

# NIYA M. BATES

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### CURRENT POSITION

#### PdD Student

History Department  
Princeton University  
129 Dickinson Hall  
Princeton, NJ 08544-1017

### EDUCATION

- |                    |   |                 |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>M.A.</b>        | <b>Architectural History, University of Virginia.</b><br>Concentration: American Architecture<br>Thesis: "Blurred Lines: African American Community, Memory, and Preservation in the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District"<br>Concentration: American Architecture<br>Thesis: "Blurred Lines: African American Community, Memory, and Preservation in the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District"   | <b>May 2015</b> |
|                    | <p>Abstract: This thesis explores the historically black neighborhoods in adjacent to the Southwest Mountains Rural Historic District. Chapter one provides the history of the first African Americans in the Southwest Mountain Rural Historic District prior to 1865 and explores plantation life, free black settlements, the Liberian Colonization Movement, and the Civil War. Chapter two provides analysis of the African American communities in the postwar Reconstruction period up until the mid to late 1960s, which covers the formative years and height of rural Black activity in the Cismont community. The third chapter addresses threats to the architectural and cultural heritage of the Black neighborhoods and weaknesses within current preservation policies. It concludes with recommended changes to rural preservation and the National Register criteria. <a href="#">Full text available online.</a></p> |                 |
| <b>Certificate</b> | <b>Historic Preservation, University of Virginia</b><br>School of Architecture  | <b>May 2015</b> |
| <b>B.A.</b>        | <b>African American and African Studies, University of Virginia.</b><br>Minor: Media Studies  | <b>May 2012</b> |

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

Contributor, *Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*, ed. Gaye Wilson and Sharon McElroy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., 2018).

### **Journal Articles**

"Race and Architectural History: An Appeal," in *Arris: Journal of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 27, 2016.

### **National Register Nominations**

2020 Niya Bates, Muriel Branch, and Bill Obrochta. "Pine Grove Elementary School" National Register of Historic Places. DHR #024-5082, Cumberland, Va. Pending Approval.

2019 Niya Bates and Rebecca Kinney. "St. John School" National Register of Historic Places. DHR #002-1056, Cobham, Va. Listed January 14, 2019.

2015 Niya Bates, William Canup, and Camie Mess. "Buckingham Training School (Ellis Acres Memorial Park)" National Register of Historic Places. DHR #208-5001, Buckingham, Va. Listed February 15, 2015.

### **Exhibitions**

2019 Niya Bates, Jordy Yager, and Elizabeth Klaczynski, *Pride Overcomes Prejudice, Part II*, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

2019 Niya Bates, Christa Dierksheide, Mary Mason Williams, Brandon Dillard, and Emilie Johnson, *Monticello and the Legacies of Slavery* [traveling exhibition], Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

2018 Niya Bates, Christa Dierksheide, and Emilie Johnson, *Getting Word* Oral History Project [permanent exhibition], Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

### **CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, & COLLOQUIA**

2020 "Working with Descendant Communities at Sites of Slavery," working group Co-Facilitator with Hannah Scruggs and Kate Schoen, National Council for Public History Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA. March 2020.

2019 "Architectural History at UVA: Richard Guy Wilson + Our Community of Scholars," alumni panelist, University of Virginia School of Architecture symposium. Charlottesville, VA. 11/15/19

*“Getting Word: Descendant Engagement and Interpreting Slavery at Monticello,”* Keynote lecture, York University’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Public History Symposium: Access and Inclusion in Historic House Museums. Toronto, ON. 11/8/2019

*“Getting Word African American Oral History Project,”* Keynote panel with Gayle Jessup White, Andrew Davenport, and Christa Dierksheide. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eric Williams’ Capitalism and Slavery conference. Liverpool, UK. 11/2/2019.

Panelist, “Monticello: Archaeology and Narratives of Landscapes of Enslavement,” Interpreting Landscapes of Enslavement colloquium, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections, Washington, D.C. 10/25/2019

“Art of Interpretation” invited lecture with Chet’la Sebree for African American Worldmaking in the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century. University of Potsdam, Germany. 10/11/2019.

“Spatializing Charlottesville’s Racial History. Inequity, agency and urban landscape patterns,” panelist with Jordy Yager, Lyle Solla-Yates, Alissa Diamond, and Barbara Brown Wilson. Towards A Charlottesville Cultural Landscape Atlas Symposium Colloquium, Charlottesville, VA. 9/13/2019.

“Erasing Silences: Sally Hemings Monticello,” panel with Gary Sandling, Emilie Johnson, and Geneviève Anglo-Morneau. Association for State and Local History Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. 8/30/2019.

2018 “Melancholy Circumstance”: The Short Life of James Hemings and Navigating Blackness in Early America,” paper presentation for the European Early American Studies Association annual conference. King’s College London. 12/15/2018.

“Reclaiming Monticello,” paper for Reclaiming Our Ancestors: Community Conversations about Racial Justice and Public History. University of Buffalo. 10/20/2018.

“Engaging Descendant Communities,” with Hannah Scruggs, Justin Reid. African American Association of Museums conference. Hampton, VA. 8/9/2018

2017 “Black Monticello: Reclaiming Spaces and Narratives of the Enslaved Through Archaeology,” Keynote speaker with Jobie Hill. Archeological Society of Virginia Annual Conference, Natural Bridge, VA, October 2017.

“Recontextualizing Black Landscapes,” with Jobie Hill, Justin Reid, Justin Sarafin, and Jennifer Reut. Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Lynchburg, VA, October 2017

2016 “Monticello to Main St: Transforming the Narrative of History for Today's World,” paper presentation, Slave Dwelling Project Conference. October 2016.

## **INVITED TALKS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **Invited Talks & Community Events**

2020 “Interpreting Slavery at Monticello: Changing the Narrative Through Oral History,” invited talk for Dumbarton Oaks Garden & Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop through the Mellon Urban Landscape Studies Initiative. 06/02/2020.

Instructor: Slavery, “Embracing Our Narratives” Teacher Training Workshop for the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center. Charlottesville. 06/01/2020.

“Historic Preservation as Reparations,” invited lecture for ManifestA at the University of Virginia. 4/10/2020.

2019 “Buckingham Training School and Historic Preservation,” guest lecture for Public History Seminar at University of Virginia. Charlottesville, Va. 9/30/2019.

CreativeMornings Charlottesville: Preserve, invited lecture, Fralin Museum of Art, 5/10/2019.

“Getting Word: Using Oral History and Plantation Records at Monticello” invited lecture for the Family History Center at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Washington, D.C. 4/27/2019.

“The Quintessential Question: Slavery at Jefferson’s Monticello,” guest lecture for Investigating and Documenting Hidden Landscapes of Slavery, Rutgers University. 4/9/2019.

2018 “Monticello to Main St: Interpreting Slavery at Monticello,” guest lecture Hands on Public History, University of Virginia. 9/19/2018.

“#MWF Live: Promoting the Rights of Marginalized People,” panel moderator for President Precinct’s Mandela Washington Fellows Live, Young African Leadership Initiative. Charlottesville, VA. 7/10/2018.

“Interpreting Slavery at Monticello,” invited faculty, Summer Jefferson Symposium, UVA Lifetime Learning, 6/21-24/2018.

“Getting Word African American Families of Monticello,” invited talk for the Central Virginia History Researchers Group. 4/10/2018.

“Slavery at Monticello,” guest lecture for Thomas Jefferson’s Architecture, University of Virginia. 3/20/2018

“Those Who Labor”: Enslaved Craftsmen and the Making of Monticello,” invited

lecture for New Discoveries of Thomas Jefferson's Architecture and Design symposium. University of VA. 3/16/2018.

2017 "Getting Word Oral History Project at Monticello," invited lecture for UVA Reflection Conversation On-Grounds Teach-In, University of Virginia. 8/12/2017.

"#MWFLive: Empowering and Engaging Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa," panel moderator for President Precinct's Mandela Washington Fellows Live, Young African Leadership Initiative. Charlottesville, VA. 7/7/2017.

"Monticello and Difficult History," invited talk with Brandon Dillard for the Mandela Washington Fellows at the Young African Leaders Initiative. Charlottesville, Va. 7/3/2017.

"Monticello to Main St: Slavery at Monticello," guest lecture for 19<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture, University of Virginia. March 2017.

"Monticello to Main St: Transforming the Narrative for Today's World," guest lecture for Hands on Public History, University of Virginia. 3/22/2017

"Debunking Myths: Sally Hemings An American Love Story," post-film panelist with Gayle Jessup White for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maupintown Film Festival. 7/14/2017.

"Slavery at Monticello," invited talk for The Little Keswick School. 2/24/2017.

2016 "Jefferson's Monticello: A Paradoxical Landscape," invited lecture for 19<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture, University of Virginia. 10/5/2016.

### **Museum Trainings**

Slavery at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello

Interpreting Slavery at Monticello

The Life of Sally Hemings

*Getting Word*: Legacies of Slavery at Monticello Using Monticello's Slave Narratives on Tour Interpreting Slavery for Children and Families

### **TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2013 – 2015 Research Assistant, Black Fire Project UVA, Claudrena Harold.

2013 – 2015 Research Assistant, *Architecture and Empire in Jamaica*, Louis Nelson

Research in "British Legacies of Slave-Ownership" Database hosted by UCL

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Thomas Jefferson Foundation      Director of African American History and Getting Word African American Oral History Project      May 2019 – July 2020
- Conducting archival research
  - Collecting oral histories
  - Supervising project staff and interns
  - Giving public lectures
  - Collaborating with visiting scholars
- Public Historian of Slavery and African American Life      June 2015 – June 2019
- Conducting archival research
  - Collecting oral histories
  - Training guide staff on race, slavery, oral history, and African American history.
- Restoration Intern      May 2014 - May 2015
- Surveying extant slave quarters
  - Cataloging field work photographs and documentation
- The Montpelier Foundation      Contract Architectural Historian      June 2015 – June 2016
- Cataloging over 10,000 artifacts from the 2006 restoration project
  - Researching slave quarter sites in VA
  - Researching built landscape at Montpelier

**MEDIA**

2019 “African American Worldmaking in the Long Nineteenth Century,” interview with Yasmin Künze & Verena Adamik, *Talking American Studies*. Podcast audio, 11/1/2019.

“Ta-Nehisi Coates: The Water Dancer,” interview with Ta-Nehisi Coates for *Oprah’s Book Club*, S1 E1. Apple Tv+ video. 11/1/2019. <https://apple.co/2QRYsKC>

“The Enslaved & the Virginia Freedom Seekers,” interview with Tanner Latham. *Following Harriet*. Podcast audio. 2019. <https://www.virginia.org/Harriet>

“When Black Chefs Created Plantation Food,” interview with Dan Pashman, *The Sporkful with Dan Pashman*. Podcast audio. 10/21/2019. <http://bit.ly/37F350F>

“The Complicated Business of Plantation Tourism,” interview with Joshua Johnson, *NPR’s 1A*, WAMU 88.5, 9/30/2019. <https://n.pr/34qM8VH>

“As plantations talk more honestly about slavery, some visitors are pushing back,” interview with Hannah Knowles, *The Washington Post*, 9/8/2019.

“UVA begins project to identify, contact descendants of slaves,” interview with Ruth Serven Smith, *The Daily Progress*, 7/18/19.

“Barbershop: Reckoning With The History Of Slavery,” interview with Michel Martin, *NPR All Things Considered*, 8/25/2019. <https://n.pr/33l9v1q>

“Two Charlottesville Women on Activist Wall Share Unique Bond,” interview with Madison Jones, *NBC29*, 8/3/2019. “Politics, Public History, and Memory,” interview with J.T. Roane, *Black Perspectives*, 4/17/2019.

2018 “Sally Hemings Remembered at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello,” interview with Geoff Bennett, *NBC Nightly News*, 10/07/2018

“When Slavery Is Erased From Plantations,” interview with Talitha LeFlouria, *The Atlantic*, 9/2/2018.

“Unearthing Sally Hemings’ legacy at Monticello,” interview with Jeffrey Brown, *PBS News Hour*, 8/1/2018.

“Removing the mask: Series unveils racial issues within the community,” *C-Ville Weekly*, 7/3/18.

“New Monticello exhibit takes a closer look at Sally Hemings, slavery and the healing power of truth,” interview with Sophia A. Nelson, *NBC BLK*, 7/1/2018.

“At Monticello, the descendants of slaves bring new understanding to the history of Jefferson’s home,” interview with Karin D. Berry, *ESPN The Undefeated*, 6/22/2018.

“Sally Hemings Descendants Visit New Exhibit: ‘We Knew Our Story Was Real’,” Interview with Hawes Spencer, *NPR, VPM*, 6/21/2018.

“Monticello’s new exhibits tell the stories of all the people who lived there,” interview with Jessica Luck, *C-Ville Weekly*, 6/21/18.

“Monticello Is Done Avoiding Jefferson’s Relationship With Sally Hemings,” interview with Farah Stockman, *The New York Times*, 6/16/2018.  
“Untold No More,” interview with Samantha Willis, *Richmond Magazine*, 6/10/2018. “Trip From Charlottesville To Ghana Brings New Insights On Slavery And America,” interview with Jordy Yager, NPR All Things Considered. WVTF. 5/31/2018

“New Commissioners Will Focus on Untold Stories of UVA in the Age of Segregation,” Anne E. Bromley, 5/23/2018

2017 “To understand the US's complex history with slavery, look to Thomas Jefferson,” interview with David Smith, *The Guardian*, 8/18/2017.

“In new presidential exhibits, slavery takes center stage,” interview with Alison Thoet, *PBS News Hour*, 3/23/2017.

“The Lives of Enslaved People at Monticello,” interview with Clay Jenkinson, *The Thomas Jefferson Hour*, 3/23/2017.

“Monticello restoration aims to tell Jefferson's complete story, slaves and all,” interview with Chip Reid, *CBS Evening News*, 3/7/2017

“Monticello working to restore Sally Hemings' room, once a men's bathroom,” interview with Lauren Berg, *The Daily Progress*, 2/26/2017.

“For decades they hid Jefferson’s relationship with her. Now Monticello is making room for Sally Hemings,” interview with Krissah Thompson, *The Washington Post*, 2/19/2019.

2016 “Local author spotlights under-the-radar female mathematicians at NASA,” interview with Joshua Adams, *C-Ville Weekly*, 12/23/2016.

“Descendants of Thomas Jefferson's Slaves Spend the Night at Monticello,” interview with Harry Smith, *NBC Today Show*, New York, NY: NBC Universal, 09/18/2016.

“New hires look to better tell story of African-American life at Monticello,” interview with Michael Bragg, *The Daily Progress*, WVIR TV, 07/17/2016.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Member, Cultural Atlas Advisory Group, University of Virginia, Since August 2019

Member, Association for State and Local History, Since July 2019



Board Member, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, Since January 2019

Member, Presidents Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation, University of Virginia, Since May 2018

Member, Landscape Studies Advisory Group, University of Virginia Center for Cultural Landscapes, Since January 2017

Member, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Since 2016

Member, African American Association of Museums, Since 2016

Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Since April 2010

Board Member, Preservation Piedmont, January 2017 to July 2019

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2019 Inside Out Charlottesville: This is What Community Looks Like, included in mural of 120 activists from the local community

2017 ASPEN Ideas Institute Festival 1 Scholar

2015 The Faculty Book Award, University of Virginia School of Architecture

#### **SKILLS LANGUAGES**

English: Native Language

Spanish: Proficient in reading and writing (University of Virginia)

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

19th century U.S. slavery and Black intellectual thought

20th century African American history

U.S. Reconstruction

Historic and cultural preservation in rural communities

African American oral history

Historic Preservation policy and application