PARTING SHOT

This aerial photograph reveals the faithful preservation of the historic gardens and grounds achieved through document research, archaeological excavations and the hard work of the landscape and gardening teams at Monticello. Jefferson’s landholdings in Albemarle County totaled some 5,000 acres. Monticello plantation’s landscape featured wooded hills, two small mountains, rolling pastures, streams and the Rivanna River. To manage this vast estate, Jefferson divided the land into four separate “farms.” Monticello mountain was the plantation’s “home farm.”

Visible in this photo, from the top down, are the Vegetable Garden, a 1,000-foot long terrace that served as both a source of food and an experimental laboratory; Mulberry Row, the center of plantation activity at Monticello from the 1770s until Jefferson’s death in 1826; the East and West Lawns; Monticello mansion; and the Grove, an ornamental forest with the undergrowth removed.

“I am constantly in my garden or farm, as exclusively employed out of doors as I was within doors when at Washington, and I find myself infinitely happier in my new mode of life.” — Thomas Jefferson, 1809

Bird’s-Eye View

Ian Atkins