

**21. What would happen to my item if the museum stops operating?**

If your item is on loan to the Carver 4-County Museum, you will get it back immediately with a letter of release signed by a member of the Board of Directors. If it is a permanent collection item, you will be offered the chance to take your item back. If you choose not to have your item returned, we will first confirm your wishes in writing, and then donate the item to a library's archives or another museum whose specialty is African American history. A final confirmation letter will be sent to you informing you of the item's disposition.

**22. Why isn't there more information in the museum about George Washington Carver himself?**

The focus of the museum is not on the singular man, but on the history of minority children's education in Culpeper, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock. Our secondary focus is the social, cultural, economic and political history of African Americans in those four counties and how that relates to the wider society.

The Museum's board members and curator welcome evidence about parents and others who advocated for the school and decided to name the school after Dr. Carver, who in the mid-1940s, was the most well-known African American in the country.

**23. Are you associated with the Museum of Culpeper History?**

Currently, one of our board members serves on their Board of Directors.

**24. What are your short-term plans?**

- publish the history of Carver in documentary and book forms
- increase our technology for enhanced public engagement with our displays
- digitize all of our past exhibits and make them widely available

**25. What are your long-term plans?**

To become a certified museum as stipulated by the American Alliance of Museums so that we may borrow and show artifacts from museums throughout the country

**26. How can I help?**

By using all types of philanthropy to help us meet and exceed our goals. For example:

- use a skill such as consulting, financial management, writing, marketing, etc.
- volunteer and/or become a board member
- host a meeting in The Carver Center followed by a tour of our museum
- contribute dollars and/or organize groups to donate/fundraise for the museum



A 501(c)3 NONPROFIT CORPORATION REGISTERED IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VA

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## CARVER 4-COUNTY MUSEUM, INC



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. How did this museum get started?**

More than 15 years ago, a team of alumni led by the late Samuel Glasker (*class of 1952*) discussed and decided to memorialize the school's memory by developing a museum.

In 2016, after years of alumni advocacy, Culpeper County government allocated the original school's library to the George Washington Carver Regional High School Alumni Association (GWCRHSAA). The History Committee of the alumni association was tasked with developing a museum, and in 2016, they procured the services of a curator.

In 2017, we displayed a series of traveling exhibits throughout the region to build interest in the upcoming museum. A preview exhibit to Carver's alumni titled, **Journey: The Class of 1949**, opened in October, 2018, and the museum's grand opening occurred in February, 2019, with a new exhibit, **Origins**.

**2. *How long has the school been here?***

It operated as George Washington Carver Regional High School for 20 years: 1948-1968. It was constructed from 1947-48 and opened to a new student body on October 1, 1948, with 452 students, one principal, one librarian, and 18 teachers. It closed at the end of the 1967-68 school year with 11 graduates.

In the summer of 1968, it was renamed Piedmont Vocational School to reflect its new curriculum for regional residents of all ages. After several iterations over the years, it is now The Carver Center, housing this museum, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, a community garden, and a variety of training and other services.

**3. *Who designed the school?***

A Roanoke-based architect firm, Eubank & Caldwell

**4. *Who constructed the school?***

Goode Construction of Charlotte, North Carolina was awarded the contract with the lowest bid of \$349,444. Along with their own workers, they subcontracted with local African Americans, World War II veterans, and others.

**5. *How many teachers worked here?***

145 teachers plus one principal

**6. *Did Carver only have one principal?***

No. In the last year, 1967-68, a member of the Guidance Department, Pearl Hines Lynch, was appointed principal.

**7. *Who owns the building?***

The government of Culpeper County

**8. *How many students graduated from Carver?***

977 confirmed plus an estimate of 250 for a best case total of 1,227 students

The estimate reflects incomplete records. We have 15 of 19 graduation listings. There was no graduation service in 1955 since the school extended its classes from 11th to 12th grade in that year. We have 3 of 4 yearbooks of the missing years (no yearbook or graduation listing in 1951).

**9. *Was Carver ever integrated after the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court Decision?***

No. Carver remained segregated through its closure in June 1968.

**10. *Who governs the museum?***

The museum is governed by a Board of Directors whose members serve a term of two or three years.

**11. *How is the museum funded?***

Through donations, merchandise sales, grants and in-kind services

**12. *Are monetary donations tax exempt?***

Yes

**13. *Where do you get your artifacts?***

From individuals and a network of antique and collectibles dealers

**14. *Who is your exhibit designer?***

Our curator, Terry Miller, owner of Whisper Meadows Press, designs, prints, frames and installs our exhibits. Printing larger than 13" x 19" is done by a commercial printer.

**15. *Who painted the mural?***

Renown artist and 1961 graduate of Carver, J. Hubert Jackson

**16. *What is your exhibit philosophy?***

To prepare exhibits that are thoroughly researched and provide new information to guests. The information we present must be relevant to our population and provide a foundation for understanding an issue on the local, state and national levels.

**17. *How often do the exhibits change?***

We have developed a permanent exhibit about the school's origins and evolution. New information is continually added to that exhibit. In addition, we develop two smaller exhibits yearly: one each in the first and third quarters. Last, we prepare traveling exhibits and displays for special occasions.

**18. *Does the museum accept exhibit items from patrons on loan?***

Yes. The patron must complete a form that clearly delineates the item as a loan and for a specified period of time.

**19. *Does the museum accept exhibit items from patrons as a permanent gift?***

Yes. The patron must complete a form that clearly delineates the item as a permanent gift to the museum.

**20. *Does the museum have adequate insurance?***

Yes. Our policy also includes provisions in case of injury to volunteers or visitors.