

PUBLIC NOTICE – ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMOVAL OF BURIED HUMAN REMAINS, PERRY STREET CORRIDOR, CITY OF RICHMOND

1. APPLICANT: CITY OF RICHMOND, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2. BACKGROUND: During redevelopment of a multifamily residential parcel on Perry Street in South Richmond, three iron coffins were displaced by construction equipment. Archaeologists from the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) investigated the site and identified one additional coffin. All were recovered by DHR archaeologists and immediately reburied in a cemetery on the property. Since this time, archaeological investigation has identified what appear to be three additional interments. As the interments are within an active development site and cannot be avoided, the Applicant has requested a permit for their recovery, which will be performed by a qualified professional archaeologist. Reinternment is proposed to take place in the adjacent cemetery unless otherwise requested by descendant family.

Information inscribed on nameplates attached to two of the iron coffins has allowed the identification of the occupants:

- Amelia Word Sumner, May 11, 1854 - June 12, 1854
- Bettie Munford Sumner, 1847 - May 13, 1854

Along with Sumner, deed and documentary research indicates that surnames of individuals that may be interred in this area include Keesee, Cobbs, and Hardgrove.

Pursuant to the requirements of VA Code §10.1-2305, the Applicant and the Department of Historic Resources respectfully ask anyone with a family and/or community relationship to the Sumners, Keesees, Cobbses, or Hardgroves, as well as other interested parties, to contact us with questions and concerns.

3. Please address questions and comments to the following:

Mary Blow, City of Richmond, 1500 East Main Street, Suite 400, Richmond, VA 23219 or by email at mary.blow@richmondgov.com

AND

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

A public hearing may be requested by any respondent to this notice. Please submit all comments and questions in writing before close of business on March 8, 2021.