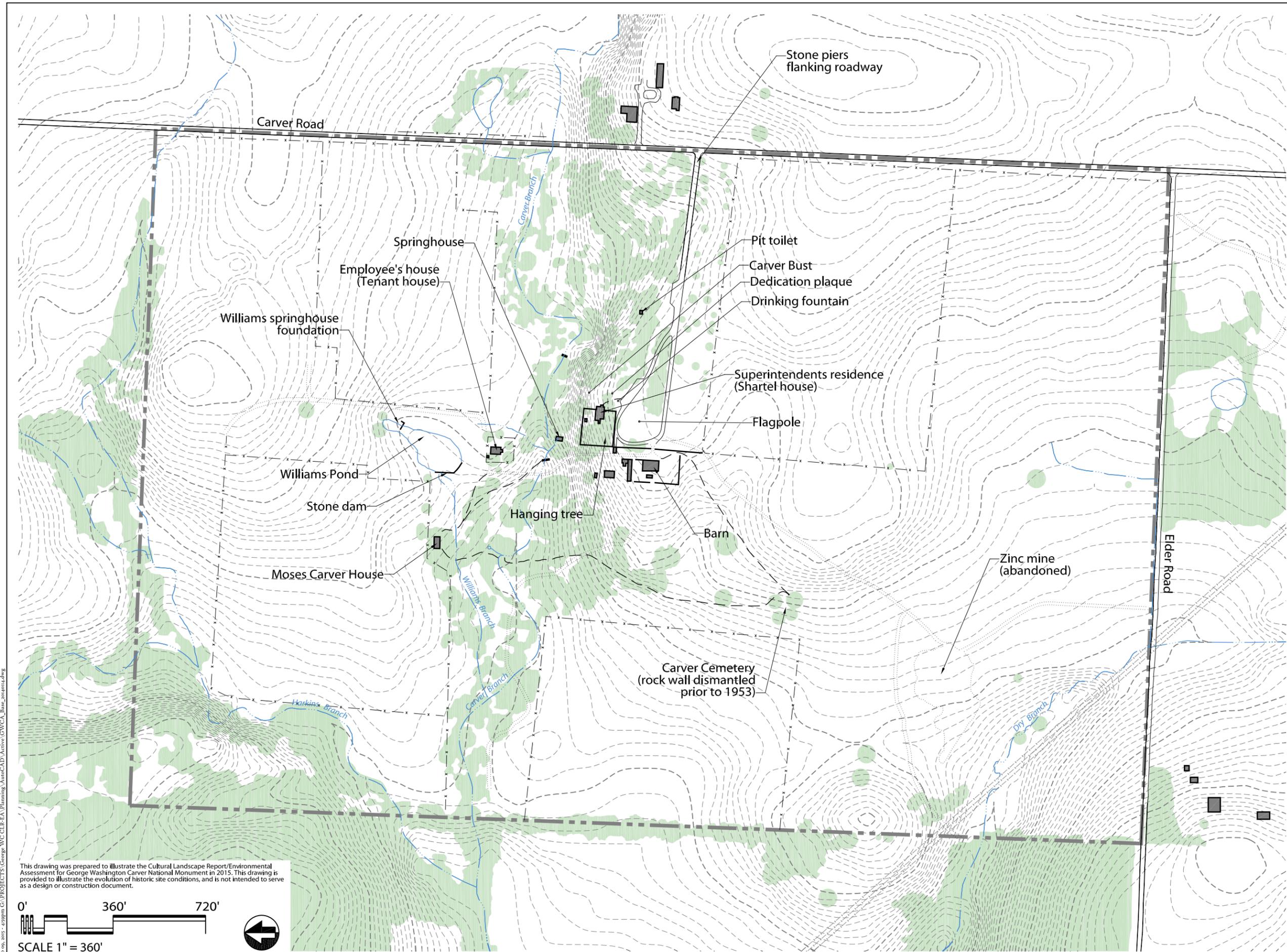
PMIS No. _____

Legend

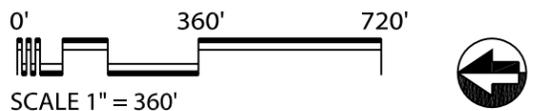
- 2014 GWCA Boundary
- - - 10-foot contour
- - - 1-foot contour
- Stream
- Spring
- Formal road
- ⋯ Unpaved road
- Trail/footpath
- Building or structure
- Rock wall
- - - Fence
- Woodland
- Utility line

Sources:

- 1953 Aerial photograph.
- "Existing Conditions, Development Area," Drawing No. 397-3000, 5/1/1956.
- "Sign Program – Type and Location Plan, General Area," Drawing No. 397-2007, 5/1/1953.
- "Existing Conditions at Monument Area," Drawing No. 397-2001A, 12/3/1952.
- Contours created from 7.5 minute digital elevation data, USGS, 1998, Newton County, MO (published Rolla, MO).



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



DRAFT

Figure 19.
Period Plan 1943–1953

Feb 09, 2015 4:59pm G:\PROJECTS\George\WC\CLRE\EA\Planning\AutoCAD\Active\GWCA_Base_2015.dwg

1 **Mission 66 Development at George** 2 **Washington Carver National** 3 **Monument**

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

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

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

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

50 **The Mission 66 Program at George** 51 **Washington Carver National Monument.**

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

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

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

104. *Ibid.*, 134–135.

105. Toogood, 66.

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

107. *Ibid.*, 68.



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



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



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

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

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

108. Krahe and Catton, 216–217.

109. Toogood, 69–70.



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

5 In the spring of 1960, the former main farmhouse
 6 was moved to another property nearby, where it
 7 remains today. Seven outbuildings were also
 8 removed at this time.¹¹⁰

9 Construction of the visitor center began in May
 10 1959 to plans prepared by the Eastern Office of
 11 Design and Construction. The dedication of the
 12 new visitor center was held in July 1960
 13 (Figure 24). The visitor center was a one and one-
 14 half story structure clad in brick and wood siding
 15 with low-sloped gable roofs, and an extended
 16 open covered porch at its perimeter. A breezeway
 17 at the south end of the building led to the utility
 18 area. Construction of an adjacent
 19 maintenance/utility building was included as part
 20 of the visitor center. The visitor center was located
 21 on the site of the former main barn of the Shartel
 22 farm. Construction of the visitor center in 1959
 23 also included utilities for the site, such as a deep
 24 water wall, underground water lines, septic
 25 systems, natural gas lines, and overhead electrical
 26 lines.¹¹¹



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

30 A new entrance road and gate, signs, parking areas,
 31 and fencing around the boundary of the
 32 monument were completed in time for the
 33 dedication of the visitor center (Figure 25 through
 34 Figure 27). The new entrance road followed the
 35 path of the earlier road into the farm. The roadbed
 36 was raised and contoured, drainage culverts and
 37 curbs were installed, and the road was paved with
 38 asphalt. A new spur was built leading into the
 39 picnic area. The original extension of the road past
 40 the new visitor center to the site of the main farm
 41 house (superintendent's house) and across Carver
 42 Branch to the tenant house (historian's house) was
 43 removed. The road work included reconfiguration
 44 of the parking area in front of the visitor center,
 45 shifting the parking loop southward.¹¹²

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

110. Krahe and Catton, 104.

111. *Ibid.*, 146.

112. *Ibid.*

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



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



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



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



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

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

21 Improved access to the site was also
22 recommended as part of the Mission 66 Master
23 Plan. Signs were erected at the intersection of
24 State Highway 71 and County Road V in April
25 1962. A directional sign was added on Interstate
26 44 for eastbound traffic in 1963.¹¹⁵

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

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

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

115. Toogood, 71.

for

George Washington Carver National Monument

Prepared by JMA, a CCRG company

Drawing No. GWCA 397 127384

PMIS No. _____

Legend

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

Sources:

1966 Aerial photograph.

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

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

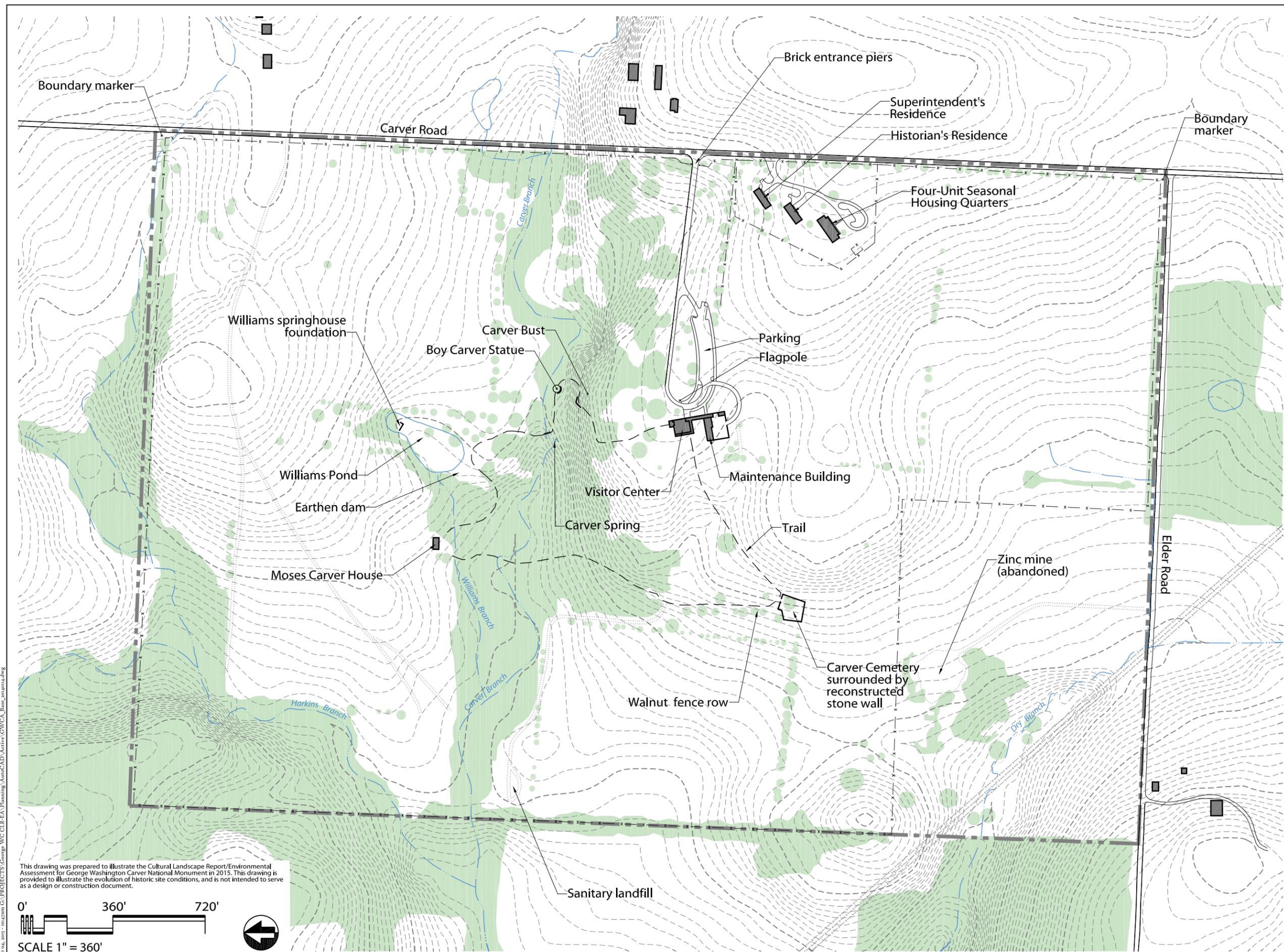
Contours created from 7.5 minute digital elevation data, USGS, 1998, Newton County, MO (published Rolla, MO).

Outstanding questions:

- Were fences surrounding fields still present in 1960?

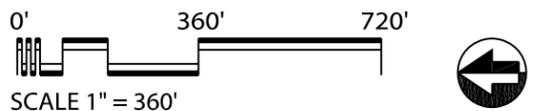
DRAFT

Figure 29.
Period Plan 1953-1960



Feb 04, 2015 10:47:21 AM C:\PROJECTS\George WC CLE-EA\Planning\AutoCAD\Active\GWCA_Base.mxd

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



1 **Continued Development of the**
 2 **National Monument, 1963 to**
 3 **Present**

4 In the years following the completion of Mission
 5 66-related construction at George Washington
 6 Carver National Monument, limited large-scale
 7 construction projects were conducted.

8 In the summer of 1963, repairs to the Moses
 9 Carver house were completed, including partial
 10 replacement of siding, reroofing, repainting,
 11 window repair, and repair of the brick chimney.¹¹⁶

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

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



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



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

116. Krahe and Catton, 219–220.

117. *Ibid.*, 140.

118. *Ibid.*, 141.

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



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

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

15 cars, and left the park, without ever entering the
 16 visitor center.¹²⁰

17 Also circa 1965, a new rustic bridge was
 18 constructed at the crossing of the Carver
 19 Branch.¹²¹

20 Approximately seventy diseased elms were
 21 removed in 1966. Walnut, oak, maple, sweet gum,
 22 and other native trees were planted in the winter
 23 to replace the removed elms.¹²² A Historic
 24 Structure Report for the Moses Carver house was
 25 prepared in 1966.

26 In 1967, an agricultural land use contract was
 27 advertised. The contract called for 145 acres of
 28 land within the boundary of the monument to be
 29 maintained in their historic character as pasture or
 30 hay lands.¹²³

31 A strong storm uprooted 100 trees and caused
 32 damage to the visitor center and residences in
 33 1973. An Administrative History and Historic
 34 Resource Study were completed the same year.¹²⁴

35 In 1976, extensive exterior renovations were
 36 completed at the 1881 Moses Carver house. A
 37 partial interior restoration of the house was also
 38 completed at this time, including placing the
 39 structure on a new foundation.¹²⁵ In 1977,
 40 extensive repairs were made to the earthen dam by
 41 park personnel.¹²⁶

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 No. 23 (the former Superintendent's residence) in
2 1979. The garage was also enclosed and finished at
3 this time. In conjunction with the move, a new six-
4 space parking lot was constructed in front of the
5 building.¹²⁷

6 In 1979, ten replica headstones and one footstone
7 were replaced in the Carver family cemetery. The
8 stones were replaced due to vandalism.¹²⁸

9 In 1981, the park prepared a Resource
10 Management Plan which included a fire
11 management plan and a prescribed burn plan. A
12 controlled burn of the prairie was conducted in
13 May 1982 in conjunction with the Resource
14 Management Plan. The prairie was later disked
15 and native grass was planted. The prairie
16 restoration project was documented with
17 photographs.¹²⁹ This program continued into the
18 late 1980s and throughout the 1990s and early
19 2000s.

20 The last traditional agricultural lease in the park
21 expired in 1983, replaced by a leasing arrangement
22 that emphasized the planting of historically
23 appropriate crops and hay for a smaller 66-acre
24 tract, to run through 1989. At the end of this lease,
25 the park ended the leasing program entirely, and
26 the former agricultural area became prairie units 5,
27 6, and 7.¹³⁰

28 Construction of a new barbed wire fence at the
29 boundary of the park began in 1982.¹³¹
30 Construction was completed in phases, with the
31 project concluding in 1985.¹³² Portions of this

32 fence have been subsequently replaced at a later
33 date.

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

41 Also in 1983, the wall around the Carver family
42 cemetery was rebuilt in areas where deterioration
43 was observed. Deteriorated headstones were also
44 replaced.¹³⁴

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

55 The Carver family cemetery was vandalized in
56 June 1987 and again in 1989; in 1992, the missing
57 and destroyed gravestones resulting from this
58 vandalism were replaced with replicas.¹³⁷

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

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

128. Ibid.

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

130. Krahe and Catton, 229–230.

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

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

133. Krahe and Catton, 144.

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

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

136. Krahe and Catton, 146.

137. Ibid., 259.

1 A park-wide program to rehabilitate roads,
2 parking lots, and sidewalks was completed in
3 October 1991.¹³⁸

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

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

24 Work began on a Long-Range Interpretive Plan in
25 1996.¹⁴¹ A new General Management Plan was
26 completed in 1997.¹⁴²

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

33 emphasis on children's educational
34 interpretation.¹⁴³

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

143. Krahe and Catton, 149.

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

1 around the Williams Pond. Granite benches were
2 installed following the construction of the trail,
3 along with granite stones engraved with George
4 Washington Carver quotations.¹⁴⁵

5 In 2002, a new plank and post fence was installed
6 from the park's main entrance at the north
7 boundary to the headquarters area. This project
8 was completed by park personnel.¹⁴⁶

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

14 The Association worked with the Monument
15 and several other partners in 2003 and 2004 to
16 ensure the last 30 acres of the original 240-acre
17 Carver Birthplace Farm were donated and two
18 hazardous mines were permanently closed and
19 remediated. The value of the land donation is
20 in excess of \$90,000 and the value of the
21 remediation is in excess of \$40,000.
22 Remediation work was conducted through
23 grants from the State of Missouri and
24 collaborative work from the Diamond Road
25 District. The State of Missouri oversaw all
26 work and certified the site as hazard free at the
27 conclusion of the project.¹⁴⁷

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

32 In 2003, due to concerns related to lead
33 contamination in the water from numerous
34 abandoned mine sites in the county, the 1959 well
35 was abandoned, and the park water system was
36 switched over to a shallower backup well drilled in
37 2000. The 1959 well was permanently sealed in
38 December 2004, and by the summer of 2005, the

39 park had been connected to the City of Diamond
40 water system.¹⁴⁸

41 The Moses Carver house underwent extensive
42 restoration in 2005, including repairs to window
43 trim and siding, repointing of the chimneys,
44 replacement of the cedar shingle roof,
45 replacement of the porches, removal of lead paint,
46 and repainting of the entire interior and exterior in
47 a historic color scheme.¹⁴⁹

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

148. Krahe and Catton, 147.

149. Ibid., 257.

150. Ibid., 145.

1 sustainable ground source heating, ventilating, and
2 air conditioning system, and total replacement of
3 the septic system. The expansion included a two-
4 story addition to the west of the original building.
5 The expanded visitor center is clad in utility brick
6 and wood siding matching the colors of the
7 original brick and siding. Both the new and
8 original roofs were clad in asphalt shingles. During
9 construction, the visitor center was housed in one
10 of the former park housing structures near the
11 entrance road.¹⁵¹ With the completion of the
12 visitor center complex, in 2008, the Discovery
13 Center trailer was sold and removed from the
14 park. In 2010, the administrative offices in the
15 visitor center were completed, and park staff
16 moved to the visitor center. After 2010, the former
17 housing buildings were used for storage.

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

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

32 Also in 2011, new wayside interpretive exhibits
33 were installed along the Carver Trail.¹⁵² At the
34 same time, the interpretive structure at the Carver
35 birthplace cabin site was replaced with a new
36 structure of the same design and materials.¹⁵³

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

39 **Archeological Studies**

40 Several archeological studies have been conducted
41 at George Washington Carver National
42 Monument, primarily by archeologists for the
43 National Park Service Midwest Archeological
44 Center (MWAC) and also by the University of
45 Nebraska at Lincoln, as described below.¹⁵⁴

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

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

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

152. Krahe and Catton, 144.

153. *Ibid.*, 261.

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

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

155. Beaubien, 7.

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

3 In 1975, a magnetic survey was performed on
4 portions of the site by John W. Weymouth of the
5 University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Two
6 additional archeological surveys were performed
7 by Ervan Garrison and Robert Bray of the
8 University of Missouri, Columbia in 1976. These
9 three studies all focused on possible home sites
10 near the Moses Carver house. Garrison and David
11 Denman, also of the University of Missouri,
12 performed another series of archeological
13 investigations in 1978.¹⁵⁷

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

156. Krahe and Catton, 216–217.

157. *Ibid.*, 217.

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

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

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

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

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

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

43

George Washington Carver National Monument Chronology

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

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

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

1 Significance Evaluation

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

18 National Register Status of George 19 Washington Carver National 20 Monument

21 George Washington Carver National Monument
22 was administratively listed in the National Register
23 of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, based on
24 the National Historic Preservation Act. The
25 significance of the property was documented
26 through preparation of a National Register
27 nomination that certified on September 28,
28 1976.¹⁶⁰ Revised National Register nomination
29 documentation was in progress at the time this
30 Cultural Landscape Report/Environmental
31 Assessment was being prepared.¹⁶¹

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

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

46 As stated in the current draft nomination
47 Additional Documentation section:

48 The George Washington Carver National
49 Monument is significant for its association with
50 the early life of [Dr.] George Washington
51 Carver (circa 1865–January 5, 1943), the
52 scientist, agriculturalist, educator, and
53 humanitarian. It is significant under Criterion
54 B, at the national level, as the birthplace and
55 boyhood home [of] George Washington
56 Carver. The national monument is also
57 significant under Criterion A, at the national
58 level, as an outstanding example of a district
59 that commemorates the life and
60 accomplishments of a leading African
61 American scientist and educator. The
62 associated area of significance under
63 Criterion A is Community Planning and
64 Development (Park) and Conservation.¹⁶²

65 In the nomination Additional Documentation
66 section, the National Park Service Midwest
67 Regional Office has clarified the determination of
68 contributing and non-contributing resources as
69 follows:¹⁶³

70 Contributing Resources

71 Buildings:

- 72 ▪ Moses Carver Late Period House –
73 (1 contributing building; CLI 120890;
74 LCS 442; HS-05)

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

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

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

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

163. Correspondence by NPS MRWO with the authors.

1 Sites:

- 2 ▪ Entire National Monument Landscape –
3 (1 contributing site; CLI 500391)
- 4 ▪ Native Vegetation– (1 contributing site;
5 CLI 140592)
- 6 ▪ Carver family cemetery – (1 contributing site;
7 CLI 120786; LCS 5039; HS-31)
- 8 ▪ Carver Birthplace Cabin Site – (1 contributing
9 site; archeological site 21NE119)
- 10 ▪ Carver Spring – (1 contributing site;
11 CLI 121336)
- 12 ▪ Carver Branch – (1 contributing site;
13 CLI 121338)
- 14 ▪ Williams Branch – (1 contributing site;
15 CLI 121340)
- 16 ▪ Walnut Fence Row – (1 contributing site;
17 CLI 121348)

18 Structures:

- 19 ▪ Carver Family Cemetery Wall –
20 (1 contributing structure; LCS 70020;
21 HS-31A)¹⁶⁴
- 22 ▪ Birthplace Cabin Site – (1 contributing
23 structure; CLI 120888)¹⁶⁵
- 24 ▪ Carver Trail – (1 contributing site;
25 CLI 121332)

26 Objects:

- 27 ▪ Bust of George Washington Carver –
28 (1 contributing object; CLI 121340; LCS 5036;
29 HS-26)
- 30 ▪ Boy Carver Statue – (1 contributing object;
31 CLI 120900; LCS 5038; HS-30)
- 32 ▪ Dedication Plaque – (1 contributing object;
33 CLI 120904; LCS 5037; HS-27)
- 34 ▪ Monument Site Boundary Markers –
35 (2 contributing objects; CLI 120892;
36 LCS 70022; HS-35)¹⁶⁶

37 **Non-contributing Resources**

38 Buildings:

- 39 ▪ Visitor Center and Utility Building – (1 non-
40 contributing building; CLI 121318)
- 41 ▪ Superintendent’s Residence – (1 non-
42 contributing building; CLI 121324)
- 43 ▪ Historian’s Residence – (1 non-contributing
44 building; CLI 121326)
- 45 ▪ Four Unit Seasonal Quarters – (1 non-
46 contributing building; CLI 121328)

47 Sites:

- 48 ▪ Gilmore Cabin/Farm site – (1 non-
49 contributing site; CLI 121316; archeological
50 site 21NE120)
- 51 ▪ Williams Cabin/Farm site – (1 non-
52 contributing site; CLI 121312; archeological
53 site 21NE121)

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

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

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

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

- 1 ■ Williams Pond/Spring – (1 non-contributing
2 site; CLI 120894)
- 3 ■ Orchard – (1 non-contributing site;
4 CLI 121352)
- 5 ■ Prairie – (1 non-contributing site; CLI 121350)

6 Structures:

- 7 ■ Williams Springhouse Foundation – (1 non-
8 contributing structure; CLI 120902;
9 LCS 70023; HS-36)
- 10 ■ Williams Pond Earthen Dam – (1 non-
11 contributing structure; CLI 120896;
12 LCS 70024; HS-37)

13 These resources and other site features are further
14 discussed in Chapter 3: Existing Conditions
15 Documentation and Comparative Analysis.

16 **LRIP and CLI Significance Evaluation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 George Washington Carver National
2 Monument district.¹⁶⁹

3 **National Register Criteria for Evaluation.**

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

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

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

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

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

26 D. That have yielded, or may be likely to
27 yield, information important in prehistory or
28 history.¹⁷⁰

29 **National Register Significance of George
30 Washington Carver National Monument.**

31 The existing National Register documentation,
32 together with additional research conducted on
33 behalf of this study, served as the basis for
34 evaluating the significance of the national
35 monument conveyed herein.¹⁷¹ The current draft
36 nomination Additional Documentation in

37 progress is cited herein. This documentation was
38 reviewed in terms of relevant National Register
39 criteria and the guidance provided in the National
40 Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National
41 Register Criteria for Evaluation*.¹⁷² In addition, the
42 findings of the 2010 CLI relative to the significance
43 of the cultural landscape were reviewed in
44 developing this evaluation.

45 As noted in the draft National Register nomination
46 Additional Documentation, George Washington
47 Carver National Monument is nationally
48 significant under National Register Criterion A for
49 its association with events that have made a
50 significant contribution to the broad patterns of
51 our history, and under Criterion B for its
52 association with the life of Dr. George Washington
53 Carver, a person significant in our past. It is also
54 significant under Criteria Consideration C, a
55 birthplace or grave, as the birthplace of Dr. George
56 Washington Carver, and under Criteria
57 Consideration F, as a commemorative property.¹⁷³

58 As noted in the draft National Register nomination
59 Additional Documentation, the national
60 monument is significant in the areas of science,
61 education, community planning and development
62 (park), and conservation.¹⁷⁴

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

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

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

171. Gibbs; Gavin and Styles.

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

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

174. Ibid.

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

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

20 The national monument is important as the
21 birthplace of George Washington Carver. Dr.
22 Carver is considered to be “one of the leading
23 agricultural scientists and humanitarians to emerge
24 in America during the late nineteenth and early
25 twentieth centuries. In addition, he is considered
26 to be one of the most significant African
27 Americans of this same epoch. Since its inception,
28 George Washington Carver National Monument
29 has served as a symbol, for all Americans, of an
30 individual who overcame tremendous odds to
31 realize a number of nationally and internationally
32 significant achievements.”¹⁷⁶ As noted in the CLI,
33 as a reflection of his humble beginnings and
34 formative childhood years. Echoing and building
35 upon the National Register nomination, the CLI
36 describes the influence of his early years as
37 follows:

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

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

44 of his early experiences on the Moses Carver
45 Farm. From this humble beginning, George
46 Washington Carver rose to become a
47 renowned scientist, educator and
48 humanitarian. His contributions to scientific
49 agriculture and his efforts in an extension
50 service for rural farmers brought him nation-
51 wide recognition.¹⁷⁷

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

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

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

177. Cultural Landscape Inventory, 20.

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

179. Toogood, 32.

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

8 In particular, to interpret the way in which
9 Dr. Carver experienced and learned about nature
10 as a boy, the NPS developed the Carver Trail to
11 enable visitors to experience the setting as
12 Dr. Carver understood it. Along the trail are
13 interpretive features designed to provide
14 information without being visually intrusive. For
15 example, a stone boulder with an inset bronze
16 plaque was placed near the birthplace cabin site in
17 1953; a plaque commemorates the establishment
18 of the park, noting: “Within this area by an Act of
19 Congress of July 14, 1943, is preserved the
20 birthplace of George Washington Carver who rose
21 from slavery to become a distinguished scientist
22 and great force in creating racial understanding.”

23 The CLI notes that the trail

24 . . . is laid out to learn about Carver sequentially
25 from birth into enslavement represented by the
26 outline of the birth cabin, to the curious boy in
27 a secret garden represented by the “Boy Carver
28 Statue,” to a young adult who visited Moses
29 and Susan Carver represented by the late
30 period house, past the cemetery which is not
31 only reflective but also a reminder of his
32 survival and perseverance, to the amphitheater
33 where his inspirational audio message at the
34 Carver bust “start for the top and say ‘I Can,’”
35 which allows for his message to still be
36 delivered freely to all those willing to ask, and
37 then on to the visitor center where education
38 and the memorialization where Carver is
39 presented not as a man of the past, but one of
40 the present and future.¹⁸⁰

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

47 boulder near Carver Branch in 1960, reminds the
48 visitor of the young Carver’s curiosity and love of
49 nature. The trail continues past the Williams Pond
50 to the Moses and Susan Carver house, constructed
51 in 1881 and moved to its current location in 1916,
52 which George Washington Carver visited as an
53 adult. The trail then takes visitors to the Carver
54 family cemetery, set aside by Moses Carver as a
55 one-acre plot for use as a family cemetery shortly
56 after he settled in Newton County. The cemetery
57 contains the graves of Moses and Susan Carver,
58 family members, and local residents. The
59 4-foot-high dry-laid stone wall protecting the
60 graves from livestock was removed by subsequent
61 landowners and reconstructed by the NPS in 1954.

62 The trail continues to an amphitheater and the
63 Carver bust exhibit. The bronze-painted cast
64 concrete bust, created by Audrey Corwin in 1952,
65 features an audio recording of George Washington
66 Carver speaking at a commencement address in
67 1942. The path then leads back to the visitor
68 center, where further information about
69 Dr. Carver’s life and achievements is presented.

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

180. *Ibid.*, 24.

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

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

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

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

44 through his childhood and formative years on
45 the Moses and Susan Carver farm, to his
46 departure from the property in search of a
47 formal education circa 1876.¹⁸²

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

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

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

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

181. Harrington et al., 1.

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

183. Ibid.

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

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