**Monument Avenue Preservation Zone**

**Monument Avenue**

### Location

**Street and Number:**
See continuation sheet

**City or Town:**
Richmond

**State:**
Virginia

### Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category (Check One)</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Religious
- Private Residence
- Public Residence
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

### Owner of Property

**Owner's Name:**
Various ownership - public and private

**Street and Number:**
10th and Broad Streets

**City or Town:**
Richmond

**State:**
Virginia

### Location of Legal Description

**Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, Etc.:**
City Hall

**Street and Number:**
10th and Broad Streets

**City or Town:**
Richmond

**State:**
Virginia

### Representation in Existing Surveys

**Title of Survey:**
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #127-174

**Date of Survey:**
1969

**Depositary for Survey Records:**
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

**Street and Number:**
Room 111, Ninth Street State Office Building

**City or Town:**
Richmond

**State:**
Virginia

**Code:** 45
Monument Avenue is a broad, residential boulevard which extends for some five miles from inner Richmond westward into Henrico County. However, what is generally considered to be the "historic," or the most characteristic, section of the street begins at the termination of West Franklin Street at Stuart Circle and extends westward for some fourteen blocks to Roseneath Road. It is within this section that all of the monuments are located. Furthermore, this section is distinguished by a uniform planting of rows of trees along the sides and in the median, and by the distinctive asphalt paving blocks in the traffic lanes, although the paving blocks in the section from the Boulevard to Roseneath Road have been covered over by sheet asphalt.

The first or easternmost monument, the equestrian statue of J. E. B. Stuart, is located at the beginning of the avenue in Stuart Circle. One long block to the west is the Lee statue, located in a broad traffic circle known as Lee Circle. Four more blocks to the west stands the monumental Davis memorial, distinguished by its tall central column and Doric colonnade. The equestrian statue of Stonewall Jackson is located at the important intersection of the Boulevard and Monument Avenue, three blocks west of the Davis Monument. Three blocks west of the Jackson statue is the unusual memorial to Matthew Fontaine Maury, featuring a large bronze globe and a seated figure of Maury.

The one hundred thirty-foot wide boulevard throughout this section is lined with architecturally varied but harmonious structures, representing almost the entire range of early-twentieth century residential architectural styles. The most prominent structures include several Georgian townhouses by William Lawrence Bottomley and Duncan Lee, and the huge Jacobethan Revival townhouse of the Branch family, designed by John Russell Pope. The street's most characteristic structures are the Georgian Revival and Second Renaissance Revival townhouses and terrace rows. Also featured are several fine late Gothic Revival churches.

Monument Avenue is unified by the unusually high quality of design, workmanship, and materials of all its parts - from the houses, churches and monuments to the curbs and street furniture. The street is unusual, too, for being one of the few grand residential boulevards in America to survive virtually unaltered, having almost no architecturally or scenically discordant intrusions.
The earliest proposal for creating a broad avenue in Richmond to honor Confederate heroes appears on an 1888 plat which shows the division of the Allen estate, located west of the present intersection of Franklin Street and Lombardy Street. On this plat was drawn a proposed continuation of Franklin Street through a point in William Allen’s meadow, which had been selected a year earlier to be the site for a monument to General Robert E. Lee, to what is now Allison Street. This continuation of Franklin Street was shown on the plat much as it now exists, a divided boulevard with generally the present lot division and a traffic circle surrounding the site of the Lee Monument. The plat, which actually identified the new boulevard as Monument Avenue, was signed and sealed by Fitzhugh Lee, son of the General and President of the Lee Monument Association.

The unveiling in 1890 of Jean Antoine Mercie's great equestrian statue of Lee revealed the first major element on this unique memorial street, but from the period immediately following the war, it had been the intention of Richmond citizens to erect the statues of the three Virginians who defended the city (two of whom were killed in the defense) to make of Monument Avenue a permanent memorial that would serve as a link with the past. An addition to this plan was made in 1904 when the United Daughters of the Confederacy selected a site several blocks west of the Lee statue for a memorial to President Jefferson Davis. The site of the Davis Monument was chosen because it was the former location of the Star Fort (shown clearly on many old maps), the innermost and major protection of the city from the west during the four years of the siege. The existence of these defenses is commemorated by a cannon located just east of the Davis Monument.

By 1906 that portion of the avenue from Lombardy Street to Allison Street was identified in the city directories as Monument Avenue, and on August 17, 1906, the City Council adopted a resolution to widen to 130 feet the remaining portion of Franklin Street from Allison Street west to the Boulevard and to rename that section Monument Avenue. Richmond sculptor Edward Virginius Valentine's impressive memorial to Jefferson Davis was unveiled in 1907 as was Fred Moynihan's equestrian statue of General J.E.B. Stuart located at the beginning of the avenue. Frederick Sievers' statue of Stonewall Jackson was unveiled in 1919, and the memorial to Matthew Fontaine Maury, also by Sievers, was unveiled in 1929.

Almost as soon as Monument Avenue's traffic lanes began to be paved with their distinctive asphalt paving blocks, the avenue came to be one of
M. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>37° 34' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 28' 50&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>37° 34' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 27' 20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>37° 33' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 27' 20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>37° 33' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 28' 50&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 190 acres

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director
ORGANIZATION
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond
STATE: Virginia

12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. SIGNATURE

Name Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
THE VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
DATE December 2, 1969
### Property Map Form

**State:** Virginia  
**County:** Richmond (in cit.)

#### 1. Name
- **Common:** Monument Avenue Preservation Zone  
- **And/or Historic:** Monument Avenue

#### 2. Location
- **Street and Number:** See continuation sheet.  
- **City or Town:** Richmond  
- **State:** Virginia  
  - **Code:** 45  
  - **County:** (in cit.)  
  - **Code:** 760

#### 3. Map Reference
- **Source:** U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Richmond, Virginia  
- **Scale:** 1:24000  
- **Date:** 1964

#### 4. Requirements
- To be included on all maps:  
  1. Property boundaries where required.  
  2. North arrow.  
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.

---

### Property Photograph Form

**State:** Virginia  
**County:** Richmond (in cit.)

#### 1. Name
- **Common:** Monument Avenue Preservation Zone  
- **And/or Historic:** Monument Avenue

#### 2. Location
- **Street and Number:** See continuation sheet.  
- **City or Town:** Richmond  
- **State:** Virginia  
  - **Code:** 45  
  - **County:** (in cit.)  
  - **Code:** 760

#### 3. Photo Reference
- **Photo Credit:** Virginia State Library  
- **Date of Photo:** 1960  
- **Negative Filed At:** Virginia State Library  
  - Richmond, Virginia

#### 4. Identification
- Describe view, direction, etc.:  
  Aerial View of Monument Avenue looking west from Stuart Circle.
2. Bounded on the east by a straight line between the center of the block of Grace St., between Ryland St. and Lombardy St., and the intersection of Birch St. and Park Ave.; bounded on the west by a straight line between the intersection of Grace St. and Roseneath Rd. and the intersection of Wythe Ave. and Roseneath Rd.; bounded on the north by Grace St. from the center of the block of Grace St., between Ryland St. and Lombardy St., to the intersection of Grace St. and Roseneath Rd.; bounded on the south by Park Ave., from the intersection of Birch St. and Park Ave., to the intersection of Belmont Ave. and Park Ave., and from thence west in a straight line to the intersection of Roseneath Rd., and Wythe Ave.

8. the most fashionable in Richmond. Over a period of some thirty years, it was built up with a splendid series of architecturally dignified townhouses, churches, and apartment buildings. The work of many prominent architects, including John Russell Pope, William Lawrence Bottomley, and Virginia's Duncan Lee, is represented on Monument Avenue. For many years the avenue was used as Richmond's ceremonial parade route. Included among those who have journeyed in state from the Boulevard to the Governor's Mansion along Monument Avenue are Marshall Foch, Commander Richard Evelyn Byrd, Winston Churchill, General Eisenhower, and Queen Mother Elizabeth.

As one of the most splendid residential boulevards in America, Monument Avenue is considered to be a nationally significant example of city planning. According to the noted architectural historian, William B. O'Neal, Monument Avenue is "a supreme example of the unifying power of space, scale, and trees on the urban scene." But more important than its aesthetic qualities, Monument Avenue, as a unique memorial to the heroes of the Confederacy in its capital, serves a symbolic function for Richmond and the South.
Monument Avenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>37° 34' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 28' 50&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>37° 34' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 27' 20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>37° 33' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 27' 20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>37° 33' 00&quot;</td>
<td>77° 28' 50&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)
Richmond, Va. (1964)