



# New Historical Marker is Placed at Shadwell

A new Historical Highway Marker has been erected at Shadwell by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The new version of marker W-202, "Shadwell, Birthplace of Thomas Jefferson," replaced an existing marker, "Shadwell Estate," on the eastbound side of U.S. 250 approximately 3 miles east of Charlottesville and only a few hundred yards northwest of the spot where Jefferson was born.

The new sign, which was initiated by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at the suggestion of local resident and Jefferson enthusiast John Owen, places greater emphasis on the site's significance as Jefferson's birthplace than did the previous marker. The text of the new marker also corrects some historical inaccuracies that were on the previous version; provides additional details about

both the site and Jefferson's father, Peter Jefferson; and lists three of Jefferson's major accomplishments.

The marker's text reads:

"Thomas Jefferson—author of the Declaration of Independence, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia—was born near this site on 13 April 1743. His father, Peter Jefferson (1708-1757), a surveyor, planter, and officeholder, began acquiring land in this frontier region in the mid-1730s and had purchased the Shadwell tract by 1741. Peter Jefferson built a house soon after, and the Shadwell plantation became a thriving agricultural estate. Thomas Jefferson spent much of his early



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- 🐾 LIBRARY DEDICATION
- 🐾 NEWS AND NOTES
- 🐾 PRESIDENTS LETTER
- 🐾 SAUNDERS BRIDGE
- 🐾 SLAVE HOUSE
- 🐾 SLAVE MEMORIAL
- 🐾 TWO NEW MONOGRAPHS
- 🐾 WEB FEATURE

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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MONTICELLO



## Historical Marker

CONTINUED, PAGE [TWO](#)

life at Shadwell. After the house burned to the ground in 1770, he moved to Monticello, where he had begun constructing a house.”

The Virginia Historical Highway Marker Program, established in 1927, has placed more than 2,250 markers throughout the state—including the marker for Monticello, which is located outside the Albemarle County Courthouse in downtown Charlottesville.

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