

The African Burial Ground

After visiting the African Burial Ground National Monument Visitor Center, a couple of the things I learned are that it was initially known as the Negro's Burial Ground, and it is the earliest African American Cemetery constructed in the United States. In 1991 the General Service Administration was in the construction process when body parts were found. After the human remains were found and digging and analyzing were done, it was discovered that the people who had been buried there were African Americans. The reason behind the placement of the cemetery was due to slavery. The enslaved people had been brought over to do work in New York. In a way, this burial ground was a way for the enslaved people to "leave a mark" in a place they lacked freedom of any kind.

The architecture stood out to me the most about the museum exhibit. The unique structure and symbols are what made the burial ground so original. In many museums, the building is not what attracts people to them but usually what is inside them. When I first visited the exhibit, I first noticed the unique structure, the stones, and the symbols. It made me intrigued and want to learn more about the history behind the beautiful arrangements. In my opinion, the staff represented the topic very well. One of the questions I remember asking the staff member was about the history and what we know about the burial grounds. Most of the things reiterated to me have been included in my paper today.

One of the hardest things about this visit was the topic of slavery. As a person of Nigerian Descent, a country where a majority of enslaved people were taken from, I tried to imagine myself in the enslaved people's shoes—coming to a country where everything looks completely different, and a majority of the people here look nothing like you. I began to feel a bit angry and

sad because I was beginning to realize that this was not just a story in a book or history but a real-life situation for the people buried at this site.