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HISTORICAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PLAN

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PLAN
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT

June 1968

Recommended

Stanley C. Howland
Superintendent

6/21/68
Date

Reviewed

/S/ ROBERT M. UTLEY
~~Chief, Division of History Studies~~
Chief Historian

JUN 22 1968
Date

Approved

Ernest Allen Connolly
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Chief, Office of Archeology and
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JUL 23 1968
Date

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PLAN

For

**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT
Virginia**

Prepared by

Barry Mackintosh, Park Historian, Booker T. Washington National Monument

Supporting Documents:

**Master Plan for Booker T. Washington National Monument
Approved August 11, 1965**

**Interpretive Prospectus for Booker T. Washington National Monument
Approved August 25, 1964**

**Interpretive Prospectus for Booker T. Washington National Monument
Approved May 31, 1968**

HISTORICAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Booker T. Washington National Monument

I. The Monument Story

A. Main Historical Theme

The ability to rise from log-cabin poverty to greatness is not an uncommon theme in American history. Widespread educational and economic opportunity and the relative absence of fixed class lines have facilitated upward social mobility for the majority of our citizens. But for those whose skins have been black, this classless America of equal opportunity has long been a foreign land. Alone among those who crossed the ocean to populate this nation, the Negro came as property, denied the basic rights of citizenship and often the claim to common humanity. Nowhere in distant India has the meaning of caste been better illustrated than in this land founded on the belief that all men are created equal.

Thus, while the rags-to-riches saga is almost trite in white America, the elevation of a Negro from slavery to greatness is indicative of the most extraordinary ability. It is this accomplishment which marks Booker T. Washington as a truly outstanding American, and which stands as the primary theme of Booker T. Washington National Monument.

Born in 1856, Booker T. Washington spent the first nine years of his life as a slave on the Burroughs plantation in Franklin County, Virginia. He lived in a crude, one-room cabin, sleeping on "a bundle of filthy rags laid upon the dirt floor." Following emancipation, his family moved to Malden, West Virginia, where he labored in a salt furnace and a coal mine. Despite this background, he had already acquired a burning desire for knowledge, fulfilled through his own efforts at learning to read and through later attendance at elementary school and at Hampton Institute.

Booker T. Washington's great contributions resulted from a steadfast and lifelong devotion to the cause of his people. Beginning with the founding of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, he emphasized industrial and agricultural education--education he believed would lead to economic independence for the Negro. In his espousal of a compromise doctrine of race relations, he bore a burden not always popular, yet one he believed necessary to lift his people to a position of respect in society. As an educator, author, promoter of interracial harmony in a critical period of racial unrest, and as a leading voice of the American Negro, Booker T. Washington takes his place as a great American.

B. Subsidiary Historical Themes

The story of Booker T. Washington, the individual, will obviously remain the central theme to be interpreted at Booker T. Washington National Monument. But with the advent of the living historical farm concept as outlined in the 1968 Interpretive Prospectus for this area, the Burroughs Plantation will receive considerably more attention than it has in the past. In line with the primary theme, the plantation will be presented not just as a typical piedmont tobacco plantation of the mid-19th century, but as the early environment which shaped the young slave boy, Booker T. Washington.

The plantation family, plantation agriculture, and the surrounding community serving and served by the plantation are themes directly related to the totality of life on the Burroughs Plantation and Booker T. Washington's role in it.

C. Relationship of Historical Themes to Natural History

The terrain is part of the gently rolling Virginia piedmont lying at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The area is characterized by small farms with the land planted in corn, tobacco, hay, etc., and the slopes forested or pastured.

As with any agricultural community, the crops grown on the Burroughs Plantation and thus playing a dominant role in the lives of its people were determined to a large degree by the land and climate of the area.

D. Statement of Historical Significance

Booker T. Washington National Monument commemorates the life and accomplishments of an educator, author, promoter of interracial harmony, and a voice of the American Negro at the turn of the 19th century. The life of Booker T. Washington bears eloquent testimony to the value of education and the fact that a man's state of origin need not determine his ultimate destiny.

The Burroughs Plantation provides the setting for Washington's birth and boyhood in slavery. With the implementation of the living historical farm concept, it will provide a vivid picture of a small piedmont tobacco plantation of the mid-19th century. But its historical significance becomes greater when we bring Booker T. Washington into this environment: here was his first contact with agriculture; here, while he was still an illiterate slave, his passion for education first flamed.

E. Reasons for the Establishment of the Monument

Booker T. Washington National Monument was established on June 18, 1957 for the purpose of commemorating the birthplace, the early years, and the life work of Booker T. Washington, educator, author, and a leader of American Negroes at the turn of the century.

As previously noted, the life of Washington will remain the central theme of the monument in accordance with the purpose of its establishment. However, the living historical farm, in addition to its relationship with Washington, will also illustrate a segment of our agricultural and social history.

II. Historical Resources of the Monument

A. Tangible Resources

1. Sites and Remains

The monument contains nearly all of the land occupied by the 19th century Burroughs Plantation. During Booker T. Washington's boyhood here, the plantation included the Burroughs residence, the kitchen cabin (where Booker lived), three other slave cabins (including the deteriorating birthplace cabin vacated by Booker's family), several tobacco barns, a horse barn, a cow barn, two corn cribs, a blacksmith shed, and possibly other minor structures. Of course, the cultivated fields of tobacco and subsistence crops were the basis of the plantation's economy.

Today, little more than the site remains of the original plantation. Archeological investigations conducted in 1959 revealed the location of the kitchen cabin by unearthing hearth stones and stones from a small terrace outside the cabin entrance. Other remains include segments of the Roll Road, along which hogsheads of tobacco were rolled to market, the spring, which provided drinking water and served as the plantation cooler, and the cemetery containing the graves of Booker's owner, James Burroughs, and one of James' sons, Billie. Several large trees here today were also here during Washington's boyhood.

Past interpretation of the plantation has been chiefly by means of a Roll Road Trail pamphlet keyed to wayside exhibits and numbered stakes. Exhibits have consisted of a series of trailside paintings illustrating the plantation buildings and a small demonstration patch of tobacco and flax. A local farmer grazes several head of cattle on the land under permit, adding to the pastoral scene.

The 1968 Interpretive Prospectus provides for the reconstruction of many of the buildings on or near their original sites and a greatly

expanded agricultural effort, including the raising of period crops and livestock on land cleared and fenced to approximate its 1860 appearance. A large painting in the visitor center depicts the Burroughs Plantation as it appeared during Washington's boyhood, and the minifolder, replacing the obsolete Roll Road Trail pamphlet, will guide the visitor through the plantation as it evolves toward its ultimate development as a living historical farm.

2. Historic Structures

There are no structures at the monument today which were present during the boyhood of Booker T. Washington. The last remaining original structure, the Burroughs residence, burned to the ground in 1950. Other original structures, such as the slave quarters, stables, barns, and fences, have long since disappeared. (This has unfortunately not been the case with a large frame house built sometime in the first quarter of the present century directly in the center of the primary historical area; its demolition has been postponed because of inadequate funds for new employee residences.)

Since establishment of the monument, two historic structures have been reconstructed: the kitchen cabin, in which Booker's mother and her children lived, and one of the tobacco barns. The cabin is the major point of interest on the monument grounds today. It contains an audio station describing the place in the words and recreated voice of Washington. Now unfurnished except for a cooking pot in the fireplace, the cabin will be furnished with additional cooking utensils and items appropriate to a kitchen of this period.

The tobacco barn contains several of the logs from one of the original barns on the plantation, and is used to demonstrate the curing of tobacco. Under an attached shed is a reproduction of a hogshead equipped for rolling tobacco to market. An audio station is planned at the barn with a description of tobacco raising in the voice of one of the field hands.

Chestnut split rail snake fences have been rebuilt on much of the property. They will be extended as gardens and crops are planted, following the customary practice of fencing the livestock out from areas in which they were unwanted. Historical accuracy here is made difficult by an 1893 law which forced land owners to fence their entire property rather than small segments; original fence lines have largely been lost.

B. Intangible Historical Resources

Although Booker T. Washington spent his first nine years here on the Burroughs Plantation, he left the area following emancipation and never returned except for a one day visit in 1908. His years at Malden, at

Hampton, at Tuskegee, and in the world at large, and the influence of his life and work, are central to the park story but are related to the plantation only as his slave years may have influenced the future course of his life.

The living historical farm will provide a picture of the Burroughs Plantation, the early environment of Booker T. Washington. But it will also give a broader insight into the economy and way of life of the Virginia piedmont in the mid-19th century, transcending the particular plantation portrayed here.

C. Other Historical Resources

The Sparks Cemetery, in the southern portion of the monument, predates the Burroughs' ownership of the land. It contains numerous headstones, none of which are legible, and offers a chance of more fully documenting the past history of the plantation land. Research here is of lowest priority, as the cemetery is far from the plantation building complex and bears no known relationship to Booker T. Washington or the Burroughs family.

III. Status of Research

A. Research Accomplished

Until the introduction of the living historical farm concept, research at Booker T. Washington National Monument was thought to be virtually complete and adequate to the needs of the area. The majority of research was undertaken by the monument's first Superintendent, Chester L. Brooks, and first Historian, James J. Kirkwood, with subsequent revision and updating since 1964.

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments made a preliminary study of the site in 1954 to ascertain the feasibility of making the area a national monument. The resulting resolution, submitted on March 22, 1954, was negative in that no original plantation structures remained. This decision was reaffirmed in 1955 with a second report, which added that any monument to Booker T. Washington should be located at Tuskegee Institute, Washington's greatest life work. These reports were overridden at a hearing before the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on February 3, 1956. Booker T. Washington National Monument was established by Act on June 18, 1957.

The Burroughs Plantation Planning Report, by Brooks and Kirkwood, was written in 1958 to provide for development and interpretation of the Burroughs Plantation to the limited extent then envisioned. From this research came the present Roll Road Trail and guide pamphlet. Their research for the Historical Base Map yielded a partial understanding of the location of buildings and other features present on the plantation during

Washington's years here.

The 1959 Historic Structures Report by Brooks and Kirkwood entitled "Reconstruction of Slave Cabin" led to the reconstruction of the kitchen cabin, and first differentiated it from the birthplace cabin. Southeast Regional Archeologist John W. Griffin's excavations, described in his Archeological Report on the Boyhood Cabin Site, located stones from the hearth of this cabin and from an exterior terrace.

The Historical Handbook, by James J. Kirkwood, is still in manuscript form, its publication having long been postponed. It surveys Booker T. Washington's life and contributions, and with the completion of additional research on the Burroughs plantation, it might well be revived.

Research by Brooks and Kirkwood at Tuskegee Institute and the Library of Congress was discontinued in 1964 when approximately 75% complete. Such efforts, while yielding much detail on Washington's later life, would seem best undertaken by outside scholars whose findings we might later draw upon as necessary. An exhaustive study of Booker T. Washington is currently being made by Louis R. Harlan of the University of Maryland; he has been in contact with the monument in the past and should be of help to us in the future.

B. Research in Progress

The 1968 Interpretive Prospectus, prepared by Historian H. Gilbert Lusk, outlines the development of a living historical farm at Booker T. Washington National Monument. The present Historian, Barry Mackintosh, is now engaged in three research studies which will provide background for the development and interpretation of the living farm. A study of the local community from 1855 to 1865 will examine the life and economy of the area, emphasizing the interrelationship between the Burroughs plantation and the economic, social, educational, and religious institutions serving it. Attempts will be made to identify stores, schools, mills, markets, and neighboring plantations. A study of the Burroughs genealogy from 1794 to 1893 will attempt to discover the members of the family living there on the plantation during Washington's boyhood, and the effects of the war and emancipation on the plantation family. A study of mid-19th century periodicals will be made to disclose information on farm equipment, planting, livestock, and general agricultural practices of the period--information essential to accurate development of a living historical farm.

These three studies should all be completed by October 1968.

C. Cooperation with Non-Service Persons or Institutions

Several outside sources have been of value in the past. Mrs. Portia Washington Pittman, daughter of Booker T. Washington, has provided information concerning her father as she remembered him. Tuskegee Institute

was helpful in locating records and files concerning its founder when research was being conducted there. Grover and Peter Robertson, sons of the John B. Robertson who bought the plantation from Thomas Burroughs in 1893, have been of tremendous value in providing a description of the plantation as it existed after the turn of the century. They also contributed their skill as carpenters in the reconstruction of the kitchen cabin.

In addition to the Robertsons, several other local sources may be called upon for help in research. A number of Burroughs descendents are in the area and are now being contacted in connection with the Burroughs family study. Miss Sarah Dinwiddie, an elderly resident of the community, is an authority on local history and should prove helpful in the historic community study. Historical societies in Rocky Mount, Lynchburg, and Roanoke may be able to offer further assistance.

John T. Schlebecker, Curator of the Division of Agriculture at the Smithsonian Institution, was instrumental in originating the living historical farm concept. He has prepared a bibliography on Virginia agriculture for us, and has suggested two sources of additional information on period farm implements: John Deere Company in Moline, Illinois, and the Bucks County Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

IV. Research Needs

Development of the Burroughs Plantation as a living historical farm will require careful research if the results are to be authentic and complete. While this research will be oriented toward accomplishment of a particular mission--the living farm--it will also contribute to a greater understanding of a part of American society and agricultural economy during a critical period in our history.

A. General Background Studies and Survey Histories

As stated in the 1968 Interpretive Prospectus, a broad study of the plantation land from its early settlement until the late 19th century is needed before any major development can begin toward the living historical farm. This study, tentatively entitled "The Burroughs Plantation as a Living Historical Farm," has already been programmed for the 1969 fiscal year, and is scheduled to be done by Edwin C. Bearss, author of Lincoln Boyhood as a Living Historical Farm. It will cover the people, the property, the plantation economy, and the surrounding community, compiling the findings of the three studies now in progress as well as much additional data.

B. Studies for Interpretive Developments

Detailed information on the plantation buildings and furnishings must be gathered before reconstruction of these buildings, proposed in the

Ultimate Phase of the Interpretive Prospectus, may be undertaken. Since no construction is possible until the monument's Congressional limitation on expenditures is lifted, such studies have not yet been formally requested. The proposed audio stations, describing various farm crafts and practices, will need script studies to insure authenticity; again, development here will be indefinitely postponed by the construction ceiling.

C. Master Plan Studies

With the approval of the 1968 Interpretive Prospectus, the Master Plan must be revised to include future developments under the living historical farm concept. It is expected that information resulting from the research projects proposed will be adequate for this revision.

D. Monument History

The administrative history has not yet been undertaken. The present historian originally planned to accomplish this project during 1968, but accelerated emphasis being given to the living historical farm has forced its postponement.

V. In Conclusion

As stated at the beginning, the extraordinary accomplishment of Booker T. Washington in lifting himself from slavery to greatness is the central theme of this monument.

The exhibits and film in the visitor center have done an effective job of interpreting Washington's rise and his achievements as a man. But relatively little has been done to develop and interpret the Burroughs Plantation--the sole tangible historical resource--as the birthplace and childhood home of Booker T. Washington. In comparison with most others who have risen from poverty to fame, the heritage of slavery is unique to Washington, and here is where he lived as a slave. From the Interpretive Prospectus: "If we are to interpret a man's great achievements, we must also interpret his heritage; otherwise we create a skyscraper with no foundations."

Thus, research emphasis at Booker T. Washington National Monument today is on the Burroughs Plantation and its development as a living historical farm, not as an end in itself, but as the scene of Washington's birth and boyhood in slavery--that portion of his life especially suited to full and effective interpretation here where it happened.

Summary of Research Proposals

RSP No.	Priority No.	Title	Year Submitted	Year Scheduled	Comments
H-1	1	The Burroughs Plantation as a Living Historical Farm	1968	1969 F.Y.	
H-2	1	A Study of the Local Community in the Years 1855-1865	1968	In progress	To be completed before H-1
H-3	1	A Study of the Burroughs Genealogy from 1794-1893	1968	In progress	Same
H-4	1	A Study of Mid-19th Century Periodicals for Information on Farm Equipment, Planting, Livestock, etc. of the Period	1968	1968	Same

Historic Structures Chart

<u>Eldg. No.</u>	<u>Name and/or Use</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Comments Including Classification</u>	<u>Date Put in Hist. Inventory</u>	<u>Date of Part I H.S.R.</u>	<u>Date of Part II H.S.R.</u>	<u>Date of Part III H.S.R.</u>
12	Slave Cabin (Kitchen)	July 1960	CC Reconstruction	Apr. 1963	June 1959	Aug. 1959	Sept. 1960
4	Tobacco Barn	July 1959	CC Reconstruction	Jan. 1965	None	None	None

APPENDIX

Bibliography

Booker T. Washington National Monument has a very small library, centered largely around the works of Booker T. Washington. Secondary printed material is lacking, weakening the overall quality of the library. With the present emphasis on development of the Burroughs Plantation as a living historical farm, there is particular need for works on agriculture in this area during the 19th century. With the exception of some taken from early publications, the photographic collection contains few photographs which predate the 1950's. The primary material which has been gathered and stored consists mostly of copies of letters and speeches contained in the Library of Congress and Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

1. Books dealing with the general period of history

The South from 1800 to 1918, including its economy and the role of the Negro, is a well researched and documented aspect of American history. Gunnar Myrdal's An American Dilemma; The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy, two volumes (New York, 1944), John Hope Franklin's From Slavery to Freedom (New York, 1965), and C. Vann Woodward's Origins of the New South, 1877-1913 (Louisiana, 1951) are excellent works dealing with this period. They also contain extensive critical bibliographies, which are of considerable assistance. See also Cappon's Bibliography of Virginia History Since 1865, University of Virginia Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Monograph No. 5 (Virginia, 1930).

Other works of a general interest include Allan Nevins, The Ordeal of the Union, four volumes (New York, 1947-1950), Frederick Law Olmstead, The Cotton Kingdom, two volumes (New York, 1861), William B. Hesseltine, The South in American History (New York, 1943), Emory Q. Hawk, Economic History of the South (New York, 1934), Ulrich B. Phillips, Life and Labor in the Old South (Boston, 1929) and American Negro Slavery (1918), and Helen T. Catterall, editor, Judicial Cases Concerning American Slavery and the Negro, five volumes (Washington, 1926).

2. Published material dealing directly with the monument and its story

The works of Booker T. Washington, reflecting their author's beliefs and teachings, comprise the majority of the material related to the monument story. Foremost among these is Up From Slavery; An Autobiography (Garden City, 1900), which contains Washington's recollections of his years on the Burroughs plantation. Other works

include The Story of My Life and Work (Napierville, Illinois, 1901), Putting the Most Into Life (New York, 1906), The Man Farthest Down (New York, 1912) written with Robert E. Park, Frederick Douglass (Philadelphia, 1907) written with S. Laing Williams, The Negro in Business (Boston, 1907), Character Building (New York, 1902), Working with the Hands (New York, 1904), Tuskegee and Its People (New York, 1906) edited by Washington, The Story of the Negro, two volumes (New York, 1909), The Future of the American Negro (Boston, 1899), My Larger Education (New York, 1911), and Sowing and Reaping (Boston, 1900).

There are several biographies of Booker T. Washington, including Emmett Scott and Lyman Beecher Stowe, Booker T. Washington: Builder of a Civilization (Garden City, 1916), Basil Mathews, Booker T. Washington, Educator and Interracial Interpreter (London, 1949), and Samuel R. Spencer, Jr., Booker T. Washington and the Negro's Place in American Life (Boston, 1955).

Washington's son, E. Davidson Washington, published a collection of his father's addresses in Selected Speeches (Garden City, 1932).

W.E.B. DuBois, the most vocal critic of Washington, aired his views in many books and articles, including The Souls of Black Folk (Chicago, 1903) and Dusk of Dawn (New York, 1940). For other discussions of Washington's philosophy, see Merle Curti, The Social Ideas of American Educators (New York, 1935), Charles S. Johnson, "The Social Philosophy of Booker T. Washington," Opportunity, VI (April 1928), W. Edward Farrison, "Booker T. Washington: A Study in Educational Leadership," South Atlantic Quarterly, XLI (July 1942), Emma Thornbrough, "More Light on Booker T. Washington and the New York Age," Journal of Negro History, XLIII (January 1958), and August Meier, "Toward a Reinterpretation of Booker T. Washington," Journal of Southern History, XXIII (May 1957).

The following works were suggested by Dr. John T. Schlebecker of the Smithsonian Institution as being of potential value in connection with the development and interpretation of a living historical farm at the monument: Avery O. Craven, Soil Exhaustion as a Factor in the Agricultural History of Virginia and Maryland, 1606-1860 (Urbana, Ill., 1926), Clifford Dowdy, The Great Plantation: A Profile of Berkeley Hundred and Plantation Virginia from Jamestown to Appomattox (New York, 1957), Charles D. Eaves, The Virginia Tobacco Industry, 1780-1860 (Lubbock, Texas, 1945), Robert L. Fisher, The Odyssey of Tobacco, (Litchfield, 1939), Benjamin R. Fleet, Green Mount: A Virginia Plantation Economy During the Civil War (Lexington, Kentucky, 1962), Lewis C. Gray, History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860 (Washington, 1933), Robert K. Helmann, Tobacco and Americans (New York, 1960), Victor Perlo, The Negro in Southern Agriculture (New York, 1953), Arthur G. Peterson, Historical Study of Prices Received by Producers of Farm Products in Virginia, 1801-1927 (Blacksburg, Virginia, 1929),

Ulrich B. Phillips, American Negro Slavery: A Survey of the Supply, Employment, and Control of Negro Labor as Determined by the Plantation Regime (New York, 1918), Joseph C. Robert, The Tobacco Kingdom: Plantation, Market, and Factory in Virginia and North Carolina, 1800-1860 (Durham, 1938), Kenneth Stampp, The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in Ante-Bellum South (New York, 1956), Earl G. Swem, A Contribution to the Bibliography of Agriculture in Virginia (Richmond, 1918), and Earl G. Swem, A List of Manuscripts Relating to the History of Agriculture in Virginia, Collected by N.F. Cabell, and Now in the Virginia State Library (Richmond, 1913).

3. Unpublished primary sources

The Library of Congress and Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, are the main depositories of unpublished primary material concerning Booker T. Washington. One of the largest manuscript collections in the Library of Congress, the Booker T. Washington Papers, consists of more than 2,500 boxes. They contain, among other things, correspondence between Washington and Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, W.E.B. DuBois, George Washington Carver, and Oswald Garrison Villard. For a discussion of the Booker T. Washington Papers, see Franklin Frazier's article in The Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Acquisitions, February 1945, II, pp. 23-31.