

Compiled by Whitney Shank, March 2007



Historical Religious Icons
Around Richmond

The image is a composite of two photographs. The top photograph shows a city skyline at dusk or night, with buildings illuminated and their lights reflecting on a body of water in the foreground. The bottom photograph shows a daytime view of a city skyline, featuring a prominent tall, dark skyscraper on the left and various other buildings of different heights and colors.

Resource: discoverrichmond.com

Located in Jackson Ward, St. Joseph's Bell Memorial Park honors St. Joseph's Catholic Church, which was the South's first church for people of color.



This plaque rests under the bell. Surrounding this raised feature are bricks with the names of donors to this memorial.



Located at 700 block of North 1st Street

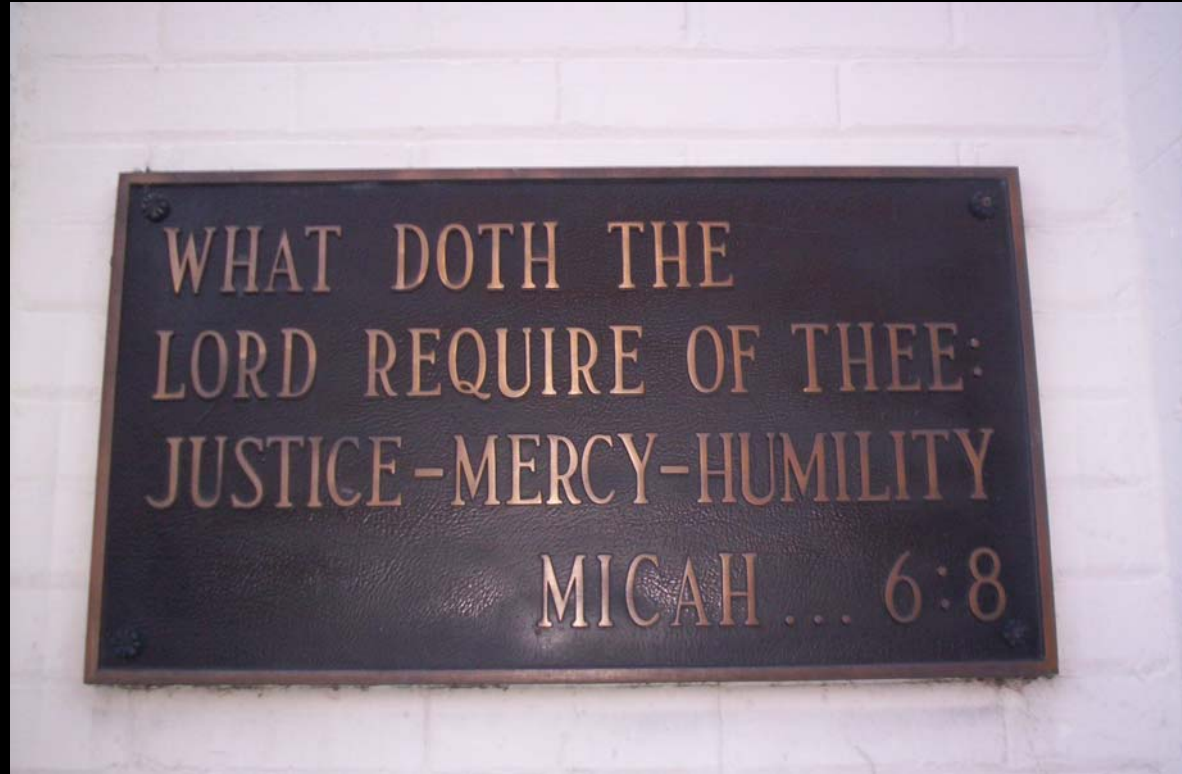
Grace Street got its name in the mid-18th century when the city adopted the typical naming process of alphabetizing streets running east to west. The street was named Grace (the Grace of God) Street because of the number of churches located along it.



Jewish Cemetery is believed to be one of the first Jewish cemeteries in America, dating from the 1790s. This burial ground was established by Isaiah Isaacs for German and Dutch Jews who were early settlers here. By the time of the Civil War, most of the graves had been moved to the newer Hebrew Cemetery established in 1817 at Fourth and Hospital Streets above Shockoe Cemetery.



Located at 21st and Franklin Streets



Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives

In 1938, a German synagogue burned during Kristallnacht. Today a cornerstone remains and the Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives rests upon it. The museum contains artifacts of Jewish life and history.

Located at 1109 West Franklin Street



A three dimensional bronze plaque portraying an equestrian study of the Pioneer Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Francis Asbury, who preached his last sermon on this site. Dedicated by William Sievers October 27, 1921.

Quoted on this plaque:

“An apostle whose only home was his saddle, his parish the continent, with fervent love for his lord and a zeal that never flagged this life long missionary sought the people in the van of advancing pioneers, made strong the moral foundation of the commonwealth, and built up the kingdom of God carried from his bed , frail and spent, to the Methodist church which stood on this spot he preached March 24, 1815 his last sermon.

Happy if with my latest breath I may but gasp his name, preach him to all and cry in death, “Behold, behold the lamb!”

Located at 19th and East Franklin Streets

The wooden cross raised by Capt. Christopher Newport when English explorers first sailed up the James River as far as "the falls" at Richmond is long gone. But a bronze reproduction stands atop a small mountain of river rock along the Canal Walk at South 12th and Byrd streets behind the Alcoa building. It's not terribly far from where it's believed Newport and his small band of men, which included Capt. John Smith, planted the cross on May 24, 1607. Research by the Valentine Richmond History Center indicates the original site was near the 14th Street Bridge, perhaps in the area of the Southern Railway freight depot. The bronze reproduction, which has acquired a green patina with age, was erected by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities in 1907 - the 300th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown - on Gamble's Hill, at the end of Third Street overlooking the James. In the 1980s, the cross was transplanted to a park in Shockoe Slip, and in recent years was moved again to its current location.



Located along the Canal Walk



Fountain erected by the Womens Christian Temperance Union of Richmond City and Henrico County in memory of the crusaders of Hillsboro, Ohio who went out December 19, 1877 “with the weapons of prayer and faith in God to overthrow the liquor traffic.”

Quoted below the dedication:

“ The bravest battle that ever was fought shall I tell you where and when on the maps of the world you will find it not twas fought by the mothers of men.”

Located in Byrd Park- at the intersection of the Boulevard and Idlewood Streets



Little Sister of Lady Liberty Statue

There are over 200 of these replicas in 39 states in the US and several of its possessions and territories. All were erected in the early 1950s by Boy Scout troops* and others to celebrate Scoutings 40th Anniversary theme "Strengthen the Arm of Liberty." The statues are approximately 8 1/2 feet tall without the base, constructed of sheet copper, weigh 290 pounds, and originally cost \$350 plus freight.

Boy Scout Oath:

*On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.*

Located at 32nd Street and East Broad Street

The sundial monument was erected by James H. Dooley to the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph's Academy and Orphan's Asylum in memory of his wife and parents. The sundial was designed after the pillar cross sundial at Corpus Christi College, Oxford England. It is an eight-sided stepped shaftfoot approximately 20 ft high. The south face contains a working upright sundial and is inscribed with directions for its use.



Located at Hampton Street and Pennsylvania Avenue



The Thomas Jefferson Statue rests in the lobby of the Jefferson Hotel. It reads “ Thomas Jefferson Author of the Declaration of American Independence of the Statute for Religious Freedom and Father of the University of Virginia.”

The statue was carved from Carrara marble over a two year period and cost \$12,000 in the 1890s. In 1901, the Jefferson Hotel was ravaged by fire, losing over three-fifths of the building structure. The statue was saved by a group of men, including the sculptor, who pushed the statue onto a mattress and carried it outside though it did suffer damage. It was dropped in the transport out of the hotel and the head broke off. The statue was kept in a neighboring yard, the head in a vault, and eventually the statue was taken back to the sculptor’s house, where repairs were made.

Located at Franklin Street and 1st Street



The First Freedom Center supported the painting of these walls to show the importance of this site. Now a parking lot, this location was where the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was signed into law at the old Richmond Capitol.

The First Freedom Center has replicas of the original documents from this signing, as well as a replica of Jefferson's hand-written letter the state used to structure the act.

Located at 14th and Cary Street

