

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

March 31, 2007

This report covers events surrounding the African Burial Ground (ABG) Project for the period of January 1 through March 31, 2007

Introduction

The activities for this reporting period include the celebration of Black History Month in February 2007 and the first anniversary of the African Burial Ground as a National Monument. During the reporting period, over 145 tours and programs welcomed over 4,000 individuals at onsite and offsite programs. The NPS awarded the design development phase of the planned visitors' center. Processing and database integration continues on the sizeable collection of photographic materials from the Cobb Laboratory. A brief list of meetings, telephone conferences, etc., held during this reporting period is provided as Appendix A.

Activities of the Reporting Period

Education/Outreach (NPS - First Floor Interpretive Center)

Programs were presented to several learning centers such as libraries, universities, right of passage programs, public, private and home school groups, and community and public health organizations. Programs were given to visitors from the United States and abroad. The current center has had an increasing number of people from Australia who are making the connection between the Aboriginal people and Africans.

In January, there were 35 programs delivered including both tours and on and off-site programs about the African Burial Ground National Monument. In total, 273 people attended these programs. The number of walk-ins who received informal or formal tours numbered 493.

In February 2007, the African Burial Ground National Monument celebrated Black History Month and its first anniversary as a National Monument. The African Burial Ground National Monument conducted over 120 tours and on-site and offsite programs and welcomed more than 2,973 attendees. The African Burial Ground National Monument received plaques of appreciation from the Department of Justice (Federal Bureau of Prison Metropolitan Correctional Center) and SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

In March, there were 12 scheduled on- and off-site presentations. Approximately, 564 individuals came to these presentations. Overall, 777 individuals were served and experienced the African Burial Ground documentary films, PowerPoint and slide presentations as well as interpretive tours of the commemorative site and its artwork. In addition, staff from the African Burial Ground participated in the National Park Centennial Initiative: America's Listening Session. Also, in March, over 20 current volunteers participated in a new volunteer coordinator meeting and National Park Service Listening Session at the African Burial Ground site.

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Planned Visitor Center (NPS) The architectural schematic design (SD) was completed for the visitor space and the management offices of the Interpretive Center. The NPS has awarded the design development phase (DD) of the project. The projected completion date for the DD phase is end of July 2007.

Amaze Design, Inc. presented the concept plan to NPS staff and advisors on January 10-12. Comments on the revised Concept Plan were submitted to Amaze Design, Inc. Planning and production for the interpretive film is underway including conducting interviews and planning the recreation scenes. The Contractor has been notified of a delay in building construction.

Exterior Memorial (GSA)

Construction of the memorial continued with the installation of the underground plumbing and the electrical lines. All concrete work for the Libation Court and the surrounding radial walls has been completed. The installation of the granite began on January 18th and has been installed on the inner and outer radial walls. The granite pavers are being installed on the ramp.

Technical Studies (Corps/Howard University)

Howard University and its contractor, SRI, continued to review and revise the format for the technical reports in accordance with the responses to editorial queries provided by the authors. The team also prepared several chapters of the integrated report, which are being reviewed by Howard University.

Archives Project (Corps)

Processing continues on the sizeable collection of photographic materials from the Cobb Laboratory. Extensive work has been done on the photograph database for the entire collection. Processing has begun on the Custom House record group. Coordination to retrieve the materials from Central Connecticut State University continues. The MCX archivists have also fielded several large reference requests in this period. Howard University's contractor, SRI, required assistance to locate original versions of all of the images that were used in the technical reports for use in the Integrated Report, Christopher Moore from the New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture requested multiple images of the reinterrment ceremony for an exhibit, and Amaze Design requested sample images for the design work for the NPS.

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Appendix A

Timeline of Meetings and Telephone Conferences conducted by the ABG Project Team

Jan 10-12	Amaze Design, Inc., presentation of Interpretive Center concept plan to NPS staff and advisors
Jan 3, 17 and 31	HU/SRI/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation
Feb 14 and 21	HU/SRI/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation
Mar 7 and 21	HU/SRI/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation