Guide to the Papers of

Robert R. Taylor Illustrations & Maps

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**Tuskegee University National Center of**

**Archives and Museums**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:**  **Taylor,** Robert Robinson (1868-1942)

**Title:** **Robert R. Taylor Illustrations and Maps**

**Dates:** 1900-70

**Quantity:** 1.46 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** Robert R. Taylor was an African American architect and educator who was responsible for the creation of many of our famous buildings on Tuskegee University's campus. Robert was the first African- American architect to graduate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1892. He arrived at the Tuskegee Institute in the fall of 1892 and continued his legacy as an instructor and architect until 1899. Robert's innovative contributions and remarkable career continue to inspire future generations and architects.

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Robert R. Taylor Illustrations & Maps (1900-70)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in archival storage containers, with the documents in what was assumed to be their original folders. From their arrangement in the storage containers, it was assumed that all the folders were arranged alphabetically by folder title and were stored in alphabetical order while in active use. However, the alphabetical order was not entirely intact; many of the folders were not labeled or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

Also, considering the belief that the folders were originally filed alphabetically, it was determined that some folders were missing. Because it was difficult to determine whether all files were originally arranged alphabetically as one unit, or in separate series according to subject matter, and given the present state of the folders, the processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. Folder titles assigned by the processors are indicated in the inventory enclosed in square brackets. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

* + - Dining Room and Dormitory A (The Mississippi Industrial College)
    - Floor Plan of Science Building
    - Tuskegee Institute Chapel
    - Home Economics Building
    - Addition & Renovation Library Building
    - White Hall Basement & Ground Floor Plans
    - White Hall
    - Wall Sections Miscellaneous Detail
    - Library Building (Wiley University Marshal Texas)
    - Proposed Additions to Home Economics
    - Second Floor Plan (Douglas Hall at Tuskegee University)

**Person (s):**

Robert R. Taylor

**Biography**

Robert Robinson Taylor was born in 1868 Wilmington, North Carolina to an enslaved mother, and white father that granted Taylor the mobility of a freedman before the Civil War. After years of carpentry, Taylor attended MIT to study architecture where he would continue to use the skill to design buildings in states such as Massachusetts, Alabama, Ohio, and the country of Liberia. He is remembered as the first, professionally trained, Black architect from MIT.

Taylor is most reputable for his architectural contributions to multiple buildings at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Invited by Booker T. Washington in the late 1890’s to orchestrate industrial programs and projects, Robert R. Taylor took to working on designs for Tuskegee—constructing a plethora of Tuskegee buildings between 1892 and 1930. He also served as an architectural instructor for the school as he, simultaneously, took to architectural business. Buildings would include Science Hall/Thrasher Hall (1893), The Chapel (1898), The Oaks (1899), and Huntington Hall (1899) to name a few. By 1925, Taylor would become the vice principal of Tuskegee Institute and help plan the abroad location of the Booker T. Washington Institute in 1929 Libera. In the same year, he would receive an honorary doctorate from Lincoln University.

He would retire from Tuskegee in 1932 after a heart attack and return to his hometown, Wilmington, North Carolina. Taylor would spend the end of his life devoted to social justice issues and serving the Fayetteville State Teacher’s College as a trustee.

Taylor passed on December 13th, 1942, while visiting John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital—a building he designed.

**Scope and Contents**

The collection compiled by Robert R. Taylor comprises a range of documents, including illustrations and maps, dating from the 1900s to the 1970s. These materials primarily consist of blueprints displaying architectural designs by Robert, who played a significant role in constructing numerous cherished buildings on Tuskegee's campus, notably the inaugural Chapel. The maps and illustrations within this collection offer visual representations of various structures on the Tuskegee campus and other affiliated institutions.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into three series:

Series I: Maps and Illustrations (1900-70)

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Series I: Illustrations & Maps of Robert R. Taylor**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Plans for Dining Room and Dormitory A (The Mississippi Industrial College)

1 2 1st Floor Plan of Science Building A (Tuskegee University)

1 3 2nd Floor Plan of Science Building A(Tuskegee University)

1 4 3rd Floor Plan of Science Building A (Tuskegee University)

1 5 1st Floor Plan of Science Building B (Tuskegee University)

1 6 2nd Floor Plan of Science Building B (Tuskegee University)

1 7 3rd Floor Plan of Science Building B (Tuskegee University)

1 8 {RESCAN MAP}

1 9 2nd Floor Plan of Science Building C (Tuskegee University)

1 10 Tuskegee Institute Chapel -Architectural & Mechanical Drawing Division

1 11 Plans for Dining Room and Dormitory B (The Mississippi Industrial College)

1 12 Plans for Dining Room and Dormitory C (The Mississippi Industrial College)

1 13 Library Building (Wiley University Marshal Texas)

1 14 Basement Floor Plan A (Tuskegee University)

1 15 {RESCAN MAP}

1 16 Alteration of Home Economics Building (Tuskegee University)

1 17 Second Floor Plan (Douglas Hall at Tuskegee University)

1 18 First Floor Plan (Home Economics Building at Tuskegee University)

1 19 Basement Floor Plan B (Tuskegee University)

1 20 Home Economics Building- Main Entrance Door & Detail (Tuskegee University)

1 21 Home Economics Building-Stairwell/Window/Door detail (Tuskegee University)

1 22 Proposed Additions to Home Economics (Tuskegee University)

1 23 Home Economics Building- Front & Right Side Elevations (Tuskegee University)

1 24 Home Economics Building- Rear & Left Side Elevations (Tuskegee University)

1 25 Home Economics Building- Basement Pluming & Heat Plan (Tuskegee University)

1 26 Home Economics Building-1st & 2nd Floor (Tuskegee University)

1 27 Home Economics Building-1st & 2nd Floor Electrical Layouts(Tuskegee University)

1 28 Home Economics Building-Basement Floor Electrical Plan (Tuskegee University)

1 28 Home Economics Building- Equipment & Plumbing Layout (Tuskegee University)

1 29 Addition & Renovation Library Building (Tuskegee University)

1 30 Addition & Renovation Library Building- 1st & 2nd Floor Plans A (Tuskegee University)

1 31 Addition & Renovation Library Building- 3rd Floor & Roof Plans A (Tuskegee University)

1 32 Wall Sections Miscellaneous Detail (Tuskegee University)

1 33 Addition & Renovation Library Building:1st-6th Level Framing/Part Roof Framing Plan (Tuskegee

University)

1 34 Addition & Renovation Library Building- 1st & 2nd Floor Plans B (Tuskegee University)

1 35 Addition & Renovation Library Building- 3rd Floor & Roof Plans B (Tuskegee University)

1 36 Addition & Renovation Library Building- 1st & 2nd Floor Plans C (Tuskegee University)

1 37 Addition & Renovation Library Building- 3rd Floor & Roof Plans C (Tuskegee University)

1 38 White Hall Basement & Ground Floor Plans (Tuskegee University)

1 39 White Hall 1st & 2nd Floor plans (Tuskegee University)