

Welcome to Capitol Square

In 1779 the capital of Virginia was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond. The legislature met in wood-framed buildings at 14th and Cary streets. Six squares of land were selected to house the Capitol grounds. The cornerstone of the Capitol building was laid in 1785 and by 1788 it was ready for the legislature to move in.



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



1 Washington Equestrian Monument

The Washington Equestrian Monument was built to honor George Washington, Commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and our country's first President. It was originally built to hold the remains of Washington, but his family did not want his remains to leave Washington's home and burial place at Mt. Vernon.

Virginia's prominent role in the revolution is represented by the bronze statues of six historic figures with smaller allegorical figures reflecting the person's revolutionary contribution.

► **View the second tier of statues by walking counter clockwise.**

1.1 John Marshall, Justice

Marshall served as an officer in the Revolutionary War, but his real contribution to the country was his position as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for over 30 years.

1.2 Andrew Lewis, Colonial Times

Andrew Lewis served under Washington in the French and Indian War and then served as Brigadier General during the Revolutionary War.

1.3 Patrick Henry, Revolution

Henry gave one of the most famous speeches calling for revolution nearby at St. John's in Church Hill stating, "Give me liberty or give me death."



1.4 George Mason, Bill of Rights

He authored the Virginia Bill of Rights which became the basis for the U.S. Bill of Rights.

1.5 Thomas Jefferson, Independence

Among other things, Jefferson was author of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, founder of the University of Virginia, and 3rd President of the United States.

1.6 Thomas Nelson Jr., Finance

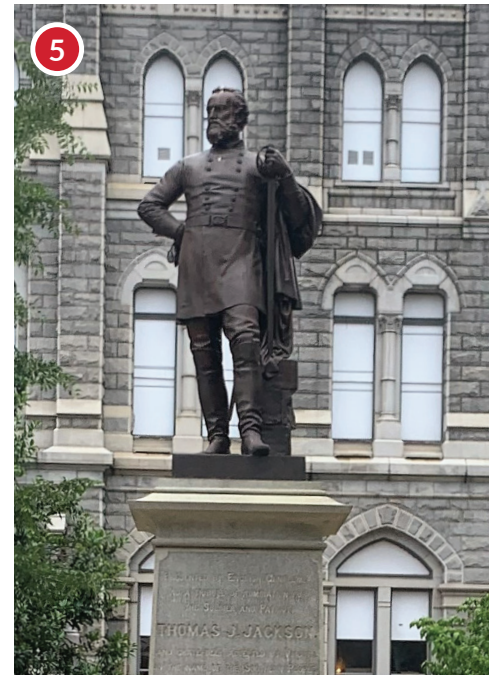
A signer of the Declaration of Independence and Brigadier General in the Virginia militia.

2 Zero Mile Marker

Placed here in 1929, this marker is the official Virginia highway point of measurement. When you see highway signs with miles to Richmond, have you ever wondered which point is used to measure the distance? This is the spot.

3 Edgar Allan Poe Statue

Poe was born to traveling actors in 1809. His parents died when he was young and Poe was taken in by Richmond's Allan family. Poe attended the University of Virginia, but when he could not afford the tuition and his adopted father would not cover his expenses, Poe and Allan had a falling out that they never repaired. Poe began publishing his work at 18. He



was the editor of *The Southern Literary Messenger*, the most popular magazine in the south. Poe went on to publish *The Raven* and is credited with inventing the modern detective story with *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*.

4 Governor William Smith Statue

William Smith twice served as Governor of Virginia, as well as a U.S. Congressman, a state senator, and a general in the Confederate Army. He earned the nickname "Extra Billy" in 1831 for repeatedly requesting extra compensation as a mail carrier from Washington, D.C. to Milledgeville, Georgia. The statue was unveiled in 1906.

5 Stonewall Jackson

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson was born in Clarksburg, Virginia. A graduate of West Point, he served as a Confederate general under Robert E. Lee during the Civil War, leading troops at Manassas, Antietam and Fredericksburg. Jackson lost an arm and died after he was accidentally shot by his own troops at the Battle of Chancellorsville. The statue was unveiled in 1875.



6 Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire

A prominent doctor during the Civil War, this memorial for Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire was erected in 1904. After the Civil War ended, Dr. McGuire returned to Richmond, Virginia where he became chair of surgery at the Medical College of Virginia. During his career, Dr. McGuire was president of the American Medical Association, founded St. Luke's Hospital and Training School for Nurses and helped found the Medical Society of Virginia.

7 Virginia Civil Rights Memorial

The Civil Rights Memorial, installed in 2008, honors 16-year-old Barbara Johns, who led a 1951 walkout at her Farmville, Virginia, high school to protest poor conditions under the "separate but equal" Jim Crow policy. Attorneys Oliver White Hill and Spottswood Robinson III filed a lawsuit for immediate school integration, which merged with other cases to form *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. The Supreme Court's unanimous ruling struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine, ending legal segregation in public schools and challenging systemic racism across the South.

8 Virginia Executive Mansion

The Governor's Mansion was designed by Alexander Parris and was completed in 1813 at the cost of roughly \$20,000. It is the oldest continually occupied Governor's mansion. The Mansion, which is both a Virginia and National Historic Landmark, was restored and furnished with antiques in the early 20th century.

Virginia governors may serve multiple terms, but they may not be consecutive.

9 Virginia State Seal

The Virginia State Seal was designed in 1779, and has remained largely unchanged since. It includes Virginia's motto, "Sic Semper Tyrannis," which means "Thus Always to Tyrants."

The two figures depict an allegory of the motto - the first, Virtus, dressed as a warrior and representing Virginia, stands dominant over a second fallen figure, meant to represent King George III and Great Britain. The fallen figure holds the tools of the tyrant, a whip and chain. His fallen crown is nearby, symbolizing American's victory over Britain.

10 Virginia State Capitol

Thomas Jefferson designed the Virginia State Capitol, inspired by the Maison Carrée, a Roman temple in France. It was the first Roman-style building in the U.S., symbolizing Jefferson's break from British architecture. The Capitol was built by a mix of free and enslaved laborers; free Black and white workers were paid, while enslaved individuals were forced to work without compensation, with their owners profiting. Completed in 1788, it has housed the General Assembly, the oldest elected legislature in the Western Hemisphere. During the Civil War, it hosted both the Virginia legislature and the Confederate legislature. The wings were added in the early 20th century.

11 Capitol Square Fountain

In the early years, Capitol Square was a weed filled open space, where animals grazed. In 1816, the Virginia General Assembly hired Maximilian Godefroy to lay out a formal garden. In 1818, this space was enclosed in the wrought iron fence still standing today. In 1850, John Notman redesigned the landscape, introducing native plants and curved walkways. Notman channeled springs to supply two fountains near its southeast and southwest corners. These fountains are now fed by the city water supply.

Given its park-like atmosphere, many people enjoy visiting the square. In addition, this space is often used by protestors to make demands of their elected officials.

12 Bell Tower

The red brick bell tower has stood since 1824, when it replaced an earlier wooden bell tower that was closer to the Capitol. It was once used as a guard house and the bell warned of fires. During the Civil War, the bell sounded when Union troops approached the city. Since the 1930s the bell is rung to call the Virginia General Assembly into session. The building is also the home of the Virginia Capitol Foundation, an organization that supports the restoration and preservation of historic Capitol Square.

13 The Mantle

Designed by Alan Michelson, a Mohawk member of Six Nations of the Grand River, *Mantle*, was dedicated in 2018 and incorporates a spiraling walk that leads to a meditation circle and fountain engraved with the names of the 11 tribes recognized by Virginia and 20 rivers associated with them. *Mantle*'s spiral shape derives from Chief Powhatan's *Mantle*, a large deerskin vest embroidered with snail shells sewn in spiral clusters thought to represent the 34 tribes of the Powhatan chiefdom.

14 Voices from the Garden: Virginia Women's Monument

"Voices from the Garden," the Virginia Women's Monument, was dedicated in 2019, with the unveiling of the first seven of eleven statues. In the United States less than 10% of statues are of women. These statues and the Wall of Honor, listing more than 200 women, help tell a more complete story of Virginia over the past 400 years. Here are a few of the women.

14.1 Adèle Clark, Suffragist

The Equal Suffrage League was co-founded by Clark in 1909 and became one of the most vital suffrage organizations in the South. After years of lobbying, the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was passed in 1920, giving women the right to vote.

14.2 Laura Lu Scherer Copenhaver, Entrepreneur

Copenhaver was raised in Smyth County, graduated from Marion College and taught there for over 20 years. In the 1920s, as Director of Information for the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, she emphasized the importance of cooperative marketing of farm products to improve the standard of living for farm families. Copenhaver started a company called Rosemont out of her home, hiring local women to produce textiles and other household items. The popular business attracted customers



from throughout the United States and abroad. Copenhaver oversaw the business until her death in 1940.

14.3 Elizabeth Hobbs Keckly, Seamstress

Born into slavery in Dinwiddie County, Keckly became an accomplished seamstress and in 1855 she purchased her and her son's freedom. She moved to Washington, DC and established a business, eventually becoming the dressmaker for Mary Todd Lincoln. Keckly published her autobiography, *Behind the Scenes, Or, Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House* in 1868.

14.4 Mary Draper Ingles, Frontierswoman

Mary's family lived in a farming settlement called Draper's Meadow. During the French and Indian War, their settlement was attacked by Shawnee warriors. Mary and others were taken captive and they were marched to the Shawnee village in Ohio. Mary and another woman planned an escape. With winter coming, the women made their escape without supplies and travelled more than 500 miles to reach home. Ten years after her death at 83, her son, Col. John Ingles, wrote about his mother's harrowing journey.

14.5 Cockacoeske, Queen of Pamunkey Tribe

Little is known about the life of Cockacoeske before she succeeded her husband as Pamunkey Chief in 1656. Cockacoeske, an astute leader and skillful politician, ensured that several tribes were united under her authority for the 1677 signing of the Treaty of Middle Plantation. She ruled the Pamunkey until her death in 1686.

14.6 Anne Burras Laydon, Jamestown Colonist

Burras, age 14, arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1608 as an indentured maid for her employer, Mistress Forrest. They are the first two known English women in the Jamestown colony. Burras would marry one of the original settlers, John Laydon, in December 1608. This strong young woman survived disease, the starving time and a war with the Powhatan Indians.

14.7 Virginia Estelle Randolph, Educator

The child of formerly enslaved people, Randolph completed her education at the age of sixteen. In 1892 she began teaching and developed her unique approach to education; learning through doing. Randolph's work took her throughout the South and earned her a national and international reputation as a leader in education.

Explore Richmond Stories

Richmond's City history museum, the Valentine has been collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond's 400-year history for over a century. Located in the heart of historic downtown, the Valentine is a place for residents and tourists to discover the diverse stories that tell the broader history of this important region.