THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND: AN AMERICAN DISCOVERY
Part Three - Politics and the People

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Total Running Time: 29:03
Program Starts at: 01:00:00
Note to Readers: This script provides information regarding the owner of each flat art image used. It also references this information to the camera original or source videotape. This information is inserted prior to the pertinent block of dialogue in this script and the SMPTE time code of the edited master is provided. The following key is utilized:

RTC is the record or program time code in: hr:min:sec
Source Rl: indicates the source reel number
Tc: is the time code of the source videotape in: hr:min:sec

FADE-UP - TEXT SCREEN - MUSIC

"THIS PROGRAM CONTAINS IMAGES OF HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS WHICH MAY BE DISTURBING TO SOME VIEWERS."

DISSOLVE - CONTEMPORARY SUNRISE OVER THE BURIAL GROUND

TITLE SCREENS OVER SHOT OF WATER (REQUIRES DT OR MATCHED DISSOLVE TO EXTEND SHOT FOR 18.5 SECONDS AS REQUIRED FOR TITLES - RL1)

THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND:
AN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
PART THREE - POLITICS AND THE PEOPLE

NARRATED BY: RUBY DEE AND OSSIE DAVIS
WRITTEN BY: CHRISTOPHER MOORE
MUSIC BY: LONETTE MCKEE, BRYANT MCNEIL & JAMSHIED SHARIFI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: J. PETER GLAWS, III
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY: DAVID KUTZ
NEW YORK CITY COUNCILWOMAN - (VOICE UNDER PICTURE - THEN BRIEFLY ON CAMERA - NO LOWER 3RD ID)

COUNCIL WOMAN:

OC: 18-18:29:26 CW2: This is a wonderful, wonderful find. We are privileged, we are blessed that it happened, that it has been unearthed, that we have found it. // 18-18:26:50 This is the history of America and don't let nobody take it from ya! (SPLIT APPLAUSE OVER NEXT SHOT)

INTERWEAVE: RTC = 01:00:39, Source Rl:110-Tc:10:09:10 - Map, Engraving derived from Maerschalckm, c.1763 - ©New York Public Library

NARRATOR VOICE OVER:

VO: The discovery of the African Burial Ground -- a cemetery more than two centuries old -- unearthed below the skyscrapers and streets of Manhattan stirred deep feelings in New York's African American community.

Some felt that the descendants of those buried there should be the ones to decide what became of the cemetery now.

GSA COMMUNITY MEETING - 6/15/92
LOWER THIRD: ANNIE FRAZIER, CONCERNED CITIZEN:

OC: 39-19:03:02 W3: Had we known from the beginning that there was this find // we could have taken our own bodies out that ground ourselves! And your hands wouldn't be on it. And we would do with our blood what we want to do with it.

INTERWEAVE - HIGH ANGLE TO DOWN TO SIDEWALK RL-125
RTC = 01:01:18, Source Rl:110-Tc:10:10:21 - Map, Engraving derived from Maerschalckm, c.1763 - ©New York Public Library

NARRATOR
VO: For generations the burial ground lay hidden beneath the streets of New York - unnoticed and unadorned. Everyday, for nearly two centuries, New Yorkers walked over the burial ground unaware that thousands -- upwards of 10,000 or more -- were buried beneath the city streets.
INTERWEAVE WITH LIVE ACTION
RTC = 01:01:46, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:14:17 - photographs of skeletal remains in-situ - photograph by Dennis Seckler as an employee of Historic Conservation and Interpretation (HCI) and/or John Milner Associates (JMA)
RTC = 01:01:51, Source Rl:100-Tc:20:13:13 - photographs of skeletal remains in-situ - photograph by Dennis Seckler as an HCI and/or JMA

VO: In the fall of 1991 as construction for a federal office building began, the cemetery was accidentally discovered.

LOWER THIRD: WILLIAM DIAMOND, FRM REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, GSA
DIAMOND IN HIS OFFICE:
OC: 30-10:17:02 WD: I realized that what we had essentially stumbled upon // was not only an archeological find of the first magnitude, but because of the nature of the skeletons being mainly African American, that there would be a ramification within the African American community in New York, in the United States, and perhaps even throughout the world as to what we've discovered here.

LOWER THIRD: CLAUDINE BROWN - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
CONGRESSIONAL HEARING CUT-AWAYS: TC14 = RL61, TC18 = RL65
BROWN:
OC: 124-04:19:29 CB: The little bit we had heard indicated that these were the human remains of African people that had newly come to this continent. It seemed to offer a unique opportunity for // the general public to learn a great deal about Africans who were then enslaved. // Across the country people who heard about it were excited. // We were saddened because someone's burial site had been desecrated // and we were concerned that these remains be treated with dignity and respect.
NARRATOR - SITE VIDEO - Diamond & GSA advisors RL-50

VO: The General Services Administration or "GSA" -- the agency responsible for constructing and managing federal office buildings, was required by law to sponsor periodic public meetings to receive comment.

GSA COMMUNITY MEETING - 6/15/92

LOWER THIRD: HERMAN HOWARD, CONCERNED CITIZEN

HERMAN HOWARD:

OC: 37-17:14:18 HH: And I think what the problem is is that there has not been a conscious effort. It would be a different story if we hadn't already gone into hundreds of bodies. // 37-17:15:26 And for that not to be dominated, I mean surely dominated by a strong force in the African American community, everything else, you know, for lack of a better word, is nothing more than whitewash.

LOWER THIRD: ADUNNI OSHUPA TABASI, CONCERNED CITIZEN

OC: 38-18-18:26+ ADDUNI: You should not even be in charge, to begin with, but it's the same over 200-year business of the Aryan male being in charge of the African.

NARRATOR - INTERWEAVE SHOTS AT GSA COMMUNITY MEETING

VO: Many in the African American community believed the ground sacred. They asked that construction be halted and the cemetery be kept intact as a memorial to the enslaved Africans who had helped build New York City.

The government's position was adamant. The removal of skeletal remains went on and construction continued - which the community felt was disrespectful and unfair.
GSA COMMUNITY MEETING - 6/15/92 - continued

LOWER THIRD:  **MIRIAM FRANCIS, CONCERNED CITIZEN**

FRANCIS:

OC:  40-01:10:24  MF:  How will the government then acknowledge the fact that this was a cemetery?

DIAMOND:

OC:  39-19:16:09  WD:  The two points that the community has requested that I cannot satisfy as a matter of GSA policy, as well as by law, are the re-internment of the -- of the skeletons within the building and also the creation of a museum on the site.  What // {19:16::32:02} the region has been able to come with is a $250,000 contribution to a ---

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN:

We don't want that!

DIAMOND:

to an interpretive display which we will do.  It is --

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN:

A pacifier.

DIAMOND:

No, it's obviously not a pacifier.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN:

It is.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN:

No, it's not.
NARRATOR - INTERWEAVE MEETING FOOTAGE - CUT-AWAY TO HIGH < VIEW OF FOLEY SQUARE {RL36 &RL16}

VO: In June 1992, the government offered to place the unearthed skeletal remains in a public park about 50 yards away. Nearby, but well off federal land. They also offered 250 thousand dollars towards the cost of creating an exhibition about the burial ground and a plaque at the site.

DIAMOND IN HIS OFFICE:

OC: 31-11:08:40:25 WD: We would, of course, put an appropriate plaque on the building to -- to show the world what was found here. // 11:05:39 The black community does not want that. They want more.

GSA COMMUNITY MEETING - 6/15/92 - continued


OC: 40:01:02:35 HH: When you're talking about thousands and thousands and thousands of Africans -- we don't know the count 'cause many died on the boats over here. // {RoomT-40-01:02:26:05+:20 // 40-01:02:48 How can we talk about $250,000, a plaque, // 40-01:03:40 and putting some graves in a park, that's insulting. // 40-01:03:01 Someone's going tell you that the remains of your ancestors are not more important than getting up this office building.

MIRIAM FRANCIS AT GSA COMMUNITY MEETING

OC: 39-19:13:34 MF Mr. Diamond, you have done nothing but have shown us disrespect meeting after meeting after meeting. You have led us on. You have made us think that you were listening to us and yet you have not. For you to sit there and to tell us about a plaque in a building is not addressing the situation at all. Why are you meeting with the community?
WILLIAM DIAMOND:

OC: 39-19:14:17  WD:  Because we meet does not mean that we agree. We do not agree on certain things.

FRANCIS (overlaps with previous bite):

Why are you having the meeting?

DIAMOND: (overlaps):

Because we are giving you progress to what we are doing and we are incorporating some of your suggestions.

FRANCIS (overlaps):

You're not doing what we want?

DIAMOND:

WD:  That's right. // 39-19:16:56  The points that you've put up were very carefully sent to Washington and the reaction and the instructions that I have are negative on those. And I must tell you that.

TRINITY CHURCH "TOWN MEETING" - 4/23/93
CUT IN CHORAL GROUP SINGING AT TRINITY - 16-16:10:00:02 AND CONTINUE UNDER OTHER VOICES TO 16-16:10:28:01

NARRATOR - EXTERIOR AND THEN INTERIOR OF TRINITY CHURCH (MIX WITH CHORAL MUSIC)

VO:  Demands to stop the further removal of the remains and to stop construction of the project grew in number and in passion. ♦

Trinity Church is one of the oldest churches in New York. During the colonial period only whites - who worshipped at Trinity - could be buried in the church yard. ♠ On April 23, 1992, in the metamorphosis of history - a church that once barred Africans - would now become the place for a major public gathering - "A Town Meeting" on a course of action. ♦
TRINITY CHURCH "TOWN MEETING" - 4/23/93

CANNON CASSON {no lower third}

CASSON:
OC: 17-17:10:49 CC: We're proud to be the location where consideration is to be given to creative ways to pay permanent tribute to the many African Americans buried in the sacred space recently discovered just north of here.

LOWER THIRD: HELEN MARSHAL, MEMBER NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILWOMAN:
OC: 18-18:26:55:25 CW2: This is America! This is America. Our -- our white brothers and sisters are not too proud of slavery, but we were the slaves. We were the slaves and our magnificence is in our survival. //+ What is in that burial ground will teach us immensely.

LOWER THIRD: ADAM CLAYTON POWELL IV, MEMBER NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

POWELL:
OC: 18-18:15:32 ACP: You do not disturb the deceased. You leave our people alone. You let them rest in peace. // 18-18:15:53 We should have a fitting memorial, not some plaque inside of some lobby -- <Here-here! - SPLIT AND CONTINUE BACKGROUND UNDER NEXT BITE) // 18-18:16:10 And if these reasonable and just demands are not met, then, at the very least, we should do everything that we can to stop the construction of this building! <loud cheering - SPLIT UNDER NEXT BITE>

LOWER THIRD: REV. HERBERT DAUGHERTY, HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCHES

DAUGHERTY:
OC: 18-18:07:21 RD: Had it not been for the bodies and the bones, the body and the labor of those people who rest yonder -- our ancestors, there wouldn't have been a United States of America! There wouldn't have been any wealth
of the Western World! <applause - SPLIT UNDER NEXT BITE> // 18-18:09:32 And not only that. After we had worked the field and built the roads and had our bodies sold, then we went out and died for the country!

NARRATOR - BACK TIME AND MIX APPLAUSE TRACK WITH ABOVE AND THROUGH NEXT VO AND DAUGHERTY'S NEXT BLOCK - APPLAUSE AT: 17-17:06:53:20+21:12 -

VO: At Trinity Church, many who thought of themselves as the descendants of those nameless ancestors -- buried nearby -- rejoiced at the adulation given to their forebears.

DAUGHERTY:

OC: 18-18:09:32++ RD: I mean there wouldn't have been a United States if it had not been for the black soldier, and George Washington said as much. There wouldn't have been a Union had the black soldier not been there, and Abraham Lincoln said as much. <applause from apx: 18:10:10:16 - SPLIT BACK AND UNDER NEXT BITE> // 18:07:01 We are authorized by God to insist that this government give the proper memorial to the bones of our ancestors. <applause from: apx 18:07:37 - SPLIT BACK AND UNDER NEXT BITE> // 18-18:09:54 RD: So, based upon the blood we have shed --based upon the labor we have given-- based upon our bodies which have been sold-- we demand! --We're going to insist that the bones of our ancestors which lie yonder be given a proper and fitting memorial (loud cheering) that they can rest in peace! -- We demand that! <applause - SPLIT UNDER NEXT BITE>

LOWER THIRD: DAVID PATTERSON, NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

PATTERSON:

OC: 17-17:09:20 DP: (applause) And so we are compelled by history to defend the rights of our fore-parents to stay right where they were buried and that the spirit that they represented live on. <applause from: apx 17:09:40 - SPLIT BACK AND UNDER NEXT BITE> // 17-17:06:19: If that is not the case, let
me suggest that the sons and daughters of the people who were buried there, along with those who are interested, will boycott and picket that site and it will be a lot more expensive than it is now. (applause)

DIAMOND IN HIS OFFICE:

OC: 31-11:15:45 WD: Are we in a powder keg situation?
And the answer is, yes, we are. This is very sensitive. // It has been told to me, in no uncertain terms, this could be a quote, "Rodney King situation", unquote. // that means that I have to move and we have to move with sensitivity, understanding, and that we have to be as flexible as we possibly can be. But at a certain point there is no flexibility. There is -- the answer will be at some times no and, ah, the government will not be, // blackmailed or blackjacked or -- or -- or threatened into a position that would be contrary to law or -- or to -- our responsibility.

LOWER THIRD: REV CANNON L.S. CASSON, VICAR OF TRINITY CHURCH

CASSON

OC: 17-17:12:20 CC: The people of New York need to know that this is not really simply a project on behalf of for, or by African Americans. // 17:12:51 It is in that spirit, I believe, that what we do in considering what we will do with these remains will be an instrument of the deliberation of all of us, all the people, all the backgrounds -- white, black, brown, and yellow -- all of us, // to be able to stand proud finally as citizens of this great city. // It's in that spirit that I'd like now to offer a prayer for our city. Let us pray. // Oh, God, // known by many names // 13:40 Behold and visit, we pray, this city of New York. // 14:10 and that men and women and children from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the // fulfillment of their humanity. // In Your great name, we pray. //
17:14:26:13   Amen.

NARRATOR - DISSOLVE TO SOWETO DAY DEMONSTRATION

VO: From the "Town Hall" Meeting a coalition emerged of community activists, scientists and educators. There were drives to sign petitions - there were demonstrations. The cause became a beacon for human rights movements world-wide.


SUPER:  SOWETO DAY DEMONSTRATION - JUNE 16, 1992

LOWER THIRD: WENDEL FOSTER, MEMBER NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMAN

FOSTER:
42-02:09:18 WF:  Stop the diggin'. If you're not going to stop it, please let us agree that there will be established an appropriate monument, no sidewalk plaque, no sign on the wall. That is an insult. Do for my ancestors what you demand that I do for your ancestors! So, we must keep the pressure on. Keep the pressure on.

DRUMS PLAYING, PEOPLE MARCHING FROM IN FRONT OF FEDERAL PLAZA TO IN FRONT OF THE GATES TO THE BURIAL GROUND, FLOWERS BEING THROWN OVER THE FENCE, POSTERS BEING STAPLED TO WALL.

LOWER THIRD: DR. RASHIDAH L. ABUBAKR, LECTURE, AFRICAN STUDIES

ABUBAKR:
OC:  43-03:17:21 MA:  Let's just have 5 seconds, 1 second even, of kindness, remembrance, and a prayer for courage to be humane even though it is very difficult, very difficult.
NARRATOR

VO: By the summer of 1992, the number of remains removed surpassed 300.

DIAMOND IN HIS OFFICE:

OC: 30-10:29:19 WD: We have now removed approximately 360 skeletons and there may be another 150-200 to go. // 30-10:24:00 We have been instructed by the Congress, "we" being the General Services Administration, by law, to construct an 850,000-square-foot building on this site. We have no alternative but to do so unless we are instructed by the Congress not to do so. CUT TO LOW ANGLE SHOT UP TO CRANE IN CONSTRUCTION SITE - PAN DOWN TO REVEAL CHIEF ALEGBA AS HE ENTERS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE - INTERWEAVE WITH ALEGBA COME INTO TENT, HIGGINS' PHOTO WITH AFRICAN PRIEST - INTERWEAVE WITH ALEGBA FIXING UP CEREMONIAL ALTER PLACE.

CHIEF ALEGBA - PORTIONS OF THIS TEXT IS IN AN AFRICAN LANGUAGE - CHANT STARTING AT 82-02:11:29 CONTINUES MIXED WITH NARRATION FOR APPROXIMATELY 35 SECONDS.

OC: 82-02:11:29 CO: [African chant]


VO: Spiritual leaders from many faiths came to the burial grounds to honor the dead, each in their own way. Christians, Muslims, or Yoruba and the many religions of Africa all recognized this place as sacred ground. Libations and ceremonies were conducted for the ancestors and for the newborn.

LOWER THIRD: ALAGBA Egunfemi Adegbalola, SPIRITUAL LEADER

{{PORTIONS OF THIS TEXT IS IN AN AFRICAN LANGUAGE}}

ALAGBA:

OC: 83-03:01:40 CO: [CHANTING] Eku Africa, ahsha oh, Shiree, Shiree ... [AFRICAN] ... All the ancestors, the ones that came from Africa,
the muslims, those that are from Christians,
those who study Buddha, the Baptists, the
Protestants, the Jews, we say, we say all of
us are family, we say again to you ... Soo
fami, so fami ...

CHIEF ALAGBA \{03:22:21\} BLOWS SMOKE TOWARDS CAMERA AS HE BLESSES
ALTAR - DISSOLVE TO 26-HOUR DRUM VIGIL - AUGUST 9, 1992 -
INTERWEAVE THROUGH FOLLOWING WITH VARIETY OF DEMONSTRATION
FOOTAGE.

CHIEF ALAGBA

OC: 07:17:57 So I say to you, Shiree, Shiree, Shiree,
give, come and blessing and let this all come
to something positive. // 67-07:08:50 CO:
All around the world you do not violate a
cemetery. It is your only last place of
rest. \{SPLIT AUDIO EFX INTO NEXT SCENE\}

NARRATOR

VO: On August 9th and 10th, 1992, thousands of people
came to pay tribute during a 26-hour
remembrance vigil at the construction gate.

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR DAVID PATTERSON

68-08:20:55 DP: Thank you // for coming here today //
to give honor // to people who lived in New
York who were never remembered in history,
were never treated correctly in life, and
were dis-respected in death! // 68-08:21:24
They told // us that it is inappropriate to
put // a cemetery under a Federal office
building! // But somehow they thought that
it was appropriate to dig up a cemetery and
build an office building over top of remains
of our ancestors.

NARRATOR

VO: Demands to stop the construction, to stop the
removal of more burials and to honor the
burial ground with a memorial were voiced by
people from many backgrounds.
LOWER THIRD: **RUTH MESSENGER, MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

**MESSENGER:**

**OC:** 67-07:27:28  **RM:** This is an unbelievable find in terms of our nation's history // it must be made a national monument. // so that all who are alive today and all who come after us come to understand the significance of what our ancestors gave to us here.

**LOWER THIRD: **KEN LITTLE HAWK, MI KMAQ - NOVA SCOTIA**

**KEN LITTLE HAWK:**

**OC:** 67-07:19:25  **NA:** Oh, great spirit who's voice I hear in the wind and who's breath gives life to all the world // 07:20:48 make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes so when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

**AFRICAN PRAYER (DIFFERENT RELIGION THAN ALAGBA) - MIXED WITH DIALOGUE IS A SOFT SONG OF PRAYER.**

**OC:** 67-07:21:49  **AP:** Thank-you for the essence of life ... [AFRICAN] ...  // Citation of power to the supreme mother father for coming as [AFRICAN] ...  // Thank you for the devotion to doing the spiritual work. // We welcome // the ancestors // who have joined us today.

**LAST SOUND BITE ABOVE REQUIRES SECOND TRACK AMBIENT "TONE":**

**OPTION ONE IN @ 67-07:22:34:06 +02:00 {loop} and/or: 67-07:23:10:01 +02:00 and/or 67-07:24:11:06**

**CHORAL MUSIC - SPLIT UNDER NEXT BITE AND INTO ON-CAMERA CORAL MUSIC BEING PERFORMED - ON-CAMERA @: 68-08:11:13:10 - SPLIT BACK UNDER MUSLIM LEADER 00:22:01 SECONDS/FRAMES - SPLIT MUSIC FORWARD OUT @ 68-08:11:28:29 {FINAL SEVEN SECONDS WILL OVERLAP AND MIX WITH DRUMS}**

**LOWER THIRD: **MINISTER CHARLES KENYATTA, MEMBER OF THE BAPTIST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE**

**KENYATTA:**

**OC:** 68-08:25:24  **MK:** You are here today because your ancestors have spoken out and nothing you can do or say // can // not stop you from being
down here this afternoon. // 68-08:27:35
and most of all you must unite yourselves -
don't let nothing divide you - not over this
issue, let nothing divide you over this
issue. (SPLIT APPLAUSE TO CONTINUE OVER
BEGINNING OF CORAL MUSIC ON-CAMERA)

CHORAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE - ON-CAMERA

CROSS FADE TO DRUMS ...

NARRATOR - EFX TBD - PRE-DAWN - DRUM & DANCE SEQUENCE - SUNRISE:
88-08:10:50

VO: Throughout the day -- The Rain -- The
night -- And the dawn -- The vigil
played on -- in recognition of ancestors. □

DIAMOND IN HIS OFFICE:

OC: 31-11:16:45:20 WD: So far we have made progress,
but there are -- there are differences, and
I'm not going to gloss over them, between
what the community wants // and what the
government is willing to do. // That's the
// American system which all of us can buy
into. And that's another // point here, that
I just am hoping that the community will buy
into the American system of settling
differences peaceably.

NARRATOR - INTERWEAVE ESTABLISHING SHOTS OF CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

VO: In the coming months, the conflict between an
agency of the United States Government and
The People, represented by the United States
Congress, would climax. On July 27th, the
Congressional Sub-committee, in charge of the
building's construction would convene an
emergency session in New York. ■

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING - NYC - JULY 27, 1992 - INTERWEAVE
APPROPRIATE B-ROLL OVER THE FOLLOWING SCENES -

SUPER: "CONGRESSIONAL HEARING - NEW YORK CITY - 7/17/92"
CONGRESSMAN GUS SAVAGE - GAVEL HITS DAIS - audio requires digital processing!

LOWER THIRD: GUS SAVAGE, FMR. US CONGRESSMAN, CHAIR PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COM.

SAVAGE:
OC: 61-14:05:41  GS: This hearing of the Subcommittee on Public Buildings & Grounds // will now come to order.

NARRATOR

VO: Testimony from experts established the unchallenged historic significance of the burial ground.

LOWER THIRD: DR. JOHN HENRIK CLARKE, HISTORIAN

CLARK:
OC: 62-15:26:14  JHC: The significance of this burial site is that it is a part of the history of New York and part of the missing pages of the history of this -- of this nation.

PATERSON:

OC: 63-16:14:38:20  DP: This is not just the history of African Americans in New York, this is the history of the United States.

NARRATOR

VO: Further testimony questioned the need to unearth more remains.

LOWER THIRD: LAURIE BECKELMAN, COMMISSIONER, NYC LANDMARKS

BECKELMAN:

OC: 62-15:06:24  LB: We now have enough human remains to conduct at least a decade of laboratory research. While it's expected that over 200 individuals are still buried at this location, there is no need to excavate any more burials.
NARRATOR - SHOT OF CONGRESSIONAL BUILDING ON - KUTZ-TV STOCK

VO: Opponents of the building cited the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act as the most compelling legal case against continued excavation.

They also pointed out that the GSA had not yet provided a critical document to the community - the research design. Promised over six months earlier, this important document would have presented a fully developed plan for the process and goals of the archeological removal and the anticipated scientific laboratory work. Instead, the remains of over 400 people had been removed without a specific plan of action.

BECKELMAN:

OC: 62-15:08:14 LB: Today, after submission of an unsatisfactory draft, this report is still 6 months overdue. And why is a research design so important? Any archaeological excavation is useless without a research design. It's like driving a car in a foreign country without a road map or a destination. A research design provides the map, procedures, and time schedules for excavation, treatment and management of archaeological sites and the objects they contain. Without a research design, there is no statement of purpose for archaeological investigations.

LOWER THIRD: DAVID N. DINKINS, FMR. MAYOR, NEW YORK CITY

DINKINS:

OC: 61-14:13:08 DD: My position is simple. The excavation on the site of the main building has already been completed and at this point there is nothing to be gained by interfering with that aspect of construction. But in the absence of a research design, excavation on the site of the smaller pavilion must be suspended immediately.
LOWER THIRD: MILTON HERSON, FMR. COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE GSA

HERSON:

OC: 65-18:06:03  MH: It was assumed by both the city and the government there would be few remains left because of the extensive construction that occurred on this site over the years.

DIAMOND IN HIS OFFICE:

OC: 30-10:13:04  WD: The government never foresaw the amount of skeletons that would be found there, and it is very important for us to understand that had we foreseen this, we perhaps would have taken a different course of action.

HERSON:

65-18:06:30 I want to assure all those gathered here that GSA has the greatest sensitivity to both the historic significance of this site and its very personal meaning to this community.

LOWER THIRD: NOEL POINTER, CONCERNED CITIZEN

POINTER:

OC: 81-01:27:45++  NP: There is a slogan that seems to be going around the community right now // that is // borrowed from an old negro spiritual, which says, "Some of them bones is my mother's bones come together for to rise and shine. Some of them bones is my father's bones. Some of them bones is mine." So there is a sense of, ah, a very, very personal connection that our community has with the African Burial Ground // 01:28:53 that goes deeper than all of the politics that are coming out of this issue // 01:29:09 because this is about family.

CONGRESSMAN GUS SAVAGE
OC: 66-19:26:21 GS: I am not going to be a part of your dis-respecting what people here have testified - scholars have called - the most important archeological discovery in this century! // 19:26:39 What I'm going to do - Gus Savage - is everything in my power to make you change your obstinacy and your disrespect for a sector of this city, and with that having been said, this committee is adjourned. <SPLIT OVER NEXT VOICE OVER loud cheering over and after - SPLIT GOES TO - SOURCE OUT AT 66-19:27:19:00>


NARRATOR

VO: By order of the United States Congress, the archeological excavation was stopped and the remaining portion of the burial ground was permanently sealed. □

CUT TO ESTABLISHING SHOTS OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - AKA THE STEERING COMMITTEE. MEETING VIDEOTAPED ON OCTOBER 23, 1992.

NARRATOR

VO: Through negotiations with congress, the GSA established a National Advisory Board, which included people with divergent view points. Work began to create a historic district, a museum and a fitting memorial. *

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - 10/23/92

LOWER THIRD: HOWARD DODSON, CHAIR, NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DODSON:
OC: 96-16:15:09 HD: What has been asked for is that some space be preserved, ah, as a sacred area, unencumbered by any kind of physical structure that's not ultimately related to // the life and death and rebirth, if you will, of those African descendants that are -- that
are buried there.

NARRATOR - INTERWEAVE FOLLOWING SCENES WITH APPROPRIATE B-ROLL OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

VO: The first act of the Advisory Board was to approve unanimously the placement of a memorial on the now barren lot. □ // Believing that the historical name -- The Negro Burial Ground -- was derogatory, the board also officially renamed the site the African Burial Ground. ■

LOWER THIRD: ADUNNI OSHUPA TABASI, CONCERNED CITIZEN
INTERWEAVE - RTC = 01:25:18, Source Rl:26-Tc:06:05:21 - Map of African - ©South Street Seaport Museum

OC: 96-16:19:26 ADDUNI: The term "African" should be used at all times. // 16:20:08:00 Black connotes color, not one's ethnic identity. We do not object to the term being "black" in terms of skin color, but not in terms of ethnic identity. // 16:20:22 We are African people who got a whole continent with many nations within that continent and nobody refers to no other group or race by "yellow" or "brown" or "white". They're called Italians, French, Irish, Chinese, Koreans or what-have-you.

LOWER THIRD: ELLEN ANDERSON, CONCERNED CITIZEN

ELLEN ANDERSON:

OC: 96-16:10:01:06 EA: We are concerned that until such time as decisions are made as to what is to do to that site that it does not continue to look like a construction site. // 16:10:32 But, that site should have the appearance of a place that is sacred and holy to those people who consider it as such.
NARRATOR - INTERWEAVE MEETING FOOTAGE - EFX TBD - TO EXTERIOR
SCENE OF MURALS BEING PUT UP.

VO: The committee -- in cooperation with the community
and local schools -- approved an arts-in-
education project, enabling young and old to
participate in the beautification decoration
of the new federal tower -- in commemoration
of those who were once buried where the new
building stood. The committee began work
toward a "learning center" or "museum",
through the cooperation of the National
Smithsonian Institution.

LOWER THIRD: CLAUDINE BROWN - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

BROWN:

OC: 125-05:13:28 CB: The very fact that the Burial
Ground encourages interest is a very
important issue // 13:49 There are many,
many people who are pained by it, who know a
little bit about, who would like to know more.
And this offers us an opportunity to give
them that information.

EXTERIOR - MURAL AS SEG-WAY TO
MAN-ON-THE-STREET INTERVIEW WITH ROGER TAYLOR

LOWER THIRD: ROGER TAYLOR, CONCERNED CITIZEN

TAYLOR:

OC: 114:14:14:41 RT: I'd like to see a memorial ah -
I hope // that our people can learn about the
history and all people can learn about this
history, because it is the history of New
York City.

INTERWEAVE - KIDS STARTING TO MARCH WITH BANNERS

MAN-ON-THE-STREET INTERVIEW WITH DEADRIA FARMER

LOWER THIRD: DEADRIA FARMER, CONCERNED CITIZEN

FARMER:

OC: 114-14:20:57 DF: It's important for us to know
as African people what role we played in the
structuring of this country and the city, and
it's important for other people to know who also feel that blacks have not contributed to anything, it's important for us to know, for self-esteem and also for self-respect. //
14:21:58 I will never walk down these streets the same way again. I will always know that this was little africa, this is where my people lived, when we were first brought here in bondage.


NARRATOR - OVER MUSIC AND DANCE

VO: On April 16th, 1993 // the National Parks Service declared the Burial Ground a National Historic Landmark. The first ever // to commemorate the lives of those buried here // and a memorial to the tens of millions of enslaved men, // women and children // who helped to // build our nation. ▪ {MIX AND SPLIT APPLAUSE FROM "LIVE" TRACKS WITH NEXT SCENE}

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1992.

SAVAGE VOICE UNDER WITH IMAGES OF BURIAL GROUND SITE COMMEMORATION

SAVAGE:
OC: 81-01:05:57:10 GS: But if any credit is due for this movement // it is due to the //03:13:06 public // not we elected and highly paid public officials, but those who are not paid, who got out and continued to beat the drums and raise their voices // until they have been heard in the highest councils of this land -- here in the United States Congress // You are to be commended. // You, indeed, have as a debt of gratitude to you, not only for the African -- African American community
all over this country, but for all Americans because what you are going to cause to be done is so essential to making our nation whole.

CLOSING CREDIT OVER FLOWERS AT THE BURIAL GROUND - CURRENTLY TAGGED LONG!

SUPER CLOSING TITLE:

FULL PRODUCTION CREDITS
MAY BE FOUND AT
THE END OF SEGMENT TWO

Funding Provided by
The United States General Services Administration

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///// program ends at: RTC = 01:29:03
apx 30-second count-down to start of Part Four