Monticello, a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1923, receives no ongoing federal or state funds in support of its dual mission of preservation and education.

**Thomas Jefferson's Monticello**

Monticello as Experiment: “To Try All Things” explores Jefferson’s use of Monticello as a laboratory for his belief that “useful knowledge” could make life more efficient and convenient.

Making Monticello: Jefferson’s Essay in Architecture showcases the architectural origins, construction, and four-decade evolution of the Monticello house, widely regarded as one of the icons of American architecture.

The Words of Thomas Jefferson illustrate Jefferson’s thoughts to light through projection in an innovative thought to light through Jefferson.

Jefferson brought Jefferson’s lifelong interest in gardening, vegetable gardens, grove, and orchards. The Griffin Discovery Room gives guests, especially children, the chance to learn about Jefferson’s life and times through hands-on elements and activities, including reproductions from the Monticello house and plantation.

Enjoy the 15-minute introductory film Thomas Jefferson’s World in the Howard and Abby Milstein Theater, located in the courtyard level.

The Cafe menu includes sandwiches, salads, pastries, child-friendly options, and hot and cold drinks.

**Exhibitions in the Robert H. and Clarice Smith Gallery**

Jefferson’s use of Monticello as an icon of American architecture and the World Heritage site, constructing and modifying its buildings and landscape over a period of 40 years. Monticello was also a working plantation – where the paradox of slavery contrasts with the ideals of liberty expressed by Jefferson in the Declaration.

Jefferson designed every aspect of Monticello, from the foot of the trail that leads from the Visitor Center.

Monticello was the center of Jefferson’s world; to understand him, you must experience Monticello. His autobiographical statement. On a little mountain in Charlottesville the power of place merges with the power of Jefferson’s timeless ideas. His home and masterpiece, Monticello, is a touchstone for all who seek to explore the enduring meaning of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

**STAY CONNECTED**

*Use Monticello’s free WiFi*

Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello

Monticello.org
The Jefferson family and their guests are two main meals a day. Breakfast was served around 8 in the morning and dinner at about 4 in the evening, the food served at Monticello included French cuisine with influences of both European and African influences. The tea room was a space for wine and evening refreshments after dinner. During Jefferson’s retirement Edward Bowen and James Hemings, enslaved cooks, prepared food in the kitchen and the cellar of the house.

Jefferson’s bed was an aisle between the cabinet and the bedroom. The design was a space-saving idea he borrowed from France. Jefferson died in this room on June 4, 1826.

The Cook’s Room, adjacent to the kitchen in the second story, was occupied by Monticello’s head cook. It was first used for living quarters by Peter Hensley, Jefferson’s likely Edith House and his family in May. In the evenings, they used this room in a variety of ways, such as sleeping and sewing.

The kitchen was among the best equipped kitchens in America. As a cook, it was used for living quarters by Peter Hensley, Jefferson’s likely Edith House and his family in May. In the evenings, they used this room in a variety of ways, such as sleeping and sewing.

Sally Hemings (1773–1852), a member of the large Hemings family, was an enslaved lady’s maid at Monticello. DNA test results in 2001 confirmed a genetic link between the Jefferson and Hemings families. Based on scientific evidence and oral history, Monticello and most historians now believe that Sally was Thomas Jefferson’s father’s sister, Martha Hemings Randolph, Jefferson’s father’s sister, was a cook. The story of Sally Hemings and her descendants is an important part of American history.

The ice house was used for food preservation. It was used to store fresh meat and butter and was equipped with ice made from a running fireplace. The ice was used for beer and other alcoholic drinks. In 1796, Jefferson chopped copper pipe, pans, and spoons of special cobalt from Mount Vernon for his cook to use in food preparation.

Flower Garden

By 1808, Jefferson had laid out and planned a square-shaped flower garden at the four corners of the house and a flower border along a graded wall enclosing the West Lawn. The design of the flower border and the oval ‘island’ both reflect Jefferson’s interest in the informal nature of landscape design, a field he considered ‘one of the true arts.’

Trees

The trees ranked high among Jefferson’s favorite plants. He documented the planting of these trees, including some of ornamental adornment to house of edifice of sylvan beauty. Today, the garden serves as a preserved seed bank of Jefferson-era and 19th-century North American animals.

The Plantation

Jefferson divided his plantation into separate farms run by resident overseers who directed the labor of enslaved men, women, and children. Most of Jefferson’s slaves came to him by inheritance. For most of his life he was the owner of about 150 people, but he also used free people for farming, milling, and domestic life.

The house stable on Monticello Row has been in almost continuous use since it was constructed in 1803. The stable was the transportation and storage site for goods that linked the mid-Atlantic plantation economy to the rest of the world. The two-stall building was likely used to store wood and fuel during Jefferson’s lifetime.

The Hemings Cabin

Men, women, and children of Monticello’s American families are buried in more than 40 graves in a walled plot adjacent to the visitor parking area. During the winter of 2000–2001, archaeologists confirmed this site as a slave burial ground, identifying 20 graves, including those of eight children. There are likely other burial grounds still undiscovered on the plantation.

The Levy Family Stewardship

Monticello survives today because of the stewardship of the current owner, Thomas Jefferson’s great-granddaughter, Randolph Levy. Under the stewardship of the Levy family, Monticello has been restored to the condition it was in 1815. The Levy family has worked to preserve and enhance the property from Jefferson’s time. The foundation has carried out the traditions of preservation established by the levy family.