

Letter of 13 February 2006 re Hawkins Graveyard from Joanna Wilson to Jim Brogdon, USACE

[TRANSCRIPTION]

COMMONWELATH of VIRGINIA
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

February 13, 2006

Mr. James Brogdon
US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District
PO Box 2888
Staunton VA 24402

Re: Cherry Street [sic] Development
DHR File #2005-1653

Dear Mr. Brogdon:

We write to you regarding the proposed Southern Development residential project parcel bordered by Cherry and Ridge Streets in Charlottesville. As you know, we were able to visit the parcel on February 9, and as such had an opportunity to assess potential to affect historic properties, including but not limited to the Ridge Street Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Regarding architectural properties, it appears that the majority of the project area is located adjacent to but not within the historic district boundaries. The project area is also at a much lower elevation than Ridge Street, and will most likely not be highly visible from the district. Looking west it appears that a variety of mid to late 20th Century commercial structures, as well as several tall, multistory buildings, are clearly visible from the project area. Based upon conversations with the City, the portion of the project area adjacent to the Ridge Street Historic District is zoned single family residential and will allow only two single-family homes to be built (the designs for which must be approved by the Architectural Review Board). Please be aware, however, that new construction within or adjacent to a historic district may result in an adverse effect to that district. Compatible design is necessary, and consultation with our office and the City is necessary. We ask that the Corps condition its permit to require continued consultation with DHR, the City, and other interested parties for any new construction within the boundaries of the Ridge Street Historic District. This will be necessary in order to avoid an adverse effect.

Regarding archaeological properties, a portion of the project area falls with a parcel upon

which there is a reservation of rights for use as a cemetery. Although there is evidence that at least two members of the family for which the parcel was reserved are buried in another cemetery, the possibility remains that human burials are present within the project area, especially in the higher, flatter locations. It is essential that the possibility be explored further prior to construction or construction-related activity. We recommend that the applicant have a qualified archaeologist carefully machine-strip the project area to expose subsoil and inspect the site for evidence of burials. We look forward to reviewing the results of these activities.

If you have any questions about the Section 106 review process or our comments, please call me at (804) 367-2323, Ext. 140.

Sincerely,

Joanna [signed]
Joanna Wilson, Archaeologist
Office of Review and Compliance

cc: Ms. Antoinette Roades [N.B. No copy was received.]
Ms. Mary Joy Scala, City of Charlottesville [N.B. No copy was received.]