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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—DECEMBER 2011

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African American architect Robert R. Taylor profiled in groundbreaking biography

"Architectural historian Ellen Weiss has developed a long-overdue and well-documented historical account of Robert R. Taylor, a true American architectural pioneer ... a must read for anyone with an interest in architecture and a certain reference for every architecture student."

— Richard K. Dozier, AIA, Dean, Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture
& Construction Science

Montgomery, Al. — NewSouth Books is pleased to announce the publication of *Robert R. Taylor and Tuskegee: An African American Architect Designs for Booker T. Washington* by Ellen Weiss, with a foreword by Henry Lewis Gates, Jr. This text interweaves the life of the first academically trained African American architect with his life's work—the campus of Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. In this richly illustrated architectural history, the author shows how a black youth born in North Carolina shortly after the Civil War earned a professional architecture degree at MIT, and how he then used his design and administrative skills to further Booker T. Washington's agenda of community solidarity and—in defiance of the then-expanding Jim Crow policies—the public expression of racial pride and progress.

The book also considers such issues as architectural education for African Americans at the turn of the twentieth century, the white donors who funded Tuskegee's buildings, other Tuskegee architects, and Taylor's buildings elsewhere. Individual narratives of Taylor's Tuskegee buildings conclude the volume.

Ellen Weiss is Professor Emerita at the Tulane University School of Architecture. She has taught architectural and planning history at several universities, and served on the boards of the Society of Architectural Historians, the Vernacular Architecture Forum, and the Southeast Society of Architectural Historians.

Robert T. Taylor and Tuskegee is available through local bookstores, chain/online retailers, or from NewSouth's distributor, John. F. Blair, at <http://www.blairpub.com/>. For more information, contact Angela Harwood, sales manager, at harwood@blairpub.com or by phone at 800-222-9796. ISBN: 978-1-58838-264-1. Trade cloth, \$24.95.