# ROUTE – DIRECTIONS ONLY

Start at Monument Avenue

Turn left onto Arthur Ashe Boulevard

Turn left onto Cary St. – 0.67 mi

Turn right onto Robinson St. – 0.81 mi

Continue left onto Robinson St. – 0.98 mi

Turn slight right onto Lakeview Avenue – 1.17 mi

Turn left onto Westover Rd. – 1.21 mi

Head straight - with Swan Lake on your left to merge onto Amelia St. – 1.32 mi

Turn right onto Hampton St. – 1.71 mi

Turn left onto Colorado Avenue – 1.88 mi

Turn left onto Meadow St. – 1.92 mi

Turn left onto Monument Avenue – 3.27 mi

End – 3.87 mi

# ROUTE – WITH NOTES

Start at Monument Avenue

Turn left onto Arthur Ashe Boulevard

Turn left onto Cary St. – 0.67 mi

Turn right onto Robinson St. – 0.81 mi

Continue left onto Robinson St. – 0.98 mi

Turn slight right onto Lakeview Avenue – 1.17 mi

Turn left onto Westover Rd. – 1.21 mi

- Poplar Vale Cemetery on your left – 1.26 mi

Head straight - with Swan Lake on your left to merge onto Amelia St. – 1.32 mi

Turn right onto Hampton St. – 1.71 mi

Turn left onto Colorado Avenue – 1.88 mi

Turn left onto Meadow St. – 1.92 mi

Turn left onto Monument Avenue – 3.27 mi

End – 3.87 mi

MapMyRun: <https://www.mapmyrun.com/routes/view/5838216112/>

RunGo with narration: <https://routes.rungoapp.com/route/R38MX2ug6B>

RunGo directions only: <https://routes.rungoapp.com/route/pStsXiHM8y>

# Richmond Remembrances

From tombstones, monuments, and historic markers to street names and more, people find ways to memorialize the dead, including loved ones as well as influential leaders. We’ll pass by – and run over – a few of those this week.

Street names in Richmond pay homage to some historic figures. Early on, street names started with numbers for north-to-south streets and letters for streets running east to west. When Richmond became the state capital in 1780, city leaders created new names for the east-west streets based on the alphabet:

* A Street became “Arch Street” (the only thing that remains of the street is at the entrance to the NewMarket Corporation Building, in front of Gambles Hill Park, at the end of 3rd and 4th streets).
* B Street became “Byrd Street” for the city’s founding father.
* C Street became Canal Street.
* D Street became Dover Plank Road, which was later renamed Cary Street for [Colonel Archibald Cary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald_Cary), a Virginian who served in the House of Burgesses (the legislative body of the colony) from 1756-1776.
* E Street became Elm Street, which eventually was called Main Streets because it was the main thoroughfare.
* F Street became Franklin Street, for Benjamin Franklin.
* G Street became Grace Street because it was home to lots of churches.
* H Street was first called Haxall after the Haxall Mills, but since it was the broadest street in the city, people had called it Broad Street, which eventually became its official name.

## Cary Street

Cary Street was named after Col. Archibald Cary (1721-1787),a Virginia planter, soldier, politician, and landowner.

## Robinson Street

Richmond banker Anthony Robinson Jr. built a summerhouse in the late 1820s beside what’s now the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Robinson expanded the house in 1856 to a Italianate mansion and it became a year-round residence for the Robinson family.

## Poplar Vale Cemetery

The stone wall behind the Round House encloses the privately owned Sheilds-Robinson Family Cemetery. The Sheilds and Robinson families owned the Poplar Vale estate beside the original Byrd Park. (The Sheilds name was later changed the spelling to “Shields.”) By 1917, the original Byrd Park had expanded to include the Poplar Vale estate.

## Monument Avenue

This grand avenue was established for dual purposes: as the start of a fashionable (and lucrative) neighborhood and to celebrate the Confederacy and its ideas. The first statue, of Robert E. Lee, was erected in 1890, guided by Gov. Fitzhugh Lee (the general’s nephew) and Conservative Democrats. The dedication coincided with a Confederate veterans’ reunion that drew 50 former generals and 15,000 uniformed veterans. Approximately 100,000 people attended.

Other statues followed: monuments to General “Jeb” Stuart and Confederate President Jefferson Davis were unveiled in 1907, General Stonewall Jackson in 1919, and Confederate Navy chief Matthew Fontaine Maury in 1929.

Between 1900 and 1925, fashionable homes, churches, and apartment buildings rose in the segregated neighborhood. The district has had its challenges in maintaining its historic aesthetics, but protections in the latter half of the 20th century helped in maintaining architectural integrity.

In 1996, the Arthur Ashe Jr. statue was erected, honoring an internationally known Black tennis star from Richmond.

In 2020, the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota sparked protests nationwide against racial inequities, especially police brutality against Blacks. In Richmond, those protests centered on the Confederate monuments. Eventually, all Confederate monuments were removed from the avenue. The intersection that once encircled the Lee Monument has been renamed the Marcus-David Peters Circle for a man killed by police during a mental health crisis.