

## Wegmans Distribution Center – Cultural Historical Resources

### Areas affected

- Project site
- Brown Grove (located immediately adjacent to proposed development)

### What?

- Past and recent archaeological reports have identified some historical features of interest. Most prominently, site VDHR# 44HN0326 have been identified. This is believed to be the remains of an early nineteenth century building, potentially the former Merry Oaks Tavern owner's residence (suggested by archaeologists performing documentation research).
- The Merry Oaks Tavern has yet to be located and may not be on this property.
- There are rumors of potential human remains on the 217-acre property. A rough site map suggests some potential unmarked graves onsite as well as known grave sites offsite. However, the context and validity of this document is currently unknown.
- No archaeological studies reviewed to date appear to adequately address the question of potential onsite graves.
- At this time, it is impossible to definitively state if there are human remains on the property or not since no study has adequately explored the issue.

### Request to Planning Commission & Board of Supervisors

- Given the use of public incentive dollars for this project, a recovery/salvage archaeological survey should be authorized for site # 44HN0326 site should the Wegmans' project proceed as it will likely be destroyed during construction. Potential features in the identified boundary area should be investigated, documented and recovered where practical. Information from this additional archaeological study should be published in a journal, presented at a professional conference, and broadcast through other means for greater public consumption. Artifacts should be recovered, cataloged and deposited at a facility that can properly preserve and care for those materials.
- Since the question of onsite graves/human remains is unresolved, a more detailed archaeological survey recommended to be conducted prior to onsite construction activities.
- Populations who might be related to potential burials on the property should be consulted prior to any study being carried out. This includes members of Virginia's indigenous tribes and the historic Brown Grove community.
- The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are respectfully requested to defer any action on changing the 1995 proffer related to cemeteries and burials until the communities above have been properly consulted, their engagement interest has been determined, and their wishes on how to handle human remains if they should be discovered.