



NEH Supports Dependencies Project

The ongoing effort to restore and interpret Monticello's dependencies has received a major boost.



The South Dependency wing, which was completed in 1809, houses the Kitchen, Cook's Room, and other spaces.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Thomas Jefferson Foundation a \$300,000 implementation grant in support of its multidisciplinary project to focus attention on domestic life and work at Jefferson's Monticello.

The core of the project is the creation of a permanent exhibition through the restoration and interpretation of 11 of Monticello's dependencies – the workrooms, storage areas, and slave quarters located beneath the main house














and its flanking terraces. Four spaces – the Cook's Room, North Privy, Beer Cellar, and Storage Cellar – have been restored, refurbished, equipped with interpretive reader rails, and opened to the public, and work on a fifth space, the Kitchen, is nearing completion. Future work will address Monticello's smokehouse, wash house, dairy, icehouse, wine cellar, and additional slave quarters.

The goal of the dependencies project, part of the foundation's long-term plan to return the mountaintop as much as possible to its appearance during Jefferson's day, is to offer visitors insight into how the house and plantation functioned on a daily basis and the opportunity to better understand the nature of slavery and the diverse

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MONTICELLO



Dependencies

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community of people who lived and worked at Monticello.

“We are both thrilled and grateful that NEH has decided to support this project,” said Susan R. Stein, Monticello’s curator and the project’s director. “We firmly believe these efforts will help visitors learn more about Jefferson, his family, individual workers – especially enslaved people – and their interaction.”

The grant to Monticello was among the first eight awarded in a new program, America’s Historic Places, which is part of NEH’s *We the People* initiative for model projects that advance the study, teaching, and understanding of American history and culture.

In a letter to Monticello, NEH Director Nancy E. Rogers wrote: “We commend in the highest terms the rigorous scholarship that supports these new insights into plantation life at Monticello. We have equal praise for the clear and compelling ways in which this interpretation will be shared with visitors.”

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the federal government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.

A private, nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation receives no ongoing federal or state funds in support of its dual mission of preservation and education.



A look down Monticello’s all-weather passageway.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org