



# First Phase of Dependency Wall Project Completed

The first phase of a major project to restore, stabilize, and protect the rubble-stone walls under Monticello's North Terrace has been completed.



Monticello staff members refilling the trench dug along the wall.

The walls, which date to 1802, have been stressed over the years by soil pressure, tree roots, moisture, and deteriorated mortar. The first phase tackled the 120-foot-long section of wall that forms the rear of the stables and carriage house. It was carried out by Monticello's archaeology, restoration, and buildings departments.

Under a temporary shelter on the West Lawn, Monticello archaeologists began the work in November 2003 by excavating a 5-foot-wide

trench through layers of fill down to the mountaintop's original ground surface, a depth of between 3 and 4 feet. Artifacts uncovered included not only ceramics, glass, buttons, and building materials from the Jefferson era but also pieces from pre-Jefferson Native American activity on the mountain and from post-Jefferson occupation.

When the archaeology work was completed in April, the trench was dug to a depth of approximately 8½ feet and existing drainage pipes were taken out. All told, more than 100 tons of soil was removed, all by hand. Three trees also had to be cut down to accommodate the work.

After the exterior surface of the stone wall was exposed, it was repointed.

The next steps involved protecting the original wall. These included

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# MONTICELLO



## Dependency Wall

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pouring a 13-inch-thick concrete footer the length of the trench, building a 6-foot-high cinderblock wall adjacent to the original wall, pouring concrete into the cinderblocks of this subsurface barrier, installing a new drainage system in the trench, and boring a 360-foot-long drain-pipe tunnel 7 feet below the surface to carry water from the North Pavilion to a point below the First Roundabout.

In August, the trench was refilled with more than 100 tons of crushed stone and approximately 50 tons of the excavated dirt. The North Terrace was reopened to visitors Aug. 28, and the area of excavation was landscaped. The interior side of the wall will be repointed this fall.

The second phase of the project will attend to the 95-foot length of all-weather passageway wall that borders the West Lawn. The work, involving similar methods, was to begin in early November. The final phase, dealing with the east wall of the north passageway, is slated for November 2005.

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