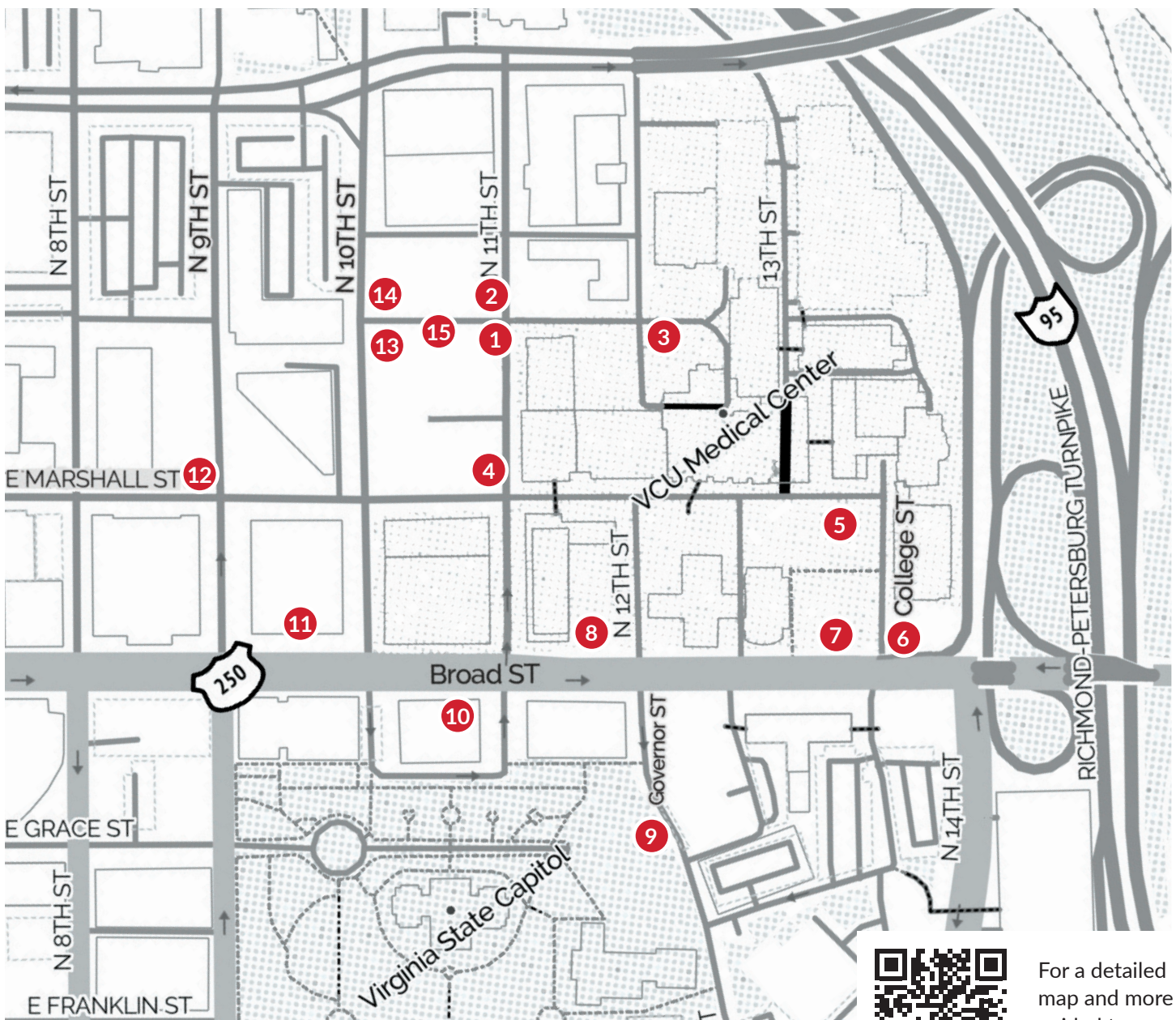


Court End Neighborhood Self-Guided History Walk

Welcome to Court End!

This residential neighborhood flourished following the move of the state capital from Williamsburg to Richmond and the completion of the Virginia State Capitol building in 1788. Court End took its name from its proximity to the court building. With all three branches of government nearby, during the 19th century many professionals chose to live close to the action.



For a detailed map and more guided tours, use this QR code.

1 The Wickham House
EAST CLAY AND
11TH STREETS



Wickham House, c. 1900, *The Valentine, Cook Collection*

This house, built for John and Elizabeth Wickham in 1812, was designed by architect Alexander Parris, who was in town to design the Governor's mansion. Fun fact: the Wickham's house was much more opulent than the Governor's mansion and cost twice as much! This Neoclassical structure was inhabited by the Wickham's, their 19 children and more than 15 enslaved African Americans. Labor provided by the enslaved workforce enabled the Wickham's to live a lavish lifestyle like many wealthy white Southerners at the time.

In 1882, Entrepreneur Mann S. Valentine II purchased the property and displayed his archaeological and ethnographic collections here. In 1898, the house became the first home of the Valentine Museum. Visit thevalentine.org for a virtual tour!

2 Maupin Maury House
1016 EAST CLAY STREET

This Greek Revival house was originally located at 1105 E. Clay St. and was built in 1846 by Dr. Socrates Maupin, a founder of the medical department of Hampden-Sydney College that later became the Medical College of Virginia, now Virginia Commonwealth Medical Center.

3 White House of the Confederacy
1201 EAST CLAY STREET



White House of the Confederacy, late-19th century, *The Valentine, Cook Collection*

Dr. John Brockenborough, President of the Bank of Virginia, built this home in 1818. Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, resided here from 1861-1865. Union forces seized the home on April 3, 1865 and Abraham Lincoln briefly visited the following day. The U.S. government held the property until 1870 when it became a public school. In 1893, it was acquired by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society to serve as a museum of Confederate memorabilia, now part of the American Civil War Museum.

4 Stephen Putney and Samuel Putney Houses
1010 AND 1012
EAST MARSHALL STREET

The two-tiered, cast-iron veranda on the Stephen Putney House was produced locally by Phoenix Iron Works, an ambitious example of domestic ironwork in a city famed for cast iron. Ironwork was Virginia's third major industry behind tobacco and flour, principally due to the industrial slavery of Black skilled laborers.

Today part of the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center campus, these homes were originally built in 1859. From 1862-1894, they were the residences of Samuel and Stephen Putney, father and son shoe manufacturers of Battle Axe Shoes.

Directly across 11th Street, is the site on which Congregation Beth Ahabah founded Richmond's first Jewish school in 1846 and built its first synagogue in 1848. Members of the Jewish community were working in the Virginia Territory as early as 1650, and by the 1760s, they began to settle in Richmond. In 1789, Jewish residents numbered about 100 of the city's 3,700 residents.

5 The Egyptian Building
1223 EAST MARSHALL STREET



Egyptian Building, late-19th century, *The Valentine, Cook Collection*

Built in 1845, this is the first permanent home of the VCU Medical Center and it is considered one of the finest examples of Egyptian Revival architecture. The Egyptian style was chosen because the origins of modern medicine can be traced back to Egypt. The building was designed by architect Thomas Stewart. As you pass, check out the fence outside the Egyptian Building and keep an eye out for decorative mummy casings with adorable mummy toes!

6 Randolph Minor Hall / First African Baptist Church
301 COLLEGE STREET

First Baptist Church was founded in 1780. The early church ministered a mixed-race congregation. In the mid-1800s, the congregation separated and the white members moved two blocks up the street. State law required that an all-white committee oversee the Black congregation and a white minister serve as pastor. However, after the fall of the Confederacy, Dr. James H. Holmes was elected the first Black pastor in 1867, serving for thirty-two years. This building was built in 1876; in 1953, the church relocated and the building was sold to VCU Medical Center.

7 Monumental Church
1224 EAST BROAD STREET



Monumental Church, late-19th century, *The Valentine, Cook Collection*

On the day after Christmas 1811, a theatre on this site was destroyed by a terrible fire. 71 people, mostly women and children, were killed in the tragedy, including the Governor of Virginia. Fatalities might have been greater if not for acts of heroism from such people as Dr. James D. McCaw, who lowered a dozen women from windows into the waiting arms of Gilbert Hunt, an enslaved blacksmith. The remains of the dead, including enslaved individuals who died in the fire, are buried together in a crypt underneath the altar of Monumental Church, which was erected as a memorial to the victims. Monumental Church was designed by America's first native-born architect, Robert Mills. A marble monument on the church's portico bears the names of those who were lost in the fire.

8 Hunton Student Center / First Baptist Church
1110 EAST BROAD STREET

This Greek Revival building was completed in 1841 for the white congregation that split from the original First Baptist Church. The building was designed by architect Thomas Walter. VCU purchased the building in 1939 and in the 1940s, it became their student social center.

9 Virginia Executive Mansion
CAPITOL SQUARE



Governor's Mansion, 1880s, The Valentine, Cook Collection

The Governor's mansion was designed by architect Alexander Parris in the Federal style and was completed in 1813 at the cost of roughly \$20,000. It is the oldest continually occupied Governor's mansion in the country.

10 Old City Hall
1001 EAST BROAD STREET



City Hall, January 15, 1961, The Valentine

Built in 1886 from James River granite, Old City Hall is considered a masterpiece of Victorian Gothic design, noticeable in the arched windows and doorways. Asa Snyder, a master of cast iron architecture, designed a three story painted cast iron atrium for the ornate interior. With the completion of a new City Hall in 1971, Old City Hall closed its doors and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1969.

11 City Hall
900 EAST BROAD STREET

Once the tallest building in Richmond, New City Hall, as many Richmonder's call it, boasts a wonderful observation deck on the 18th floor with a 360-degree view of the city, accessible anytime City Hall is open.

12 John Marshall House
818 EAST MARSHALL STREET



John Marshall House, early-20th century, The Valentine, Cook Collection

John Marshall served as Chief Justice on the Supreme Court from 1801-1835 and his influential decisions, such as *Marbury v. Madison*, helped shape the principle of judicial review. Marshall is credited with establishing the Supreme Court's role in the federal government.

Marshall had his home built in Richmond's historic Court End neighborhood in 1790 and lived here for forty-five years until his death. The home remained in the Marshall family until the Chief Justice's granddaughters sold the land to the City of Richmond in 1907. In 1911 to avoid demolition, it was placed in the care of Preservation Virginia to be restored and opened to the public.

13 Decatur Davis House
1001 EAST CLAY STREET

As you turn onto Clay Street, notice how residential the street still looks. The 1000 block of East Clay Street is an excellent representation of how Court End would have appeared in the late-19th century. The Decatur Davis House was built in 1879 and designed by the architect Albert Lawrence West. Today the house serves as the administrative offices of the Valentine Museum.

14 Leigh House & William H. Grant House
1000 EAST CLAY STREET & 1008 EAST CLAY STREET

Both the Leigh and Grant houses are representative of homes built in early-19th century Court End: big, square and right on the street, with details in the Italianate architectural style. After being residences, both homes eventually became part of Sheltering Arms Hospital now part of VCU.

15 The Valentine / Bransford-Cecil House
1015 EAST CLAY STREET

Frederick Bransford, a commission merchant and tobacconist, originally built this imposing Greek Revival style house around 1840 on North 5th Street. The Valentine Museum purchased the house in 1954 and moved it to its present location to prevent its demolition. Next door is the Valentine Annex. These three townhouses were built around 1870 as investment properties. In 1938, they were bought and remodeled to display the Valentine Museum's collection.