

Visit the Miles B. Carpenter House in Sussex County



The Miles B. Carpenter House, a two-story frame structure built in 1890, is located at the intersection of Hunter Street and Highway 460 in Waverly, Sussex County.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Nov. 13, 1989. In 1912, the home was purchased by Miles B. Carpenter, owner of a local sawmill, planing mill, and ice delivery business, who became a noted American folk artist.

Since Carpenter's death in 1985, his house has been preserved as a museum where his tools and carvings are displayed and as a gallery to encourage and exhibit the work of young artists in the region. Also on the complex is the country's first peanut museum.



Miles Burkholder Carpenter (1889–1985) moved to Sussex County in 1901 and lived there the rest of his life.

After working at his father's mill, Carpenter bought his first lumber business at age 23. He later was a proprietor of a roadside ice, beverage and produce market as well as a theater.

During the 1940s, Carpenter began making small carvings. He would display many of his works in the flatbed of his truck that was parked next to the store (a building that still stands as a museum in honor of the artist and in



celebration of peanuts, the most famous local crop).

Some of Carpenter's work included farm animals, imaginary creatures, portraits of family members and Indians. But perhaps his most recognizable piece is the watermelon

slice with a bite missing.

His sculptures were noticed by the mainstream art world in 1972 and since then his bestiary of wooden fauna (and folks) has been featured in the Smithsonian Museum of American Art and other notable collections.