**RRRC WMTT Dec 14, 2024 – 7 miles**

### ROUTE

Start at Monument Avenue

Turn left onto Arthur Ashe Boulevard

Turn right onto Cary Street – 0.67 mi

Turn right onto Thompson Street – 1.45 mi

Turn left onto Grove Avenue – 1.70 mi

Turn right onto Libbie Avenue – 3.70 mi

Turn right onto Patterson Avenue – 4.19 mi

Turn left onto Willow Lawn Drive – 4.58 mi

Turn right onto Wythe Avenue – 4.93 mi

Turn left onto Antrim Avenue – 5.88 mi

Turn right onto Monument Avenue – 5.91 mi

End – 7.07 mi

### ROUTE WITH BASIC NARRATION

Start at Monument Avenue

Turn left onto Arthur Ashe Boulevard

Turn right onto Cary Street and run through Carytown – 0.67 mi

Turn right onto Thompson Street – 1.45 mi

Turn left onto Grove Avenue – 1.70 mi

Entering the iconic retail section of Westhampton – 3.61 mi

Turn right onto Libbie Avenue – 3.70 mi

Turn right onto Patterson Avenue – 4.19 mi

Turn left onto Willow Lawn Drive – 4.58 mi

Turn right onto Wythe Avenue – 4.93 mi

Across Monument Avenue to your left is Richmond’s oldest surviving shopping center, Willow Lawn

Turn left onto Antrim Avenue – 5.88 mi

Turn right onto Monument Avenue – 5.91 mi

End – 7.07 mi

MapMyRun <https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/5824512802/>

RunGo directions only <https://routes.rungoapp.com/route/fU6QreypMp>

RunGo with narration <https://routes.rungoapp.com/route/ydp7Hv8SIy>

# West End Shopping Traditions

## Carytown

Carytown’s retail history begins in 1938, when **Cary Court** opened in 1938 as Richmond’s first “strip mall,” developed by the C.F. Sauer family. Two rectangular wings were added in 1949 and 1951.

By the 1960s, Carytown had developed a reputation as a shopping area with a diversity of stores and restaurants. It expanded along Cary Street between what is now the 195 expressway and Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

Longtime local favorite businesses in Carytown include:

**The Byrd Theatre** was built in 1928 as a Grand Movie Palace (like Loew’s theaters around the U.S.). Now a state and National Historic Landmark, the theater had a hard time keeping up with cinema multiplexes. In its heyday, it presented Saturday night performances of the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, which rose from the floor for performances. After suffering degradation, it’s in the process of gradual renovations.

**New York Deli** is Carytown’s oldest restaurant (also claiming to be Richmond’s oldest still-operating restaurant). It opened in 1929 and moved to its present location in 1934, adding a rooftop bar in 2022.

**Carytown Burgers & Fries** began in Carytown in 1999, in a building that dated to 1841 as the toll taker’s house along Westham Plank Road, now Cary Street.

Other classic, nostalgic food stops in Carytown include **Babe’s of Carytown** (1979), **Jean-Jacques Bakery** (opened 1983, closed in 2020), **Ellwood Thompson’s Local Market** (1989, with new ownership in 2023), **For the Love of Chocolate** (opened 1992, previously at Cary and Colonial and now in Cary Court), and **Mom’s Siam** (opened in 2000, previously a block west).

A recent addition, **The Jasper** (2018), was named for Jasper Crouch, a free Black man and popular caterer in the mid to late 19th century. Crouch was especially known for his roasted seasoned pork, his concoctions of punch, and his mint juleps.

The commercial strip now markets itself as a “Mile of Style” and features a wide range of retail, restaurants, and service businesses.

## Westhampton

Richmond’s electric streetcar system, which operated from 1888 until the 1940s, added a 1901 route to Westhampton in 1901, terminating at an amusement park with “a merry-go-round, a dancing pavilion with a cafe and a shooting gallery” (per “Hidden History of Richmond”) where the University of Richmond is now. In the 1920s, Richmond’s West End began to develop as an automobile suburb, populated primarily by affluent Richmonders.

Businesses opened to serve the neighborhood, before Euclidian zoning had begun restricting the mingling of business and residential.

Three longtime mainstays near Libbie and Grove were **Westhampton Theater**, a 1938 movie house, **Phil’s Continental Lounge**, which served the neighborhood for 75 years, and the **Tempo Room**, a rowdy watering hole and topless bar.

Along Libbie Avenue, **Libbie Market** began as a Lukhard’s store in the late 1960s, then evolved to Joe’s Market in 2001 (owned by the Ukrops family and named after Jim and Bobby Ukrop’s dad, Joe, who founded the Ukrop’s Super Markets in 1937). Libbie Market was founded in 2010 after the Ukrop’s stores were purchased by Ahold-Giant and the small specialty store was set to close. Buster Wright and David Taylor, both Ukrop’s employees, decided to fulfill their dreams of owning the market.

At the intersection of Libbie and Patterson, **Westwood Pharmacy** offers a combination pharmacy, gift store, and fountain-restaurant, for a throwback to earlier times. The **Shops at 5807** hosts more than 30 vendors under one roof, each selling a unique collection of home décor, clothing, jewelry, stationery, books, and more. **Pleasants Hardware** continues to serve Richmond as a neighborhood hardware store since opening in 1915. It changed hands in the 1980s, when the C.F. Sauer company gained ownership, then again in 2016. The first Pleasants store was on West Broad Street, where Whole Foods now stands.

**Westhampton Pastry Shop** on Patterson opened in 1952, presenting a variety of homemade baked goods and sweets, baked from scratch daily, from bread to cakes, pastries, pies, and donuts.

Today, businesses still thrive near the intersection of Libbie and Grove and Libbie and Patterson.

## Willow Lawn

The Willow Lawn Shopping Center has undergone many changes since it first opened in 1956, with stores including Safeway, Giant Food, G.C. Murphy, J.C. Penney, Peoples Drug and Woolworth’s. It is Richmond’s oldest surviving shopping center. In the late 1980s, new owners enclosed part of the space and incorporated more stores and a food court. As more malls opened in Richmond, Willow Lawn lost many of its anchor stores and seemed to be deteriorating, but other renovations and rebranding efforts kept it alive. More changes are in the works, as the owner has plans to redevelop into a mixed-use neighborhood adding residences and offices.