



Foundation Takes Ownership of Montalto

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation has completed its purchase of 330 acres on Montalto, the mountain opposite Monticello once owned by Jefferson.

The transaction was finalized in late April, concluding an agreement reached in January. The Foundation took over management of the property in early July.

The Foundation is developing a comprehensive plan for the use and administration of Montalto. Extending Monticello's network of



A view to the west from near the top of Montalto.

walking trails up the mountain and establishing an educational conference facility in the main house on the property are among the ideas under consideration.

"Montalto is significant not only to Monticello but to the entire community," said Foundation President Daniel P. Jordan. "We intend to be very thoughtful and careful in our decision-making, and preservation will be our guiding principle."

The Montalto tract was purchased from Mountaintop Land Trust for \$15 million, making it the largest acquisition in the history of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, which was established in 1923.

"Montalto is absolutely essential to the future of Monticello," Jordan said. "Though we still have to address issues of financing the purchase, there is no doubt that this was the proper and prudent step to take."

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MONTICELLO



Montalto

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At 1,278 feet, Montalto (“high mountain”) rises more than 400 feet above Monticello (“little mountain”). Jefferson’s purchase of 483 acres on the mountain was recorded in 1777. He used the property mainly as a source of lumber and a grazing site. His heirs sold the land in 1832.

The property changed hands numerous times in subsequent years and was known by a variety of names, most recently Brown’s Mountain, after the family that acquired it in 1950 and added apartment units, some in renovated farm buildings, in the 1960s. Mountaintop Land Trust had owned the tract since 1974.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org