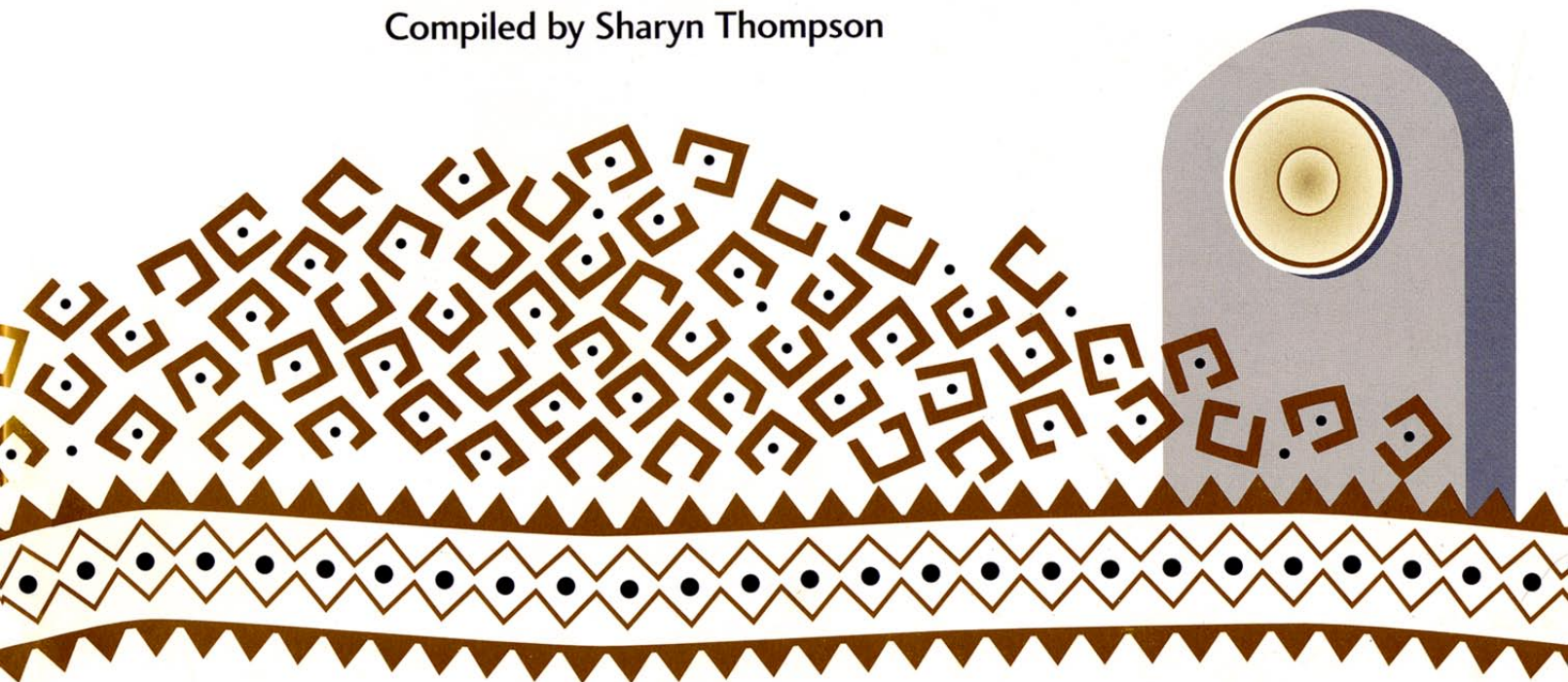
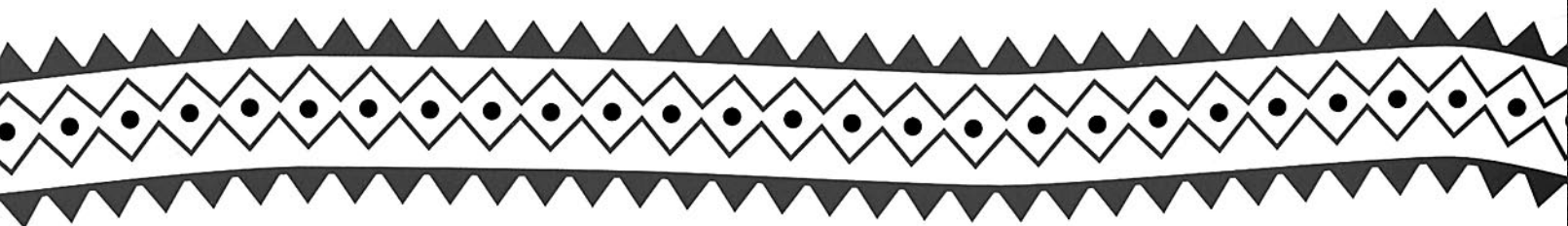


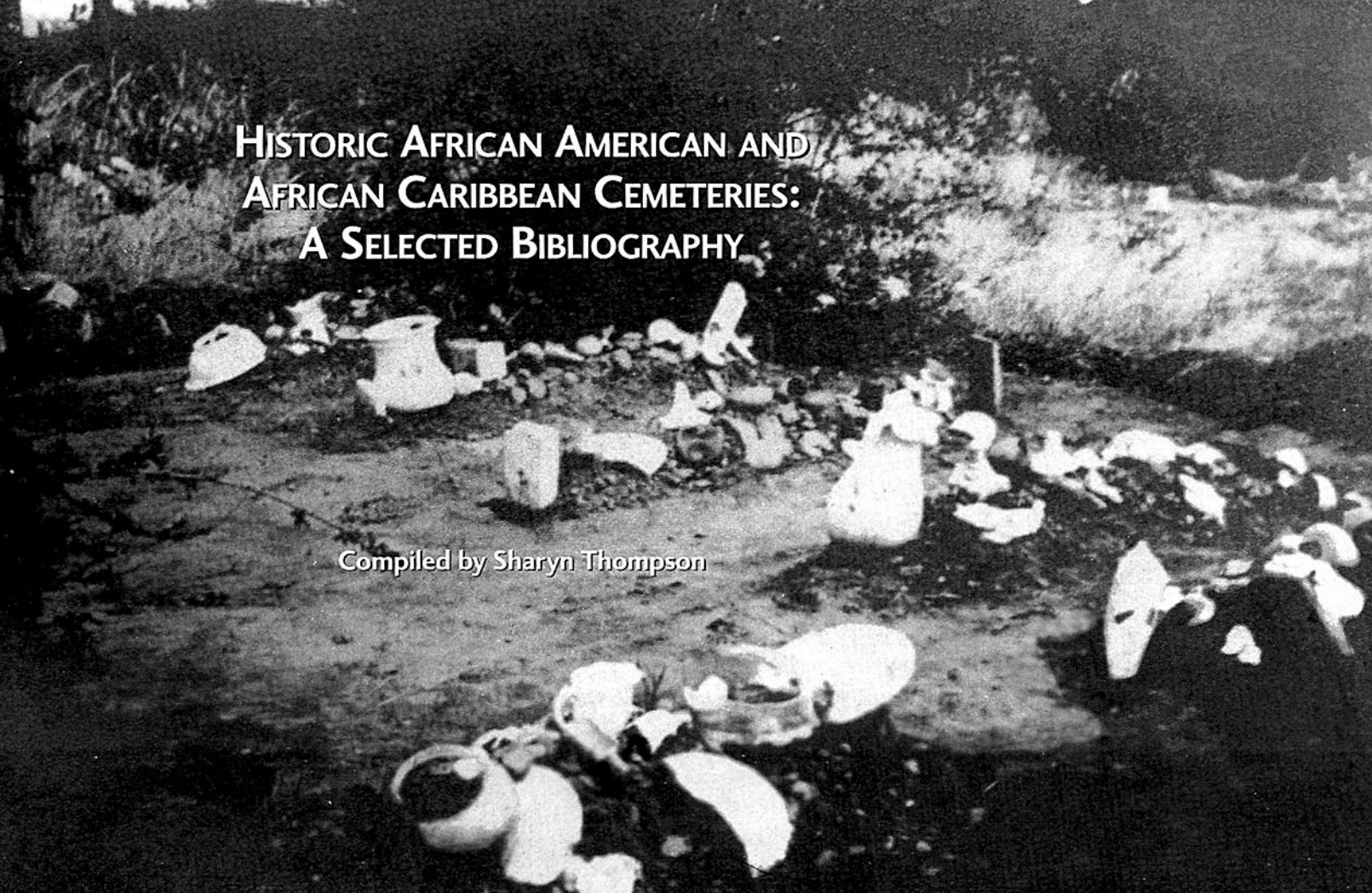
HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CEMETERIES: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Sharyn Thompson



Historic African American and African Caribbean Cemeteries: A Selected Bibliography, is the first in a series of publications by The Center for Historic Cemeteries Preservation that focus on specific topics within the field of cemetery preservation. The purpose of the series is to provide information to assist with scholarly research, to educate about the cultural significance of historic burial sites, and to increase awareness about the appropriate ethics and treatment methods required for their conservation.





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INTRODUCTION

This selected bibliography has been compiled to assist persons who are interested in the historical interpretation and preservation of African American and African Caribbean cemeteries. It is an effort by The Center for Historic Cemeteries Preservation to promote understanding and appreciation of the sites, and to encourage their documentation and protection.

While grave marker inscriptions have long been acknowledged as important to genealogical research, only within the past thirty years has the historical significance of burial sites been truly realized. The social history of a community can often be interpreted from its cemeteries, revealing such things about its individual members as their religious beliefs, socioeconomic status and cultural/ethnic background. Settlement patterns and demographics of the community can also be deciphered. Cemeteries are among our most threatened cultural resources. They are affected by encroaching development, vandalism and natural weathering. African Caribbean and African American graveyards are especially endangered, because, until quite recently, they have rarely been recognized as worthy of preservation.

Burial sites are important to any people's sense of self, of place, of heritage. African American and African Caribbean cemeteries are particularly important because they are the tangible record of a disenfranchised, disregarded people and because these sites often reflect centuries'-old funerary practices that are based in Africa. The millions of Africans who were forced, as slaves, to the New World, brought their cultural traditions with them. Although burial practices varied among groups from distinct geographic regions and with differing belief systems, there was a continuity of customs. Indications of these traditions can still be found at early burial sites. In some areas the traditions are still being practiced, although they may have changed over the years or their original purpose been altered or forgotten. If these burial sites are lost vital historical, cultural,

and genealogical information will also be lost. It is essential that these sacred places be protected by documenting them and by advocating their preservation.

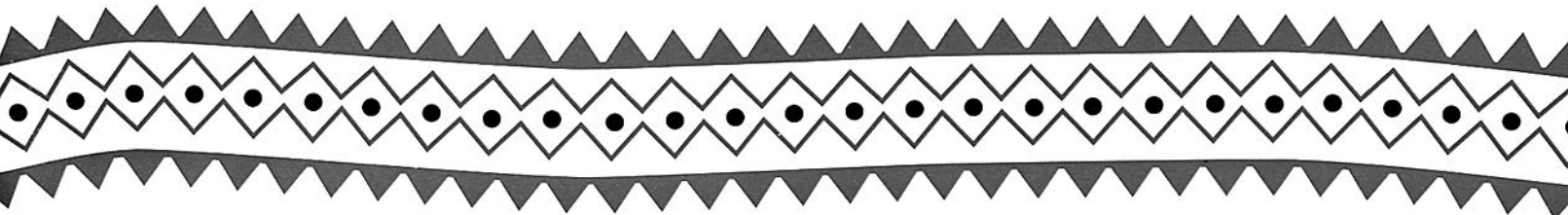
Historic African American and African Caribbean Cemeteries: A Selected Bibliography concentrates on the historical and cultural aspects of burial and commemoration. It cites books, journal and popular magazine articles, and unpublished works that contain information useful for understanding and preserving historic burial sites. Because the focus of The Center is on the southern United States and the Caribbean, the citations in the African American section refer only to the U. S. South. (A limited number of references for African American cemeteries in other regions are listed in the Related References section). Genealogical surveys and archaeological reports are included only if they contain marker descriptions, cemetery histories, or information about funerary practices. A large body of historical archaeology literature exists for burial sites; those who are interested are referred to *Vestiges of Mortality & Remembrance: A Bibliography on the Historical Archaeology of Cemeteries* by Edward L. Bell. Historical archaeology reports are included in the African Caribbean section.

Much of the African American material in this compilation is drawn from an extensive bibliography on the South's historic cemeteries that was developed by Joey Brackner, Alfred E. Lemmon, and myself when we were members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Task Force for Burial Sites Protection and Preservation. The material was initially prepared for a conference sponsored by the Trust in Charleston, South Carolina in 1989. It has since been updated and distributed at various cemetery conferences in the southeastern United States and was published in the *Southern Quarterly* in 1993. I am indebted to Mr. Brackner, Folklife Program Manager for the Alabama State Council for the Arts, and Dr. Lemmon, Curator of Manuscripts at The Historic New Orleans Collection, for their continuing dedication to the effort. A number of other people have been instrumental in the production of this publication. Friends and colleagues throughout the Caribbean assisted with locating materials for the compilation. I am especially appreciative for the support of Dr. Gail Saunders, Director, and historians Kim Outten and Grace Turner, of The Bahamas Department of Archives. I want to thank Bonnie Holub for her technical assistance in the early stages of the project and Rita LeBlanc for her expert technical support in bringing the publication to fruition. A very special thank you to LaVerne Wells-Bowie for the exquisite design of this book and for her exuberant support from start to finish.

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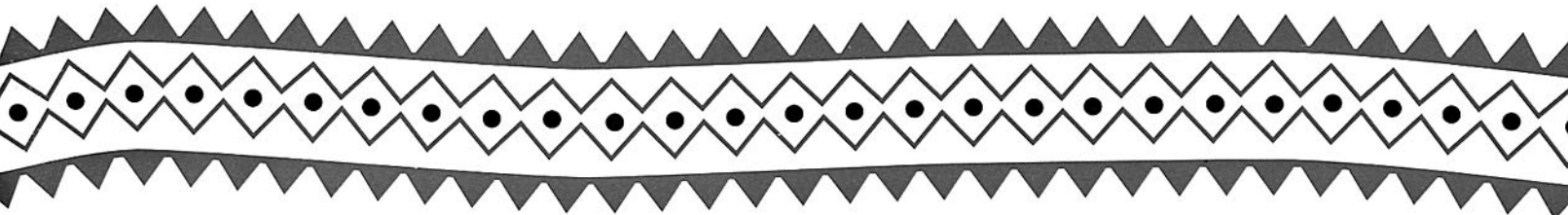
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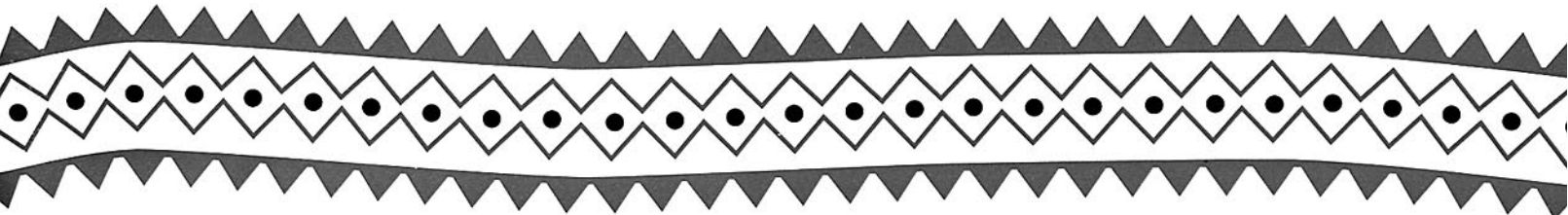
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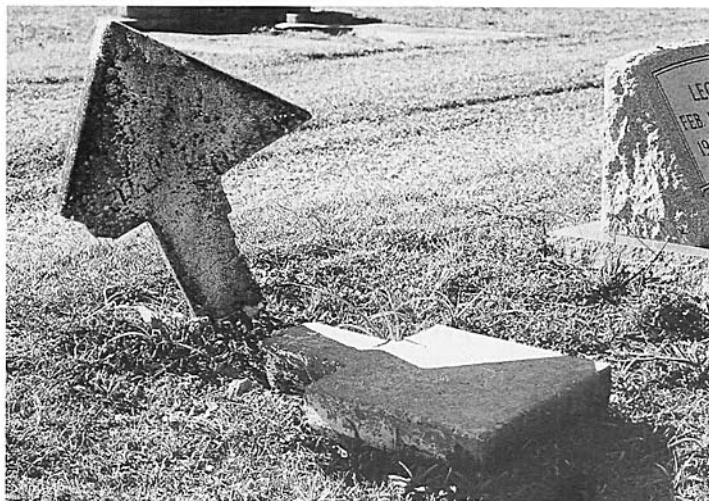
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