

**DOWNLOAD THE MONTICELLO APP**  
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Photography and video recording are permitted on the grounds of Monticello FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY; no photography or videography is permitted inside the house.

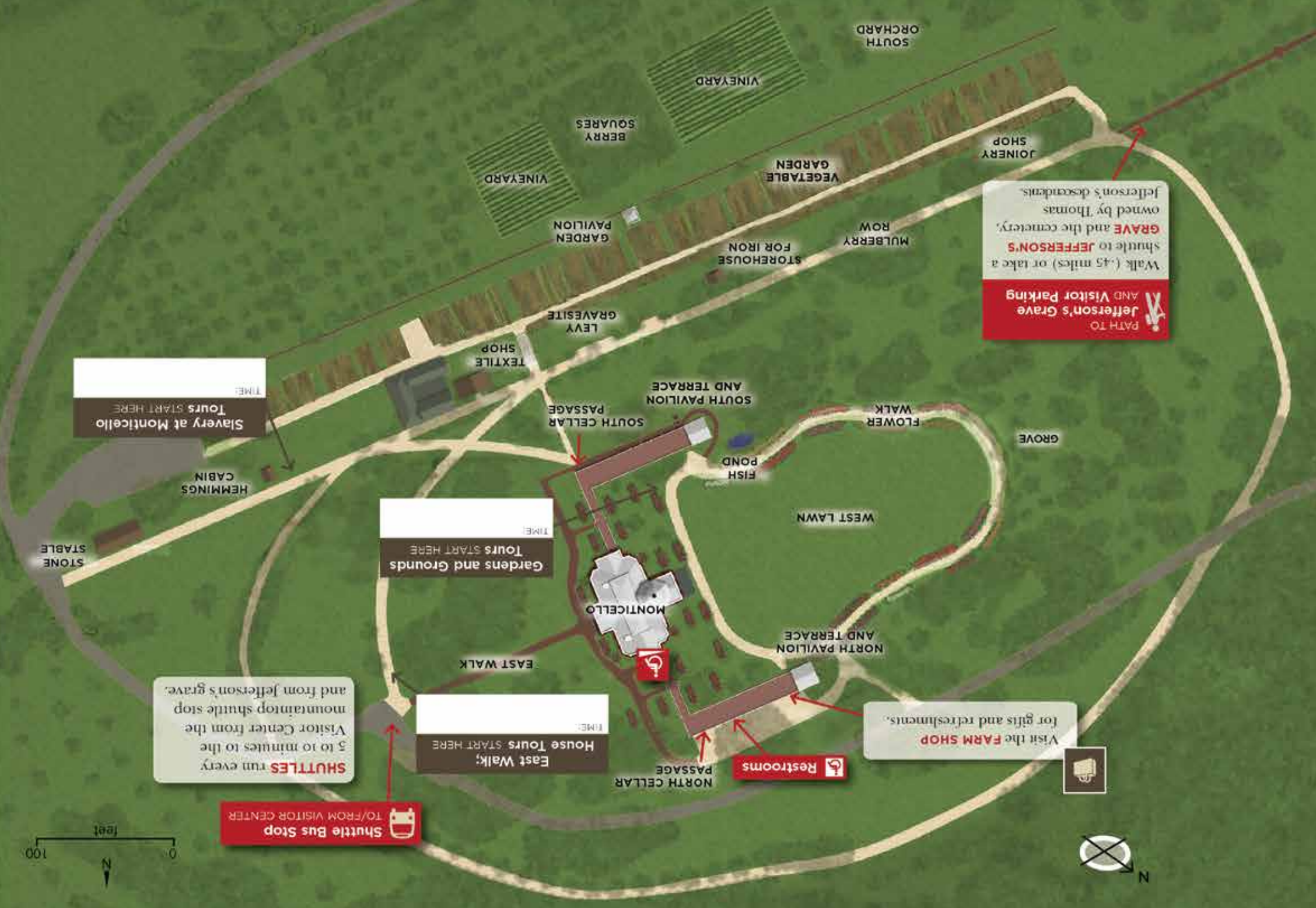
Backpacks and large bags must be worn in front or carried by hand.  
 Parents with active young children are asked to take turns touring the house. Strollers are available free of charge.

Customs and courtesies while inside the house

- ☞ No smoking
- ☞ No alcohol
- ☞ No food or drink
- ☞ No touching
- ☞ No photography
- ☞ No video recording

**Slavery at Monticello**  
 Guided outdoor tours focus on the experiences of the enslaved people who lived and labored on the Monticello plantation.  
 45 minutes.

**Gardens and Grounds**  
 Tour: Explore Jefferson's botany and agriculture while enjoying the beauty and variety of Monticello's restored flower and vegetable gardens, grove and orchards.  
 45 minutes.  
 Take advantage of two additional guided tours included in the price of general admission.  
 Tour: Explore Jefferson's lifelong interest in gardening, botany and agriculture while enjoying the beauty and variety of Monticello's restored flower and vegetable gardens, grove and orchards.  
 45 minutes.

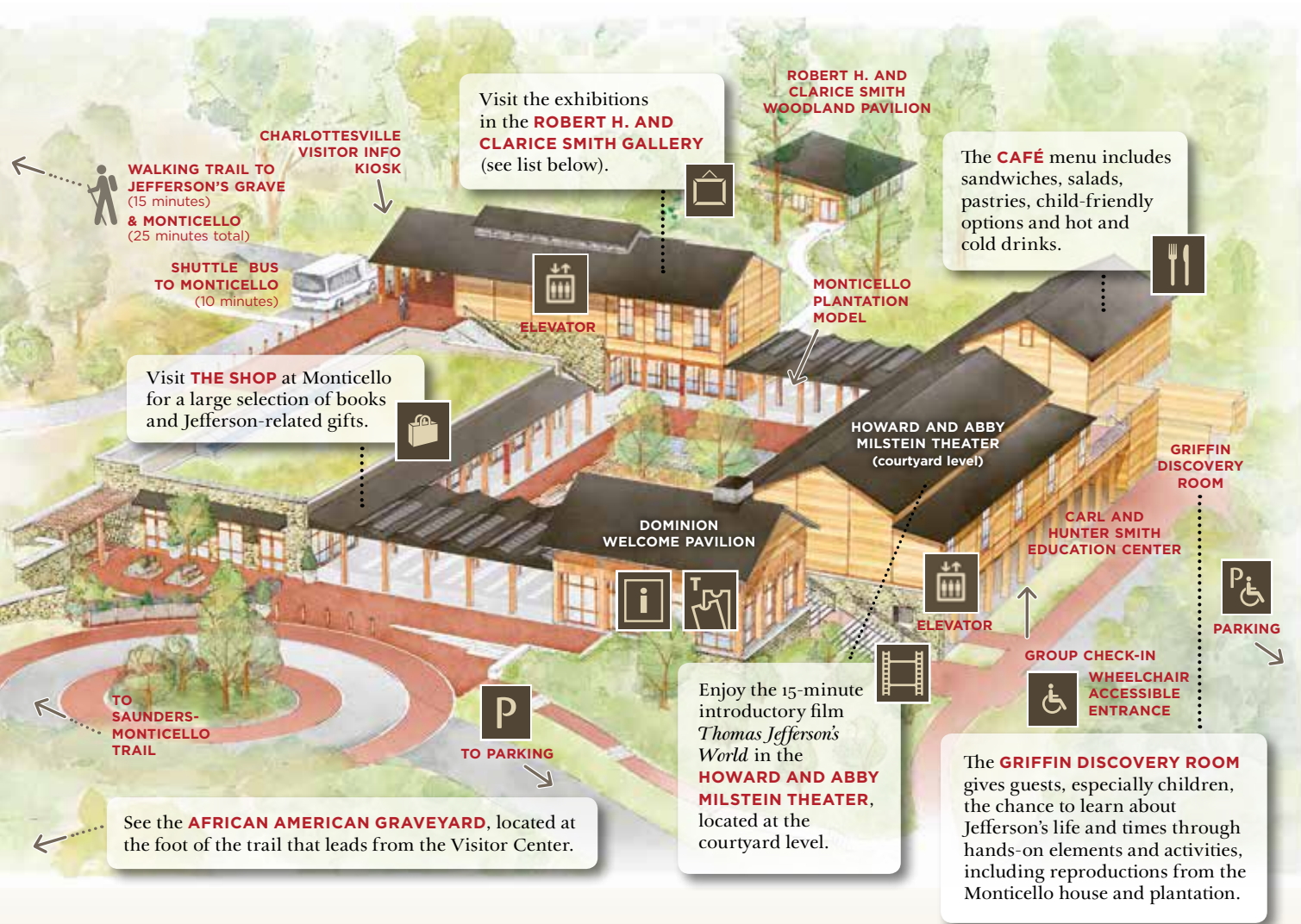


Monticello Mountaintop House and Plantation

David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center and Carl and Hunter Smith Education Center

Monticello

English



DISCOVER THE WORLD OF JEFFERSON

Monticello

GUIDE FOR VISITORS

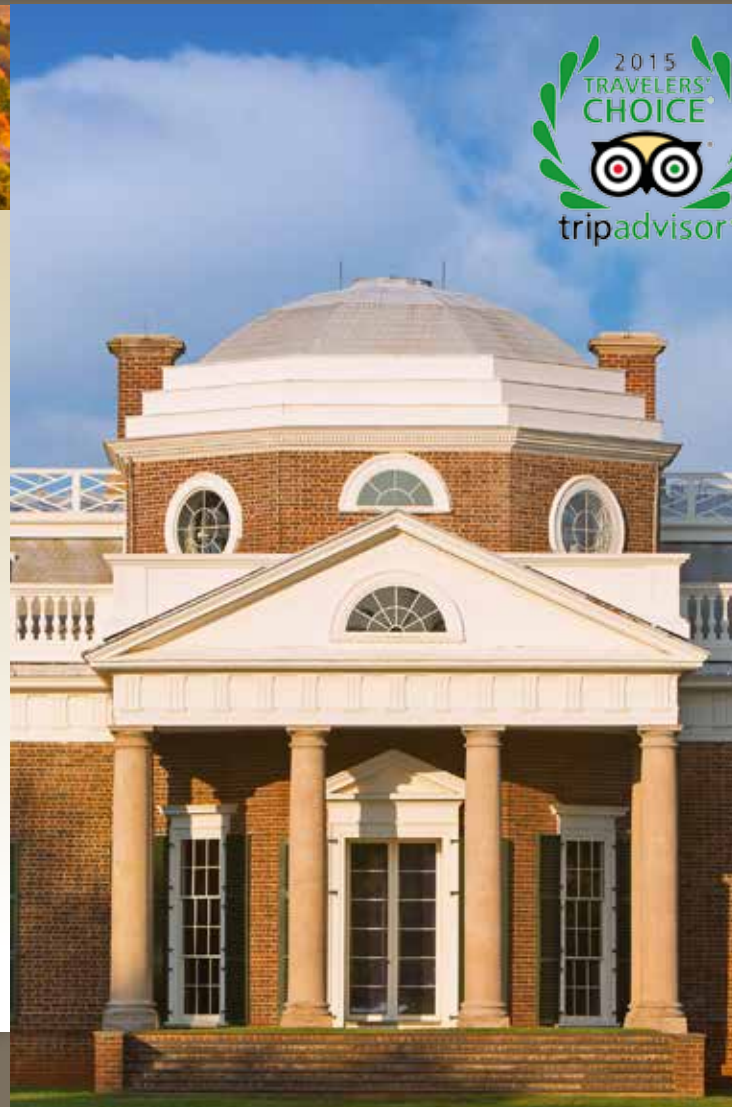
Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), theorist of the American Revolution, drafted the Declaration of Independence. His words—"all men are created equal"—which continue to inspire people from around the world, established the foundations of self-government and individual freedom in America.

After writing the Declaration, Jefferson spent the next 33 years in public life, serving as delegate to the Virginia General Assembly and to Congress, governor of Virginia, minister to France, secretary of state, vice president, and president from 1801 to 1809. Notable achievements of Jefferson's presidency include the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

He believed that human reason and knowledge could improve the condition of mankind. Jefferson studied science and was an "enthusiast" of the arts, shaping public architecture in America and contributing to horticulture, ethnography, paleontology, archaeology and astronomy, to name but a few. In retirement, he founded and designed the University of Virginia.

Jefferson designed every aspect of Monticello, an icon of architecture and a 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 contrasted with the ideals of liberty expressed by Jefferson in the Declaration.

As a result of Jefferson's meticulous record keeping and more than 50 years of scholarly research, Monticello is among the best-documented, best-preserved and best-studied plantations in North America. 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."



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

**Thomas Jefferson and "The Boisterous Sea of Liberty"** illustrates the development and ongoing influence of Jefferson's core ideas about liberty on a wall of 21 flat-panel LCD screens, including seven interactive touch screens.

**The Words of Thomas Jefferson** brings Jefferson's thoughts to light through projection in an innovative display.

**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.



**STAY CONNECTED**

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Thomas Jefferson's Monticello @TJMonticello

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.

UNESCO World Heritage Centre  
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
[monticello.org](http://monticello.org)





Thomas Jefferson by Thomas Sully, 1856

**THE HALL**

If you had visited Monticello in Jefferson's time, you would have been greeted in this grand two-story room by Burwell Colbert, Jefferson's enslaved butler, or by one of the enslaved houseboys. The Great Clock above the doorway displays the time as well as the day of the week.



Jefferson displayed Native American objects given as diplomatic gifts to Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their expedition. The Native American objects were displayed amid his wide-ranging collection of European art, maps of Virginia and the known continents, bones, fossils, horns and skins of extinct and living North American animals.

**SOUTH SQUARE ROOM**

This small room is the only one on the main floor dedicated solely to Jefferson's family members. Jefferson's eldest daughter, Martha Jefferson Randolph, used it as her sitting room and office, and as a classroom for her children. From this room, she oversaw the household and domestic activities of the plantation.



**PARLOR**

Jefferson's family and their guests gathered to converse, read and play games and musical instruments in the parlor, with its elegant parquet floor. The room contained furniture that Jefferson acquired in France as well as pieces made in the joinery at Monticello. The walls featured portraits of notable philosophers, statesmen, navigators and explorers of the New World. Jefferson also hung paintings of biblical subjects with strong visual impact.



**DINING ROOM AND TEA ROOM**

The Jefferson family and their guests ate two main meals a day: breakfast was served around 8 in the morning and dinner at about 4 in the afternoon. The food served at Monticello blended French cuisine with Anglo-Colonial and African influences. The tea room was a seating area for wine and evening refreshments after dinner. During Jefferson's retirement, Edith Fossett and Frances Hern, enslaved cooks, prepared food in the kitchen and the cellar of the house.



Learn about domestic work at Monticello at the **CROSSROADS** exhibition underneath the house.



Thomas Jefferson's polygraph  
Courtesy of the University of Virginia

**STUDY AND BEDCHAMBER**

Every day, Jefferson spent time reading and writing in his cabinet, or study. His desk holds a polygraph, a copying machine with two pens. When Jefferson wrote with one pen, the other made an exact copy. Jefferson saved copies of almost all the approximately 19,000 letters he wrote in his lifetime.



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



**BOOK ROOM**

Jefferson kept his library of over 6,500 books in this room in his private apartment, or suite. During the War of 1812, the British burned the US Capitol in Washington, D.C. along with the congressional library. In 1815, Jefferson sold his library to the nation; his books became the nucleus of the present Library of Congress. Shortly after the sale, Jefferson wrote to John Adams, "I cannot live without books," and he began buying more. After his death, much of his library was sold to pay his debts, along with the house, most of its contents and the enslaved workers. Today, only a few original volumes remain from the retirement library at Monticello. The other books here are the same titles and editions as the originals. Jefferson firmly believed that educated citizens were essential to the survival of democracy.

**NORTH OCTAGONAL ROOM**

Frequent occupants of this semi-octagonal bedroom were the fourth president of the United States, James Madison, and his celebrated wife, Dolley. Madison was Jefferson's close friend and important ally; his estate, Montpelier, is about 30 miles—about a day's travel then—from Monticello.



**DOME ROOM**

Monticello's iconic design element was based on the Temple of Vesta in Rome as depicted by Palladio. Sometimes called the "skyroom," the Dome Room was at times used for guests, for storage, and as temporary living quarters for Jefferson's grandson and his wife.

**THE UPSTAIRS**

Occupied primarily by Jefferson's daughter, sister and grandchildren, these private quarters illustrate the dynamics of family life in the early 1800s and illuminate the interactions between all of Monticello's inhabitants—both enslaved and free. The second and third floors were often filled to capacity, accommodating what one family member described as "an almost perpetual round of company."

**MARTHA JEFFERSON**

Martha Jefferson Randolph, known as Patsy to family and friends, was the first child of Thomas Jefferson and his wife, Martha Wayles Skelton. She moved to Monticello after her father's retirement, where she focused on educating her 11 children and supervising domestic activities on the plantation.



Martha Jefferson Randolph's bedchamber



**MULBERRY ROW**

Named for the mulberry trees planted along it, Mulberry Row was the center of plantation activity at Monticello from the 1770s until Jefferson's death in 1826. Enslaved, free and indentured workers and craftsmen lived and worked along Mulberry Row, which changed over time to accommodate the varying needs of Monticello's construction and Jefferson's household and manufacturing initiatives. Changing over time as structures were built, removed, or repurposed, Mulberry Row had more than 25 workshops, dwellings and storage buildings for weavers, spinners, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, nailmakers, carpenters, sawyers, charcoal burners, stablemen, joiners or domestic servants.



**THE STONE STABLE**

The Stone Stable on Mulberry Row has been in almost continuous use since it was constructed in 1809. The stable was the transportation hub and conduit of goods that linked the mountaintop with the rest of Thomas Jefferson's plantations and, through Jefferson family connections, the world. These two stone buildings were likely used to store feed and tack during Jefferson's lifetime.

**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 200 enslaved people, two-thirds of them at Monticello and one-third at Poplar Forest. Tobacco was his main cash crop, but he switched to wheat in the 1790s.



**STOREHOUSE FOR IRON**

Built around 1793, this log structure was recently reconstructed based on archaeological and documentary evidence. Jefferson referred to it as a "storehouse for nailrod & other iron," but it was also a site for tinsmithing, nailmaking and domestic life.



**THE HEMMINGS CABIN**

Woodworker John Hemmings and his wife, Priscilla, likely lived in a cabin like this reconstruction. It represents one of three structures built circa 1793 on Mulberry Row for enslaved families. When creating this cabin, builders used traditional materials and methods.

Monticello  
Dependencies, Gardens and Grounds



**FLOWER GARDEN**

By 1808, Jefferson had laid out and planted 20 oval flower beds at the four corners of the house, and a flower border along a graveled walk encircling the West Lawn. The serpentine design of the flower walk and the oval "island" beds reflect Jefferson's interest in the informal style of landscape design, a field he considered "one of the seven fine arts."

**VEGETABLE GARDEN**

When Jefferson referred to his "garden," he meant his vegetable garden, on the southeast slope of the mountain. Although it provided food for the family table, the garden also functioned as a laboratory where he grew 330 varieties of some 99 species of vegetables and herbs. This was a revolutionary American garden and Jefferson's most enriching horticultural achievement. Today, the garden serves as a preservation seed bank of Jefferson-era and 19th-century vegetable varieties.



**GREENHOUSE**

Jefferson grew flowers and fragrant plants such as orange trees in his greenhouse, which is adjacent to his Book Room. He kept tools and a workbench there too, and may have installed an aviary for his pet mockingbirds. Attached to the greenhouse are two outdoor porches with moveable slats that control the amount of light entering the space.



**SOUTH TERRACE AND PAVILION**

This terrace, reserved for Jefferson and his family, leads to the South Pavilion, the first building erected on the mountaintop. The one-room living space that initially sheltered Jefferson alone soon had not one but three residents—in 1772 his wife, Martha, joined him in the South Pavilion, and later that year their eldest daughter was born.

**THE DEPENDENCIES**

A striking aspect of Jefferson's design for Monticello is the incorporation of the "dependencies," or essential service rooms, so that they were easily accessible, without the need to venture outdoors. They were invisible from the public spaces of the house. Two wings, with kitchen, smokehouse, dairy, ice house and carriage bays, are connected by an all-weather passageway at the cellar level. Along this passageway are spaces for the storage of food, beverages and firewood. In these dependencies, the lives of Jefferson family members intersected with the lives of the enslaved African Americans who worked on the plantation as well as in the house.



**KITCHEN**

The Kitchen was among the best-equipped kitchens in America, complete with a stew stove. Common in Europe but relatively rare in the United States, this precursor of the kitchen range had charcoal fires with grated cast-iron openings and could be regulated more precisely than a roaring fireplace. The bake oven was used for bread and other baked goods. In 1790, Jefferson shipped copper pots, pans and pieces of specialized cookware to Monticello from France for his cooks to use in food preparation.

**SALLY HEMINGS**

Sally Hemings (1773-1835), a member of the large Hemings family, was an enslaved lady's maid at Monticello. DNA test results in 1998 indicated a genetic link between the Jefferson and Hemings families. Based on scientific evidence and oral history, Monticello and most historians now believe that, years after his wife's death, Thomas Jefferson was the father of Sally Hemings' six children, including Beverly, Harriet, Madison and Eston Hemings.



**WINE CELLAR**

As one of the most knowledgeable wine enthusiasts in the country, Thomas Jefferson served as wine adviser to Presidents Washington, Madison and Monroe. His cellar was filled with wines from France, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, Germany and Italy, reflecting tastes he acquired during his European travels. Jefferson sometimes imported several hundred bottles per year. He preferred bottles to casks because bottles ensured that the wine could not be adulterated by wine merchants or by crewmen on board a vessel during shipment.



**NORTH PAVILION**

Mirroring the South Pavilion, the construction of the North Pavilion completed Jefferson's scheme for organizing domestic functions. The upper floor, like that of the South Pavilion, was used by members of Jefferson's family; son-in-law Thomas Mann Randolph used it as a study, while granddaughter Virginia Randolph and her husband, Nicholas Trist, lived there after their marriage in 1824.

**ICE HOUSE**

The main purpose of the ice house was food preservation. It was used to store fresh meat and butter as well as for making ice cream and chilling wine. Packed tightly and insulated with wood chips or straw, the ice sometimes lasted through the summer.

**JEFFERSON'S GRAVE**

Thomas Jefferson is buried at Monticello with other members of his family in a gravesite he chose in 1773. This plot is owned by an association of Jefferson's descendants and is still used as a cemetery. The epitaph he wrote for his tombstone included only "Author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia."



**AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVEYARD**



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



Uriah Phillips Levy

**THE LEVY FAMILY STEWARDSHIP**

Monticello survives today because of the efforts of its two major owners after Jefferson's death: Uriah Phillips Levy, the first Jewish commodore in the United States Navy, and his nephew, Jefferson Monroe Levy. For nearly 100 years, the Levys worked to restore and preserve the house. In 1923, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation was founded, and purchased the property from Jefferson Levy. The foundation has carried on the tradition of preservation established by the Levy family.



ca. 1809-1826

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