



Montalto structures razed

Five structures on Montalto, from a small gazebo to a four-unit apartment building, have been demolished and removed.



The demolition work, done by Canada Contracting of Sandston, was completed in mid-August.

Two of the buildings razed were cottages on the northeast side of the “high mountain” that were eminently visible from the grounds of Monticello.

All five structures were in disrepair and of no potential value to the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. Interior building components of value were removed by and donated to Habitat for Humanity prior to demolition.

The other structures on Montalto, including the main house and all of the stone-walled buildings, will remain in place until completion of a feasibility study to determine their best possible use. The study is part of the Foundation’s development of a comprehensive plan for the use and administration of Montalto.

The feasibility study and the demolition work were made possible by the generous support of Robert H. Smith.

The Foundation has owned Montalto since 2004, when it purchased 330 acres from the Mountaintop Land Trust, the

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Monticello



Montalto

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property's owner since 1974, for \$15 million.

At 1,278 feet, Montalto rises more than 400 feet above Monticello. Jefferson acquired 574 acres on the mountain in 1777 and used the property as a source of lumber and for woodlands grazing. Jefferson's 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 converted farm buildings to apartments in the 1960s. The residential units on Montalto have been vacant since the summer of 2004.

Twice-daily interpretive walking tours of Montalto were introduced in May of this year and continued through Oct. 31.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org