

Th: Jefferson

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JEFFERSON'S STABLE AND THE MEN WHO WORKED THERE

Visitors will soon be able to learn more about Jupiter Evans and Wormley Hughes, the enslaved men responsible for the stables and horses at Monticello, and how their lives were interwoven with Jefferson's.

Jupiter Evans was born at Shadwell in 1743, the same year as the man who would later own him, Thomas Jefferson. After inheriting Evans from his father in 1757, Jefferson appointed this highly skilled slave to assume a variety of roles at Monticello, including valet, hostler, coachman and stonecutter. In 1774, after becoming head coachman, Evans oversaw the care of the riding and carriage horses in the Mulberry Row stable. He and his wife, as well as their sons, may have lived near the stables, in the "Negro quarter" on Mulberry Row.

Another enslaved man, Wormley Hughes, worked at the Mulberry Row nailery and in the terraced vegetable garden before succeeding Jupiter Evans as chief hostler and coachman. Described by Jefferson as "one of the most trusty servants I have," Hughes cared for Jefferson's horses in the stable on Mulberry Row and the carriages in the North Terrace wing.



Archaeology at the site of Jefferson's stable (TOP)

Diomed, an English Thoroughbred race horse that sired some of Thomas Jefferson's saddlehorses (ABOVE)

Biographer Henry Randall remarked on Hughes' passion for horses in 1851:

"He could distinctly remember, and describe the points, height, color, temper, etc. of every horse."

In his lifetime, Jefferson owned dozens of riding and carriage horses, many of them prized for their English

bloodlines. As Edmund Bacon, a Monticello overseer, once noted, Jefferson was "passionately fond of a good horse." Describing the horse as the "most sovereign of all Doctors," Jefferson took daily rides across his 5,000-acre plantation for exercise and to oversee the work of around 130 enslaved men, women and children who lived and labored at Monticello.

See the stable and Mulberry Row from a "bird's eye" view. Visit monticello.org/stable.

Restoration of Jefferson's Stable

The next time you visit, you will see progress at the stable, located on the East end of Mulberry Row, the dynamic, industrial hub of Thomas Jefferson's 5,000-acre plantation. Investigation began earlier this year with extensive archaeology at the site and the completion of a detailed analysis of the building's history and structural evolution. The stable restoration is supported by a generous gift from the Sarah and Ross Perot, Jr. Foundation.

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