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## BERT SALWEN'S INVOLVEMENT WITH HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LATE 1960S-1988

Lorraine E. Williams, Nan A. Rothschild, and Diana di Zerega Wall

During the late 1960s, Bert decided to shift some of his attention to the developing areas of historical archaeology and cultural resource management. His decision to specialize in historical archaeology was influenced by several factors. In the first place, the Department of Anthropology at New York University had been organized around a focus on urban anthropology, and Bert knew that archaeological field work in New York City and its environment would fit this program well. Second, he realized that training in this new field would be an advantage for his students.

Most of the archaeological resources remaining in the metropolitan area dated to the historical period. The field of historical archaeology was mushrooming and becoming theoretically and technologically more sophisticated than it had been in the past. Bert was interested in the opportunity to "make a difference," to learn himself and then teach others how this subdiscipline was different from (and similar to) the rest of archaeology. He had also recently completed an article for the *Handbook of North American Indians* (1978) for which he had undertaken a great deal of documentary research, and he had enjoyed both doing this research and consulting with historians. More important, he had been impressed by

the benefits of historical sources as a complement to archaeological data.

The first historic-period site Bert excavated was at Kingston, New York, in 1970. He began publishing on historical sites in 1974, writing on the ceramics from Weeksville, an early black community in Brooklyn (Salwen and Bridges 1974). He undertook both of these projects with Sarah Bridges. He wrote articles on other historical and urban sites (the Wycoff and the Vander Ende Onderdonk houses) with students (Salwen, Bridges, and Klein 1974; Salwen, Bridges, and Rothschild 1981), published an important "method" paper (Salwen and Bridges 1977) on a modification of South's Mean Ceramic Dating formula (South 1971), and bibliographies with Geoffrey Gyrisco on the archaeology of black Americans (1978) and urban archaeology (1982). Also during this period Bert began some innovative projects with students in what we would now call ethnoarchaeology. Looking for patterning in modern behavior and material culture, students tabulated the stock on supermarket shelves for clues to the socioeconomic and ethnic composition of the surrounding neighborhoods (Salwen 1973). In another project, students analyzed spatial arrangements of dormitory rooms at New York University (this study is the topic of Garvin-Jackson's paper, below).

The same sense of pioneering, of being an "archaeological missionary," and wanting to ensure that things were developed properly in the crucial early stages, carried Bert into the beginning of cultural resource management. As the laws protecting archaeological resources were put into place in the late 1960s and early 1970s, communities and agencies found themselves needing to comply with requirements that no one knew how to satisfy and for which no procedures existed. The New York Archaeological Council (NYAC), an activist professional organization of which Bert was a founding member, worked within New York State to establish guidelines, and Bert's students learned how to do "contract" archaeology. Bert knew that if the process worked right, development did not have to be delayed. Furthermore, he knew that resulting information could be important to the local community as well as to archaeology.

He himself worked on contract projects. He began in the 1960s, doing surveys for the National Park Service in several states (see Cotter, below), and for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Power Authority in New York State. Bert worked as a consultant to the EPA in 1976, and in 1977-1979 was a consultant to Interagency Archaeological Services (IAS), in Washington, D.C. Although he often served as an informal, unpaid consultant to many city and state agencies and institutions, he also firmly believed in and promoted the professionalization of the discipline.

Bert became involved in some of the federally mandated preservation planning activity that took place at state and regional levels. He edited a survey of archaeological resources undertaken by NYAC as a pilot project in planning,

in which a sample of counties was inventoried for historical and archaeological resources. And he edited a volume from a regional conference on planning conducted by the Society for American Archaeology (Salwen and Cantwell 1986).

As part of his job at IAS in Washington, Bert continued to teach. His students were cultural resource managers, most of whom had had no training in archaeology. The goals behind the programs he designed were to make the importance of archaeology appreciated by those who would be responsible for the preservation of archaeological sites and to make it clear how the use of the past could enrich the present.

The fusion of developments in historical archaeology and cultural resource management led to some of the work in lower Manhattan for which Bert is not directly credited, but for which he was in many ways responsible. He was involved behind the scenes, lending support in discussions with developers and giving crucial field advice. These projects made him aware of the unique potential of urban sites, where the research unit is the city block rather than the more common linear transect of most projects. He directed the excavation of the Sullivan Street Site on land owned by New York University in 1984 (Salwen and Yamin 1990).

Coming back full circle to the university, which was a major reason for his branching out into these new subfields of archaeology, Bert developed an interdisciplinary historical archaeology program at New York University. Jointly sponsored by the departments of Anthropology and History, the program was characterized by regular seminar meetings, presentations, and courses drawn from both disciplines. Faculty and students in this program

had a real working knowledge of the two fields, reflecting Bert's belief that this was an essential component of historical archaeology.

Bert's contributions to historical archaeology and cultural resource management were characteristic of his approach to life. No matter what the subject matter, Bert was enthusiastic and involved; he manifested these traits in his contacts with others, be they students or colleagues. It was this eagerness to explore innovative techniques and interdisciplinary approaches that led him to these new archaeological specialities.

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