

# News and Notes about Monticello

*Attendance up, slightly.* After seeing attendance decline for eight straight years, Monticello finished 2006 with a slight rise in visitation over the previous year. The 2006 attendance figure was 450,358, an increase of 246, or 0.05 percent, over the 2005 total. Monticello had last seen a year-to-year increase in 1997, when visitation rose 7.8 percent from the 1996 total. Monticello has now attracted more than 450,000 visitors for 27 consecutive years.

*No. 6 and No. 27.* The 2006 visitation total placed Monticello sixth on a list of America's most-visited historic houses compiled for the 2007 edition of the *Almanac of Architecture & Design*. The Biltmore Estate in North Carolina claimed the No. 1 position, followed by Virginia's Mount Vernon, California's Hearst Castle, Tennessee's Graceland, and Virginia's Arlington House/Robert E. Lee Memorial. In a ranking of America's most popular buildings as determined by a Harris Interactive poll conducted for the American Institute of Architects, Monticello came in at No. 27. It was the oldest structure on the list and third among residences, behind only the White House (No. 2) and the Biltmore (No. 8). The Empire State Building topped the list of 150 buildings; the Jefferson Memorial was No. 4, and the Jefferson-designed Virginia State Capitol ranked 50th.

*Plantation information.*  
Detailed information about slavery

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at Monticello and the individuals who lived in bondage on Jefferson's Virginia plantations is now available through the Monticello Plantation Database on the Web site [monticello.org](http://monticello.org). The database, which went online in October, is packed with vital statistics about Monticello's enslaved population as well as details of slave occupations and the transactions – sale, purchase, gift, and hiring – that were an inevitable part of the institution of slavery.

*Award roundup.* The Thomas Jefferson Foundation was named the 2006 Preservationist of the Year by the Thomas Jefferson Branch of APVA Preservation Virginia in recognition of its “extraordinary energy in not only continuing to preserve and interpret the house and immediate grounds but also working very productively beyond those bounds.” ... The Jefferson Library received a 2006 Merit of Architecture award from the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. ... The Monticello-based Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery received an Award of Merit from the Society for Historical Archaeology for “demonstrating the value of the Internet in presenting data for the comparative archaeological study of slavery in the Chesapeake region and beyond.” ... Gabriele Rausse, Monticello's associate director of gardens and grounds, was presented with the Virginia Wine Industry's 2006 Gordon Murchie Lifetime Achievement Award for his more than 30 years as a winemaker and consultant in the state.

**COMMENTS? [newsletter@monticello.org](mailto:newsletter@monticello.org)**