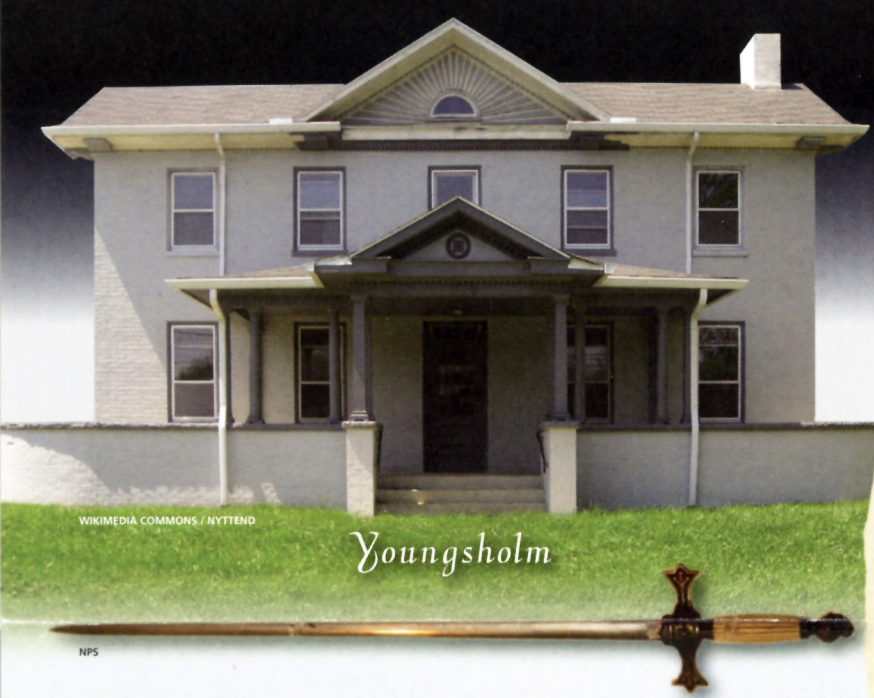


Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers

Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers
National Monument
Ohio

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Youngsholm



Family and duty were dual drivers in the life of Colonel Charles Young. When he came home he would put down his sword and enjoy time with family and friends. He also played several instruments, and wrote songs, poetry, and plays.

Young's drive to succeed included his family. He and Ada (above), who attended Spelman College, sent their children

to good schools. Ada was active in civil rights and the women's right to vote. She also managed the family's businesses.

Charles Young

The NAACP honored Young in 1916 (above left). The army was not supportive and kept Young out of World War I. He rode his

horse (above) from Ohio to DC to prove his fitness. Instead, he was sent to Camp Grant in Illinois to train troops (right).

Charles Young is the man behind this new national monument. His inspirational life embodies the hope and opportunity that military service has provided African Americans since the mid-1800s. Young's career began as a leader of the Buffalo Soldiers, whose story is also told at this park. The map shows the range of his work and photographs illustrate his life in the field and at home. Explore the life of Charles Young and how his influence continues today.

Lieutenant Young in dress (Class A) uniform around 1919.

Young served around the world, as the map below shows—from the American frontier to duty in Africa and Asia, and back again.

"YOURS FOR RACE AND COUNTRY" These words closed many of Charles Young's letters. Recipients knew exactly what mattered most to Young. He lived at a time when African Americans faced significant headwinds. The reforms of post-Civil War Reconstruction were crumbling under the force of segregation in the South and racism throughout the nation. Yet he conducted his life as an example of service to his country and in support of racial equality.

In 1903, he met Ada Mills while he was stationed in San Francisco, California. After they married, they traveled together as much as they could. When they were apart, they often wrote to each other. In the time before long-distance calls and computers, handwritten letters were the only way loved ones could share their experiences and maintain relationships. Young often closed his letters to Ada with: *Forever and a day, the one that loves you—Charlie.*



Young (seated, center, front row) with the 9th Cavalry, during the Philippine War (1901–02). He sits next to Samuel Pearson, who became a lifelong friend.



Young in western Wyoming, around 1910. He trained soldiers in the field year-round.

Fort D.A. Russell Wyoming
Fort Robinson Nebraska
Fort Duchesne Utah
San Francisco California
Sequoia National Park California
Wilberforce Ohio
Fort Huachuca Arizona
Mexico
Dominican Republic
Haiti
Washington, DC
West Point New York



The Youngs' children, Marie Aurelia and Charles Noel, often helped with farming at Youngsholm.



Buffalo Soldiers, led by Young (front row, center) built roads and trails in Sequoia National Park. Some of these routes are still used today.



Marie Aurelia and Charles Noel attended schools in Europe when their father was posted in Liberia.



Charles and Ada Young in Liberia. He was the first African American military attaché; his duty was to report on conditions in other countries.

The World of Charles Young

FROM SLAVERY TO CADET

1864–89 Charles Young is born enslaved in Kentucky, graduates with honors from an integrated high school, and becomes the third African American to graduate from the US Military Academy at West Point.

1863

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Abraham Lincoln frees enslaved people in the seceded states. Slavery remains legal in the rest of the US.

Young's family in Kentucky is among those who remain enslaved despite the Emancipation Proclamation. They use the Underground Railroad to reach freedom in Ohio.

1865

THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT RATIFIED

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

1866

AFRICAN AMERICAN UNITS IN THE ARMY

Congress establishes the first segregated Army units for African Americans. Later they are called Buffalo Soldiers.

WEST POINT TO WAR

Young's first decade as an Army officer begins and ends at remote posts. He also teaches at Wilberforce College and thrives in the town's cultural atmosphere.

1872

A NEW IDEA FOR THE WORLD

March 1, the world's first national park is established when President Ulysses S. Grant signs the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act. Buffalo Soldiers patrol this and other new parks, and build roads, trails, and structures.

1896

"SEPARATE BUT EQUAL"

The US Supreme Court confirms separate but equal facilities are legal for African Americans. The military's segregation policies—like assigning Buffalo Soldiers to separate units—can continue.

1898–1902

INTERNATIONAL WARS

The US is at war with Spain during 1898, then the Philippines 1899–1902.

Young serves stateside during the Spanish-American War. He leads troops into battle during the Philippine War.

FAMILY AND DUTY

Young experiences major personal and professional changes as he marries, starts a family, and advances his career through a variety of posts.

1903

WRIGHT BROTHERS TAKE FLIGHT

Orville and Wilbur Wright, who live in Dayton, Ohio, succeed in flying their plane in North Carolina.

In San Francisco, Young leads the 9th Cavalry in a parade for President Theodore Roosevelt. He also serves as first superintendent of Sequoia National Park.

1905

NIAGARA MOVEMENT

W.E.B. Du Bois attracts national attention with this group, which encourages African Americans to seek civil rights through political action.

Young becomes the first African American military attaché, serving in Haiti as a diplomat, historian, and cartographer.

1909

NAACP ESTABLISHED

Followers of the Niagara Movement join other African American activists to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

CHANGING TIMES

Charles Young is honored for his achievements but experiences more discrimination from the Army.

1914–18

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

War breaks out in Europe; the US declares war in 1917.

The Army keeps Young out of the world war, then forces him to retire. In June 1918, Young rides his horse from Wilberforce, OH, to Washington, DC, to demonstrate his fitness. He is returned to duty, and later serves in Liberia.

1920

WOMEN GET THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The 19th Amendment is ratified 72 years after the First Women's Rights Convention.

1921

OKLAHOMA RACE RIOT

The deadliest riot to date, the Tulsa riot destroys the city's African American neighborhood, leaving 300 dead and 10,000 homeless.

Late in 1921, Young becomes ill from a kidney infection while sailing to Lagos, Nigeria, on an assignment.

He dies there on January 8, 1922. Ada receives the news three weeks later.

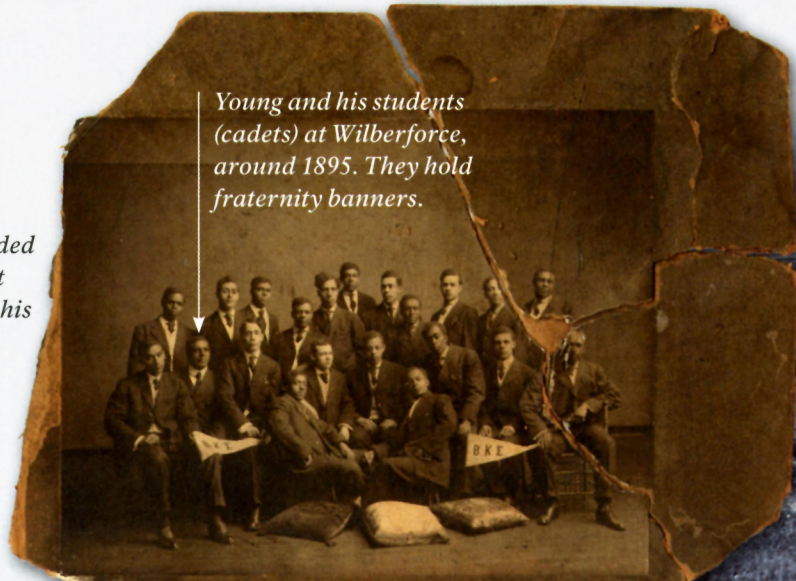
Major Young before the ceremony where he received the Spingarn Medal.

The 25th Infantry Bicycle Corps poses in Yellowstone National Park, 1896.

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY / F. JAY HAYNES



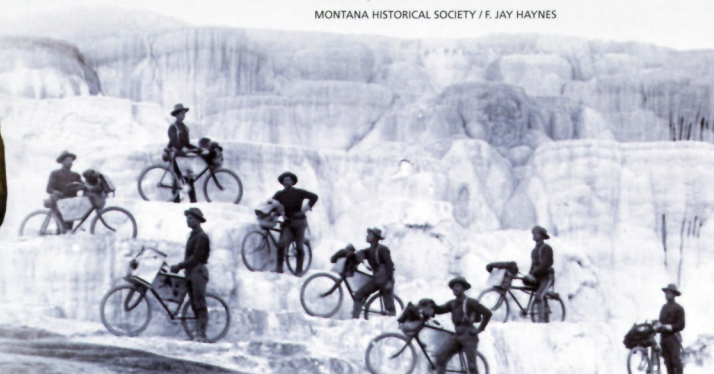
As a cadet at West Point, Young succeeded despite the racism at the school and from his fellow cadets.



Young and his students (cadets) at Wilberforce, around 1895. They hold fraternity banners.



Youngsholm was the center of social gatherings. Young is sitting; Arminta third from left; Ada second from right.



Buffalo Soldiers

300 Years of Service and Segregation	After the Civil War 1866 onward	International Wars 1898–1902	Transitions 1900–20	World Wars 1917–45	Military Integration 1948–90s	Their Legacy
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African Americans are fighting for this country as early as King William’s War (1689–97), a war that cements British power in America. In 1770, Crispus Attucks—of African and American Indian descent—is killed during the Boston Massacre. Over 6,000 African Americans fight in the American Revolution (1775–83); over 200,000 fight for the Union in the Civil War (1861–65). Charles Young’s father Gabriel escapes slavery and serves in the 5th US Colored Troops. Martin Delany (*below*) is the first African American to become an officer. They are among the many whose military service helps them achieve a level of equality impossible as civilians. But true integration in the military takes 100 more years.



Civil War: 4th US Colored Troops

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / WILLIAM MORRIS SMITH



Martin Delany

NPS

Cathy Williams as William Cathay

US ARMY / WILLIAM JENNINGS

Buffalo Soldiers

US ARMY HERITAGE AND EDUCATION CENTER

In 1866, Congress establishes the first African American army units. Soon called Buffalo Soldiers, they control conflicts between settlers and American Indians. Cathy Williams (*below*) enlists as a man to earn better pay and explore the US. In 1889, Charles Young begins his career with the 9th Cavalry at Fort Robinson, Nebraska.

In the 1898 Spanish-American War, Buffalo Soldiers come to the aid of Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders in Cuba. Major Young serves stateside by preparing other soldiers for battle. The next year, he prepares for the Philippine War (1899–1902). Now the rank of captain, he leads troops into battle on several islands.

Buffalo Soldiers lead the way using new military tactics and weapons. In the Philippines, they fight the way they learned from American Indians—in small groups striking quickly. In the Mexican Punitive Expedition of 1916, Capt. Charles Young uses motor vehicles and machine guns to chase Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa.

In World War I, the US Army keeps the Harlem Hellfighters out of combat. So they fight for France instead, becoming the first African American troops to fight in Europe. In World War II, the heroic fighting of segregated units like the Mumford Point Marines, Triple Nickel Tank Battalion, and Tuskegee Airmen lead to more equality.

On July 26, 1948, President Truman signs Executive Order 9981, which states everyone in the military is equal “without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.” The last unit of Buffalo Soldiers, the 24th Infantry, disbands in 1951. In Vietnam and the Persian Gulf wars, African Americans are finally serving in a fully integrated US military.

Civilian agencies integrate slowly. In the 1960s, the National Park Service (NPS) starts hiring professional park rangers. One is Robert Stanton (*below*). He becomes the first African American park superintendent since Charles Young, and the first African American director of NPS. He works with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to establish and develop this park.

Tuskegee Airmen

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / TONI FRISSELL



WWII

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

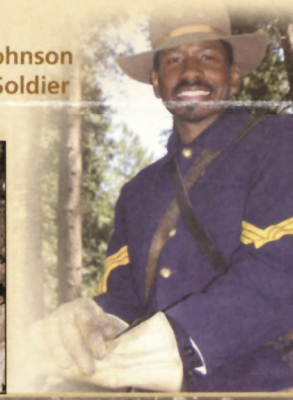
Korea

US ARMY HERITAGE AND EDUCATION CENTER



NPS ranger Shelton Johnson portraying a Buffalo Soldier

NPS



PERSEVERING PATRIOTS

Charles Young excelled as a military officer at a time when African Americans were excluded from most leadership positions in society. He endured racism, hardship, combat, injury, and malaria but always persevered. He hoped he could make a difference—and he did. He supported the careers of many officers who went on to break more barriers. One, Benjamin O. Davis Sr., achieved what Young could not: He became the first African American one-star general in the US Army. Davis’s son achieved greatness, too, as described in the “Circle of Influence” at right.

HENRY O. FLIPPER *The first African American graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point. He endures a controversial court-martial. President Clinton pardons him.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



JOHN HANKS ALEXANDER *He mentors Young before moving to Wilberforce to start a military program. He dies soon after arrival; Young takes over his duties.*

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES



BENJAMIN O. DAVIS JR. *The fourth African American to graduate the US Military Academy at West Point and a decorated Tuskegee airman. President Clinton advances Lt. General Davis to the rank of four-star general.*

SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE



BARACK OBAMA *The first African American US president and commander in chief of the military. He proclaims Charles Young Buffalo Soldier National Monument in 2013.*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / PETE SOUZA



Col. Young image held by ROBERT STANTON the first African American director of the National Park Service, 1997–2001

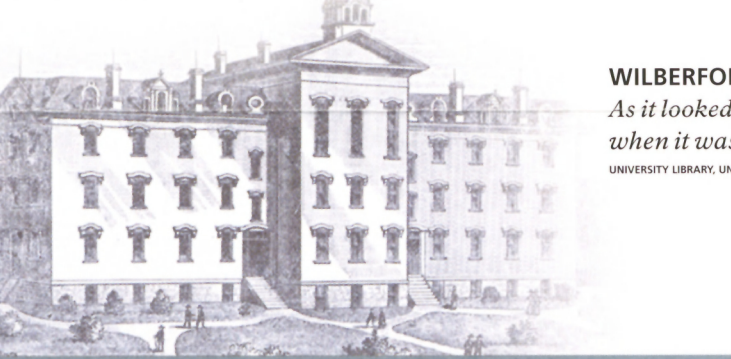


CULTIVATING CULTURE

Charles Young shared his love of music and literature wherever his career took him. He formed military bands at isolated posts and taught soldiers how to play. He and Ada hosted evenings of music and poetry. But Wilberforce, Ohio, was where their cultural life flourished.

The town was known for prominent leaders like Martin Delany (*above*), who practiced medicine and worked for African American civil rights. Other leaders, like W.E.B. Du Bois and Hallie Q. Brown (*both at right*), followed him here. The town was also home to Laura Smith, who had sheltered travelers on the Underground Railroad. The Youngs bought her house because of its history.

Youngsholm became a hub for the arts and politics. The Youngs also made their home a place to mentor the next generation of African American leaders.



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON *Founder of the Tuskegee Institute, he said of Young, “Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached . . . as by the obstacles which he has overcome.”*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / C.E. CHEYNE



W.E.B. DU BOIS *A famed scholar, he said, “If Charles Young’s blood pressure was too high for [combat duty], why was it not too high for him to be sent to the even more arduous duty in the swamps of West Africa?”*

W.E.B. DU BOIS LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST



ADA MILLS YOUNG *Raised and educated in San Francisco, California, Ada joins her husband as he travels the world. She also becomes a community leader in Wilberforce, Ohio.*

NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER



HALLIE Q. BROWN *A national leader in African American culture and women’s voting rights. She also teaches at Wilberforce and frequents Youngsholm for political discussions and social events.*

CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR *This famous poet from Dayton, Ohio, often collaborates with Young on music and poetry. After he dies, Young leads efforts to erect a statue in his honor.*

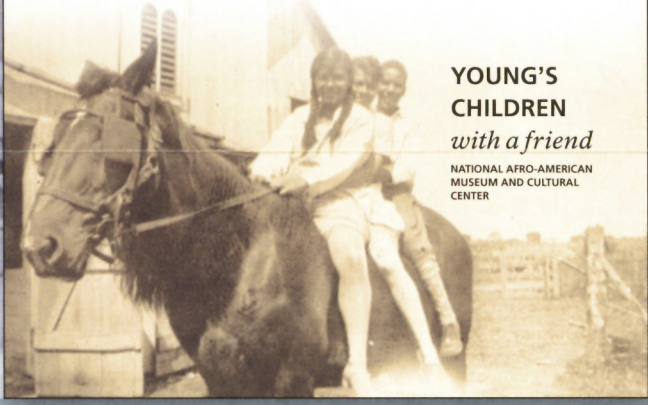
DAYTON METRO LIBRARY / PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR COLLECTION

FAMILY TIES

A passion for service and learning, a talent for music and poetry, and a love of horses. Charles Young received these gifts from his parents, Gabriel and Arminta, and his maternal grandmother Julia. After the family settled in Ripley, Ohio, Gabriel started a livery business that provided horse-drawn transportation. He taught Charles how to care for horses and to play the piano—two skills that would serve him well.

Julia, who had been one of the first African American teachers in Kentucky, and Arminta tutored Charles. He graduated high school with honors at age 16. At the commencement ceremony, Charles gave an oration titled “Let There Be Light.”

Charles and Ada Young gave these same gifts to their children, Charles Noel and Marie Aurelia, and they shared their passion for service and equality with the world.



YOUNG’S CHILDREN with a friend

NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER



Historic transom window from Youngsholm. Such windows indicated a prominent household in the community.

WELCOME TO YOUNGSHOLM

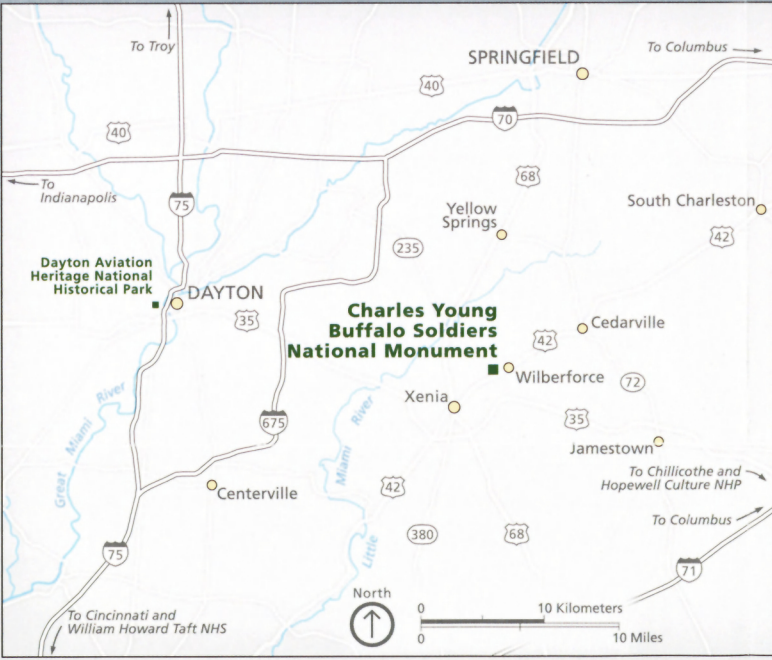
Charles Young’s home is the center of activity for this national monument. We welcome you today and encourage you to visit often as we develop tours, programs, and other events.

HOW TO GET HERE

Youngsholm is in Wilberforce, OH, on US 42, one mile west of Wilberforce University and Central State University. Off-street parking is available.

WHAT TO DO

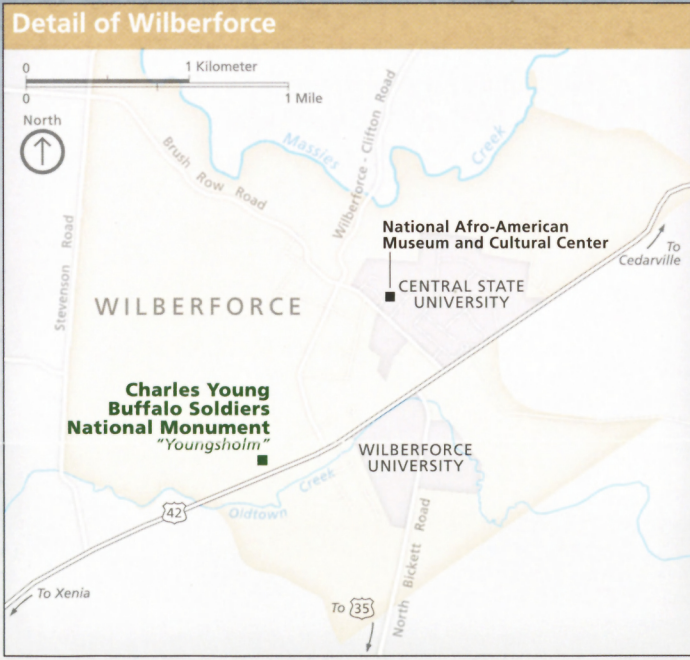
You can stop by Youngsholm at any time to view the outdoor historical markers and other information. • Take the cell phone tour or self-guiding walking tour. • Tours of Youngsholm and other programs are usually available during the summer, otherwise infrequently. Opportunities are listed on the park’s Facebook page and website, or you can call the park for current information (*details at far right*). • Visit the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center. • Visit



nearby National Park sites that share history with this site (see map above).

VISITING SAFELY

The park is on a US highway. Drive and walk cautiously. • Summers can be hot and humid. Bring water to drink, wear sun protection, and take frequent breaks. • Prevent insect bites and stings by wearing closed-toed shoes and using insect repellent. • In winter, sidewalks and steps can be slippery.



ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information call or check our website.

Emergencies call 911

National Park Foundation. Join the park community. www.nationalparks.org



Omega Psi Phi window at Youngsholm. This fraternity of African American leaders protected the home and helped establish this national monument to Buffalo Soldiers and Charles Young.

MORE INFORMATION

Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument PO Box 428 Wilberforce, OH 45384 937-352-6757 www.nps.gov/chyo

Visit us on social media.

Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more about national parks at www.nps.gov.



THE BARN AT YOUNGSHOLM

NATIONAL AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER