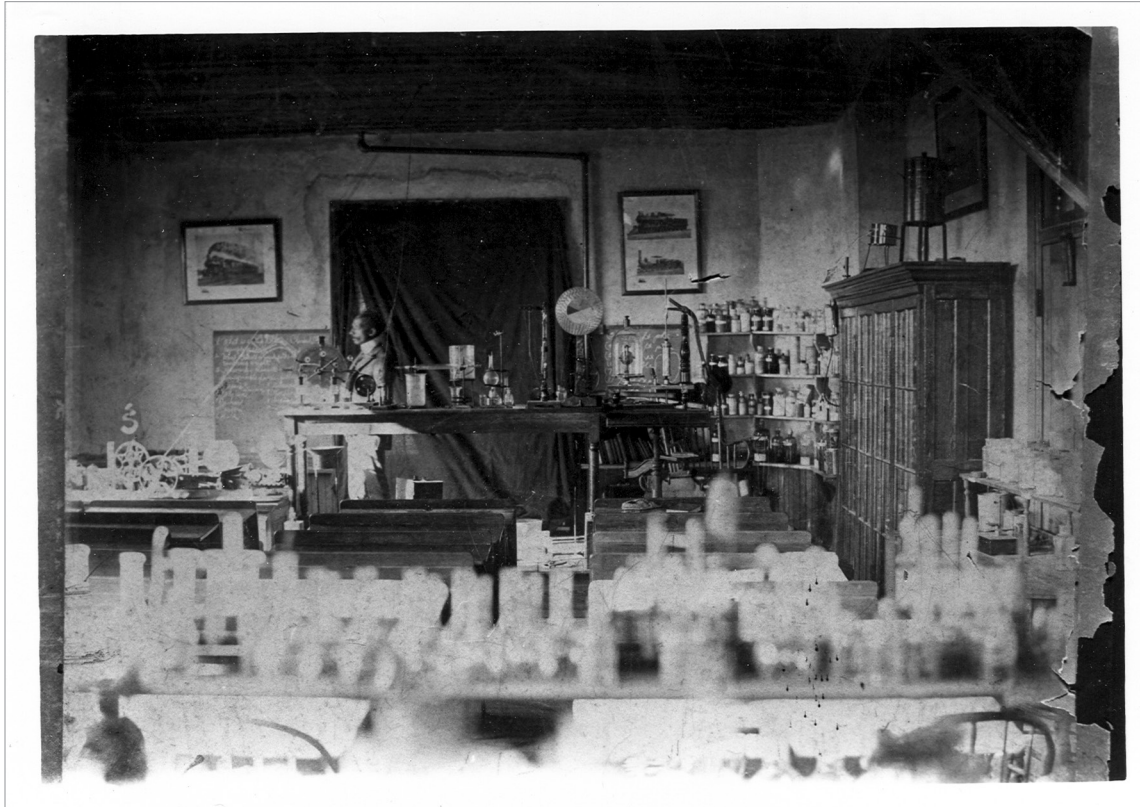


Photo Finish: School Days



This classroom-laboratory was photographed around 1917 at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg. Founded in 1896 as the Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina, the school was the state's only public college for black youth. Originally tasked with training its students to be teachers, farmers, homemakers, and artisans, the institution survived the ravages of the Great Depression and the turmoil of the civil rights movement. On February 8, 1968, it was the site of the Orangeburg Massacre, in which three students were killed and twenty-eight people were injured while protesting the segregation of the town's only bowling alley. In 2007, South Carolina State made national headlines again, this time as host of a Democratic Party presidential candidate debate. The university is the only state-funded, historically black land-grant institution in South Carolina, offering comprehensive undergraduate and graduate programs in science, business, and the humanities.

— Katherine W. Giles