

## Mini Washington Monument marks Richmond site's history

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What's 20 feet tall, black and gray all over and tapered at the top?

A miniature version of the 555-foot-tall Washington Monument, only it's not in the nation's capital. It's in Richmond. The granite obelisk was unveiled yesterday in the middle of a construction site - Rocketts Landing, a neighborhood rising on a historic location along the James River. The monument commemorates 400 years of history at the site off Old Osborne Turnpike, state Route 5, just outside the Richmond limits on the East End. It was erected in memory of William H. Abeloff, the developer of Rocketts Landing.

Four plaques, one at the base of each side of the monument, contain information about the site's history. They commemorate:

- Captain Christopher Newport's trip up the James in 1607;
- Rocketts Landing's emergence as one of the nation's largest inland ports in the 1700s;
- Abraham Lincoln's trip by boat to Rocketts Landing and Richmond after the Civil War; and
- the 2007 conversion into a village community.

Rocketts Landing will have retail and office space, in addition to condos, town houses and apartments on 45 acres. The first residents are expected to move into Fall Line, a 49-unit condo high-rise, next week. The average price: \$495,000. Four units are still available. Cedar Line, a 63-unit condominium in a former ice cream plant, will be ready in late July. Sky Line, a 60-unit building, is targeted for occupancy late summer.

Available condos in these two complexes start at \$225,000 for 1,000 square feet in Cedar Line up to \$780,000 for 2,200 square feet in Sky Line. Completion of the first five town houses is set for August. The first 21 are being built, and 20 are being planned. Prices start at \$450,000.

The first retail space will be next to the river, in a defunct power plant that once ran the Richmond trolleys.

Rocketts Landing is being developed by WVS Cos. in Richmond. Virginia Beach-based CMSS Architects is the lead architect.