12-1-1994

Burnside Cemetery, Burnside, Louisiana

Paul Farnsworth
Louisiana State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan

Recommended Citation
Farnsworth, Paul (1994) "Burnside Cemetery, Burnside, Louisiana," African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter: Vol. 1 : Iss. 3 , Article 10. Available at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol1/iss3/10

This Articles, Essays, and Reports is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.
**Burnside Cemetery, Burnside, Louisiana**

*Submitted by Paul Farnsworth, Louisiana State University*

The Burnside Cemetery is a rural African-American cemetery located in a rectangular wooded area approximately 500 meters behind (northeast) of Houmas House plantation home. The cemetery is surrounded on all sides by sugar cane fields, and has become completely overgrown. Although the cemetery first appears on the 1935 U.S.G.S. map, its location relative to Houmas House suggests that it may date back as far as the antebellum period.

At the suggestion of Kathe Hambrick, as a community service activity in cooperation with the River Road African American Museum and Gallery, students from Louisiana State University's 'African-American Experience in Louisiana' course spent two weekend days in late May locating, clearing and recording the graves under the direction of Dr. Paul Farnsworth. The goals were to locate graves, make them accessible for family members to visit, clear them of fallen trees and vegetation, map their precise location, and record all information from headstones, etc. The map and grave marker information is being used by Kathe Hambrick to trace the families of the deceased to arrange for visits and restoration of the graves.

In total, 18 graves were positively identified, and a number of other possible graves were also recorded. Four burials were in concrete vaults, four were low mounds of earth, three just had simple headstones, three had crosses (2 iron, 1 concrete), three were covered by cement slabs (one of which had a low concrete wall around three sides), and one grave was enclosed by a low brick wall. Eight grave markers gave names, dates and a variety of other information. Three males and five females were represented. Death dates ranged from 1935 to 1961, while age at death ranged from 34 to 73 with a mean of 55.9 years (n=7).

While not an archaeology project, the application of archaeological mapping and recording techniques to a community service project and the cooperation between the River Road African-American Museum and the anthropology and archaeology students and faculty from LSU provides an example of the sorts of community outreach activities that archaeologists can participate into develop bonds with the African-American communities which we study.