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African-American Spirituality and Ritual Practices 1997 African American Archaeology Workshop

Submitted by Ywone Edwards, Colonial Williamsburg

As we become more conscious of the tenacious and complex nature of the African heritage, we are encouraged to focus on questions of ritual and spirituality in our representations of the archaeology of African Americans and their implications for more rigorous and culturally meaningful interpretation of our various sites. For the 1997 Society for Historical Archaeology meeting in Corpus Christi, the African-American Archaeology Workshop will serve as a forum to discuss current ideas about African-American ritual and spirituality and to examine material evidence that many of us are starting to treat as relevant to ritual practice and belief systems.

Archaeologists and other interested individuals are invited to bring artifacts or other evidence to a round table discussion on archaeological data that might relate to the development of African-American ritual and spirituality. To further encourage our examination of this subject, a few key speakers will give brief case studies to pave the way for the discussion.