

# DESIGN AT THE CENTER OF LIFE



## AN EXHIBITION OF AFRICAN OBJECTS OF EVERYDAY-USE

May 7 - June 23

### **Banneker-Douglass Museum**

84 Franklin Street

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Telephone: 301/269-2893 269-3955

### **Hours**

Tuesday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.

*CONTEMPORARY  
AFRICAN ART OBJECTS  
ON SALE*

*BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM  
GIFT SHOP*

*Annapolis, Maryland 214*



*Dawson-Curtis-Spriggs Family, 1900. Courtesy of C. Leroy Carroll*

## STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Manresa Conference Center  
Manresa-on-Severn

October 10, 11, 12, 1984

Maryland: The Afro-American Presence,

1634-1984 --

“Family, Property, Religion and Status”

350 Years in the development of the Afro-American Society in Maryland

Sponsored by:

The Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture  
and

Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation Inc.

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## Forty Acres and a Mule

In Savannah, Georgia on the evening of January 12, 1865, there was assembled one of the most remarkable gatherings of the Civil War Era and American history. Twenty Black ministers and lay leaders joined Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and Major General William T. Sherman at the General's headquarters on Madison Square. The Black leaders had been summoned to consider the future of the thousands of slaves freed by the "March to the sea" of Sherman's Army. Four days after the meeting, persuaded by Stanton, Sherman issued Special Field Order #15 which set aside 40 acres of land to farm, and a mule with which to drag a plow so the land could be cultivated. The award—a land grant of a quarter of a quarter section (160,000 m<sup>2</sup>) deeded to heads of households, subdivided out of a 36 mile (93 km) track of property, presumably formerly owned by land-holding whites—was the product of Special Field Order No. 15, issued January 16, 1865 by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and applied to black families who lived near the coasts of South Carolina and Florida (the original order specifically allocated "the islands from Charleston, south, the abandoned rice fields along the rivers for thirty miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. Johns river, Florida").

President Abraham Lincoln was murdered April 14, 1865 and the new President Andrew Johnson vetoed the enactment of the policy as a federal statute (introduced as U.S. Senate Bill 60), although an altered form of the bill was later passed and Johnson's second veto overridden. Few if any former slave families ever took possession of the land or the mule, and the phrase has come to represent the failure of Reconstruction and the public's failure to assist African-Americans in the path from slavery to freedom.



## Harriet Tubman

I have freed many slaves, and could  
have freed thousands more if they  
only knew they were slaves."

Born 1820, Dorchester County, Maryland  
Died March 10, 1913, Auburn, New York