

Enclosure 3 to Cemetery/Burial Ground Land Development Permit:

Survey Coverage

Hutton Development Company and New South Associates, Inc. have been in contact with the City of Savannah since the inception of the field identification phase of this project to ensure that the work carried out met the city's requirements. Historical background investigations were carried out and a report was generated by Mr. John Brannen of the Cemeteries Department in September 2018. Based on historical research and on-site informant interviews Brannen was able to identify three loci that were the most likely places for the interments to be located. The 7.5x7.5-meter area to be stripped and examined around each loci was suggested by the City of Savannah Department of Cemeteries and the Development Services Department as the minimum area to be examined. Minimum examination areas of this size around known and potential burial features are a standard subsurface examination strategy employed by archaeological firms, including New South Associates, Inc. On October 29, 2018, an on-site meeting between the New South Principal Investigator (Matternes) and representatives of the City of Savannah, which included Mr. Brannen, Ms. Julie McLean (Development Services Department) and several other city representatives took place to ensure that all parties were comfortable with the field strategy. At that time New South Associates, Inc. had ground marked the 7.5x7.5-meter areas to be examined. The meeting ended with all parties satisfied that the city's requirements were going to be met.

New South Associates, Inc. was able to exceed the minimum areas to be examined around each locus with the area subjected to subsurface examination for Locus 1 being 8.6x11.5 meters in size. Locus 2 (where the graves were encountered) was no less than 16x13.7 meters in size and Locus 3 was 13.8x13 meters. New South's work at the construction site exceeded the areas suggested by the city as minimum coverage areas. If more graves had been encountered, the work areas would have been expanded further within the limits of the property boundaries. During the course of the fieldwork, City of Savannah representatives made daily visits to track the course of the work and to inspect the excavation floors. The work conducted consistently met their satisfaction and the City of Savannah representatives felt that the areas examined adequately addressed whether potential graves were present at the loci. Once fieldwork was completed a report was generated. Copies of the report were made available to the City of Savannah on December 12, 2018. This draft was reviewed, commented, and returned to Hutton on January 4, 2018. A final version of the report has since been generated and a copy provided to the City of Savannah on March 21, 2019. These actions emphasize that the work completed by Hutton Development Company and New South Associates, Inc. has met the satisfaction of the City of Savannah.

Attention is drawn to New South's report recommendations that include;

“Further, because unmarked grave were positively identified in the construction area, it is recommended that an archaeologist be present during ground breaking to ensure that any other unmarked graves present on the grounds are identified. Coordination with the City of Savannah Development Services Department is recommended to ensure that avoidance actions conform to the city's building, development, and cemetery regulations” (Matternes 2019:23).

The presence of this archaeological monitor during ground breaking was recommended as a contingency plan to provide a means of identifying and addressing any possible unmarked graves that were outside the explored areas. It is New South Associates, Inc. understanding that Hutton Development Company plans to follow this recommendation.