

# The George Washington Carver Museum



George Washington Carver  
(n.d. Library of Congress, LC J601-302).

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site  
1212 West Montgomery Rd.  
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Visitor Information  
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Park Administration  
334 727 6390

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George Washington Carver Museum (at the left) was developed with substantial support from admirer and industrialist Henry Ford. Carver wanted the fruits of his life's work on display at the museum. He hoped that the exhibits would inspire children to live better lives. The original museum was housed in a remodeled building and was filled with Carver's geological and mycological (fungus) specimens made over a lifetime. Carver's artwork and crafts were also displayed in the museum.

Mounted regional bird specimens and giant vegetables preserved in jars that he used as "show and tell" at farm and county fair demonstrations became part of the museum.

Carver first served as Director of the Agricultural Department where he developed agricultural extension services for Black farmers and homemakers. Milbank Hall was the site of his agricultural experiments. His last laboratory was housed in the Carver Museum. Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) donated the home of Booker T. Washington and the Carver Museum to the National Park Service in 1977, and much of the Carver collection in 1979.



Products that were developed by George Washington Carver and made available commercially.



Commercially developed sweet potato products as a result of Carver's work, he developed dozens of products from local crops, in particular the highly nutritious peanut and sweet potato. He believed these two crops could provide a balanced diet. By-products include foods and beverages, and paints and dyes. Carver also developed livestock foods, cosmetics, and medicinal preparations.





Sweet potato (H 35.6, D 17.5 cm, Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, TUIN 95), Beans (H 45, D 15 cm, Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, TUIN 1520, and Onions (H 35.6, D 17.5 cm, Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, TUIN 172).



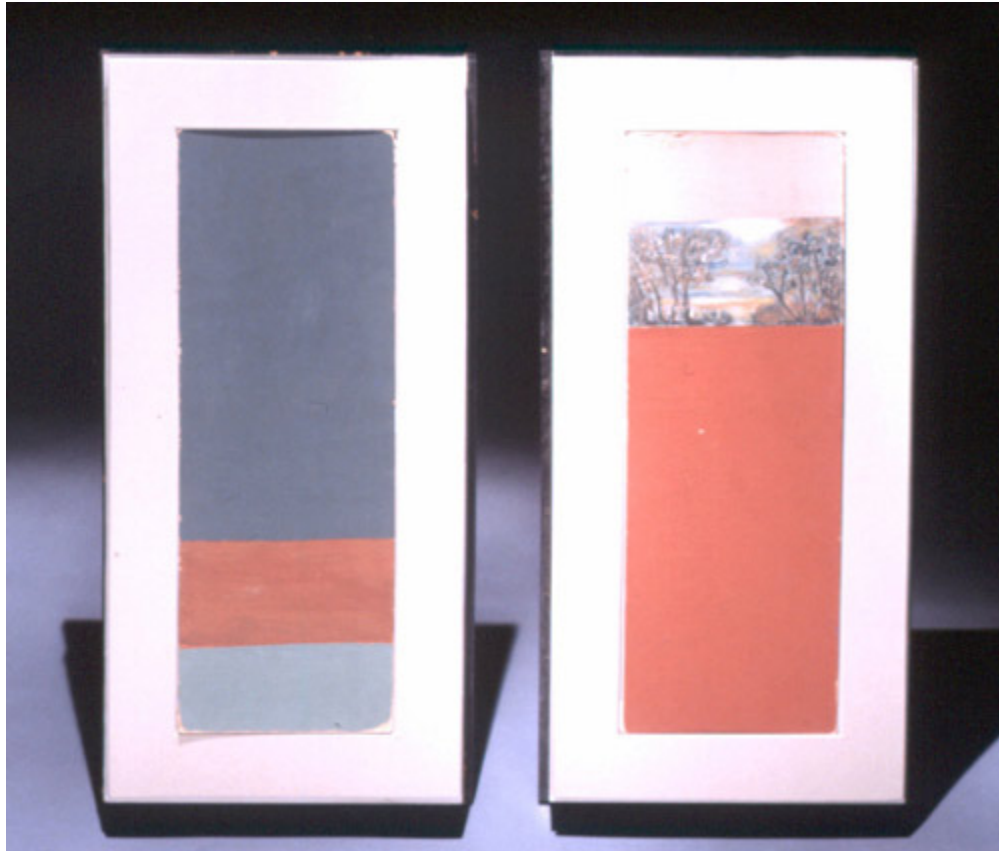
George Washington Carver's laboratory set up of equipment he used to do his experiments which includes a: distilling apparatus, crucible holder, microscope, crucibles, reagent bottles, ring stand, steam heater, burner, peanut apothecary, grain scale, mortar and pestle, and a centrifuge.



Chemistry laboratory at Tuskegee Institute.



Laboratory at Tuskegee Institute.



Paint sample that includes a miniature landscape painted by George Washington Carver (H 36, W 12.8 cm; Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, TUIN 285). Carver developed a rich array of house paint colors to encourage poor local farmers to improve the appearance of their homes. He arranged the pigments in pleasing combinations, ceiling colors on top, border and cornice colors in the middle tier, and wall colors on the bottom. The paints were used on the Tuskegee campus and throughout the area.



Palette and paint brushes: Carver used this palette and these paint brushes for over forty years.



Peanut specimen (mounted peanut plant collected by Carver).





Slate used by George Washington Carver when he attended Elementary school in Neosha, Missouri and Kansas in the early 1860s.



A lantern that Carver brought from the Carver farm in Missouri in 1865.



Carver devoted his life to research and finding practical alternatives to improving agriculture and the economic condition of African-Americans in the South. Hence, he directed his faculty to "take their teaching into the community" by designing a "movable school" that students built, named for Morris K. Jesup, a New York financier who gave Washington the money to equip and operate the "movable school", a horse-drawn vehicle called a Jesup Agricultural Wagon, later a mechanized truck that carried agricultural exhibits to county fairs and community gatherings. By 1930, the "Booker T. Washington Agricultural School on Wheels" carried a nurse, a home demonstration agent, an agricultural agent, and an architect to share the latest techniques with rural people. Later, community services were increased and educational films and lectures were circulated in local churches and schools. The "movable school" was the cornerstone of Tuskegee's extension services and epitomized the Institute's doctrines of self-sufficiency and self-improvement.