



It follows a route traveled by some of the thousands of Africans who made their journey south by crossing the James River chained together in a coffer or by getting on ships to New Orleans. The trail then follows a route through the slave markets of Richmond, beside the Reconciliation Statue commemorating the international triangular slave trade, past Lumpkin's Slave Jail and Richmond's African Burial Ground to First African Baptist Church, a center of African American life in pre-Civil War Richmond.



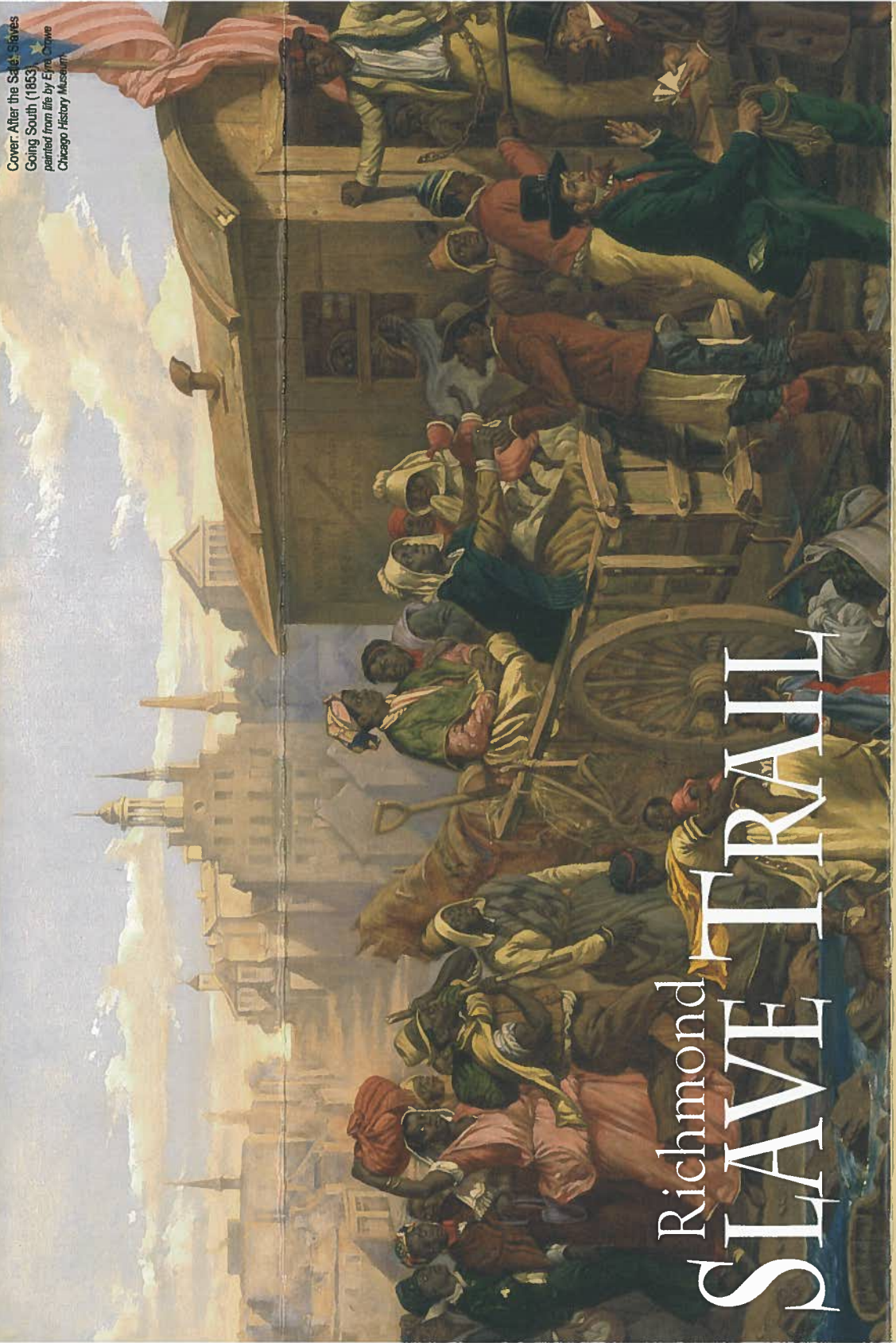
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VENTURE
 richmond



The Richmond Slave Trail is a self-guided walking trail that chronicles the history of the trade of enslaved Africans from Africa to Virginia until 1775 and away from Virginia, especially Richmond, to other locations in the Americas until 1865. It begins at Manchester Docks, which, with Rocketts Landing on the north side of the river, was a major port in the massive downriver Slave Trade, making Richmond the largest source of enslaved Africans on the East Coast of America from 1830 to 1860





1 Crossing the Atlantic

Before 1776, many enslaved Africans were brought up the James River to work in Virginia tobacco and wheat fields. Virginia outlawed importation of Africans from abroad in 1778. Several decades later, the Manchester Docks and Rocketts' Landing became ports for the emerging "downriver" slave trade.



2 Mechanics of Slavery

Upon reaching Virginia, enslaved Africans were forced to walk along the riverbanks and into nearby towns for further sale. The Slave Trade path along the James River's southern shore reflects the transition Africans had to make between their homeland and the strange new world they encountered wherever they were unloaded.



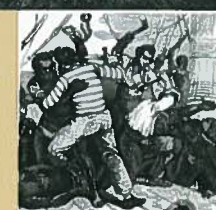
3 Despair of Slavery

"We were handcuffed in pairs, with iron staples and bolts, with a short chain about a foot long uniting the handcuffs and their wearers in pairs. In this manner we were chained alternately by the right and left hand; and the poor man to whom I was thus ironed wept like an infant..."
Charles Ball, 1854



4 Creole Revolt

In 1841, the *Creole* left the port of Richmond en route to New Orleans with Madison Washington and 100 other enslaved Africans, shipped by Robert Lumpkin and other Richmond traders. Once on the high seas, Washington led a mutiny and set a course for Nassau in the Bahamas. The Bahamian government freed Washington and the other enslaved Africans.



5 Native Markets

During the ninety years of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, Virginia colonists, plantation owners and traders purchased roughly 114,000 Africans. After 1746, over 40 percent of the imported, enslaved Africans were brought to the Upper James, at Bermuda Hundred and OsborneSee y Landing.



6 Slavery Challenged

Virginia eased restrictions on manumission, the freeing of slaves, in 1782. By 1800, 20% of Richmond's black population was free. But after Gabriel's attempted revolution in 1800, the General Assembly placed new restrictions on manumission. Congress outlawed the importation of slaves in 1808. By that time, most northern states had banned the internal slave trade and permitted slaves to be freed.



7 Richmond's Burgeoning Trade

As a result of soil exhaustion by tobacco production and natural population increase, Virginia saw a surplus of laborers. Richmond quickly fell into the business of selling this labor and, by 1840, surpassed Alexandria as the most active exporter of enslaved Africans to sugar and cotton plantations in the Deep South, solidifying their economic dependence on forced labor.



8 Transitions

Manchester, which merged with Richmond in 1910, was a pre-Revolutionary port for coal and tobacco, a manufacturing center and a market for enslaved Africans. On the north bank of the James, across Mayo's Bridge, lay the city of Richmond, the financial and cultural center, capital of the state, and eventually the largest slave market north of New Orleans.



9 Mayo's Bridge

John Mayo built his first toll bridge here in 1788 to connect Richmond and Manchester. Africans being sold south from the 19th century markets in Shockoe Bottom, north of the river, would walk in coffles or be transported in carts across the bridge.



10 Use of Arms

As the intensity of the Civil War increased, life for Africans living in Richmond became more dire. They not only endured wartime hardships with the rest of the city's residents, but also fell under increasing official scrutiny. By 1864, thousands of African men had been arrested on the streets by the Provost Marshal and compelled to labor to improve Richmond's defenses.



* Henry Box Brown

In 1849, in order to escape slavery, Henry Brown shipped himself to the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia.



11 James River & Kanawha Canal

First proposed by John Marshall in 1812 to connect Tidewater Virginia with the Ohio River, the canal required for its construction the back-breaking effort of thousands of laborers. After many of the original white Irish laborers died of hyperthermia, they were replaced with enslaved blacks who were thought to be impervious to uncomfortable conditions.



12 Auction Houses

The auction houses in Shockoe Bottom frequently sold human "goods" along with corn, coffee, and other commodities. Slave commerce was concentrated in the roughly 30-block area bounded by Broad, 15th, and 19th Streets and the river. Davenport & Co., located at 15th and Cary streets, was an auction house near the center of the district; portions of the building survived Civil War destruction and are now a part of the present building.



13 Reconciliation Statue

Identical statues in Liverpool, England; Benin, Africa; and Richmond, Virginia memorialize the British, African, and American triangular trade route, now identified as the Reconciliation Triangle. President Mathieu Kerekou of the Republic of Benin apologized for his nation's part in the trade in 1999, as did the Liverpool City Council. Virginia's General Assembly expressed profound regret in 2007 and the governor unveiled this statue with a crowd of thousands of Richmonders.



14 Odd Fellows Hall

Just north of here, on the northeast corner of Franklin and Mayo Streets, was the Odd Fellows Hall. In its basement, below a venue where operas, dance ensembles, and even midget acts performed, was a frequent site of slave auctions in the 1840's and 1850's. A red flag on the basement door indicated that sales were about to take place. The Odd Fellows had been established in England as an inter-racial philanthropic organization. Not so in Richmond.



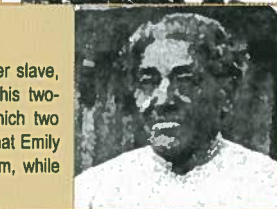
15 Lumpkin's Jail

Lumpkin's Jail was owned by Robert Lumpkin, whose compound included lodging for slave traders, a slave holding facility, an auction house, and a residence for his family. Enslaved Africans held for auction at Lumpkin's Jail referred to it as "the Devil's Half Acre." In 1867 Mary Lumpkin, a black woman who was his widow, rented the complex to a Christian school, a predecessor institution of Virginia Union University.



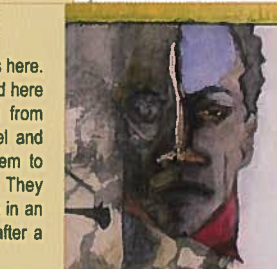
* Winfree Cottage

Most likely built at the end of the Civil War for a former slave, Emily Winfree, by her former owner, David Winfree, this two-room cottage represents a typical slave quarter in which two families occupied a single dwelling. Accounts suggest that Emily raised her five children, fathered by David, in one room, while renting out the other.



16 Richmond's African Burial Ground

Many of Richmond's first citizens lie in unmarked graves here. Richmond's gallows was above on the hillside. Executed here was Gabriel, a charismatic 24-year old blacksmith from Thomas Henry Prosser's Brookfield Plantation. Gabriel and his colleagues believed that Nature's God entitled them to equal station with men and women of all races. They conspired in 1800 to take over the Virginia government in an extensive, sophisticated campaign that was betrayed after a major rainstorm delayed the effort.



17 First African Baptist Church

The First African Baptist Church was founded in 1841 after white members of First Baptist Church sold the building to the 1,708 African American members, both free and enslaved, for \$6,500. The church became a center for Christian worship and an anchor for African American community development at a time when gatherings, of freed men and slaves, outside of church were prohibited.



Directions to start:
From I-95 North & South: Take exit 73 for Maury Street. Make a right onto Maury Street, which turns slightly right and becomes Brander Street. Continue on Brander Street for roughly 1 mile.

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