



Removal of Human Burials

Winter 2008

Greetings!

Welcome to the first Dutton + Associates e-newsletter. As a service to our clients, we will provide periodic updates on relevant historic preservation and cultural resource management topics.

We hope you will take a moment to review this information, and find it helpful. Let us know if we can be of assistance.

Dutton + Associates, LLC

Questions and Answers Regarding The Removal of Human Burials

When are human burials considered historic?

A human burial or cemetery is considered historic if it meets, or is likely to meet, one of the criteria for listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).

Typically, human burials and cemeteries are not considered eligible for listing in the National Register. Exceptions include human burials and cemeteries that meet the following criteria considerations:

- contain persons of transcendent importance;
- are of great age, exhibit distinctive design values;
- are associated with important events that illustrate broad patterns in history; or
- possess the ability to contain important information not available in extant documentary evidence.

What do I have to do to remove human remains?

As a general rule, if human burials can be left in place, that is the best course of action. If they cannot be avoided, under Virginia law, human remains can be legally removed

and relocated from a cemetery or burial place by obtaining a court order or Virginia Department of Historic Resources' burial permit. A burial permit is only needed if the human remains are to be removed archaeologically or if required as part of a court order.

Knowing whether or not human burials or a cemetery is present on your property is time well spent, and enables you to consider the full range of options regarding treatment. Late discoveries are never cost-effective. Contact us for further information or guidance.

Archaeological Services Spotlight

Dutton + Associates provides clients with the full suite of archaeological survey and treatment services. Our archaeological management team, comprised of Senior Project Manager *Darby O'Donnell, M.A. RPA* and Managing Partner David Dutton have over thirty years of combined archaeological and cultural resource management experience in Virginia and surrounding mid-Atlantic states.

Whether it's conducting a Phase IA archaeological assessment, a Phase I identification survey, a Phase II evaluation survey to determine a site's National Register eligibility, or developing a detailed treatment plan for identified cultural resources, our experienced team provides you with the guidance and products you need.

Understanding the different types of services provided is important to making successful and informed business decisions. As an aid, we've briefly defined below some of the key archaeological services offered by Dutton + Associates.

Phase IA Archaeological Assessment: An inexpensive means to identify the potential for a property to contain archaeological resources through a search of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives and a pedestrian survey of the property. Phase IA assessments are frequently used as an internal planning and budgeting tool. It is important to note that Phase IA assessments are not accepted by the regulating agencies as an appropriate level of survey.

Phase I Identification Survey: A survey that consists of background research and systematic shovel testing of a project area to identify any unknown archaeological sites. The Phase I identification survey determines the presence or absence of archaeological sites and is a typical request from regulatory agencies. Identified sites are mapped and given official site numbers by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Phase II Evaluation Survey: A more intensive survey of a previously identified archaeological site which includes more detailed background and property specific research. A Phase II evaluation survey consists of close-interval shovel testing accompanied by test units and evaluates definitively whether the archaeological site is *eligible* or *not eligible* for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Resource Treatment Plans: In the event an archaeological site is eligible for listing in the National Register, treatment options will need to be identified, evaluated, and then implemented. Resource treatment plans provide a framework for identifying and evaluating various resource treatments including avoidance, site burial, and data recovery in the context of each project's unique requirements.

For more information on our archaeological services, visit www.dutton-associates.com.

Dutton + Associates, LLC. is a small woman-owned business creating and delivering successful cultural

resource management strategies at the federal, state, and local levels. With established professional relationships at all levels of government and a record of delivering successful project outcomes, Dutton + Associates is a recognized and proven leader in the field of cultural resource management. For more information visit us on the web at www.dutton-associates.com.

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Dutton + Associates | 812 Moorefield Park Drive, Suite 126 | Richmond | VA | 23236