Historic Monument Avenue

State: Virginia
County: Richmond (in cit.)

Inventory - Nomination Form

1. Name

Common: Monument Avenue
AND/OR Historic: Monument Avenue

2. Location

Street and Number: See continuation sheet
City or Town: Richmond
State: Virginia

3. Classification

Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Acquisition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Process</th>
<th>Being Considered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupied</th>
<th>Unoccupied</th>
<th>Preservation work in progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accessible to the Public

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes:</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Present Use

Transportation: Other (Specify) - Memorial

Comments:

4. Owner of Property

Owner's Name:

Various ownership - public and private

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.

City Hall

Street and Number: 10th and Broad Streets

City or Town: Richmond
State: Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title of Survey:

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #127-174

Date of Survey: 1969

Federal State County Local

Depository for Survey Records:

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Street and Number:

Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

City or Town: Richmond
State: Virginia

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.
   1968
   Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
   Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
   Richmond, Virginia  23219  Code:  45
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
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<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>

APPRAOXIMATE 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

ADDRESS:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE:
Virginia

DATE:
November 24, 1969

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NAME:
Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [x] Local [ ]

Date December 2, 1969

CHIEF, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Keeper of the National Register

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

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ move ___ removal
___ name change (additional documentation) ___ other
meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

_________________________________________                      ___________________________
Signature of Certifying Official/Title:                                      Date of Action

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ additional documentation accepted
___ other (explain:) _______________________

_________________________________________                      ___________________________
Signature of the Keeper                                      Date of Action
The Monument Avenue Historic District, located in the City of Richmond, Virginia, was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1969. At the time of its listing, the district’s period of significance was broadly defined as “19th century” and “20th century.” The historic district’s areas of significance were Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Military, Sculpture, Transportation, and Urban Planning. Completion of the Lee Monument in 1890 was described as the first major physical element of the historic district. The original nomination also asserted that, “As one of the most splendid residential boulevards in America, Monument Avenue is considered to be a nationally significant example of urban planning.”

In 1989, a nomination to expand the historic boundary of the original district was listed in the VLR and NRHP. The boundary increase nomination also included a comprehensive list of contributing and noncontributing resources within the expanded district. However, the district’s statement of significance was not updated in any way.

When the Monument Avenue Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1997, specific start and end dates for the NHL designation were selected, 1890-1940, beginning with erection of the Lee Monument and ending with construction of the last house on the avenue built before 1947. No buildings were constructed between 1940 and 1947, and according to the NHL nomination, no “exceptional” buildings were constructed after 1947. Thus the period of significance was established as ending in 1940. The NHL-listed historic district’s boundaries are not identical to the NRHP-listed historic district.

The 1989 NRHP nomination’s inventory includes a number of ca. 1940 buildings that are classified as contributing, but the statement of significance was not updated to include additional contextual information or to provide a justification for the district’s period of significance. The year 1940 also was almost 50 years prior to the 1989 nomination, and reliance on the “50-year guideline,” in which resources more than 50 years old are considered to be of historic age, was standard practice in preparing NRHP nominations at that time.

Therefore, based on the information contained in the existing 1969 and 1989 NRHP nominations, particularly the 1989 nomination’s inclusion of contributing resources built up to ca. 1940, the historic district’s period of significance is justified to begin in 1890, with the unveiling of the Lee Monument, and to end in 1940, with construction of the most recent buildings that are associated with the NRHP-listed district’s identified areas of significance.

---

Monument Avenue Historic District 2019
Update
Name of Property
City of Richmond, VA
County and State
N/A
NR Reference Number

Figure 1. Monument Avenue as it Appeared in 1890 after Dedication of the Lee Statue (image courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society; as reproduced in Richmond’s Monument Avenue, p. 52)

Figure 2. Monument Avenue during the 1930s (image courtesy of Dementi-Foster Studios; as reproduced in Richmond’s Monument Avenue, p. 57.)
Bibliography


Prepared by:
Lena S. McDonald
National/State Register Historian
Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221
804-482-6439