

# The VT/UVA Richmond Center Rooms

## *The Inspiration Behind the Names*



**The Maggie Walker Room**, a new addition to our suite, occupies space formerly occupied by Room 305 and a storage room. Operated by the National Park Service, **The Maggie Walker National Historic Site** in Jackson Ward is the site of Walker's restored and furnished home. Maggie Lena Walker (July 15, 1864 – December 15, 1934) was an African American teacher and businesswoman. Walker was the first female bank president to charter a bank in the United States. As a leader, she achieved success with the vision to make tangible improvements in the way of life for African Americans and women. **Maggie L. Walker High School** was the first vocational high school built for Richmond's Black youth, the only high school named for a Richmonder and the first school in

Richmond to have an African American principal and faculty. A well-designed facility, the school opened in 1938 and is in use today as the **Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies**. [ <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/richmond/maggiwalkerhighschool.html>]



**The Main Street Room** is a brand new room in our suite, created from the space formerly occupied by a computer lab and staff offices. **Main Street Station**, originally opened in 1901, is one of Downtown Richmond's most visible landmarks. A decline in passenger rail service caused the closing of the station in 1975. The year 2003 marked the historic reopening of **Main Street Station**, following years of renovation, with the return of passenger train service to downtown Richmond. Future upgrades are planned to further transform the station into a significant multi-modal transportation center that will highlight Richmond as a vibrant destination city. The **Main Street Station** is a U.S. National Historic Landmark.

[<http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/MainStreetStation/index.aspx>]

**The Lewis Ginter Room** was formerly known as Room 302. **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden** is a Richmond landmark located on property that was formerly Powhatan hunting ground and was once owned by Patrick Henry. **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's** mission is education and connecting people and plants to improve communities. Major Lewis Ginter (April 24, 1824 – October 1, 1897), a prominent Richmond businessman and native New Yorker, accumulated a considerable fortune throughout his numerous business ventures and became Richmond's wealthiest citizen despite his exceptionally modest demeanor. After his death, Lewis Ginter's niece, Grace Arents, inherited his estate and upon her death bequeathed the botanical garden in memory of her uncle to the city of Richmond, Virginia. [ <http://www.lewisginter.org/visit/about/mission-goals/>]





**The Maymont Room** was formerly known as Room 309.

**Maymont** is a 100-acre public park in Richmond, Virginia.

Construction on the **Maymont Mansion**, named for Major James H. Dooley's wife, Sallie May, was completed in 1893. **Maymont** attractions include the 33-room **Maymont Mansion**, Italian and Japanese gardens, Nature Center, Children's Farm, wildlife exhibits, carriage collection and arboretum. Major James H. Dooley, a wealthy Richmond lawyer and philanthropist left **Maymont** to the people of Richmond.

[<http://timesdispatch.com>][<https://www.facebook.com/maymont/about/>]

**The Monument Room**, a new room for the Richmond Center, is created from Rooms 311 and 312. **Monument Avenue Historic District** is a broad residential tree-lined street extending five miles from inner city Richmond westward into Henrico County. The district is nationally significant for its architecture and as an example of city planning. The name is taken from the series of monumental statues that mark its major intersections, generally in the center of traffic circles. The first monument, an equestrian statue of Robert E. Lee, was unveiled in 1890. It would take about 10 years for wealthy Richmonders and speculative developers to start buying the lots and building houses along the avenue, but in the years between 1900 and 1925 Monument Avenue exploded with architecturally significant houses, churches and apartment buildings. The street is lined with enormous mansions from the end of the gilded age. The Museum District part of **Monument Avenue** includes a combination of such houses, apartment buildings and smaller single-family houses. West of Interstate 195, Monument Avenue becomes a more commonplace suburban avenue.

[<https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/richmond/monumentavehd.html>]



**The Tredegar Room** was formerly known as Room 310.

The **Tredegar Iron Works** opened in 1837 and stood as Richmond's foremost business operation for more than a century. It was named for the famous iron works at Tredegar, Wales. Richmond's location next to a water source, its proximity to working coalfields, and the development of the railroad industry in the 1830s and 1840s, made Richmond the iron and coal center of the South. The Civil War provided steady work for the Tredegar Iron Works and the facility survived the Evacuation Fire of 1865. The iron works continued production until 1952 when a fire destroyed the majority of its buildings. The National Park Service developed

**Tredegar** into its primary visitor center for the Richmond-area Civil War battlefields and the American Civil War Center at Historic **Tredegar** is housed in the cannon foundry. [<https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/richmond/Tredegar.html>]