

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4606

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Julie Langan
Director/State Historic Preservation Officer
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Director Langan,

I write today to express my strong support for the inclusion of the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground in Richmond, Virginia, on the National Register of Historic Places. Placing this site on the National Register of Historic Places would help protect this historic site from potential development, preserving this important burial ground for the Richmond community.

Today, there is no official national record or database on African American burial grounds and the location of many sites remain unknown. Without an official record, many descendants and family members of those interred are unable to identify or visit these sites to honor and remember their ancestors. In an attempt to address this issue, I cosponsored legislation that directs the National Park Service to conduct a study of ways to identify, interpret, preserve, and record previously abandoned, underserved, or other burial grounds relating to the African American experience.

Two years ago, Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney and the Richmond City Council passed ordinances adding the property at 1305 N. 5th St. to the Richmond Slave Trail and provided funding for its intended acquisition. This effort to add the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground to the National Register of Historic Places has support from Preservation Virginia, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Cultural Landscape Foundation, and descendants of those interred at the burial ground.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your support of historic sites throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my staff or me should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

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