National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2017

Revised: 5/2026



Booker T. Washington NM Landscape

Booker T. Washington National Monument

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Booker T. Washington NM Landscape

Resource Level: Cultural Landscape

CRIS-CL Resource ID: 300025

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Booker T. Washington National Monument

Alpha Code: BOWA

Park Organization Code: 4210

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Booker T. Washington National Monument (NM) is located in Franklin County, Virginia, twenty-two miles south of Roanoke. Established in 1956, the 239.01-acre park commemorates the birthplace of America's most prominent African American educator and orator of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The property evokes an 1850s middle class tobacco farm, representative of Booker T. Washington's enslaved childhood at the Burroughs farm. Washington was born in 1856 to the family's cook, Jane, and lived on the farm through the end of the Civil War.

The park contains a visitor center, administrative offices located within a former elementary school building, an 1890s tobacco barn, reconstructed and replica agricultural outbuildings, two marked archeological sites, three small cemeteries, and two walking trails that loop back through the historic core of the property. Twentieth-century replicas include a kitchen cabin/slave cabin, smokehouse, blacksmith shed, hog pen, duck lot, and chicken house. All replicas are highly conjectural; their designs are derived from anecdotal evidence and regional precedent. The local landscape is characterized by rolling topography, agricultural fields, and substantial wood lots typical of this part of Virginia's Piedmont region.

The park has traditionally been located in a remote area of southwestern Virginia but recent growth from nearby Rocky Mount and Smith Mountain Lake have placed development pressures on the region. While the local landscape used to be almost entirely agricultural, suburban, retail, and service-oriented growth is pressing in from several directions. The landscape directly abutting the park retains its rural character, keeping the integrity of setting fairly high. However, the park will need to work closely with the surrounding community to protect its rural context.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Compared to their Franklin County neighbors, the Burroughs family was of the upper middle class, evidenced by their combined slave and land holdings. The family cultivated tobacco as a cash crop, and grew subsistence crops including flax, potatoes, and grains. Washington lived in the farm's one-room kitchen cabin with his mother and two half siblings. In his autobiography, Up from Slavery, Booker T. Washington documented the deplorable conditions he endured at the farm, including the cabin from his boyhood where he slept on a "bundle of rags."

While Franklin County was spared the destruction of battle, the Civil War nevertheless interrupted the daily routine on the Burroughs farm. All six of the Burroughs sons left to fight for the Confederacy and James Burroughs, the father and master of the farm died in 1861. Over the course of the war two of the Burroughs sons were killed in the fighting and two were wounded. Wartime shortages of luxury goods and certain food items were common.

With the southern defeat in 1865, the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation was enforced, freeing southern slaves. Washington remembered listening to a Union soldier read the document on the porch of the Burroughs house. After receiving the joyous news, his mother Jane took her three children to West Virginia to be reunited with her husband who worked there in the salt mines. Meanwhile, the southern economy suffered tremendously after the war. The Burroughs family was not spared, evidenced by a fifty percent reduction in the family's net worth following emancipation. Land values plummeted. None of the Burroughs children desired to farm the Franklin County property and Elizabeth Burroughs, James' widow, unsuccessfully attempted to rent or sell the land for several years.

In 1893 John Robertson and his family purchased the property. Years of neglect left the farm's fences, barns, and agricultural fields in need of major repairs, but the family improved the property and operated it as a productive farm until the 1940s. Peter and Grover Robertson, who were small boys when their father purchased the property in 1893, provided details about spatial organization, farm fields, buildings and structures, and vegetation patterns during their boyhoods on the property and later years. However, when Booker T. Washington visited the farm in 1908, he commented on the degree of change that had taken place during a period of over forty years.

In the 1940s, after the death of their parents, the grown Robertson children offered the property at auction. Considerable interest was generated, from local farmers and people and organizations with ties to Booker T. Washington, who was by this time deceased. The plans of several prospective buyers focused on commemoration uses rather than agricultural uses. Sidney Phillips, a former student of Washington and already involved in the commemoration of George Washington Carver, expressed interest in the property. Allied with Washington's daughter, Portia Washington Pittman, Phillips secured the farm in October 1945 and established the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial to commemorate Washington through physical monumentation and industrial training.

The new private memorial organization made numerous physical improvements, including construction of a two-lane boulevard style driveway, new buildings to house the organization's programming, building renovations, and a replica birthplace cabin. Phillips enterprise donated land to the county school board to build a segregated African American elementary school, equal to facilities being constructed for white children. Phillips also engaged in several political and economic projects including lobbying for the issuance of the Booker T. Washington stamp and memorial coin, as well as establishing a United States post office at the site.

Yet Phillips struggled. The Birthplace Memorial declared bankruptcy in 1955 and sold their land holdings, which by this time had expanded to over 500 acres. Adjacent land owners purchased several tracts, but Phillips repurchased the core area. Rather than see his efforts wasted, Phillips encouraged the federal government to purchase the property and establish a National Park in honor of Booker T. Washington.

Post-World War II politics suited the establishment of national monuments to African Americans. Running in counter-point to the social climate in the southern states, anti-communist sentiments induced legislative efforts for African American commemoration. The National Park Service did not support the creation of a national park at Washington's birthplace because the site's integrity as it related to Washington's life was poor. Nonetheless, Phillips successfully lobbied Congress and Booker T. Washington National Monument was authorized on April 2, 1956. Phillips misunderstood that the new park would be a self-contained unit of the national park system and would not accommodate his or the Birthplace Memorial's ongoing involvement. He ultimately vacated the site, leaving the National Park Service to develop the new unit. The recently launched Mission 66 program provided the necessary framework, guidance, and resources. Park planners began by drafting a "Mission 66 Prospectus" to address infrastructure, interpretive, and long-range planning needs.

The Booker T. Washington Elementary School closed in 1966 after Virginia's long unsuccessful opposition to school integration. The structure remained property of the Franklin County School Board, unused and deteriorating until 1974 when the county donated the school and surrounding six-acre parcel to the park. The school building has since served a variety of uses and is currently the administrative and maintenance center for the park.

In the late 1960s, the park adopted a living history interpretive program, joining many National Park Service units embracing this interactive model. Replica buildings were constructed, including a smokehouse, privy, animal pens,

and demonstration farm fields farmed by local farmers. The park also created interpretive walking trails to link various resources and regions of the park together.

While park management once focused on establishing interpretive programs and supporting infrastructure, priorities have since shifted to encompass more fundamental preservation needs. Contemporary development pressures driven by Smith Mountain Lake east of the park have led to unprecedented local growth. Recent preservation efforts have focused on securing adjacent lands threatened with development to buffer and protect important viewsheds. The National Park Service acquired a fifteen-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the park in 2004, providing a buffer and screen from encroaching development. Research of the site's history also continues, including a recent geophysical and archeological investigation within the historic core in 2013 and 2014 that will aid research efforts.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Booker T. Washington NM is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, B, C, and D in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Black, Education, Politics/Government, Architecture, and Archeology (Historic: Non-Aboriginal). The park derives its primary significance under Criterion B at the national level for its association with Booker T. Washington. The primary period of significance is 1856-1865, beginning with the year of Booker T. Washington's birth and extending through emancipation. This period comprises Washington's birth, childhood in slavery, and the experience of emancipation on the 207-acre Burroughs plantation.

Booker T. Washington NM is significant under Criterion A for its role in the history of race relations and African American memorialization during World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. The period of significance for the Memorial Period is 1945-1956, beginning with the establishment of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial and extending to establishment of Booker T. Washington NM. The park is significant under Criterion A for its association with the politics of African American education under segregation and during the school desegregation crisis from the late 1940s through the 1960s. The period of significance for the Racially Segregated Education and Civil Rights Period is 1952-1966, beginning when the Birthplace Memorial donated land from the Burroughs plantation property to the county for the construction of a segregated black elementary school, and ending when the school closed as part of the county's desegregation process. The park is significant under Criterion A and C for its visitor facilities built during the NPS Mission 66 period and their key roles in the development of the park and how they influenced local and regional race relations during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. The period of significance for the Mission 66 Period is 1956-1966, which begins the year the park was established and ends the year the visitor center was completed. Lastly, Booker T. Washington is significant for its archeological resources that have the potential to contain the most material integrity to period of Booker T. Washington's enslavement.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The physical integrity of the Booker T. Washington NM Landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the overall period of significance (1856-1966) with current conditions. During early evaluations of the property in the 1950s, the National Park Service recognized that Booker T. Washington NM did not retain integrity to the period of Booker T. Washington's enslavement between 1856 and 1865. During his own visit in 1908, Booker T. Washington commented on the degree of change that had taken place during a period of over forty years. However, as a park commemorating Washington, its association with him remains strong and the property retains integrity to the period of race relations, African-American Memorialization during World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. Mission 66 architecture and landscape features including the visitor center, entry drive, and parking area remain intact conveying the integrity of the Mission 66 era of design and construction.

The Booker T. Washington NM landscape retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, and association. Materials, workmanship, and feeling have been compromised. The majority of the historic structures associated with Washington's tenure on the property and the workmanship they embodied, including the birth cabin, kitchen cabin, Burroughs house, and multiple outbuildings have been removed, destroyed, or lost. Non-historic replicas and interpretive displays help to partially convey the historic feeling of the property and express the property's historic character.

The Booker T. Washington NM landscape is in good condition. A "good" condition assessment indicates the property shows no clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The site's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is needed to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

The Booker T. Washington NM Landscape is the only cultural landscape identified at Booker T. Washington National Monument. It encompasses the entirety of the National Park Service boundary.

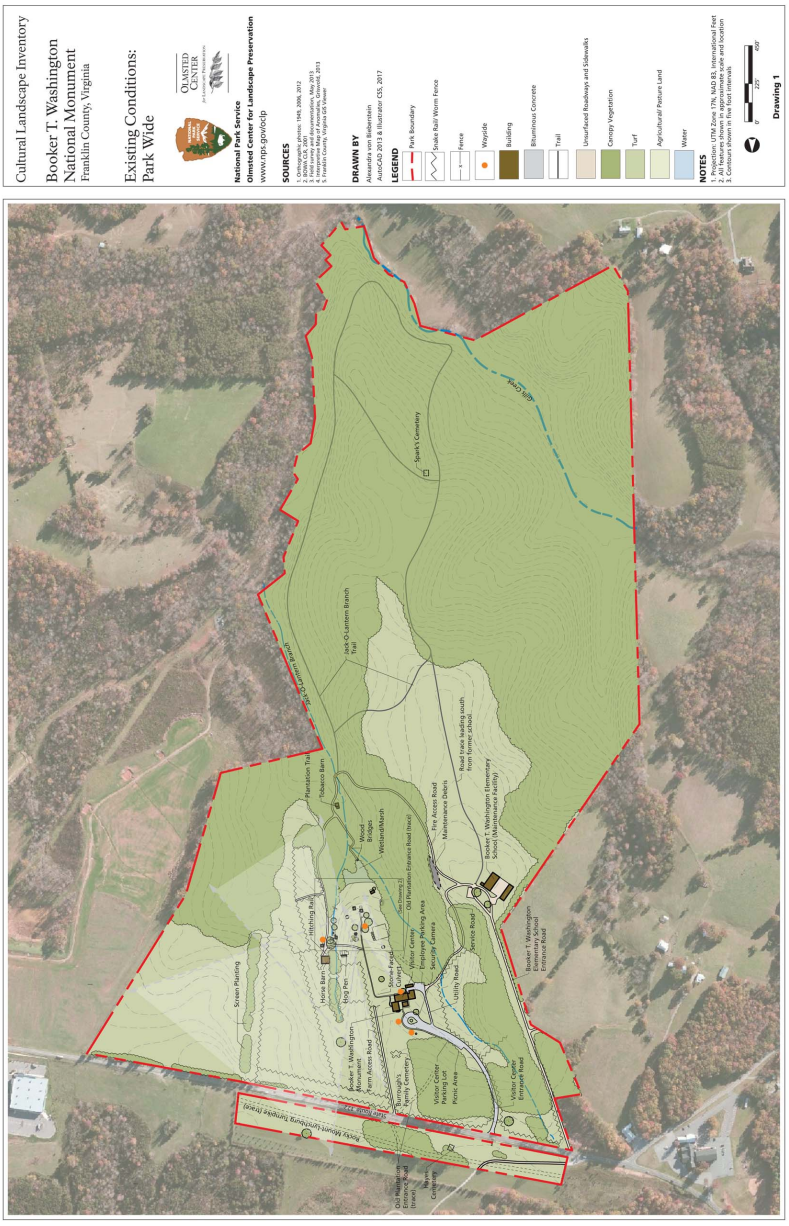
Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Booker T. Washington National Monument (BOWA NM)	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Burroughs Plantation	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Burroughs Farm	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Birthplace Memorial	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan


Cultural Landscape Inventory
Booker T. Washington National Monument
Franklin County, Virginia
Existing Conditions: Park Wide
National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/olcp
SOURCES
DRAWN BY
Alexandra von Bieberstein
AutoCAD 2013 & Illustrator CS5, 2017
LEGEND
Park Boundary
Snake Rail/ Worm Fence
Fence
Wayside
Building
Bituminous Concrete
Trail
Unsurfaced Roadways and Sidewalks
Canopy Vegetation
Turf
Agricultural Pasture Land
Water
NOTES
Drawing 1
Booker T. Washington Monument
Booker T. Washington Elementary School (Maintenance Facility)
Booker T. Washington Elementary School Entrance Road
Visitor Center Employee Parking Area
Visitor Center Entrance Road
Visitor Center Picnic Area
Booker T. Washington Farm Access Road
Old Plantation Entrance Road (Visitor Center Entrance Road)
Old Plantation Entrance Road (Visitor Center Entrance Road)
Utility Road
Service Road
Fire Access Road
Maintenance Road
Road from landing south from former school
Plantation Trail
Tobacco Barn
Wood Bridges
Wetland/Marsh
Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail
Spark's Cemetery
Saxton Planting
Horse Barn
Hog Pen
Hitching Rail
Burroughs Family Cemetery
Rocky Mount-Union Mills Turnpike (1823)
Old Plantation Entrance Road (Visitor Center Entrance Road)
Farm Cemetery


Cultural Landscape Inventory
Booker T. Washington National Monument
Franklin County, Virginia
Existing Conditions: Historic Core
National Park Service
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
www.nps.gov/olcp
SOURCES
DRAWN BY
Alexandra von Bielenstein
AutoCAD 2013 & Illustrator CS5, 2017
LEGEND
Snake Rail/ Worm Fence
Wayside
Wood Post Fence
Building
Unsurfaced Roadway
Sidewalk
Canopy Vegetation
Turf
Agricultural Land
Water
NOTES
Drawing 2
Agricultural Field
Plantation Trail
Wood Waste
Footbridge
Spring
Culvert
Chicken House (1973)
Duck Pen (1987)
Wall
Spring Ramp (2001 and Spring)
Cedar
Pear
Burrough's House Site (stone outline)
Smokehouse (1974)
Bell
Birthplace Cabin Site "Cabin One" Site (stone outline)
Plantation Trail
Cedar
Ball Field
Flagpole
Wood Bench
Kitchen Cabin / Slave Cabin "Cabin Two" Site (1960)
Herb garden (1981)
Blacksmith Shed (1972)
Apple trees
Garden (established 1957)
Mound
Speculated line of former road
trajectory of Jack O Lantern Branch

Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment: Yes

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date: 09/20/2017

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The Level 0 data was gathered by David Sonka in July 1997, and was been entered by Nancy Brown with minor additions and editing. Brown and Dutcher conducted the Level I site visit Feb. 17-19, 1999.

In May 2013 and April 2014 Historical Landscape Architects, Eliot Foulds and Alexandra von Bieberstein from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation conducted site visits. Timothy Sims, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management at Booker T. Washington NM, assisted with the site visit. Von Bieberstein, Foulds, and Historical Landscape Architect Jeff Killion completed this report in 2017. Mr. Sims can be reached by telephone at (540) 721-2094 or by email at Timbo_Sims@nps.gov.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Booker T. Washington NM Landscape
Booker T. Washington National Monument

Booker T. Washington National Monument concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Booker T. Washington NM Landscape, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Booker T. Washington NM Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Booker T. Washington National Monument 9/20/17 Date

Park concurrence form, September 20, 2017.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2026

Booker T. Washington NM Landscape
Booker T. Washington National Monument

Booker T. Washington National Monument certifies the CLI update for the Booker T. Washington NM Landscape, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Booker T. Washington NM Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI update for the Booker T. Washington NM Landscape at Booker T. Washington National Monument is hereby approved and accepted.

Digitally signed by JAMES BAILEY
Date: 2026.05.08 15:29:32 -04'00'

05/08/2026

Superintendent, Booker T. Washington National Monument — Date

Park concurrence form, May 8, 2026.

Seq. No.	File Name	Caption

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Explanatory Narrative
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	05/08/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 update to the Booker T. Washington NHS Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
Virginia	Franklin County

Area (Acres): 239.01

Land Tract Number(s)

Booker T. Washington NM encompasses five land tracts: Tract 01-101 (199.73 acres), Tract 01-102 (0.10 acres), Tract 01-103 (18.10 acres), Tract 01-104 (5.99 acres), and Tract 01-105 (15.09 acres).

Boundary Description:

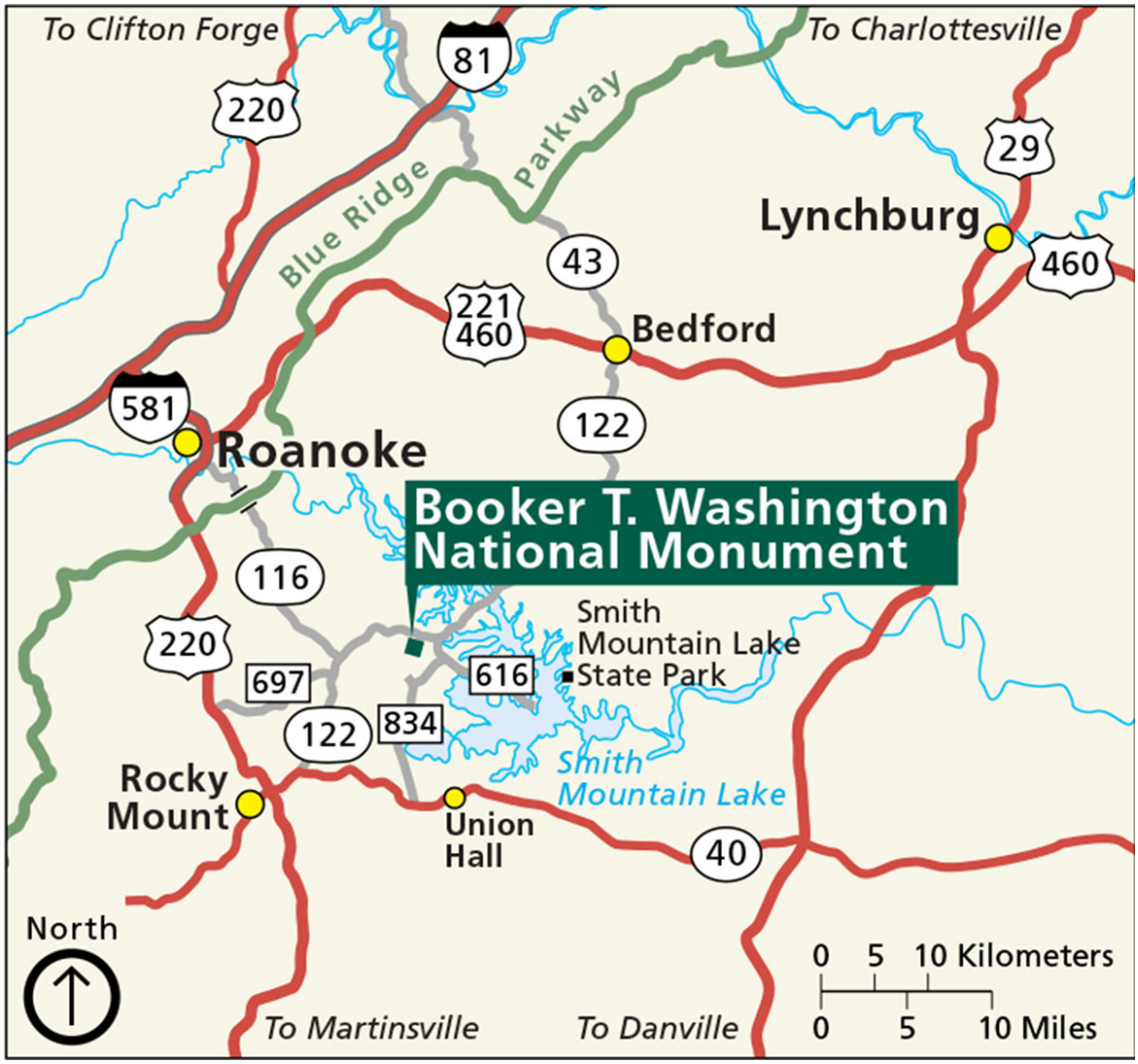
Encompassing 239.01 acres of federal land, the boundary of the Cultural Landscape Inventory corresponds with the boundary of Booker T. Washington NM. The park boundaries parallel parcel lines, several of which correlate to natural features. The boundary is described in a clockwise direction from a point of beginning at the extreme northwest corner of the park, north of State Highway 122.

The north boundary of the CLI unit is defined by the north boundary of Tract 01-103 which spans both sides of State Highway 22. East of Tract 01-103 and south of State Highway 122 the CLI boundary continues eastward parallel to the north and east perimeter of Tract 01-105, an agricultural field preserved by the Conservation Fund which buffers the core of the park from recent development beyond the park boundary. South of Tract 01-105 the east boundary of the CLI unit parallels the east edge of Tract 01-101 which also parallels Spring Branch and Jack-O-Lantern Branch. These two branches merge along the east boundary of the CLI and drain into Gills Creek at the southeast corner of Tract 01-101 and the CLI unit. The south boundary of the CLI unit parallels the south boundary of Tract 01-101a portion of which parallels Gills Creek. The west boundary of the CLI unit is defined by a portion of the west perimeter of Tract 01-101, the west perimeter of Tract 01-104, 01-102, and 01-103. Within Tract 01-103 the west boundary of the CLI unit crosses State Highway 122 and meets the northeast corner of the CLI unit.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
		37.122801	-79.73484	
		37.121836	-79.728323	
		37.120737	-79.728384	
		37.120543	-79.725132	
		37.117758	-79.727256	
		37.115796	-79.727895	
		37.115401	-79.729902	
		37.112789	-79.728603	
		37.107088	-79.729847	
		37.106827	-79.730705	
		37.108464	-79.731821	
		37.108688	-79.732962	
		37.107446	-79.735549	
		37.107875	-79.735974	
		37.114897	-79.73636	
		37.118266	-79.73361	
		37.119792	-79.734128	
		37.120059	-79.734742	
		37.120905	-79.735187	
		37.120985	-79.734701	
		37.12183	-79.735003	

Location Map:



Booker T. Washington NM Landscape encompasses the entirety of the park boundary. The location of the park is shown in dark green. Note the proximity to Smith Mountain Lake. (Booker T. Washington National Monument--hereafter BOWA)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The area of Piedmont Virginia was home to Native Americans as early as 10,000 BC. A Siouan tribe inhabited the region in the 1600s and the first European settlers arrived in the area beginning in the 1740s. Europeans arrived via river and road corridors, including the Carolina Road. The backcountry that became Franklin County was part of an area that historian Frederick Jackson Turner once called "the Old West." This area was one of the first of many subsequent American frontiers that would have a profound effect on its inhabitants through progressive waves of settlement. This stepwise progression of frontier and settlement increasingly severed cultural ties with Europe and created a new national identity.

Agriculture has been the predominate livelihood since early settlement, and during the primary period of significance, most residents of Franklin County earned income from tobacco farming. Land, slaves, and livestock usually measured relative wealth of each farm family. Agriculture continues to play an important role today, although tourism and recreation has increased in the area since the development of nearby Smith Mountain Lake. Since the 1980s substantial suburban and commercial development has altered the character of the surrounding landscape.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Booker T. Washington NM lies in the Piedmont area of Virginia. The area is interposed between the flat coastal plain of Virginia to the east and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west. Piedmont Virginia is characterized by gently rolling topography with elevations ranging from 1,000 feet to 840 feet above sea level. The local landscape is characterized by rolling topography, agricultural fields, and substantial wood lots. The nearby Blue Ridge Mountains form the western boundary of Franklin County.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Booker T. Washington National Monument is located in Franklin County, Virginia, approximately twenty-two miles south of Roanoke. The county is 712 square miles and has a population of 56, 264 (2015 data).

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance)

Management Category Date: 09/20/2017

Management Category Narrative:

The Booker T. Washington NM Landscape meets the criteria for the "High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance" (formerly "Must Be Preserved and Maintained") management category because the site is related to the park's legislated significance. The park's 1956 enabling legislation provides cursory direction for establishment of "a public national memorial to Booker T. Washington, noted Negro educator and apostle of good will. The Secretary of the Interior shall…maintain and preserve it in a suitable and enduring manner . . ." (Enabling Legislation, Public Law 84-464, from GMP-EIS draft 1999: 189)

The draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement expanded on the purpose described in the 1956 legislation to provide a larger context for the site and its significance in American history. This included a statement acknowledging the landscape: "To preserve and protect the birth site of Booker T. Washington, its cultural landscape, and viewshed." (GMP-EIS draft 1999: 11)

Management Agreements:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative:

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. The boundary of the Booker T. Washington NM landscape adequately encompasses the historic resources. The recent boundary expansion has strengthened the visual buffer protecting the majority of the historic views and immediate setting of the park, although significant development throughout the county, primarily in the vicinity of Smith Mountain Lake, may alter the character of the surrounding landscape.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility: Eligible - Keeper

Eligibility Date:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Documentation Narrative Description:

Booker T. Washington National Monument (NM) was authorized on April 2, 1956. As a National Monument within the national park system, the park was administratively added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. However, documentation of the site was not completed at this time.

On December 29, 1989, documentation for a 199-acre historic district in the park was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register. Significance was identified under Criterion B for Booker T. Washington at the national level, in the areas of Education, Industry, Politics, and Ethnic History: Black. The period of significance was listed as 1856-1865, which were the dates of Washington's boyhood enslavement at the site. Significant dates of 1881-1915 were also listed as the "dates of Washington's rise to national significance." However, a Supplementary Listing Record, signed by the Keeper on December 29, 1989, deleted the significant dates (1881-1915) from the documentation because they did not relate to the property. The Supplementary Listing Record also acknowledged that the site met Criteria Considerations C (Birthplace) and F (Commemorative Property). The 1989 documentation identified seven contributing resources: Burroughs family cemetery, Sparks cemetery, Burroughs house site, birthplace cabin site, Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike, Old Plantation Entrance Road, and a tobacco barn. Twenty-five non-contributing resources built after the historic period were also identified: horse barn, blacksmith shed, corn crib, chicken house, smokehouse, slave cabin, privy, hog pen, duck pen, garden, herb garden, visitor center, Booker T. Washington Environmental Educational and Cultural Center (school), Hayes cemetery, Virginia 122 (Booker T. Washington Memorial Highway), farm access road, school road, visitor center entrance road, utility road, fire access road, plantation trail, Jack-O-Lantern Branch trail, visitor center parking lot, employee parking lot, and a screening project (plantings). The documentation's statement of significance focused on Washington's biography, especially the importance of his career during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but did not address the significance of the landscape or its extant features.

On June 25, 1995, the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) signed a Determination of Significance form regarding the primitive campground at the park. The SHPO agreed with the National Park Service that the campground, built 1979-1980, was not eligible for listing in the National Register.

In 2002-2003, evaluations of several non-contributing resources identified in the 1989 National Register documentation were revisited. On October 24, 2002, the National Park Service submitted a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) to the Virginia SHPO regarding resources built in the park during the Mission 66 era. The National Park Service concluded that the visitor center complex (visitor center, entrance drive, parking

area, and landscaping elements) met the “exceptional importance” standard of Criteria Consideration G (Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years). Although less than fifty years old and previously altered, the National Park Service felt that the complex represented efforts to deliberately and decisively change the focus of development in the park from the approach taken by the previous privately-administered “Birthplace Memorial.”

On November 29, 2002, the Virginia SHPO replied that they did not concur with the DOE, stating that “the Mission 66 resources [at the park] are not representative of the level of exceptional importance required for listing, as they are not premier examples of the Mission 66 program.” However, in their letter, the SHPO noted that although the Mission 66 resources at the park were not individually eligible, they “might” contribute to the National Register eligibility of the complete property.

In a letter to the National Park Service the following month, dated December 23, 2002, the Virginia SHPO stated that “the Mission 66 work was carried out with the overall intention of commemorating Booker T. Washington with an appropriate monument…” The letter confirmed that the park’s Mission 66 resources did contribute to the National Register eligibility of the overall property according to Criterion Consideration G. However, in a letter to the Virginia SHPO dated February 19, 2003, the National Park Service sought clarification of why Criteria Consideration G applied to the park as a whole and to which specific park resources it applied.

In their reply letter to the National Park Service dated September 11, 2003, the Virginia SHPO referenced an August 2002 draft Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the park, which identified four periods of significance: Booker T. Washington Enslavement Period (1856-1865), Memorial Period (1945-1956), Racially Segregated Education and Civil Rights Period (1952-1966), and the Mission 66 Period (1956-1966). The SHPO reiterated that the Mission 66 resources were eligible for listing in the National Register, including the visitor center and associated landscape elements such as fences installed as part of the Mission 66 development. In this letter the SHPO recommended an expansion of the park’s period of significance to include the Mission 66 period (1956-1966). The SHPO also recommended a third period of significance for the role of the Booker T. Washington Elementary School Building during the era of “massive resistance” to integration in Virginia, described as the period 1952-1966 in the draft CLR. Lastly, the SHPO stated that they agreed with the evaluations of features as described in the draft CLR, writing “DHR concurs with the other eligibility findings,” thereby including the Memorial Period (1945-1956) and its extant resources.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the landscape at Booker T. Washington NM is adequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation and consultations with the Virginia SHPO in 2002-03. The historic resources in the park unit have been listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register, and the period and areas of significance have been defined. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the property is considered “Entered-Documented.”

Pre-CLI Documentation Status: Entered Documented

CLI SHPO/THPO Concurrence Date: 12/29/1989 12:00:00 AM

CLI Concurrence Narrative:

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Booker T. Washington NM is significant for the unusual breadth of African American history reflected in its varied and altered landscape, from slavery and emancipation through segregated education and the desegregation crisis. The park is significant under National Register Criterion A, B, C, and D in the areas

of Ethnic Heritage-Black, Education, Politics/Government, Architecture, and Archeology (Historic-Non-Aboriginal). The park derives its primary significance under Criterion B at the national level for its association with Booker T. Washington. The primary period of significance begins with Booker T. Washington's birth in 1856 and extends through emancipation in 1865. This period comprises Washington's birth, childhood in slavery, and the experience of emancipation on the 207-acre Burroughs plantation.

Booker T. Washington NM is significant at the national level under Criterion A for its role in the history of race relations and African American memorialization during World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. The period of significance for the Memorial Period is 1945-1956, beginning with the establishment of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial and extending to establishment of Booker T. Washington NM. The park also possesses state and local significance under Criterion A for its association with the politics of African American education under segregation and during the school desegregation crisis from the late 1940s through the 1960s. The period of significance for the Racially Segregated Education and Civil Rights Period is 1952-1966, beginning when the Birthplace Memorial donated land from the Burroughs plantation property to the county for the construction of a segregated black elementary school, and ending when the school closed as part of the county's desegregation process. The park is significant under Criterion A and C for its visitor facilities built during the NPS Mission 66 period and their key roles in the development of the park and how they influenced local and regional race relations during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. The period of significance for the Mission 66 Period is 1956-1966, which begins the year the park was established and ends the year the visitor center was completed. Lastly, Booker T. Washington is significant for its archeological resources that have the potential to contain the most material integrity to period of Booker T. Washington's enslavement.

The park also meets Criteria Considerations C (Birthplace) and F (Commemorative Property) as stated in the 1989 Supplementary Listing Record. Criteria Consideration G (Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years) no longer applies to the property.

CRITERION B

Booker T. Washington Enslavement Period (1856-1865):
Booker T. Washington NM is significant at the national level for its association with Booker T. Washington, arguably the most prominent and controversial public spokesperson on race relations and education between 1895 and 1915. Washington was born into slavery in 1856 in a one-room log cabin on the Burroughs plantation, in Franklin County, Virginia, an area now encompassed by the national monument. Washington spent his boyhood enslaved on the Burroughs plantation living in deplorable conditions until 1865. His early thinking about race relations, labor, and education were influenced by the social landscape. This is made clear in his autobiographical writings (1898-1911) in which he returned repeatedly to themes related directly to his birthplace and childhood home; the Burroughs plantation generally, and the slave cabin specifically. In an age of legal segregation and disfranchisement, he did so in order to explain and to justify his moderate philosophy of harmonious race relations and progress for African Americans through industrial, agricultural, and domestic training. Booker T. Washington NM is significant not only because Washington was born and spent his youth there, but because as an adult he linked his philosophy of racial progress to his boyhood experiences. (CLR 2004: 107)

CRITERION A

Memorial Period (1945-1956):
The privately run Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial played a significant role in the national history of "interracial memory work," the politics of race relations, and African American memorialization as played out against the backdrop of World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. Tuskegee graduate Sidney J. Phillips, head of the Birthplace Memorial, played to the interests of white conservatives, invoking the rhetoric of interracial harmony, anti-Communism, and acquiescence to segregation. He did so in order to establish and garner financial support and then to ultimately have the property merged into the portfolio of national park sites. (CLR 2004: 114)

Booker T. Washington himself first commemorated his birthplace in his autobiographical writings as early as 1898, and he initiated interracial commemorative activities at the Burroughs plantation in September

1908. Memorialization through the development of the landscape itself, however, did not commence until after 1945, under the private stewardship of Sidney J. Phillips and the Booker T. Washington Memorial Association. During a time when African American civil rights activists were increasingly effective in fighting racial segregation, Phillips and the Birthplace Memorial Association identified themselves with politically moderate or even conservative ideas and thereby gained the support of with conservatives. By doing so, they succeeded in 1956 in gaining Congressional authorization for Booker T. Washington NM, only the second African American site established as a unit of the National Park Service, preceded only by George Washington Carver NM. (CLR 2004: 114)

Racially Segregated Education and Civil Rights Period (1952-1966):
Booker T. Washington NM's local, state, and regional significance lies in the iconic legacy of Washington's educational philosophy as applied in the context of the Civil Rights Movement. The presence of the formerly segregated elementary school on the site is associated with racially segregated education and the Civil Rights Movement. Sidney Phillips worked to found an industrial school and model farm for African Americans at the birthplace site, acquiescing to widespread policies providing for segregated education. A more durable legacy survives as the Booker T. Washington Elementary School, built on former Burroughs land donated in 1952 by the Phillips's enterprise and operated by Franklin County as a "model" segregated public school from 1954 to 1966. This was the period of Virginia's "massive resistance" to desegregation, a time when conservative political leaders resisted the United States Supreme Court's desegregation order in Brown v. Board of Education. The elementary school building remains intact, possessing a high degree of integrity. (CLR 2004: 120)

CRITERION A & C

Mission 66 Period (1956-1966):
At Booker T. Washington NM, several Mission 66 era features derive significance for association with the decade long program that infused the national parks with the funding necessary to modernize and develop infrastructure, interpretation, and park management policies following World War II. Mission 66 was conceived of in 1956, as park resources deteriorated to a precarious state while visitation reached an all-time high. The program was established to raise the standard of the national park experience by 1966 in time to celebrate the fifty-year anniversary of the National Park Service. At Booker T. Washington National Monument, the Visitor Center, Visitor Center Entrance Road and Parking Lot, and Visitor Center Entrance Road Fence are contributing Mission 66-era features. The park, authorized in 1956, was fundamentally shaped by the funding, centralized planning, and design standards provided by the Mission 66 program. (CLR 2004: 122-123)

The park's Visitor Center embodies the typical characteristics of a Mission 66 visitor center, a structure that would house many visitor and administrative functions under one roof. This new concept in park planning departed from earlier precedents favoring clustering essential services in several buildings around a "park village" organization. Visitor center designs embraced the modernist architectural movement, featuring clean lines, minimal ornamentation, concrete, metal, and glass building materials, flat roofs, and low profiles. The large number of park visitor centers built nationwide made designs incorporating inexpensive materials and construction techniques a practical necessity. (CLR 2004: 123)

The building was organized for the efficient movement of visitors and was oriented toward a view of the park's core. Characteristic features of the building include an open floor plan, central orientation station, and easy access to museum displays, rest rooms, and an auditorium. The site planning for visitor centers was also integral to their design. Increased automobile traffic influenced park planners to accommodate cars through generously proportioned circulation systems and other amenities including trails, picnic areas, and seating areas. (CLR 2004: 123)

Initially, the park utilized existing infrastructure that remained from previous ownership of the land, which proved inadequate to meet park goals. In response, planning for a new visitor center took place throughout the late 1950s and early 1960s and construction occurred in 1965-1966. As the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) states, "…the Mission 66 Visitor Center and designed landscape were critical in accomplishing and implementing the interpretive program to celebrate and explain Booker T. Washington's humble beginnings to his self-education and finally to renowned educator…Without Mission 66, the park would not have been able to execute its legislative mandate or follow through on the interpretive mission."

The DOE noted that the complex was consistent with established Mission 66 design concepts through the building's interior layout, exterior styling, placement on the landscape, and vehicular circulation system. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources supplemented the DOE with discussion of the importance of the Mission 66 program on overall park establishment and development, and how it influenced local and regional race relations during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. (CLR 2004: 123, citing DOE, 3 February 2003)

CRITERION D

The Booker T. Washington National Memorial qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D as it has yielded, and is likely to yield in the future, important archaeological information about the history of the site. Pertaining to Criterion D, the Booker T. Washington National Memorial qualifies under the Enslavement Period for the Birthplace Cabin Site (Cabin One) and the Burroughs House Site, which are listed on the National Register. Although the National Register eligibility of other archeological sites associated with the Enslavement Period and Memorial Period has not yet been determined, a summary of this information is provided below for reference.

Booker T. Washington Enslavement Period (1856-1865):
At least three archaeological excavations conducted in the past have identified deposits and features dating to (or potentially dating to) the Booker T. Washington Enslavement Period. These include the original 1959 excavations on what has become known as Cabin 2 by John Griffin (1959); Amber Bennett's 1998 excavations on Cabin 1 briefly reported on in the 1998 Archaeological Overview and Assessment; and Bennett's excavations at the Burrough's House (Big House), reported on by Lynn Rainville (2003). Cabin 1 is considered the Birthplace Cabin of Booker T. Washington and Cabin 2 is the Kitchen cabin that he and his family were moved into when he was very young; the Burrough's House was the primary home of the property owners. All of these excavations have documented deposits or features connected to Booker T. Washington's time on the property. The location and documentation of these enormously important archaeological resources, testifies to the likelihood of the discovery of additional archaeological resources on the property dating to the enslavement period. Both the archaeological resources identified and the ones still likely to be in existence on the property speak to the eligibility of the archaeological resources to qualify under Criterion D. (Review comment, W. Griswold)

Memorial Period (1945-1956):
Archaeological features and deposits connected to the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial Period, under the stewardship of Sydney J. Phillips, have been extensively documented in the core of the property by several archeological and geophysical studies (De Vore 1998, Campana and Orr 1985, Cooper 1996, Griswold, Rupp, Foulds, von Bieberstein 2014, 2015). Phillips' memorialization of Washington was noted with a rather aggressive building program. Several of the features and deposits of this building and development program were identified during the most recent 2014 -15 geophysical and archeological investigations. Additional geophysical anomalies, likely from the Memorial Period, have been identified in the data, but have not been archaeologically investigated. It is, however, clear from these assessments that the Sydney J. Phillips' building program damaged earlier features and deposits connected to the Enslavement Period. However, these features and deposits, are considered eligible in their own right under Criterion D. (Review comment, W. Griswold)

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criterion B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Significance Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criterion D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

Consideration C -- A birthplace or grave

Consideration F -- A commemorative property

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1856 - CE 1865

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Abolitionism	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Ways of Life	Slavery And Plantation Life	
Developing the American Economy	Agriculture	Plantation Agriculture	
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Abolishment Of Slavery	

Time Period: CE 1945 - CE 1956

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Civil Rights Movements	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Historic Preservation Movement	
Transforming the Environment	Conservation of Natural Resources	Origin And Development Of The National Park Service	

Time Period: CE 1952 - CE 1966

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Civil Rights Movements	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	NPS Mission 66	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Vernacular Architecture	
Expressing Cultural Values	Education	Elementary, Intermediate And Secondary Education	
Expressing Cultural Values	Education	Vocational Training	

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage

Area of Significance Subcategory: Black

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Education

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Politics - Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Booker T. Washington National Monument
NRIS ID:	66000834
Other Name:	Burroughs Plantation
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	033-0015
Name:	Booker T. Washington National Monument
Listed Date:	01/16/1973

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1600 - 1700	Inhabited	Predominate Native American tribes in the region are the Saponi and Tutelo. The tribes compete for game within the Piedmont territory, particularly within the future Franklin County. The present day Staunton River is known as the “Saponi,” named for the Native American tribe.
CE 1607	Settled	Europeans settle at Jamestown.
CE 1619	Inhabited	Africans arrive in North America, initially as indentured servants laboring for large Tidewater Tobacco planters. Slavery is institutionalized by the 1660s.
CE 1660 - 1669	Established	African slavery is institutionalized within the Virginia Colony.
CE 1671	Explored	The first white men pass through the area of present-day Franklin County and encounter few Native Americans. The population of Virginia is 45,000. Around 2,000 are slaves.
CE 1701	Abandoned	Few Saponi or Tutelo Native Americans remain in Franklin County.
CE 1722	Established	The treaty of the Five Nations is signed.
CE 1745	Homesteaded	Israel Pickens, the first documented white settler arrives in present-day Franklin County. He claims four hundred acres on both sides of Chestnut Creek.
CE 1747 - 1749	Settled	The first major wave of settlement occurs in Franklin County. Settlers include Thomas Gill, for whom Gills Creek is later named.
CE 1750 - 1759	Built	The Warwick Road, a key east-west road, is built to connect Richmond to Roanoke. The road begins at the main road in New London (Bedford County) and follows the general direction of present-day Route 122 to the vicinity of Burnt Chimney, where it leads westward toward Callaway, crosses the Blue Ridge, and toward the New River.
CE 1776	Inhabited	Virginia’s backcountry contains approximately a quarter of the total population of the colony.
CE 1786	Established	January 1: Franklin County, Virginia is established by the Legislature from parts of Bedford and Henry Counties. Staple crops and industry are primarily tobacco, wheat, Indian corn and iron.
CE 1786	Land Transfer	John Jones sells to Asa Dillon “a tract of 250 acres on both sides of Gills Creek.”
CE 1808	Land Transfer	Asa Dillon dies and leaves his Gills Creek property to his son Jesse.
CE 1818	Land Transfer	April 6: Jesse Dillon sells 150 acres of the Gills Creek property his son Asa for one dollar.
CE 1820	Inhabited	The population of Franklin County is 12,017.
CE 1826	Land Transfer	Asa Dillon sells 200 acres on Gills Creek with improvements (house) to Jesse Dillon for $1,300.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1830	Inhabited	The population of Franklin County is 14,911. The population of Virginia is 48% enslaved.
CE 1833	Land Transfer	January 1: Jesse Dillon and his wife, Elizabeth, sell a 170-acre tract of land on Gills Creek to Thomas Burroughs of Franklin County for $900 and one grey horse.
CE 1847	Land Transfer	Thomas Burroughs leaves the Gills Creek property for Bedford County. He purchases an eight acre tract of land there on both sides of the Hales Ford Road from Aquilla Divers, for $56.
CE 1847	Established	Virginia General Assembly incorporates a joint stock venture, the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike Company, the first president of the company being Major Samuel Hale of Franklin County. The road begins in Lynchburg, runs southwesterly to the Staunton River and follows present-day Route 122 to Rocky Mount.
CE 1849	Built	December 1: Nowlin and Mosely construct an eighteen-mile-long segment of road between Staunton River and Rocky Mount, and a bridge over Gills Creek where there was no convenient ford.
CE 1850	Farmed/Harvested	Franklin County continues to offer bounties for wolves and foxes, reflective of the frontier conditions prevailing into mid-century.
CE 1850	Land Transfer	James Burroughs buys 177 acres from his brother Thomas in the Piedmont of Franklin County, Virginia.
CE 1854	Land Transfer	November: James Burroughs expands his farm to 207 acres by purchasing an additional 30 acres of Gills Creek land from brother Thomas.
CE 1856	Memorialized	Booker T. Washington is born into slavery on April 5 at the Burroughs plantation to Jane, the cook. His father is thought to be a local white farmer.
CE 1860	Farmed/Harvested	James Burroughs' 1860 tobacco crop yield is 2,000 pounds (grown on three to five acres of land). The average production for Franklin County farmers in 1860 is 3,558 pounds.
CE 1861	Military Operation	The Civil War begins. All of the Burroughses' sons fight in the war.
CE 1861	Inhabited	July 24: James Burroughs dies of "lung disease." His wife Elizabeth and daughters remain on the farm.
CE 1861	Farmed/Harvested	November 23: Inventory of the James Burroughs's estate estimates the net value of his tools, farm equipment, and furnishings amounts to $1,533. Seventy-eight percent of his estate, or $5,550, is in the form of his ten slaves.
CE 1862	Inhabited	John Wise, son of former Gov. Henry Wise makes note of the settlement patterns along road from Big Lick (Roanoke) to Rocky Mount: "…Soon the broad pastures and fields of grain had disappeared. In their place were rough, hillside lots, with patches of buckwheat or tobacco. Instead of the stately brick houses standing in groves on handsome knolls, all that we saw of human habitations were log-houses far apart upon the mountain sides, or in the hollows far below us…"

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1863	Established	Emancipation Proclamation is issued.
CE 1865	Military Operation	April 12: Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, ending the Civil War.
CE 1865	Moved	Jane Washington moves her family to Malden, West Virginia to join her husband.
CE 1866	Farmed/Harvested	Virginia land that sold for $150 an acre prior to the war - sells for two dollars an acre after the war.
CE 1870 - 1878	Land Transfer	The Burroughs family abandons the plantation. Elizabeth Burroughs leaves the property to live with a married daughter. Between 1870-1878, the widow Burroughs rents the Gills Creek land out to tenants and the property greatly decreases in value.
CE 1885	Land Transfer	The Burroughses' try to sell the land, at first unsuccessfully to Robert T. Crook in 1885, who defaults.
CE 1890 - 1893	Purchased/Sold	The Burroughs family sells the parcel to John Robertson in 1890, and sale finalizes in 1893. After acquiring the property, the Robertson family removes several deteriorated buildings and construct new ones to begin their tenure on the property.
CE 1900	Farmed/Harvested	The Robertson brothers –John's sons Peter and Grover- describe the farm, at the time of their father's purchase, as served by worm fencing. The garden is enclosed by a paling fence, and is located to the west of the house and yard. Its westerly boundary extends to within ten feet of the branch.
CE 1908	Memorialized	September 26. Booker T. Washington makes his only visit as an adult to the plantation.
CE 1915	Memorialized	Booker T. Washington dies.
CE 1922	Removed	Cabin on the site of the future Cabin Two" reconstruction is torn down. John Robertson's mother-in-law had lived in this cabin for a period of time.
CE 1927	Memorialized	John Robertson dies.
CE 1932	Built	What would later be called the "Virginia Cottage" is constructed for the widowed Martha Robertson by her son. In 1932 this building consists of two rooms.
CE 1937	Memorialized	African American Congressman from Chicago, Arthur Mitchell visits the plantation. "Uncle" Henry Swain, a boyhood playmate of Washington, places an iron stake in the ground where the birthplace cabin was thought to have been located.
CE 1937	Platted	The WPA of Virginia surveys the Robertson farm (former Burroughs property).
CE 1945	Land Transfer	Autumn: Sidney Phillips purchases the Robertson property at public auction.
CE 1946	Established	Phillips establishes the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial on January 31, 1946 and begins physical improvements in anticipation of the development of an educational and community building programs.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1946	Built	Phillips constructs cabin replicas, Hopkins Hall, and Tuck Industrial Hall. The Virginia Cottage and Burroughs house are renovated. A “two-lane driveway with a circular terminus, leading from State Route 122 to the front of the Burroughs house, at the cost of $5,172.25” is constructed by the Virginia Department of Highways. The entrance to the highway is framed by two stone pillars.
CE 1946	Land Transfer	May 4: S. J. Phillips and Virginia H. Phillips convey the property purchased at auction to the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial by deed.
CE 1946	Established	Phillips establishes the Booker T. Washington Post Office.
CE 1949	Built	May 23: The “birthplace cabin” (Cabin Two) reconstruction is dedicated. Virginia Governor William Tuck attends as guest of honor. Phillips completes the reconstruction of the cabin at a cost of $1500.00. To the north of the reconstruction is a decorative/fund-raising “wishing well” with the BTW quote, “Cast down your bucket where you are.”
CE 1949	Land Transfer	October 21: Albert Saunders transfers 246.5 acres of adjacent farmland to the memorial to be used as a demonstration farm.
CE 1949	Land Transfer	November 25: Posey L. Plybon sells 101 acres to the west to the memorial for $15,000. The birthplace memorial is now approximately 550 acres.
CE 1949	Built	Hopkins Hall is completed.
CE 1949	Built	Tuck Industrial Hall is completed. The structure is an $8,000 renovation of the barn built by the Robertsons north of the Burroughs house.
CE 1949	Built	“The Life of Booker T. Washington in Electrical Illumination,” an interpretive program, is installed on fence posts throughout the historic core.
CE 1950	Destroyed	Dec. 23: The former Burroughs residence burns. Damages amount to $133,800. The “birthplace cabin” (Cabin Two) reconstruction is also damaged.
CE 1950	Established	A program of young students from the Trade School in Roanoke operating the demonstration farm is implemented. Students work on the farm three days a week.
CE 1951	Planned	Work begins on the Burch Memorial Building, intended to assume the functions of the former Burroughs house. Only the foundation is completed at the time of the dedication ceremony on April 1.
CE 1952	Land Transfer	Trustees of BTW Birthplace Memorial vote to donate six acres to Franklin County for the purpose of creating Booker T. Washington Elementary School. This land is subdivided from the original Burroughs plantation at the northwestern part of the property and given right-of-way over the private memorial’s property for access.
CE 1953	Planned	The National Park Service conducts a feasibility study regarding establishment of a park unit on the site. The study recommends against the establishment of a park.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1953	Altered	June: State Route 122, against local protest, is renamed Booker T. Washington Memorial Highway.
CE 1954	Planned	March 22: “The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, having considered the proposal that the Booker T. Washington birthplace be included in the national park system, resolves that while Booker T. Washington, the man, is an impressive national figure, the birth site is not equally impressive, since it is largely devoid of original structures or object remains associated with him.”
CE 1954	Established	September: Classes begin at Booker T. Washington Elementary School.
CE 1955	Purchased/Sold	Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial is bankrupt. In April, Phillips obtains a mortgage to repurchase the birthplace tract from the Banker’s Trust Co. of Rocky Mount for $9,500 and a second mortgage for $6,000 from Nehi. At this point Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial is owned by the newly incorporated “Booker T. Washington Memorial Foundation.” In part the group is chartered to promote legislation to provide for the establishment of a National Monument.
CE 1955	Planned	National Park Service District Ranger Hadley investigates land acquisitions necessary to establish Booker T. Washington National Monument: the Phillips 207-acre tract, the “West tract” or 101 acres owned by John William Booth and Nellie Plybon Booth, and 297 acres owned by Ruth Jane Saunders and Thomas Saunders.
CE 1955	Planned	September 7-9: Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments reaffirms the previous decision to not recommend the establishment of Booker T. Washington National Monument. They recommended honoring him at Tuskegee instead.
CE 1956	Planned	September 24: Historian Roy Appleman visits the site to assess boundaries for the future national monument. The core of the Memorial’s activities is contained in 165 acres, but over 500 are held in total. Appleman finds that that most of the necessary property is included in the memorial’s 500 acres, minus a few privately owned acres along Route 122.
CE 1956	Established	April: Booker T. Washington National Monument is established.
CE 1956	Planned	James Kirkwood, the first park historian, researches and gathers materials relating to Washington. He conducts interviews, and searches for letters, journals, and photos. Kirkwood collects images of Virginia farm buildings and studies the design of the boyhood cabin.
CE 1957	Land Transfer	On June 18, the National Park Service accepts the site as a park unit. On September 27, the National Park Service takes control of Booker T. Washington NM site. Supt. Chester Brooks describes the site as in poor condition.
CE 1957	Land Transfer	December 6: Phillips and his staff vacate the premises.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1957	Removed	December 31: National Park Service maintenance staff remove eighteen pickup loads of trash from various points on the grounds. The Phillips wishing well is removed.
CE 1958	Removed	The new National Monument engages in "…cleaning up the old plantation, tearing down some buildings that are of no historical importance and cleaning up the land." The Robertson barn (Tuck Hall) and the unfinished foundations of Burch Hall are demolished. An abandoned house near the elementary school and a number of Robertson-built tobacco barns and shacks are removed.
CE 1958	Altered	The former "Virginia Cottage" is repainted and improved to serve as park housing. Hopkins Hall becomes the park visitor center. Administrative offices remain in Roanoke.
CE 1958	Land Transfer	An additional 20 acres of land along Route 122 is sought to widen the property and eliminate the need to cross onto neighboring properties to access the proposed utility building and entry drive. This also increases the park's visual buffer.
CE 1958	Planned	The first draft of "Mission 66 Prospectus" is developed by Superintendent Brooks.
CE 1958	Planned	Booker T. Washington National Monument staff inquire with scholars from the University of Minnesota regarding common medicinal herbs of the 1850s for a demonstration farm.
CE 1958	Farmed/Harvested	The park rents 43 acres to a farmer who cultivates the land.
CE 1959	Built	September: The National Park Service razes the Phillips-era birthplace cabin reconstruction (Cabin Two) and builds a "more accurate" version on the same footprint.
CE 1959	Restored	July: Robertson tobacco barn is restored using timbers from other nearby barns. A small patch of tobacco is planted in the park.
CE 1959	Planned	June 10: Booker T. Washington National Monument is inventoried. Of the 199.73 acres of gently rolling land 40% is cultivated. The balance is second growth hardwood, valued at $17,000. Buildings include: one brick, two-story building in poor condition; one two-story frame quarters in poor condition; one one-and-a-half-story cabin in very poor condition; and two 18x18 log tobacco barns in poor condition. The entry road is 24' feet wide, .2 miles long, and primary base sealed. Fencing consists of 3,200 feet of "snake rail" fence along Route 122 in the eastern portion of park and into the headquarters area. 52 acres are cleared and disked. There are 1.03 miles of graded fire trails. Adjacent landowners include Plybon, Booth, Harris, Robertson, and Saunders, who own an additional 21 acres that the park considered acquiring.
CE 1959	Established	Annotations for the Roll Road Trail are developed, a self-guided tour of the Roll Road Trail with fifteen interpretive sites.
CE 1960	Built	Construction for the Smith Mountain Lake dam several miles east of the park begins.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1960	Planned	October 23. Lizillia Hayes refuses the park's offer of $1,190 for her 4.75 acres at the northern part of the park. Her attorney claims the property is worth $6,350.
CE 1960	Planned	November 13. The Saunders' reject the park's offer of $2,480, for their 9.92 acres. The park recommends legal action to secure the land.
CE 1960	Built	National Park Service constructs a replica kitchen cabin and privy.
CE 1963	Planned	Planning Report on Burroughs Plantation created to address interpretive agenda.
CE 1964	Land Transfer	April 21: The three properties are taken by condemnation proceedings by the US Department of the Interior. Hayes receives $1,525, Robertson $2,029, and Saunders $4,000.
CE 1964	Built	November: Work begins on the new park visitor center, beginning with the entrance road and utilities for the new building.
CE 1964	Planned	Historic American Buildings Survey inventories the tobacco barn.
CE 1965	Built	Mission 66 improvements and construction projects at the park include: a deceleration lane along Route 122, 726' of 20' wide entrance road, the visitor center parking lot, and a 7' wide concrete walkway to within 20' of visitor center.
CE 1966	Abandoned	Virginia schools integrate and the Booker T. Washington Elementary School closes.
CE 1966	Established	March 9: New park visitor center is open to the public, and on June 18 it is officially dedicated.
CE 1966 - 1967	Developed	A series of improvements are made to the visitor center and surrounding area including: resurfacing of the entry road, construction of a sidewalk between the parking lot and visitor center, updates to sewage and electric systems, benches are added, 50 trees, 112 shrubs, and 160 ground cover plants are planted, a flag pole added, and 31,000 feet of seeding and fertilizing is completed.
CE 1968	Developed	Establishment of a "Living Historical Farm," at Booker T. Washington NM becomes a park goal.
CE 1970	Built	The National Park Service constructs the horse barn.
CE 1972	Built	The National Park Service constructs the blacksmith shed and corn crib.
CE 1973	Built	The National Park Service constructs the chicken house.
CE 1974	Land Transfer	January 22: Chester L. Brooks accepts "with great pleasure" the donation of the former Booker T. Washington Elementary School and surrounding six acres from the Franklin County School Board. The school building was slated to serve as a "study building."
CE 1974	Built	The National Park Service constructs the smokehouse.
CE 1976	Altered	The National Park Service dedicates the Booker T. Washington Environmental Education and Cultural Center in the former elementary school.
CE 1981	Developed	Plantation Trail and Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail are designated part of the National Recreation Trail System.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1985	Farmed/Harvested	Four species of historic specimen trees at Booker T. Washington National Monument are propagated: Catalpa speciosa, Quercus alba, Quercus stellata, and Juniperus virginiana.
CE 1987	Built	The National Park Service constructs the hog pen and duck pen.
CE 1991	Stabilized	The National Park Service stabilizes the kitchen cabin.
CE 1992	Planned	The catalpa (Catalpa speciosa) and Virginia red cedar (Juniperous virginiana) are added to the Washington Support Office's list of "Interesting Trees." Both date to Booker T. Washington's residency.
CE 1996	Maintained	Dead wood is removed from the historic catalpa tree. Several large areas have not leafed out and the health of the tree is questionable.
CE 1996	Planned	A $1,405,000 renovation for the visitor center is proposed. The renovations include a 75 person auditorium, ADA-accessible features including bathrooms and a trail to historic core, increased interpretive space, improved energy efficiency, and conversion of the current garage into office/library/conference space.
CE 2000 - 2017	Planned	New "town center" development named "Westlake" is approved at Smith Mountain Lake, east of Booker T. Washington NM property. Build out of this development continues today.
CE 2001	Removed	The historic catalpa tree is removed. The stump and a root sprout of the original tree remain.
CE 2003	Altered	The visitor center is expanded with a multi-use room addition.
CE 2004	Purchased/Sold	The National Park Service acquires a fifteen-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the park, providing a buffer and screen from encroaching development.
CE 2008 - 2011	Altered	Between 2008 and 2011 the terminus of the Visitor Center Access Road is extended southeast and reconfigured as a turnaround in front of the visitor center.
CE 2014	Platted	Survey of the historic core is conducted with geophysical and traditional archeology. Historic core is scanned with ground-based LIDAR.

Physical History:

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. It is excerpted and updated from the 2004 "Cultural Landscape Report for Booker T. Washington National Monument: Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis, and Treatment" by Lisa Nowak, H. Eliot Foulds, and Phillip D. Troutman. Graphics associated with this section are located at the end of each time period.

PRE-HISTORY TO 1850

Native American Habitation and Early European Settlement:
Piedmont Virginia, including the present boundary of Booker T. Washington NM, was not explored by Europeans until 1671. The isolated location, undulating wooded terrain, and turbulent relationships with Native Americans within the young colony delayed exploration and settlement of the Piedmont region. Virginia was first explored in 1584 by Sir Walter Raleigh, who navigated along the regions sinuous coastline. The colonial settlement of Jamestown was established in 1607, twenty-three years after Raleigh first explored the region, while present day Franklin County Virginia was not settled by Europeans for nearly another 140 years. Early westward settlement was hindered by the 1622 Native American uprising known as the Powhatan massacre in eastern Virginia, during which numerous settlers were killed. Following the uprising, the colonial government banned development of new settlements while existing Tidewater settlements were fortified with palisades. (CLR 2004: 13)

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, Native American habitation in the area of present-day Franklin County was dispersed. Extant Native populations consisted of Saponi and Tutelo tribes. An exploration party led by Englishmen Thomas Batts and Robert Fallam in 1671 neither encountered nor reported a native presence. The explorers were led by Perecute, a Native American guide of the Appomattox tribe of the Algonquian confederacy, who was from an area within reach of the James River's tidal area. While the Englishmen passed through the area, the Seneca and Cayuga segments of the greater Iroquois community of New York and Pennsylvania attacked Native American groups to the south. These attacks may be understood in part due to the instability created by contact with European culture, especially over economic markets for trade, and would effect the tribes of southwestern Virginia. (CLR 2004: 13)

Year after year, attacks from the north pressured the Tutelo and Saponi, Siouan speaking tribes of the foothills of the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah Valley, leading them to abandon those lands and migrate into Carolina. By 1701, most of the Native Americans had left the area. Removed from their homeland and in reaction to their own fear, these Native Americans constructed palisaded settlements as the white settlers had once done along the James River estuary. After living away from their homeland for a generation, Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Spotswood encouraged the Tutelo and Saponi to return to Virginia in 1710 to foster the creation of a small settlement and encourage Indian trade and alliances. However, attacks from the Iroquoian tribes continued in the sparsely settled area. (CLR 2004: 13)

In 1728 William Byrd II observed what he believed to be the distant effects of Iroquois raids into Saponi and Tutelo lands, described as, "…smoky all round us…from the firing of the woods by the Indians, for we were now near the route the northern savages take when they go out to war against the Catawbas [Algonquian] southern nations." Byrd's observations were five years after the Treaty of the Five Nations in 1722, which supposedly ended hostilities between the Iroquois and their allies and the Native American tribes of the Virginia and Carolina colonies. In the same account Byrd references a "war-path," which was a well-documented feature of this regional landscape, later used by Anglo and German settlers of the region. Routed to fit the topography of the Great Valley and gaps in the Blue Ridge, this well-worn corridor, first established by Native Americans, continues to serve as the major artery for regional transportation to present day. Byrd writes of the Warriors' Path, or Trace, later to be known as the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the Carolina backcountry. This corridor followed what is now known as the Shenandoah Valley, south past Roanoke (formerly Big Lick), through Windy Gap, only a few miles northwest of the present Booker T. Washington National Monument. (CLR 2004: 13, citing Salmon 1993: 19)

The swelling tide of white settlement provoked the Tutelo and Saponi to move once more, this time to the north where they found acceptance among the Cayuga peoples in 1740. With the Cayuga acceptance of these two tribes, the native peoples of the future Franklin County region became part of the large Iroquoian confederacy that once terrorized them. Only remnants of Native American settlement, most notably place names, survive in Franklin County as clues to the existence of the land's prior occupants. For example, the land of Booker T. Washington's eventual birth is surrounded by the "Indian Run" tributary of the present day Staunton River, itself known originally as the "Saponi

River." Thomas Jefferson later summarized the fate of the region's Native American population in his 1787 edition of Notes on the State of Virginia:
"What would be the melancholy sequel may be argued from the census of 1669; by which we discover that the tribes therein enumerated were, in the space of 62 years, reduced to about one-third of their former numbers. Spirituous liquors, the smallpox, war, and an abridgement of territory, to a people who lived principally on the spontaneous productions of nature, had committed terrible havoc among them…We know that in 1712, the Five Nations received the Tuscaroras into their confederacy, and made them the Sixth Nation. They received the Meherrins [Saponi] and Tuteloes also into their protection: and it is most probable, that the remains of many other of the tribes, of whom we find no particular account, retired westwardly in like manner, and were incorporated with one or other of the western tribes." (CLR 2004: 14, from Jefferson 1982: 92-97)

European and African Settlement of Virginia's Piedmont:
The settlement of Virginia began along the coast with the establishment of the Virginia Company's Jamestown in 1607. The first Africans arrived on the continent in 1619, initially as indentured servants, laboring for large Tidewater tobacco planters. While many of Virginia's leading white families and free blacks would in time take pride in their families' ascendancy from indentured servitude, the colonial legal system was quick to support and establish a racial and social hierarchy. By the 1660s, permanent African slavery was institutionalized within the laws of the colony. In 1671, two-thousand of Virginia's 45,000 people were African slaves. (CLR 2004: 14)

The backcountry that would became Franklin County was part of an area that historian Frederick Jackson Turner once called "the Old West." This was one of the first of many American frontiers that would help shape a new national identity. Nevertheless, backcountry Piedmont culture transplanted by the likes of Israel Pickens, Nicolas Hale, and Thomas Gill, represented a diluted extension of Tidewater society. A traveler to Virginia in 1687 observed the following conclusions regarding typical Tidewater settlement patterns:
"Whatever their rank, and I know not why, they build only two rooms with some closets on the ground floor, and two rooms in the attic above; but they build several like this, according to their means. They build also a separate kitchen, a separate house for the Christian slaves, one for the Negro slaves, and several to dry the tobacco, so that when you come to the home of a person of some means, you think you are entering a fairly large village." (CLR 2004: 14, from Chinard 1934: 119-120)

By the time of the American Revolution, Virginia's backcountry population contained approximately one-fourth the total population of the colony and an intra-colony rivalry developed with the well-established regions to the east. Among the social differences was the backcountry farmer's abhorrence to pretensions of aristocracy combined with a kind of underdog tenacity. Historian Clement Eaton provides a broad, yet useful, characterization of the rival groups:
"The inhabitants of the Great Valley and the more primitive regions of the Piedmont were called "Cohees," probably from the uncouth phrase used by them, [Quo (th) he,] and the eastern planters were called "Tuckahoes," from an edible swamp root grown in eastern Virginia. The Tuckahoes were inclined to be hedonistic, loving good wine and companionship; the Cohees, having a different set of values, were too busy tilling their fields to waste time on social pursuits." (CLR 2004: 14, from Eaton 1967: 48-49)

This cultural divide emerged in part because settlement of the Virginia Piedmont was not a simple westward extension of the English Tidewater model, but included influences of Scotch-Irish and German cultures. Many of these new settlers of German heritage opposed slavery on moral grounds and their churches condemned the increasingly ingrained part of southern society. Still other Piedmont farmers owned few if any slaves because of economic reasons. Many of the small, subsistence farmers that typified the region during the early days of settlement did not have the resources to invest in slaves. As a result of cultural, social, and economic differences, African slavery was not as dominant in the backcountry as it was in Virginia's coastal plain. (CLR 2004: 14-15)

Franklin County Settlement:
Franklin County was established in 1786, merging portions of Virginia's Bedford and Henry counties into a new jurisdiction. Franklin's parent counties occupied the margins of Virginia's extensive backcountry, an area extending from the foothills of the Blue Ridge to the state's distant "western

waters." Not long after the Saponi and Tutelo had made their 1740 migration north into Pennsylvania, Israel Pickens arrived in 1745 to register the first documented land patent in the area between the Blackwater and Staunton Rivers. Others followed Pickens, and in 1749, Nicholas Haile (Hale) and Thomas Gill were listed within the same tax district. (CLR 2004: 15)

Many early settlers of the Piedmont came from Pennsylvania by way of the Shenandoah Valley and the Great Wagon Road. Formed by animal trails and the old Iroquois warpath, travel on this early road was difficult and often impassable due to mud, water, and fallen trees. A second transportation route that led new settlers into Virginia's Piedmont region was the Warwick Road, the main thoroughfare from Richmond to Roanoke. The Warwick Road followed present day Route 122, from nearby New London to Burnt Chimney. (CLR 2004: 15-16)

Settlement of Virginia's Piedmont occurred in waves, but the increasing rate of settlement in the region was interrupted by the French and Indian War (1745-1763). Conflict between the French, British, and their Native American allies created tension amongst local residents. Several murders and kidnappings associated with the conflict occurred in Franklin County. Fearing the danger present on the unprotected frontier, many settlers of the Piedmont region fled to safer areas of the Carolinas or eastern Virginia for the duration of the conflict. The area that would become Franklin County did not see much formal fighting, and only one recorded battle between the militia and Native Americans took place in the area. (CLR 2004: 16)

Peace was short-lived and the relationship between colonists and the British deteriorated throughout the 1760s and early 1770s in response to a series of taxes enacted by the government to, in part, offset the cost of the war. Many of the ensuing Revolutionary War's early confrontations took place in the northern colonies; however Virginia contributed many notable statesmen and soldiers. The Piedmont area of Virginia participated by sending men and supplies to the Continental Army and by reviving their local militias for defense. The army commonly purchased or seized crops, goods, and equipment from local citizens. By 1781, nearby Bedford and Henry counties had 2,539 men enlisted in the militia. These militias, comprised of poorly equipped and trained farmers, faced numerous enemies including the British, hostile Native Americans, and loyalists. Local involvement increased substantially when fighting shifted to the southern colonies after 1780. Throughout 1780 and 1781, both Continental soldiers and militia from the area saw heavy fighting. Numerous men from present day Franklin County participated in the devastating Battle of Camden, South Carolina, and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. However, a number of local residents pledged loyalty to the crown and resisted the rebellious movement. These Tories, who were in the minority, were harassed, fined, and often imprisoned for not serving in the local militia or for posing a threat to the revolutionary cause. (CLR 2004: 16)

During the 1780s, while the Revolution continued, the county boundaries of western Virginia shifted to accommodate a growing population. The existing counties were expansive, causing many residents to travel long distances to reach the county seat. Several of these residents proposed to make a new county from parts of Henry and Bedford counties but some objected, claiming the existing courthouse was not yet paid for and the cost of constructing another with half the tax base would be prohibitively expensive. This was a common debate throughout western Virginia and took six years to resolve. Virginia's General Assembly created Franklin County in 1786, two years after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. Among the founding officers of the county government were Peter Saunders, Asa Holland, and John Booth, whose families would continue to reside in the county for years and own property in proximity to Burroughs family and the future birth site of Booker T. Washington (Figure 1). (CLR 2004: 17)

Tobacco was the primary source of income for most residents of the new formed Franklin County. Wealth was measured by land, slaves, and livestock. According to sources compiled by John and Emily Salmon in their History of Franklin County, the average family consisted of six people who rented or owned three hundred predominantly unimproved acres and lived in a one room log structure. They held scant belongings; a few pieces of furniture, tools, and cooking utensils. They would have held no slaves and farmed their own tobacco, corn, and garden crops themselves. Many late eighteenth-century Franklin County residents did not live above the subsistence level, though more prosperity would follow in time. (CLR 2004: 17)

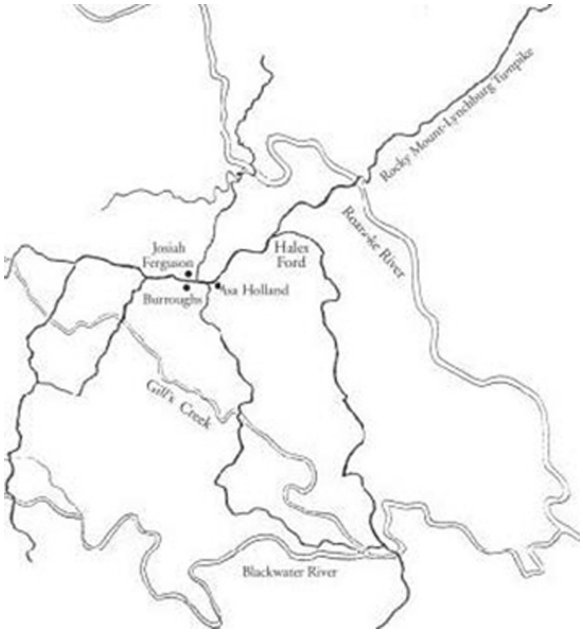


Figure 1. The Hales Ford Community c.1860, including the Burroughs property and their neighbors Josiah Ferguson and Asa Holland. (BOWA CLR, adapted from Barry Mackintosh's 1968 map 'The Hales Ford Community, 1856-1865)

BURROUGHS PERIOD, 1850-1893

Franklin County Settlement c.1850:
Franklin County remained a remote and isolated district of Piedmont Virginia through the second half of the 1800s, when an improved and expanded system of roads began to develop. The population consisted primarily of middle to lower-class farmers who grew tobacco, corn, oats, and wheat. The character of the landscape and lifestyle of the residents of Franklin County and surrounding areas of Piedmont Virginia was in sharp contrast to that of the wealthy planters who farmed near the Atlantic coastline and fertile river valleys. John Wise, a traveler through Franklin County, described the landscape and settlement patterns he observed in 1862 between Big Lick (Roanoke) and Rocky Mount:
"Twenty eight miles of travel over such a route seems much more than the measured distance, and carried us indeed into a new class of population, as distinct from that which we left behind as if an ocean instead of mountain range had separated to two communities. Soon the broad pastures and fields of grain had disappeared. In their place were rough, hillside lots, with patches of buckwheat or tobacco. Instead of the stately brick houses standing in groves on handsome knolls, all that we saw of human habitations were log-houses far apart upon the mountain sides, or in the hollows far below us...." (CLR 2004: 19, from Wise 1899: 291)

Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape architect, journalist, and social critic traveled through the Piedmont area in the 1850s, documenting the culture, landscape, farming, and social patterns. During his travels through the Piedmont, Olmsted stayed with a local farm family a two days ride north of Abingdon, Virginia and eight days west of Richmond. Regarding this eye-opening experience Olmsted wrote:
"After two farmers had declined to receive me, because, as they said, they had not got any corn and were not prepared for travelers…I stopped, near nine o'clock, at a house to which they had recommended me, as the best within some miles. It was a boarded log house, of four rooms and a gallery [front porch or veranda]. The owner was a farmer, with two hired white hands besides his sons …Although there were four rooms in the house, six of us, including a girl of fifteen, were bedded in

one tight room. There were no sheets at all on my bed, and what, with the irritation of the feathers and the blanket, the impurity of the air, and a crying child, I did not fall asleep till near daylight." (CLR 2004: 19, from Olmsted 1860: 278-279)

Olmsted likely boarded that night with a subsistence farmer in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and his account of this difficult evening was by no means a thorough representation of area residents. Conversely, some Franklin County heads of household were middle or upper-class slave-owning farmers of above average wealth. For instance, local landowner Peter Saunders, Jr. developed an extensive plantation southwest of Rocky Mount. By the 1850s, Saunders built a large Italianate house reminiscent of stately Tidewater plantation homes. These men may be considered more typical members of the "planter" class. Historian Clement Eaton used this term to describe those who owned twenty or more slaves and possessed between 500 and 1,000 acres, of which at least 200 were improved. Southern "farmers" were of a different socioeconomic class than planters but were also defined by their property. Eaton describes Virginia's large middle class as "yeoman" farmers. Members of this group that predominated in the Piedmont region typically owned a smaller number of slaves and more moderate tracts of land. Labor was usually provided by family members and a small number of slaves who produced a variety of crops, both for sale and for subsistence. However the terms farmer and planter were often used interchangeably to describe agricultural estates of various size. The most accurate definition of the terms depends on examining the local context. Local land owners who held higher than average productive acreage, greater numbers of slaves, sent their children to school, and practiced a division of labor could be considered local planters, even though they held much less property than their Tidewater counterparts. (CLR 2004: 20)

In 1860, only twenty percent of 2,884 males legally entitled to own slaves in Franklin County did so. These slaveholders were considered upper-class citizens because of the display of status and wealth that accompanied slave ownership and as such, could be classified locally as planters. There was a wide-range in the number of slaves held. One percent of Franklin County slaveholders owned more than fifty slaves, eighteen percent held between eleven and twenty slaves, twenty-seven percent owned between five and ten slaves, while the vast majority of slave owners (forty-eight percent) had between one and four slaves. Owning any number of slaves put the Piedmont farmer into a higher socio-economic group than his non-slave holding neighbor. The slave owner typically held more wealth through his slaves than his physical property and real estate combined. For example, Samuel Robinson, a farmer in neighboring Bedford County, owned eleven slaves valued at $5,750 while the rest of his worldly belongings amounted to just $1,250.12. (CLR 2004: 20)

The average tobacco farm in Franklin County in 1860 was 274 acres, but only a small percentage of this total acreage was commonly cultivated. Many farmers faced the challenge and struggled to both clear the hilly terrain and complete the many daily tasks of running a farm. Cleared land was a valued resource, so much so that little land could be devoted to livestock grazing. The relatively underutilized forest land hosted populations of foxes and wolves, on which the county held bounties as late as the 1850s. Despite hardship and adverse conditions, a typical Franklin County farmer grew 826 pounds of tobacco, 315 bushels of corn, 144 bushels of oats, and 59 bushels of wheat in 1850. Farmers benefited from a tobacco boom in the mid-century. By 1860 the US Commissioner of Agriculture considered tobacco from the Virginia Piedmont to be "leaf of fine quality for both manufacturing and shipping purposes…and always commanding the best prices." The decade prior to the Civil War proved to be profitable for Franklin County farmers, evidenced in appreciating property values and a 144 percent rise in local tobacco production. However, with the onset of the Civil War, this prosperous economic trend took a downward turn. (CLR 2004: 20, from Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the Year 1870, cited in Bearss 1969: 13)

Hales Ford of Franklin County was a country hamlet consisting of a post office and ninety-five households spread throughout the rural township (see Figure 1). The town was dominated by the economics of tobacco, as was much of the Piedmont region. Most adult, white males were involved in growing, selling, or processing tobacco products. The single cash crop arrangement was the most commonly followed agricultural system in the region, which helped define both social hierarchies and the physical organization of the landscape. Relationships between master and slave were ingrained to perpetuate the profitability of the agricultural system, and in turn, shaped land use patterns. (CLR

2004: 20)

The Burroughs Farm and Booker T. Washington:
In 1850, James Burroughs purchased two tracts of land on Gills Creek in Hales Ford from his brother Thomas, who had owned the land since the 1830s. The two tracts, consisting of seven and 170 acres, were on the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike, a regional thoroughfare. In 1854 James purchased an additional thirty acres from Thomas, completing the 207-acre parcel that the Burroughs family owned for the next forty years. To the north the parcel was bound by the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike and to the south by Gills Creek. A portion of the property's eastern boundary followed the present Jack-O-Lantern Branch, a tributary of Gills Creek (see Figure 1) (CLR 2004: 20-21)

On this land, James Burroughs, his wife Elizabeth, and ten of their fourteen children operated a middle-class Piedmont farm. Their property was typical of a remote farm located near Hales Ford, twenty-two miles southeast of Big Lick (Roanoke). Booker T. Washington later described the location as "about as near to nowhere as any locality gets to be." Consistent with regional trends, the Burroughs family produced tobacco as a cash crop, although, presumably only a few acres of land were required for its production. Elsewhere on the property the family grew grains, corn, hay, and vegetables to feed themselves, slaves, and livestock. Applying Franklin County's 1850 statistics to the Burroughs farm, between seventy-five and eighty acres were likely cleared for these purposes. (CLR 2004: 21, from Harlan 1972: 10, quoting Washington)

Farm labor was conducted by family members and the Burroughs' ten slaves. In 1861 the Burroughs family owned two adult male field hands and eight women and children. While is it clear through contextual evidence and the size of their land holdings that the family was not wealthy, they were certainly living above the level of the people described by Olmsted during his overnight visit to the area. Much of the family's wealth was held in their slave holdings, illustrated by the 1860 census that valued their slaves at $5,550, or fifty-four percent of their $10,228 net worth. (CLR 2004: 21)

Booker T. Washington was born in 1856 to Jane, a Burroughses' slave who served primarily as the plantation cook. Washington, his mother, and two halfsiblings lived in the one-room, log kitchen cabin. Washington was uncertain about the identity of his father, but did know him to be a white man. His paternity has been debated for years with different parties identifying a member of the Burroughs family, one of the Fergusons who lived across the road, or another neighbor. However, none of these claims have been substantiated. (CLR 2004: 21)

The cabin of Washington's childhood (the current "Cabin Two") stood within a cluster of structures a few yards southwest of the Burroughs residence and set back several hundred yards from the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike. This however, was not the cabin of his birth. He was born in another cabin ("Cabin One") located southeast of the Burroughs dwelling that was reportedly in such disrepair that the slave family moved to the kitchen cabin ("Cabin Two") when Washington was a small child (Figures 2 and 3). (CLR 2004: 21-22)

In Washington's own words the cabin of his childhood ("Cabin Two") was a dilapidated, ramshackle dwelling that barely kept the elements out. The windows had no glass, the floor was earth, and the door was described as, "…but the uncertain hinges by which it was hung, and the large cracks in it, to say nothing of the fact that it was too small, made the room a very uncomfortable one." Washington and his two siblings slept, "on a pallet on the dirt floor, or, to be more correct, we slept in and on a bundle of filthy rags laid upon the dirt floor." (CLR 2004: 22, from Washington 2000: 2-3)

"Cabin One" and "Cabin Two" were only two of many ancillary structures and outbuildings on the farm. The Burroughs family residence is traditionally thought to have existed just a few yards northeast of Cabin Two, set well back from the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike as was common for nineteenth-century Virginia Piedmont houses, to allow for an adequate view of approaching visitors. The residence was a typical style for the mid-1800s in both size and design. The Burroughs house was constructed near a spring and in the shade of a grove of hardwood trees, which helped to mitigate the summer heat. Until 2001, an aged catalpa tree and a juniper stood within the Burroughs domestic compound. These and other trees may have comprised a grove surrounding the house and

domestic yard at the time of the Burroughs family occupation. The presence of such a grove is corroborated by the Robertson brothers, who as children moved to the Burroughs farm after it was sold to their father John Robertson. The Robertson brothers remembered a more complete and substantial grove existing in the 1890s. (CLR 2004: 22)

Facts regarding the organization of the Burroughs farmstead aligns with spatial patterns typical of the Piedmont region during the mid-1800s. Although completed many years after Washington and the Burroughs left the farm, the 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) inventory of the property documented several agricultural structures a few hundred yards north of the Burroughs house. This cluster of buildings and outbuildings may be indicative of development initiated by the Burroughs family. The WPA observation of "the stables and most of the outbuildings which have survived are in front of the house, as was the queer custom of many pioneers" corresponds with the location of a slave cabin, corn crib, and tobacco barn near the Rocky Mount- Lynchburg Turnpike as well as the Burroughs cemetery that the Robertsons claim predated their 1890s improvements. The Robertson brothers also recalled a horse barn, cow barn, and chicken house located northeast of the Burroughs house in a depression between two hills. Several other tobacco barns and corn cribs were dispersed throughout the landscape, located in proximity to agricultural fields that they served. (CLR 2004: 23, from WPA 1937)

It is likely that the Burroughs family farmed fields in the northeast corner of the site, along the ridge in the central portion of the property, and along the banks of Gills Creek in the southern-most area of the farm. The Robertson brothers told of pre-existing fields in these areas that they later expanded. Much of the food for the family table would have been grown in their substantial kitchen garden that was presumably located in convenient proximity to the Burroughs house. The exact types of plants grown are not known, however typical plants of a nineteenth century kitchen garden include herbs, tomatoes, potatoes, berries, cucumbers, lettuce, beans, snap peas, turnips, sweet potatoes, asparagus, peppers, celery, cabbage, beets, carrots, artichokes, and horseradish. A pear and apple orchard was presumably located near the garden, though there is no surviving evidence to suggest that the orchard was laid out in a formal grid. Split-rail, worm fencing, generated during the process of clearing woodland, likely enclosed the garden, domestic yard, and large animal corrals. Palings of upright pickets would have been made from smaller split material and similar to split-rails. Smaller farm animals, like poultry, would have roamed the site freely. (CLR 2004: 24)

Civil War and Emancipation:
The nation's internal conflict over slavery escalated into war in April 1861. Life changed considerably at the Burroughs farm when all of the Burroughses' six sons enlisted in the Confederate Army, leaving the management of the property to their father, mother, and sisters. However, James Burroughs died of "lung disease" in 1861 and willed the property to his widow Elizabeth. James was buried in the family cemetery in the northern part of the farm, near the Turnpike. The Burroughs family suffered greatly during the war, with two sons killed and two wounded. The body of one of the sons, Billie, was returned to the farm and buried beside his father in the family cemetery. (CLR 2004: 24)

Documentation of the war years at the Burroughs farm is scant. However, it is understood that the Burroughs family, especially the women, continued to oversee the slaves and operate the farm despite shortages and hardships. Washington described the difficulties in obtaining "luxury" goods that the whites were accustomed to, and thought that they suffered because of these depravations: "Of course, as the war was prolonged the white people, in many cases, often found it difficult to secure food for themselves. I think the slaves felt the deprivation less than the whites, because the usual diet for the slaves was corn bread and pork, and these could be raised on the plantation; but coffee, tea, sugar, and other articles which the whites had been accustomed to use could not be raised on the plantation, and the conditions brought about by the war frequently made it impossible to secure these things. The whites were often in great straits." (CLR 2004: 24, no citation)

Perhaps because of its relative isolation, Franklin County did not witness much of the conflict, as it was not the scene of major battles nor was it a key transportation route to battle areas. One of the few recorded incidents that disturbed the calm of Franklin County occurred in 1865 when a Union battalion from Pennsylvania marched from Hales Ford to Rocky Mount. The men harassed and

looted the property of Asa Holland, which served as the local post office. A few scattered raids occurred locally at the end of the war but the region largely escaped direct involvement in the war. (CLR 2004: 24)

Washington recalled hearing the "'grapevine' telegraph" buzz near the close of the war. The impending news of a northern victory brightened the slave's lives in the weeks before they were emancipated. In 1865 a northern soldier came to the Burroughs farm and read the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued in 1863, to the whites and African Americans assembled at the front porch. Washington remembered the day as one of great rejoicing amongst his family, yet feelings of apprehension set in as they realized the enormity of the task of reordering their lives. (CLR 2004: 24, from Washington 2000: 14)

Reconstruction:
After four years of fighting, 1865 marked the end of slavery throughout the nation. After emancipation, the future was uncertain for the newly freed slaves and their former masters. Most slaves were uneducated and ill prepared at the time of emancipation to make an independent living for themselves and their families. Nonetheless, Washington wrote that most of the former slaves, "left the plantation for a short while at least, so as to be sure, it seemed, that they could leave and try their freedom on to see how it felt." Eventually, many stayed close to home and continued to labor at the same tasks as before the war, only now, they were paid for their efforts. By 1870, half of Franklin County's African Americans were listed as farm laborers. (CLR 2004: 25, from Washington 2000: 16)

While many stayed locally, some left, including Washington and his family. In 1865, his mother Jane took the family to be reunited with her husband who worked in the salt mines of West Virginia. Much of the physical infrastructure and economic systems of the south were destroyed during the war, leaving many former families of means impoverished, including the Burroughses. With its slave work force gone, two sons and the father dead, and two sons wounded, the farm declined. By 1870, all of the children and Mrs. Burroughs had left the property. For the next twenty years, the Burroughses family was wrought with indecision and conflict regarding management and disposal of the farm. Mrs. Burroughs reportedly rented the property during the 1870s when she could not find a buyer. During this time ill management and neglect caused the property to deteriorate. (CLR 2004: 25)

To understand the character of the farm that the Burroughs family was attempting to sell or lease in the 1870s, comparisons can be made with other regional farms. Several properties in Franklin County were listed for sale in the Virginia Monitor newspaper in the 1870s. One farm, advertised as "Valuable Blackwater Land for Sale," contained 365 acres, with one third cleared and the balance in "original forest." Improvements included a "New Dwelling House, with five rooms and a well of pure freestone water at the door," as well as six tobacco barns and "three tenement houses [former slave houses] with all necessary
out houses." Fencing is listed as in good repair, "nearly all made with locust posts and caps." Another local farm, with portions of land on both sides of the Turnpike from Big Lick to Rocky Mount, sold in the 1870s advertised "225 Acres of Land, about one hundred of which is cleared and under fence." Improvements listed here included:
"[A] large two story brick dwelling, with four rooms, wide hall, dining room in basement and a good roomy attic; a brick kitchen and smokehouse; a store house (somewhat out of repair) blacksmith's shop, stables, and four out-houses on different parts of the farm, suitable for tenants or renters. There is a good well in the corner of the yard and an excellent spring about 100 yards from the house. The garden is a very fine one, and contains about one acre of land. There is also a fine young apple orchard, of choicest fruit, near the house just beginning to bear…" (CLR 2004: 25-26, from The Virginia Conservative and Monitor, May 12, 1876 and July 6, 1876)

While these properties may have been more substantial than the Burroughs property, they give insight to the characteristic elements of a 1870s Virginia Piedmont farm. Both mention the main dwelling containing between four and five rooms, and out-houses for workers or tenants. The second listing implies that the out-houses were scattered throughout the 225 acres, not necessarily in close proximity to the main dwelling. A key feature of both properties was the presence of conveniently located potable water supply. The first property claimed to have one third of its total acreage cleared, corresponding with other accounts of the limited percentage of improved land on mid-nineteenth-

century tobacco farms. Three tobacco barns are specifically referred to as selling points on one of the properties. Interesting is the reference to a garden and orchard that were both common features on local, self-sufficient farms, owing to their isolation and the agricultural economics of their day. (CLR 2004: 26)

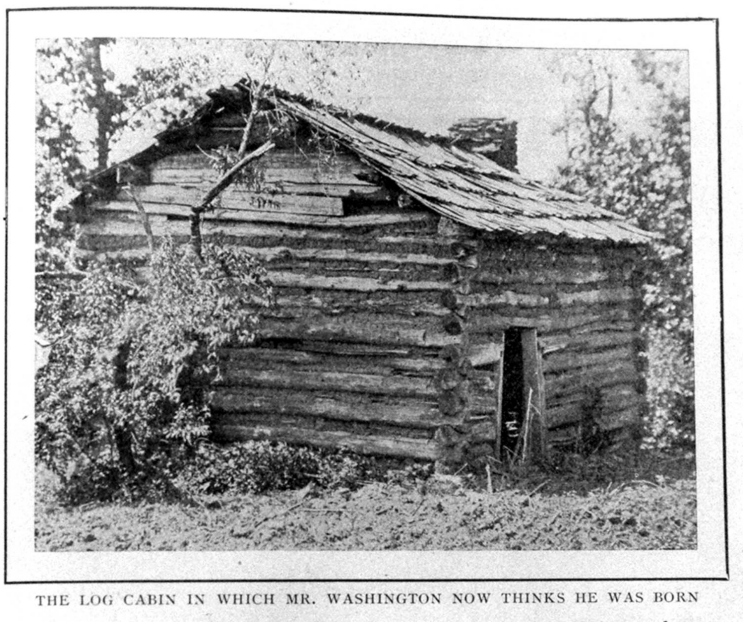
To recover a fraction of the monetary value of her life estate, Mrs. Burroughs successfully sued her children to partition her interest in the land, leading to its sale. The family sold the property to Robert T. Crook in 1885 for $1,000, or one third of the 1860 value of $3,105. Land in Virginia that had sold for one hundred and fifty dollars an acre prior to the war was selling for just two dollars an acre after the war. Having lost the value of their slaves, the Burroughs family was cash poor and needed money from the sale of their land, however small the sum. Crook gave the Burroughses one-hundred dollars in cash and agreed to make three payments of three-hundred dollars after the first, second, and third years past sale. Unfortunately, Crook did not uphold his word and was summoned to Franklin County court two years later for defaulting on his purchase of the property. (CLR 2004: 26)

The farm reverted back to the Burroughs family who tried unsuccessfully to lease the property. In 1890, John Robertson offered $900 for the farm. During the ensuing sale in 1891, Joseph Nicholas Burroughs claimed in court that his mother was deceased, when in fact,she did not die until 1895. He may have done this to remove his mother from the legal process of the sale, or because she was being uncooperative. His reasons are unknown, but the sale to the Robertsons was finalized in 1893. (CLR 2004: 26)

It is likely that the Robertsons acquired a poorly maintained property needing substantial attention to restore it to working order. Fences surrounding the house, garden, and animal pasture would have been in disrepair, barns and outbuildings would have needed maintenance, and successional growth in agricultural fields would have needed clearing. Conceivably, the orchard and garden needed maintenance to coax them back into production. (CLR 2004: 26)

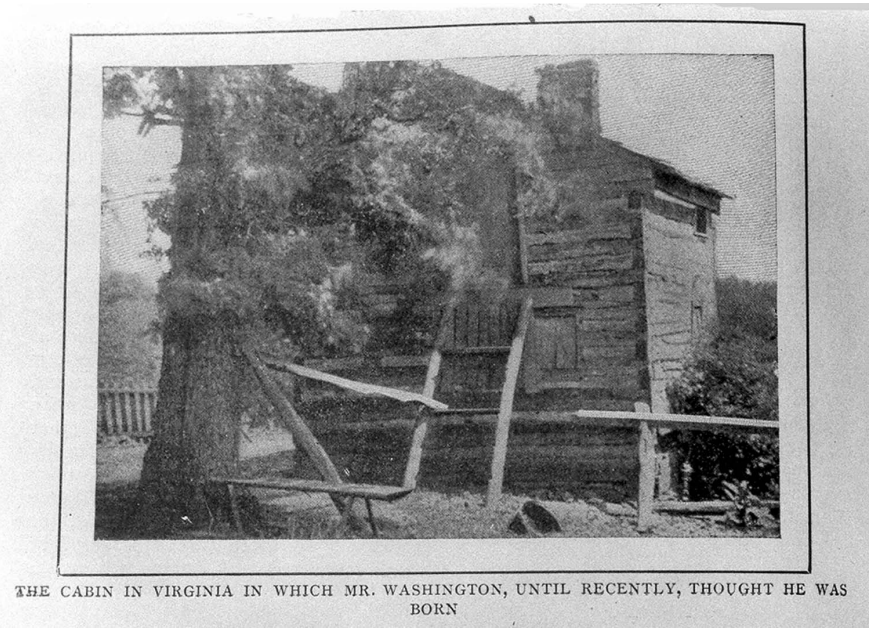
While definitive information is not known about specific field, structure, road, garden, or orchard locations, later documented patterns in the landscape can be used to hypothesize about the spatial organization begun by the Burroughs family. Using physical evidence about hydrology and topography along with personal recollections of later inhabitants, it is assumed that the Burroughs family cleared large tracts of land in the northeast section of the property, along the ridge in the central portion, and areas along the Gills Creek floodplain in the southern part of the site. Typical of the time, more acreage was forested than cleared because of the laborious effort required to clear the forest. The Burroughs family would have located common agricultural elements throughout the farm, including tobacco barns, corn cribs, and worm fencing. (CLR 2004: 26)

The largest concentration of resources was most likely located directly adjacent to the main house and domestic yard. The yard may have included a smokehouse, kitchen garden, orchard, animal enclosures, animal barns, a spring, perhaps a well, and fencing to keep animals away from the house. After years of neglect fueled by harsh economic times after the Civil War, the deteriorated Burroughs farm stood ready for a return to productivity. (CLR 2004: 26)



THE LOG CABIN IN WHICH MR. WASHINGTON NOW THINKS HE WAS BORN

Figure 2. The caption claims this is where Washington was born ("Cabin One"). However his birth cabin no longer existed in 1900 when the article was written. The cabin shown may not have even existed on the site. (Outlook Magazine, November 3, 1900)



THE CABIN IN VIRGINIA IN WHICH MR. WASHINGTON, UNTIL RECENTLY, THOUGHT HE WAS BORN

Figure 3. The Washington-era "Cabin Two," or the Kitchen Cabin, stood until the 1920s. (Outlook Magazine, November 3, 1900

ROBERTSON PERIOD, 1893-1945

Long detached from his childhood on the Burroughs farm by years and experiences, Booker T. Washington had transformed himself into a nationally recognized figure in the arena of race relations and education by the late 1890s. Washington was the first teacher at the Tuskegee Normal School in Macon County Alabama, formed in 1881, and later renamed Tuskegee Institute. Dedicated to educating African American teachers, the school became a forum from which Washington exercised substantial influence during the late 1800s and early 1900s. In a speech that helped define his legacy, Washington addressed the Atlanta Exposition in 1895 on the "proper role of the Negro." His famous address, while welcomed by some whites and southern African Americans at the time, was seen by northern black intellectuals as an appeasement of whites, and was later blamed by them for the policy of "separate-but-equal." The following year, the Supreme Court ruled the doctrine of "separate-but-equal" as constitutional in Plessey vs. Ferguson. This decision enabled the so-called "Jim Crow" laws, a set of discriminatory policies against African Americans, to spread across the South and become ingrained in the regional culture. Despite this criticism, Washington remained an influential figure until his death in 1915. (CLR 2004: 33)

Robertson's Improvements to the Farm:
After several years of legal wrangling and Burroughs family disputes, John Robertson moved his family, eventually including eleven children, to the former Burroughs farm. The Robertsons made payments on the land starting in 1890 and began their fifty-five year tenure at the property in 1893. Upon arrival, the Robertsons found the property in serious disrepair. Peter Robertson, one of John's eight sons who was a small child in 1893, remembered that the farm "looked like they just quit doin' it." A court report of 1890 claimed that Crook, the former tenant, had devalued the property through poor management. The land had been "deserted and gone greatly to ruin by the breaking down of fences and the destruction of outbuildings." (CLR 2004:33, from P. Robertson interview 1964 and Burroughs vs. Burroughs 1890)

Immediately after purchasing the property, the Robertsons began restoring agricultural fields and repairing fences, barns, and the main dwelling. The family demolished a detached frame building located directly behind the main dwelling that previously served as a dining room. The Robertsons filled the foundation with rocks and built a one story addition on the south side of the house, which functioned as an attached kitchen and dining space. The family's sole hired African American servant slept in the small attic space above the addition. According to Peter Robertson, they moved the cooking stove to one of the nearby outbuildings to keep the temperature down in the home during the summer months (Figure 4). (CLR 2004: 33)

The 1937 WPA inventory described several of the Robertson era features. The rear addition is described as standing to the rear left of the main house. Two internal stairways, front and back, connected the three first-floor rooms with the upstairs sleeping quarters. The house was described as "primitive" and built of logs sheathed with weatherboarding. The Robertsons added a small gable-roofed front porch. Although the WPA inventory speculated that a decorative element in the porch's gabled roof had special meaning, the Robertson brothers recalled that the hired man who built the porch designed the ornament as having no particular symbolism (Figure 5). (CLR 2004: 33)

An extensive outdoor terrace made of flat stones and packed earth, that may have pre-existed the Robertsons, connected the rear of the house with several adjacent outbuildings, including the former kitchen cabin (Cabin #2) of Washington's day. As described by Peter Robertson:
"You could walk and not get your feet dirty. It was all flat rocks. It was more than a walkway, it was spread out…it was a great big place…went to the kitchen and all around…Of course between the rocks in the summer time the grass would grow up in between them." (CLR 2004: 34, from WPA 1937)

The yard surrounding the stone terrace and Mrs. Robertson's flower garden was fenced to keep the free roaming chickens away from the house. Peter described the domestic yard and fencing: "My dad had the yard fenced…I don't know just how far, twenty feet, thirty, twenty-five, and my mother had rosebushes alongside that fence…" Peter and his younger brother Grover remember the roses their mother grew along the fence, especially an old rose bush at the corner of the house that may have dated to Washington's time. "It was there when it [the property] sold [to the Robertsons]…It was a great big one." The brothers also told of several memorable trees located near the big house.

Two locusts, a catalpa or “pea tree” as Peter referred to it, and a cedar tree shaded the house from the hot summer sun. Grover recalled the comfort of sitting on the bench under one of the locust trees. Despite the decades since the Burroughs family inhabited the farm, the 1937 WPA inventory described the remains of the yard’s shade trees: “It [the house] stands in a grove of trees, many of which have disappeared. Only a few old box bushes and evergreen trees testify to the antiquity of the place.” (CLR 2004: 34, from WPA 1937)

The Robertson family’s water supply came from the same spring the Burroughs family had used. When the Robertsons arrived, the spring, just south of the house, was lined with flat rocks made into a square and capped with an additional large rock. They later removed this and made a wooden spring box with a concrete floor where milk and butter were chilled by the cool water. (CLR 2004: 34-35)

For several decades, the Robertsons used and improved the former cabin that once housed Washington and his family (“Cabin Two”). They stored potatoes and dry goods in the cabin and used the dry enclosed attic to store sorghum, or cane seed. An external staircase with a landing led to the attic, and Grover recollected his father cutting a hole in the cabin ceiling to provide interior access to the attic with a board ladder. Although Washington’s birth cabin (“Cabin One”) had been abandoned long before the Robertsons arrived, its remains were visible at the turn of the century. While the Robertson brothers remembered the chimney remnants, a potato hole, and the raised earth floor, recent research has not corroborated their claims of the potato hole and chimney. (CLR 2004: 35)

Other farmstead features located in the proximity of the main dwelling included the hog lot, garden, and orchard. Much of the food for the family table came from the extensive vegetable garden that stretched from just west of the former slave cabin and westward down to a tributary of the Jack- O-Lantern Branch. Mrs. Robertson grew peas, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, cabbage, beets, and other fruits and vegetables. Fruit trees were located “all around the house…apples and all kinds of fruit…old trees, rustic old apples they called them.” The orchard extended from behind the main dwelling down to the spring. Although the Robertsons may have tended the orchard diligently during the early part of their ownership of the property, it was neglected in later years. The 1937 WPA inventory noted the “fine old orchard that survived years of inattention.” According to the Robertson brothers, when they were children and young men, the springs and creeks of the property held more water than they did at the time of their interviews in the 1960s. Grover recalled the hog lot located in a wooded swamp west of the house. Blackberry vines, pine trees, and oak trees surrounded the enclosure. (CLR 2004: 35, from G. Robertson interview 1964 and WPA 1937)

The Robertson brothers recall several barns and farm outbuildings located in the northern region of the property, consistent with what is known of the Burroughs farm organization. They recalled a corn crib, tobacco barn, and an unnamed barn on the high, northern ground of the property near the farm drive and the Burroughs cemetery. The corn crib, located near the cemetery and facing the road, was a long structure divided into two sections, each with its own door. Thirty or forty yards south of the cemetery, the ruins of another old barn were visible. Peter speculated that the barn had been used to store feed. Remnants of a double room slave cabin and a single room slave cabin remained in the vicinity of the cemetery, though barely extant by the 1890s. (CLR 2004: 35)

Another Burroughs structure that the Robertsons utilized and improved was a tobacco barn south of the house near the Jack-O-Lantern Branch. The Robertsons repositioned and repaired the old barn in subsequent years, utilizing the structure as one of eight working tobacco barns. The Robertsons stabled their horses in a barn built by the Burroughses, located in a grove of catalpa trees northeast of the main dwelling. Peter remembered the route between the house and horse barn being marked by three well-spaced cherry trees. The barn had two stables and was surrounded by a ten foot shed roof on three sides. Upon arriving at the farm, the Robertsons found the barn in poor condition and set about renovating the structure and surrounding fencing. They added a horse pen that extended thirty or forty yards in the direction of the farm drive. An additional corn crib was located just a few paces from the horse barn. (CLR 2004: 35)

Dilapidated fences, that once surrounded the entire property, marked the old Burroughs landscape. Peter Robertson recalled seeing the old crooked rail fences lying along the ground at the property’s

boundaries. He and his family replaced the fences using chestnut or pine rails to reestablish the perimeter boundaries, as well as the separations by the hog lot, horse pen, and created several "cross fences" to subdivide fields. Very few gates were built into these fences. "Draw bars," or rails in the fence that could be slid aside served as entry points. Peter described them as:
"Just a couple of posts… about ten foot wide, and then they'd cut holes in two flat posts made out of Chestnut…they'd cut a hole something like about three by six in 'em, and then they'd slip big poles through them holes… pull them in and out when you want to go through." (CLR 2004: 35-36, citing P. Robertson interview 1964)

The Robertsons grew tobacco, wheat, corn, sorghum, and flax in rotation to sustain the family and the farm. Tobacco was the cash crop, and the family used most of the wheat crop on the farm, selling only limited amounts at market. The family, like most turn-of-the-century Franklin County farmers, depended on homegrown produce. The Robertsons extracted molasses from sorghum, or "cane" as Peter and Grover referred to it, ground cornmeal, and milled flour from their wheat. (CLR 2004: 36)

The Robertsons located working fields throughout the landscape on the soils best suited for agriculture. They utilized the high lands near the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike, the level area southeast of the future elementary school, and a fertile but narrow strip of land along Gills Creek where yearly flooding replenished soil nutrients. Typical of regional patterns, much of the farm was kept in forest. Grover remembered that, "there wasn't too much land around the house that was cleared land, most of it [the cleared land] was around back side of Gills Creek." Large stands of forest with abundant Virginia pines and red and white oaks were located in the northwest, south-central, and east-central areas of the property. (CLR 2004: 36, from G. Robertson interview 1964)

Booker T. Washington Visits His Birthplace:
After an absence of forty-three years, Booker T. Washington returned to his birth site on September 26, 1908. After years of using the real and symbolic elements of the Burroughs farm in his teachings, he journeyed back to Franklin County with several students and colleagues to see what remained of the old farm. Among Washington's many observations, he noted how little remained of the landscape in his memory. In an address to the sizable crowd that had gathered, he said:
"Everything is changed. After all, the most remarkable changes that I notice is in the size of things. It seems incredible to me that the Ferguson place where I used to go as a boy is now only just across the road. The old dining room, too, is not nearly as large now as it used to be, or at least as it seemed to be once." (CLR 2004: 36, from Mackintosh 1969: 13)

One of the most important aspects of Washington's return to his birthplace centered on locating his birth cabin, or "Cabin One." Washington emphasized the slave cabin in his teachings and writings to symbolize his humble beginnings and the depths from which he rose in later life. In an article written in the same year as his visit, Washington wrote,
"Probably there is no single object that so accurately represents and typifies the mental and moral condition of the larger proportion of the members of my race fifty years ago as this same little slave cabin [the cabin of his birth]." (CLR 2014: 36, from Washington 1908: 71)

Because of the importance of the slave cabin as a reflection of slavery and the social condition of southern African Americans, Washington speculated on the location of the absent "Cabin One." Interestingly, according to the Robertson brothers, though traces of "Cabin One" remained until the 1890s, no remnants were visible by the time of Washington's visit. Regardless, Washington made an assessment of where he thought the cabin used to be, later changing his mind, experiencing the common failure of memory toward ephemeral elements in the landscape. Washington placed most of the emphasis of his visit on "Cabin One" and the Burroughs house. He paid little regard to "Cabin Two," which was still standing, even though it was the structure where he spent most of his childhood. This was Washington's first and only visit to the Robertson farm. He died in 1915 and was buried at Tuskegee Institute. (CLR 2004: 36)

Transition to a Memorial Landscape:
The farm was not marked as the site of Washington's birth until nearly thirty years after his visit to the property in 1908. In 1937 African American Congressman Arthur Mitchell visited the farm to lobby for

the establishment of an industrial trade school at the site. Mitchell addressed a crowd in Rocky Mount, promoting the commemoration of Washington and his birthplace. Proceedings were later taken to the Robertson farm where “Uncle” Henry Swain, a childhood friend of Washington, identified the site of the Kitchen Cabin (“Cabin Two”) as Washington’s birth site and marked the location with an iron stake. The accuracy of Mr. Swain’s identification was later called into question, as very little of “Cabin Two” existed at this time to help him place the stake. Regardless of the conjectural nature of the identification, this visit celebrated the connection between the site and Booker T. Washington. (CLR 2004: 37)

The majority of Burroughs era improvements were either obliterated or substantially altered by the series of improvements implemented by the Robertsons. “Cabin Two” housed John Robertson’s mother-in-law until the structure was removed in 1922. When John Robertson died in 1927 he left the farm to his wife Martha and their sons. One son, Tony resided in the main house and in 1932 constructed a small two-room house (later named the Virginia Cottage) just northwest of the main dwelling for his widowed mother, who lived in the cottage until her death in November 1943. An addition was apparently built on the east side of the main house between 1937 and 1946 (see Figure 5). Tony Robertson lived on the property for two years following his mother’s death when it was sold to divide the value of the estate among the Robertson siblings. Tony Robertson farmed the land until he left the property in 1945, though probably less intensively than his father had in the early part of the 1900s. A 1949 aerial photo, taken several years after the Robertson’s departure, shows the structures, roads, and patterns of field and forest that were largely created during the family’s time on the property. Cleared agricultural fields were located on the ridge near the future site of the elementary school, along the flat lands by Gills Creek, and in the northeastern corner of the property. Much of the site remained in original forest. (CLR 2004: 37)

Several tobacco barns remained, notably the Burroughs-era barn near the Jack-O-Lantern Branch and another near Route 122. A cluster of agricultural buildings surrounded by productive fields was located on the ridge near the site of the future school. As documented in aerial photos from the 1940s, several barns and outbuildings were still located in the proximity of the former Burroughs residence, including animal enclosures and storage barns. These buildings and landscape patterns provided the basic spatial framework on which the next tenants structured their vastly different mission. (CLR 2004: 37)



Figure 4. View looking south at the west side of the former Burroughs house during the Robertson's era, c.1925. By this time the Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin ("Cabin Two") has been removed. Note the rear addition to the house and packed earth yard. (BOWA)



Figure 5. View looking south at the former Burroughs house and porch shortly after acquisition by Birthplace Memorial, c.1946. Note the addition east (image left) of the main structure, built between 1937-1946, and an outbuilding behind the house. (BOWA)

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE MEMORIAL PERIOD, 1945-1957

Formation of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial:
The disparity between African Americans and whites in the eyes of the law and general culture was stark between Reconstruction and the mid-1900s. In response to the unequal and discriminatory culture that pervaded the nation, African American leaders began to unify in the early twentieth century. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, one of the first organizations to address the issue of race relations, organized in 1909 and slowly gained membership and recognition, tackling examples of racial inequality on a local and national level. By the 1940s, the Civil Rights Movement had gained momentum and during the next two decades exploded onto the national scene with the leadership of figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. (CLR 2004: 43)

During the early years of this era, national leaders began to recognize the power of the unified African American political voice. According to Patricia West in Domesticating History, The Political Origins of America's House Museums, with World War II taxing the nation's resources and racial unrest intensifying throughout the nation, the federal government placated African Americans through commemoration of notable African American figures. The first such site authorized by Congress was the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri in 1943, which was promoted for its potential to stimulate "interracial understanding." (CLR 2004: 43, from West 1999: 137)

One of the early promoters of the George Washington Carver National Monument was Sidney J. Phillips, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, educator, and marketing professional with the Nehi soft-drink company. Phillips was interested in advancing the name and ideals of early African American leaders including Carver and Booker T. Washington. In addition to his effort on behalf of the George Washington Carver National Monument, he became involved with Washington's birthplace in 1945, when the Robertson farm was put up for sale. The advertised sale first caught the eye of Washington's daughter, Portia Washington Pittman, who became interested in securing the site. After being told that Tuskegee Institute did not have the resources for the purchase, she approached her friend and neighbor Sidney Phillips and found him receptive to the idea. (CLR 2004: 43)

Other parties besides Pittman and Phillips were interested in the sale, including several local farmers and the Negro Organization Society. While the Tuskegee Institute did not formally bid on the property, they supported the Negro Organization Society's efforts to secure the land. Phillips scouted the auction early, claiming to be with the press in order to see how much money was being sought for the property. After learning how much he might need, he arranged financing through his employer. Phillips subsequently outbid the other parties and purchased the property on October 15, 1945 for $7,610.80. The Tuskegee Institute objected to the method by which Phillips secured the estate, marking the beginning of a long conflict between the two parties. (CLR 2004: 44)

After the sale, Phillips formed the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial, established as a legal entity to commemorate Washington through physical monumentation and industrial training at his birth site. As president of the organization, Phillips sold the newly acquired property to the Birthplace Memorial in January 1946. From the very beginning, Phillips had high hopes for the Birthplace Memorial and was vocal with state and local lawmakers regarding his agenda. He was anxious to combine two of his key interests; the advancement of Washington's message and product marketing. His lofty vision for the new Birthplace Memorial included the establishment of community organizations, educational opportunities, and commemorative resources that would spread Washington's message of goodwill and interracial harmony. (CLR 2004: 44)

Phillips' lobbying was rewarded with an appropriation of $15,000 from the Virginia Legislature in March 1946 for general promotion and physical improvements at the site. As the property had been a private agricultural landscape for decades, the site and its resources required many alterations to meet the institutional needs of the new organization. A photo from 1946 shows the existing narrow, rutted dirt driveway, weeds and scrub growth in the former farm yard, and the decaying residential and agricultural buildings that were unfit for Phillips' projected organization (Figure 6). (CLR 2004: 44)

Early Accomplishments of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial:
Although the State appropriated funds for the advancement of the private Birthplace Memorial,

Phillips knew that sum would not sustain his ambitions. To generate additional funds, Phillips proposed the minting of commemorative coins honoring Booker T. Washington, the profits from which would benefit the Birthplace Memorial. He allied himself with several influential federal legislators who helped successfully pass a bill on August 7, 1946 authorizing the minting of the coins. After an auspicious beginning, coin sales languished well below projected levels. Sluggish sales continued in following years, plaguing Phillips' administration of the Birthplace Memorial. (CLR 2004: 44)

Beginning in 1946, with the state funds, Phillips implemented a series of physical improvements and outreach programs. The Commonwealth of Virginia constructed the first tangible improvement; a new two-lane driveway connecting the former Burroughs house to the new State Route 122 that had been widened and straightened in 1945 from the old Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike. The new driveway, with its formal, linear alignment, contrasted with the former meandering farm entry drive. Stone pillars marked the new graded and surfaced driveway at Route 122. (CLR 2004: 44)

Phillips constructed or renovated several buildings in the late 1940s to house Birthplace Memorial programs. The organization used the former Burroughs house for their headquarters but completed substantial renovations to modernize the aging structure. As seen in a photo from the early years of the Birthplace Memorial, the house was in need of paint, the small porch sagged, and the yard was overgrown with weeds, tall grass, and poorly maintained trees. To update the structure, the Birthplace Memorial rebuilt an enlarged front porch on both the main dwelling and the east addition, painted the house, replaced the roof, and cleared vegetation (Figure 7). (CLR 2004: 46-47)

Existing buildings and infrastructure in the center of the old farmstead, as well as new construction, became the focus for Birthplace Memorial activities, in symbolic proximity to Washington's birthsite. In 1949 Phillips and his organization converted an old Robertson frame barn into Tuck Industrial Hall, which served as a dormitory and dining space. The building was located approximately one hundred yards north of the former Burroughs house, at the juncture of the old farm road and the new Memorial driveway, facing south into the heart of the property. Also constructed in 1949 was Hopkins Hall, a two story brick building, named after Walter L. Hopkins, one of the first white men named to the Memorial's board of trustees. Hopkins Hall was set into a hill east of the former Burroughs house, with a walkout basement facing the Birthplace Memorial's eastern boundary. The small house originally built for the Robertson widow just northwest of the main house was also utilized for Birthplace Memorial activities. It was eventually expanded into a twelve room structure and named Virginia Cottage. The Association also constructed a cabin replica in 1949, virtually on top of the remains of "Cabin Two" (Figures 8 and 9, see Commemoration section below). (CLR 2004: 47)

In February 1948, Phillips flexed his political muscles and established a United States post office at the site, called "Booker T. Washington Birthplace, Virginia." This was a triumph for the Birthplace Memorial, giving it instant credibility as a federally recognized establishment. Phillips wrote, "To have a community named for the noted educator is a great tribute. The center of this community is a second-class United States Post Office through which millions of pieces of mail pass annually." The post office almost exclusively serviced the mailings of the Birthplace Memorial. Phillips' political clout marshalled the post office through the next decade when it came under scrutiny from various officials for its low volume of mail. He managed to keep it operating, had his wife appointed postmistress, and saw about the issuing of the Booker T. Washington Centennial Stamp. (CLR 2004: 48, from Mackintosh 1969: 28)

On December 23, 1950, not long after repairs were made to the former Burroughs house, the dwelling was destroyed by fire. The fire devastated the structure and damaged adjacent buildings. The Birthplace Memorial lost office equipment, supplies, and records from sale of the Booker T. Washington commemorative coins. The organization received $133,800 to cover the loss of the one million names and addresses of coin purchasers, office equipment, the building, and damages to adjacent structures, including a replica of "Cabin Two"). Phillips was accused by some of orchestrating the blaze for the insurance payment; an unsubstantiated charge that nevertheless shadowed him in subsequent years as the Birthplace Memorial fell under increased scrutiny by a sometimes hostile public (Figure 10). (CLR 2004: 48)

The Birthplace Memorial continued to expand its landholdings after the initial acquisition in 1946. In

October 1949, neighbor Albert J. Saunders transferred 246 acres of his abutting lands to the Birthplace Memorial. This expanded the Birthplace Memorial's holdings on the north and east of their existing property. Posey L. Plybon sold an additional one hundred acres to the Birthplace Memorial the following month. These new parcels brought the Birthplace Memorial's total holdings to 550 acres. (CLR 2004: 48)

The Birthplace Memorial continued the transform the former farm into an institutional campus with construction of Burch Hall beginning in 1951. Burch Hall was planned as a two-story, thirty by sixty foot, brick building south of Hopkins Hall. After the foundation was partially completed, a celebration was held on April 1, 1951 to dedicate the proposed structure. Despite the fervor surrounding its dedication, construction of Burch Hall never progressed beyond its foundation, which deteriorated in subsequent years (Figures 11 and 12). (CLR 2004: 48-49)

While most of the property beyond the farm's core was not actively used, a demonstration farm operated on in cooperation with the Booker T. Washington Memorial Trade School in Roanoke and local farmers. The demonstration farm educated students and local farmers in the spirit of Washington's respect for labor and about recent advances in agriculture and conservation. Crops included wheat, corn, tobacco, cotton, and vegetables. However, this work-study program lasted only a year due to the Korean War draft. Undoubtedly, only a small percentage of the land owned by the Birthplace Memorial was ever put into agricultural production and by 1953, only "a mere handful" of workers were farming at the Birthplace Memorial. (CLR 2004: 49, from Mackintosh 1969: 33)

Commemoration in the Landscape:
While most activities of the Birthplace Memorial sought to educate southern African Americans, several features directly honored Booker T. Washington. The most tangible of these was the "reconstruction" of Washington's birthplace cabin. Henry Swain, Washington's boyhood friend who identified the site of the cabin in 1937, was called upon again to site the cabin replica. On Swain's advice, the cabin was located just southwest of the former Burroughs house, or the approximate location of "Cabin Two." Swain confused "Cabin One" and "Cabin Two," identifying the location of "Cabin Two" as the place of Washington's birth. Using Swain's judgement, the birthplace replica was built on the remains of "Cabin Two" that had been removed in 1922 (Figures 13 and 14, see also Figures 7, 9, 10, and 11). (CLR 2004: 49)

Phillips, who was familiar with Washington's autobiography that clearly described the condition and appearance of the cabin, supervised the design and construction. However, when completed in 1949, the neat, charming, log cabin bore little resemblance to the one of Washington's memory. The original cabin with its window without glass, uncertain door, and pile of rags for sleeping, was not replicated. Patricia West in her book Domesticating History, discussed the cabin replica:
"In keeping with the early house museum movement's general emphasis on glorification rather than historical reproduction, the Phillips replica suggested a tidy all-American "log-cabin." Although to Washington himself the cabin demonstrated the circumstances from which he was able to rise "up from slavery," the replica sidestepped the negative comment on the antebellum South that would have been made had the cabin been refurnished accurately." (CLR 2004: 49, from West 1999: 145)

Phillips may have chosen this interpretation for several reasons; to avoid arousing animosity of the whites that funded its construction, or because he did not want to dishonor his mentor by accurately recreating the squalid conditions of his youth. Regardless of its accuracy, the birthplace cabin was hailed as a great achievement for the Birthplace Memorial and was dedicated in May 1949, during a ceremony attended by high school bands, local citizens, school children, and William Tuck, the Governor of Virginia. (CLR 2004: 50)

A wishing well, inscribed with Washington's quote "Cast down your bucket where you are" was constructed next to the cabin replica (Figure 15). Phillips reported that up to a thousand dollars a year was tossed in the well as donations. Phillips also designed and installed "The Life of Booker T. Washington in Electrical Illumination." The five-acre parcel at the core of the site was encircled by electrical wire supported by ninety-three posts. Each post, adorned with colored lights to correspond with important events, symbolized a year of Booker T. Washington's life. As seen in photographs taken in the 1950s, the posts, lights, and plaques were located throughout the core area including

attached to the cabin and on posts to the southeast and southwest of the cabin replica and behind Hopkins Hall. (CLR 2004: 50)

Further commemoration occurred in 1953 when fifty-five-mile section of Route 122 was designated the Booker T. Washington Memorial Highway. This designation occurred during the heated national debate over Jim Crow legitimacy, school desegregation, and race relations. A group from the neighboring town of Moneta opposed the new highway markers, claiming that property values along the newly designated highway would decrease. Dissenters vandalized the signs, pulling them down, covering them with black paint, and steeling them. (CLR 2004: 51)

The Booker T. Washington Elementary School:
Sidney Phillips' promotion of Booker T. Washington's message of passive interracial goodwill fell out of favor during the growing national Civil Rights Movement that called for the desegregation of American schools. However, on a local level, Phillips remained influential by maintaining a comfortable relationship with many white lawmakers and made proclamations supporting a continued "separate-but-equal" philosophy toward school segregation. Under Phillips' leadership, the Birthplace Memorial donated six acres of land to Franklin County during the early 1950s for the establishment of an African American elementary school. The acreage was located in the northwest area of the property, set well back from Route 122 and on the ridge where the Burroughs and Robertson families once farmed. (CLR 2004: 51)

Amidst tension created by the unprecedented Brown vs. Board of Education case, Phillips continued to support racially segregated schools in several arenas, including the state legislature and the National Baptist Convention. He wrote numerous articles in the Roanoke Tribune in 1953 discouraging school desegregation. Largely because of Phillips' advocacy, the state built the Hales Ford Negro Elementary School, a tidy one-story brick building on the Birthplace Memorial's six-acre donation for $81,000 from Virginia's State School Construction Funds. Prior to its construction, African American schools in the county were an unimpressive collection of buildings that often lacked central heating systems and indoor plumbing. The new school was a vast improvement over previous segregated structures and others that remained scattered throughout the county, including a one-room school house approved for construction that same year. (CLR 2004: 52)

Ironically, five months after the Supreme Court ruled against segregation in Brown vs. Board of Education, the Hales Ford Negro Elementary School opened for classes, making it the first consolidated African American school in Franklin County. The school's name was changed to the Booker T. Washington Elementary School in October 1954 at the request of the parent-teacher association and was touted by local leaders as a positive experiment in racial understanding. Reportedly, President Eisenhower sent a telegram supporting the school and its role in promoting good democratic citizens. (CLR 2004: 52)

James Holmes came to the school in 1954 as principal, teacher, and basketball coach, remaining until the school closed in 1966. He and his family lived in Tuck Hall, the Robertson's renovated barn, during his tenure at the school. Holmes and three other teachers educated a small number of local children in combined classes up to grade seven. The rural school stood amongst agricultural fields and forests on the western side of the property, separated from the Birthplace Memorial's activities by steep topography and vegetation. Holmes reported that the baseball outfield backed onto a hay field. Views to the west of the school would have been similarly agricultural, as the neighboring farmer worked fields directly adjacent to the school. Outdoor facilities at the school included playing fields to the south, a packed earth basketball court to the west, and a playground with a swing set and merry-go-round on the school's eastern side. The school's gravel entry road traveled along the property's far western boundary, culminating in a roughly circular loop in front of the school. The front of the school was supplemented by a flagpole and landscaping donated by the parent-teacher association. The plantings consisted of barberry and juniper shrubs and a Norway spruce tree. (CLR 2004: 53)

Financial Troubles of the Birthplace Memorial:
Despite his gift for promotion and political maneuvering, Phillips constantly found the Birthplace Memorial in financial difficulties. He placed a great deal of hope in the possibility of continued profits from the sale of Booker T. Washington Commemorative Coins to finance his plans. However, after

the initial success of the coins, sales dropped dramatically and languished well below optimistic projections. To broaden their appeal, Phillips successfully lobbied Congress to mint a combination Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver coin in 1951. Although five million coins were slated for minting, only two million were made, and after five years only 130,000 of the two million had sold. In a dispute over coin profits, Portia Washington Pittman and Robert Ephraim, president of the Booker T. Washington Foundation, filed a breach of contract suit against Phillips in 1953. The two claimed that Phillips owed them $45,750 for payment of services relating to the sale of the Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver commemorative coins. This conflict was eventually resolved and Washington Pittman's involvement in the Birthplace Memorial continued. (CLR 2004: 53)

By 1953, the Birthplace Memorial's ongoing troubles reached a breaking point. They had defaulted on their taxes for two years, the mortgage was still outstanding, and Phillips was under investigation by the Internal Revenue Service. Amongst the reasons for the Birthplace Memorial's insolvency was Phillips' perception that long-standing opposition from Tuskegee Institute, of which he had recently been denied the presidency, and apathy on the part of African Americans hindered the progress of his organization. He wrote, "Our experience indicates that the white people were more interested in seeing the ideals and teachings of Booker T. Washington perpetuated than Negroes." Another interpretation of the collapse of the private Birthplace Memorial is that many southern African Americans were no longer interested in accommodating a culture of white supremacy. Phillips often courted whites and tread softly around the issue of segregation to further his agenda for the Birthplace Memorial. In the process of promoting the goals and teachings of a man from a prior generation, he may have alienated the contemporary populace he sought to reach. (CLR 2004: 53-54)

Booker T. Washington National Monument Foundation:
As early as 1953, Phillips wrote a letter to Director of the National Park Service, Conrad Wirth, asking him to consider formation of Booker T. Washington National Monument. Although official bankruptcy would not follow for two more years, Phillips knew that alternative measures were needed to secure the Birthplace Memorial's legacy. Since Congress and the nation had already opened the debate on African American commemoration ten years earlier with the establishment of the George Washington Carver National Monument, Wirth approved a historical and recreational study of Booker T. Washington's birthplace. (CLR 2004: 54)

The study raised several issues that caused the National Park Service to reserve enthusiasm for national park status. Assistant Regional Historian Frank Barnes, the author of the historic study, claimed the integrity of the site relating to Booker T. Washington's life there was very poor, the "birthplace cabin" was non-authentic, and many non-contributing features would have to be removed if the property became a national park. Many of Barnes' arguments resembled those made during the study of the George Washington birthplace in eastern Virginia. Both studies expressed doubt about the respective site's limited integrity and the possibility that the subjects may be better commemorated at other sites related to their later professional lives. The remote location of Booker T. Washington's birthplace also caused Barnes to question the merit of a national park at the site. Observing the local political atmosphere, he cited potential difficulties with establishing a national monument to an African American figure, such as the recent conflict over the dedication of the Booker T. Washington Memorial Highway. Barnes chose not to recommend the site as a suitable addition to the National Park Service based on a practical knowledge of the region's low tolerance for racial integration and the property's lack of physical integrity. (CLR 2004: 54)

The recreational portion of the study claimed that the site was "not scenically outstanding," and "not particularly attractive." The less than stellar evaluation of the site's natural and scenic qualities reinforced the tone set by Barnes' historical report, yet Washington's significance in American history was not overlooked. The compiled report of October 1953 by Regional Director Elbert Cox presenting the negative findings to Director Wirth gave faint praise to Washington's contributions as a national figure:
"On the basis of Barnes' evaluation I would agree that the man himself is of national significance and from the standpoint of his importance in American history, he is deserving of national recognition. However, the birth site itself is not equally impressive, and lacks the potential interest and value for

commemorative purposes which are necessary to justify inclusion in the National Park System." (CLR 2004: 54, from Mackintosh 1969: 68)

After learning of the National Park Service's findings, Phillips sought political assistance from Congress. He successfully lobbied for the introduction of a bill in 1954 to establish the Booker T. Washington National Monument without first seeking support from the National Park Service. Phillips used the remainder of the year before the next congressional vote to drum up support in letter writing campaigns and newspaper columns. (CLR 2004: 54)

After defaulting on bank payments in 1955, the Birthplace Memorial's holdings were sold at auction and the property was divided amongst several buyers. The former Plybon tract was sold to John W. Booth, the former Saunders tract was sold to Ruth Jane and Thomas R. Saunders, and the central tract containing the Birthplace Memorial's buildings and activities was sold to Sidney Phillips and Portia Washington Pittman. Phillips and Washington Pittman created yet another organization, the Booker T. Washington National Monument Foundation, underwritten by the Nehi Corporation, to hold the land and lobby for federal acquisition in the absence of the bankrupt Birthplace Memorial. The Booker T. Washington
National Monument Foundation was joined by the Mary Bethune Women's Club, a local organization of African American women, in promoting the former Birthplace Memorial as a national treasure in need of federal recognition. (CLR 2004: 54-55)

The escalating Cold War fed American paranoia of communism and aided Phillips and the Bethune Club's promotion of Washington's legacy. Although many white leaders did not support the Civil Rights Movement on its own merits, the threat that the Soviet Union may use America's alienation of its own citizens to undermine American international authority helped African American causes. Faced with this potential crisis, white leaders considered promoting the least threatening of African American leaders. Phillips and the Bethune Club were rewarded both for their perseverance and because the political climate proved ready for acknowledgment of Washington's contributions. President Eisenhower authorized the Booker T. Washington National Monument on April 2, 1956. (CLR 2004: 55)

Sidney Phillips, his Birthplace Memorial, and the Booker T. Washington National Monument Foundation altered the landscape significantly during their twelve years at the site. Although they once owned over 500 acres, most of the landscape manipulation occurred within the central tract of land containing the historic resources. As can be seen in careful observation of a 1949 aerial photo, the historic core contained numerous new structures and features built during Phillips's tenure. Phillips had transformed the old Burroughs/Robertson farmhouse and domestic yard into a humble campus of administrative buildings and created paths, roads, and parking lots to service the buildings. Undoubtedly, many archeological resources were disturbed during this era of change. The Birthplace Memorial's accurate location of the cabin replica damaged archeological remains of "Cabin Two." Yet, several old Robertson structures remained, altered and unaltered, to recall the former agricultural use of the site. Photos of the period show an extant chicken coop and several old barns in proximity to the Birthplace Memorial's contemporary improvements. Following the brief and limited activities of the demonstration farm in the early 1950s, most agricultural fields, especially ones in the southern half of the property, reverted to successional growth. It appears that the majority of the southern end of the property remained undisturbed by Birthplace Memorial activities. (CLR 2004: 55)

While Phillips was undoubtedly successful in promoting his interpretation of Washington's teachings, he failed to ensure his own long-term interests. The Birthplace Memorial never achieved financial stability and was scrutinized for its mismanagement. It also appears that Phillips failed to adapt with the times and alienated many African Americans in his attempts to advance his and Washington's approach to race relations. Furthermore, few of the Birthplace Memorial's many social, educational, and political accomplishments translated into tangible connections between Washington and the site. After his many years on the site it can be suggested that Phillips' social and cultural vision did not manifest into good stewardship of the land or historical resources. The National Park Service, the property's future steward, and Phillips' Birthplace Memorial differed greatly in their missions and goals, which translated into vastly different interpretations of the merit and potential of the site. (CLR 2004: 55)



Figure 6. An early Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial photograph c.1946 looking south and showing the condition of the farm when Phillips acquired it. Note the numerous barns, agricultural outbuildings, and heavily rutted driveway. (BOWA)

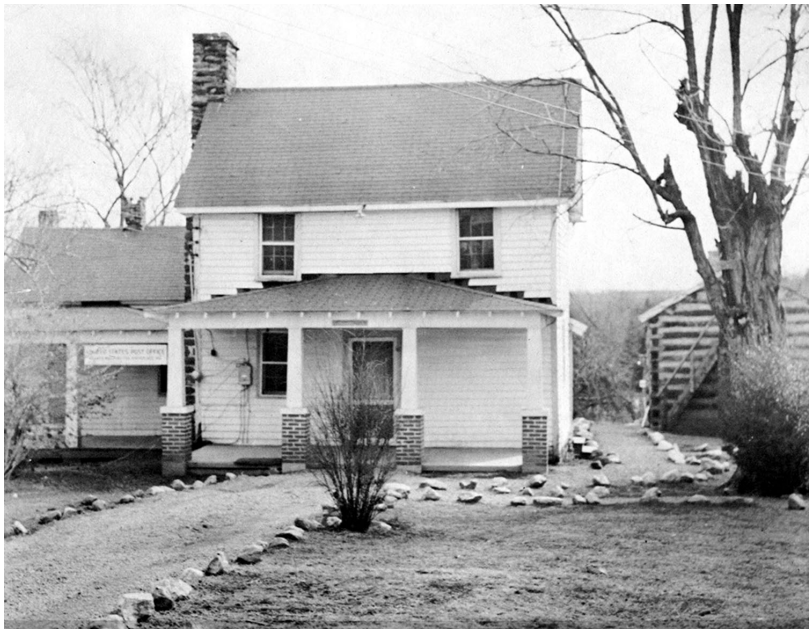


Figure 7. View looking south in c.1949 at the former Burroughs house after Birthplace Memorial changes. It was the headquarters for the Memorial until a 1950 fire. Note large tree at image right and reconstructed "Cabin Two" in background. (BOWA)



Figure 8. View looking north, c.1952. Graded and surfaced paths connect to the driveway turn-around and structures. Note Virginia Cottage (image far left) and Tuck Hall (image background). A portion of the Farm Access Road is visible in background. (BOWA)



Figure 9. View looking west-southwest at the east side of Hopkins Hall. Note the rebuilt cabin replica in the background, c.1952. (BOWA)



Figure 10. View looking southwest at damage from the December 1950 that destroyed the former Burroughs house, all of its contents, and damaged the cabin replica (Cabin Two), visible in the background. (Courtesy of Mrs. Alice Smith Jones)



Figure 11. View looking south at the dedication ceremony for Burch Hall, 1951. Note Memorial period replica kitchen cabin, the wooded ridge, and a Memorial period outbuilding in the background. Burch Hall was never completed. (BOWA)



Figure 12. View looking northeast in 1958 at Hopkins Hall and the unfinished foundation of Burch Hall. The foundation was left to deteriorate until it was removed by the National Park Service. (BOWA)



Figure 13. View from c.1947 looking south at the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Cabin Site, as identified during the Memorial period by Henry Swain, Washington's childhood friend. Note outbuildings and unkept nature of the fences and vegetation. (BOWA)



Figure 14. View looking south at the construction of the Memorial Period replica kitchen cabin, 1949. Note the sign identifying this as the location where Washington was born. (BOWA)



Figure 15. Wishing well at the Birthplace Memorial, c.1950, inscribed "Cast Down Your Bucket Where You Are." (BOWA)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PERIOD, 1957-2017

Transfer to the National Park Service:
Despite prior recommendations by the National Park Service and the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, and Monuments discouraging the inclusion of Booker T. Washington's birthplace in the national park system, cursory planning efforts toward the creation of the national

park continued. Sidney Phillips' adept lobbying coupled with contemporary political views that supported recognition of African American achievement overrode the negative reports prepared by National Park Service officials. (CLR 2004: 61)

As late as September 1955, the Advisory Board supported honoring Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute, rather than at his birthplace. Yet almost concurrently, National Park Service District Ranger Hadley submitted a report in August 1955 concerning the lands necessary to establish the National Monument at the site. Hadley, acting on the initiative of the Regional Director of National Park Service Region One, identified multiple desirable properties. Among them were 207 acres owned by Phillips and the Booker T. Washington National Monument Foundation, 101 acres owned by John and Nellie Booth, and 297 acres owned by Ruth and Thomas Saunders. (CLR 2004: 61)

In 1956, National Park Service historian Roy E. Appleman visited the area to consider potential boundaries for the park. Foremost, he contradicted Hadley and recommended acquiring only the amount of land containing the historic core, or just over 100 acres. Appleman viewed many of the private foundation's achievements unfavorably, questioning their goals, physical improvements, and future at the site. After the tour, Appleman recommended razing all existing structures, considering them obtrusive. He also conversed with several Booker T. Washington National Monument Foundation employees at the site, who said that they fully expected to remain at the site to "carry on our goodwill work" after federal acquisition. Appleman discouraged this in his report. "I consider it very important for the future operation of the national monument that Dr. Phillips and all his associates be removed from the national monument area." Phillips, who wholeheartedly supported the creation of a national monument, misunderstood what the eventual transfer would mean for him and his organization. He would soon find that donating Washington's birthplace to the National Park Service meant relinquishing control. (CLR 2004: 61)

Although the land holdings of the former Birthplace Memorial had been divided and sold at auction, the property still held substantial debt. To expedite the inevitable transfer process to the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Virginia relieved Phillips' first organization of its obligation for back taxes totaling $17,000 just as Congress passed legislation to authorize the Booker T. Washington National Monument in 1956. The National Park Service accepted a donation of 199 acres from Virginia in June of that year and began the gradual process of initiating operations on the site. (CLR 2004: 61)

Phillips' stewardship of the land fell short of National Park Service standards. The park's first superintendent, Chester Brooks, described the condition of the property upon acquisition stating, "The area looked like a city dump." It was reported that eighteen pickup trucks full of trash were removed from the site in December of 1957. Brooks continued:
"The buildings at the Monument constitute one of the worst imaginable fire hazards. The attics are filled with papers; the fire extinguishers have not been recharged since 1950; the wiring is unsatisfactory and there are a host of other conditions existing there that defy fire prevention standards." (CLR 2004: 61, from Mackintosh 1969: 99)

Aside from the untidiness and safety concerns at the site, physical improvements made by the Birthplace Memorial dominated the landscape. Entry to the site continued to be provided by the linear, boulevard style, two-lane entry drive built in 1946. The collection of structures around the historic area, with the exception of the birthplace cabin replica, made no attempt to evoke historic conditions. The remaining structures, built to serve the Birthplace Memorial's educational, promotional, and community programming needs, did not meet the interpretive needs and goals of the National Park Service. (CLR 2004: 61)

Most of the National Monument's acreage consisted of a patchwork of field and forest. Much of the land adjacent to the core area was maintained as field and the southern end of the park was kept in forest. A large, linear field on the ridge in the southern region of the site was surrounded by forest that stretched down to Gills Creek. Several structures existed in this large upper field, presumably left over from former agricultural activities. Successional forest growth sprouted within the southeast section of the field, indicating that it had not been cultivated for many years. (CLR 2004: 61-62)

Planning the Park's Future:
For several months after the National Park Service began operations at the park, Phillips' private Booker T. Washington National Monument Foundation and the National Park Service coexisted on site. Public scrutiny of Phillips and his organization intensified during this period. The most stinging attack came from the Roanoke World-News, which disclosed information about the organization's finances, casting Phillips in a negative light. This undermined Phillips' support within the Virginia state government and reinforced the National Park Service position to remove his organization from the site. By December 1957, the Booker T. Washington National Monument Foundation and post office vacated the site. The National Park Service established a visitor center in the former Hopkins Hall and rehabilitated the former Virginia Cottage for park housing. (CLR 2004: 62)

Initial Mission 66 Planning:
Austere budgets during World War II and Cold War military spending of the late 1940s and early 1950s starved the national parks of the funding to necessary for proper maintenance activities and modernization. Crumbling infrastructure, neglected management and maintenance programs, and deferred research efforts were typical across the system during these lean years. Many parks first authorized during the 1940s and 1950s never received the funding needed to pursue effective planning and development. Consequently, in 1956 Congress approved the ten-year, comprehensive Mission 66 program. The program addressed a marked increase in post-World War II visitation and planned for the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service at the program's fruition in 1966. Mission 66 allowed for major developments including visitor centers, campgrounds, roads, bridges, employee housing, and road and trail construction. Aside from basic infrastructure improvements, the Mission 66 program sought to unify standards across the system by developing uniform entrance markers listing park resources, a minimum number of employees, and paved trails to points of interest. (CLR 2004: 62-63)

Mission 66 provided the funding to build many of the physical developments necessary for Booker T. Washington National Monument, established one year before the initiative launched. In 1958, the park developed the first draft of its "Mission 66 Prospectus." Like other parks, the National Monument sought numerous physical improvements, such as new roads and a visitor center, but the prospectus also spoke to the important question of the park's interpretive vision. Because, "Most of the visitors experience only slight inspiration from the visit," the park stressed the importance of interpreting Booker T. Washington's life and accomplishments. The report acknowledged the challenges associated with this because of the lack of physical remains dating to Washington's time at the site and the relatively brief time he lived there. To address these concerns, the park planned to interpret the site as a typical middle-class 1850s farm. Park historian James Kirkwood, one of the first employees of the new park, described the interpretive goals saying,
"we plan to recreate, by means of pictures and written material, the plantation scene of Civil War days …We hope to use this rather typical small plantation to 'balance' the distorted and erroneous 'magnolia concept' of the South." (CLR 2004: 63, from Letter, Kirkwood to Wiley, January 1959

Physical improvements planned in the prospectus included the construction of a visitor center, new park entry road, interpretive trails, new cabin replica, employee housing, utility building, and removal of non-historic structures. The estimated total cost for the site's Mission 66 program was $313,060. (CLR 2004: 63)

Armed with the "Mission 66 Prospectus," park staff embarked on a research and planning campaign to bring the site up to public expectations and the high standards of the National Park Service. Kirkwood began by gathering materials relating to Booker T. Washington and nineteenth-century Piedmont farms. He sought out people from Washington's past, looking for photos, remembrances, letters, and journals. He also traveled throughout the region taking photos of tobacco barns and farm structures and solicited advice about common farm plants and medicinal herbs from academics. (CLR 2004: 63)

To evoke a more authentic 1850s farm appearance, the park demolished Tuck Hall, the renovated Robertson barn that had served as a dormitory and dining space, as well as the unfinished foundations of Burch Hall, an abandoned house near the elementary school, and several barns and

outbuildings constructed by the Robertsons. The park rented forty-three acres to a local farmer who used the land as pasture "so it will look more like it did in Booker T. Washington's day," according to park staff. (CLR 2004: 63, from Kirkwood to Burroughs, 2 May 1958)

Kirkwood also prepared a "Vegetational and Historic Base Map" in 1958. This conjectural map was created largely on the recollections of Grover and Peter Robertson. Their memories of springs, structures, field patterns, orchards, and gardens were helpful to Kirkwood who had little else to work from, but were subject to question because of the age of the men and accuracy of their recollections. (CLR 2004: 63)

A general development plan was created in 1958 to outline the park's vision for the future and introduced several features that would be debated and revised for years to come (Figure 16). Visitor and staff-oriented features such as a visitor center, entry drive, parking lot, utility area, and park residences, were illustrated along with interpretive elements such as buildings and roads to be reconstructed, including the old farm entry drive. The plan called for removal of the linear boulevard-style entry driveway and buildings built by Phillips. (CLR 2004: 63)

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) inventoried the tobacco barn south of the historic core along the Jack-O-Lantern Branch in 1959. According to the Robertson brothers, one third of the structure was built with logs from a Burroughs tobacco barn. The brothers claimed the structure had been moved approximately one hundred feet from its original location by James Robertson to place it on level ground. The National Park Service added replacement logs to the structure in 1958 during a restoration project but many original rough-hewn logs remained. Indicative of the site's overall lack of integrity, the barn became the only structure at the park to be listed in the Historic American Building Survey directory. (CLR 2004: 64)

Cabin Fever:
The one so-called "historical" attraction created by the private Birthplace Memorial was Phillips' 1949 kitchen cabin replica ("Cabin Two"). By the late 1950s, the cabin was in disrepair and deemed both unsafe and unsightly by National Park Service staff. A 1959 inventory of the property listed in the structure in "very poor condition" and it was subsequently demolished in September of that year. Knowing nothing definitive about the original structure aside from descriptions of its appearance and location from Washington's autobiography, the Robertson brothers, and "Uncle" Henry Swain, the proposed recreation of the cabin was disputed within the National Park Service. Charles Peterson, Supervising Architect of Historic Structures, argued against any reconstruction for several reasons, including the lack of background information. He also thought one lone cabin replica would appear out of context on the larger landscape and would become a maintenance problem. Peterson described the project's failings by comparing this proposal to one of his prior experiences with restoration. "In many ways it reminded me of the other Washington birthplace project as it stood in 1930, only this new project appeals to me even less." Peterson recommended using dioramas in the visitor center and a marker at the site of the cabin to depict the structure. (CLR 2004: 64, from Mackintosh 1969: 122, citing Letter, Charles E. Peterson to Edward Zimmer, 5 November 1959)

Historian Kirkwood countered Peterson's views, emphasizing the need for some tangible element to mark the scene and "to make the visitor aware of the humble conditions surrounding Washington's birth and early life." Regional Director Cox agreed with Kirkwood, pressing for the reconstruction. He described the proposed cabin as a "prop" rather than an authentic reconstruction that would symbolize the vision of the park. Cox's support proved to be the authorization Kirkwood was looking for, and planning for the replication of the cabin went forward in 1959. (CLR 2004: 64-65, from Mackintosh 1969: 122, citing Memo, James Kirkwood to Regional Director, 19 November 1959)

To take some of the speculation out of the reconstruction, archeological research was undertaken in the fall of 1959 by Regional Archeologist John W. Griffin. His completed study of the Phillips cabin site determined that its location was indeed almost on top of the original kitchen cabin. Construction of the Phillips replica, being so close to the original site, had done significant damage to the subsurface resources. Concrete footings disturbed much of the original cabin's remains. However, numerous artifacts were found including traces of the chimney, broken china, nails and glass, indicating nineteenth-century occupation of the site. Griffin inferred that the original cabin was

approximately twelve by sixteen feet. Washington's autobiography spoke of the sixteen-foot square cabin, and W.E.B. Du Bois described common southern one-room square cabins, "now standing in the shadow of the Big House." These sources may have helped Griffin reach his conclusion. (CLR 2004: 65-66, from Griffin 1959)

The National Park Service replica cabin, designed by Jack Lawson of Saunders and Waggoner Architects, and constructed during the spring and summer of 1960, closely resembled the one built by Phillips (Figure 17). It remained a one room, one and a half story log cabin, containing a fireplace, an earthen floor, and few windows. An exterior timber ladder led to the small attic. This, like the Phillips reconstruction, was an antiseptic version of the cabin described by Washington in his autobiography. It was clean, neat, and well-constructed. Nonetheless, the reconstruction became the central element in the park's interpretive program. (CLR 2004: 66)

The Roll Road Trail:
The Roll Road Trail, or park interpretive trail, was developed to work in conjunction with the reconstructed cabin, as few above ground resources existed by the late 1950s. The Roll Road Trail used the landscape, topography, vegetation, and a few period structures to evoke the Burroughs' 1850s farm. The trail led past forest enclosures, historic replicas, and agricultural fields, allowing visitors to experience the park's natural and cultural resources. (CLR 2004: 66)

Planning for this self-guided trail began in 1959. Kirkwood and Brooks located fifteen waysides and partially connected the interpretive stops with a historic road trace to create a trail loop throughout the historic core and fields and forests to the south. In the absence of documentation about the Burroughs period, the researchers likely relied on the memories of Grover and Peter Robertson to structure the interpretive program. Most of Kirkwood and Brooks' designated sites were marked with interpretive panels including text and graphics to depict elements that no longer remained. Both conjectural and extant resources, like the historic catalpa and cedar trees that dated to the 1800s, and the hypothetical location of the Burroughs corn crib and horse barn, were included. (CLR 2004: 66)

Land Acquisition:
Shortly after authorization of the park in 1956, park staff recognized the need to acquire additional parcels along Route 122. A legislative proposal from 1958 identified twenty acres of adjacent land that, if acquired, would increase the park's visual buffer and provide convenient access to the proposed utility building and entry road. The National Park Service was interested in increasing its holdings on the northern and western boundaries to include segments of the old Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike and original Burroughs property. The western-most tract in question, owned by Mrs. Lizilia Hayes, was needed to complete the new entry road proposed in the Mission 66 Prospectus. (CLR 2004: 67)

Discussion continued between the park and the landowners for several years and in 1962, after the National Park Service initial offer to buy the tracts for $250 an acre was refused by the three owners, court proceedings took place to acquire the land by eminent domain. Mrs. Hayes refused the offer on several grounds. She and her lawyer claimed that her land the National Park Service valued at $1,190 was worth $6,350.32. Hayes also objected to selling on grounds that a family burial plot was located on the land in question. In an attempt to accommodate her, the park offered her continued use of a sixty-foot square plot around the existing cemetery. This offer was also refused. (CLR 2004: 67)

The Saunders family also declined an offer of $2,480 for their land. In response to these actions the National Park Service stated, "Acquisition of the property is necessary for protection and development of the area. Therefore, we recommend that action be started to acquire the property by condemnation proceedings." The properties were transferred to the park in 1964 after two years of legal proceedings and an expenditure of $7,554 to the three land owners. This allowed park developments to continue as planned in the Mission 66 Prospectus. (CLR 2004: 67, from Letter, Squire to NPS Director 1962)

Mission 66 Revisited:

The 1958 Mission 66 Prospectus was expanded in 1962 to further articulate the park's basic planning framework and plan for park improvements. The National Park Service hoped to use Mission 66 funding and planning resources to create an "attractive and appropriate monument to the man and ideal it commemorates." The limitations of achieving this goal with so few remaining historical resources were recognized and remedied by planning for improved museum exhibits, interpretive signs, and the self-guided Roll Road interpretive trail. The Planning Report on the Burroughs Plantation (1963) again revisited and refined the goals outlined in the initial prospectus. (CLR 2004: 68)

The planning report placed emphasis on clarifying the park's identity, image, and visitor services and provided the following recommendations. Signs should be installed along Route 122 to mark the park entrance and reduce confusion for drivers. The proposed installation of split rail fencing would help visitors identify the property as a historic site. The proposed construction of park residences along the elementary school access road would strengthen interpretation in the historic core by allowing for the removal of the maintenance foreman's house. Another key feature of the report was the construction of a new entry road, to be located west of the historic farm road, leading to the proposed visitor center and parking lot. (CLR 2004: 68)

Park staff sought to replicate structural and landscape features of the Burroughs era. However, the park's only historical tool, the Vegetational and Historical Base Map of 1958, was recognized as a marginal piece of scholarship and largely discredited. In response, the historical base map was updated in 1963 to remove references to purely conjectural elements. While this revision was not based on significant scholarly findings, it departed from the 1958 plan in several areas. The 1963 revision moved the hog lot farther from the big house to the forest in the northwest corner of the site and removed representations of the conjectural fence lines. Park staff was unwilling to commit to representing fences lines due to the lack of documentation. (CLR 2004: 68)

The general pattern of field and forest remained constant on both historic base maps, which depicted a roughly equal percentage of forested and cleared land. A Vegetative Treatment Plan was created in 1963 to assist implementation of conditions depicted on the 1963 Historic Base Map. Approximately three-quarters of the site was forested in 1963, and the plan recommended clearing a substantial amount of existing vegetation, specifically in the southern region of the site and to the west and south of the former Burroughs house. A notable exception to the massive clearing was the recommendation to reforest a small area in the northeast corner of the property, adjacent to Route 122. (CLR 2004: 68-69)

This treatment plan proved to be premature, owing to highly conjectural nature of the findings. Subsequent study of similar farms discovered that the Burroughs family most likely cleared far less land than what was proposed in the 1963 plan. Information about Burroughs' limited resources and evidence about contemporary crop yields led historians to later amend the representation of field and forest percentage. (CLR 2004: 69)

On a smaller scale, treatment of the landscape surrounding the slave cabin and what became known as the historic core was dynamic. During this time, the park experimented with different ways to represent the Burroughs house. For a period of time the building's foundation was outlined with flowers. Later, the flowers were replaced with an outline of flat stones that depended less on the seasons and required less maintenance (see Figure 17). (CLR 2004: 69)

Visitor Center Comes to Fruition:
After the park successfully obtained ownership of the parcels of land along Route 122, the construction of numerous key Mission 66 improvements began. Construction of the visitor center and new entry road began in 1964 and continued through 1966. In addition to the visitor center and entry road, a deceleration lane and turning lane along Route 122, the visitor center parking lot, and sidewalk from the parking lot to the visitor center were completed (Figure 18). (CLR 2004: 69)

A dedication ceremony was held in June of 1966 to celebrate the completion of the visitor center. Portia Washington Pittman, National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, and the President of Ferrum College attended. The visitor center and surrounding land, including the entry drive and

historic core, was further improved in the years directly after the dedication through the addition of benches, a flagpole, trees and shrubs, and 31,000 square feet of seeded lawn. Several proposed features, including the park residences and utility area, remained unfunded. Nevertheless, these features appeared on planning documents for years, including the 1971 General Development Plan. Restoration of the historic farm entry road and removal of the Phillips-era paved driveway went unrealized. (CLR 2004: 69-72)

Desegregation and Booker T. Washington Elementary School:
Concurrent with changes at Booker T. Washington National Monument, the southern states underwent monumental societal and educational shifts. Although the 1954 Supreme Court case Brown vs. Board of Education deemed "separate but equal" education unconstitutional, Virginia, along with several other states, delayed the implementation of school integration for many years. The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations, including public schools, based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin was the catalyst in Virginia's integration compliance. As a result, Franklin County began discussion of the inevitable desegregation of their schools in August 1965. (CLR 2004: 72)

Between 1965 and 1966, Franklin County instituted a system called "Freedom of Choice" that offered parents of African American children in grades one, eight, ten, and twelve the option to send their children to previously white schools for the school year. The County intended the "Freedom of Choice" program to extended to four additional grades in the 1966-1967 school year, followed by voluntary system-wide integration by 1967. The Virginia's Department of Health, Education, and Welfare criticized the Franklin County school board's integration policy, leading to the closure of several schools and the continuation of the "Freedom of Choice" system at others. In reality, partial segregation continued in Franklin County well past 1966. Booker T. Washington Elementary School was among the eliminated schools. The Franklin County school board retained ownership of the school and associated six acres without allocating further use of the property. (CLR 2004: 72)

A Future for the Booker T. Washington Elementary School:
After Booker T. Washington Elementary School closed in 1966, the facility sat vacant and deteriorated from lack of maintenance. The Franklin County School Board attempted to sell the facility to the National Park Service in 1967 but the offer was declined. Neither institution saw a need for the structure and surrounding land at the time. By the early 1970s, the National Park Service reconsidered its earlier stance and requested that the school board donate the school and surrounding six acres. Park Superintendent William Webb made numerous arguments in defense of the National Park Service's proposal, citing that the school's six acres were part of the original Burroughs farm and as such, should belong to the park. The acreage was said to be needed in order to properly restore the Burroughs nineteenth-century farm. (CLR 2004: 72)

Webb referred to the introduction of Virginia's Environmental Education Bill, part of a growing national trend spurred by the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, to emphasize environmental awareness and responsibility. The former school building was slated for conversion to an environmental center, something Webb promoted to the business-minded members of the board. Webb claimed that "many of our visitors use the Monument just for fun – as a rest stop, a picnic area, and sometimes to learn a little of our history." It was argued that transferring the former school to the National Park Service would benefit both the county and the park through increased visitation and improved educational opportunities. The potential for increased tourism coupled with the prestige accompanying one of the first environmental centers in the area bolstered the National Park Service's argument. (CLR 2004: 72-73)

The National Park Service was also concerned about maintenance issues associated with the former school. During the years since the school closed, vandals and weather took a toll on the structure. The grounds surrounding the school became popular with locals, who used the area for unauthorized activities. Webb wrote, "The road leading to it is used by deer poachers, drunks, and lovers." Webb was concerned about the possibility of fire in the old structure. By owning the former school and surrounding six acres, the park would control trespassing and other unauthorized use. After several years of discussion and input from a variety of community groups, the Franklin County School Board donated the former school building and its associated six acres to the park in 1973. (CLR 2004: 73)

The Booker T. Washington Environmental Education and Cultural Center was dedicated on April 5, 1976. The facility was to be used for environmental education, arts and crafts, and historical and cultural activities. Unfortunately, early environmental education workshops were poorly attended and the facility was predominantly used for other purposes. The park housed its library in the former principal's office and moved its museum collection into the former kitchen. Two working looms that were part of the park's living history program were moved to one of the former classrooms. The remaining former classroom served as meeting and educational space. Between 1979 and 1988 the facility was used primarily for traveling exhibits and by outside organizations, including the Girl Scouts and the fledgling Smith Mountain Lake Association. (CLR 2004: 73)

Beginning in 1983, park operations began to gradually use more space in the former school. Initially, the maintenance department relocated there, utilizing a classroom, the kitchen, and the principal's office. In 1986, the former basketball court on the west side of the building was fenced, providing secure storage for vehicles and fuel. Interpretation and administrative staff relocated to the building between 1991 and 1993, relieving congestion in the overcrowded visitor center. By 1994, staff referred to the structure to as "park headquarters" because management and administration staff had fully moved into the building the year before. At the same time, Interpretation and Resource Management relocated back to the visitor center to be in proximity to school groups, visitors, and the historic resources. The school structure currently houses the superintendent's office, administrative staff, maintenance staff, and several other park offices.

The Shift to Living History:
During the 1960s, the National Park Service experimented with a new interpretive program called "living history" on a system-wide basis. As early as the 1930s, several parks, notably western parks with prominent Native American groups, featured people performing cultural tasks in native dress as an interpretive tool. Most of these programs functioned independently of regional or national policies. In 1965, Marion Clawson, Resources for the Future program director, wrote a paper about living history, recommending that the National Park Service run a system of twenty-five to fifty operating historical farms. The development of the "living farm" at Booker T. Washington National Monument was promoted to increase visitation and more authentically recreate the experience of Washington's early life. By the summer of 1967, the Washington office requested that all regions experiment with living history and interpreters in period dress. This directive, coupled with concerns over the impact of the new visitor center at Booker T. Washington National Monument, led to an amended Interpretive Prospectus to include a component of living history. (CLR 2004: 73-74)

Writing with a great deal of foresight, Barry Mackintosh discussed the pros and cons of living history at Booker T. Washington National Monument in the shadow of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. In the conclusion of his 1969 Administrative History, Mackintosh clearly articulated the park's future challenges:
"Clearly, Booker T. Washington National Monument faces many challenges. But perhaps its greatest challenge lies in the field of interpretation. The monument can fully develop the Burroughs plantation as a living historical farm, and it can greatly increase public use by doing so and by vigorously publicizing it. Herein lies the danger. It will be all too easy for the farm to become merely a pretty pastoral scene - - an end in itself - - an "attraction." Why bring up the unpleasant subject of slavery at all? And yet this place offers the finest opportunity for relevant social-environmental interpretation to be found anywhere in the National Park System. The way of life and the human relationships that were a part of the Burroughs plantation vividly illustrate both the good and the evil of our heritage. What those people sowed, we are reaping today: the crop—and the weeds." (Mackintosh 1969: 150 quoted in CLR 2004: 74)

Despite Mackintosh's concerns, planning continued for the living history farm. As stated in the 1968 amendment to the Interpretive Prospectus, several replica farm buildings including a blacksmith shop, corn crib, privy, and smokehouse were slated for construction. Farming activities shifted considerably from the previous system of pasturing of a few dozen acres to include working fields and livestock tended using nineteenth-century methods. Crews in period clothes performed the daily maintenance and farming activities. The Regional Director approved the changes to the Interpretive Prospectus in May 1968 and the plan was implemented that summer. (CLR 2004: 74)

To prepare for the park's shift in interpretation, and management, National Park Service chief historian Edwin C. Bearrs completed "The Burroughs Plantation as a Living Historical Farm," a research document meant to guide implementation of the new policy. Bearrs used local and regional sources of information about typical mid- nineteenth century Piedmont farming to determine what practices, crops, and livestock, the Burroughs might have employed. However, he recognized that the impact of the report would be limited by insufficient funding to accurately portray 1850s conditions. (CLR 2004: 74)

Between 1970 and 1974, park staff constructed several conjectural farm buildings to add to the living history farm ensemble including a smokehouse, corn crib, privy, horse barn, and chicken house (Figure 19). Visitors and staff alike desired additional tangible features at the site. The location and exact form of these features during the Burroughs period is unknown, so staff used suggestions from Bearrs's living history report to locate features. (CLR 2004: 74)

Living history became a popular form of interpretation system wide, and Booker T. Washington National Monument was no exception. By 1972, a Park Operations Evaluation Report stated that their current 1964 Master Plan was no longer "in line with the approved Statement for Management" because it did not "envision the Living Farm Development on the scale that has since evolved." Park visitation increased appreciably in the early 1970s, from 20,468 in 1970 to 35,848 in 1973. Expanded interpretation may have been a factor in this increase.

However, criticism of the living history approach to interpretation in National Park Service began in the mid-1970s when people began to question its value as an accurate and appropriate interpretive tool. Frank Barnes, interpretive specialist for the Northeast Region singled out Booker T. Washington National Monument as an example of where living history may have misled visitors:
[T]he Booker T. Washington farm comes out as a charming scene, of course, complete with farm animals with picturesque names, with almost no indication of the social environmental realities of slave life (indeed, how far can you go with 'living slavery'?). (Barnes 1973 cited in Mackintosh 1969, 4 cited in CLR 2004: 76)

Despite the program-wide critique, living history continued at the park until 1994, when Superintendent William Gwaltney spurred a change in interpretive direction. Although living history had been identified earlier as distracting from the main interpretive theme of Washington's greater accomplishments, it took many years to move away from this popular form of historical interpretation. (CLR 2004: 76)

Smith Mountain Lake:
Beginning in 1945, the Army Corps of Engineers, power companies, and various local citizens began a dialogue about harnessing the Roanoke River for hydroelectric power, flood control, and recreational use. In 1953 the Army Corps and Virginia Electric Power Corporation created the first of several dams in the Roanoke River Basin. After the completion of the first dam at Buggs Island, discussion of several other reservoirs began, including Smith Mountain Lake, approximately three miles east of the park. Appalachian Power, now known as American Electric Power, began planning for the new reservoir in 1953 and construction started in 1960. Substantial site work was completed during construction of the dam, including the clearing of trees, bridges, cemeteries, and buildings in the area that would be inundated. Indeed, sixty-eight cemeteries were relocated. When completed in 1966, Smith Mountain Lake encompassed five hundred miles of shoreline. Its 20,000 acres of water made it the second largest lake in Virginia. (CLR 2004: 76)

The completed lake soon became a recreational attraction, drawing lakefront development, raising property values, and attracting seasonal visitors. Construction of lakefront homes, new bridges, and supporting retail and commercial services increased altering the regional landscape. The lakebed submerged agricultural land and dispersed local farmers. Booker T. Washington National Monument remains located on the outskirts of the lake, yet close enough to experience an increase in visitation and development pressure. This was especially true with respect to growth of the Westlake community located just east of the park. (CLR 2004: 76)

Shortly after its completion, Appalachian Power donated land around Smith Mountain Lake to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the establishment of a state park. The commonwealth recognized the lake's recreational potential and began supplementing the existing park lands to develop visitor amenities for an outdoor tourist destination. Smith Mountain Lake State Park opened in 1983 on the eastern shore of the lake, and currently contains 1,248 acres for camping, hiking, lodging, picnicking, and boating. The state park and other recreational, commercial, and residential areas became defining elements in Booker T. Washington National Monument's regional setting. (CLR 2004: 76)

Contemporary Stewardship:
Changes continued at the national monument throughout the 1960s and 1970s including shifts in interpretive policy, the acquisition and donation of new lands, and the completion of many infrastructure improvements. As a result, the park revisited many of its research, maintenance, stewardship, and educational goals. The park's 1963 Historic Base Map was updated in 1977 using contextual comparisons between the Burroughs property and better documented nineteenth- century farms. This map departed from earlier thoughts, most notably in the smaller percentage of cleared land and a more careful depiction of the Robertson brother's recollections. Much of the southern region of the park, shown as cleared land in the 1963 Vegetative Treatment Plan, was now depicted as forestland, excluding a long, narrow agricultural field behind the former school. The field adjacent to Route 122 in the northeast corner of the site was also changed from forest to open field. (CLR 2004: 77)

In 1979, the park crafted a Statement for Management outlining current policies and future management goals. The primary goal remained preserving the grounds as a replica nineteenth-century farm representative of the tangible elements of Washington's early life. Other goals included involving the public in planning phases, and playing a larger role in the community to ensure appropriate uses of adjacent lands. However, service-wide budget restraints limited physical improvements and interpretive programming. The report listed the legislative constraints affecting their ability to construct employee housing and more interpretive replicas. The uncertain future of the Booker T. Washington Environmental Education and Cultural Center was also noted. (CLR 2004: 77-79)

The Statement for Management classified the park's landscape into three land use zones, dictating the types of activities that could occur in each. The historic zone, or Zone A, contained the site's historic resources. This area was located in the northeast section of the property and included the replica buildings, Burroughs cemetery, and the living farm's agricultural fields. Most of the non-historic modern facilities were located in the development zone, or Zone B, in the northwest area of the site. This zone included the visitor center, parking lots, picnic area, and the Environmental Education and Cultural Center. The remainder of the park, including all of the land in the southern end of the site, was contained in the special use zone, or Zone C. The area was maintained for agricultural purposes, natural timber growth, and a natural environmental study area. (CLR 2004: 77-79)

The 1981 General Management Plan (GMP) expanded on the Statement for Management (1979). The GMP reiterated the desire to reestablish the old farm entry road, as had many plans before it. The identified road trace traveled from the old Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike, across present day Route 122, past the Burroughs cemetery and to the historic core. Also mentioned in pervious plans, this document identified the park maintenance residence in the historic core for removal. The intent was to remove it from the historic scene and place a newer, more modern structure inside the development zone near the former elementary school driveway. The report recommended planting a row of evergreen trees along the south and west sides of the visitor center to shield it from the historic zone. (CLR 2004: 79)

Physical developments continued to reflect changing needs of visitors and park staff. In 1979 a Youth Conservation Corp group constructed a campground and a section of trail along Gills Creek. Located in a wooded area three-quarter of a mile from the Environmental Education and Cultural Center, the new campground was suitable for eighty people and designed as a seasonal-use camping facility. The facility consisted of four units with gravel tent pads, trash receptacles, and fire grills. There was a picnic shelter, bulletin board and central campfire ring. No running water was

provided and bathroom facilities were located in the Environmental Education and Cultural Center or at seasonally placed portable toilets. The campground was used between 1980 and 1983 and hosted youth groups on a reservation no-fee basis. Despite the perceived need for the camping facility, it never received heavy usage and closed after the 1983 season. (CLR 2004: 79)

Although construction of park residences appeared repeatedly in earlier development plans, the former Virginia Cottage continued to serve as the park maintenance foreman's residence from the establishment of the park in the 1950s through the early 1980s. The structure became known as the Sidney Wright house, named after the park's long term maintenance foreman. The cottage, once home to the Robertson widow and enlarged and upgraded by Phillips, eventually accommodated Sidney Wright and his family during National Park Service ownership. The Wrights used the extant Phillips era driveway for access and parked their personal vehicles next to the house. Visitors with disabilities also parked next to the house. The impact of the residence on the park's historic and interpretive resources was recognized, and the structure was razed after Mr. Wright retired in 1985. To rehabilitate the demolition site, park staff removed the parking area and graded and seeded the area, returning it to a flat, mowed lawn, blending in with the adjacent landscape. (CLR 2004: 79)

The park's interpretive agenda remained fairly static beginning with the introduction of the living historical farm in the late 1960s. Although numerous studies identified the need to increase the scope of the park's interpretive programming, no formal efforts were made until the Interpretive Prospectus was completed in 1988. This report placed an increased emphasis on interpreting Booker T. Washington's life and recommended treatment to address the historic core landscape. Specifically, the report recommended reshaping the kitchen garden, marking the locations of additional slave cabins, and restoring a portion of the apple orchard to more accurately depict 1890s landscape conditions based on recollections provided by the Robertson brothers. In contrast to previous planning documents, no structural additions to the living farm were recommended. (CLR 2004: 81)

Popular activities associated with the living history farm continued despite the recommended shift in interpretive focus. A festival day in the summer months has celebrated Washington's life on the Burroughs farm through costumed interpreters, demonstrations, food, and wagon rides. The festival day was established with living history's ascendancy in the early 1970s and continued through 1993, having changed in name and emphasis several times to include "Living History Day," "Tuskegee Day," and "Farm Festival." Currently, the park keeps forty acres in hay, worked by a local farmer under an agricultural lease permit, to contribute to the appearance of a nineteenth-century farm and to provide feed for the livestock. Groups can apply for special use permits to hold gatherings and festivals on the grounds. Church groups, Boy Scouts, and day-care providers picnic at the park. (CLR 2001: 81)

During the 1980s and 1990s, researchers determined that a catalpa, two white oaks, and a Virginia red cedar in the historic core dated to the 1800s. Specialists propagated samples of the trees from seed and cuttings. In 1992 these trees were added to the National Park Service's list of Interesting Trees. Subsequently, maintenance practices were undertaken to address the catalpa's advanced age and poor health. However, the catalpa's health continued to decline and it was deemed a hazard to visitors and removed in 2001. To date, the stump and a root sprout of the original tree remain. In 1989, two catalpas propagated from the historic tree, were planted, one near the original stump and the other near the hog pen. The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation has successfully propagated eight additional catalpa specimens. These specimens remain in the plant nursery in Massachusetts, but are available to the park. (CLR 2004: 81; Email OCLP, Jamie McGuane)

The park removed remnants of the Phillips entry drive in the summer of 1997. Pavement was removed between the historic area and visitor center and replaced with stabilized turf and grass seed. Portions of the asphalt road in the northern region of the park remain. While grass obscures pavement in the area, the grade of the former roadbed is discernible. (CLR 2004: 81)

Scholarship and academic investigation of the Booker T. Washington National Monument landscape continues. Some research challenges pervious documentation, including an ethnohistorical analysis of the park completed in 1998. The report questions the accuracy of the representation of the current

Burroughs so-called “big house.” The hypothesis centers on the idea that the traditional house footprint and location do not represent the dwelling of a nineteenth-century middle-class family of eleven. Through contextual comparisons of Caribbean plantations, references from Washington’s autobiography, and analysis of existing scholarship on the Burroughs farm, the report constructs the argument that the Burroughs family was of higher socioeconomic status than the small house next to the slave dwellings and domestic yard would indicate. An 1847 deed was analyzed to further the argument, unearthing the possibility that a dwelling existed on an acre of land adjacent to the Hales Ford Road. Unfortunately, it is likely that construction of present day Route 122 would have erased remains of such a structure if this was the case. (CLR 2004: 81)

Several questions arise from the ethnohistorical analysis’s assertions, notably, debate about the extent of the Burroughs family’s resources, relevance of comparisons of such remote sites as the Caribbean, and the lack of confirmation about such a building, or its remnants, from the Robertson brothers’ oral histories. Nonetheless, the report raised valid questions that warrant further review. This modern-day challenge to the traditionally held views adds an interesting layer of discussion to ongoing research at the park. (CLR 2004: 81)

An Archeological Overview and Assessment of the park was prepared in 1998. The report identified several sites that are known or thought to contain substantial nineteenth-century subsurface resources. Researchers studied two cabin sites, “Cabin One” and “Cabin Two”, the Burroughs house, the Burroughs-era entry drive, two tobacco barns, and the Sparks and Burroughs cemeteries. Notably, important evidence about “Cabin One,” or the birth site cabin, and the Burroughs house were uncovered. Field crews clearly identified “Cabin One” and artifacts that linked the site to slave habitation. A recommendation for further study of the former Burroughs house site led to an excavation in 1999. The 1999 excavation concluded that the dwelling most likely housed middle-class people. The foundation was substantially constructed and the recovered artifacts, including porcelain and window glass link the house to people of some economic means. (CLR 2004: 81)

The Archeological Overview and Assessment made recommendations for further study. While some of these early findings refute the hypothesis proposed in the ethnohistorical analysis about an alternative spatial and social organization on the Burroughs farm, further study is necessary before any conclusions can be drawn about the validity of the park’s current interpretation. (CLR 2004: 81)

The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and the Northeast Regional Archeology Program undertook a geophysical investigation followed by archeological investigation within the historic core in 2013 and 2014. Details of the investigation are contained in Geophysical Investigations in the Historic Core at Booker T. Washington National Monument NRAP Project No. BOWA 2014 A. In 2015, LIDAR scanning of the historic core documented site topography at an exceptionally detailed level. Data from this scan shows minor fluctuations in the site surface and will aid research efforts.

Westlake Development:
In 1987, Roanoke Land and Auction Company made 285 acres directly abutting the park available for sale. It was advertised as part of a large working farm, containing 75 to 100 acres of cropland and the remainder in pasture and woods. The Willard Companies, a Virginia development firm, purchased 139 acres of the original 285 acres offered for sale next to the park and sought permission from the Franklin County Planning Board to build a ten-year mixed-use development based on the town center model. Upon completion, the development would include a golf course, condominiums, shopping center, assisted living center, retirement community, movie theatre, retail/office space and a building supply store. Willard went before the Franklin County Planning Commission in November 2000 seeking rezoning of eighty-two acres of agricultural land and fifty-seven acres of light manufacturing land to a planned commercial district. The Westlake development is now mostly built out. (CLR 2004: 82; Review comment, T. Sims)

The park’s primary concern surrounding Westlake development was in securing property to serve as a visual buffer. The most important property determined by the General Management Plan viewshed analysis was a fifteen-acre parcel northeast of the park boundary, a critical buffer between the park’s historic resources and large scale retail development on nearby land. Legislation was introduced in Congress in April 2001 to authorize the purchase of these fifteen acres. The Conservation Fund

purchased the land in February 2002 and in 2004 it was transferred to the park service. (CLR 2004: 83)

The National Park Service's stewardship of the Booker T. Washington National Monument has been characterized by dynamic changes as well as maintenance of the status quo. In the early years, the National Park Service undertook substantial planning and development to bring the site up to service-wide standards for the treatment of historic resources and to prepare for visitors. Between 1956 and 1966, the park altered the landscape appreciably through the demolition of Hopkins Hall, Phillips' cabin replica, and the Burch Hall foundation, as well as through construction of the replica kitchen cabin, Roll Road interpretive trail, park entry road, and visitor center. Direct programmatic needs, interpretive goals, and landscape treatment has shifted through more than fifty years of National Park Service stewardship. Today the park strives to present an accurate view of Booker T. Washington's childhood home and create interpretive connections between his boyhood experiences and Washington's influence and contributions to contemporary society. (CLR 2004: 83)

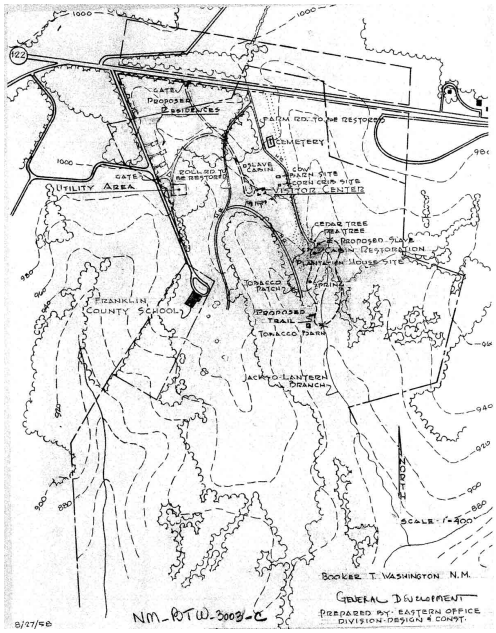


Figure 16. General Development Plan, 1958. (Denver Service Center, eTIC, Dwg. 404-3003-C)



Figure 17. View looking southwest in 1965 at James Holmes, seasonal park ranger, standing in the Burroughs house foundation interpreted with a flower border. The park's reconstructed "Cabin Two" is in the background. (BOWA)

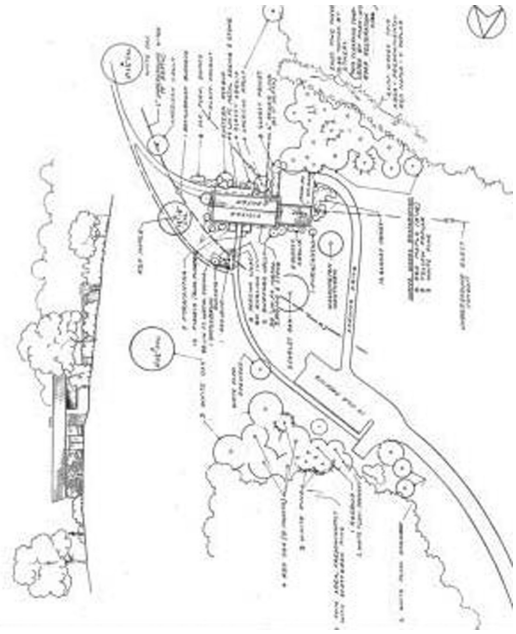


Figure 18. Mission 66 landscape plan for the new visitor center and parking area. Detail from As Built Drawing, 1965. (Denver Service Center, eTIC, Dwg. 404-3016-A)



Figure 19. View looking northeast toward the corn crib and horse barn in the background in 1974, with farm animals contributing to the setting of the living historical farm. (BOWA)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	Yes	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Outbuilding	Agricultural Outbuilding	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Recreation	Campground/Picnic Area	Yes	Yes	No
Funerary	Cemetery	Cemetery	Yes	Yes	No
Education	Educational Related Housing	Educational Related Housing	Yes	No	No
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)	Farm (Plantation)	Yes	No	Yes
Agriculture/Subsistence	Horticulture Facility	Horticulture Facility	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	No	Yes	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Multiple Dwelling	Multiple Dwelling-Other	Yes	No	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Museum (Exhibition Hall)-Other	Yes	Yes	No
Education	School	School	Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

The grounds and trails at Booker T. Washington National Monument are accessible to the public 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. The visitor center is open year round with the exception of major holidays. Tours are offered daily. Vehicular access and parking is limited by a gate on the entry drive.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Significant landscape characteristics identified for the Booker T. Washington NM Landscape are natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, constructed water features, views and visas, small-scale features, and archeological sites. Of these, the most important landscape characteristics are spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, and archeological sites. Resources associated with the Burroughs family coexist with resources associated with the former elementary school, built one hundred years later, and amidst Mission 66 site improvements made by the National Park Service to provide for visitor use and interpretation. The features that contribute were either present during the period of significance or are in-kind replacements of historic features.

During early evaluations of the property in the 1950s, the National Park Service recognized that the Booker T. Washington NM Landscape did not retain integrity to the period of Booker T. Washington's enslavement between 1856 and 1865. During a 1908 visit Booker T. Washington commented on the degree of change that had taken place during a period of over forty years. However, as a park commemorating Washington, its association with him remains strong and the property retains integrity to the period of race relations, African-American Memorialization during World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. Mission 66 architecture and landscape features including the visitor center, entry drive, and parking area remain intact, conveying the integrity of the National Park Service's era of design and construction from 1956 to 1966.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places identifies seven aspects of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association). Retention of these qualities is essential for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven qualities of integrity need to be present to suggest a sense of past time and place. The Booker T. Washington NM landscape retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, and association. Materials, workmanship, and feeling have been diminished. The majority of the historic structures associated with Washington's tenure on the property and the workmanship they embodied, including the birth cabin ("Cabin One"), kitchen cabin/slave cabin ("Cabin Two"), Burroughs house, and multiple outbuildings have been removed, destroyed, or lost. Non-historic replicas and interpretive displays help to partially convey the historic feeling of the property and interpret the property's historic character.

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed, or the place where the historic event occurred. Extant historic features of the Booker T. Washington NM remain in their original location, including specimen trees, the majority of circulation routes or traces dating to Washington's tenure, and circulation systems established during Mission 66. The Tobacco barn, visitor center, and the former Booker T. Washington Elementary School remain in their historic locations. The historic Sparks and Burroughs cemeteries and their markers also remain in their original locations.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The loss of the majority of the Burroughs era farm buildings and structures has impacted the ability of the landscape to portray the original design of the domestic portion of the property as Washington knew it, although the National Park Service has outlined the footprints of several missing buildings with flat stones. Non-contributing replica structures allude to the historic character of the domestic yard as it likely existed during Washington's enslavement, but nonetheless present a sterile interpretation of the landscape and conditions. Larger circulation systems throughout the property remain largely intact. The Booker T. Washington Elementary School, now used as the park administrative and maintenance facility, retains integrity to its original design. The school's access road retains its original alignment. The Mission 66 era of design and construction remains evident in the extant visitor center, entrance road, parking lot, and split-rail fencing.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a property and the general character of the place. The isolated character of the historically rural setting is becoming increasing threatened by adjacent recreational and retail land use. A

screen of vegetation planted along the east boundary of the park has helped to preserve the integrity of the landscape setting. Despite the risk of development around the park, the property retains integrity of setting.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during the period of significance in a particular pattern or configuration to give form to the property. None of the buildings and associated with the Burroughs farm survive, with the exception of portions of the tobacco barn. Buildings in the historic core are conjectural replicas constructed in the 1960s through 1980s. Materials related to Mission 66 development on the site remain intact, including structures, fencing, and roadways. The majority of materials related to the Booker T. Washington Elementary school remain, although athletic fields and the basketball court have been removed.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the specified historic period of significance. The loss of Burroughs era buildings has resulted in the loss of integrity of workmanship characteristic of vernacular rural Virginia. A variety of replica structures portray some of this workmanship and traditional construction techniques. Evidence of workmanship is retained in the Mission 66 era structures and features on the site, including the visitor center, portions of the entry drive, and Mission 66 fencing.

Feeling:
Feeling is the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time resulting from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey a property's historic character. The highly manicured turf grass dominating the historic core of the property does not evoke the feeling characteristic of the historic period, or what is known regarding landscape patterns typical of a middle class farm in the Virginia Piedmont. The former Booker T. Washington Elementary School and the Mission 66 era features contribute to the feeling of the landscape during the periods of racial segregation and Mission 66 improvements.

Association:
Association is the direct link between the property and an important historic event or person. The Booker T. Washington NM Landscape maintains a strong association with Booker T. Washington. The property also retains a strong association with race relations and African American Memorialization during World War II, the Cold War, and Civil Rights Movement, racially segregated education and civil rights, and Mission 66.

Landscape Characteristic:

This section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features. Corresponding names and numbers from the List of Classified Structures (LCS) and Facility Management System Software (FMSS) are included in the summary tables, if applicable. This section also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic periods (Enslavement Period, 1856-1865; Memorial Period, 1945-1956; Racially Segregated Education and Civil Rights Period, 1952-1966; and Mission 66 Period, 1956-1966), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. Graphics associated with this section are located after their respective landscape characteristic.

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape. Gills Creek and numerous springs served as important natural features that influenced the establishment of a permanent residence on the property. These water features were essential to daily operations on the Burroughs plantation. Several small creeks meandered through the lower regions of the Burroughs property before emptying into Gills Creek, which paralleled the southern property boundary. These small creeks flooded several times annually, simultaneously eroding stream banks and replenishing soil nutrients. The most notable spring, located directly south of the Burroughs house, was the primary water source for residents, and fed by a tributary of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch. Subsequent landowners continued to use these reliable water sources, which allowed for agricultural production, sustained domestic life, and provided for livestock.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Gills Creek continues to parallel the southern boundary of the property, while the network of small streams meandering though the property remains and empties into Gills Creek (Figures 20 and 21, see also Cover). The spring to the south of the Burroughs house site is extant, although it is no longer used as a drinking water source. The current landforms and associated hydrological systems retain high integrity to the periods of significance and closely reflect their 1850s conditions. In 1998 several small wetland areas were identified along Gills Creek and Jack-O-Lantern Branch. These creeks continue to flood intermittently as they did during the historic period.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 20. View looking south at the spring and tributary of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch, with a field and woodlands beyond. (OCLP 2016, DSC-0093)



Figure 21. View looking southeast at a Jack-O-Lantern Branch tributary and fields and woodlands beyond. In the foreground is the outline of "Cabin One." In the background a wood footbridge crossing leads to the Plantation Trail. (OCLP 2016, DSC-0091)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). The suitability of the land for agriculture and the availability of water for household use and irrigation were essential to the Burroughs family. Agriculture required flat or gently rolling land and a reliable water source. The farm consisted of gently rolling hills and a defining ridge oriented north-south, which sloped gently down to Gills Creek. The topography was altered in the 1940s when Route 122 was reengineered the Farm Entry Road was constructed and in the 1950s and 1960s by construction of new buildings and circulation features for the Birthplace Memorial and the National Park Service.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The topography at Booker T. Washington NM exists much as it did during the historic period. The landscape continues to consist primarily of rolling hills dropping to creeks and wetland. The highest elevations continue to be along Route 122 and on the north-south ridge near the former elementary school. Gills Creek continues to define the lower topography of the park near the south boundary. The National Park Service restored topographic conditions after removing several Robertson period and Memorial period features.

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The primary spaces, or zones, within the property were defined by topography, vegetation, streams, and circulation routes such as the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike and later Route 122. The property was generally divided by a north-south running ridge. East of the ridge, near two small streams and a spring, James Burroughs developed the residential and agricultural core of the property that included the main house, slave quarters, privies, agricultural buildings, and other support infrastructure. West of the ridge, he used the land for agricultural production, although the exact pattern of field and forest during the Burroughs era is unknown.

The core of the property was connected to Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike by a curvilinear entrance road constructed during the Burroughs era, which followed the site's natural topography. This relationship was altered in 1945-1946 when the state straightened and widened the highway, after which it became known as State Route 122, and built a new two-lane driveway to connect the new highway alignment with the core of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial. The straight boulevard-style drive contrasted with the early curved entrance drive. Around the same time, Phillips added additional buildings within the historic core to accommodate the Memorial's programming needs. In the early 1950s, the Booker T. Washington Elementary School was constructed to the west of the dividing ridge, and connected to Route 122 by its own entrance road. Once established as a unit of the National Park Service in 1956, Mission 66 visitor facilities were constructed at the property, including a visitor center, a new entrance drive, and parking lot in a cluster northwest of the historic core. The park also demolished numerous buildings and structures dating to the Robertson and Memorial periods

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Contemporary spatial organization at Booker T. Washington NM reflects historic patterns established during the period of significance. Topography, vegetation, and watercourses continue to serve as boundaries of the park's primary outdoor spaces, revealing and concealing views, creating a sense of enclosure, and defining spaces. Within the southern portion of the park, the landscape is much less developed and consists primarily of woodland, forest, and lightly managed fields. In contrast, most activity on the site remains in the northern portion of the park.

The north-south running ridge continues to divide the property as it did when the Burroughs family inhabited the core and farmed on the ridge. With the park's removal of non-historic features, the historic core east of this ridge now features the Burroughs domestic yard and the majority of the National Park Service interpretive replicas (Figure 22). The historic core remains the center of the park's interpretive focus and is the most visited area of the park.

Visitor services and programs remain concentrated northwest of the historic core, while park administration and maintenance operations are located west of the core at the former elementary school (Figure 23). Demonstration fields are clustered beyond the historic core, visitor center, and former school. Another distinct park area is the large open field to the south of the former school. This long, relatively flat area is surrounded by forest that creates a distinct edge between the high trees and low field grasses.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22. View looking south at the historic core, replica buildings, and an accessible walk (part of the Plantation Trail). (OCLP 2016, DSC-0141)



Figure 23. View looking north-northwest at the historic core towards the visitor center. The woodlands at image left visually block park operations housed in the former elementary school to the west. (OCLP 2016, DCS-0420)

Landscape Characteristic: **Land Use**

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Land use describes the principal activities in the landscape that have formed, shaped, or organized the landscape as a result of human interaction. During the historic period, the property functioned in a wide variety of capacities, including agricultural production, residential/ domestic uses, funerary purposes, an educational campus, post office station, a commemorative and educational landscape under Sidney Phillips, and beginning in 1956 a unit of the National Park Service.

Three cemeteries were present during the historic period. The Burroughs cemetery was established by 1861 south of the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike and north of the domestic yard. The cemetery contained at least two marble headstones and footstones, one for James Burroughs and the second for his son James William (Billie) Burroughs. There were at least seven other unmarked fieldstones denoting burial sites. The Sparks cemetery was located south of the domestic core. It was in use before the Burroughs family purchased the property in the mid-nineteenth century, but its history is poorly documented. The Hayes cemetery was established just north of Route 122 by 1959, and possibly earlier.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Booker T. Washington NM is currently used as an educational, recreational, and commemorative landscape. A wide range of activities takes place throughout the park to interpret Washington's boyhood at the Burroughs farm, and his later life and tremendous accomplishments. Agricultural landscape patterns and activities are visible from Route 122 and throughout northern areas of the park with the highest visitation rates, primarily near the visitor center and historic core. Hay and tobacco crops are cultivated in several fields within the park boundary. Horses, cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, and ducks are kept within the historic core in support of interpretive and educational activities and tours. The southern portion of the park is primarily used for passive recreational activities via trails.

Activities associated with park operations are primarily clustered around the visitor center that houses a museum, exhibits, and interpretive offices. Outside are parking and picnic facilities. The former elementary school houses administrative offices and storage areas for vehicles, equipment, and materials. Portions of the landscape surrounding the former school are used for storage of gravel, sand, and brush. In 1979 a campground was constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps in a wooded area approximately three-quarters of a mile south of the school. The area had few amenities but accommodated up to eighty youth group campers. The campground was closed after the 1983 season.

The three cemeteries established during the historic period are extant. The Burroughs cemetery is located northwest of the visitor center, just west of the former Phillips entry road trace. The perimeter is marked by a split chestnut rail, arranged in Virginia Snake pattern laid in sections 8-9 feet long. There are six visible gravesites; two are marked with head and footstones and four are marked with fieldstones. Two identical white marble gravestones measuring 18" wide, 36" high, and 2" thick identify James Burroughs (10/30/1794–7/24/1861) and his son, James William (Billie) Burroughs (7/2/1835–3/7/1863). The inscriptions read:
--James Burroughs/ Born/ October 30, 1794/ Died/July 24, 1861/ "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."
--Billie/ Son of James & Elizabeth Burroughs/ Born/ July 2,1835,/ Was killed in Culpeper Co. Va./ March 17 th. 1863./ "Thou art dead but, thy Christian example liveth. A gallant soldier, beloved by all who knew him." (NR 1989 Sec.7: 8; CLR 2004: 90)

The Sparks cemetery remains in its original location within the forested southern region of the park, and contains approximately one marked gravestone and sixteen unmarked or illegibly marked gravestones. The Hayes cemetery is located north of Route 122 on land that was acquired in the early 1960s as a visual buffer. Measuring 60 x 60 feet, there are nine gravesites: one with metal marker, two with fieldstone markers, and six with headstones. Legible dates range from 1959-1977. Both the 1989 National Register and the 2004 CLR evaluated the Hayes cemetery as unrelated to the park's areas of significance. The cemetery is still considered active. (NR 1989 Sec.7: 8; CLR 2004: 90,94)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Burroughs Family Cemetery	182387	Contributing	007809		Asset		No
Sparks Cemetery	182389	Contributing	080075		Asset		No
Hayes Cemetery	182391	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. The exact pattern of forest and field during the Burroughs era is unknown. However, physical evidence provided by the known hydrology and topography of the site combined with personal recollections of later residents, suggests that the Burroughs family cleared large tracts of land in the northeast section of the property, west of the north-south ridge, and areas along Gills Creek floodplain in the southern portion of the site for agriculture. Accounts from the Robertson brothers tell of pre-existing fields in these areas that they later expanded. Typical of the time period, more acreage was forested than cleared during Burroughs's ownership because of the intensive labor required to clear the trees.

When the Robertsons acquired the property in 1894, the farm had been poorly maintained for some time and likely required substantial attention to restore it to working order. It is probable that fields were overgrown with successional vegetation and needed to be cleared. The Robertsons located working fields in areas with soil best suited for agriculture, utilizing the high lands near the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike, the level region southeast of the future elementary school, and a fertile but narrow strip of land along Gills Creek where yearly flooding replenished soil nutrients. Grover Robertson remembered, "there wasn't too much land around the house that was cleared land, most of it [the cleared land] was around back side of Gills Creek." Large stands of forest with abundant Virginia pines and red and white oaks were located in the northwest, south-central, and east-central areas of the property.

During the Burroughs period, much of the food for the family table was grown in a substantial kitchen garden, presumably located in convenient proximity to the Burroughs house. While the roster of plants that were grown is unknown, typical plants of a nineteenth century kitchen garden include herbs, tomatoes, potatoes, berries, cucumbers, lettuce, beans, snap peas, turnips, sweet potatoes, asparagus, peppers, celery, cabbage, beets, carrots, artichokes, and horseradish. The garden site was present when the Robertsons took ownership of the property, although it was likely overgrown and required tending to coax it back into production. The Robertsons also had an extensive kitchen garden, although it is unclear if the garden was in the same location as the Burroughs. Mrs. Robertson grew peas, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, cabbage, beets, and other fruits and vegetables in the garden that stretched from just west of the former slave cabin down to a tributary of the Jack- O-Lantern Branch.

A pear and apple orchard that dated to the Burroughs period was still present when the Robertsons took ownership of the property. According to the Robertsons, fruit trees were located "all around the house here…apples and all kinds of fruit…old trees, rustic old apples they called them." The orchard extended from behind the main dwelling down to the spring. The orchard was inventoried

by the WPA in 1937 and described as a “fine old orchard that survived years of inattention.” There is no evidence to suggest that the orchard was laid out in a formal grid. (CLR 2004: 35)

Several specimen trees were present during the Burroughs era. The Burroughs house was constructed near a spring and in the shade of a grove of hardwood trees. The catalpa, juniper, cedar, and two locusts, later referenced by the Robertson brothers comprised part of the shady grove surrounding the house and domestic yard at the time of the Burroughs family occupation. The presence of such a grove is corroborated by the Robertson brothers who moved to the Burroughs farm as children; they remembered a more complete and substantial grove existing in the 1890s. Peter Robinson also recalled an old rose bush at the corner of the house, which may have dated to Booker T. Washington’s time. Five white oaks marked the southeast property line and there was a white oak near the spring.

When Booker T. Washington NM was established in 1956, acreage consisted of a patchwork of field and forest. Much of the land adjacent to the core area was maintained as field and the southern end of the park was kept in forest. A large, linear field on the ridge in the southern region of the site was surrounded by forest that stretched down to Gills Creek. Several structures existed in this large upper field, presumably left over from former agricultural activities. Successional forest growth sprouted within the southeast section of the field, indicating that it had not been cultivated for many years.

At the elementary school, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) planted shrubs and trees in the turn-around and near the structure sometime during the school’s years of operation from 1954 to 1966. The plantings consisted of barberry, juniper, and a Norway spruce. In 1965-1966, the National Park Service installed ornamental flower and shrub beds, trees, and lawns as part of the final phases of construction of the Mission 66 visitor center.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The park’s forests and fields are essential to preserving the rural agricultural setting of Booker T. Washington NM. While almost no above ground resources remain dating to Washington’s time at the property, the park manages the vegetation to illustrate patterns of field and forest characteristic of the 1850s farm, although some allowances have been made for interpretive and maintenance needs. The current spatial organization of field and forest only reflects the layout of the Burroughs farm in the most diagrammatic way, as the historic layout of fields and forest remains fundamentally unknown. Within the park boundary today there are approximately one hundred acres of forest land, sixty acres of pasture, forty acres of agricultural fields, and twenty-five acres of lawn.

Agricultural fields, including demonstration fields and hay fields, provide a bucolic setting and appearance conveying the character of the landscape in 1850. Several fields are mowed for hay by a local farmer under an agricultural use permit, perpetuating the historic setting surrounding the historic core and the former elementary school. Other fields are maintained as open agricultural land used for animal grazing. Forest overstory is composed of forty-five percent tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), twenty-five percent oak-hickory (Quercus sp.-Carya sp.), twenty percent Virginia pine (Pinus virginiana), and ten percent riparian mix including sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) and American beech (Fagus grandifolia). Common understory species include pawpaw (Asimina triloba), red maple (Acer rubrum), dogwood (Cornus florida), and redbud (Cercis canadensis). There is a wide range of ages of forest stands, especially within the southern portion of the park, reflecting the cyclic clearing of land for agricultural use and successional growth of vegetation over time.

Several specimen trees in the park likely date to the mid-1800s. The remains of the catalpa tree north of the Burroughs house site date to the primary period of significance (Figure 24). While the parent tree was removed in 2001, the stump and a root sucker remain. The tree has been propagated and specimens are available for planting. The Virginia red cedar near Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin (“Cabin Two”)” dates to the Burroughs period and continues to shade the domestic yard. It is one of the only above ground resources remaining from the historic period. A white oak near the spring was removed c. 2010, and presumably post-dated the Burroughs period, yet is was an aged tree that added to the historic scene. The five white oaks long the southeast

property line likely date to the Burroughs period and enhance the setting. Several plantings installed by the PTA in the former elementary school turn-around remain, and include barberry, juniper, and a Norway spruce tree. The Mission 66 ornamental flower and shrub beds at the entrance to the visitor center have been replaced with contemporary plantings and are no longer historic. Seasonal bulbs and myrtle (Vinca minor) grow in the Sparks Cemetery, possibly remnants of domestic plantings by the former tenants.

A rectangular demonstration garden, measuring approximately 70 x 70 feet and surrounded by paling fence, is located in the historic core, northwest of the Burroughs house site (Figure 25). Established by the National Park Service in c.1987, the garden is planted with vegetables commonly available during Washington's tenure that include cucumbers, collard greens, turnips, carrots, tomatoes, peppers, and beans. The park installed several contemporary fruit trees adjacent to the garden c.2010. Just south of Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin ("Cabin Two")," the park established an herb garden in c.1982, which is planted with herbs typical of those grown during Washington's time at the property (Figure 26). It measures 12'x14' and is framed by logs. The park planted two vegetation screens in the northeast corner of the park to block non-historic land uses beyond the park boundary in 1987-1988. Comprised of Virginia pine, dogwood, hemlock, and redbud, one stand parallels Route 122 and the other parallels a portion of the park's east boundary. The National Park Service has also planted non-historic ornamental plants near the visitor center and parking lot. Plantings include specimen redbud and oak, and annual flowers in mulch beds.

In general, the historic core presents a feeling of neatness and order, which was likely not characteristic of the historic period. The turf within the historic core is mowed regularly, presenting a manicured experience (see Figures 20-26). Fence lines are trimmed several times per year. Non-historic elements in the historic core and near the visitor center include mulch circles and plastic edge treatments around some trees.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Forests	182393	Contributing					No
Agricultural Fields	182395	Contributing					No
Catalpa Sprout	182397	Contributing					No
Virginia Red Cedar near Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin (“Cabin Two”)	182399	Contributing					No
Five White Oaks along Southeast Property Line	182401	Contributing					No
Plantings at Former Elementary School	182403	Contributing					No
Seasonal Bulbs and Myrtle at Sparks Cemetery	182405	Undetermined					No
Demonstration Garden	182407	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Herb Garden	182409	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Screening Plantings at Northeast Property Line	182411	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Ornamental Flower and Shrub Beds at Visitor Center	182417	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Lawns	182419	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

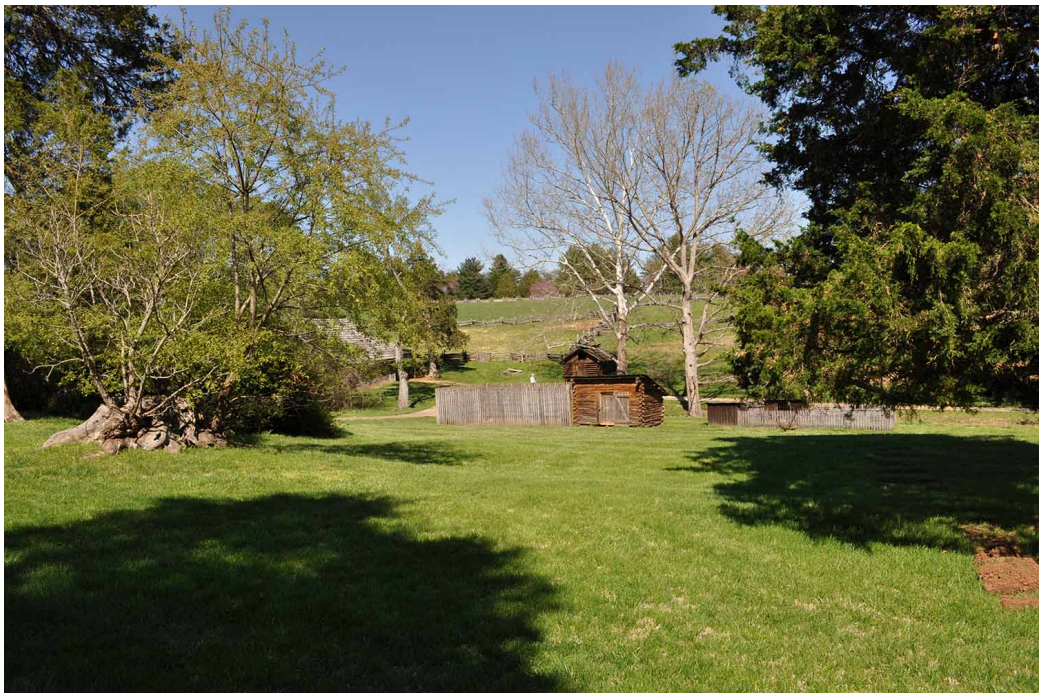


Figure 24. View looking east-northeast at the catalpa tree stump (image left) and part of a cedar (right). In the background are the chicken house and duck pen. (OCLP 2016, DCS-0199)



Figure 25. View looking northwest at the demonstration garden. (OCLP 2014, DCS-0326)



Figure 26. View looking southwest at the herb garden on the south side of the Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin ("Cabin Two'). (OCLP 2016, DCS-0421)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Circulation describes the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in the landscape. During much of the historic period, the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike was a major regional thoroughfare and bisected Franklin County. Also known as Hales Ford Road, the exact date of the turnpike's construction is unknown, although it was established prior to 1856. The road provided access to the Burroughs Plantation until it was replaced Virginia State Route 122 in 1945. Portions of Route 122 correspond to the historic alignment of the Turnpike, and in the vicinity of the park the new route was located just south of the turnpike roadbed. In 1953, a fifty-five mile stretch of Route 122 was designated Booker T. Washington Memorial Highway.

The original access route to the plantation from the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike is known as the Old Plantation Entrance Road. Its construction date is unknown, although it was established prior to 1856. The drive was approximately 8 feet wide and traveled in a south-southwesterly direction to approximately the site of the present visitor center before splitting into two paths; one leading to the house and barns and the other to agricultural fields on the ridge. A road now known as the Service Road likely dates to the Burroughs era and was used during daily operations on the farm. Another road trace extant today accessed agricultural fields or crop storage facilities in the Gills Creek area.

Access into the property was changed in 1945-1946 with construction of the two-lane Farm Access Road by the Commonwealth of Virginia, possibly on top of an earlier roadbed. The road was part of Sidney Phillips's development of the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial, and terminated as a turnaround in front of the Burroughs house. In 1953 a separate entrance road was built to the west to provide direct access from Route 122 to the Booker T. Washington Elementary school. This road terminated at the school as a circular turnaround. Visitor access into the property changed again in 1965-1966 when the National Park Service abandoned the Farm Access Road and built a

two-lane macadam-surfaced road between the Farm Access Road and the School Entrance Road. Part of Mission 66 development, the curvilinear Visitor Center Entrance Road connected to Route 122 and included a parking lot. The road was 20 feet wide and 726 feet long. At this time the park removed one lane of pavement from the Farm Access Road and planted grass.

Pedestrian circulation during the historic period ranged from earthen paths during the Burroughs and Robertson periods, gravel walks lined with stones during the Memorial period, and gravel and asphalt paths during the National Park Service period. In 1958 the park developed the "Roll Road Trail," or park interpretive trail. Using the landscape, topography, vegetation, and a few period structures to evoke the Burroughs' 1850s farm, it was planned to lead past forest enclosures, historic replicas, and agricultural fields to bring visitors in contact with natural and cultural patterns of the landscape, resembling what Washington would have experienced as a boy.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Alterations have been made to the visitor center environs at Booker T. Washington NM, but the entry experience and circulation patterns between the parking lot, picnic area, and visitor center remain largely the same as intended at the time of their construction. Virginia State Route 122 continues to serve as the primary access into the park.

Remnants of historic roads remain in the park. Traces of the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike are still visible north of Route 122. Previous farming activities have erased portions of the turnpike, leaving only depressed sections of a dirt road bound by earthen banks and filled with trees and shrubs. The Old Plantation Entrance Road exists today as a barely discernable trace in the woods between the Farm Access Road and Visitor Center Entrance Road, and on the north side Route 122. Traces of the Phillips's Farm Access Road also remain. It is used intermittently on a limited-access basis for maintenance activities and overflow parking. The gravel Service Road leading from visitor center to the former school the road trace leading south from the former school are also extant and used by park staff.

The Booker T. Washington Elementary School Entrance Road is used by park staff to access the park offices and the maintenance facility in the former school. It is 14 feet wide and 0.03 miles long. The Visitor Center Entrance Road retains its original curved alignment, narrow profile on the landscape, and ability to reveal and conceal views of the park though the adjacent vegetation. The visitor center parking lot was expanded in 1979 and 1986 to accommodate more cars and busses. Between 2008 and 2011 the terminus of this road was extended southeast and reconfigured as a turnaround in front of the visitor center (Figure 27). The asphalt surfaced parking lot measures approximately 162 feet long and 20 feet wide.

Several non-historic vehicular circulation features in the landscape primarily serve park staff. They include the Employee Parking Area located northwest of the visitor center, a one-lane Utility Road that provides access to the rear of the visitor center and the employee parking area, and a crushed stone Fire Access Road extending from the former school to the Jack-O-Lantern Trail. Non-historic pedestrian circulation in the park includes asphalt and concrete paved walks around the visitor center and through the historic core (see Figures 22 and 23). There are four wooden footbridges that cross tributaries of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch and provide access between the historic core and fields/forests to the south and east (Figure 28).

The Plantation Trail is a contemporary recreational trail, not a historic feature, partially adapted from the park's earlier Roll Road Trail. The 12-foot wide trail forms a ¼ mile loop beginning and ending at the visitor center, and connects interpretive structures and sites. The trail is primarily a gravel and packed earth surface although portions are paved; including the section that bisects the historic core (see Figures 21 and 22). This portion of the trail was paved in 1997 to meet accessibility standards. The Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail loops through the woodlands south of the historic core and past the Sparks Cemetery. The earthen trail is one-and-a-half miles long and 12 feet wide. In 1981 the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail and the Plantation Trail were designated the Booker T. Washington Unit of the National Recreational Trail System.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike Trace	182421	Contributing	236584				No
Old Plantation Entrance Road	182423	Contributing					No
Service Road, Visitor Center to Former School	182425	Contributing					No
Road Trace, South from Former School	182427	Contributing					No
Farm Access Road	182429	Contributing			Location		No
Booker T. Washington Elementary School Entrance Road	182431	Contributing	248166		Location		No
Visitor Center Entrance Road and Parking Lot	182433	Contributing	674021		Location	26952	Yes
Employee Parking Area	182435	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Utility Road	182437	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Fire Access Road	182439	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Reconstructed Bridges	182441	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Plantation Trail	182443	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Jack-O-Lantern Branch Trail	182445	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 27. View looking northwest at the Visitor Center Entrance Road turnaround, parking lot, and sidewalks. (OCLP 2014, DSC-0256)

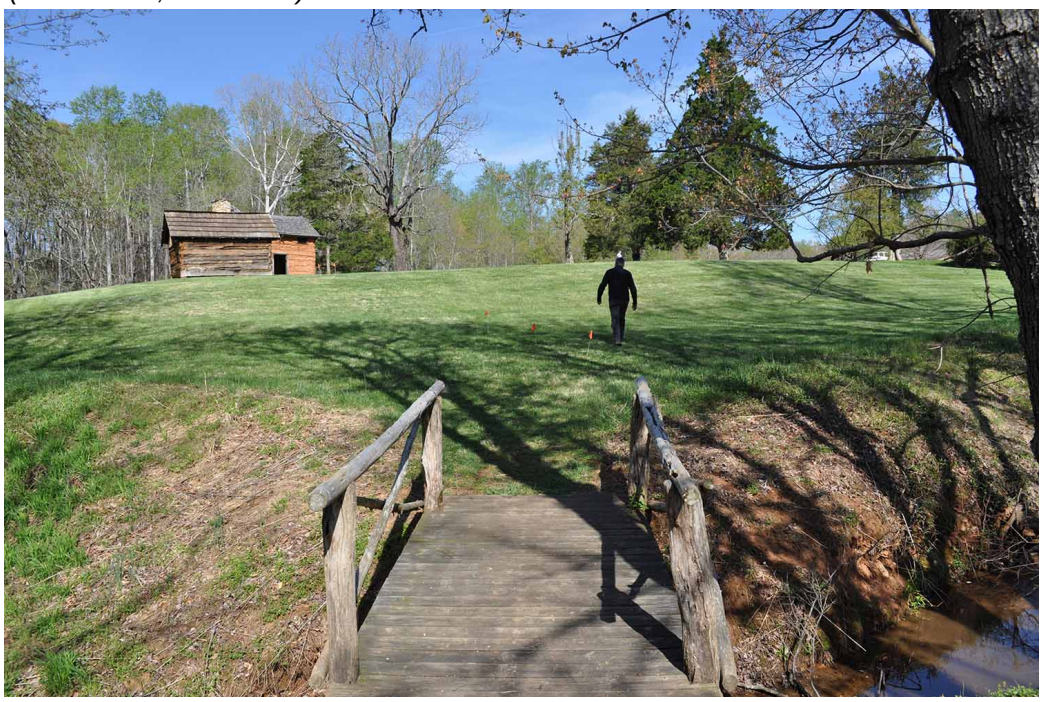


Figure 28. View looking northwest at one of the footbridges crossing a tributary of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch. (OCLP 2016, DSC-0076)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Elements primarily built for sheltering and forms of human activities are buildings, while functional elements constructed for other purposes than sheltering human activities are structures. During the Burroughs era a variety of buildings were constructed on the property for residential and agricultural purposes. Three structures of particular historic importance – the Burroughs house, "Cabin One," and "Cabin Two" – are described in further detail below. Supporting infrastructure and agricultural buildings included tobacco barns, privies, several corn cribs, a cow barn, a horse barn, and a detached dining room existed on the property, although their exact location and form is unknown in most instances. The type and form of buildings remained similar during Robertson ownership. Outbuildings including the tobacco barns, horse barn, and cow barn endured the change in ownership. The Robertsons stabled their horses in a barn built by the Burroughs, located in a grove of catalpa trees east of the main dwelling. The barn had two stables and was surrounded by a ten-foot shed roof on three sides.

The Burroughs house was constructed by the Burroughs family c.1850. Positioned near a spring and in the shade of a grove of hardwood trees, the simple-plan structure was constructed in a style typical of the time and region. The house was set back from the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike, a common practice in nineteenth-century Virginia Piedmont, to provide for an adequate view of approaching visitors. The Burroughs had ten children and the house was likely crowded and bustling with activity. After 1893, new owner John Robertson added an addition to the rear of the house and undertook a series of updates and modifications. The Robertson children recollect a stone terrace to the rear of the house, which may or may not predate their tenure. After the death of John Robertson, his son Tony and his family lived in the main house until 1945 when the property was sold to divide the estate among his siblings. When Sydney Phillips and the Birthplace Memorial acquired the property in 1945, the house was in disrepair. Phillips repaired and modified the house for offices, and altered the front porch. In 1950, the former Burroughs house burned and was not rebuilt.

The buildings known as "Cabin One" and "Cabin Two" were historically in close proximity to the Burroughs house. Documentation indicates Booker T. Washington was born in "Cabin One," a primitive log structure southeast of the Burroughs dwelling. This cabin is reported to have been in such disrepair that he and his family moved into the kitchen cabin ("Cabin Two") when he was a small child. Washington described the cabin of his childhood as a dilapidated, ramshackle dwelling that barely kept the elements out; the windows had no glass, the floor was earth, and the door hung by "…uncertain hinges" and had "large cracks in it." Washington also described the room as "too small" and "a very uncomfortable one," and recollected sleeping "on a pallet on the dirt floor, or, to be more correct, we slept in and on a bundle of filthy rags laid upon the dirt floor." (CLR 2004: 110-111)

The Robertsons utilized "Cabin Two" for storage of potatoes and dry goods. They stored sorghum, or cane seed, in the attic. Washington's birth cabin ("Cabin 1") was abandoned long before the Robertsons arrived, but its remains were visible at the turn of the century. The Robertson brothers recall the chimney remnants, a potato hole, and the raised earth floor. "Cabin Two" was used later to temporarily house John Robertson's mother-in-law. The Robertsons removed the cabin in 1922.

In c.1894, John Robertson built a one-story log tobacco barn that measured 17 x 17 feet on a foundation of loose stones. The building was moved to its present location in 1959 by the National Park Service from its original location on a nearby slope. It was restored during the late 1950s and early 1960s using logs salvaged from a Burroughs barn. A 9.5-foot wide open shed attachment was added in 1963.

In 1932 John Robertson's son Tony Robertson constructed a two-room cottage northwest of the old Burroughs house to provide a residence for his widowed mother, who lived in the cottage until her death in 1943, after which the building was utilized for Birthplace Memorial activities. The structure

was eventually expanded into a twelve room structure known as the Virginia Cottage. Under National Park Service ownership, the Virginia Cottage was used as park housing.

In 1949 Sidney Phillips and his organization completed a "reconstruction" of Washington's birthplace cabin, but located it southwest of the former Burroughs house, or the approximate location of "Cabin Two," instead of the actual site at "Cabin One" southeast of the house. The replica was rebuilt in 1960 by the National Park Service. Phillips also converted an old Robertson frame barn into a dormitory and dining hall in 1949. Named Tuck Industrial Hall, the building was located approximately one hundred yards north of the former Burroughs house, at the juncture of the Old Plantation Entrance Road and the Farm Access Road, facing south into the core of the property. The building was removed by the National Park Service in 1958.

The Birthplace Memorial also constructed new buildings in the core of the old farmstead to be close to the repurposed Robertson buildings and existing infrastructure and near the symbolic proximity to Washington's birth site. In 1949 Phillips completed Hopkins Hall, a two-story brick building named after Walter L. Hopkins, one of the first white men named to the Memorial's board of trustees. Hopkins Hall was set into a hillside east of the former Burroughs house with a walkout basement facing the Birthplace Memorial's eastern boundary. The National Park Service used the building as a visitor center until it was removed by the National Park Service by 1966. In 1951, Phillips began construction of Burch Hall south of Hopkins Hall. However, construction of the planned two-story, 30 x 60-foot, brick building never progressed beyond the foundation and the building. The National Park Service removed the unfinished foundation in 1958. Concurrent with the Birthplace Memorial building program was the construction of the Booker T. Washington Elementary School in 1953. The one-story brick building was located west of the historic core of the farm and accessed by its own entrance road. The school operated until 1966.

As just noted, the National Park Service made use of existing buildings and structures at the site. However, by 1966 the park had built a visitor center as part of the service-wide Mission 66 era of improvements. The one-story brick and frame building housed administrate and interpretive offices, and was located northwest of the historic core, in conjunction with construction of the visitor center entrance road and parking lot. The building was sited and designed to have a minimal presence in the landscape, including a low roofline, large glass windows in the rear providing views to the historic core, and a clean, unadorned styling of its façade.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
No structures from Booker T. Washington's time at the Burroughs Plantation remain at the park. Documented archeological remains exist for what has traditionally been considered remnants of the Burroughs house and two slave cabins. These features are discussed in the Archeological Sites section, below. The tobacco barn is the oldest structure in the park, dating to 1894. It is a rough-hewn log tobacco barn with chinked and daubed joints.

In 1960, the National Park Service constructed the current Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin ("Cabin Two") replica to replace the deteriorated replica cabin built by the Birthplace Memorial (Figure 29). The one-story log cabin structure sits southwest of the Burroughs house site and measures 16 x 14 feet. It features two windows, one door, a loft, stone hearth, and chimney. The cabin is constructed from logs salvaged from three dismantled slave cabins. The park also constructed a privy near the historic core in 1960, but it is no longer extant.

Booker T. Washington Elementary School closed in 1966, and for a number of years the school building stood vacant until it was reopened for meeting space and other activities. Franklin County donated the structure to the National Park Service in 1974, and since then the building has been gradually altered for use as park offices and as a maintenance facility. Material and equipment storage areas are located near the building, altering its historic appearance and land use. This includes the use of the former packed-earth basketball court on the west side of the building as a maintenance yard bound by an open shed building used for equipment storage.

The visitor center, constructed in 1965-1966, continues to reflect original characteristics of its Mission 66 design. The facility currently houses exhibit space, a small auditorium, restrooms, and

staff offices. Visitors generally enter the structure prior to beginning tours of the park. As visitors exit the rear doors of the building they overlook the historic core and the primary historic resources of the park. A multi-use addition was constructed in 2003.

The National Park Service constructed several interpretive replicas in the early 1970s in the historic core that remain today (Figures 30 and 31). A two-story horse barn was constructed in 1970 northeast of the Burroughs house site. The 16 x 20-foot log barn and fieldstone foundation features a frame shed on three sides and an open shelter on the east side. The building was constructed from logs salvaged from a 1860s barn and are treated with creosote. A one-story corn crib was built in 1972 south of the horse barn. The structure measures 11 x 13 feet and is constructed with peeled pine and locust logs and includes an enclosed loft. The structure sits on a six-pier foundation of fieldstone boulders. The one-story blacksmith shed was built in 1972 southwest of "Cabin Two." The 19 x 13-foot frame structure is enclosed on three sides and is open on the south side. The structure contains a stone forge and leather and wood bellows, and is framed by several sections of a snake-rail fence. A chicken house southwest of the horse barn dates to 1973 (see Figure 24). It measures 13 x 9 feet and an adjacent pen measures 22 x 36 feet. The structure is constructed of peeled pine logs and sits on a fieldstone foundation. The chicken pen is enclosed by an 8-foot high paling fence. The park constructed the smokehouse south of the Burroughs house site in 1974. The interpretive replica is constructed of oak logs, measures 12 x14 feet, and sits on a fieldstone foundation. In 1979 the park constructed a wood pavilion at the campground. The pavilion remained after the campground was closed at the end of 1983, but it has since been removed.

As noted earlier, the National Park Service removed several buildings and structures utilized by the Birthplace Memorial shortly after acquiring the property, namely several Robertson period buildings (Barn/Tuck Hall) and Memorial period buildings (Hopkins Hall, Burch Hall foundation). However, the Virginia Cottage northwest of the historic core was retained as the residence for Sidney Wright, the park maintenance foreman, through the early 1980s. The Wrights accessed the property via the Farm Access Road and parked their personal vehicles next to the house. The proximity of this non-historic structure to the historic core led to removal of the structure in 1985 after Wright retired. The building was razed by the Burnt Chimney Fire Department, the parking area for the structure was removed, and the area was graded and seeded, returning it to a flat, mowed lawn that harmonized with the adjacent landscape.

Additional interpretive structures were constructed in the historic core in the late 1980s. A hog pen built in 1987 west of the horse barn measures 48 x50 feet and is enclosed by 8-foot and 12-foot chestnut rails stacked between posts. The pen includes three sheds constructed of native rough-cut oak planks with hand split oak roofs. A duck pen just south of the chicken house also dates to 1987 (Figure 32). It is a 20 x 7-foot area for geese enclosed by a paling fence. There are also several stone-faced culverts in the park, which were likely installed after the historic period.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Tobacco Barn	182447	Contributing	007802		Location	22198	Yes
Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin (1960)	182449	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Booker T. Washington Elementary School	182451	Contributing	247996		Location		No
Visitor Center	182453	Contributing	671520		Location	22204	Yes
Horse Barn	182455	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Corn Crib	182457	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Blacksmith Shed	182459	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Chicken House	182461	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Smokehouse	182463	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Hog Pen	182465	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Duck Pen	182467	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No
Stone-Faced Culverts	182469	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location		No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 29. View looking south-southwest at Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin ("Cabin Two") (image right), smokehouse (left), and the stone outline of the Burroughs house site. (OCLP 2016, DSC-0085)



Figure 30. View looking northeast at the chicken house and duck pen, with the horse barn and corn crib in the background. (OCLP 2016, DSC-0221)



Figure 31. View looking northeast at the blacksmith shed. In the background on the hillside are "Cabin Two" and the smokehouse. (OCLP 2016, DSC-7829)



Figure 32. View looking southwest at the pond and stone dam, adjacent to the duck pen (image left) and the chicken house (right). (OCLP 2016, DSC-0090)

Landscape Characteristic: Constructed Water Features

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Constructed water features or elements utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape. There are no known constructed water features that were present during the historic period.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
A small pond and stone dam are located at the northeast corner of the historic core (see Figure 32). Water is impounded by a small stone dam before running south into a tributary of the Jack-O-Lantern Branch. The construction date of the pond and dam are no known, but it may coincide with construction of the adjacent horse barn and chicken house in the early 1970s or the duck pen and hog pen in the late 1980s.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Pond and Stone Dam	182471	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset		No

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Views and vistas are features that create or allow a range of vision, which can be natural or designed and controlled. One of the most important views during the Burroughs period was from the house to the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike. This view allowed residents to see who was approaching the house. Although not planned or managed, interior views also existed between the various buildings and structures in the core of the farm as well as longer views from the north-south ridgeline towards the surrounding fields and woodlands. During the Birthplace Memorial period, the straight alignment of the newly constructed Farm Access Road provided a direct view of the Burroughs house. However, the addition of new buildings in the historic core created new interior views. Under National Park stewardship, non-historic buildings and structures were removed from the historic core, thus greatly opening up interior views. The park's design of a visitor center in 1965-1966 included large glass windows in the rear that provided views to the historic core.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Contributing views and vistas at Booker T. Washington NM are located primarily within the park's boundary, although some views encompass adjacent lands. The views primarily reveal the property's rural agricultural setting and include views to surrounding fields and forest. Fence lines and grazing animals add to the scenic qualities of the park's rural setting.

The Birthplace Memorial's Farm Entry Road was abandoned at the end of the historic period, but the trace remains, which has preserved the open view between the Rocky Mount-Lynchburg Turnpike/Route 122 corridor and the Burroughs house site. From the historic core, there are views of agricultural fields to the north and northeast. The purchase of a15-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the park has helped to preserve these views. The view to the historic core from the visitor center also remains intact, aided by a wayside on the rear deck that interprets the Burroughs property and life of Booker T. Washington. The kitchen garden, slave cabin, smokehouse, and several specimen trees are readily visible from the visitor center, but the topography of the historic core obscures other features.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views of the Rural Agricultural Landscape	182473	Contributing					No
View from Burroughs house site to Road Corridor	182475	Contributing					No
View of Historic Core from the Visitor Center	182477	Contributing					No
View from Historic Core to the north and northeast	182479	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. During the Burroughs era, split-rail and worm fencing generated by the process of clearing woodlands, likely enclosed the garden, domestic yard, and large animal corrals. The exact location(s) of this fencing is unknown. During the Robertson period, the yard surrounding the stone terrace and Mrs. Robertson's flower garden was fenced to keep the free roaming chickens away from the house. Peter Robertson described the domestic yard and fencing, "My dad had the yard fenced…I don't know just how far, twenty feet, thirty, twenty-five, and my mother had rosebushes alongside that fence, and there's a gate right straight in front of it, the porch here that the path went through…" (CLR 2004: 34)

During the Memorial Period, Sidney Phillips added a variety of features to interpret the life of Booker T. Washington and allow for visitor access. Features included a sign marking 'The Place Where Booker T. Washington was Born,' a wishing well, and ninety-three numbered and lighted posts associated with "The Life of Booker T. Washington in Electrical Illumination" exhibit. The National Park Service removed these features and installed interpretive waysides in the 1960s, concurrent with the development of the park and Mission 66 site improvements. The park also erected split-rail fencing along the entrance road and near the visitor center complex.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The sections of split-rail fencing along the entrance road and visitor center complex constructed as components of the visitor center complex during the Mission 66 program remain today (Figure 33). The park has installed additional sections of fencing in the historic core and surrounding fields. However, these fences are conjectural elements added during the living farm period of interpretation and are considered non-contributing features (Figure 34).

Several non-contributing small-scale features throughout the park are associated with visitor use and interpretation. They include a grinding stone on the south side of the horse barn, a log hitching rail just south of the horse barn, and a metal dinner bell atop an 8-foot tall wooden post near the southeast corner of the Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin ("Cabin Two"). A bust of Booker T. Washington is a recent memorial feature located near the visitor center entrance, and a series of contemporary waysides installed by the National Park Service provide interpretive information to visitors. Other non-contributing features include benches, picnic tables, grills, trash and recycling cans, wooden barrels, and stacked logs. There is also a flagpole at the visitor center and a security camera pointed toward the entrance road.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Split-Rail Fencing along Highway, Entrance Roads, and near Visitor Center	182481	Contributing	674325		Asset		No
Split-Rail Fencing in Historic Core and Fields	182483	Noncontributing – Compatible			Asset		No
Grinding Stone	182485	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Hitching Rail	182487	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Dinner Bell	182489	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Booker T. Washington Monument	182491	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	236650		Location	26956	Yes
Waysides	182493	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Benches	182495	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Picnic Tables	182497	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Grills	182499	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Trash and Recycling Cans	182501	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Wooden Barrels	182503	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Stacked Logs	182505	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Flagpole	182507	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Security Camera	182509	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 33. View looking southeast from intersection of Route 122 and the entrance road to the former school. Fencing along the highway, entry roads, and near the visitor center was erected during the Mission 66 period of development. (OCLP 2016, DSC-0526)



Figure 34. View looking southeast at worm fencing around the park's agricultural fields and pastures. (OCLP 2016, DSC-0020)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Archeological resources at Booker T. Washington National Monument are a critical record of the physical history of the site and hold tremendous information potential. Numerous archeological projects have been conducted on the property, including several studies listed below and numerous ad-hoc investigations in support of operations and site management in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Research studies have focused primarily on the historic core of the property while most other areas of the park remain inadequately understood. A variety of outbuildings and agricultural structures beyond the historic core, whose presence is reported by oral tradition, have not been confirmed.

The three primary archeological sites at Booker T. Washington National Monument are: Cabin One Site (Birthplace Cabin Site), Cabin Two Site (Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin), and the Burroughs House Site:

--Cabin One Site (Birthplace Cabin Site). The National Park Service laid flat stones flush with the ground to mark the approximate but not actual outline of the cabin that Booker T. Washington was born in and lived in for a short period of time. A wooden post stands at one corner (see Figure 21). The site is listed as a contributing feature in the park's 1989 National Register documentation.
--Cabin Two Site (Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin). A replica of the Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin, constructed by the National Park Service in 1960, marks the "Cabin Two" Site and Washington's boyhood home. The site is not listed as a contributing feature in the park's 1989 National Register documentation (the replica cabin is listed as non-contributing). As determinations of archeological significance are beyond the scope of this CLI, it is evaluated in this report as Undetermined.
--Burroughs House Site. The National Park Service laid flat stones flush with the ground to mark the approximate outline of the Burroughs House Site (see Figure 29). The site is listed as a contributing feature in the park's 1989 National Register documentation.

The earliest archeological study at the park was conducted in 1959 by John Griffin, Regional Archeologist, who excavated the foundation and area surrounding the Cabin Two Site, commonly known as the Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin and understood to be Booker T. Washington's boyhood home. Forty years later, Dr. Amber Bennett of Sweet Briar College conducted extensive excavations on the Burroughs House Site and the "Cabin One" Site, believed to be the birthplace of Booker T. Washington.

Three geophysical studies have been conducted within the historic core of the property. The first was conducted by Doug Campana in 1985; a second was conducted by Steven De Vore in 1998, and a third was conducted by William Griswold of the Northeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, Elizabeth Rupp of Valley Forge National Historical Park, Historical Landscape Architects Eliot Foulds and Alexandra von Bieberstein both of the National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation between 2013 and 2014. More information regarding these studies is available in specific reports developed for each investigation.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cabin One Site (Birthplace Cabin Site)	182511	Contributing					No
Cabin Two Site (Kitchen Cabin/Slave Cabin)	182513	Undetermined					No
Burroughs House Site	182515	Contributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 8

Next Assessment Due Date: 05/08/2034

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 05/08/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/20/2017

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Booker T. Washington NM Landscape is in “good” condition. A “good” condition assessment indicates the property shows no clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The site’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is needed to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Deferred maintenance needs of the park should be addressed, including replacement of missing historic trees.

Date Identified: 09/14/2017

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Off-site development continues to threaten the historic setting of the property and views and vistas.

Date Identified: 09/14/2017

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Planting Practices

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: The highly-maintained turf-grass landscape surrounding the historic core compromises the historic setting, which would not have been manicured turf grass but rather a more rustic look, indicative of a working landscape, as documented in historic photographs.

Date Identified: 09/14/2017

Resolved? No

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type:	General Management Plan
Document Date:	2000-01-01
Title:	
IRMA Link:	
Narrative:	

The 2000 Abbreviated General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP-EIS) states that park resources will be managed in a way that enables the site's resources to visually tell a compelling story. Specific direction is provided in the following statements:
--The park will not attempt to restore the entire site to one particular historic era, but rather will use available above- and below-ground resources to show the evolution of the site through archeological investigation and interpretive signage.
--Existing historic and reconstructed structures, including buildings and fences, will remain in situ and be preserved through regular maintenance.
--Some reconstruction of cultural landscape features may be undertaken if sufficient documentation is found.

The GMP-EIS outlines a course of action that highlights the life and accomplishments of Booker T. Washington within the context of his lifetime and after his death. The park emphasizes the repercussion of Washington's work and teachings, especially as they related to mid-1900s segregated education. Two examples of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century race relations are tangibly represented in the park. The site was Washington's birthplace and boyhood home prior to emancipation and the site of a racially segregated elementary school built during the turbulent 1950s. Representation of both of these periods of history provides the park with an excellent opportunity to interpret each in the broad context of the evolving spectrum of American race relations. (CLR 2004: 139-140)

The GMP-EIS directs the treatment of the park as one cultural landscape management zone, making allowances for contemporary improvements to occur in a designated facility development overlay zone. Within the single cultural landscape management zone, the former elementary school will be partially restored as an interpretive facility and the traditional Burroughs landscape will remain largely as it does today, barring any new discoveries in documentary and archeological research. Existing historic and reconstructed features can be maintained and replaced in kind if necessary. If new information is found, the GMP allows for the possible reconstruction of features relating to the Burroughs farm. (CLR 2004: 140)

Booker T. Washington National Monument has several projects related to the future management of several landscape features within the park boundary (exclusive of historic buildings).

--PMIS #75685A (in progress), "Prepare Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for Burroughs Planation, Part II: Treatment." This ongoing project will complete a supplemental Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for the central portion of the landscape where Booker T. Washington was born into slavery on April 5, 1856. The project will prepare recommendations and plans for the central 5-acres of the former 207-acre middle-class tobacco farm supportive of the park's interpretive objectives and its mission to serve as a resource for public education and as a focal point for continuing discussion about the legacies of Booker T. Washington as an educator, advisor, author and orator, and the evolving context of race in American society. The proposed project involves preparation of a second volume of a cultural landscape report, focused on a discreet restoration zone within the larger national monument property. (Funding of $45,000.00 received in 2013)

--PMIS #162284, "Update National Register Documentation for Booker T. Washington National Monument." The proposed new National Register documentation will address new areas and periods of significance and additional resources associated with social and political developments related to race relations and also associated with park development between the 1950s and the early1970s. Resources to be documented as contributing include the former Booker T. Washington Elementary School, which served as local "model" segregated public school between 1954 and 1966, and National Park Service Mission 66 and related resources including the park visitor center. The documentation will review the findings of the parkwide Cultural Landscape Report (2004), the Historic Resource Study for the Booker T. Washington Elementary School (2007), and the determination of eligibility for the Visitor Center (2002). The project will entail a considerable expansion and revision of the current form which identifies the park as significant solely for its association with Booker T. Washington under Criterion B between the years 1856 and 1865. The new form will document park significance under Criterion A (association with events related to the Civil Rights Movement) and Criteria C (Mission 66 Park Service Modern Architecture) and it will reclassify a large number of National Park Service-era resources identified in the current National Register form as non-contributing. The project will be accomplished using contracted services. (Funding of $47,500.00 requested in FY18)

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed:	No

Document Type:	Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date:	2004-01-01
Title:	Cultural Landscape Report for Booker T. Washington National Monument, Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis, and Treatment
IRMA Link:	https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2187395
Narrative:	

Treatment Type:	See CLR
Treatment Completed:	No

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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Grover Robertson interview

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Interviewed by BOWA historian Albert. J. Benjamin, December 1964.

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type	Source
BOWA_Booker T Washington NM Landscape CLI Update Notes_2026.pdf			