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AFRICANS IN AMERICA: Places of Cultural Memory

A Conference, AFRICANS IN AMERICA: Places of Cultural memory, will be held September 26-30, 2000, in New Orleans, Louisiana under the joint sponsorship of the National Park Foundation, the National Park Service, the National Association for African American Heritage Preservation, the U.S. Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, Howard University, the Slave Route Project of UNESCO, and the Smithsonian Institution. For nearly four centuries, Africans developed and shaped the landscape of the Americas, including what is now the United States. The imprint of African cultural lifeways over this period of time has many manifestations, including the cultivation and harvesting of agricultural products, the design and construction of buildings, the platting of communities, the formation of landscapes, the use of natural environments, and the burials of relatives and friends. While many scholars and communities have studied and preserved many of the physical manifestations of African culture, many more potential historic properties await study and recognition. The goal of this conference is to convene interdisciplinary panels of experts whose presentations will assist in the fuller identification, evaluation, documentation, preservation, and interpretation of buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects.

Proposals for 20-minute presentations are invited to respond to one or more of the following major themes: 1) Memorizing places of diaspora, 2) Black cultural landscapes and institutions, 3) agricultural lifeways and technologies, and 4) legacies of urban realms and rural communities. A concise 350-400 word abstract with author's name(s), affiliation, summary resume (no more than 2 pages), postal and e-mail addresses, telephone and FAX numbers, and the theme to which the abstract is submitted. Authors of selected papers will receive free conference registration and a \$500 honorarium. All submissions must arrive at the National Park Service by Tuesday, November 30, 1999. Mail submissions to: Africanisms in America: Places of Cultural Memory, Heritage Preservation Services, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Suite NC 330, Washington, DC 20240. FAX submissions may be sent to (202) 343-3921; e-mail submissions may be sent to <Toni_Lee@nps.gov>. Notification of presentation selections will be mailed by February 29, 2000. Additional information on the conference is available: (888) 358-8388 or at <http://www.africanismsinamerica.com> (access denied).