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## Concerns with Final EIS, comments not included

6 messages

LENORA MCQUEEN &lt;lenora.m@prodigy.net&gt;

Mon, Jul 29, 2019 at 12:14 AM

To: Emily Stock &lt;emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov&gt;, Kerri Barile &lt;kbarile@dovetailcrg.com&gt;

Cc: "Kirchen Roger (DHR)" <roger.kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Holma Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Wilson Joanna (DHR)" <joanna.wilson@dhr.virginia.gov>, Steve Thompson <sthompson@rivarch.com>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Ellen Chapman <ellen.chapman@gmail.com>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Sarah Stokely <sstokely@achp.gov>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historichrichmond.com>, Wayne Hyatt <whyatt@moffattnichol.com>, Carey Burch <carey.burch@hdrinc.com>, Karen Harrington <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Antony Opperman <a.opperman@vdot.virginia.gov>, "Dironna M. - DPW Clarke" <dironna.clarke@richmondgov.com>, "Ruiz Nick (DRPT)" <nick.ruiz@drpt.virginia.gov>, Christopher Smith <chris.smith@drpt.virginia.gov>, Justin Sarafin <jsarafin@preservationvirginia.org>, "Kimberly M. - PDR Chen" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Selleck Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Shawn O. Utsey" <soutsey@vcu.edu>, "Wright Andrew (DRPT)" <andrew.wright@drpt.virginia.gov>, "ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org" <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>

Dear Emily and Kerri,

I have been reviewing the Final EIS and I am deeply concerned. In the Final EIS it is stated that all comments are included. Yet some of my comments which contained important information appears to have been left out. My February 13, 2019 email to you does not appear to be in the Final EIS. I believe my comments should have been included and taken into consideration. My email was well within the date range of the correspondence that was included. Is it possible to revise the Final EIS and include my correspondence?

There is also other important research on the burial ground that should be considered. I will send that information separately.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Lenora



Inline image

On Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 07:39:55 AM CST, LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net> wrote:

Emily and Kerri,

I have concerns. I have been studying the reports and maps and history regarding the burial ground quite a bit and I would like for you to see how I am seeing certain things. I have been organizing my observations and concerns on slides and have included them below. My study is ongoing. After reading the time line in your email last night when I got in, I am concerned that the site is still being minimized, maybe not as much as before, but still minimized. It appears to me

that the railroad tracks were built on the grave yard and the graveyard extends to the north of the tracks. But it does not appear that this is being mentioned or addressed anywhere that I can tell. I also have not had much time to look at your time line and study it as carefully as I need to as I have not had enough time - though some things have stood out right away. The Sanborn map image that I included here was left out of the timeline sent yesterday. It also seems to me that the 1835 image of the burial ground was placed too high on the map overlay (too far to the west). It looks like 5th Street was not taken into consideration in the placement and the image should be placed further east. It would appear that the burial ground extends more to the south-side of Hospital Street even under I-64 on the opposite side of what was tested for the VDOT I-64 widening project. It seems that testing should have been done on both sides of the street but was not. It also seems that more extensive testing should have been done as the powder magazine appears to have been located right where the testing did occur (the skeletons having been removed when the foundation was dug). Also, there were two powder magazines right across the road from one another. It was not stated at which site the skeletons were found. I am very concerned about the widening of I-64 and the burial ground, especially since the 2013 VDOT report denied that the graveyard existed in the project area. Additionally, I have reason to believe that my own direct ancestor was buried extremely close to the street and if her grave still exists could be located to the south of Hospital Street. And she was not my only relative buried there at the grave yard.

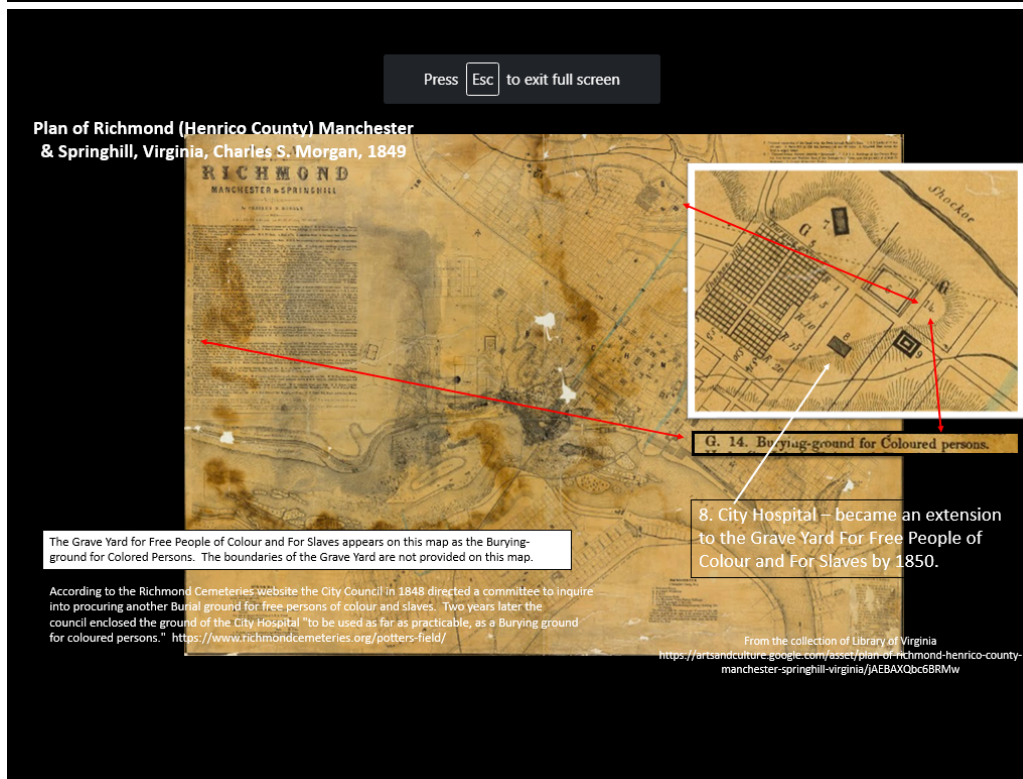
I would like for you please to consider these things mentioned here. All of these things I was already studying - seeking a better understanding. However, I need more time to look over what you sent and make sure I understand it fully. On first glance I was left with concerns - thus my present email. I hope we can discuss these issues. I look forward to hearing from you. Perhaps we can have a conference call sometime after the site visit. Unfortunately I will be a work all day and won't get in until this evening.

I would like to mention again that I have done extensive research which is still not complete. It is on-going. One of the things I have been working on is researching interments. There were certainly more than 10,000 burials there, very possibly well more. Ryan Smith has also done extensive research. But still more needs to be done. I hope we all can collaborate on this history research. I believe it important that the entire history be looked at move fully and completely.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours truly,

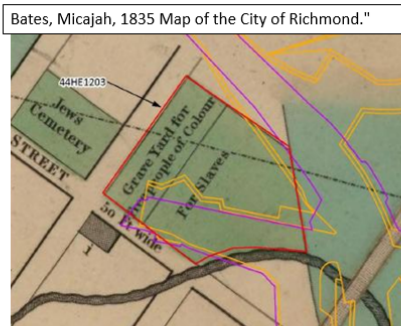
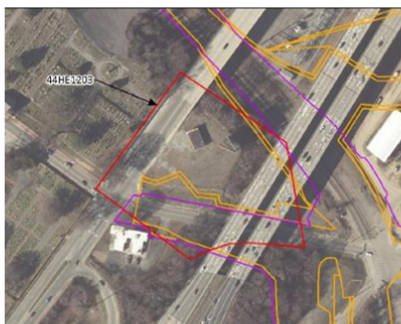
Lenora







Images from 2018 Dovetail Report for the Washington D. C. to Richmond, Virginia High-speed Rail Project  
The red lines represent the 1835 size of the Grave Yard. The yellow and pink lines represent the APE.



It appears that the placement of the outline of the Grave Yard from the 1835 map is not correct in this image from the 2018 Dovetail Report as in 1835 5th Street is shown to run between the Grave Yard for Free People of Colour and For Slaves and the Jews Cemetery (Hebrew Cemetery). Placing the Grave Yard image on the street creates the impression that more of the graves were removed or destroyed, when it may possibly be that there are surviving graves on the southside of Hospital Street, and to the east of I-64, or on the slope of the hill.



The Archeological APE from the 2013 VDOT Report for the widening of I-64 was added here below and outlined in blue.



Bates, Micajah, 1835 Map of the City of Richmond."

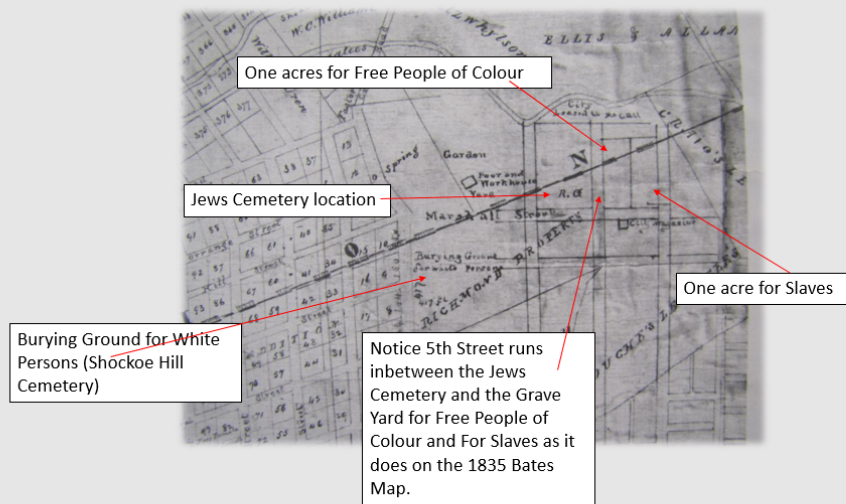


A green outline was added to the image on the left in order to illustrate where the Grave Yard for Free People of Colour and For Slaves would more likely be located considering that 5th Street is shown in the 1835 map. It appears that the Grave Yard likely extends under I-64 to the south of Hospital Street, and onto the rail road tracks. The area under the highway to the south of Hospital Street was not tested for the VDOT I-64 widening project. Their report stating that there was no evidence of the graveyard. They cited the Bates, Micajah, 1835 Map of the City of Richmond as their reference. Pictured above on the right is the 1835 Micajah Bates Map, and here on the left is the present-day map with the silhouette of the 1835 image of the graveyard with I-64 right on top of it.



1817 Map of the City of Richmond

1816 Grave Yard For Free People of Colour and For Slaves



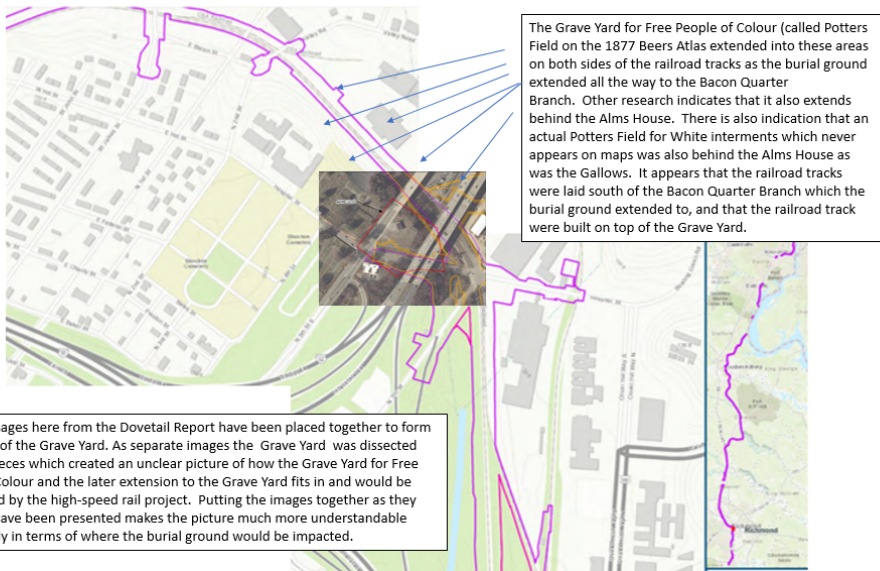
This is how the area of APE was being presented in the online Dovetail's Phase IB archaeological survey report for the high-speed rail project that was viewed online.



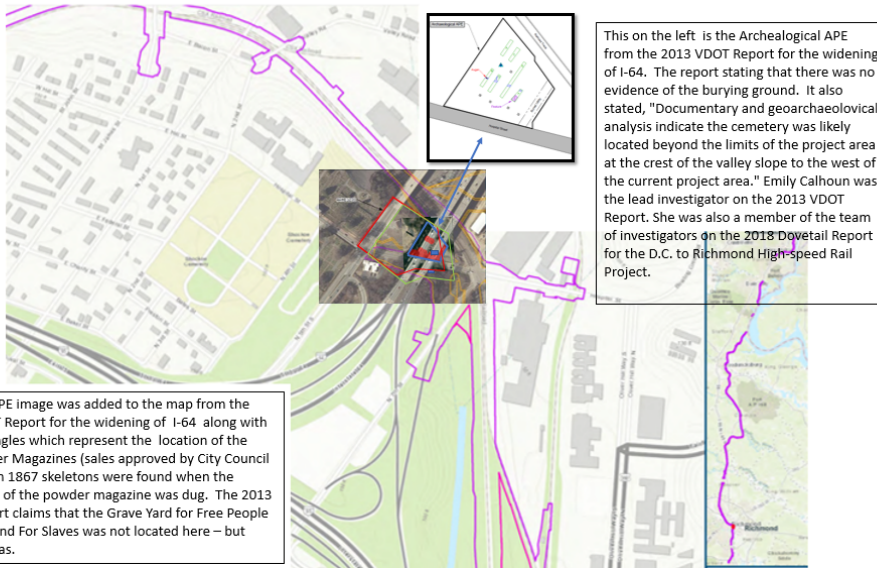
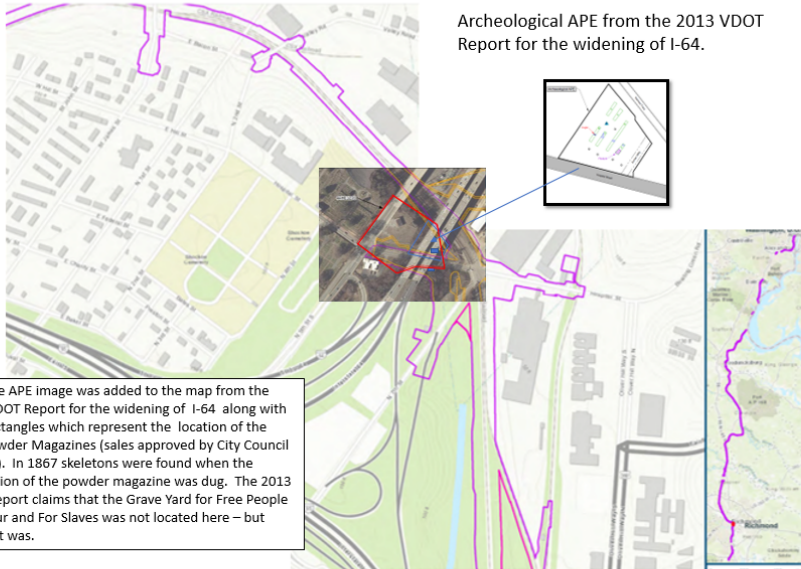
A portion of the 1835 Grave Yard property is here (divided)



While the rest of the Grave Yard is over here.







## The Military History of the Virginia Military Institute from 1839 to 1865, page 406

By Jennings Cropper Wise, 1915

### The Colored Cemetery and the Gallows

The Virginia Military Institute occupied the New Alms House during some of the Civil War. In this passage the Colored Cemetery and the Gallows are described as being behind the Alms House.

"On the 1st of January the cadets reported promptly for duty; and academic duties, so-called, were begun. It can be imagined that studies were pursued under great difficulties in the Confederate Capital, at a time of such stress, confusion and excitement. But we did the best we could, and were ready at all times to obey orders.

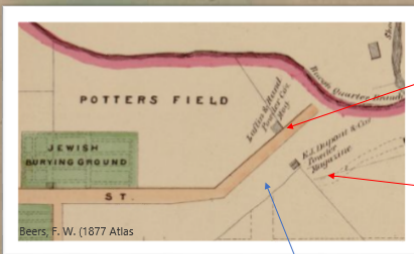
"The Almshouse was to many of us a doleful place. Shockoe Hill Cemetery was just across the street in front of us. The Jewish Cemetery to our left, separated from us by an area used for a parade ground, the Colored Cemetery to the rear, and in the rear, just outside the enclosure, the "Gallows," with many gruesome associations.

"The guard duty here was reduced to a minimum, as the building was surrounded by a high wall with locked gates.

"We had enough to eat, our fare consisting of wheat or corn bread, corn beef and molasses, served in tin plates before we took our seats. Our knives and forks

[https://books.google.com/books?id=39EgAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA406&pg=PA406&dq=1865+map+of+Shockoe+Hill+Cemetery&source=bl&ots=CT-kyIGQk8&sig=ttt1Sc3Sx0GIFyrr-vrWPmAzJl&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwirs\\_LXrNffAHUJPa0KH07BHY4FBD0ATAlegQJABAB#v=onepage&q=1865%20map%20of%20Shockoe%20Hill%20Cemetery&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=39EgAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA406&pg=PA406&dq=1865+map+of+Shockoe+Hill+Cemetery&source=bl&ots=CT-kyIGQk8&sig=ttt1Sc3Sx0GIFyrr-vrWPmAzJl&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwirs_LXrNffAHUJPa0KH07BHY4FBD0ATAlegQJABAB#v=onepage&q=1865%20map%20of%20Shockoe%20Hill%20Cemetery&f=false)

## The New Gun Powder Magazines



Notice the course of Hospital St. was changed. It was driven through the Grave Yard for Free People of Colour and For Slaves. Burials could still exist to the south of road. Additionally burials may exist behind the Alms House that were not shown on mps.

- The Powder Magazine which was erected on the land purchased by E. G. Rex from the City of Richmond, appears here as the Laflin & Rand Powder Magazine. On October 8, 1866, the City Council approved the sale. This land was definitely a portion of the Slave Grave Yard, though there was no mention of the burial ground in the City Council Minutes.

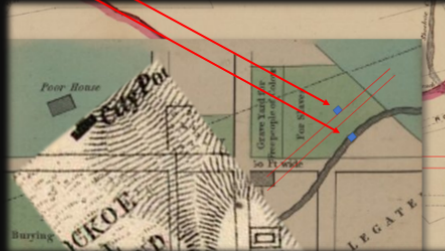
- The Powder Magazine seen here was erected on land purchased by Wortham & Co. specifically for the purpose of building a new gun powder magazine. The sale was approved by the City Council on March 29, 1866, and appears here under the name of E. J. Dupont & Co. Powder Magazine.





Sections of these 3 maps from 1877, 1835, and 1864 were carefully lined up and placed on top of one another to help illustrate the change in the course of Hospital St., as well as the location of the 2 Gun Powder Magazines in relationship to the Grave Yard for Slaves. It appears that Hospital St. was run through the Slave Grave Yard, and the magazines built in it, one seeming to be right on the edge of it. The maps are not exact, but it seems that they may provide a rough idea of where things were.

Lenora McQueen research



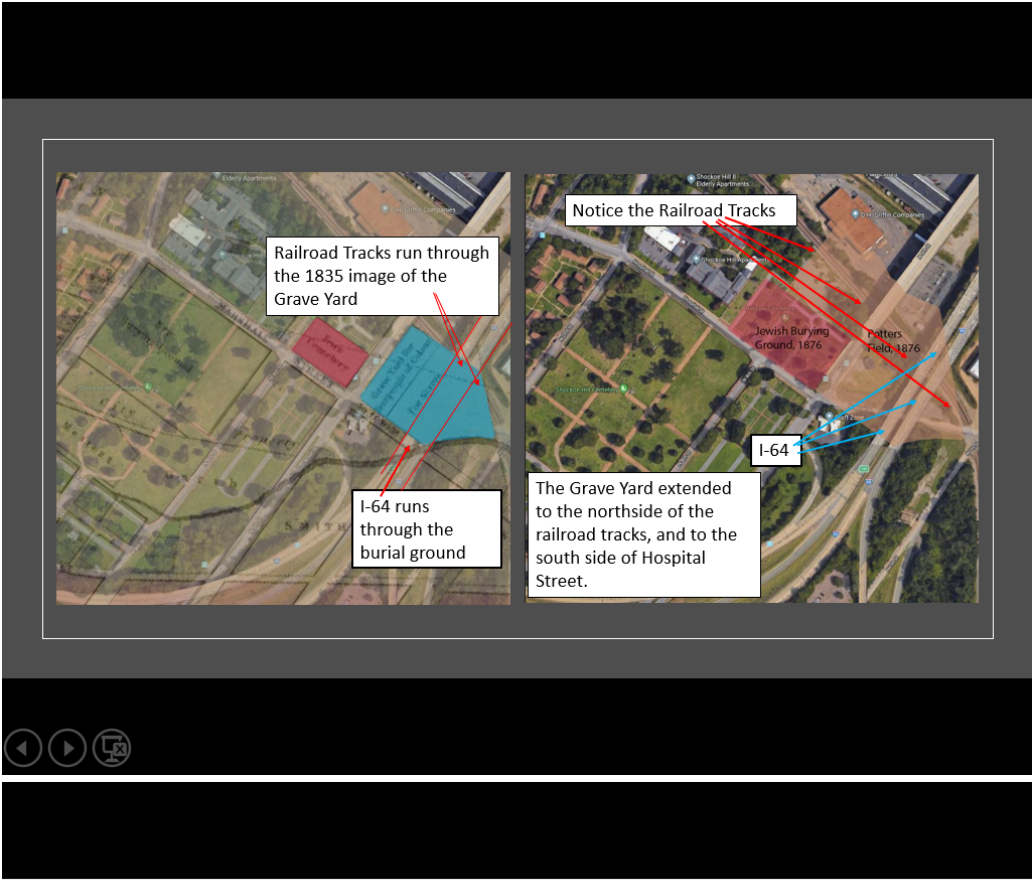
1835 and 1876 map overlay images of the Grave Yard For Free People of Colour and For Slaves and its mapped extension



Modern Google Map overlay for 1835 Bates Map of Richmond. It shows the "Grave Yard for Free People of Colour" to the east of the Hebrew cemetery, joined on the east by a second burial area for "For Slaves."



<http://urbanscalerichmondvirginia.blogspot.com/2015/12/>



City Council Minutes, March 29, 1866

The New Powder Magazine / Approved

This land which was sold for the erection of a new Gun Powder Magazine to E & S Wortham and Co. appears to have been either right on the boarder of the Slave Grave Yard, or possibly it was part of the Slave Grave Yard – see 1877 Beers Atlas of City of Richmond.

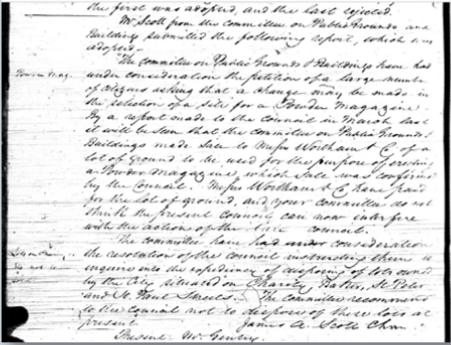
392 Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup> '66	Mr. Burr offered the following, which was adopted - Resolved that a deed be made from the City of Richmond to E. & S. Wortham & Co for one quarter of an acre of land, agreed upon between them and the Committee on Pub Grounds & Buildings, lying near the ravine below the Old Powder Magazine, with right of way to the same, upon the payment by them to the Chamberlain of two hundred and fifty dollars. The paid lot to be used by them for the erection of a Powder Magazine subject to such regulations relating to said Magazine and the receipt, storage, delivery, and transportation of powder as the Council may prescribe.
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E & S. Wortham & Co -	
Powder Magazine	

City Council Minutes, April 30, 1866

The New Powder Magazine / Petition Against Location

Mr. Scott from the Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings submitted the following report, which was adopted-

"The committee on Public Grounds & Buildings have had under consideration the petition of a large number of citizens asking that a change may be made in the selection of a site for a Powder Magazine - By a report made to the Council in March last it will be seen that the Committee on Public Grounds & Buildings made sale to Messers Wortham & Co of a Powder Magazine which sale was confirmed by the Council. Messers Wortham & Co have paid for the lot of ground, and your Committee do not think the present Council can now interfere with the action of the late Council."



It does not mention here in the minutes of the City Council what the objection was to the location selected for the New Gun Powder Magazine. It is known however that the explosion of the previous Magazine by the Confederate Army a year prior killed several people who were residents of the Temporary Alms House. The location selected was on the boarder of, or a part of the Slave Grave Yard (this not mentioned in the minutes).

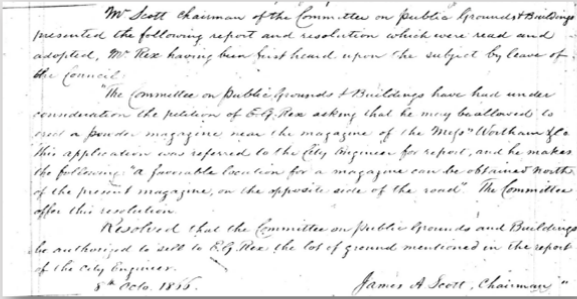
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City Council Minutes, October 08, 1866

The 2nd New Powder Magazine

This "favorable location for a magazine" was in the Slave Grave Yard, though no mention of it is made.



Mr. Scott chairman of the Committee on Public Grounds & Buildings presented the following report and resolution which were read and adopted, Mr. Rex having been first heard upon the subject by leave of the Council.

"The Committee on Public Grounds & Buildings have had under consideration the petition of E. G. Rex asking that he may be allowed to erect a powder magazine near the magazine of the Messrs Wortham & Co. This application was referred to the City Engineer for report, and he makes the following: "A favorable location for a magazine can be obtained North of the present magazine, on the opposite side of the road." The Committee offer this resolution.

Resolved that the Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings be authorized to sell to E. G. Rex the lot of ground mentioned in the report of the City Engineer.

8th Octo. 1866 James A Scott, Chairman"

Mr. Scott chairman of the Committee on Public Grounds & Buildings presented the following report and resolution which were read and adopted, Mr. Rex having been first heard upon the subject by leave of the Council.

"The Committee on Public Grounds & Buildings have had under consideration the petition of E. G. Rex asking that he may be allowed to erect a powder magazine near the Messrs Wortham & Co. This application was referred to the City Engineer for report, and he makes the following "a favorable location for a magazine can be obtained North of the present magazine, on the opposite side of the road" The Committee offer this resolution.

Resolved that the Committee on Public Grounds and Building be authorized to sell to E. G. Rex the lot of ground mentioned in the report of the City Engineer.

8th Octo. 1866 James A Scott, Chairman"

◀ ▶ ↻

The Richmond Whig, April 9, 1867

New Gun Powder Magazine / Skeletons Discovered

The New Powder Magazine was built on the Slave Burial Ground.

**THE DEAD RESURRECTED.**—In digging the foundation of the new powder magazine, beyond the poor-house, the workmen have resurrected a mass of human skeletons, which some extravagantly estimate at one hundred, in round numbers. There are various conjectures as to whom they represent. One party whom we have consulted is clearly of the opinion that they are victims of the cholera of 1832. Another says that when a boy he has often found bones there above the surface of the earth, and that it was once "Potter's Field." A third, not to be outdone, thinks that the bones are those of the Indians and whites who fell in a battle which was fought there during Bacon's Rebellion. Like the poor boy at a frolic, we have nothing to say.

This record is the collections of Library of Virginia, and was obtained with the assistance of the Library of Congress who used the service America's Historical Newspapers database

Lenora McQueen research



The Daily Dispatch, April 9, 1867

New Gun Powder Magazine / Skeletons Discovered

The article does not indicate which of the two new powder magazines this was. Perhaps it was the first one established as the 2nd was obviously placed well inside the grave yard and finding skeletons there should not have been a surprise. Though it could have been the 2nd as neither sale mentions the burial ground in the City Council Minutes.

**DISCOVERY OF SKELETONS.**—On yesterday morning as the workmen were engaged in digging a foundation for the new powder magazine, situated at about one hundred yards from the old one, they discovered the skeletons of at least one hundred human bodies, which are supposed to have been the remains of the victims of cholera who died in Richmond in 1832, when the disease was prevalent throughout Virginia. Many families were nearly made extinct by the calamity, and the best efforts of the most distinguished physicians were exerted in vain for the relief of the community. These remains of human bodies thus discovered were reinterred at a short distance from the spot, and their graves will probably be marked by suitable head-stones.

Lenora McQueen research

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1867-04-09/ed-1/seq-1/>



The Daily Dispatch, August 16 and  
August 24, 1867

### Dupont (Wortham) Powder Magazine Robbery

**ROBBERY OF THE POWDER MAGAZINE.**—The Dupont Powder Magazine, near the city almshouse, was entered sometime during Wednesday night and robbed of 150 kegs of powder, a number of cases containing canisters of powder, and also some quarter kegs. The thieves, taking advantage of the storm which prevailed, successfully accomplished their purpose, and removed the powder without being detected.

**THE POWDER-MAGAZINE ROBBERY—FURTHER EVIDENCE—THE ACCUSED SENT ON FOR FURTHER TRIAL.**—We have heretofore published an account of the robbery at Wortham's powder magazine, and the testimony given at the examination of John Phillips, who had charge of the magazine, and who is charged with the theft. The case was again brought before the Recorder yesterday, and the following testimony given :

These two articles show that the Wortham Powder Magazine in the 1866 City Council Minutes and the Dupont Magazine which appears on the 1877 Beers Atlas are the same gun powder magazine.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1867-08-16/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1867&index=2&rows=20&size=Magazine+Magazine+searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1877&proxtext=powers+magazine+&ya=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1867-08-24/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1867&index=6&rows=20&words=Magazine+Magazine+Powder+powder+Powder-Magazine&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1877&proxtext=powder+magazine+&v=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>



Richmond Dispatch, January 1, 1882

## Burials in the City of Richmond

Shockoe Hill Cemetery – White interments 155 (11 less than 1880), Colored interments were not mentioned.

The Hebrew Cemetery – had been recently enlarged by the addition of a considerable piece of ground on the north side. This property is the extension to the Graveyard for Free People of Colour and For Slaves that appears as Potters Field beginning with the Beers 1877 Atlas. The Graveyard is not mentioned.

**BURIALS DURING THE YEAR.**  
**HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY**—James O. Keefe, Superintendent.—Burials: 214 males, 196 females, 12 still-born; total, 360.  
**ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY.**—No interments in 1881, and only 14 since November 1, 1869.  
**WILSON'S CEMETERY.**—Burials: 10 males, 10 females, 10 still-born; total, 30.  
**WILSON'S CEMETERY.**—Burials: Adults, 54; children, 61; total, 155—11 less than 1880.  
**OAKWOOD CEMETERY**—W. A. Dickinson, Keeper.—Burials: 177 males, 164 adults, 11 male children, 61; female children, 60; unnamed children, 7; still-born, 25; total white interments, 323; oldest white male interred, F. Willis, aged ninety-two years; oldest white female interred, Mary A. Taylor, aged ninety-one years; oldest male, *Colored*,—Male adults, 128; female adults, 73; male children, 35; female children, 31; still-born, 66; unnamed, 16; infants; 9; total colored interments, 281; oldest colored male interred, Sarah B. Brown, aged eighty years; oldest colored female interred, Judy Brown, aged eighty years; total interments, 706.

**HEBREW CEMETERY.**—The Hebrew cemetery is under the control of a joint committee of the Hebrew congregations Beth Abah and Beth Shalom. M. Millisher, president of the Board of Managers, Dr. H. B. Seltzer, secretary, and J. L. Hart, treasurer. During the year there have been 17 interments—13 adults and 4 children. The cemetery has recently been en- deared by the addition of a considerable piece of ground on the north side, which has been laid out, enclosed, walled and suitably laid off. The whole ground is kept in excellent order.

**CATHOLIC CEMETERY.**—John McGeary, Keeper.—Situated on the Mechanicsville turnpike about one mile from the city. Burials, 101—adults, 53; children, 48.

**Dr. MARX'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY.**—E. A. Adams, Superintendent.—Burials during the year: Adults, 15; infants, 18—total, 33.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1882-01-01/ed-1/seq-8/#date1=1866&index=3&rows=20&words=Burial+Burials&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1898&proxtext=Burials&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=2>





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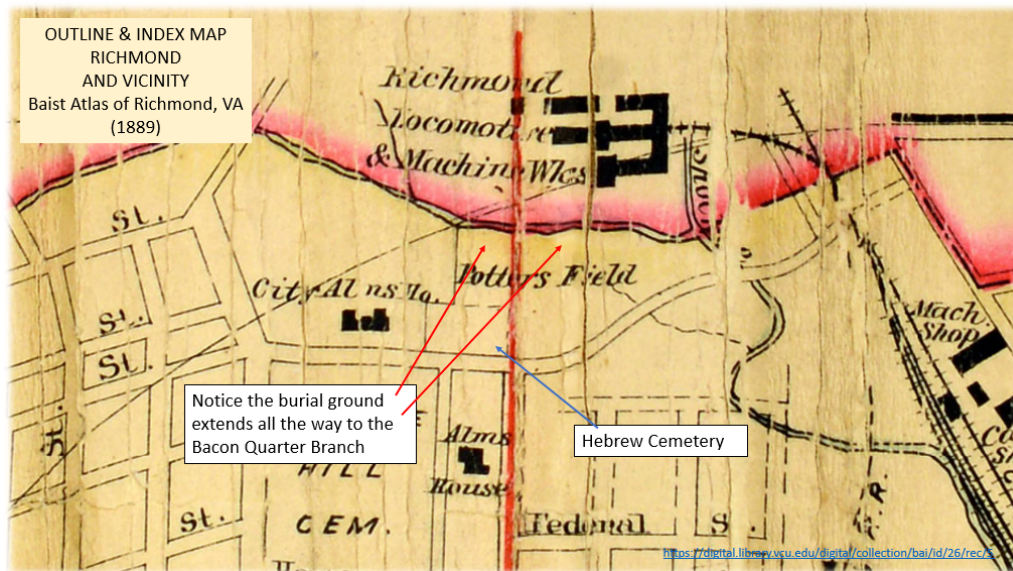
The Daily Dispatch, November 23, 1882

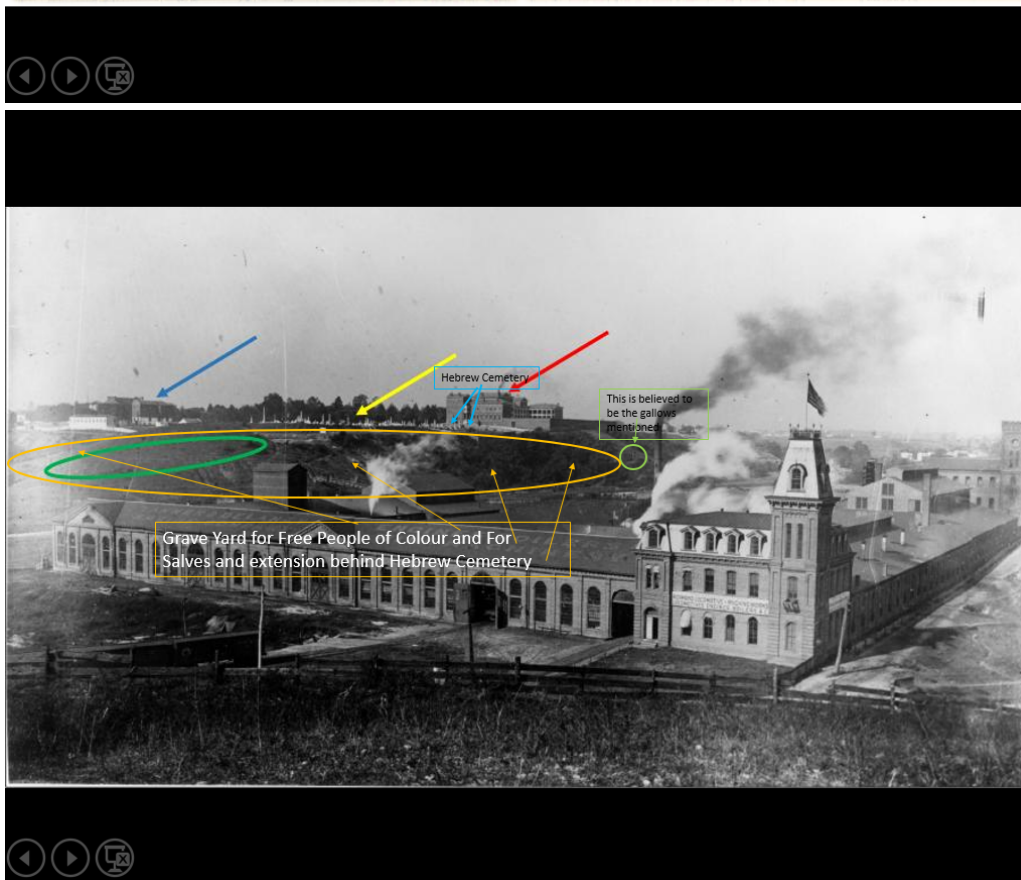
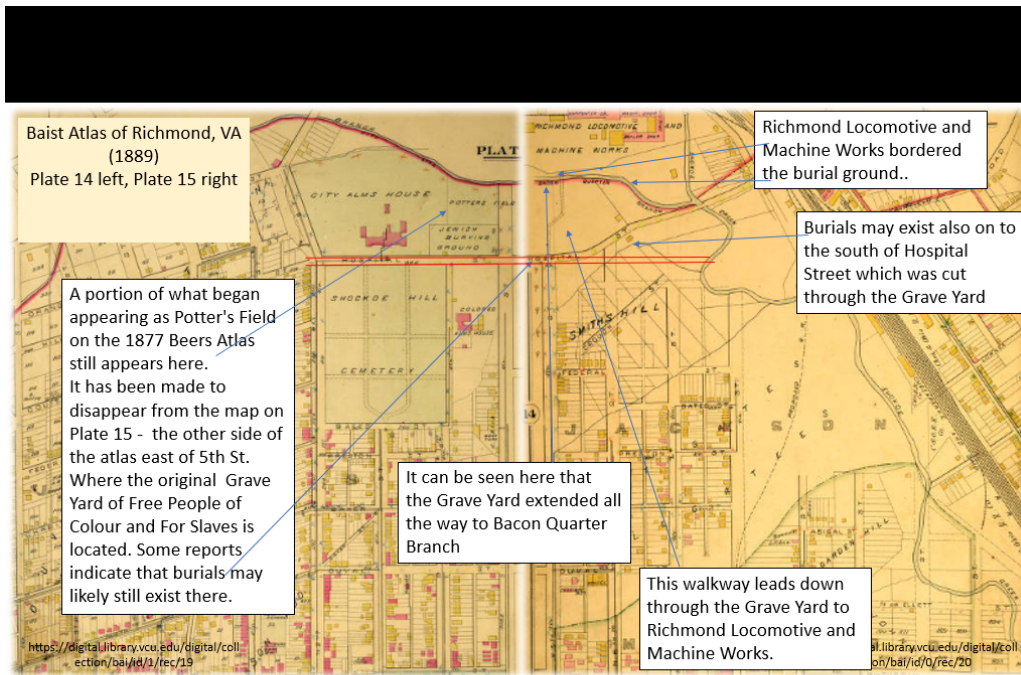
Tanner &amp; Delaney Engine Company

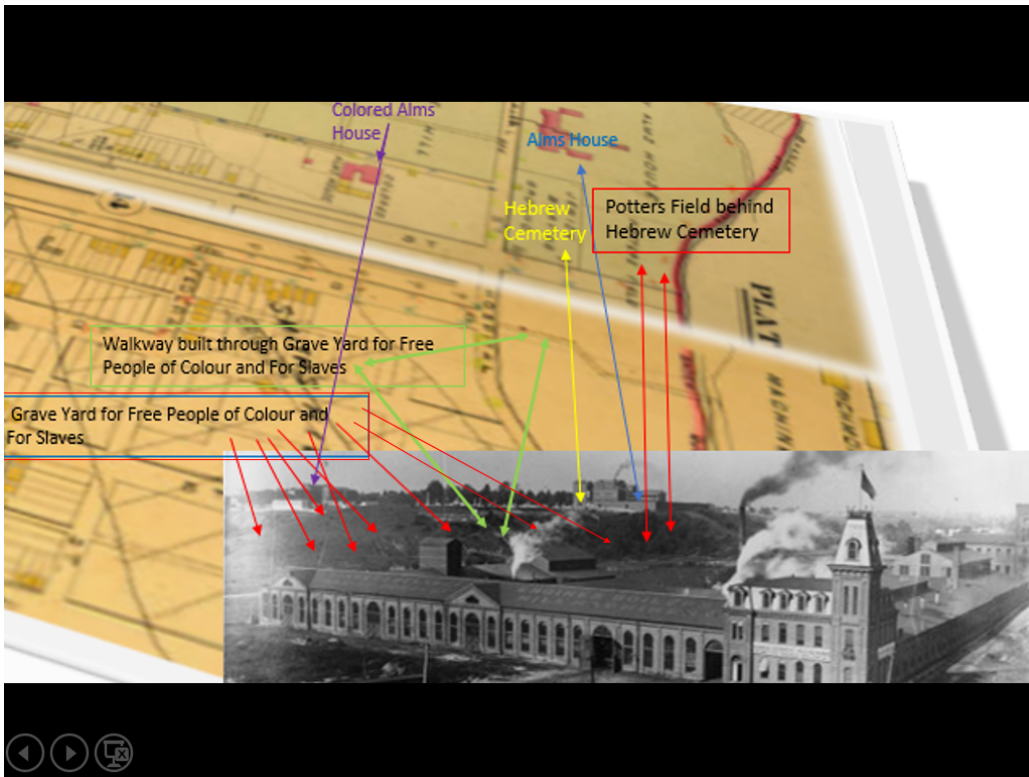
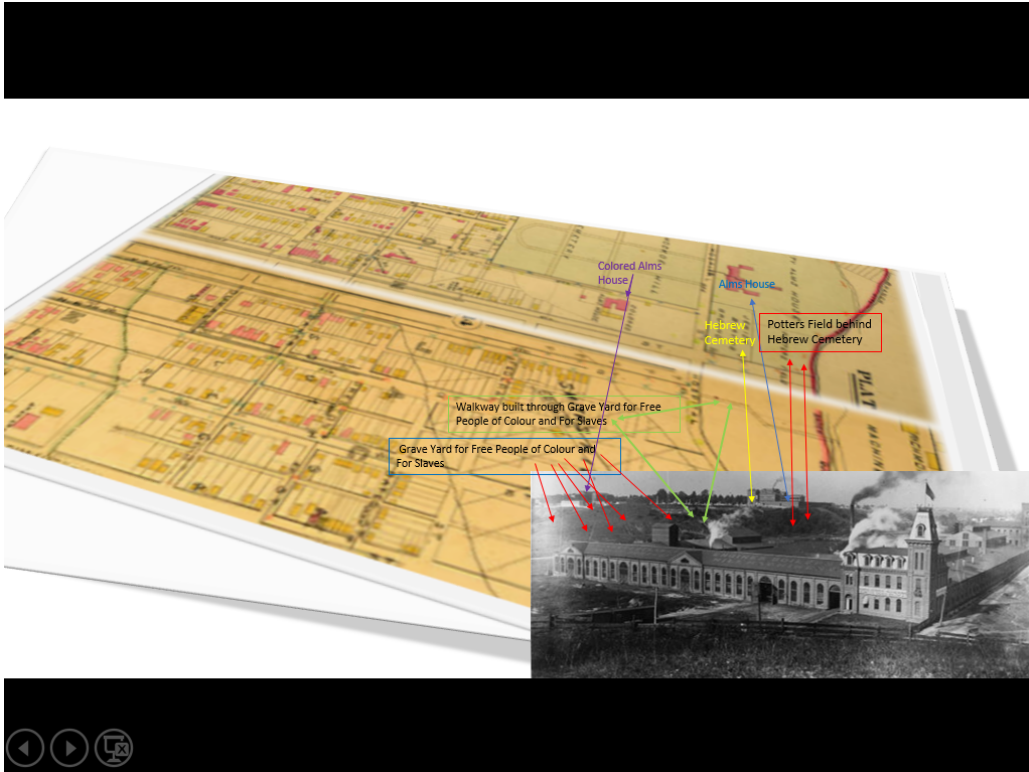
The extensive buildings of the Tanner & Delaney Engine Company present an imposing appearance to persons coming into the city by the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad trains; but the best view of them is to be had from the north end of Fifth street, which is now at the brow of the hill near the Hebrew cemetery.

The Tanner & Delaney Engine Company became Richmond Locomotive and Machine Works. It appears that their property bordered the Potters Field (Grave Yard of Free People of Colour and For Slaves) on its northern side.

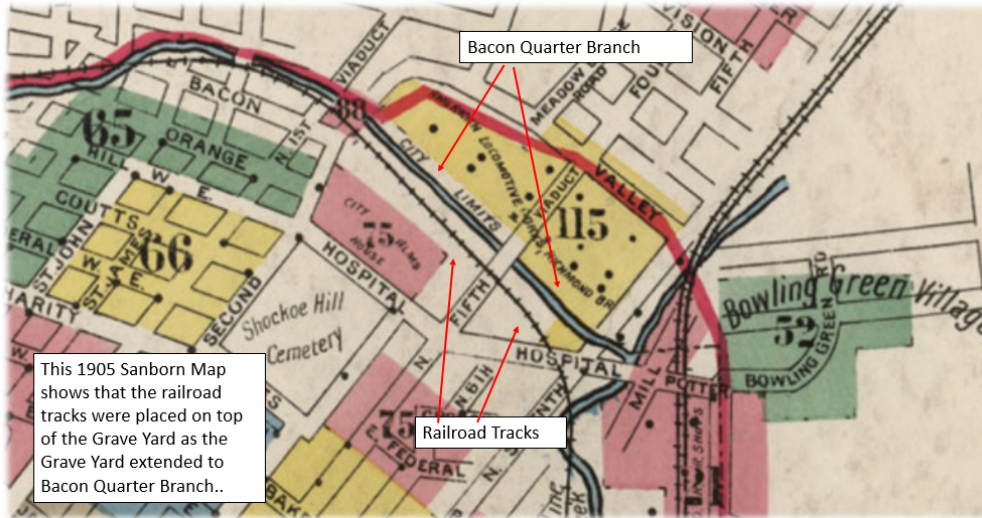
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1882-11-23/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1879&index=3&rows=20&words=cemetery+Hebrew&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1882&proxtext=Hebrew+Cemetery&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>











[https://chpn.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/richmond\\_map\\_1905\\_sm.jpg](https://chpn.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/richmond_map_1905_sm.jpg)

Map of Henrico County, Virginia : showing portions of Chesterfield County also City of Richmond



T. Crawford Redd & Bro., c1911

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3883h.1a002.030/?r=0.459,0.196,0.037,0.019,0>

