

Signature Tours to be offered twice weekly

n this case, popularity has bred expansion.

Monticello introduced weekly Signature Tours – intimate, in-depth evening tours of Thomas Jefferson’s home – in August 2005 and all nine tours that were offered sold out in advance. In

2006, the once-a-week tour schedule was extended from April through September, and once again every available ticket was sold. In addition, each of the Holiday Signature Tours, held on eight evenings in December 2006, also sold out in advance.

This year, in response to that demand, Monticello will offer Signature Tours twice weekly, on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from May 2 through Sept. 15.

Signature Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and each tour is limited to a maximum of 20 people. The itinerary features visitor parking on the mountaintop; an hour-long guided tour of Monticello conducted by two interpreters that includes the rooms on the main floor of the house, the third-floor Dome Room, and the cellar-level dependencies; an orientation visit to Mulberry Row, the center of African-American life on the plantation; and ample time to stroll the scenic gardens and grounds.

“Signature Tours have been very popular ever since they were introduced, and we’re happy to be able to offer a significantly greater number of

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Monticello’s evening Signature Tours include the third-floor Dome Room.

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Monticello

Signature Tours

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them this year,” said Gary Sandling, Monticello’s director of interpretation and training. “On these tours, visitors get to experience Monticello in an in-depth, almost private way that’s simply not possible during our regular operating hours.”

Tickets for Signature Tours are \$40 per person; no discounts apply. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available through the Web site monticello.org or by calling (434) 984-9822. A credit card is required, and there is a limit of six tickets per purchase.

Because the third floor of Monticello can be reached only by steep, narrow staircases, that portion of the Signature Tours is not handicapped-accessible and is not recommended for individuals who may have difficulty climbing flights of stairs. The tours are also not recommended for children under age 12.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org