



to connect Richmond and Manchester (annexed to Richmond in 1894) and it has remained a crossing of the river ever since. On the north side of the River was the Shockoe Valley, originally called "Shacoos" by the Powhatan Indians, who inhabited the area where the tall buildings which grew up on the west side of the valley proclaim Richmond's prominence as a center of banking, finance, and insurance. The prominence dates to the 19th Century, in which the slave trade and slave-financed industry and agriculture generated exorbitant amounts of capital to be invested. One of the two branches of the nation's Federal Reserve Bank was established in Richmond's bank center.



## Richmond SLAVE TRAIL

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- 1 View of Rocketts [Landing] and south side of James River from Libby Hill  
 James River from Libby Hill  
 Libburn photographic print, 1885  
 Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-133092
  - 2 Rocketts Landing  
 Albert C. Peasants, 1840  
 Valentine Richmond History Center Archives
  - 3 Painting, View of Richmond  
 Bouquet de Wolsen, J. L. (Early 19th C.)  
 Virginia Historical Society  
 Museum and Photograph Collections
  - 4 The resurrection of Henry Box Brown at Philadelphia, who escaped from Richmond Va. in a box 3 feet long 2 1/2 ft. deep and 2 ft wide  
 lithograph print on wove paper  
 Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, LC-USZC4-4659
  - 5 Slave Auction at Richmond, VA  
 wood engraving, 1856  
 illus. from: The Illustrated London news, 1856 Sept. 27, p. 315  
 Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, LC-USZ62-15398
  - 7 A Depiction of Lumpkin's Jail  
 Emily Winfree  
 traditional photograph, source unknown
  - 8 Gabriel, 1776-1800  
 artist's interpretation of Gabriel,  
 drawn from written descriptions  
 Ana Edwards, 2002
  - 9 Richmond, Va. First African Church  
 (Broad Street)  
 stereograph, wet collodian, 1865  
 Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, LC-DIG-cwpb-02904
- Cover: After the Sale: Slaves Going South (1853),  
 Chicago History Museum  
 printed from life by Eyr Crowe

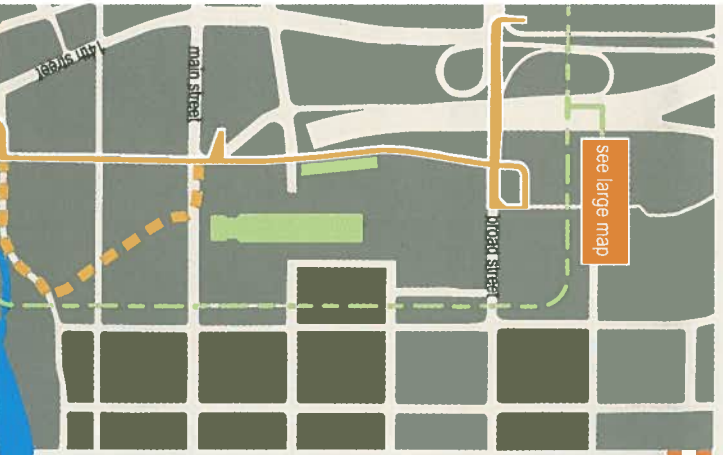


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# Richmond SLAVE TRAIL

## Richmond Slave Trail

see large map



## Richmond Slave Trail

Richmond Slave Trail is a walking trail that chronicles the history of the trade in 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. 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 coffee, 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 the Negro Burial Ground, to First African Baptist Church, a center of African American life in pre-Civil War Richmond.

## Manchester Docks

In the pre-Revolutionary period, Manchester (earlier known as Rocky Ridge) was a busy slave market. Around 1776, the market moved to Richmond with the James River serving as a major avenue for transporting enslaved Africans to and from Virginia tobacco and wheat fields, and for exporting workers to the swamps, cotton and sugar fields, and rice-growing areas of the Deep South. By the 1850's, as many as 10,000 people a month were "sold downriver," contributing significantly to Richmond's antebellum economy. Enslaved Africans were transported to and from Richmond's slave market on the south side of the James (Manchester Docks) as well as north side (Rocketts' Landing).



## Slave Trade Path

The Slave Trade path along the James River's southern shore reflects the transition Africans had to make between their African homelands and the very strange new world they encountered wherever they were unloaded. Although they did not know of Virginia, and had never heard of Richmond, they quickly understood that their chained walk towards an unknown future held no promise and many dangers. After the 1808 ban on the importation of Africans from overseas, Richmond became a center for the export of enslaved Africans by rapidly improving its transportation system. Originally consisting of just the James River, this system expanded over the next five decades to include five railroads as well as improved dirt turnpikes.



### Negro Burial Ground

Many of Richmond's first citizens lie in marked graves here. Richmond's flows was above on the hillside. Located here was Gabriel, an iculate, literate 24-year old blacksmith on Thomas Henry Prosser's Brookfield plantation. Gabriel and his colleagues believed that Nature's God entitled them equal station with men and women of races. They conspired in 1800 to over the Virginia government in an intensive, sophisticated campaign which is betrayed at the last minute.



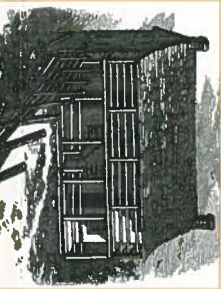
### Winfree Cottage

Just likely built at the end of the Civil War for a former slave, Emily Winfree, her former owner, David Winfree, this 10 room cottage represents a typical five 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. Originally in Manchester, the cottage was rescued from demolition in 2003 and will be moved along the trail. This is one of the proposed locations.



### Lumpkin's Jail

Lumpkin's Jail was owned by Robert Lumpkin, who maximized profits in his neighborhood by including lodging for slave owners, a slave holding facility, an auction house, and a residence for his family. A port city with water, ground and connections, Richmond was linked to the buying markets such as Charleston and New Orleans. Enslaved Africans arrived to Lumpkin's Jail as "the Devil's Half Acre," reflecting the despair and anger of people separated forever from their families. However, Mary Lumpkin, black woman who was Robert's widow, boosted post-Civil-War black education when, in 1867, she rented the complex to a Christian school, which evolved into Virginia Union University.



### Reconciliation Statue

Statues in Liverpool, England; Benin, West Africa; and Richmond, Virginia memorialize the British, African, and American triangular trade route, now identified as the Reconciliation angle. Traders profited from delivering over 100,000 Africans to Virginia between the 1600's and the American Revolution - and at least 250,000 to other North American places before 1808. The "triangle" extended between Liverpool and other large British cities, Benin and other West African regions, and Virginia and other North American colonies. Profits from the sale of enslaved Africans financed major British and North American economic development.



### Auction Houses

There were several dozen such uses in Shockoe Bottom, typically selling human "goods" ranging with corn, coffee, and other commodities. Some sales were part of a larger business; other auctioneers dealt exclusively in slaves. Most slave commerce was concentrated in the roughly 30-block area bounded by 14th, 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. Located here along with the auction houses were holding pens, leve jails, and lodging for slave traders. White Richmonders generally favored slave sales or accepted them as "normal."



### Kanawha Canal

The late 18th-century construction of the canal required a large, mostly slave labor force. African Americans dug the canal. Numerous African-American boatmen traversed the canal, while black Richmonders carried cargo to and from the boats. The Canal became another means for shipping slaves to new owners or slave markets; simultaneously, the enslaved men and women used the canal to enlarge their family and seek life or to escape bondage. Henry Box Brown successfully shipped himself in a box to freedom in Philadelphia in 1849. He is remembered today at the Box Brown Plaza, next to the Canal near Dock and 15th Street.

