



Monticello Certified as Lewis and Clark Site

Thomas Jefferson's seminal role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition was recognized Jan. 16 when representatives of the National Park

Service designated Monticello a Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail site.

National Park Service Deputy Director for Recreation and Conservation Tom Ross, Lewis and Clark National

Historic Trail Superintendent Gerard Baker, U. S. Rep. Virgil H. Goode, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Foundation President Daniel P. Jordan spoke at the event, which took place on the West Lawn of Monticello.

Monticello's inclusion on the list of more than 80 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail sites is reflective of its status as "mission control" for the expedition, as well as the "centrality of Jefferson's role in this great voyage of discovery," Jordan said to a crowd of approximately 100 people.

"Standing at Monticello, I am reminded of the inherently inquisitive nature of Americans, of the urge to explore new frontiers," said Goode, who represents Virginia's 5th District.

Ross, recalling a lesson he sought to teach his son when they visited Gettysburg years ago, asked listeners to look at each historical site as "more

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National Park Service



Monticello is the easternmost site on the Lewis and Clark Trail.

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National Historic Trail

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than just a field or just a physical structure, but as a place where great ideas were formed that literally changed the face of our country and the world.”

“In the aftermath of September 11,” he added, “places like this serve to help us understand what is truly important in our lives and in our history.”

The speakers stressed the modern relevance of studying a journey that took place nearly 200 years ago.

“We need to get the young people involved,” Baker noted. “This story is for them. We need to be proud once again of who we are culturally. We need to talk to our children about Lewis and Clark, about what that meant, the good and the bad.”

The ceremony took place one year and two days before Monticello plays host to the inaugural event in the national observance of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. That date – Jan. 18, 2003 – will mark the 200th anniversary of Jefferson’s confidential letter to Congress requesting funds for an expedition to the Pacific.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was established by Congress in 1978 as part of the National Trails System. The Park Service administers the trail – which allows people to explore the route followed by the Lewis and Clark Expedition on water trails, land trails and motor routes – in conjunction with federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations and landowners.

Monticello is the easternmost of the National Historic Trail sites. Only two others are east of the Mississippi – the Lewis and Clark State Memorial in Wood River, Ill., on the east bank of the Mississippi, and the Falls of the Ohio, near Louisville, Ky., and Clarksville, Ind.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org