

Welcome to The Fan

This tour highlights Richmond's Fan District, offering a glimpse into the city's history and architecture as it grew from the late 1880s onward. The district, bordered by Monument Avenue, Monroe Park, Floyd Avenue, and Arthur Ashe Boulevard, developed into a one-square-mile neighborhood featuring a mix of architectural styles, including Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, and Art Deco. It became home to upper- and middle-class white Richmonders, because racial covenants in the 20th century excluded African Americans from some areas.

Begin on the corner of Kensington and Stafford Avenues.



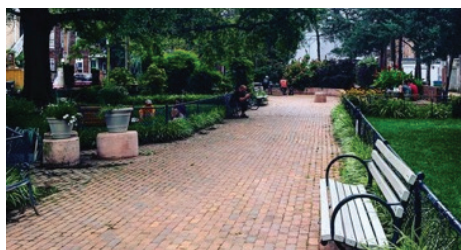
For a detailed map and more guided tours, use this QR code.

1 Corner of Kensington and Stafford



The neighborhood includes a variety of homes, with stained-glass windows, tiled porches, and decorative ironwork. You may also notice brass plaques marking the year a house was built, and in some cases, additional plaques recognizing participation in events like the Holiday House Tour or the Women's Club Kitchen & Garden Tour. As you walk, appreciate the diversity in architectural details and the area's unique blend of history and design.

2 Scuffletown Park 418 STRAWBERRY STREET



The land that encompasses The Fan was originally part of the Richmond estate that William Byrd III inherited in 1744 from his father, William Byrd II, and then sold to investors via a 1768 land lottery. By 1791, the area around this park had become popularly known as Scuffletown, most likely due to a minor

scuffle between American militia and Benedict Arnold's British troops that took place nearby in 1781.

In 1795, Scuffletown had about a dozen buildings, including the Scuffletown Tavern. However, as new turnpikes and the James River and Kanawha Canal reduced travel in the early 1800s, the area's development slowed. In 1816, developers proposed a new town called Sydney, but the plan was abandoned due to a national economic downturn. Despite this setback, the proposed layout influenced the area's later fan-shaped street pattern. Residential growth began in 1889 when Richmond's electric streetcar system connected the area to downtown. By the 1920s, it was fully developed, and Scuffletown Tavern was demolished in 1912 to make way for new homes. In the 1950s, the area was rebranded as The Fan District, named for its triangular street layout extending from Monroe Park to Arthur Ashe Boulevard. Scuffletown Park, located south of the tavern site, was established in 1974 and redesigned by volunteers in 1999 as a community greenspace.

3 First Church of Christ, Scientist 1836 PARK AVENUE



As Richmond residents slowly moved west of the city into The Fan during the late 19th century, churches were established to serve the area's growing spiritual needs. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, located on the northeast corner of Park Avenue and Meadow Street, was built in 1907 in the Classical Revival style. In 1929, the congregation sold the building to the Society of Friends and moved to a new Classical Revival church at 2201

Monument Ave., where it remains active today.

4 Meadow Park 401 N. MEADOW STREET

Meadow Park, located at the intersection of Park Avenue, Stuart Avenue, and Meadow Street, was created to support Richmond's westward residential expansion. The city acquired the land through condemnation in 1904, initially naming it Cutshaw Park after city engineer Wilfred Cutshaw, but the name never gained local popularity. In 1930, a monument was erected in the park to honor the First Regiment of Virginia, a state militia formed in 1754, with members including George Washington and Patrick Henry. The monument's base, inscribed with details of the regiment's service in seven wars, supported a bronze statue of a colonial infantryman. This statue was pulled down during protests on June 19, 2020, and later removed by the city.

5 Monument Methodist Church 1801 PARK AVENUE



In 1911, a Methodist congregation that previously worshipped a few blocks away erected a new church building on the southwest corner of Park and Allen Avenues and named it Monument Methodist Church. The Greek Revival building featured a prominent temple-like portico and a domed sanctuary. The church was extensively damaged by fire in 1950, and the congregation then merged with another group to create Reveille United Methodist Church

on Cary Street Road. The church was rebuilt in 1952 and used by several other groups over the years, including Park Avenue Methodist Church and Community Church of God in Christ. As of July 2020, the building has been decommissioned as a church and is listed for sale.

6 Lombardy and Park Avenue Triangle Park

347 N. LOMBARDY STREET

The triangular green space created by the juncture of Lombardy Street and Park and Hanover Avenues is a popular destination for families with children. Created in 1991, Lombardy & Park Avenue Triangle Park (often called Lombardy Park) is surrounded by a low brick wall, with wrought-iron gate access on each side. The park contains a large playground, a sandbox and benches. Each autumn, the park hosts a family pumpkin carving event. (Note: Dogs are not allowed inside this park.)

7 Scott-Talcott School

205 N. LOMBARDY STREET



As more families moved into The Fan at the turn of the 20th century, both public and private schools were established for the benefit of area children. The building at 205 N. Lombardy St., which was constructed in 1905, originally housed the Scott-Talcott School, a private primary school for boys and girls. It has now been renovated into a multi-unit apartment building.

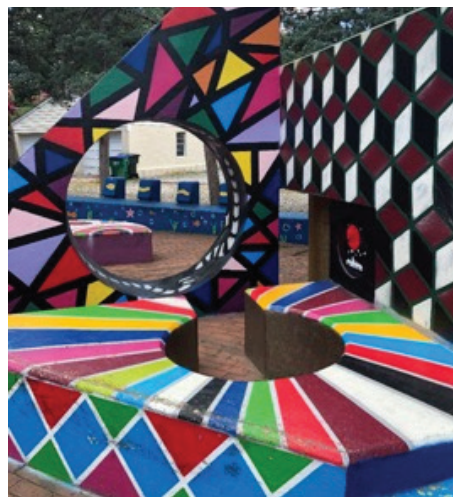
8 Protestant Episcopal Church Home for Ladies

1621 GROVE AVENUE



A number of homes for elderly women were established in The Fan at the turn of the 20th century. The Protestant Episcopal Church Home for Ladies (1875-1975) operated at the southeast corner of Grove and Vine avenues from 1909 to 1956, erecting this Classical Revival building in 1920. Today, the building is known as The Columns on Grove and provides affordable apartment living for people aged 55 and older.

9 Paradise Park

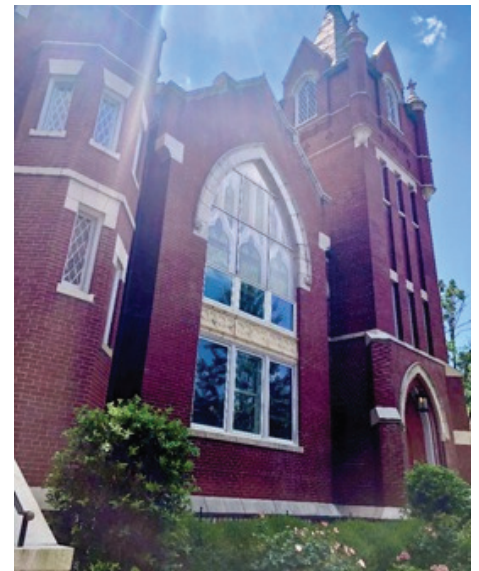


Turn left on Vine Avenue, cross the street and walk a half-block south to the alley you'll see on your right. Turn right and walk west down the alley to Paradise Park.

Paradise Park, named for the large paradise tree in its center, is a hidden trove of whimsical, geometrical public art. It was completed in 1973 from a design by Williamsburg architect/artist Carlton Abbott, and has won several awards for its architecture and design. The park's brightly painted concrete features have been decorated in different ways by various artists over the years. As you look around the small area, you might notice shapes and borders painted to represent different environments, including a meadow, the desert, the ocean, and outer space.

10 Hanover Avenue Christian Church

1723 HANOVER AVENUE



The red brick church building located at 1723 Hanover Ave., at the corner of Hanover and Allen avenues, was erected in 1913 and was previously Hanover Avenue Christian Church. After almost 90 years of existence, Hanover Avenue Christian Church closed, and in 2004, the building was sold and converted into seven luxury units. The building is now called The Sydney Condominiums, in honor of the town that was once planned for this area. Recently, one of the condos at The Sydney sold for \$750,000.

11 Halloween on Hanover
CORNER OF HANOVER
AVENUE AND
MEADOW STREET



“Halloween on Hanover,” Richmond’s premier Halloween event, takes place on Hanover Avenue between Lombardy and Strawberry streets. It began in the 1970s as a safe trick-or-treating alternative amid fears of tainted candy. By 2006, the celebration moved to the 1900 block.

Each year, residents go all out with costumes, elaborate decorations, and street parties. Trees are draped in orange lights, and the 1900 block is closed to traffic for a few hours. Locals contribute money for insurance, barricades, and security, and often distribute up to 5,000 pieces of candy. The event draws around 10,000 visitors from across the city, earning recognition from the *Wall Street Journal* in 2016 as one of the best places to trick-or-treat in the country.

12 Businesses in the Fan District
2225 HANOVER AVENUE



The building at 2225 Hanover Ave., on the corner of Hanover Avenue and Strawberry Street, is a prime example of how architects integrated commercial properties into The Fan District. To preserve the residential look, businesses were placed on corners, designed to resemble houses. Retail entrances faced the intersection, while residential space was accessed through a side door. Built in 1911, the building housed Kern’s Pharmacy, later known as Kern’s Drugstore.

Similarly, at 102 N. Lombardy, a building that began as the Manuel Cleaning Company in 1910 is now a laundromat. Operated by Manuel Derderian’s family until his death in 1957, it was the company’s headquarters, with multiple locations across the city. Derderian, an Armenian immigrant, played a key role in its growth.

13 William F. Fox Elementary School
2300 HANOVER AVENUE



William F. Fox (1836-1909) lived in The Fan District and served as superintendent of Richmond Public Schools from 1889 until shortly before his death. In 1911, this elementary school was built and named in his honor. An eight-room addition was constructed in 1922. The school serves an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse student body composed of approximately 450 students in pre-K through fifth grade. The school was damaged by a fire in February 2022. Preservation Virginia named it one of the state’s most endangered historic places, and Richmond Public Schools plans to rebuild.

Left to right: Halloween on Hanover, 2016, photo by Tre Rockenbach. Commercial building, 2020, photo by Tre Rockenbach. William F. Fox Elementary School, c. 1915, Cook Collection, The Valentine.

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.



Visit: Tuesday - Sunday | 10a.m. - 5p.m.
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