



# Smithsonian

*Anacostia Community Museum*

*Before freedom came: African American life  
in the antebellum South* exhibition records

Carrie Gehrler

2011

Anacostia Community Museum Archives  
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Washington, D.C. 20020  
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<https://anacostia.si.edu/collection/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Before freedom came: African American life in the antebellum South</i> exhibition records
<b>Date:</b>	undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	ACMA.03-032
<b>Creator:</b>	Smithsonian Institution. Traveling Exhibition Service National Museum of American History (U.S.) Smithsonian Institution. Anacostia Community Museum
<b>Extent:</b>	2.42 Linear feet (3 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This exhibition was developed for circulation by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with the assistance of the Anacostia Museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of American History. It was adapted from an exhibition organized by the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. These records document the planning, organizing, execution, and promotion of the exhibition. Materials include correspondence, research files, exhibit script, administrative records, brochures, press coverage, education packets, loan agreements, floor plans, and catalogues.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Before freedom came: African American life in the antebellum South exhibition records</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Related Archival Materials

Audiovisual materials related to this exhibition located in Anacostia Community Museum Archives.

### Other Finding Aids

Box list in accession file.

### Restrictions

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist to make an appointment: [ACMarchives@si.edu](mailto:ACMarchives@si.edu).

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Museum exhibits  
Plantation life -- Southern States -- History -- 19th century -- Exhibitions

Types of Materials:

Brochures  
Color slides  
Contact sheets  
Correspondence  
Exhibition records -- 1990-2004  
Photographic prints

Names:

Rice, Kym S.

Places:

Southern States

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## Container Listing

### Series ACMA AV03-032: *Before freedom came: African American life in the antebellum South* audiovisual records, 1993

3 Video recordings (3 VHS 1/2" video recordings)

0.15 Linear feet

Creator: Anacostia Community Museum  
Language: English.  
Scope and Contents: Audiovisual materials related to the exhibit "Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South," which explores the life styles of enslaved and free black people, their regional work patterns, struggles, and triumphs. This exhibition was developed for circulation by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with the assistance of the Anacostia Museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of American History. It was adapted from an exhibition organized by the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. This collection contains audiovisual materials related to the Before Freedom Came exhibit, including video recordings of exhibit tours, docent training, and news coverage of the exhibit.  
Restrictions: Use of the materials requires an appointment. Some items are not accessible due to obsolete format and playback machinery restrictions. Please contact the archivist at [acmarchives@si.edu](mailto:acmarchives@si.edu).  
Preferred Citation: *Before freedom came: African American life in the antebellum South* audiovisual records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution  
Names: National Museum of American History (U.S.)  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Smithsonian Institution. Traveling Exhibition Service  
Topic: African Americans  
Plantation life -- History  
Museum exhibits  
Place: Southern States  
Genre/Form: Video recordings

ACMA AV002209: *Freedom's Coming: Performance by Kwelismith, 1993*  
2 Video recordings (VHS)  
011500 011940

Creator: Anacostia Museum  
Technical: 011500 011940  
Language: English.  
Notes: ACMA AV002210

To introduce the exhibition 'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South,' performance artist Kwelismith portrayed Harriet Tubman on the Underground Railroad in a performance titled 'Freedom's Coming.' Question and answered session followed the performances.

Performance. Related to exhibition 'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South.' AV002209: first performance. AV002210: second performance. Dated 19931204.

'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South' explored the world of African Americans, their families, and communities in the antebellum South. The exhibition was developed for circulation by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES) with the assistance of the Anacostia Museum and the National Museum of American History. It was adapted from an exhibition organized by the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. The exhibition was held at the Anacostia Museum from December 12, 1993 - March 1, 1994.

Names: Kwelismith  
Tubman, Harriet, 1820?-1913  
Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Underground Railroad  
Slavery  
Fugitive slaves

Place: Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)  
Washington (D.C.)  
United States

Genre/Form: Video recordings

ACMA AV002165: *Before Freedom Came: Installations, Artifacts, and Panels*, 1994

1 Video recording (VHS)

010947

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: 010947

Language: English.

Notes: Footage of the installations, artifacts, and panels displayed throughout the exhibition 'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South.'

Related to exhibition 'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South.' Dated 19940301.

Before Freedom Came: Installations, Artifacts, and Panels, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South' explored the world of African Americans, their families, and communities in the antebellum South. The exhibition was developed for circulation by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES) with the assistance of the Anacostia Museum and the National Museum of American History. It was adapted from an exhibition organized by the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. The exhibition was held at the Anacostia Museum from December 12, 1993 - March 1, 1994.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Slavery

	Fugitive slaves
	Freedmen
	Museum exhibits
Place:	Washington (D.C.)
	United States
	Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)
	Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)
Genre/Form:	Video recordings

ACMA AV002163: *Before Freedom Came: Exhibition Tour to Elementary School Students*, 1993

1 Video recording (VHS)

013613

Creator: Anacostia Museum

Technical: 013613

Language: English.

Notes: After reading a story about a little girl in Africa who was enslaved and taken to America, Robert Hall led a group of students on a tour of the exhibition 'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South.' Participating students attended Stanton Elementary School, 6th Grade; Af. Ctrd School, 3rd Grade; and Beginning Elementary School, 5th-6th Grade.

Exhibition tour. Related to exhibition 'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South.' Dated 19931213.

Before Freedom Came: Exhibition Tour to Elementary School Students, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

'Before Freedom Came: African American Life in the Antebellum South' explored the world of African Americans, their families, and communities in the antebellum South. The exhibition was developed for circulation by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES) with the assistance of the Anacostia Museum and the National Museum of American History. It was adapted from an exhibition organized by the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. The exhibition was held at the Anacostia Museum from December 12, 1993 - March 1, 1994.

Names: Anacostia Community Museum  
Anacostia Neighborhood Museum

Topic: African Americans  
Slavery  
Fugitive slaves  
Freedmen  
Community museums  
Museums and community  
Education -- Museums  
Museum exhibits

Place: Washington (D.C.)  
United States  
Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)

Genre/Form: Video recordings

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