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Minutes- DC2RVA Consulting Party Meeting, December 16, 2022

45 messages

Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Tue, Jan 25, 2022 at 9:02 AM

To: "Battlefields, NPS" <abpp@nps.gov>, "Kambic, Emily" <emily_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric_mink@nps.gov>, "Brown, Ray" <Ray_Brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <Matthew_Virta@nps.gov>, "Mocko, Robert" <Robert_Mocko@nps.gov>, "Bailey, Megan M" <Megan_Bailey@nps.gov>, "Joseph, Maureen" <Maureen_Joseph@nps.gov>, "Stidham, Tammy" <Tammy_Stidham@nps.gov>, "Hammig, Laurel" <Laurel_Hammig@nps.gov>, Joel_Gorder@nps.gov, Allison_Young@nps.gov, Cheryl Sams <cheryl_sams@nps.gov>, "Eberle, Mark D" <mark_eberle@nps.gov>, anne_o'Neill@nps.gov, "Krick, Robert" <bob_krick@nps.gov>, helen_mahan@nps.gov, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, cpennington@co.caroline.va.us, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <Al.Cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Chen, Kimberly M. - PDR" <Kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Patton, Justin S." <jspatton@pwccgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, executivedirector@cvbt.org, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <DPorter@historichrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historichrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <RNieweg@savingplaces.org>, echang@savingplaces.org, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>, LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <Danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com, pathlane@cox.net, tribalo@monacannation.com, lockamylee@yahoo.com, robert.gray@pamunkey.org, info@rappahannocktribe.org, wfrankadams@verizon.net
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Attached are minutes from our December 16, 2021 meeting regarding the second amendment to the DC2RVA MOA. Thank you again to all who were able to participate. Please contact me if you have any comments or questions.

Thank you,
Kerri

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Kerri Barile (Tambs), PhD, RPA | President

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DC2RVA Consulting Party Update Mtg Minutes 2021-12-16_Final.pdf

2461K

LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Sun, Feb 6, 2022 at 9:27 AM

To: "Battlefields, NPS" <abpp@nps.gov>, "Kambic, Emily" <emily_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric_mink@nps.gov>, "Brown, Ray" <ray_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew_virta@nps.gov>, "Mocko, Robert" <robert_mocko@nps.gov>, "Bailey, Megan M" <megan_bailey@nps.gov>, "Joseph, Maureen" <maureen_joseph@nps.gov>, "Stidham, Tammy" <tammy_stidham@nps.gov>, "Hammig, Laurel" <laurel_hammig@nps.gov>, Joel_Gorder@nps.gov, Allison_Young@nps.gov, Cheryl Sams <cheryl_sams@nps.gov>, "Eberle, Mark D" <mark_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne_o'Neill@nps.gov" <anne_o'Neill@nps.gov>, "Krick, Robert" <bob_krick@nps.gov>, "helen_mahan@nps.gov" <helen_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, cpennington@co.caroline.va.us, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Chen, Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Patton, Justin S." <jspatton@pwccgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, executivedirector@cvbt.org <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historichrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historichrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, echang@savingplaces.org <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny

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Dear Kerri;

thank you for sharing the meeting minutes. As I read through them, I remain deeply concerned not only for the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (which is my greatest concern) but also the other 120 historic properties. I have some comments I would like to share regarding the meeting minutes. The purple text below was copied from the minutes, and my comments are in black.

Lenora McQueen (Consulting Party) asked why effect on the two Shockoe Hill resources cannot be evaluated before the MOA is signed? Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) answered that the MOA was originally signed and ratified in 2019, and as it stands, there is no process to follow to evaluate project effect on newly identified/expanded historic properties. Because there is no process, the Signatories are amending the MOA to provide a legal mechanism to reopen the MOA process and establish language on how to evaluate newly identified resources such as the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR #44HE1203) and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (DHR #127-7231). Given the existing 2019 MOA, the Signatories can move forward one of two options: the Signatories can write a third amendment to the 80-page document to address the specific newly identified historic resource after the current MOA Amendment is approved; or the Signatories can sign the current second MOA Amendment that establishes a process for the newly identified historic resource and expedite the evaluation of effect on the the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR #44HE1203) and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (DHR #127-7231) to evaluate the effects immediately after the second MOA Amendment is signed. The Signatories would like to execute the MOA Amendment that is under review so that they can move forward with evaluation of effects on the newly identified resources in Shockoe Hill. Once signed, the process that the MOA Amendment commits the Signatories to is required by law.

The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR #44HE1203) is not a newly identified resource. It was known about and considered by your project well before the execution on the 2019 MOA. It first appears in the written record of the project in early 2018. It is written about in the Final EIS, yet it was handled outside of section 106, which I don't understand. It was poorly researched by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project, it was also minimized, and miss-defined, and literally pushed out of the way of the rail project on paper both in writing and in the map overlays that were created and published by the project. But in truth, this rail project was always going to adversely impact this burial ground. But the information and the map overlays were manipulated to make it appear as if it would not.

Charles B Birnbaum (The Cultural Landscape Foundation) asked if the criteria for evaluating the 23 resources that are adversely affected could be made available. His concern was in how the roster of 120 historic properties as of 2019 resulted in a determination that the project would have an adverse effect on only 23 of these resources. Most of his comments revolved around the seven aspects of integrity as stated in NRHP evaluation regulations ((Note: more information on the seven aspects of integrity can be found here: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf, pages 44–49). He asked how "feeling" and "association" (two of the seven aspects of integrity) were considered; he wanted to assure that the Project Team did not just use above-ground materials and impacts when making this decision. Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) explained that extensive conversations were held between the Project Team and DHR regarding each resource. The summary letters and DHR concurrence are provided on DC2RVA webpage. Karen Harrington (HDR) provided the links in the chat box (<https://dc2rvarail.com/> ; <https://dc2rvarail.com/cultural-resources/>). Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) then provided more details on the process that had been completed throughout the project corridor during the EIS phase including extensive coordination with the consulting parties, DHR, ACHP, and other agencies and vested parties. She clarified that the team examined the significance of each resource, its setting, why it is or is not eligible, what was the materiality, and going through the seven aspects of integrity to determine if this project would adversely affect the resource so it no longer was eligible for the register. This rendered an effect determination for each of the 120 historic properties. Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) pointed everyone to the Draft EIS and the Final EIS for supporting data including all project reports, DHR consultation, and consulting party correspondence. Randy Selleck (DRPT) noted that the DRPT website was having some issues so the links may not be active.

I shared very important information about (DHR #44HE1203) with you and others well before the completion of the final EIS in writing and in images, that clearly showed that the burial ground was much larger than how your project was defining it. Historic maps were included in this proof. And also information was shared that your created map overlays were wrong. They used the 1835 size and shape of the burial ground (3.3 acres of a 31 acre burial ground) and pushed it

about 90 to 100 feet southwest of where it belonged on the modern day map.) But those comments of mine (though I was told in writing were considered) were excluded from the final EIS. The final EIS states that all comments were included. Not all of mine were. And Federal approval was granted for the project. So based on the treatment that I witnessed for the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (then called the Grave Yard for Free People of Color and Slaves by your project), I have concerns about the treatment the other historic properties may have received.

When I received written notice that section 106 was being reopened, largely because the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground historic district was found eligible for the National Register, I had just written to the Governor and many others seeking the governor's help in getting section 106 reopened due to the great mistreatment that Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground had received by the DC2RVA rail project. I believe this mistreatment is something that should be addressed. I would like my letters to the governor to be entered into the public record of the rail-project and shared, along with all of the information that I shared on the burial ground, to include all images and maps, and my comment letter on the draft MOA. I think all of the MOA comment letters should be shared.

The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is a very important place both locally and nationally. It is the largest burial ground for free people of color and the enslaved in the United States. Over 22,000 people of African decent were buried there. It has been desecrated time and time again, especially by transportation projects. And the DC2RVA high-speed rail project apparently intends to desecrate it once again in more ways than one.

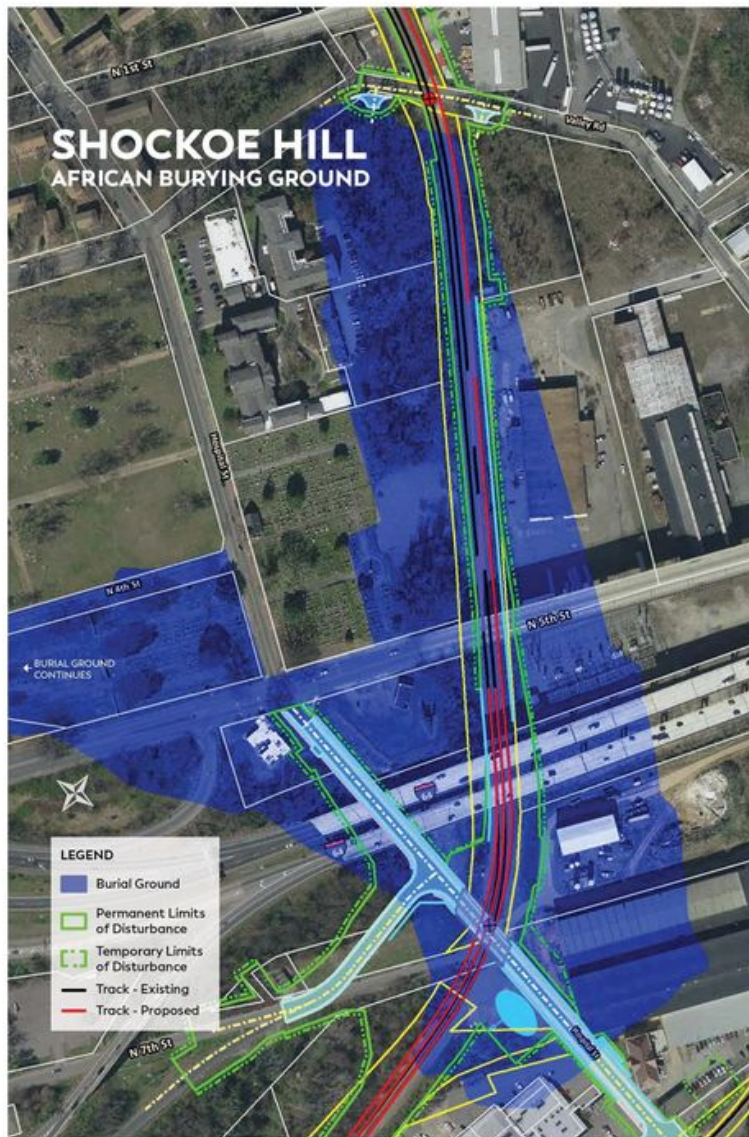
I ask that this burial ground be treated with the dignity, honesty, respect and the importance that it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Lenora

Lenora McQueen



The DC2RVA high-speed rail project will plow through the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground over the distance of 5 1/2 blocks.



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DC2RVA Consulting Party Update Mtg Minutes 2021-12-16_Final.pdf
2461K

Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 5:14 PM

To: LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Cc: "Battlefields, NPS" <abpp@nps.gov>, "Kambic, Emily" <emily_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric_mink@nps.gov>, "Brown, Ray" <ray_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew_virta@nps.gov>, "Mocko, Robert" <robert_mocko@nps.gov>, "Bailey, Megan M" <megan_bailey@nps.gov>, "Joseph, Maureen" <maureen_joseph@nps.gov>, "Stidham, Tammy" <tammy_stidham@nps.gov>, "Hammig, Laurel" <laurel_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel Gorder" <joel_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison Young" <allison_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl_sams@nps.gov>, "Eberle, Mark D" <mark_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne_o'Neill@nps.gov" <anne_o'Neill@nps.gov>, "Krick, Robert" <bob_krick@nps.gov>, "helen_mahan@nps.gov" <helen_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Chen, Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Patton, Justin S." <jspatton@pwcgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodgesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org" <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historicrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historicrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, "echang@savingplaces.org" <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, "chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com" <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>, "pathlane@cox.net" <pathlane@cox.net>, "tribaloffice@monacannation.com" <tribaloffice@monacannation.com>, "lockamylee@yahoo.com" <lockamylee@yahoo.com>, "robert.gray@pamunkey.org" <robert.gray@pamunkey.org>, "info@rappahannocktribe.org" <info@rappahannocktribe.org>, "wfrankadams@verizon.net" <wfrankadams@verizon.net>, "Stock, Emily (DRPT)" <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Holma, Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Roberts, Timothy" <tim.roberts@dhr.virginia.gov>, Emily Choi <echoi@achp.gov>, "rmangum@achp.gov" <rmangum@achp.gov>, "Clarke, David (FHWA)" <david.clarke@dot.gov>, "Simkins, John (FHWA)" <john.simkins@dot.gov>, "Koenig, Daniel (FTA)" <daniel.koenig@dot.gov>, "Murphy, Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Brown, Randall (FRA)" <randall.brown@dot.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Pete Buttigieg <secretaryscheduler@dot.gov>, Jennifer Mitchell <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Zeringue <katherine.zeringue@dot.gov>

Hi Lenora,

Thank you for your comments on the December 16, 2021 Consulting Party Meeting minutes. After we receive any additional comments from other Consulting Parties, we will distribute revised minutes with any needed corrections, additions or clarifications.

We ask that Consulting Parties provide comments on the meeting minutes (distributed on January 25th) by the end of this week. We are also currently working on reviewing and addressing comments received on the draft MOA Amendment, and will be back in touch shortly.

Thanks again!
Kerri
[Quoted text hidden]

Selleck, Randy <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>
To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 5:17 PM

Perfect- thank you Kerri!
[Quoted text hidden]
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Randy Selleck, AICP

Director of Rail Planning & Environmental
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Cell: 804-316-8462

Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>
To: "Selleck, Randy" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>

Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 5:22 PM

Absolutely. Thanks for your help!
[Quoted text hidden]

LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>
To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 2:23 PM

Cc: "Battlefields, NPS" <abpp@nps.gov>, "Kambic, Emily" <emily_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric_mink@nps.gov>, "Brown, Ray" <ray_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew_virta@nps.gov>, "Mocko, Robert" <robert_mocko@nps.gov>, "Bailey, Megan M" <megan_bailey@nps.gov>, "Joseph, Maureen" <maureen_joseph@nps.gov>, "Stidham, Tammy" <tammy_stidham@nps.gov>, "Hammig, Laurel" <laurel_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel_Gorder@nps.gov" <joel_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison_Young@nps.gov" <allison_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl_sams@nps.gov>, "Eberle, Mark D" <mark_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne_o'neill@nps.gov" <anne_o'neill@nps.gov>, "Krick, Robert" <bob_krick@nps.gov>, "helen_mahan@nps.gov" <helen_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Chen, Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Patton, Justin S." <jspatton@pwcgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodgesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org" <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historichrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historichrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, "echang@savingplaces.org" <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, "chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com" <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>, "pathlane@cox.net" <pathlane@cox.net>, "tribaloffice@monacannation.com" <tribaloffice@monacannation.com>, "lockamylee@yahoo.com" <lockamylee@yahoo.com>, "robert.gray@pamunkey.org" <robert.gray@pamunkey.org>, "info@rappahannocktribe.org" <info@rappahannocktribe.org>, "wfrankadams@verizon.net" <wfrankadams@verizon.net>, "Stock, Emily (DRPT)" <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpva.virginia.gov>, "Holma, Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Roberts, Timothy" <tim.roberts@dhr.virginia.gov>, Emily Choi <echoi@achp.gov>, "rmangum@achp.gov" <rmangum@achp.gov>, "Clarke, David (FHWA)" <david.clarke@dot.gov>, "Simkins, John (FHWA)" <john.simkins@dot.gov>, "Koenig, Daniel (FTA)" <daniel.koenig@dot.gov>, "Murphy, Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Brown, Randall (FRA)" <randall.brown@dot.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Pete Buttigieg <secretaryscheduler@dot.gov>, Jennifer Mitchell <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Zeringue <katherine.zeringue@dot.gov>

Dear Kerri, et al,

attached are letters that I wrote to the governor that I mentioned in my last email. I request that they be entered into the public record of the rail-project and shared. I request that all of the information that I have shared on the burial ground, to include all images and maps, to include my comment letter on the draft MOA be entered into the public record of this rail project.

My letters were taken directly from the emails to Governor Northam that were sent on the dates indicated. If you would prefer the original emails be forwarded directly, I will be happy to oblige.

Not included here are the response from Jennifer Mitchell which is an email, and my response. They will follow.

Yours truly,

Lenora


Lenora McQueen

[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments

 **Letter to Governor Northam, April 6, 2021.pdf**
896K

 **Letter (2nd) to Governor Northam, April 17, 2021.pdf**
55K

 **4.30.2021 RSN to Lenora McQueen.pdf**
228K

 **To_ Governor Ralph Northam, Gilbert Spencer, Shannon Valentine, Jennifer Mitchell, Denise Burch (1).pdf**
9238K

LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 2:28 PM

To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

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Below is my comment letter regarding the Memorandum of Agreement Draft/update

Yours truly,

Lenora

On Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 8:56 AM LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net> wrote:

January 16, 2021

Dr. Kerri Barile
Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
[11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502](#)
[Fredericksburg, VA 22408](#)
kbarile@dovetailcrg.com

Re: DC2RVA Memorandum of Agreement Draft/update

Dear Dr. Barile, et al;

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a consulting party, and to comment on the revised draft of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the DC2RVA high-speed rail project. I write to you as a direct descendant of people interred at the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. I write to you also as an advocate for this sacred ground.

The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is a place of great significance, both locally and nationally. It is likely the largest burial ground for free people of color and the enslaved in the United States. It was established in 1816 by the city of Richmond as a

municipal burying ground for people of African descent. It began as two connected one-acre parcels on the northeastern corner of 5th St. and Marshall St. (now called Hospital St.). It first appeared on the 1816 "Plan of the City of Richmond Property situated at the Poor House," as the "Burying Ground for Free People of Colour" and the "Burying Ground for Negroes" (enslaved). It appeared by various names on later maps. However; on most city records it was referred to as the "Shockoe Hill Burying Ground" (of which it was a segregated part). On the 1853 Smith Map of Henrico County, it appeared by two names "Shockoe Hill Burying Ground" and also "African Burying Ground". It is from the 1853 map that the name "Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground" has been derived. The Shockoe Hill Burying Ground in its entirety (both white and black sections) was overseen by the Superintendent of the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground (an elected city official), and the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground committee, which was a standing committee of the Richmond City Council.

The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is Richmond's 2nd African Burial Ground, and was the replacement for the Burial Ground for Negroes in Shockoe Bottom (which is now called the African Burial Ground). Sadly over time the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground was made to disappear from the visible landscape, and was almost entirely erased from memory, though a great deal of its history has been recovered through extensive research conducted over the last four years. I have personally conducted a large portion of this research. This burial ground is actively being restored to memory. Two of the results of this extensive research were the writing and submission of the Preliminary Information Form (P.I.F.) and also nomination of the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register. I am a co-author of both the P.I.F. and the Nomination. The other 3 co-authors on the nomination are archeologists Dr. Dan Mouer, and Dr. Steve Thompson and VCU history professor and author Dr. Ryan K. Smith. Dr. Ellen Chapman, an archeologist, was an additional co-author on the P.I.F. The research has revealed that the burial ground encompassed 31 acres of land. Upwards of 22,000 people of African descent were buried in its grounds before it was closed in June of 1879, due to extremely overcrowded conditions. It was reported by the Superintendent that the burial ground was so overcrowded that a new grave could not be dug without disturbing the grave of another. Hundreds of additional graves were dug after this reporting to the Burying Ground Committee and the Richmond City Council before this burial ground was closed. By this report it seems to me unlikely that traditional grave shafts would be found in a burial ground that was so greatly overcrowded.

Historically the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground has suffered numerous abuses and desecrations, and this is the historical context in which I place the current proposal by DC2RVA. The burying ground was a primary target of the illegal nineteenth-century cadaver trade, and was used to supply the medical colleges (especially the Medical College of Virginia now VCU, and the University of Virginia) with cadavers for medical training. The railroad was used to transport bodies stolen from this burial ground to Charlottesville in barrels. The majority of the human remains that were found in the East Marshall St. Well at Virginia Commonwealth University, would have come from the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. During the years of its operation, it was also the site of the city gallows. During the Civil War over 600 Union Soldiers (deceased P.O.W.s) were buried in its grounds. They were removed shortly after the war and re-interred in the Richmond National Cemetery.

It is the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground that dates to the time of the Lumpkin's Slave Jail, and the First African Baptist Church. It suffered a powder magazine explosion during the 1865 evacuation of the city of Richmond by the Confederate Army. In 1867 over 100 skeletons were unearthed during the digging of a foundation for a new powder magazine. Acts of desecration continued and escalated after the burial ground's closure. Bones and bodies from this burial ground were used as street fill during an 1883 extension of 5th St. Many were left sticking out of the ground exposed for months. Members of the City Council were outraged. In 1890, 7th St., and again 5th St. (to include the construction of a viaduct) were further extended through the burial ground, desecrating many graves and exposing remains along the extensions of the streets. In 1900 railroad tracks were constructed through its northern and eastern reaches. Portions of 4th St., and Hospital St., as well as Interstate 64, were run through it. A gas station and billboard were built upon it. Its land was divided up over time. Parts of it were sold, and others gifted. A large portion of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is now part of the Hebrew Cemetery.

Much has happened to this landscape. Its form has been altered. Any and all grave markers were removed from its surface. Deep ravines have been filled, streets have been graded. Its surface has been altered to the point of being unrecognizable as a burial ground. But this distortion has not altered its function. It is still a burial ground. Regardless of all that has happened there, this land is still a burial ground. It is still a sacred place that deserves to be honored, remembered, respected, memorialized and protected. It should not be defined by whether or not it has intact graves. This ground may contain intact graves, but it is also full of tons of scattered remains. The many who still rest there, regardless of their form, deserve to do so in peace. My ancestors who were buried there, along with the many thousands of others deserve to finally rest in peace, safe from the worry of further desecration and destruction. Yet the DC2RVA high-speed rail project intends to construct its new railroad track right through the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (over a distance of 5 ½ blocks, from 2nd St., to past 7th St.). To do that should be unthinkable. But the necessary property transfers from CSX to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority took place on July 2, 2022. All of 1311 Valley Road (Parcel ID: N0000233022), and the northern portion of 705 Hospital St (Parcel ID: E0000452073) is in the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. So clearly, this project is pushing forward. It is my request that this project be reconsidered, and that instead of further desecrating this burial ground, the DC2RVA high-speed rail project should find a way to go around it. The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground should be completely avoided. This reconsideration should happen now, and not further down the road.

Desecration of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is not just what happened to it historically, it is what has happened to it recently. It is what is happening to it currently. I am deeply concerned over how the DC2RVA high-speed rail project has mistreated the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. This project has desecrated the memory, the history and the footprint on paper of this burial ground by minimizing it, misidentifying it, drawing wrong conclusions, altering it on map overlays, and misreporting on it in the final EIS. The DC2RVA project reduced it back to its 1835 size of 3.3 acres, and moved it by about 90 to 100 feet southwest of where it belonged on the map (placing it right on top of 5th St. and Marshall St.), literally pushing it out of the way of the high-speed rail project on paper. This allowed for the untrue declaration to be made, that 75 to 99 percent of the burial ground had been destroyed - this along with the untrue story that the burials were removed to the grounds of the penitentiary. This all allowed for the other untrue statement to be made that there would be no adverse effect to the burial ground. (There is no possible way that there wouldn't be an adverse effect - the tracks literally run right through the burial ground over the course of 5 ½ blocks). Even the 1835 (and 1816) smaller version of the burial ground crosses the railroad tracks when accurately placed on the present day map.

Earlier, I provided proof to the high speed rail project that showed that the railroad was constructed on this burial ground. I provided this information before the completion and submission of the Final EIS, but it was ignored and excluded from the Final EIS. The historic maps that were provided, were ignored. The research that was previously done on this burial ground by and for the DC2RVA high-speed rail project, and also for the proposed widening of I-64 was inadequate, and inaccurate. Many of those conclusions drawn were incorrect. Both projects up to now have utterly failed this burial ground. I pray that during this process of the reopening of Section 106 (from this point forward), that the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground will receive the treatment that it should have received from the beginning (but didn't). The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground deserves to be seen in its entirety. It deserves to be treated with honesty, dignity, and integrity, and it deserves to be protected. Though what I am seeing so far, still has me greatly concerned. I agree totally with Dr. Smith that the new revisions proposed in the draft Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement are strikingly inadequate. There is no revised or updated historical information related to the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground anywhere in the document – no “updated boundaries, map overlay images, and the National Register of Historic Places nomination materials” as promised by VDRP Director Jennifer Mitchell in her letter to me. Additionally, the draft MOA does not outline a process by which consultation regarding this site will occur. All of these things need to be added to this revised MOA.

As an official consulting party I wish to include the following additional comments:

In May, 2021, Preservation Virginia included the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground on the listing of Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places. The listing is intended to raise awareness of the threats to what remains of this sacred place and to highlight the opportunity for solutions to reclaim this history and this resting place after decades of desecration and disrespect. The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is also one of thirteen sites featured in [Landslide 2021: Race and Space](#), a report and online exhibition from The Cultural Landscape Foundation about nationally significant cultural landscapes associated with African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native peoples that are threatened and at-risk. The detailed entry about Shockoe Hill includes a [six-minute video documentary](#) with voiceover narration by me, one of the only as yet identified descendants of people interred at the site. A careful review of these two sites should be required reading for all MOA signatories, along with a careful reading of Ryan K. Smith's "Disappearing the Enslaved: The Destruction and Recovery of Richmond's Second African Burial Ground" published in Volume 27 (Spring 2020) of *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*. Reading of the P.I.F and nomination should be required as well.

Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground

The draft Second Amendment to the MOA (Stipulation III.A.1.a.) should be revised to require the immediate initiation of consultation regarding the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. The identification of historic resources, including the boundaries and associated eligibility questions, is presently incomplete. However; it is clear that all of 1311 Valley Road (Parcel ID: N0000233022), and the northern portion of 705 Hospital St. (Parcel ID: E0000452073) is in the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. These are the areas that will be impacted by this project. Further consultation should focus on alternatives and modifications to the project to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the adverse effects. First and foremost the effort must be made to completely avoid this sacred burial ground.

As stated by Dr. Dan Mouer, the unique significance and vulnerability of this place has been widely recognized. This significance should be stipulated in the MOA, Amendment 2. I also specifically request that the agencies sponsoring this project stipulate that the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District, with its contributing property the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, are assumed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP and will be treated as such.

The project also requires compliance with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, which prohibits the "use" of historic properties for transportation projects unless there is "no prudent and feasible alternative," and the project includes "all possible planning to minimize harm." 49 U.S.C. § 303(c); 23 C.F.R Part 774. The DOT needs to initiate this process now to ensure meaningful evaluation of feasible and prudent alternatives that would avoid and minimize the use of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground and the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District.

The Section 106 regulations entitle consulting parties to raise disagreements with proposed findings of No Adverse Effect, and in response to those disagreements, the agency is required to consult to resolve the disagreement or to refer the disagreement to the ACHP (36 C.F.R. § 800.5(c)(2)(i)). However, the Draft MOA Amendment, in Stipulations III.C.2.a. and III.C.2.b. (pp. 7-8), would leave this right solely in the hands of the SHPO. Although the No Adverse Effect determinations are to be distributed to all parties for review and comment, including consulting parties, if the SHPO concurs in the agency's determination, the proposed MOA language contains no requirement to address any disagreements by consulting parties, but instead, states "no further consultation for that portion of the Project is required and that portion may move forward to construction." This language needs to be revised to be consistent with the Section 106 regulations. Perhaps the provision could read: "Upon concurrence by the SHPO and consulting parties with this finding, no further consultation for that portion of the project is required."

For clarity, please include scaled maps in the MOA showing the approved boundaries of the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (127-7231) and the associated Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (44HE1203) as depicted in the draft NRHP nomination form and/or reference to the boundaries of these sites as currently defined in VDHR's V-CRIS database of historic resources in Virginia.

In an effort to evaluate the adverse effects of the current project, it is being strongly urged that a "Cultural Affiliation Study" be undertaken as defined by the [National Park Service's NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline](#): "Using anthropological, archeological, ethnohistoric, historic, and other evidence, this study satisfies the need to identify cultural ties among past and present groups that used and may still use or relate to park resources and park natural and cultural resources, including museum objects." Moreover, given the significance of this site, it is strongly being urged that an "exhaustive investigation" level of study be conducted. The work should not include any methods that would be destructive to the burial ground site. All archeological study should be non-invasive and it should be remembered at all times that this is a sacred site that should be respected. It is not a science project. It is the burial ground of my ancestors, and that of hundreds of thousands if not millions of other living descendants all over the United States.

It will be important to ensure that the assessment of effects includes a review of cumulative impacts to the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground and the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District. Consideration of cumulative effects is required by both the National Environmental Policy Act and by the Section 106 regulations, 36 C.F.R. § 800.5(a)(1).

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly;

Lenora McQueen

cc:

Julie Langan, SHPO, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Jennifer Mitchell, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Robert Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Jamie Loichinger, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation
Collen Vaughn, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation
Kathleen Zeringue, Federal Preservation Officer, Federal Railroad Administration
Marc Holma, Department of Historic Resources
Rob Nieweg, the National Trust for Historic Preservation;
Cyane Crump, Historic Richmond
Ellen Chapman, RVA Archaeology
Ana Edwards, Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project;
Elizabeth Kostelny, Preservation Virginia
Charles A. Birnbaum, Cultural Landscape Foundation
Christopher Cody, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Elizabeth Bestey Merritt, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Eleanor Breen, Council of Virginia Archaeologists

Steve Thompson, Archaeologist

Ryan K. Smith, Historian

Dan Mouer, Archaeologist

Kim Chen, City of Richmond

Nord Wennerstrom, Cultural Landscape Foundation

Danielle Worthing Porter, Historic Richmond

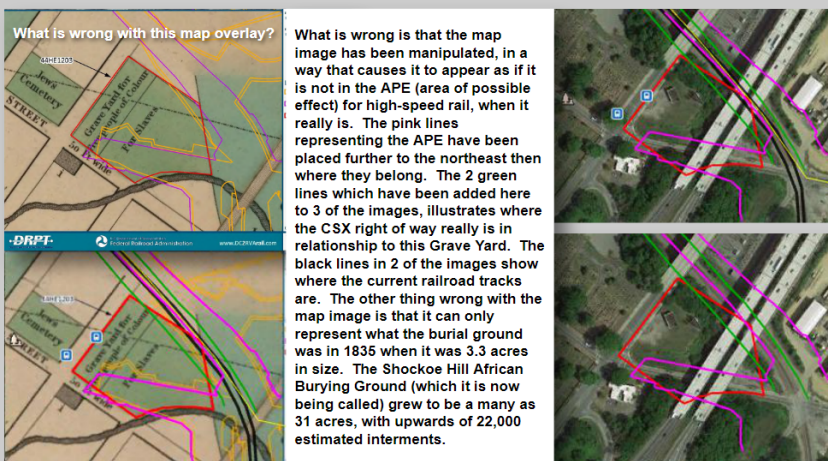
What is wrong with these maps?

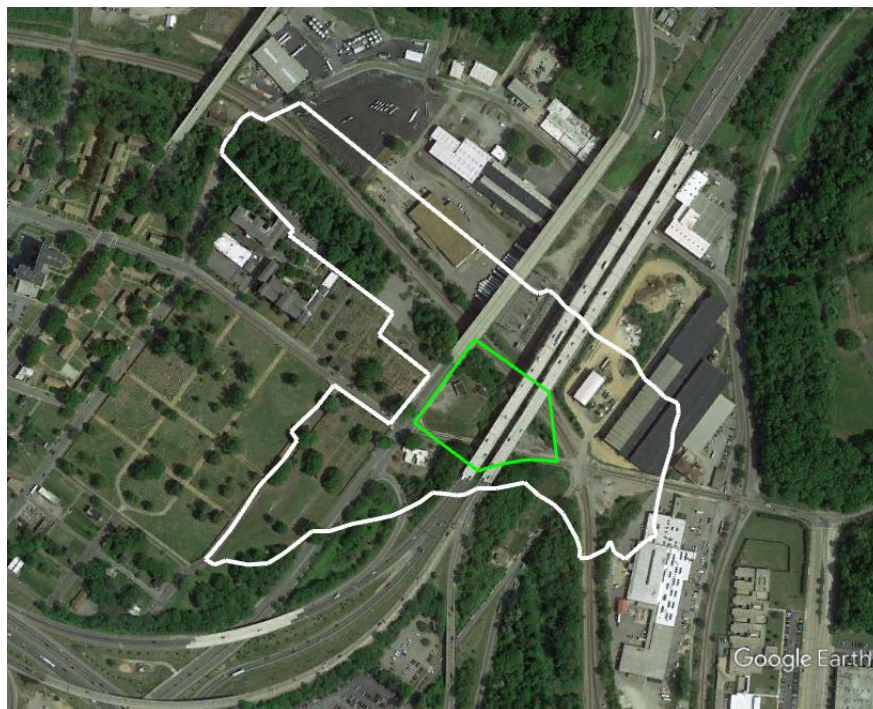
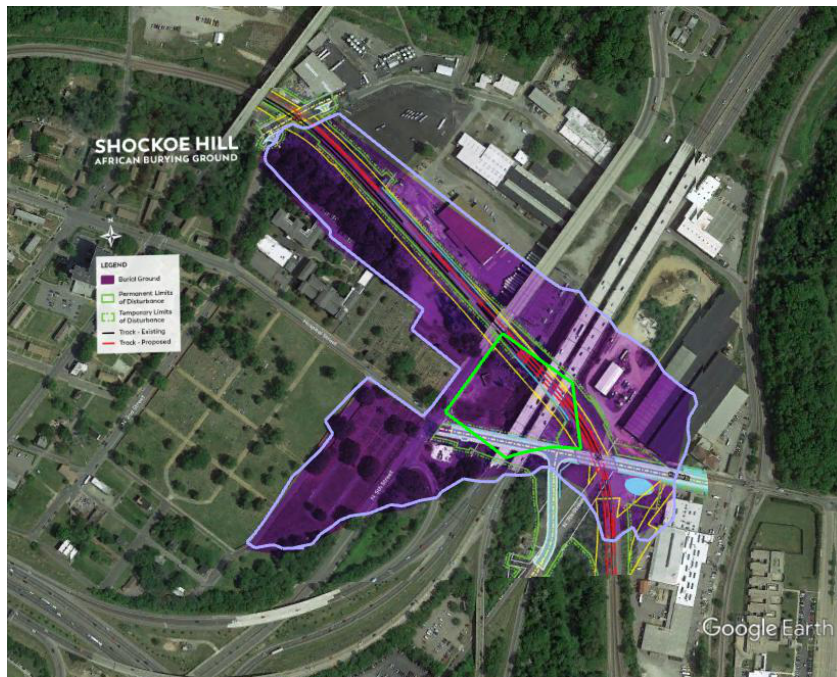
The first thing that is wrong with these maps is that an 1835 map is being used to define a burial ground that was increased in size over time to encompass as many as 31 acres. In 1850 alone, 9 acres were added to the colored people's burying ground by the Richmond City Council. The grounds were to be enclosed along with the City Hospital grounds (abt. 3 acres already long in use as a burying ground). In 1835 what is shown to be the Grave Yard for Free People of Colour and For Slaves, was only 3.3 acres in size.

The bottom image shows the "Grave Yard for Free People of Colour" and "For Slaves" it is a cropped 1835 map with lines overlaid to show the APE or area of possible effect for the DC2RVA high-speed rail project. The problem is that it doesn't show the actual APE in relationship to this burial ground. The lines were moved over to the northeast about half way through and beyond the actual CSX right of way. It makes it look like the burial ground does not exist in the CSX right of way, when it really does. It extends over the railroad tracks.

The polygon in the top image representing the Grave Yard was blatantly placed on top of 5th St. and slightly into the Hebrew Cemetery. Its placement is at least 50 feet to the west, and 30 or 40 feet to the south of where it belongs. This placement moves the burial ground out of the APE of high-speed rail on paper. The full Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is in the CSX right of way from 2nd St. to past 7th St. The railroad tracks were installed on top of this burial ground.

They have both been manipulated to minimize this burial ground that will be impacted by high-speed rail.





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LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 2:54 PM

To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

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Email from Jennifer Mitchell:

Mitchell, Jennifer <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>
To: ilenora.m@prodigy.net

Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 11:58 AM

Dear Ms. McQueen:

Thank you for your September 10th correspondence to Governor Northam. As Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the agency responsible for managing compliance with Section 106 for DC2RVA, I have been asked to respond directly to your inquiry about the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground, and I am grateful for this opportunity.

Your willingness to share important information about the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District is truly appreciated. DRPT and partner agencies involved in the Section 106 process are committed to securing accurate information about this site and are committed to working with you, community members, and other consulting parties to ensure that sacred sites including Shockoe Hill are properly documented and protected. To that end we recently reopened the Section 106 process for this location and plan to send a notice to consulting parties in the coming days.

The 2019 DC2RVA Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is being amended to include the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground and the new Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District using updated boundaries, map overlay images, and the National Register of Historic Places nomination materials. This draft document is nearly complete and will be sent to consulting parties once it is ready in the coming weeks. DRPT also participated in the nomination public review call on September 15th, and will be scheduling meetings with consulting parties to seek feedback regarding the proposed DC2RVA improvements given this new information.

This re-evaluation of the Shockoe Hill area will also include collaboration to further develop recommended mitigation measures, as necessary, which will be documented in the Section 106 process. A final determination regarding effect and mitigation will be made by the Federal Railroad Administration based on this work and consulting party input.

We respect all the hard work you and your colleagues have put into uncovering the history of these sacred sites, and sincerely appreciate your contributions and partnership. We pledge to work with you and other stakeholders as we reopen the Section 106 process to document the correct boundaries for the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District.

Should you have questions during this process, I invite you to contact Emily Stock who is managing the Commonwealth's efforts to re-evaluate Shockoe Hill for the DC2RVA Section 106 process. Emily can be reached at Emily.Stock@drpt.virginia.gov or (804) 971-1381.

--

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LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 3:02 PM

To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Cc: "Battlefields, NPS" <abpp@nps.gov>, "Kambic, Emily" <emily_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric_mink@nps.gov>, "Brown, Ray" <ray_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew_virta@nps.gov>, "Mocko, Robert" <robert_mocko@nps.gov>, "Bailey, Megan M" <megan_bailey@nps.gov>, "Joseph, Maureen" <maureen_joseph@nps.gov>, "Stidham, Tammy" <tammy_stidham@nps.gov>, "Hammig, Laurel" <laurel_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel Gorder@nps.gov" <joel_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison_Young@nps.gov" <allison_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl_sams@nps.gov>, "Eberle, Mark D" <mark_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne_o'neill@nps.gov" <anne_o'neill@nps.gov>, "Krick, Robert" <bob_krick@nps.gov>, "helen_mahan@nps.gov" <helen_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Chen, Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Patton, Justin S." <jspatton@pwcgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodgesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org" <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historicrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historicrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, "echang@savingplaces.org" <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tlcf.org>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, "chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com" <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>, "pathlane@cox.net" <pathlane@cox.net>, "tribaloffice@monacannation.com" <tribaloffice@monacannation.com>, "lockamylee@yahoo.com" <lockamylee@yahoo.com>, "robert.gray@pamunkey.org" <robert.gray@pamunkey.org>, "info@rappahannocktribe.org" <info@rappahannocktribe.org>, "wfrankadams@verizon.net" <wfrankadams@verizon.net>, "Stock, Emily (DRPT)" <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpva.virginia.gov>, "Holma, Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Roberts, Timothy" <tim.roberts@dhr.virginia.gov>, Emily Choi <echoi@achp.gov>, "rmangum@achp.gov" <rmangum@achp.gov>, "Clarke, David (FHWA)" <david.clarke@dot.gov>, "Simkins, John (FHWA)" <john.simkins@dot.gov>, "Koenig, Daniel (FTA)" <daniel.koenig@dot.gov>, "Murphy, Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Brown, Randall (FRA)" <randall.brown@dot.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Pete Buttigieg <secretaryscheduler@dot.gov>, Jennifer Mitchell <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Zeringue <katherine.zeringue@dot.gov>

On Thursday, September 30, 2021, 10:52:48 AM CDT, LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net> wrote:

Dear Ms. Mitchell;

I thank you for your September 16th email in response to the email I sent to Governor Northam, Secretary Valentine, Denise Burch, Gilbert Spencer, and to you.

I appreciate your pledge to work with me and other stakeholders as you reopen the Section 106 process to document the correct boundaries for the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District. I also appreciate your stated commitment to securing accurate information about this site, and to working with me, community members, and other consulting parties to ensure that sacred sites including Shockoe Hill are properly documented and protected.

The treatment that the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground received by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project has up to now been a matter of great concern. The previous mis-definition, mis-mapping of the site, and declaration that there would be no adverse effect on the burial ground was greatly alarming - especially in light of all of the evidence that was shared that showed that the railroad tracks do exist on this burial ground. I hope that going forward this burial ground and its people will be treated with all of the dignity, honesty, respect and honor that it and they deserve, and that the no adverse effect decision be quickly reversed. I would also like to request that public meetings/engagement begin early in the section 106 process, (and well advertised), so that no one is left out, or caught by surprise.

I have very extensively researched the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District and its Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, over the course of the last 3 ½ years. This research includes extensive historic map studies involving numerous maps. That is in addition to the extensive research and work that has been done by the other co-authors of the P.I.F. and nomination, who are experts in archaeology and history. I believe that you will find that it is an excellent and highly accurate document on the history and boundaries of the burial ground. I remain committed to this burial ground and the accurate telling of its history, its full recognition, and to its protection. With that said, I wish to share with you the joint letter recently written to Mayor Stoney regarding the Shockoe Hill

African Burying Ground. I ask that it be taken into full consideration as the new MOA for Section 106 is being written, as it contains important information and recommendations pertaining to this burial ground. The letter is attached. I also wish to share the document that I prepared on my thoughts regarding memorization of the burial ground. [Copy of Thoughts... 4-19-21](#)

**Copy of Thoughts... 4-19-21**

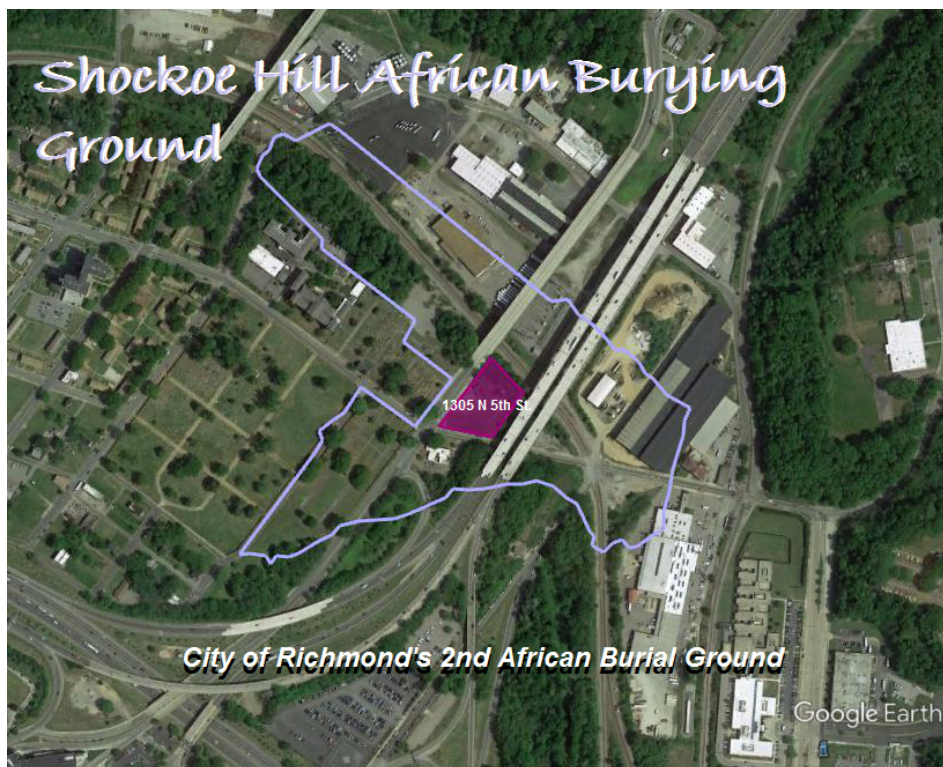
Thoughts... regarding memorialization at the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground By Lenora McQueen I have b...

□

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Lenora McQueen



LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

To: Mitchell, Jennifer

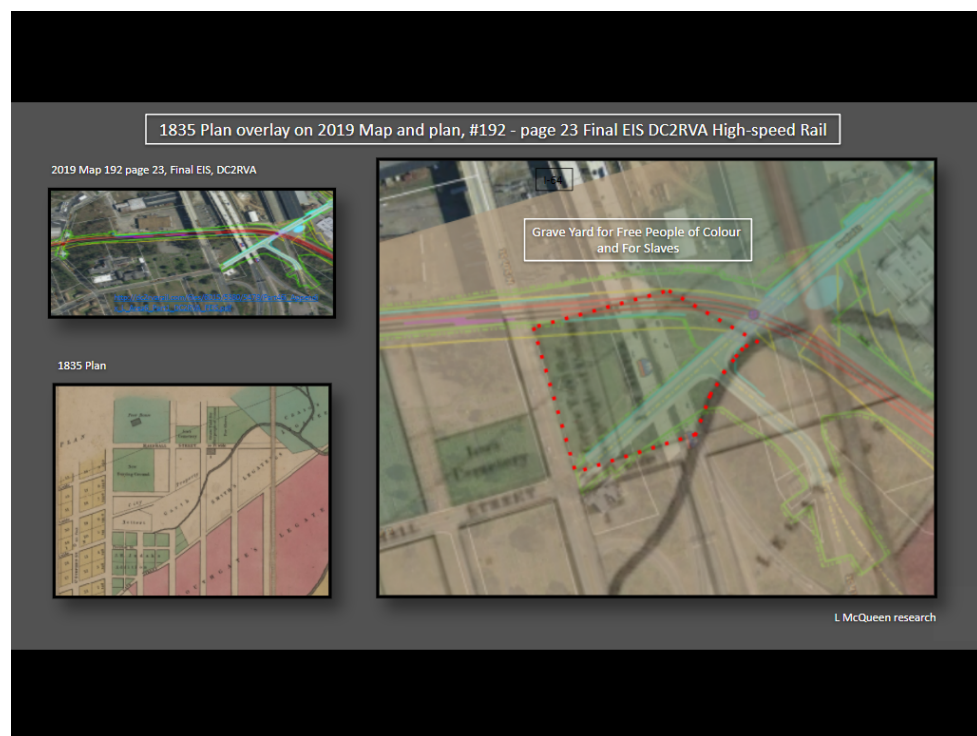
Cc: Governor Ralph Northam, Shannon Valentine, Denise Burch, Spencer Gilbert

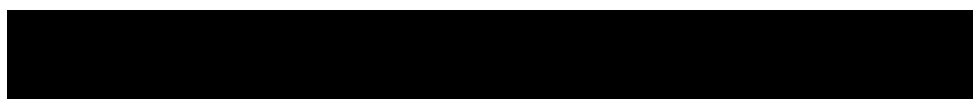
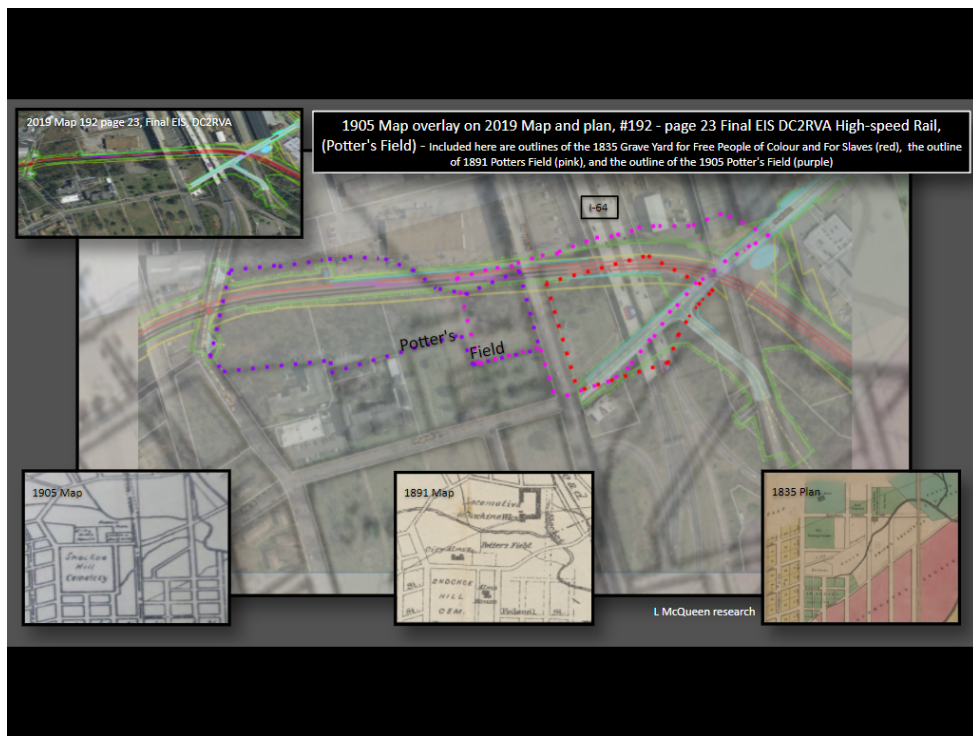
Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 11:06 AM

Below I have shared a few map overlays showing the 1835, 1891, 1901, and 1905 maps on the present day map (accurately placed). Each shows how the railroad tracks were established on the burial ground (from 2nd St. to past 7th St.) On the overlay the historic map is transparent so it can be seen that the two maps (historic and present day) are lined up correctly.

Yours truly;

Lenora McQueen





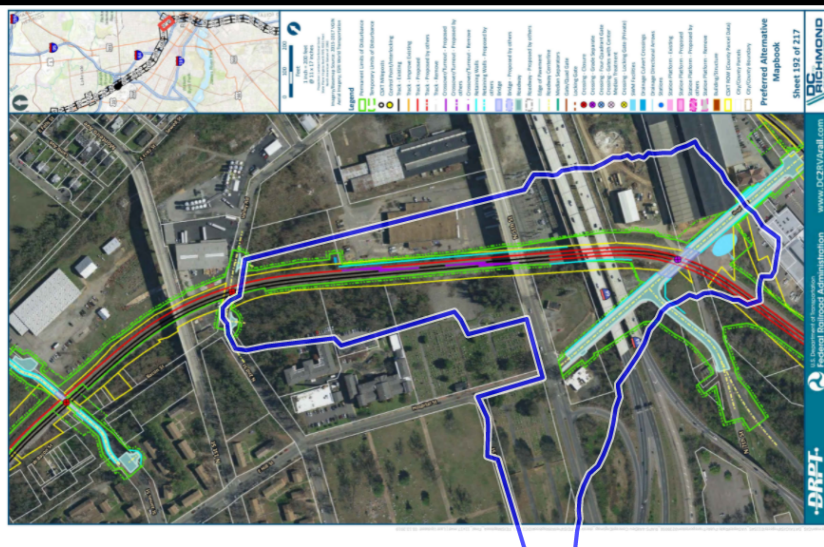
1901 Map of The City of Richmond, Virginia and 1901 Map of Henrico County, Virginia map overlay



The railroad tracks were laid in 1900 by the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. They run right through the Potter's Field.

L McQueen research





On Friday, February 11, 2022, 01:54:39 PM CST, LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net> wrote:

Email from Jennifer Mitchell:

Mitchell, Jennifer <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>
To: lenora.m@prodigy.net

Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 11:58 AM

Dear Ms. McQueen:

Thank you for your September 10th correspondence to Governor Northam. As Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the agency responsible for managing compliance with Section 106 for DC2RVA, I have been asked to respond directly to your inquiry about the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground, and I am grateful for this opportunity.

Your willingness to share important information about the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District is truly appreciated. DRPT and partner agencies involved in the Section 106 process are committed to securing accurate information about this site and are committed to working with you, community members, and other consulting parties to ensure that sacred sites including Shockoe Hill are properly documented and protected. To that end we recently reopened the Section 106 process for this location and plan to send a notice to consulting parties in the coming days.

The 2019 DC2RVA Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is being amended to include the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground and the new Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District using updated boundaries, map overlay images, and the National Register of Historic Places nomination materials. This draft document is nearly complete and will be sent to consulting parties once it is ready in the coming weeks. DRPT also participated in the nomination public review call on September 15th, and will be scheduling meetings with consulting parties to seek feedback regarding the proposed DC2RVA improvements given this new information.


This re-evaluation of the Shockoe Hill area will also include collaboration to further develop recommended mitigation measures, as necessary, which will be documented in the Section 106 process. A final determination regarding effect and mitigation will be made by the Federal Railroad Administration based on this work and consulting party input.

We respect all the hard work you and your colleagues have put into uncovering the history of these sacred sites, and sincerely appreciate your contributions and partnership. We pledge to work with you and other stakeholders as we reopen the Section 106 process to document the correct boundaries for the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District.

Should you have questions during this process, I invite you to contact Emily Stock who is managing the Commonwealth's efforts to re-evaluate Shockoe Hill for the DC2RVA Section 106 process. Emily can be



11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408
 721 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19809
Knowing the Past — Building the Future
www.dovetailcrg.com

 **SHABG alliance joint letter FINAL 08-17-21.docx**
 25K

LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 6:05 PM

To: "Battlefields, NPS" <abpp@nps.gov>, "Kambic, Emily" <emily_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric_mink@nps.gov>, "Brown, Ray" <ray_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew_virta@nps.gov>, "Mocko, Robert" <robert_mocko@nps.gov>, "Bailey, Megan M" <megan_bailey@nps.gov>, "Joseph, Maureen" <maureen_joseph@nps.gov>, "Stidham, Tammy" <tammy_stidham@nps.gov>, "Hammig, Laurel" <laurel_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel_Gorder@nps.gov" <joel_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison_Young@nps.gov" <allison_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl_sams@nps.gov>, "Eberle, Mark D" <mark_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne_o'Neill@nps.gov" <anne_o'Neill@nps.gov>, "Krick, Robert" <bob_krick@nps.gov>, "helen_mahan@nps.gov" <helen_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Chen, Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Patton, Justin S." <jspatton@pwcgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodgesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org" <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historichrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historichrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, "echang@savingplaces.org" <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, "chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com" <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>, "pathlane@cox.net" <pathlane@cox.net>, "tribaloffice@monacannation.com" <tribaloffice@monacannation.com>, "lockamylee@yahoo.com" <lockamylee@yahoo.com>, "robert.gray@pamunkey.org" <robert.gray@pamunkey.org>, "info@rappahannocktribe.org" <info@rappahannocktribe.org>, "wfrankadams@verizon.net" <wfrankadams@verizon.net>, Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>
 Cc: "Stock, Emily (DRPT)" <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Holma, Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Roberts, Timothy" <tim.roberts@dhr.virginia.gov>, Emily Choi <echoi@achp.gov>, "rmangum@achp.gov" <rmangum@achp.gov>, "Clarke, David (FHWA)" <david.clarke@dot.gov>, "Simkins, John (FHWA)" <john.simkins@dot.gov>, "Koenig, Daniel (FTA)" <daniel.koenig@dot.gov>, "Murphy, Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Brown, Randall (FRA)" <randall.brown@dot.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Pete Buttigieg <secretaryscheduler@dot.gov>, Jennifer Mitchell <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Zeringue <katherine.zeringue@dot.gov>

Kerri, et al;

below are my additional comments regarding the meeting minutes. As before, the copied minutes are in purple, and my comments are in black.

Stephen Thompson (Consulting Party) asked if first, the MOA will be signed, then second, the effects on the two Shockoe Hill resources will be determined? Kerri Barile (Dovetail CulturalResource Group) responded affirmatively and reiterated the purpose of the meeting and general process. The original MOA that was signed in 2019 did not establish a process for newly identified/evaluated resources, such as the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR #44HE1203) and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (DHR #127-7231). The MOA Amendment under discussion establishes the process to evaluate the two Shockoe Hill resources and any future historic property that is identified within the DC2RVA corridor. The MOA Amendment that is under review commits to establishing a treatment plan should it be determined that the project will have an adverse effect on the two Shockoe Hill resources or any future resources that are identified along the corridor. These treatment plans will guide future mitigation of adverse effects, as appropriate. In sum, the first step is for all MOA Signatories to sign the MOA Amendment, then the Signatories can follow the process established by the MOA to evaluate the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR #44HE1203) and Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (DHR #127-7231).

I reiterate, the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR #44HE1203) is not a newly identified resource. It was known about and considered by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project well before the execution on the 2019 MOA. It first appeared in the written record of the project in early 2018. It is written about in the Final EIS, yet it was handled outside of section 106. And commitments were made to it, though in no way were the commitments adequate for such an important

place, especially considering all of the harm that will be done. As previously mentioned the research done by the high-speed project was flawed, and the burial ground inaccurately depicted in the reports and in the map overlays. As I stated before, it was poorly researched by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project, it was also minimized, and miss-defined, and I say it again literally pushed out of the way of the rail project on paper both in writing and in the map overlays that were created and published by the project. This rail project is going to adversely impact this burial ground greatly. That is unless the decision is made to build the track around the burial ground instead of through it.

Stephen Thompson (Consulting Party) asked if the effect has been determined for the other historic properties in the corridor. Ryan Smith (Virginia Commonwealth University) then asked why the language in the MOA still says the consultation will be put off until there is funding. Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) answered that the other resources have been through the 106 process. The MOA is written to address any additional resources that are identified and determined to be eligible for the NRHP as the project progresses. As mentioned earlier, there was no legal vehicle to address such resources before. What is in the MOA is a general process. It is understood that the two Shockoe Hill resources will be addressed sooner than the receipt of funding, likely this spring. Amanda Murphy (FRA) added that there is no change to the other resources, just the two resources in Shockoe Hill.

The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR #44HE1203) is not an additional resource. And the portion of the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (DHR #127-7231) that would be impacted by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project is the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, which is a part of the historic district. This burial ground DHR #44HE1203 has been known and written about since 2018. It was considered by your project and treated by the DC2RVA high-speed rail project as eligible to the National Register (though not properly defined) long before the execution of the 2019 MOA.

Stephen Thompson (Consulting Party) commented that it sounds like it has been decided that avoidance of the two Shockoe Hill resources is not a possibility. Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) replied that this is not the case and that the second MOA Amendment will describe the process that the Signatories will take to review any newly identified or expanded historic properties, including the two Shockoe Hill resources. As part of the effects analysis, avoidance of any newly identified historic property and exploration of any ways to minimize impacts will be part of the next step in the discussion. Stephen Thompson (Consulting Party) asked for clarification if the process would begin when funding becomes available. Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group) replied that the clause to begin consultation on historic properties and to base it on Project funding was established regarding the entire DC2RVA project, not just the two newly identified/expanded historic resources in Shockoe Hill. As such, it needed to be inclusive of other historic properties that may be identified and expanded along the corridor throughout the DC2RVA process. Once the MOA Amendment is executed, the analysis on the two Shockoe Hill resources will begin. It was then reiterated that the process described by the second MOA Amendment includes a consultation that requires consulting parties input, and comments will be solicited from consulting parties at that time. After the discussions, an effect determination rendered. Ryan Smith (Virginia Commonwealth University) commented via chat that the MOA stipulates putting consultation off within the subsection dealing with the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground is not preferred. Lenora McQueen (Consulting Party) asked, responding to Kerri Barile (Dovetail Cultural Resource Group), if the MOA could be rewritten to specifically address effect to the two Shockoe Hill resources? Amanda Murphy (FRA) acknowledged that the comments made today would be considered in preparing the MOA Amendment.

It does sound like it has been decided that avoidance of the two Shockoe Hill resources (which is really the one very large burial ground) is not a possibility, especially considering that the properties in question (the CSX railroad right of way) was divided, and half of it was transferred to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority on July 2, 2021. See images below.

Again, the historic properties are not newly identified, but misidentified and minimized.

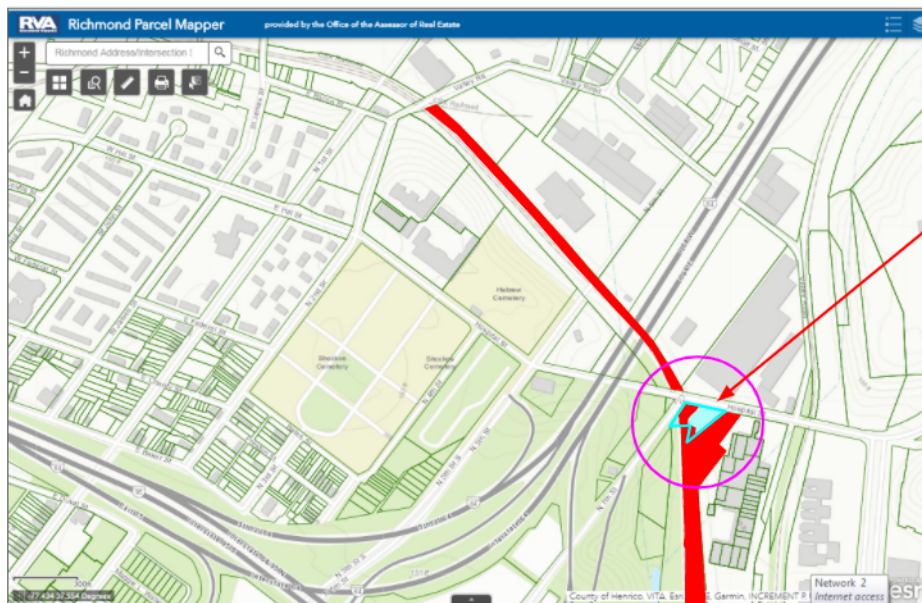
Consultation should not be put off, and effect should be dealt with now before the signing of a new MOA. The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, and the historic district deserve not to be lumped in with what will happen to newly identified properties. They deserve early public hearings, and their own consultation process.

I have recently seen it put in writing by this project a few times now, that the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground and the historic district are important. I am requesting that the DC2RVA high-speed project not just talk the talk, but walk the talk and treat this burial ground like it is important. Just saying it, or writing it means nothing. Considering all that has been done, there have to be substantial actions taken that show that it is truly believed, and that show that this burial ground is

being valued, and that it will be respected. The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground should be treated in the same way that you would treat the graves of the people that you love and honor and respect the most in this world.

Images:

The red areas in the images below represents the property that was transferred over to the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority for the construction of the new third rail. The large purple shadow in the 4th and 5th image represent the full boundaries of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. The distance from west to east covers 5 1/2 blocks (from 2nd St., to past 7th St.)



Street Address:
703 Hospital St Richmond, VA
23219

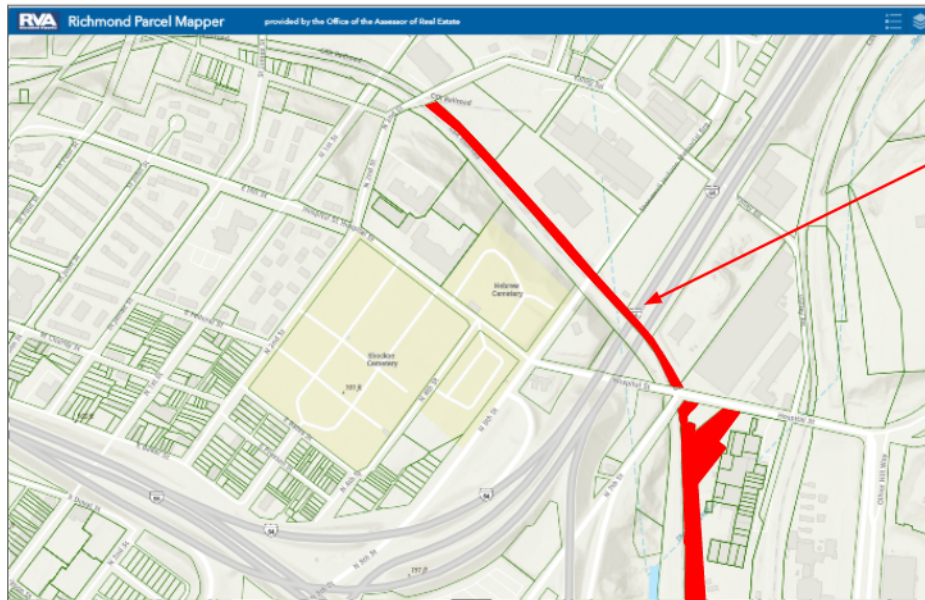
Owner:
CITY OF RICHMOND PUBLIC
WORKS

Mailing Address:
900 E BROAD ST RM 701,
RICHMOND, VA 2321900000

<https://apps.richmondgov.com/applications/propertysearch/Detail.aspx?pin=E0000452029>

Property Owner: City Of Richmond Public Works
Property Detail: [E0000452029](https://apps.richmondgov.com/applications/propertysearch/Detail.aspx?pin=E0000452029)

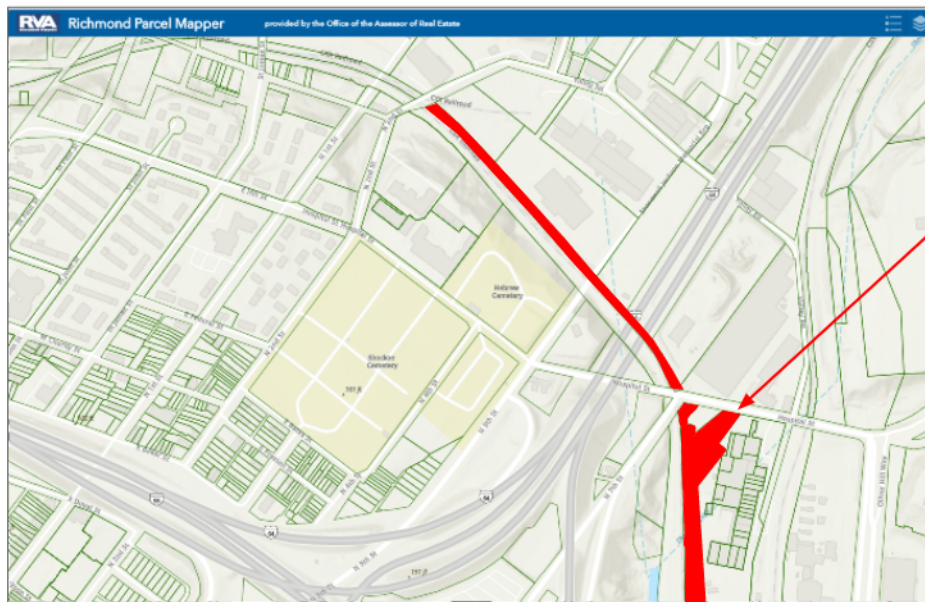
This is a recent change, city of Richmond Public Works property and CSX property have been transferred to Virginia Rail as of July 2, 2021 (what was transferred is marked in red). See next two slides.



Street Address:1301 Valley Road Richmond, VA 23222-
Owner:VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
Mailing Address:600 E MAIN ST #2102, RICHMOND, VA 23219
Subdivision Name :NONE
Parent Parcel ID:S0090387005
Assessment Area:480 - Jeff Davis
Property Class:711 - P Public Service Corp.
Zoning District:M-2 - Heavy Industrial
Exemption Code:209 - State Government (Other)

<https://apps.richmondgov.com/applications/propertysearch/Detail.aspx?pin=N0000233022>

Owner: Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
Property Detail: [N0000233022](#)

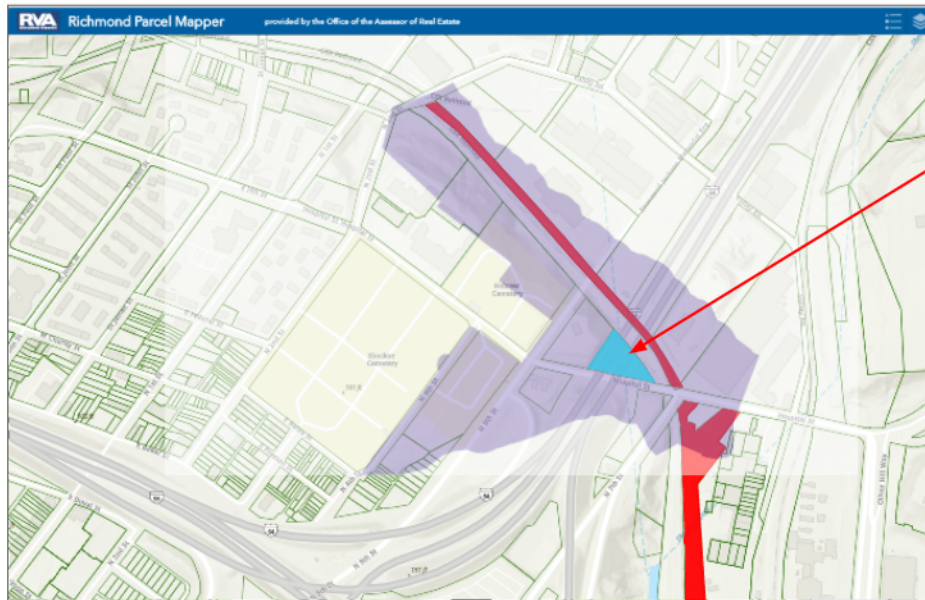


Street Address: 705 Hospital St
 Richmond, VA 23219-
Alternate Street Addresses:
 707 Hospital St
Owner: VIRGINIA PASSENGER
 RAIL AUTHORITY
Mailing Address: 600 E MAIN
 ST #2102, RICHMOND, VA
 23219
Subdivision Name : NONE
Parent Parcel ID: S0090387005
Assessment Area: 480 - Jeff
 Davis
Property Class: 711 - P Public
 Service Corp.
Zoning District: M-2 - Heavy
 Industrial
Exemption Code: 209 - State
 Government (Other)

<https://apps.richmondgov.com/applications/propertysearch/Detail.aspx?pin=E0000452073>

Owner: Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
 Property Detail: [E0000452073](https://apps.richmondgov.com/applications/propertysearch/Detail.aspx?pin=E0000452073)

Within the blue-green triangle (and only directly underneath I-64) is the only place in the Shockoe Hill African burying ground where any archaeology work was done. And in 1867 that area was the location of a new powder magazine. The digging of the foundation caused the unearthing of over 100 skeletons. They were reburied near by.



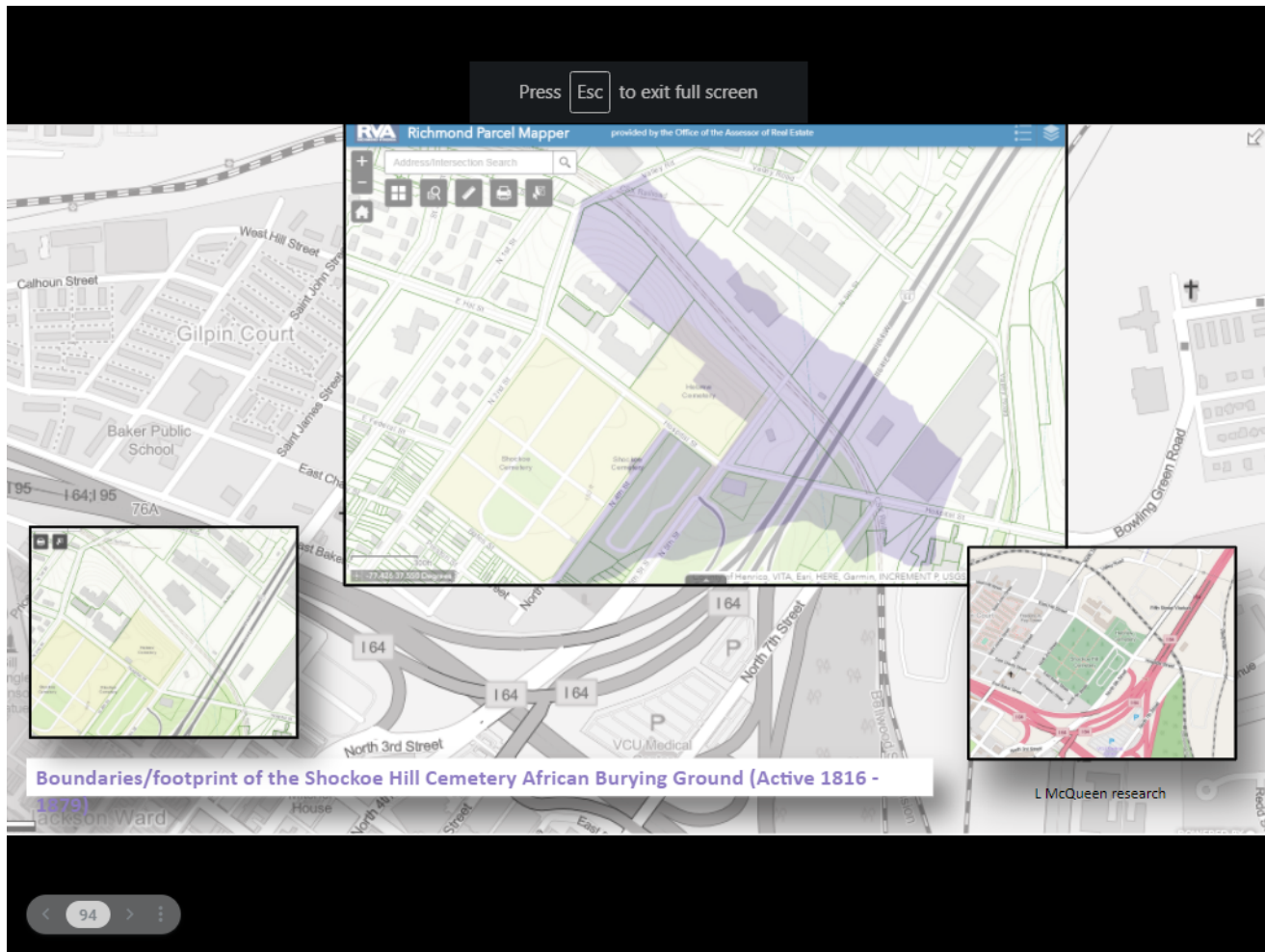
Street Address:
1603 Valley Road Richmond, VA
23219

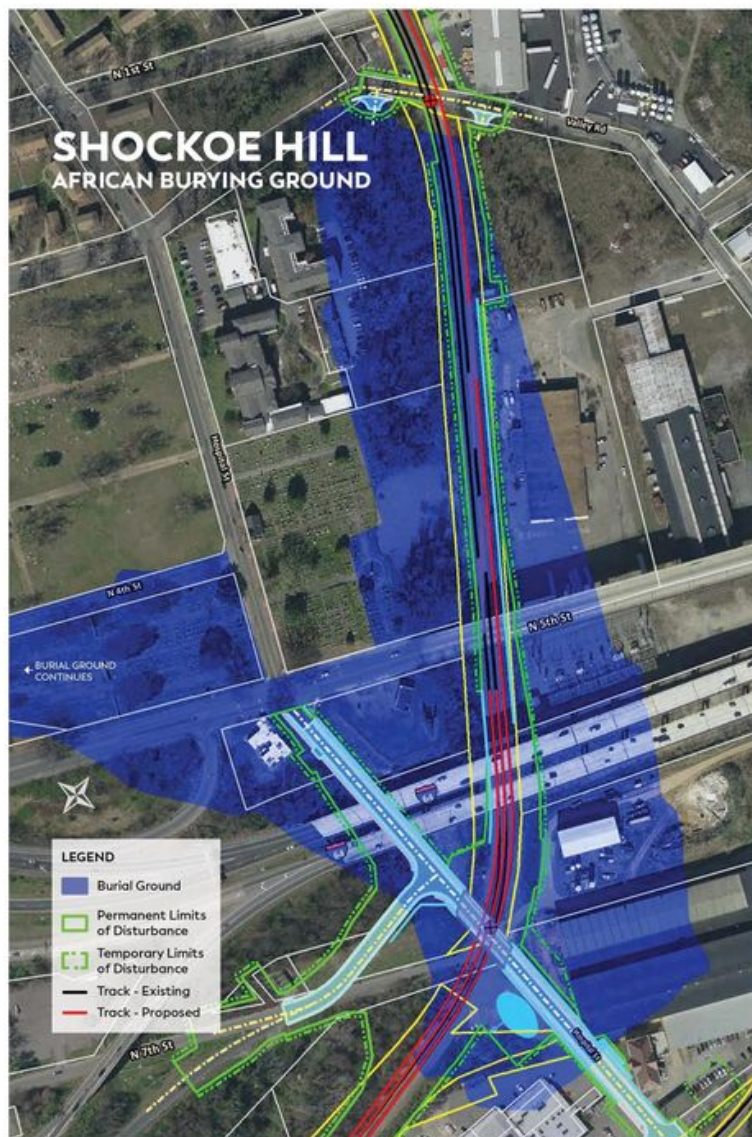
Owner:
COMMONWEALTH OF
VIRGINIA

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 259, COLONIAL
HEIGHTS, VA 2383400000

<https://apps.richmondgov.com/applications/propertysearch/Detail.aspx?pin=N0000233008>

Property Owner: Commonwealth Of Virginia
Property Detail: [N0000233008](#)





Yours truly,

Lenora

Lenora McQueen

[Quoted text hidden]

Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Tue, Feb 15, 2022 at 10:38 AM

To: Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpva.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <Randy.Selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Murphy, Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <Karen.Harrington@hdrinc.com>

Hi all,

See below for an email from FHWA. I've added her to the cc list. See attached for an updated roster.
Kerri

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Claxton, Theresa (FHWA)** <Theresa.Claxton@dot.gov>

Date: Tue, Feb 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Subject: FW: Minutes- DC2RVA Consulting Party Meeting, December 16, 2022

To: kbarile@dovetailcrg.com <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

721 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19809

Knowing the Past — Building the Future
www.dovetailcrg.com

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Knowing the Past — Building the Future
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LENORA MCQUEEN <lenora.m@prodigy.net>

Sun, Feb 20, 2022 at 8:29 AM

To: Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Cc: "Battlefields, NPS" <abpp@nps.gov>, "Kambic, Emily" <emily_kambic@nps.gov>, Robert Campbell <bob_campbell@nps.gov>, Eric Mink <eric_mink@nps.gov>, "Brown, Ray" <ray_brown@nps.gov>, Matt Virta <matthew_virta@nps.gov>, "Mocko, Robert" <robert_mocko@nps.gov>, "Bailey, Megan M" <megan_bailey@nps.gov>, "Joseph, Maureen" <maureen_joseph@nps.gov>, "Stidham, Tammy" <tammy_stidham@nps.gov>, "Hammig, Laurel" <laurel_hammig@nps.gov>, "Joel Gorder@nps.gov" <joel_gorder@nps.gov>, "Allison_Young@nps.gov" <allison_young@nps.gov>, Cheryl Sams <cheryl_sams@nps.gov>, "Eberle, Mark D" <mark_eberle@nps.gov>, "anne_o'neill@nps.gov" <anne_o'neill@nps.gov>, "Krick, Robert" <bob_krick@nps.gov>, "helen_mahan@nps.gov" <helen_mahan@nps.gov>, Roberts CIV Catherine <catherine.roberts@usmc.mil>, Eleanor Breen <eleanor.breen@alexandriava.gov>, Lorin Farris <lfarris@arlingtonva.us>, Michael Finchum <mfinchum@co.caroline.va.us>, "cpennington@co.caroline.va.us" <cpennington@co.caroline.va.us>, "Susan H. Hellman" <susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov>, Al Cox <al.cox@alexandriava.gov>, "Kate S. Schwartz" <ksschwartz@fredericksburgva.gov>, "Chen, Kimberly M. - PDR" <kimberly.chen@richmondgov.com>, "Patton, Justin S." <jspatton@pwcgov.org>, Josh Farrar <jfarrar@ashlandva.gov>, Nora Amos <namos@ashlandva.gov>, Jim Campi <jcampi@battlefields.org>, Max Hokit <mhokit@battlefields.org>, Heather Groves <hgroves@battlefields.org>, Rosie SHALF <jrshalf@gmail.com>, Betsy Hodges <betsy@hodgesgraphicdesign.com>, Ashland Museum <ashlandmuseum@comcast.net>, PETER KOLAKOWSKI <prkola1@verizon.net>, "executivedirector@cvbt.org" <executivedirector@cvbt.org>, Eleanor Breen <eebreen@yahoo.com>, Sandra Erickson <office@hffi.org>, Danielle Worthing Porter <dporter@historicrichmond.com>, Cyane Crump <ccrump@historicrichmond.com>, Robert Nieweg <rnieweg@savingplaces.org>, "echang@savingplaces.org" <echang@savingplaces.org>, Betsy Merritt <emerritt@savingplaces.org>, Elizabeth Kostelny <ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org>, Ana Edwards <ourrosewood@gmail.com>, Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>, Ryan Smith <rksmith3@vcu.edu>, Dan Mouer <danmouer@fastmail.fm>, Steve Thompson <iamsmt60@gmail.com>, "chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com" <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>, "pathlane@cox.net" <pathlane@cox.net>, "tribaloffice@monacannation.com" <tribaloffice@monacannation.com>, "lockamylee@yahoo.com" <lockamylee@yahoo.com>, "robert.gray@pamunkey.org" <robert.gray@pamunkey.org>, "info@rappahannocktribe.org" <info@rappahannocktribe.org>, "wfrankadams@verizon.net" <wfrankadams@verizon.net>, "Stock, Emily (DRPT)" <emily.stock@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Selleck, Randy (DRPT)" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpra.virginia.gov>, "Holma, Marc (DHR)" <marc.holma@dhr.virginia.gov>, "Roberts, Timothy" <tim.roberts@dhr.virginia.gov>, Emily Choi <echoi@achp.gov>, "rmangum@achp.gov" <rmangum@achp.gov>, "Clarke, David

(FHWA)" <david.clarke@dot.gov>, "Simkins, John (FHWA)" <john.simkins@dot.gov>, "Koenig, Daniel (FTA)" <daniel.koenig@dot.gov>, "Murphy, Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>, "Brown, Randall (FRA)" <randall.brown@dot.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <karen.harrington@hdrinc.com>, Pete Buttigieg <secretaryscheduler@dot.gov>, Jennifer Mitchell <j.mitchell@drpt.virginia.gov>, Katherine Zeringue <katherine.zeringue@dot.gov>

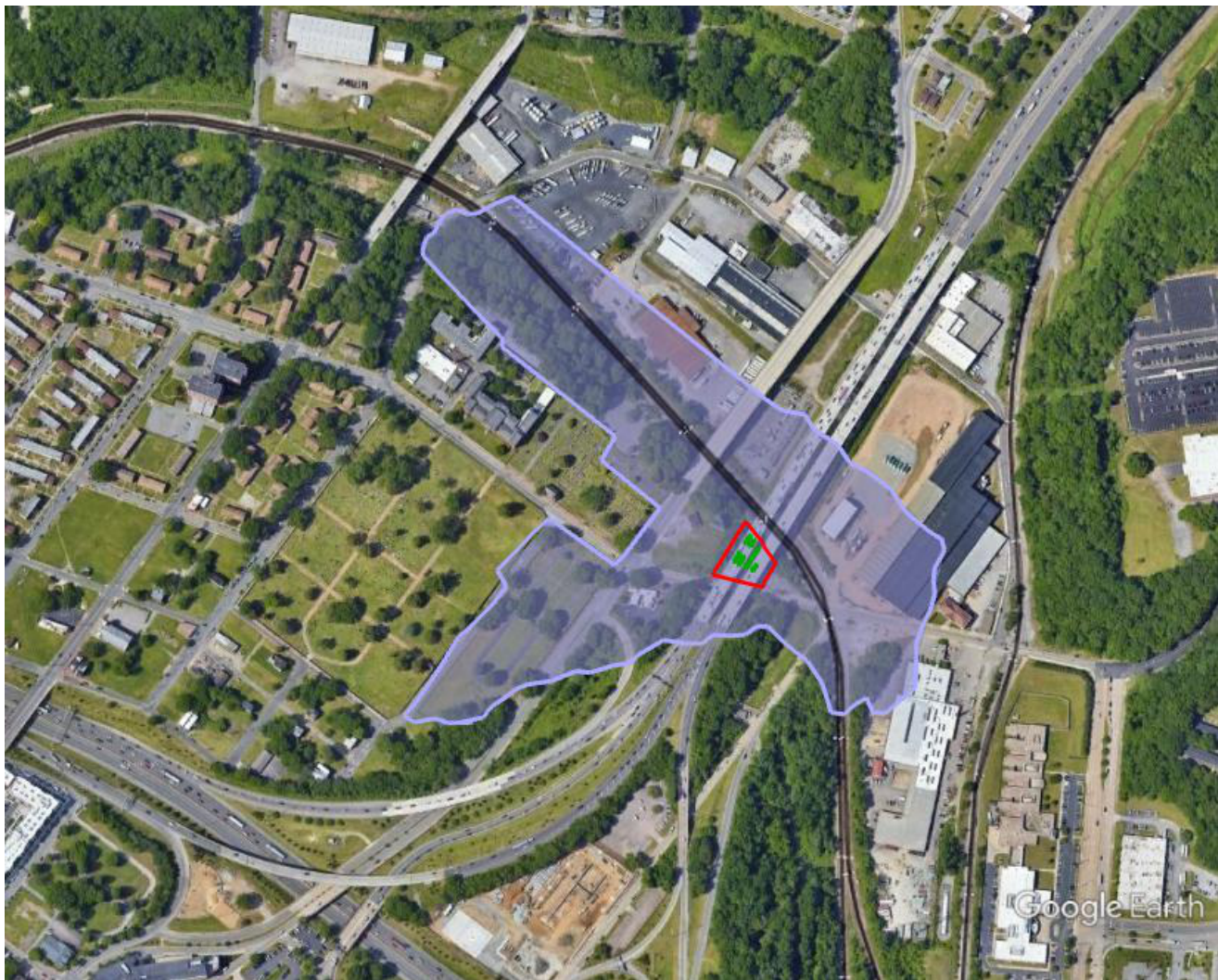
Dear Kerri, et al;

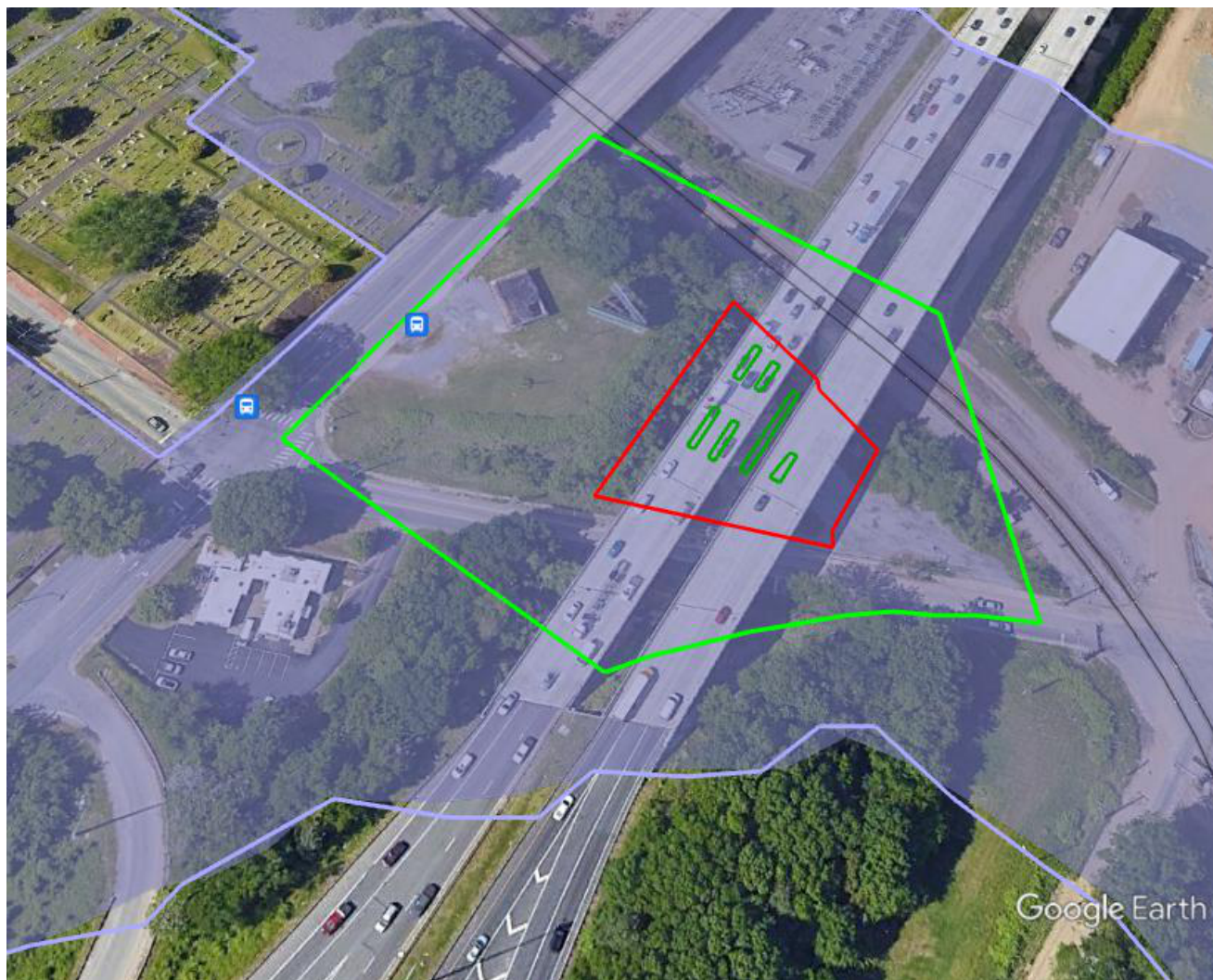
I am sending some additional map images for your records. The red trapezoid in the center is the only place within the "Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground" where any archaeological testing was done. That same area beneath I-64 was the location of the 1867 powder magazine where over 100 skeletons were unearthed, and reburied nearby.

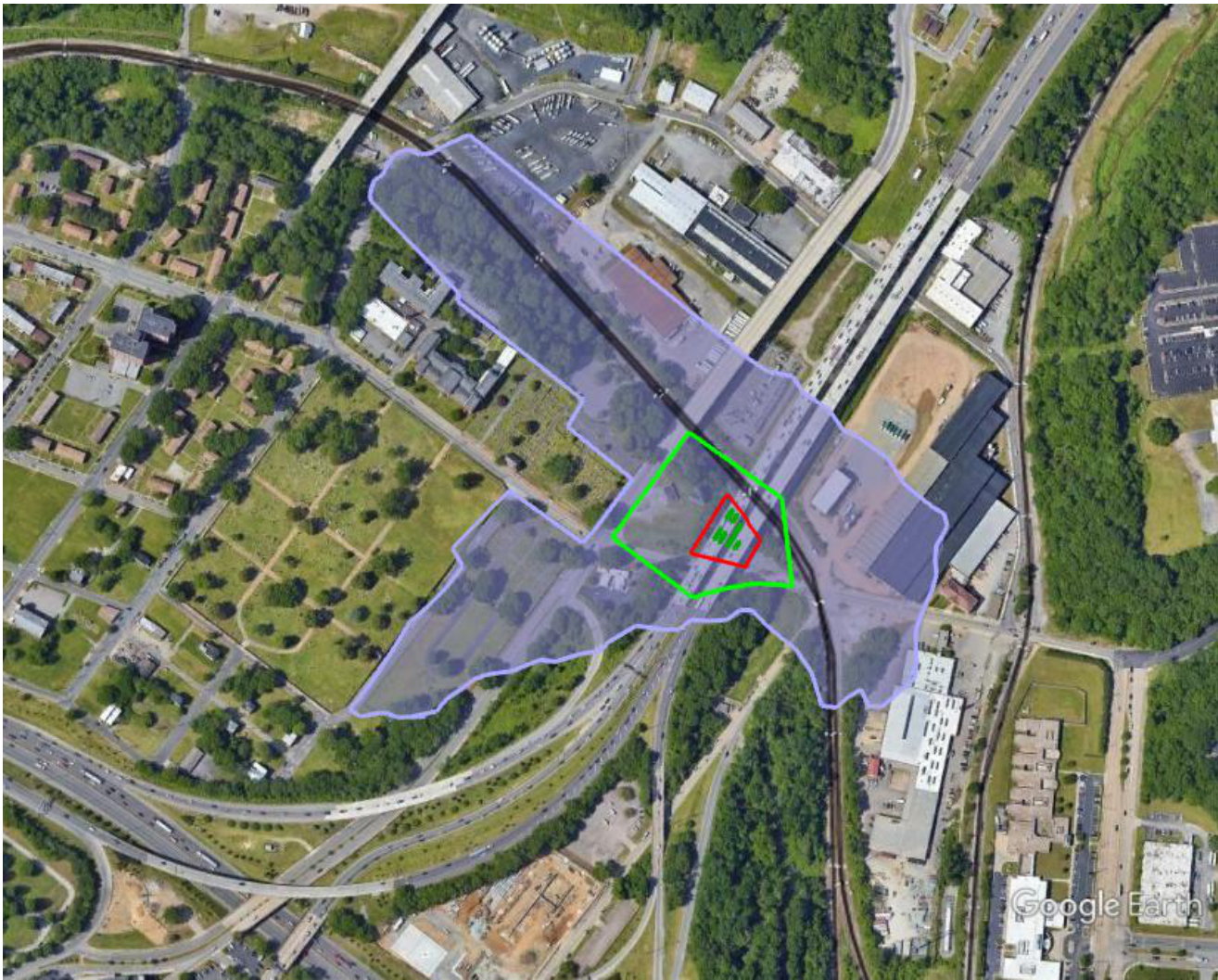
Yours truly,

Lenora









[Quoted text hidden]

6 attachments



1645363316537blob.jpg
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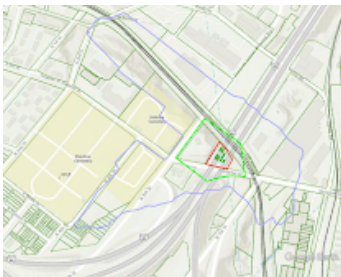
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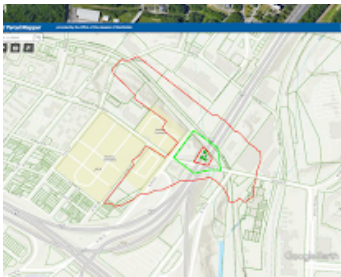
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887K

Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com>

Sun, Feb 20, 2022 at 12:37 PM

To: "Murphy, Amanda (FRA)" <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov>

Cc: "Selleck, Randy" <randy.selleck@drpt.virginia.gov>, "Harrington, Karen" <Karen.Harrington@hdrinc.com>, Katherine Youngbluth <kate.youngbluth@vpva.virginia.gov>

Steve has talked to Lenora. One note: he sent me the link to the PIF and NRHP nomination on the DHR's webpage and the archaeological site boundaries are shown on this document. There's obviously some inconsistency within the DHR. I'll mention this to Marc so he is aware of it, and I thanked Steve for pointing this out too.

Kerri

On Fri, Feb 18, 2022 at 1:26 PM Kerri Barile <kbarile@dovetailcrg.com> wrote:

Update on this- I just heard from Steve and he has not talked to Lenora yet. I told him to let me know when he does and I will send a reply to all once he has talked to her.

ksb

On Fri, Feb 18, 2022 at 11:23 AM Murphy, Amanda (FRA) <amanda.murphy2@dot.gov> wrote:

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: Endangered by DC2RVA high-speed rail:
the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (Richmond's 2nd African Burial Ground)

Dear Governor Northam, et al;

The *Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground*, was established by the city of Richmond in 1816. It is estimated that from the time of its opening until it was closed 1879 due to overcrowded conditions, that more than 22,000 people of African descent were laid to rest within its grounds. It is likely the largest burial ground for the free people of color and the enslaved in the United States.

You have likely traveled unknowingly, many times over the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, located at 5th and Hospital St. I-64 runs right over it. This burial ground disappeared from the visible landscape long ago. It was purposely made invisible, long abused, desecrated, divided, and disposed of. It was eventually removed from the map where it last appeared in 1905. It was made to fade from memory; but not because it deserved to be forgotten. Painful experiences are often those that are not passed down. This place and the many thousands of enslaved and free people of color laid to rest within its grounds deserve to be remembered. They deserve to be treated with honor and respect. However, what is being planned for this burial ground is further desecration and destruction, this time by high-speed rail, and at some point the proposed widening of I-64.

To be clear, this is not the African Burial Ground in Shockoe Bottom, but the one which was established to take its place. Upon the 1816 opening of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, (then referred to as the "Burying Ground for Free People of Colour" and the "Burying Ground for Negroes") the African Burial Ground in Shockoe Bottom was closed. It is the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground that was in operation during the establishment of the First African Baptist Church, Lumpkin's Slave Jail, and the Medical College of Virginia. The remains discovered in the medical waste well at VCU connect directly to

this burial ground. It is from this place that the majority of the remains would have come. It was this burial ground that was the main target of the illegal cadaver trade.

The DC2RVA high-speed rail project will construct its new railroad tracks through the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground, from 2nd St. to past 7th St., over a distance of 5 ½ blocks. Yes, railroad tracks already exist on its grounds, constructed first in 1900 and likely on top of fill. Graves/remains may still exist beneath the tracks in one form or another (intact graves, and or scattered remains). In my opinion, the overcrowded nature and history of the burial ground may make it so that traditional grave shafts would not likely be discovered. It was officially reported a couple of years before its closing that the burial ground was so overcrowded that one grave could not be dug without disturbing the grave of another. Whether graves are found to be intact or not should not define how this burial ground is treated. Regardless of the condition, it is still a burial ground. The historic mistreatment of this place dictates that it is filled with tons of scattered remains, and possibly some intact graves. My ancestors' scattered remains are not less important to me than their intact remains. Their treatment should be the same no matter what their condition is. My honor and reverence for them is not altered by their condition.

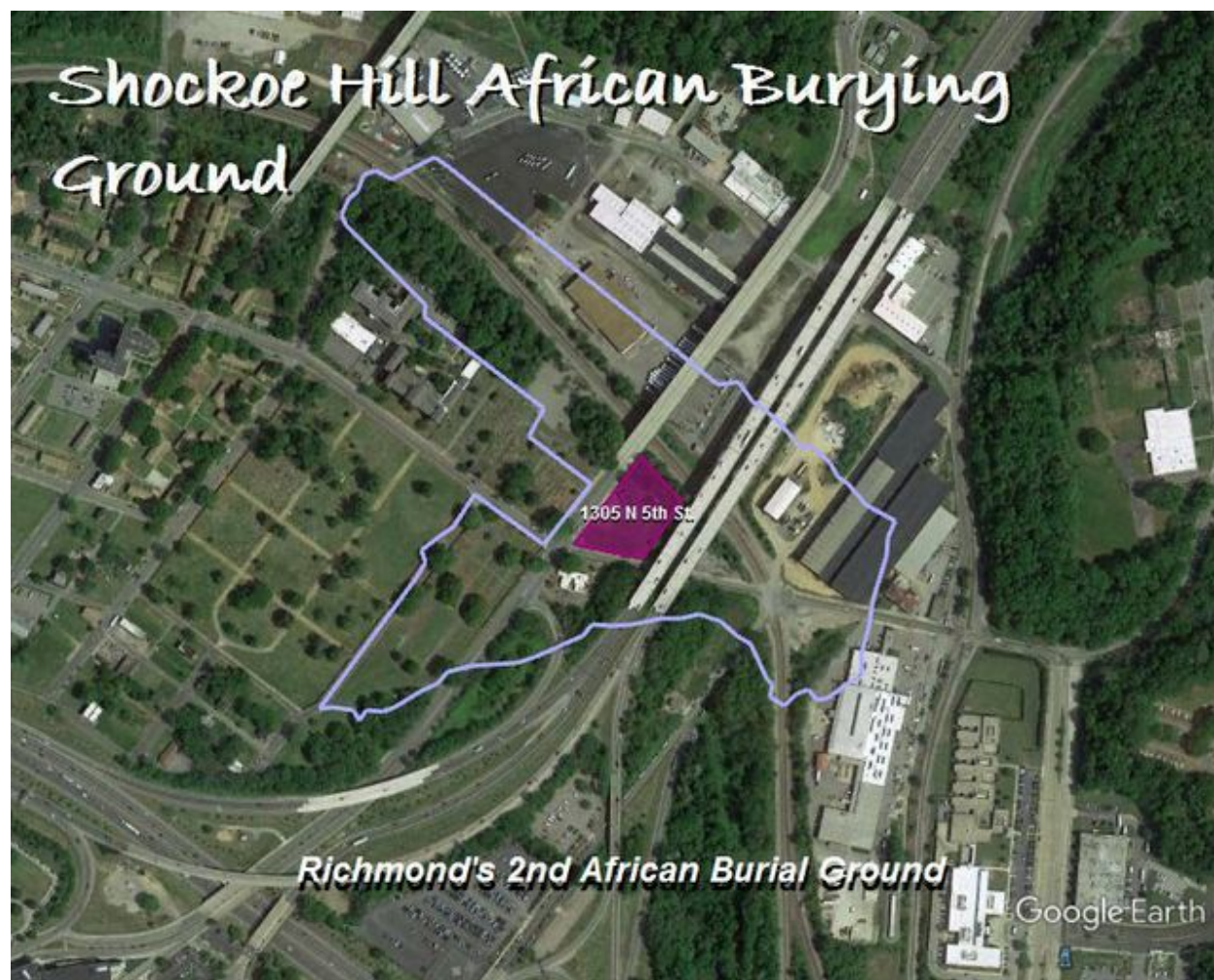
The burial ground was not well studied by the rail project. It was under-recognized and under-researched, erroneously defined and minimized, leading to its misrepresentation in documentation being used to make decisions about its fate. I have extensively researched this burial ground; and along with the help of a few others, have co-authored the preliminary information form (P.I.F.) for the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District (VDHR 127-7231). This historic district includes the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. The P.I.F. received the unanimous support of the State Review Board and the district was found to be eligible for nomination for state and national historic recognition. The site form for the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (DHR I.D. #44HE1203) has now been updated by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to reflect its true boundaries. Those corrected boundaries are vastly different from what the DC2RVA high-speed rail project declared them to be.

The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is very much under threat, and it needs your help. It was handled outside of section 106, and it was declared that there would be no adverse effect on it. That statement should be declared untrue, and section 106 reopened. It should also be studied by people who will provide appropriate care and consideration, and not by those who profit from its use. I am asking for your consideration, support, and intervention on behalf of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. I am also asking to hear from you.

Yours truly,

Lenora McQueen

Independent researcher and member of the descendant community
of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground



The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

April 17, 2021

Dear Governor Northam, et al;

On Wednesday I received an email from the Federal Railroad Administration, informing me that the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office brought the newly recognized *Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District* to their attention. It was said that the FRA will be reopening the Section 106 consultation process in order to reconsider the effects that the DC2RVA High Speed Rail project may have on this historic property. I was invited to become an officially recognized Section 106 Consulting Party. I do plan on accepting their invitation. I am writing at this time to thank you and the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office for taking the steps necessary to get Section 106 reopened. It is my sincere hope and request that the *Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground* will be given the care, honor, respect, recognition, and protection that it so desperately deserves. It has suffered so greatly, and for so long. It deserves to be known, to be seen openly, honestly, and in its entirety.

On Tuesday it was also brought to my attention that the FRA intended to add a consultation process for reevaluating the *Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District's* eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places in addition to assessing potential effects to the historic property. Learning this did cause me some concern, as the historic district already received its eligibility to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Though I have no concern for the Preliminary Information Form itself. It is an extremely strong document, written with integrity. It was co-authored by myself and four doctors of philosophy with expertise in archaeology and history. It was meticulously researched and documented. It was also reviewed and endorsed by 70 strong individuals, organizations, and government officials, before being submitted to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), most of whom were copied on this email. The P.I.F. received the unanimous support of the review committee at DHR. It then received the unanimous support of the State Review Board. I believe the P.I.F. would stand up to any scrutiny. However, it is my hope that the extension of the invitation to me signifies that the eligibility of the *Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District* stands intact, and is no longer in question. Doctors Mouer, Smith, Thompson, Chapman and I are presently working on the nomination. It is my hope that we will gain your support for our nomination once it is completed.

I would also like to thank you for your role in the recovery efforts of the discarded tombstones from the Harmony Cemetery, of Washington, D.C. Harmony as you well know is another African American Cemetery that has suffered at the hands of a transportation project. I, too, have ancestors who were buried in Harmony, and who would have been moved along with the others to Maryland. Though their

tombstones will never be reunited to their current grave locations (as no one has any idea where they were specifically moved to), I greatly appreciate the efforts being made to recover the tombstones and to create a place of memorial.

Similarly, it is my hope and request of you that an even greater effort would be made towards the memorialization of the *Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground*. There, in that place, lie the actual remains of thousands of Richmonders both free people of color and the enslaved. They would have hundreds of thousands, if not millions of descendants all over the United States. If you are willing, memorialization is something that I would very much like to discuss with you. I certainly have thoughts that I would be happy to share. The people who were buried at the *Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground* deserve a place of peace, a place to finally rest, and to no longer be threatened with desecration and destruction. They deserve a place where they will be honored and remembered.

I ask for your continued consideration, support, and intervention on behalf of the *Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground*.

Yours truly,

Lenora McQueen

Independent researcher and member of the descendant community
of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground

"This was done, too, at the instance of people who profited by the desecration of the burial ground on Poor-house Hill, North 5th Street when graves were dug into, bones scattered, coffins exposed, and the hearts of the surviving families made to bleed by the desecration of the remains of their loved ones." -
John Mitchell, Jr., Editor of the Richmond Planet, March, 21, 1896, regarding the desecration of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground.

To: Governor Ralph Northam, Gilbert Spencer, Shannon Valentine, Jennifer Mitchell, Denise Burch

From: Lenora McQueen

September 10, 2021

Dear Gov. Northam, et al;

I apologize for my slow response to your letter. Thank you for taking the time to write back to me. It is greatly appreciated.

I would like to mention to you that not all of my research that was shared with the DC2RVA project was used. In fact some of it was completely ignored (it was acknowledged that it was received and considered, and it was purposely left out). I pointed out errors in the maps used and other issues. I expressed concerns over them, and made comments about them that were completely left out of the Final EIS, (despite it clearly stating in the Final EIS that all comments were included, some of mine were not). I remain deeply concerned about the map overlays that were created and used in the final EIS. They were inaccurately made. The historic images of the burial ground that were used were misplaced on the modern day map, pushing the burial ground out of the way of the railroad tracks and the APE on paper. Which allowed for the statement to be made that there would be no adverse effect on the burial ground. When in reality, the burial ground exists on the railroad tracks (even in its 1816, and 1835 size it crosses the tracks). There is no way that there wouldn't be an adverse effect on the burial ground.

I am asking that all map overlay images be corrected, and the burial ground be accurately depicted. I have studied the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground extensively. There are numerous maps. Many more than the rail project looked at according to the report. And I have made numerous map overlays accurately depicting the burial ground. I would be happy to share those images with you.

Right now I would like to point out one particular map overlay image that was used so you can understand clearly what is wrong with it, and why it should not be used anymore.



The first thing that is wrong with these maps is that an 1835 map is being used to define a burial ground that was increased in size over time to encompass as many as 31 acres. In 1850 alone, 9 acres were added to the colored people's burying ground by the Richmond City Council. The grounds were to be enclosed along with the City Hospital grounds (abt. 3 acres already long in use as a burying ground). In 1835 what is shown to be the Grave Yard for Free People of Colour and For Slaves, was only 3.3 acres in size.

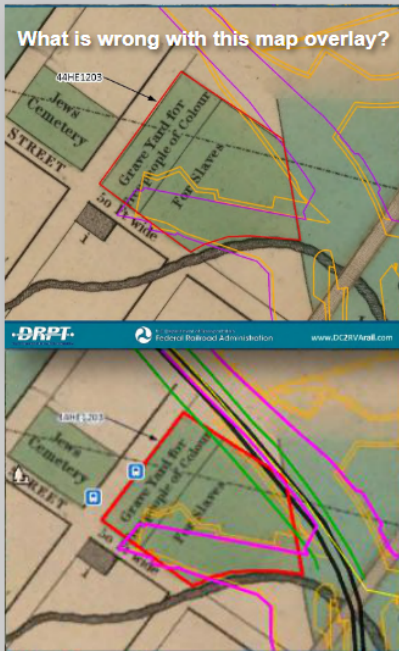
The bottom image shows the "Grave Yard for Free People of Colour" and "For Slaves" it is a cropped 1835 map with lines overlaid to show the APE or area of possible effect for the DC2RVA high-speed rail project. The problem is that it doesn't show the actual APE in relationship to this burial ground. The lines were moved over to the northeast about half way through and beyond the actual CSX right of way. It makes it look like the burial ground does not exist in the CSX right of way, when it really does. It extends over the railroad tracks.

The polygon in the top image representing the Grave Yard was blatantly placed on top of 5th St. and slightly into the Hebrew Cemetery. Its placement is at least 50 feet to the west, and 30 or 40 feet to the south of where it belongs. This placement moves the burial ground out of the APE of high-speed rail on paper. The full Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground is in the CSX right of way from 2nd St. to past 7th St. The railroad tracks were installed on top of this burial ground.

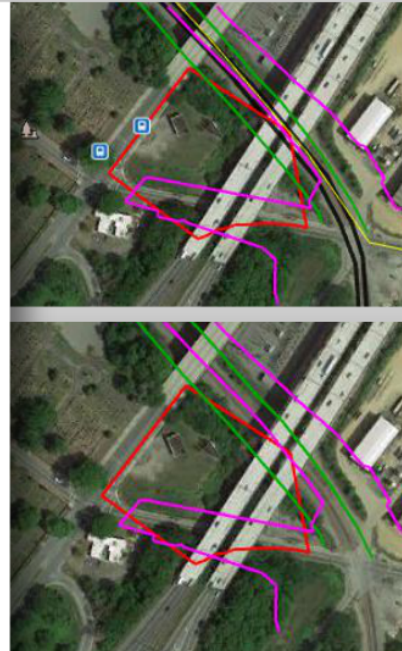


What is wrong is that a 31 acre burial ground is shown in its 1835 size of 3.3 acres, and it is pushed out of the way of high-speed rail on paper, and a declaration made that there will be no adverse effect on it. This treatment does not fit the definition of sensitive or respectful.





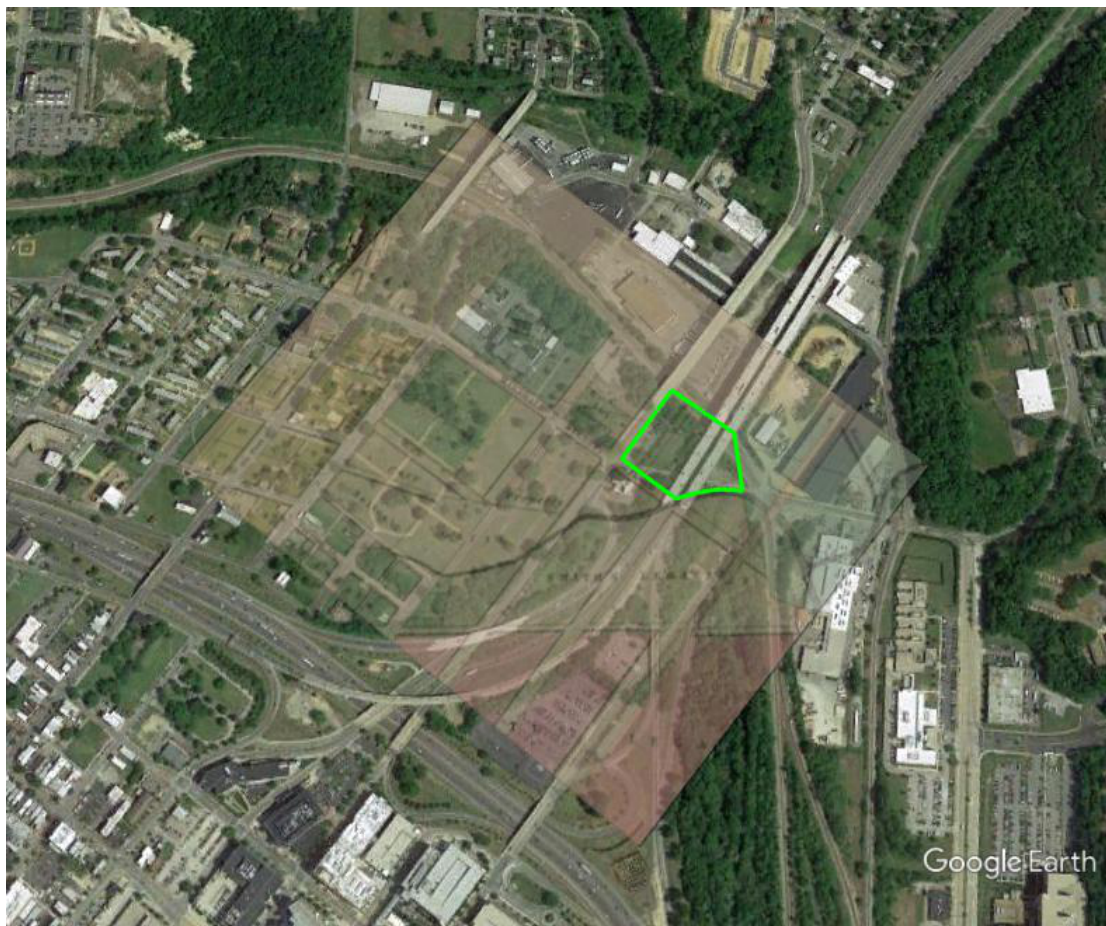
What is wrong is that the map image has been manipulated, in a way that causes it to appear as if it is not in the APE (area of possible effect) for high-speed rail, when it really is. The pink lines representing the APE have been placed further to the northeast than where they belong. The 2 green lines which have been added here to 3 of the images, illustrates where the CSX right of way really is in relationship to this Grave Yard. The black lines in 2 of the images show where the current railroad tracks are. The other thing wrong with the map image is that it can only represent what the burial ground was in 1835 when it was 3.3 acres in size. The Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground (which it is now being called) grew to be a many as 31 acres, with upwards of 22,000 estimated interments.

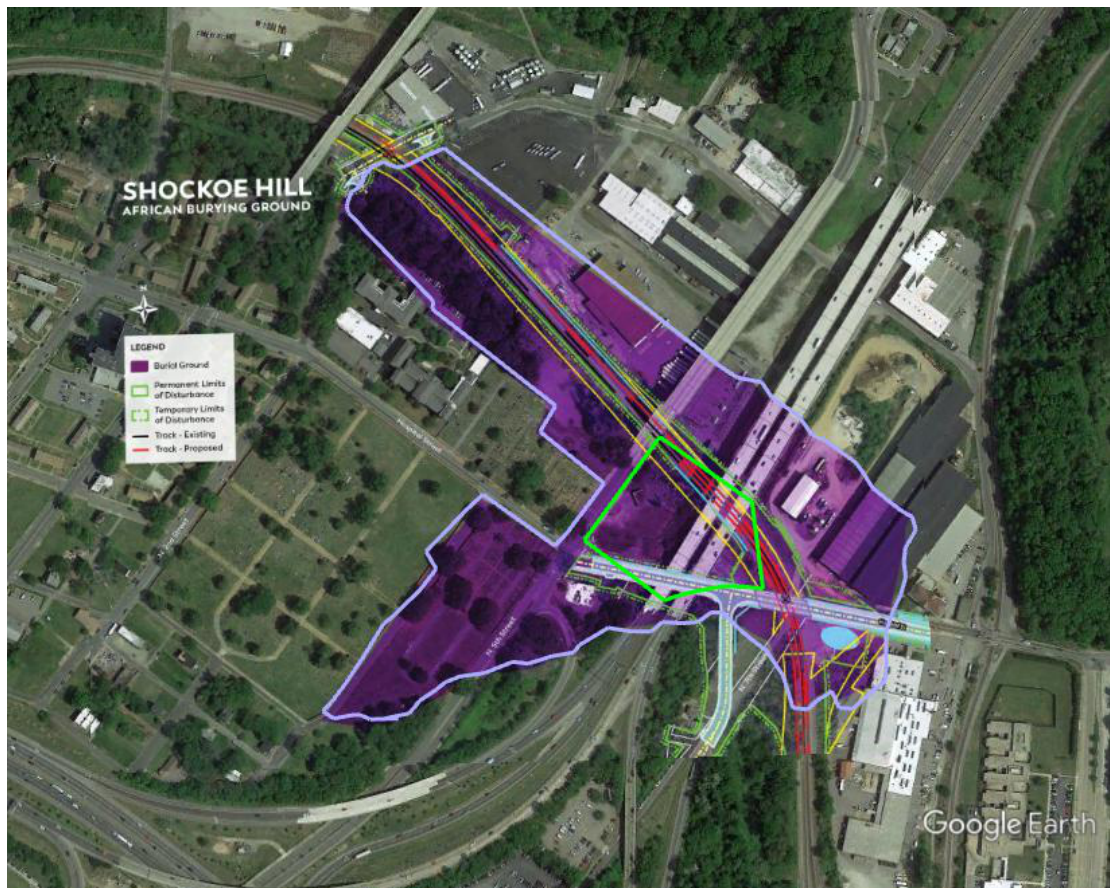
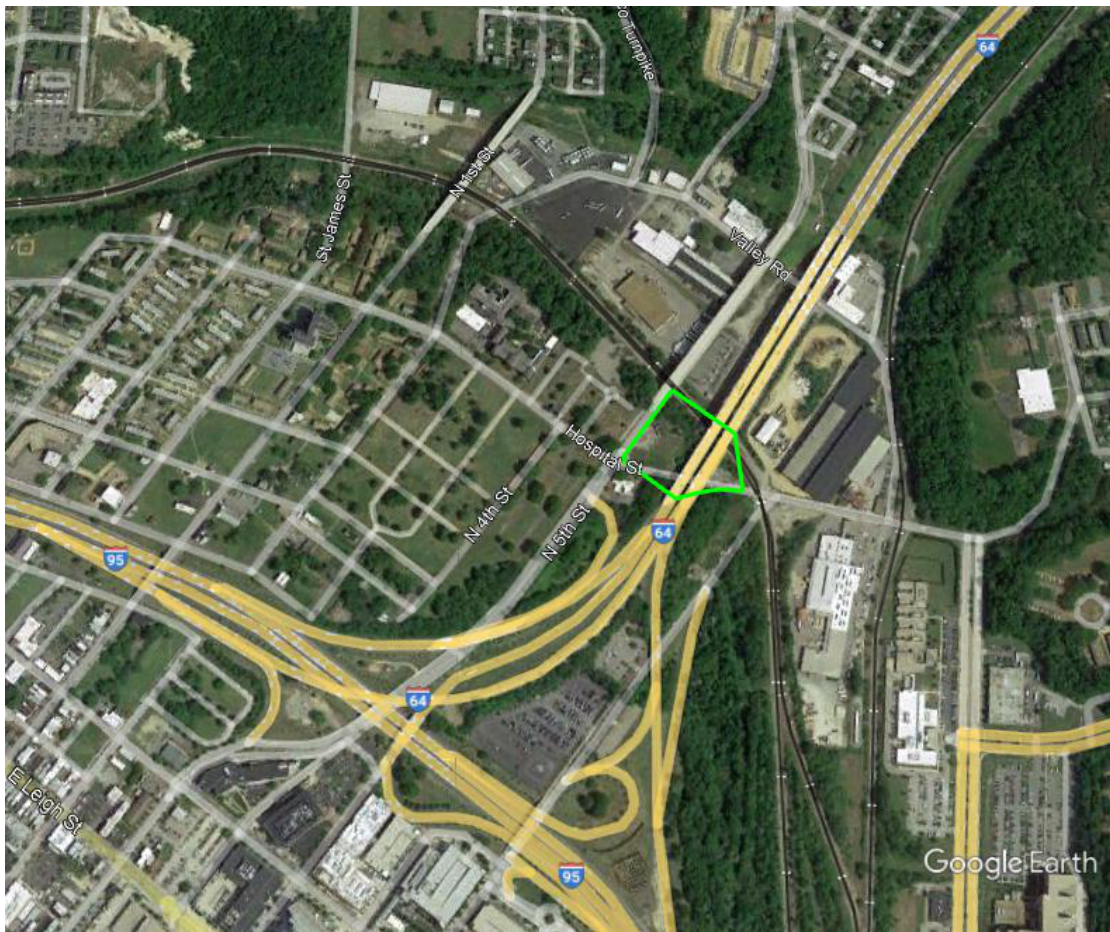


Below are accurate images of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground. (first map shows its 1835 size and final size of 31 acres)



Below 1835 map overlay





Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Lenora McQueen

Link to the nomination for the Shockoe Hill Burying Ground Historic District

<https://www.richmondcemeteries.org/wp-content/uploads/ShockoeHillnominationpublicreview.pdf>

LENORA MCQUEEN

To: Governor Ralph Northam, Gilbert Spencer, Shannon Valentine, Jennifer Mitchell, Denise Burch

Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 3:02 PM

I would like to mention that just removing the map overlays from the Final EIS, or correcting the map overlays but not changing the statements that were made about the burial ground won't make the statements that were made in the final EIS true. Those incorrect maps went along with the statements that were made, and they were just as incorrect. There was not adequate research done, and the burial ground was incorrectly defined by the high-speed rail project, and it was incorrectly defined for VDOT.

Yours truly,

Lenora McQueen