

QUOIT CLUB 2021

SHOCKOE

HISTORIC RICHMOND

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INFORMATION FROM SHOCKOE SMALL AREA PLAN

February 10, 2021

SHOCKOE

- Shockoe is located in what was once the territory of the Powhatan Confederacy of Virginia Indians for thousands of years prior to first contact in 1607.
- It has long been held that the name of the area came from the name of the creek but the Powhatan called the creek – Chyinek. The name, Shockoe, believed to be Algonquian for “of stone,” is thought to refer to the broader place -- not just to the falls or the creek.

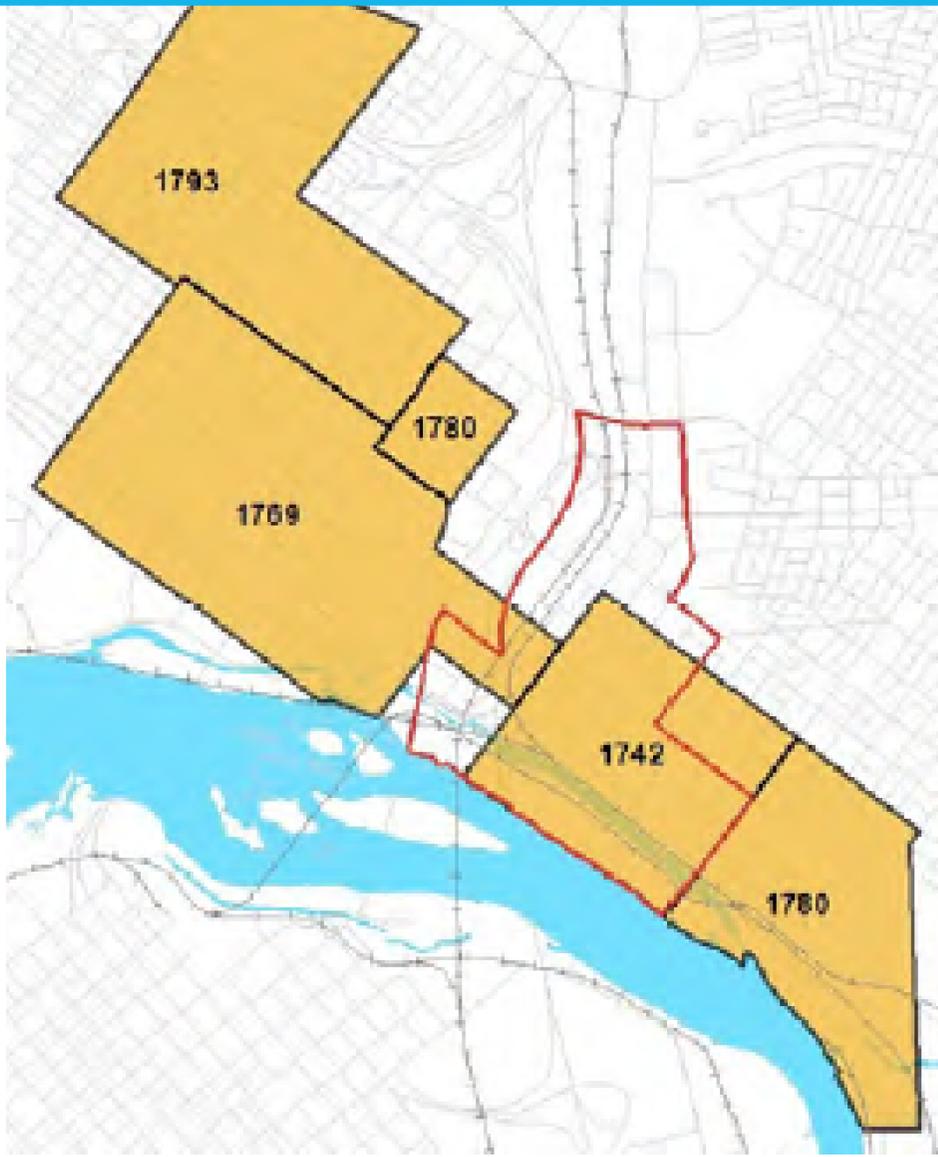
SHOCKOE

- It was William Byrd II who gave the name “Shaccoe” to his 800-acre plantation on the north bank of the James River and subsequently to the creek which flowed through his property.
- In 1663, Byrd established a tobacco warehouse on the west side of the creek at Rock Landing, near the present day intersection of Dock and S. 15th Streets.

SHOCKOE

- An area east of the creek (17th Street) was laid out in 1737, and incorporated as a town in 1742.
- From the 1830s through 1865, Shockoe was the second largest center for the domestic trade in enslaved Africans in the United States--second only to New Orleans in that period, itself a principle destination for those sold from Richmond.
- It was also a transportation and manufacturing center.
- Fires and floods have reshaped the community numerous times over the past centuries.

TIMELINE



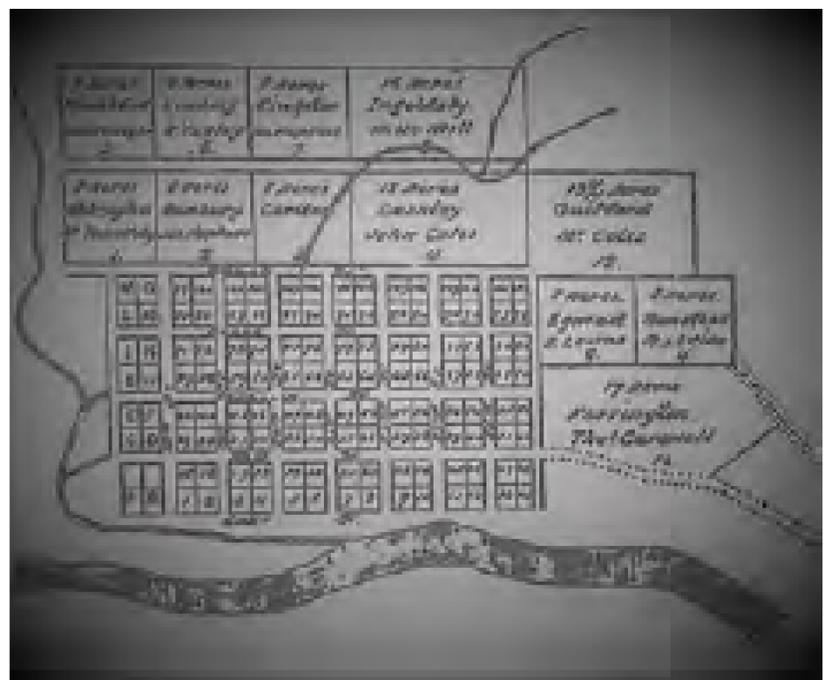
1700

1742

Town of Richmond established

Population: 250

Area: 0.20 square miles



1737

Mayo's Plan for Richmond

1769

Group
Annexation
Population:
574

1775-83

American
Revolution



1754-63

French and
Indian War

1779

Richmond became the third Capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia

1782

Market in enslaved Africans is moved from Manchester on the south side of the James River to Shockoe

Town incorporated "to be stiled the city of Richmond"

1778

Virginia General Assembly prohibited the importation of enslaved Africans

1780

First Market established in Shockoe

Area: 1.08 square miles

Population: 684

Annexation

1789

Beth Shalom,
1st Jewish
congregation
established
in Shockoe

1790

Richmond
had the
4th largest
Jewish
population
in the United
States

1797

Friends
Meeting
House
constructed
at 19th and
Cary



1793

Area: 1.49
square
miles

Population:
4,354

Annexation

1786

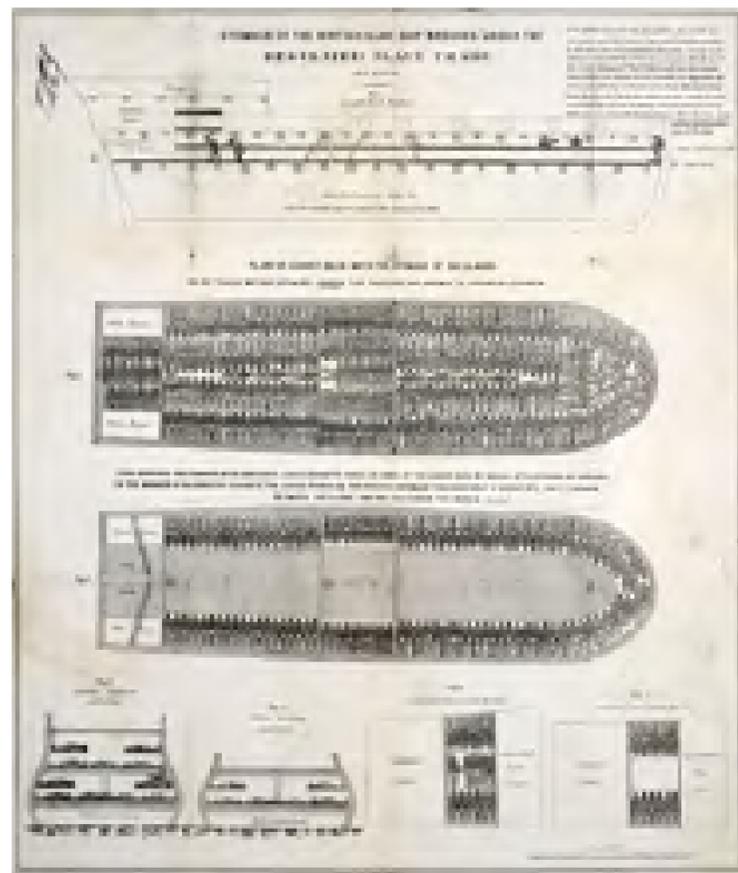
Virginia Assembly enacted the
Statute for Religious Freedom
which disestablished the Church of
England and guaranteed freedom of
religion to people of all faiths

1800

Gabriel was executed at the gallows just north of Broad Street at the “Burial Ground for Negroes” for attempting to organize a mass slave uprising at Brookfield Plantation in Henrico County

1808

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade abolished



1810

Annexation
Population:
9,735

1812-19

Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama became states which significantly contributed to the growth of the interstate trade in enslaved Africans

1841

Solomon Northup, author of *Twelve Years a Slave*, was held overnight in Richmond at a slave jail owned by **William Goodwin** near the corner of 15th and Franklin streets

1812-15

War of 1812

1836

The first railroad in Virginia, the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac, arrived in Richmond



Ca. 1840-1865

Over 60 traders in enslaved people were operating in or near Shockoe. This does not include the numerous other businesses that supported the trade such as tailors, cobblers, blacksmiths, banks, and insurance companies.

1850s/60s

Five major railroads in Richmond

1860

Census listed 55 tobacco factories in Shockoe

1861-65

American Civil War

1842

City of Richmond incorporated and chartered

1854

Anthony Burns was held for 4 months at Lumpkin's Jail/ Devil's Half Acre. His description published in 1856, was used to confirm the location of the jail in 2006

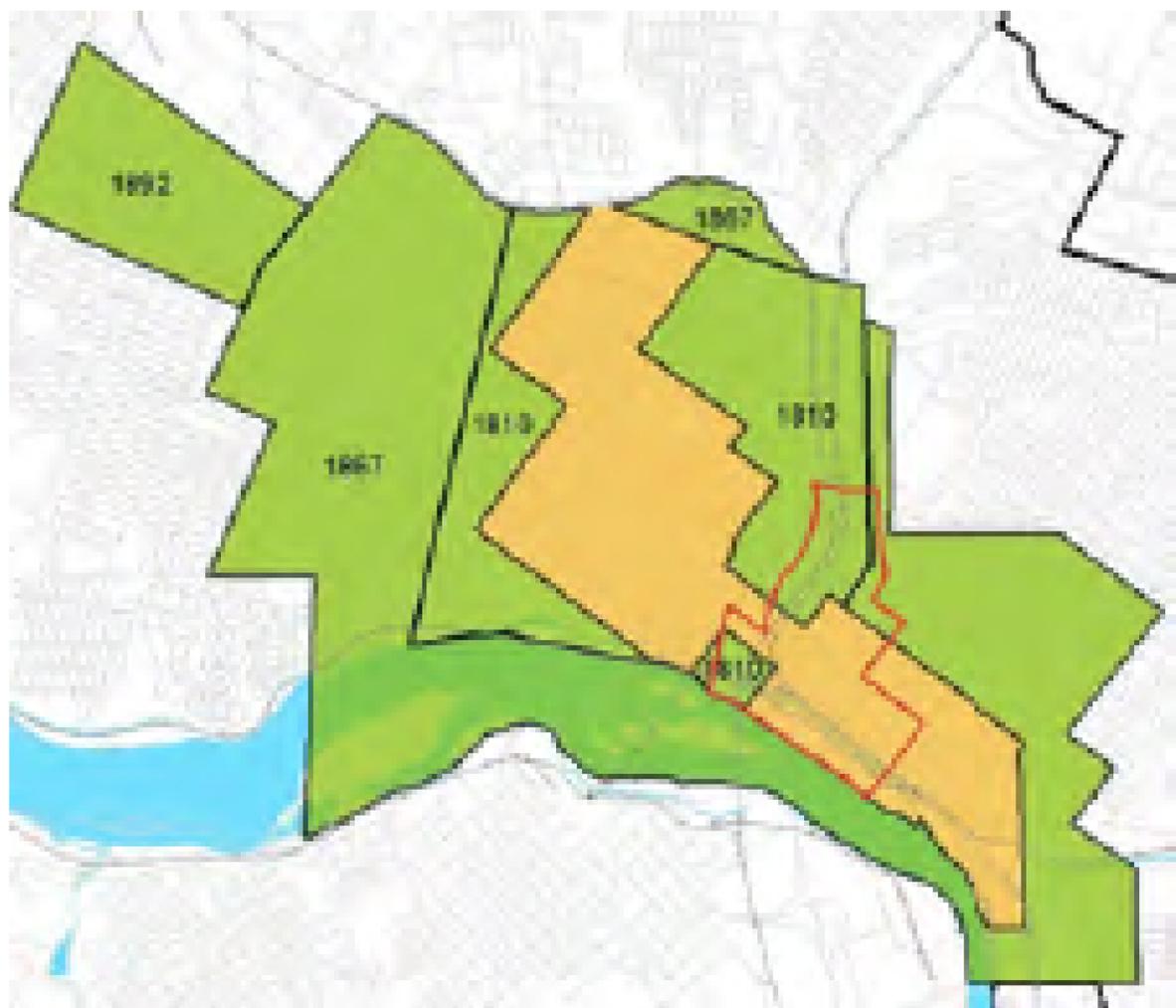
1863

Emancipation Proclamation

1867

Mary Lumpkin, widow of Robert Lumpkin, leased former slave jail property to Rev. Nathaniel Colver, founder of the Colver Institute, later known as the Richmond Theological Seminary and ultimately Virginia Union University

Annexation Population: 38,710



1892

Annexation Population:
81,388

1900 to Present

1910

Annexation
Population:
127,628



1923-27

Shockoe Creek
channelized

1939-45

World War II

1914

Annexation

1914-18

World War I

1929-39

Great
Depression

1949

Annexation



1958

Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike Completed

1994

Flood wall dedicated

1950-53

Korean War

1965-75

Vietnam War

1970

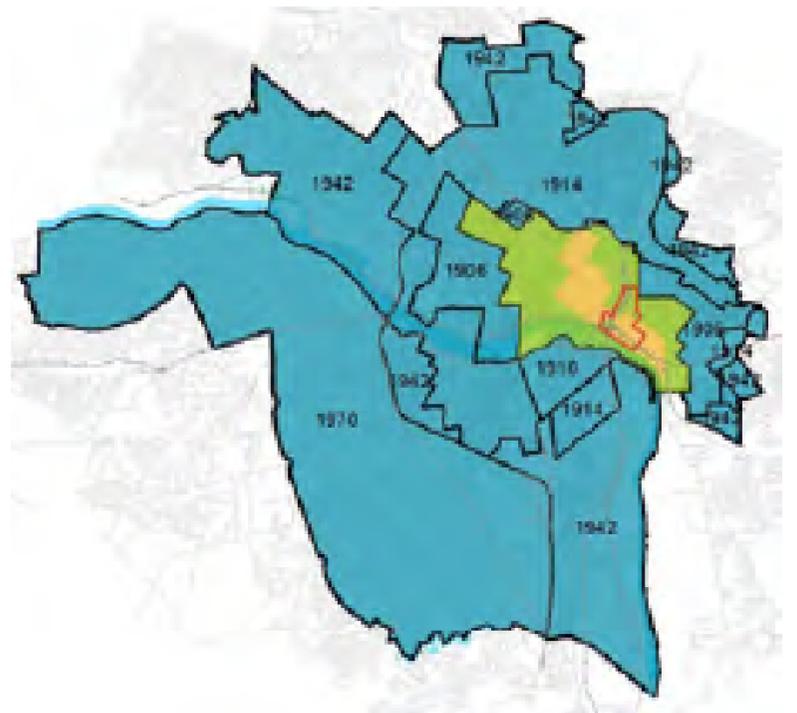
Final Annexation

Population: 249,621

Area: 62.5 square miles

1998

Slave Trail Commission established by City Council





2003, 2008, 2013

Plans to build a baseball stadium in Shockoe

2018

Shockoe Alliance established

2006

Archaeological investigation of the Lumpkin's Slave Jail/Devil's Half Acre site was conducted

2007

The Richmond Truth and Reconciliation Statue was unveiled to raise awareness of the triangular slave trade among Liverpool, Benin, and Richmond

2011

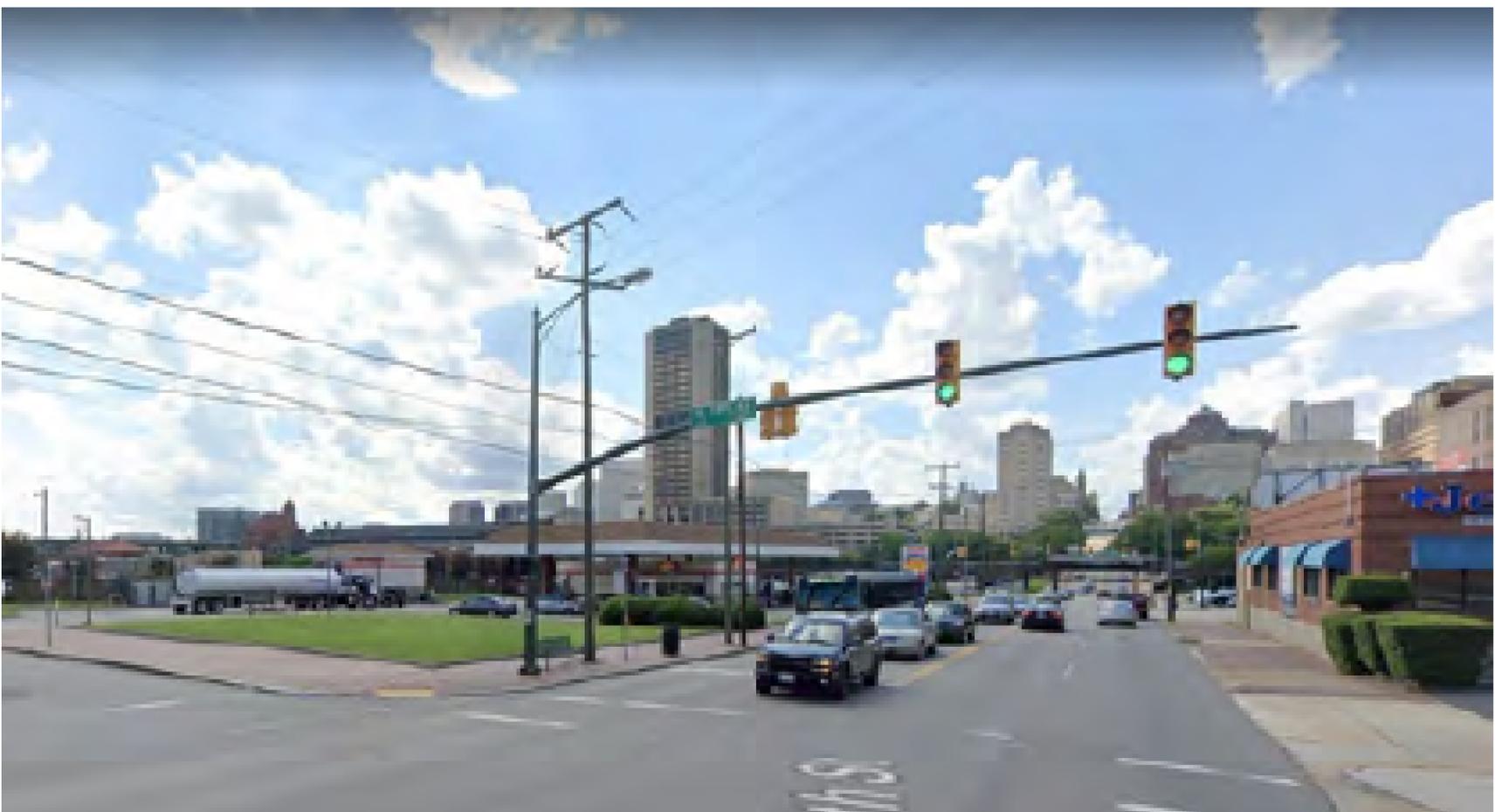
17 markers installed along the Richmond Slave Trail "to tell the journey, human impact, and the role Richmond played in the tragic history of slavery."

Shockoe's long trajectory of development and mix of uses has resulted in a diverse built environment punctuated by a diminutive stone dwelling, large twentieth-century factories, and twenty-first century mixed-use infill. Very little remains of the early city except the gridded-street pattern, and a few dwellings survive in what was once a thriving residential neighborhood.

After a devastating Shockoe fire in 1787, building codes were created that required all new buildings to be of brick; therefore, frame buildings are an anomaly. The historic core is dominated by two- and three-story buildings, with newer four- to eight-story buildings ringing the edges.



SW Corner of N. 18th and E. Broad Streets, ca. 1911
Valentine Museum



SW Corner N. 18th and E. Broad Streets, 2019



220 N. 18th Street, demolished
Valentine Museum



100 Block N. 19th Street, demolished
Valentine Museum

**DOMESTIC
ARCHITECTURE
& DEVELOPMENT**

A neighborhood of single-family dwellings is not how one tends to think of Shockoe, but until the 1960s the blocks north of E. Franklin Street and east of N. 18th Street were lined with dwellings of all sizes from near mansions to modest one-story cottages. Many of the larger houses had outbuildings in their rear yards that served a multitude of functions including as the dwellings and work spaces for enslaved Africans. The upper floors of the stores and shops fronting E. Main Street served as residences, and there were dense tenements fronting the main streets and tucked into the alleys and side streets.

Over the decades many of these dwellings were replaced with industrial and commercial buildings or razed as part of slum clearance projects. Very few dwellings still remain in Shockoe and many of those that remain were saved through the efforts of Historic Richmond and Preservation Virginia. It is also not surprising that most of the remaining dwellings have been adapted for offices and even a museum. Ironically, industrial buildings are being adapted for residential, office, and commercial uses.



View from Taylor's Hill looking southwest ca. 1863

Library of Congress

**COMMERCE &
THE DOMESTIC
SLAVE TRADE**

From its beginnings Shockoe was a center of commerce. The corner of E. Main and 17th Streets has been the site of the city's "First Market" since the 1780s. The fourth building constructed at this location in 1913 was demolished in 1961 and replaced with open air sheds which were most recently replaced by an open plaza. Many of the early commercial buildings have been replaced but Shockoe still contains numerous examples of 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings. By 1845, 25% of retail merchants in the city were Jewish, and most of these had shops and small manufacturing concerns in Shockoe. Italians also made up a large number of merchants in Shockoe and were known for running the local confectioneries.

City Market
built 1913, demolished 1961
1600 E. Main Street



The other trade that dominated the City of Richmond and Shockoe between the mid-1840s and 1865 was the trade in enslaved Africans.

Between 1526 and 1860, the Trans-Atlantic Trade in enslaved Africans shipped between 10 and 15 million people from the west coast of Africa to the Americas. The trade in enslaved Africans was long dominated by Spain and Portugal, but with the expanding colonization of North America the British became a major player in the trade by 1660.

The majority of the enslaved were taken to the West Indies and Central and South America. About 400,000 were transported to the British colonies in North America, with about 100,000 arriving in Virginia, often by way of the Caribbean islands.

Approximately 20,000 enslaved Africans were brought by ship to the Upper James River markets at Rocky Ridge (Manchester) and Shockoe.

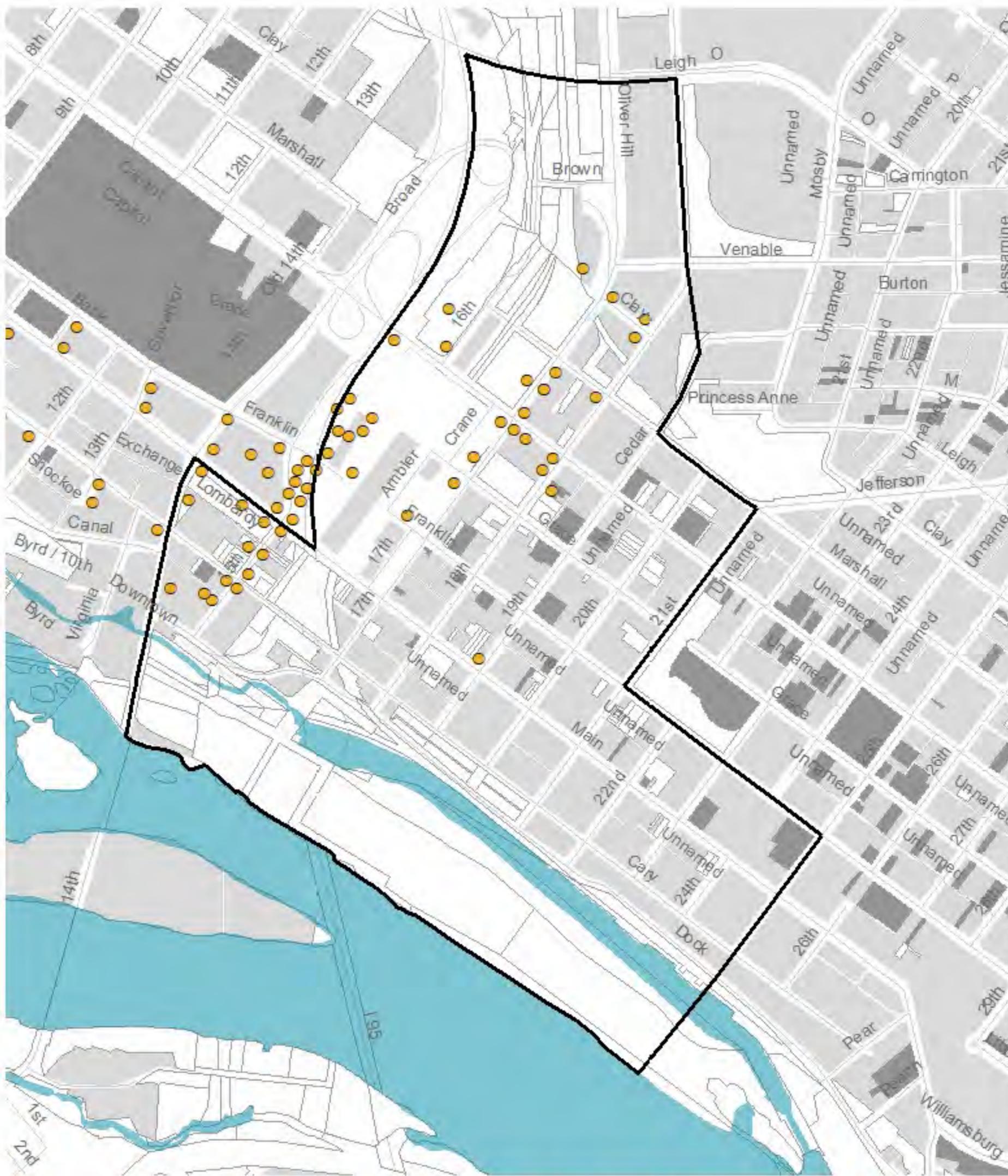
Old Slave Market

18 S. 15th Street



TABLE 1 // **Richmond Population, 1800-1870**

Year	Enslaved	Free Black	White	Total
1800	2,293	607	2,837	5,737
1810	3,748	1,180	4,807	9,735
1820	4,687	1,235	6,445	12,067
1830	6,354	1,960	7,755	16,060
1840	7,509	1,926	10,718	20,153
1850	9,927	2,369	15,274	27,570
1860	11,699	2,576	23,635	37,910
1870		23,110	27,928	51,038



Sites Associated with the Trade in Enslaved Africans

- Locations Associated with Trader's Offices, Jails, Auction Sites
- 1737 - 1865 (year building constructed)
- 1866 - 2018 (year building constructed)
- Vacant Parcel
- Shockoe Study Area Boundary

Further Reading

Shockoe Alliance Resource Site

<https://www.shockoealliance.org/new-page>

Sacred Ground Project

<https://www.sacredgroundproject.net/>