Monticello’s closure to the public during the first months of the COVID-19 outbreak had several unanticipated positive outcomes. One of the best examples is the restoration of the Parlor walls to the original Jefferson-era paint color.

During the closure, Monticello’s restoration department patched small cracks in the wall and ceiling plaster, then repainted the ceiling to appear whitewashed. The new wall color, a subdued light gray, provides an elegant backdrop for the room’s paintings, busts and neoclassical woodwork. Live Virtual Tours provided a behind-the-scenes look at the restoration that brought the Parlor another step closer to how it appeared during Jefferson’s lifetime.