

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELOCATE INTERMENTS WITHIN THE UNNAMED CEMETERY IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

1. APPLICANT:  
Bill Arel, PE  
Chesterfield County Transportation Department  
(804) 748-1998

Mailing address:  
Chesterfield Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 40 Chesterfield, VA 23832

2. PROPOSED WORK AND NEED FOR RELOCATION: The applicant proposes to extend Nash Road to connect from its current end point at the intersection of Nash and Beach Roads to Route 10 on approximately 4,200 linear feet/ approximately 34 acres of County owned land. The cemetery is located on Chesterfield County parcel 76766007020000, at the intersection of Beach and Nash Roads.

Explanation of project: Chesterfield County has identified the need for roadway capacity improvements to relieve existing and future congestion along Beach Road between Nash Road and Route 10 and to reduce existing and future congestion at the Beach Road and Route 10 intersection, which is currently over capacity. A traffic study prepared in January 2017 evaluated options to improve Beach Road by widening and/or extending Nash Road from Beach Road to Route 10. The results of this study indicated a Nash Road extension is projected to offer the best overall network performance for relieving the existing and future congestion along Beach Road between Nash and Route 10, as well as relieving existing and future congestion at the intersection of Beach and Route 10. During the initial phase of construction, an unmarked grave was identified. Work immediately stopped and an archaeological examination of the area was conducted. The subsequent archaeological examination indicated that additional previously unknown burials are within the project area's limits of disturbance.

The cemetery contains zero headstone markers. However, one brick and concrete vault structure containing an iron casket has been identified. A plaque was discovered on the iron casket with the following inscriptions: "Ann C[HOLE] [Illegible]; Born May 8, 1803; Died June 21, 1858". Seventeen additional graves also exist within the cemetery. Documentary research indicates that the cemetery contains members of the Graves and Hancock families. Specifically, the identified burial is likely that of Nancy "Ann" C. Graves, wife of Samuel Hancock, daughter of Benjamin Graves and Mary Grove, mother of Madison Hancock, Mary Ann Hancock, Indiana Jane Hancock, Martha S. Hancock, Samuel Hancock, Virginia Hancock, and Benjamin Hancock.

Chesterfield County Transportation Department has determined that disturbance of the cemetery cannot be avoided because the cemetery was inadvertently identified after

construction had commenced. The extension to Nash Road will disturb the identified burials. Pursuant to the requirements of VA Code §10.1-2305, the County intends to apply for a burial permit through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to allow the archaeological excavation and relocation of the aforementioned cemetery. A copy of the application may be requested from DHR.

The exhumed human remains and funerary objects will be temporarily curated at Morrisett Funeral and Cremation Service, on 6500 Iron Bridge Rd, Richmond, VA 23234, and at other secure climate controlled facilities to be identified by Chesterfield County. The County has been in contact with several cemeteries to discuss the potential for reinterment of the burials. The final resting place will be decided upon in consultation with descendants (if identified).

3. COMMENT PERIOD: Comments on this project should be made in writing, addressed to the following:

Lauren Gryctko  
Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson  
9201 Arboretum Pkwy #310  
Richmond, VA 23236

and

Joanna Wilson Green, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221 or by email at [burialpermits@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:burialpermits@dhr.virginia.gov).

Written comments should be received by the close of business on July 8, 2024. A public hearing may be requested by any respondent to this notice.

4. CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Bill Arel, PE at (804) 748-1037 or [arelb@chesterfield.gov](mailto:arelb@chesterfield.gov)