



Behind the Big House

Interpreting Arkansas's extant slave dwellings and remembering the enslaved people who inhabited them.

March 23-24, 2018
Historic Arkansas Museum
Little Rock



In partnership with:



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE



*This project is supported in part by a grant from the
Arkansas Humanities Council and the National
Endowment for the Humanities.*

Professional Development

Educators may receive four professional development credit/hours for participating in this event. This workshop will aid in the teaching of the new African American History 11-12 grade curriculum by highlighting the important contributions of African Americans in U.S. and Arkansas history. It will deepen teachers' content knowledge of African American history in Arkansas and provide instructional strategies for incorporating the history of African American enslavement and sites around Arkansas in 11-12 African American History or general history classes.

To receive credit, be sure to sign in at the registration table.

Behind the Big House Program

The Behind the Big House program moves beyond the “Big Houses,” or stately historic homes, to explore extant slave dwellings and interpret the experiences of the enslaved people who inhabited them. This workshop, held at Historic Arkansas Museum, will focus on the differences between slavery in rural and urban areas, foodways, and objects made by enslaved Arkansans.

Friday, March 23 | 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum Grounds and Brownlee Kitchen & Slave Quarters

- Jerome Bias will prepare a sampling of foods based on enslaved diets using the hearth in the Brownlee Kitchen & Slave Quarters.
- Historic Arkansas Museum’s Living History staff will portray characters based on primary source research into the lives of enslaved people who lived and worked on the present Museum property.
- Joseph McGill will present the Slave Dwelling Project story. Later in the evening, he will prepare to sleep in the Brownlee Kitchen & Slave Quarters.

Saturday, March 24 | 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Behind the Big House Program

Ottenheimer Theater, Historic Arkansas Museum

9:30 a.m. Introduction

Rachel Patton, Preserve Arkansas

Carla Coleman, Black History Commission of Arkansas

Swanee Bennett, Historic Arkansas Museum

9:50 a.m. **Reconciling Slavery: Tourism, Race & Difficult Pasts in the U.S. South**
Dr. Jodi Skipper, University of Mississippi

10:50 – 11:00 a.m. **BREAK**

11:00 a.m. **“Getting into Character”:** Research and Writing for Living History
Aisha Credit and Felicia Richardson, Historic Arkansas Museum

12:00 p.m. **“If these things could talk”:** Objects Crafted by Enslaved Arkansans from Historic Arkansas Museum’s Arkansas Made Collection
Victoria Chandler, Hattie Felton, and Caroline Millar, Historic Arkansas Museum

12:30 p.m. **Lunch, HAM Restaurant**
Pre-ordered boxed lunches will be delivered.

1:30 p.m. **Hearth, Kettle, Spoon, and Larder: How the Tasks and Tools of an Enslaved Cook Give us a Window into Who She Was as a Person**
Jerome Bias, Stagville State Historic Site, North Carolina

2:30 p.m. **Urban Archeology and the Restoration of the Brownlee Kitchen and Enslaved Quarters**
Dr. Jodi Barnes, Station Archeologist, University of Arkansas at Monticello

3:20 – 3:30 p.m. **BREAK**

3:30 p.m. **The Slave Dwelling Project, Historic Preservation, and What Arkansas Can Learn from this Project**
Joseph McGill, The Slave Dwelling Project

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ABOUT US

Preserve Arkansas works to build stronger communities by reconnecting Arkansans to our heritage and empowering people to save and rehabilitate historic places.

Connect with us!

In Person: First Presbyterian Church – Argenta
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Twitter: [PreserveAR](https://twitter.com/PreserveAR)

Flickr: [Flickr.com/preservearkansas](https://www.flickr.com/photos/preservearkansas/)

Upcoming Events

April 14 – Mid Mod Arkansas Tour, Tweedy House,
Springdale, 4:30 p.m.

Tickets available at PreserveArkansas.org.

May 4 – 2018 Most Endangered Places Announcement, 10 a.m.

Curran Hall, 615 E. Capitol Ave., Little Rock

May 24 – Most Endangered Places Bike Ride, 5:30 p.m.