Birthplaces of Foundational Black American Innovators (1791 - 1992)

This map shows the birthplaces of Foundational Black Americans whose inventions and technological contributions remain embedded in daily life and national infrastructure. From traffic control systems and transportation safety to medical devices and domestic innovations, these individuals solved practical problems with enduring impact. By focusing on place of origin, the map highlights geographic patterns of innovation shaped by history, access, and lived experience rather than institutional proximity alone.

Contribution Type

- Health & Science (18)
- Computing & Communications (13)
- Infrastructure & Safety (11)
- Everyday Innovation (16)

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Spatial Reference
Name: USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic
PCS: USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic
GCS: GCS North American 1983
Datum: North American 1983
Projection: Albers

0 15 30 60 Miles
Scale: 1:3,300,000

N W E S

George Crum
1853 — Smithsonian Institution

Lewis Howard Latimer
1881 — Latimer House

George Sampson
1892 — USPTO

Lloyd Ray
1897 — USPTO

Thomas L. Jennings
1821 — Lemelson-MIT

Leonard Bailey
1858 — BlackPast

Robert Pelham Jr. 1839 — USPTO

Alice H. Parker
1919 — USPTO

Jane Cooke Wright
1951 — National Cancer Institute

Marie Van Brittan Brown 1969 — USPTO

John Stanard
1891 — USPTO

Daniel Hale Williams
1893 — National Library of Medicine

Rebecca Lee Crumpler
1883 — National Library of Medicine

Benjamin Banneker
1791 — National Park Service

Valerie Thomas
1980 — NASA

Shirley Ann Jackson
1977 — Bell Labs

Henry Blair
1834 — Smithsonian

Benjamin Montgomery
1857 — Smithsonian Institution

Joseph Winters
1878 — USPTO

Charles Richard Drew 1940 — NLM

Bessie Blount Griffin
1951 — Smithsonian Institution

Lewis Temple
1848 — NPS

Gladys West
1986 — US DoD

James E. West
1962 — NIHF

Nathaniel Alexander
1911 — USPTO

Alfred L. Cralle
1897 — USPTO

Marjorie Stewart Joyner
1928 — Smithsonian Institution

Katherine Johnson
1961 — NASA

Herman Branson
1940 — American Physical Society

Sarah Boone
1892 — USPTO

George Washington Murray
1894 — Library of Congress

Ernest Everett Just
1915 — Smithsonian Institution

Lloyd Augustus Hall 1938 — NIHF

Clarence Ellis
1988 — ACM

Thomas W. Stewart
1893 — USPTO

Sarah E. Goode
1885 — Smithsonian

George Edward Alcorn Jr. 1984 — NASA

Granville T. Woods 1887 — IEEE

Alexander Miles
1887 — NIHF

George Carruthers
1972 — NASA

Frederick McKinley Jones 1940 — NIHF

Henry Boyd
1835 — Smithsonian Institution

Garrett Morgan
1923 — US DOT

Roy L. Clay Sr.
1965 — IEEE

St. Elmo Brady
1920 — American Chemical Society

Mark Dean
1981 — NIHF

Jesse Eugene Russell 1984 — IEEE

Mae Jemison
1992 — NASA

Andrew Jackson Beard 1897 — NIHF

Annie Easley
1970 — NASA

Henry Sampson
1971 — USPTO

Percy Lavon Julian
1935 — NIHF

Otis Frank Boykin
1959 — NIHF

James Andrew Harris
1974 — Lawrence Berkeley Lab

Norbert Rillieux
1846 — Smithsonian

Lonnie Johnson
1986 — USPTO

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