



Technical Memorandum

Residences at Oaklawn Avenue

Cranston, Rhode Island

Archaeological Cemetery Delineation
King-Randall Lot (CR030)
February 2023

Submitted to:

PAL No. 4465

Carpionato Group, LLC
1414 Atwood Avenue
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

The Carpionato Group, LLC (Carpionato) is proposing a two-story multi-family residential building on a ± 0.8 -acre vacant lot (AP 17-3/Lot 670) off Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston, Rhode Island. The parcel abuts Rhode Island Historical Cemetery CR030, the King-Randall Lot (Figures 1 and 2).

The Rhode Island Cemeteries Act (R.I. General Law 23-18-11 et seq.) and City of Cranston's Historic Cemetery Ordinance (Chapter 5, Section 5-4.1) conditionally prohibit construction, excavation or ground disturbing activity within 25 feet (ft) of a recorded historic cemetery or human burial site unless the "boundaries of the cemetery are adequately documented and there is no reason to believe additional graves exist outside the recorded cemetery and the proposed construction or excavation activity will not damage or destructively alter the historic cemetery." Chapter 15.20 Subsection 15.20.010 D requires a property owner to have an archaeologist approved by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) to establish the boundaries of a cemetery or burial site.

Carpionato, in accordance with the Cranston Municipal Code and the Rhode Island Cemeteries Act, requested that The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) conduct an archaeological cemetery delineation to determine if unmarked burials associated with the King-Randall Lot are present within the 25-ft buffer extending into the proposed development site. The archaeological cemetery delineation was completed in February 2023 under permit to conduct archaeological field investigations No. 22-21-27 issued by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) on November 30, 2022, and in consultation with the Cranston Historical Cemetery Commission and the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission. All tasks associated with the project were undertaken in accordance with the Rhode Island Cemeteries Act, Cranston Municipal Code Chapter 15.20, and the RIHPHC's (2012) Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Registration and Protection of Historic Cemeteries. This technical memorandum summarizes the results of the investigation and offers recommendations for further consideration based on the results of the field investigations.

The King-Randall Lot (CR030)

The Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries data base lists the King-Randall Lot (CR030) as approximately 0.33 acres in size partially enclosed with a stone wall. The inventory lists 52 burials, the earliest dating to 1779 (Mary Randall) and the last to 1922 (Emily K. Luther). Three internments are war

veterans: Deacon Asa King (Revolutionary War); William R. Keach and Richard Hill (Civil War). The cemetery is identified on Everts and Richards 1895 map of Cranston, but not on the 1870 Beers map (Figure 3). From Oaklawn Avenue the topography rises gently to a small knoll occupying the south and west side of the cemetery. The topography along the north side of the cemetery gradually slopes down to the north, toward the Project Area (Photograph 1). The cemetery is bounded on three sides by a stone wall that is flush with the ground at Oaklawn Avenue and more prominent along the west side of the cemetery. The wall along the north side of the cemetery is partially covered. Approximately 20 feet separates the northern most grave marker and the north wall marking the property line.



Photograph 1. View of the King-Randall Lot (CR030) looking west from Oaklawn Avenue. Note downslope to the north.

AP 17-3/Lot 670

PAL researched several sources to trace the history of the property. PAL's research of AP 17-3/Lot 670. Historical maps (see Figure 3), topographic maps, and aerial photographs (Figures 4, 5, and 6) suggest that the project area has always been a vacant lot. Early topographic maps depict a linear depression in the project area paralleling the former Hartford Providence and Fishkill Railroad (Washington Secondary) that is no longer evident on later maps. Historical aerial photographs show the project area was undeveloped open space occasionally vegetated by brush and or trees. The 1939 aerial (Figure 4) shows a cleared lot with a path between Oaklawn Avenue and a crossing of the Washington Secondary. Subsequent aerial photographs depict various stages of vegetation consisting of scattered trees and underbrush (Figure 5). Aerial photographs after 2014 depict a cleared lot (Figure 6).

Archaeological Cemetery Delineation

In cases where there is the potential for unmarked graves outside of the bounded limits of a cemetery, a combination of ground inspection and machine-assisted topsoil removal can effectively identify unmarked graves and clearly delineate the limits of interments. Historic grave markers

sometimes have fallen down and been buried and/or obscured by vegetation beyond the visible limits of interments. The often low visibility of markers is compounded by the frequent use of simple, uncarved fieldstone markers, which may be mistaken for natural features in and around many historic cemeteries. Cemetery enclosures sometimes were constructed after the earliest burials or limited to specific family groupings and therefore do not always demarcate the full extent of graves within a burial ground.

Methods and Results

PAL examined ground surfaces within 25 ft of AP 17-3/Lot 670 for evidence of unmarked graves before mechanical topsoil removal. PAL did not observe any suspected graves during the field review. The project area is a level open field vegetated with scrub grasses and ground cover. Several large boulders which appear to be out of place are found on the surface.

Machine-assisted topsoil removal was conducted 25 ft south of the property line to determine if unmarked graves continued into the northern limits of parcel AP 17-3/Lot 670. Parker Construction provided a JCB 3CX backhoe equipped with a 4-ft wide grading bucket (Photograph 2) to remove the upper soil layers to expose subsoils within the 25-foot buffer (see Figure 2). PAL archaeologists directed and followed the backhoe using square shovels and masonry trowels to clean the topsoil/subsoil interface and inspect exposed trench floors for indications of graves or other cultural features.

Machine-assisted stripping commenced at the southern edge of the project area, adjacent to the partially covered stone wall marking the northern limits of the cemetery and the southern property line. Removal of soils proceeded from west to east in a series of linear trenches from the back of the property to the sidewalk adjacent to Oaklawn Avenue. The trenches exposed a number of fill deposits to depths of 8.5 to 9 feet before natural soils were exposed (Photographs 3 and 4). The fill contained twentieth century materials including plastics and asphalt. No grave shafts were exposed during the excavations.

Conclusions and Recommendation

Machine-assisted investigations within the southern limits of parcel AP 17-3/Lot 670 identified no evidence of unmarked graves associated with the King-Randall Lot (CR030) within the 25-foot buffer extending into the project area. Ground disturbances within the proposed Residences at Oaklawn Avenue property will not impact unmarked graves or the existing King-Randall Lot (CR030).



Photograph 2. JCB 3CX backhoe with flat edge bucket.



Photograph 3. Exposed fills at 1meter (3.3 feet) below surface.



Photograph 4. Exposed fills to 2.6 meters (8.5 feet) below surface.

References

Beers, D. G., and Company

1870 *Atlas of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*. D. G. Beers and Company, Philadelphia, PA.

City of Cranston

n.d. Cranston Land Evidence Records. On file, City of Cranston, Cranston, RI.

Everts and Richards

1895 Town of Cranston, Providence County, Rhode Island. *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys Providence County Rhode Island*. On file Rhode Island Historical Society Library, Providence, RI.

Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS)

2023 *Rhode Island Aerial Photographs*, Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program. Accessed from (<http://www.edc.uri.edu/rigis>).

Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission

2022 Historic Cemetery Database for Cranston. File accessed December 2022, at <http://rihistoriccemeteries.org/webdatabase.aspx>.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission (RIHPC)

- 1980 *Statewide Historical Preservation Report P-C-1: Cranston, Rhode Island*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Providence, RI.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC)

- 2012 *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Registration and Protection of Historic Cemeteries*. Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Providence, RI.

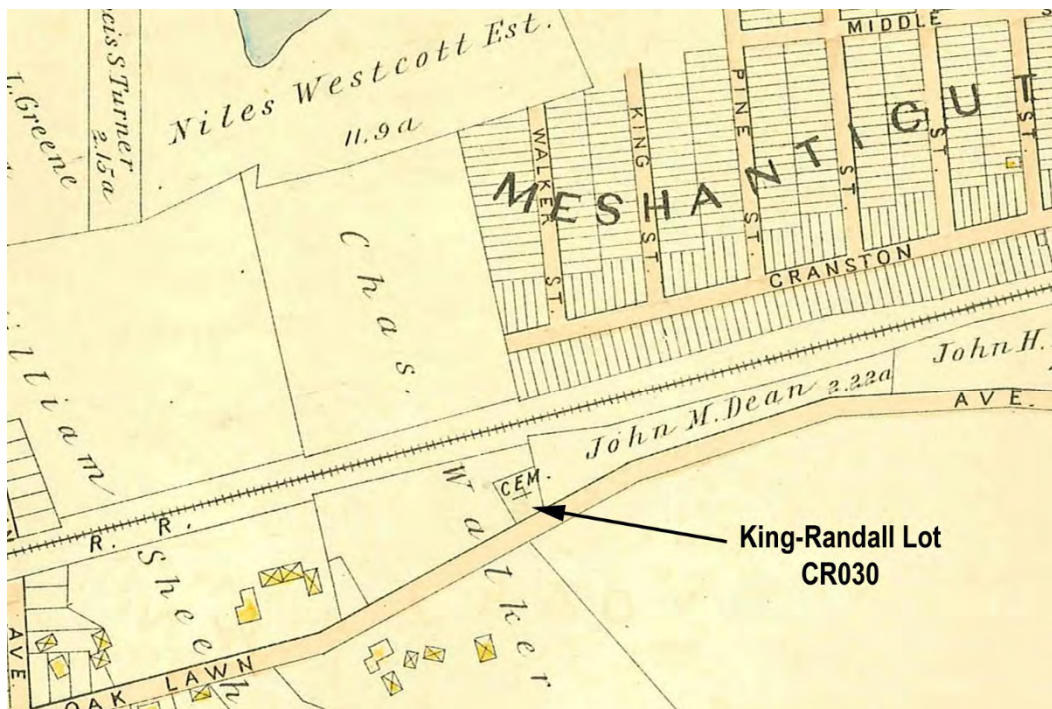
United State Geological Service (USGS)

- 1987 Providence, Rhode Island-Massachusetts 1:25000 scale metric topographic map. Image viewed February 2023 at [USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer \(arcgis.com\)](#).
- 1970 Providence, RI 1:24000 scale topographic map. Image viewed February 2023 at [USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer \(arcgis.com\)](#).
- 1894 Providence 1:62500 scale topographic map. Image viewed February 2023 at [USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer \(arcgis.com\)](#).

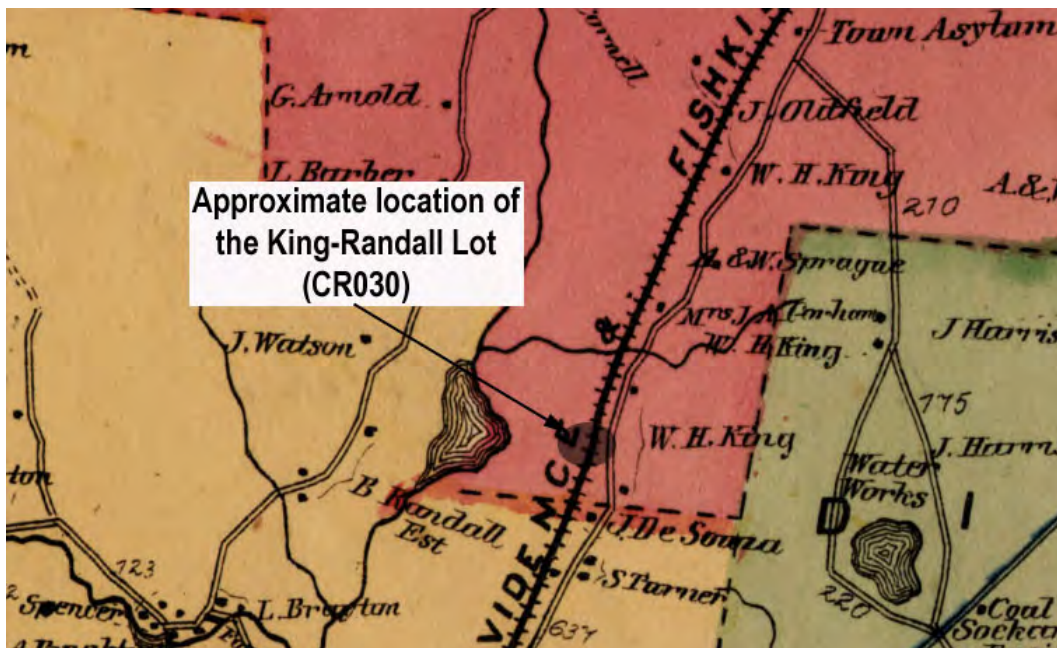


Figure 1. Location of the Residences at Oaklawn Avenue Project Area and the King-Randall Lot (CR030) on the Providence, RI USGS topographic quadrangle.





1895 map of Cranston with location of the King-Randall Lot (CR030) (source: Everts and Richards 1895).



1870 map of Cranston with approximate location of the King-Randall Lot (CR030) (source: Beers 1870).

Figure 3. Historical maps of Cranston.

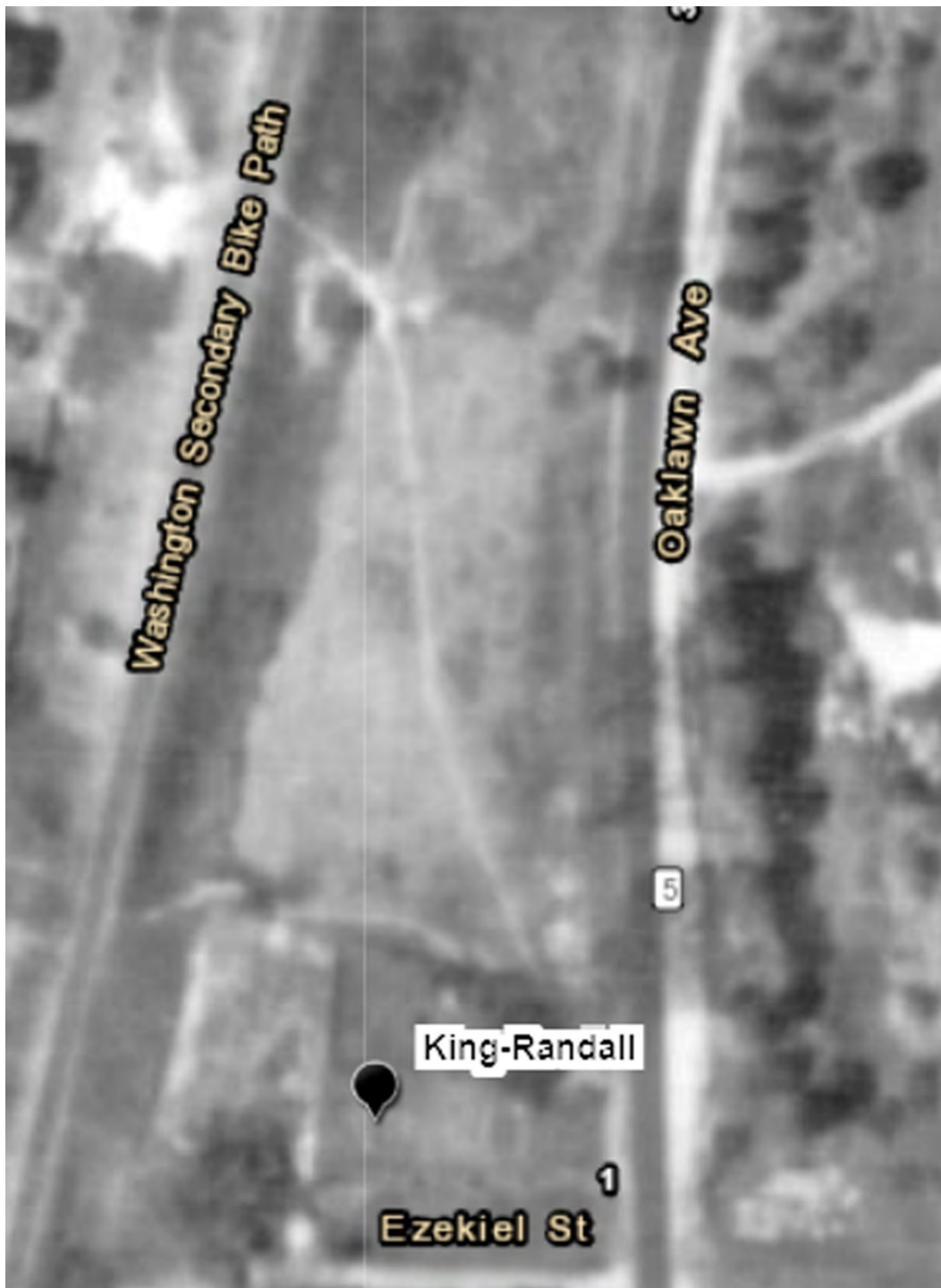


Figure 4. 1939 aerial of the Residences at Oaklawn Avenue project area (source: RIGIS 2023).



Figure 5. 2014 aerial of the Residences at Oaklawn Avenue project area (source: RIGIS 2023)

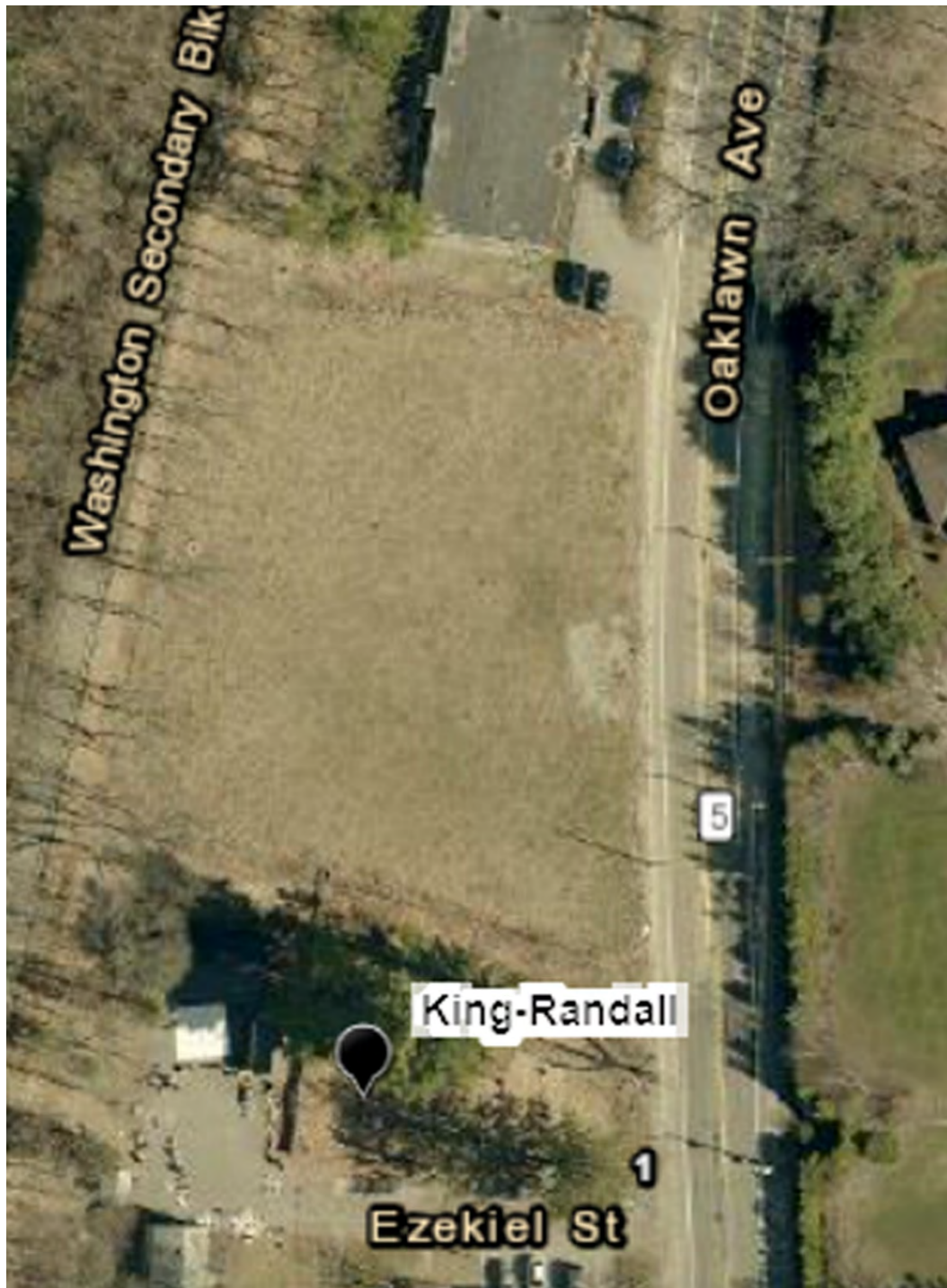


Figure 5. 2017 aerial of the Residences at Oaklawn Avenue project area (source: RIGIS 2023)

Appendix A

Project Correspondence



December 1, 2022

via email

David Guiot, Commission Chairman
Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission
Sprague Mansion
1351 Cranston St
Cranston, RI 02920

Re: City Permit to Conduct Archaeological Investigations adjacent to
King-Randall Lot (CR030) historic cemetery
The Residences at Oaklawn Avenue (AP 17-3/Lot 670)
PAL # 4465

Dear Mr. Guiot:

Carpionato Group, LLC.; (Carpionato) is proposing a multi-family two-story residential building on a ± 0.8 -acre vacant lot (AP 17-3/Lot 670) off Oaklawn Avenue. The parcel abuts Rhode Island Historical Cemetery CR030, the King-Randall Lot. The cemetery is approximately 0.33 acres in size and contains 52 burials partially enclosed with a stone wall. The Rhode Island Cemeteries Act (R.I. General Law 23-18-11 *et seq.*) and City of Cranston's Historic Cemetery Ordinance (Chapter 5, Section 5-4.1) conditionally prohibit construction, excavation or ground disturbing activity within 25 feet (ft) of a recorded historic cemetery or human burial site. Carpionato has retained The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) to conduct an archaeological investigation to determine the presence/absence of graves within the 25-foot buffer that extends into AP 17-3/Lot 670.

Attached for your review are PAL's Scope of Services and the signed permit issued by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) to conduct the survey. PAL has initiated coordination with the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission, and we anticipate their support in protecting this valuable resource.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-288-6316 or Dave Taglianetti, Vice President of Development at Carpionato Group LLC at 401-273-6800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'A Peter Mair II'.

A. Peter Mair, II, RPA
Senior Archaeologist

Encl.



December 1, 2022

Honorable City Council
City of Cranston
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910-2786

Re: City Permit to Conduct Archaeological Investigations
King-Randall Lot (CR030)
The Residences at Oaklawn Avenue (AP 17-3/Lot 670)
PAL # 4465

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) is petitioning to be placed on the docket for the December 19, 2022, meeting of the City Council to request the City's permission to conduct an archaeological investigation within the 25-foot buffer of the King-Randall Lot (CR030) historic cemetery pursuant to *Chapter 15.20.010, Historical and Archaeological Sites* of the City of Cranston's Code of Ordinances.

Carpionato Group, LLC.; (Carpionato) is proposing a multi-family two-story residential building on a ± 0.8 -acre vacant lot (AP 17-3/Lot 670) off Oaklawn Avenue. The parcel abuts Rhode Island Historical Cemetery CR030, the King-Randall Lot. The cemetery is approximately 0.33 acres in size and contains 52 burials partially enclosed with a stone wall. The Rhode Island Cemeteries Act (R.I. General Law 23-18-11 *et seq.*) and City of Cranston's Historic Cemetery Ordinance (Chapter 5, Section 5-4.1) conditionally prohibit construction, excavation or ground disturbing activity within 25 feet (ft) of a recorded historic cemetery or human burial site. Carpionato has retained PAL to conduct an archaeological investigation to determine the presence/absence of graves within the 25-foot buffer that extends into AP 17-3/Lot 670.

Attached for your review are PAL's Scope of Services that identifies PAL's proposed work area and the signed permit issued by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) to conduct the survey. PAL has initiated coordination with the Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission and Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission, and we anticipate their support in protecting this valuable resource.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-288-6316 or Dave Taglianetti, Vice President of Development at Carpionato Group LLC at 401-273-6800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'A. Peter Mair, II'.

A. Peter Mair, II, RPA
Senior Archaeologist

Encl.

cc. Dave Taglianetti, Carpionato Group, LLC (via email w/o attachment)



December 1, 2022

Douglas McLean
Planning Department
City of Cranston
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910-2786

Re: City Permit to Conduct Archaeological Investigations adjacent to
King-Randall Lot (CR030)
The Residences at Oaklawn Avenue (AP 17-3/Lot 670)
PAL # 4465

Dear Mr. McLean:

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) is seeking the City's permission to conduct an archaeological investigation within the 25-foot buffer of the King-Randall Lot (CR030) historic cemetery pursuant to *Chapter 15.20.010, Historical and Archaeological Sites* of the City of Cranston's Code of Ordinances.

Carpionato Group, LLC.; (Carpionato) is proposing a multi-family two-story residential building on a ± 0.8 -acre vacant lot (AP 17-3/Lot 670) off Oaklawn Avenue. The parcel abuts Rhode Island Historical Cemetery CR030, the King-Randall Lot. The cemetery is approximately 0.33 acres in size and contains 52 burials partially enclosed with a stone wall. The Rhode Island Cemeteries Act (R.I. General Law 23-18-11 *et seq.*) and City of Cranston's Historic Cemetery Ordinance (Chapter 5, Section 5-4.1) conditionally prohibit construction, excavation or ground disturbing activity within 25 feet (ft) of a recorded historic cemetery or human burial site. Carpionato has retained PAL to conduct an archaeological investigation to determine the presence/absence of graves within the 25-foot buffer that extends into AP 17-3/Lot 670.

Attached for your review are PAL's Scope of Services that identifies PAL's proposed work area, the signed permit issued by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) to conduct the survey, and a set of project plans. PAL has initiated coordination with the Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission and Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Commission, and we anticipate their support in protecting this valuable resource.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-288-6316 or Dave Taglianetti, Vice President of Development at Carpionato Group LLC at 401-273-6800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'A. Peter Mair, II'.

A. Peter Mair, II, RPA
Senior Archaeologist

Encl.

cc. Dave Taglianetti, Carpionato Group, LLC (via email w/o attachment)



November 10, 2022

Jeff Emidy
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Attn: Charlotte Taylor

Re: The Residences at Oaklawn Avenue (AP 17-3/Lot 670)
Cranston, Rhode Island
Cemetery Delineation
PAL # 4465

Dear Mr. Emidy:

Enclosed please find The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.'s (PAL) application for a permit to conduct an archaeological cemetery delineation within the 25-foot buffer of the King-Randall Lot (CR030) historic cemetery on Oaklawn Avenue in the City of Cranston. The project area is on the Providence, RI USGS topographic quadrangle. PAL has also submitted a request to the Cranston City Council to conduct this investigation per the City's *Historic Cemetery Ordinance (Chapter 15.20.010, Historical and Archaeological Sites)*.

Carpionato Group, LLC. (Carpionato) is proposing a multi-family two-story residential building on a ± 0.8 -acre vacant lot (AP 17-3/Lot 670) off Oaklawn Avenue. The parcel abuts Rhode Island Historical Cemetery CR030, the King-Randall Lot. The cemetery is approximately 0.33 acres in size and contains 52 burials partially enclosed with a stone wall. Carpionato has retained PAL to conduct an archaeological investigation to determine the presence/absence of graves within the 25-foot buffer that extends into AP 17-3/Lot 670.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'A Peter Mair II'.

A. Peter Mair, II, RPA
Senior Archaeologist

Enclosure

cc: Dave Taglianetti, Carpionato Group LLC (w/o encl.)

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Application for permission to conduct archaeological field investigations, pursuant to the Antiquities Act of Rhode Island, G.L. 42-45 and the R.I. Procedures for Registration and Protection of Historic Properties. Key policies regarding this application are outlined in Section 10 of the "Performance Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology in Rhode Island."

1. Applicant's name and address

A. Principal Investigator(s): A. Peter Mair, II
B. Field Supervisor(s): A. Peter Mair, II

2. Previous experience: *On File*

3. Beginning date of project: December 2022

4. Duration of project: Two months

5. Location of project: *Please See Attached*

6. Ownership: Carpionato Group LLC

7. Scope of project: Phase I Survey to investigate presence/absence of graves within 25-foot buffer around the King-Randall Lot (CR030).

8. Research design (present research problems, formulate hypotheses, discuss how hypotheses will be tested with data, discuss how data will be manipulated and hypotheses evaluated).

Attach extra sheets: *Please See Attached*

9. Project Budget: *Please See Attached*

10. Specify repository: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
26 Main Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860
Estimated No. of Artifact Boxes: 0.25

11. Projected completion of final report and date when a draft review copy will be submitted to RIHPHC:

A. Draft: January 2023
B. Final: February 2023

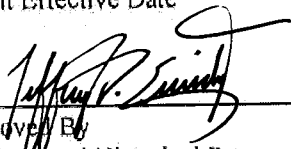
RIHPHC, Permit Application
Page - 2 -

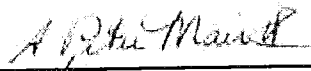
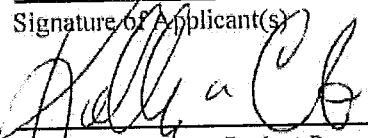
I, A. Peter Mair, II, [archaeologist], certify that the information contained in this application is correct, and that I will comply with applicable federal and state legislation, regulations and standards, and any special conditions appended to this application (see below). I understand that any change to the specifications of this permit, the research design, or project scope of work, without the approval of the RIHPHC, may result in the revocation of this permit and the cessation of archaeological investigations. I also understand that should I fail to satisfy the conditions of this permit (items 7,8,9,10,11) the RIHPHC may decide not to issue me, or my employer, permits for future projects until the deficiencies under this permit are resolved.

I, Kelly Coates, (landowner or project proponent,) agree to comply with applicable federal and state legislation and special conditions attached to this permit. I also agree to maintain adequate security at the project area, and, if determined necessary by the RIHPHC, will take steps, as required by the RIHPHC, to prevent trespassers or other unauthorized individuals from causing harm to the archaeological site or sites under investigation.

*22-21 11/30/22 - 11/30/23

Permit Effective Date


Approved By
Rhode Island Historical Preservation
and Heritage Commission


Signature of Applicant(s)

Property Owner or Project Proponent

Reviewed By: , RIHPHC Staff Archaeologist

See below for any attached Special Conditions that may apply to this permit:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1.) Native American Special Condition | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| 2.) Other Special Conditions | Yes _____ | No _____ |

The RIHPHC reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions of this permit based on new information received in the course of the project.

Form Revised 12/13

PN 4465 - Residences at Oaklawn Avenue