

# *Thomas Jefferson* MONTICELLO

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## Monticello Receives \$10 Million Gift for Restoration Efforts

MONTICELLO HAS RECEIVED A \$10 MILLION GIFT from David M. Rubenstein, philanthropist and Co-CEO of The Carlyle Group. The transformational gift, one of Monticello's largest, was announced during Monticello's Annual Cabinet Retreat on April 19. It puts within reach the Foundation's goal to fully reveal Monticello and the mountaintop as Jefferson knew it.

"When David Rubenstein recently visited Monticello he understood immediately that although we have been painstakingly restoring Jefferson's house and this mountaintop for 90 years, we are far from finished. He realized that with a gift to accelerate our progress, he could help us reveal a more complete story of Jefferson and his world for millions of future visitors," said Leslie Greene Bowman, president and CEO of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

Over the past 90 years, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation has steadily expanded its mission of preservation and education—acquiring land once owned by Jefferson and preserving his landscape and vistas, researching and implementing major restoration projects, developing a robust educational program that draws international scholars and statesmen, creating a community trail system, opening the Jefferson Library, and hosting more than 28 million visitors to Monticello. In 1987 the United Nations recognized the global importance of Jefferson's

three-dimensional autobiography by designating Monticello a UNESCO World Heritage site.

And yet there is still so much left of Monticello to be revealed to a worldwide audience.

"Monticello is one of our nation's most important historic and cultural institutions, a critical strand of the rich tapestry that is American history," said Mr. Rubenstein. "I hope this gift furthers the understanding



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham (LEFT) and philanthropist David Rubenstein (RIGHT) held a conversation about Thomas Jefferson during Monticello's Annual Cabinet Retreat prior to announcing Rubenstein's \$10 million gift.

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of and appreciation for Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and one of our most important founding fathers.”

Funding will support substantial progress on restoration and interpretation of the second and third floors, which were recently opened to the public on Behind the Scenes tours. Currently, only one of the rooms on these floors, comprising one-third of the house, is fully restored.

The gift will also enable Monticello to make significant progress toward the restoration and interpretation of Mulberry Row, a multiyear project with many important archaeological,

landscape, and architectural components. When completed, Mulberry Row will bring to life the stories of the scores of people—enslaved and free—who lived and worked on Jefferson’s 5,000-acre plantation.

Finally, the gift will fund the upgrade of electrical and climate control systems that are approaching the end of their life cycle.

This gift to Monticello is the most recent of David Rubenstein’s efforts to protect and preserve important historical and cultural treasures. In addition to owning several copies of the Declaration of Independence, Mr. Rubenstein purchased the last

privately owned copy of Magna Carta, which is on permanent loan to the National Archives. Other recent gifts were made to Mount Vernon and to the Washington Monument to repair damage sustained in the 2011 earthquake.

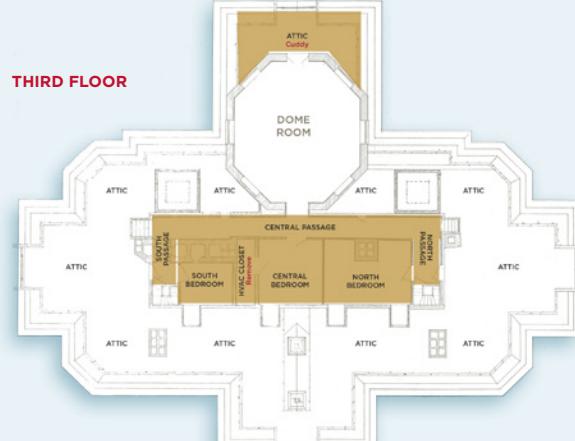
“We are deeply grateful to David Rubenstein for this generous and transformative support. Mr. Rubenstein’s gift is a significant milestone in the history of the Foundation. As we look ahead to the Foundation’s centennial in 2023, we can finally say that the goal of fully revealing Thomas Jefferson’s world at Monticello is in sight,” said Bowman.

For more about this historic gift, watch the video of the announcement online at [YouTube.com/MonticelloVisit](https://www.youtube.com/MonticelloVisit).

## What You Can Expect to See at Monticello

The \$10 million gift from David M. Rubenstein, one of Monticello’s largest, will support substantial progress on restoration of the second and third floors of Monticello and reconstruct Mulberry Row, the adjacent plantation community where slaves and workers lived, allowing visitors to experience Monticello much as Jefferson himself knew it.

### Spaces to be restored and interpreted



# What You Can Expect to See at Monticello

## UPPER FLOORS

The second and third floors of Monticello will be studied, restored, and interpreted, providing vivid settings for the stories of Jefferson's family members, guests, and the enslaved people who served them.

This year, paint experts will analyze the finishes in the South Octagon room, once occupied by Martha Jefferson Randolph, Jefferson's daughter. Curators and restoration staff will carry out extensive research to restore the room to its early 19th-century appearance. The most exciting aspect is the re-creation of the closet that Mrs. Randolph persuaded her father to install in the bed alcove.

Future rooms to be interpreted include the double alcove bedroom on the third floor, likely occupied by some of Jefferson's numerous grandchildren.



1. The "cuddy." This small room is found off the Dome Room and was used by one of Jefferson's granddaughters as a private retreat complete with a sofa and chairs.
2. Architectural historian Gardiner Hallock searches for evidence of the Jefferson-era stove in the North Octagon.
3. The North Bedroom on the third floor. This is the only room in Monticello that has two alcove beds and it may have been used by Jefferson's grandchildren.
4. Curatorial assistant Melanie Lower installs a bed skirt in the recently refurnished North Octagon.

# What You Can Expect to See at Monticello

## MULBERRY ROW

Two structures will be re-created on Mulberry Row—a log dwelling likely built for members of the Hemings family and what Jefferson described as “Building I,” a storehouse for iron. These structures will help visitors picture how Mulberry Row looked in Jefferson’s time and also gain understanding of the lives of enslaved people.

Three identical log dwellings were described by Jefferson as “servants houses of wood with wooden chimnies, & earth floors, 12 by 14. feet, each 27. feet apart from one another.” They likely contained lofts and were made of pine “logs, hewed on two sides . . . and dove tailed.” The structures were single-family dwellings for enslaved artisans and house servants—likely residents of the buildings included Sally Hemings and her family, Critta Hemings and her son James (Jamey), and joiner John Hemmings and his wife, Priscilla. All three of the dwellings were probably demolished around 1830.

The storehouse for iron served as a workshop for tinsmithing and nail-making, and later housed enslaved workers.

Built around 1793, this 16 x 10.5-foot log structure was primarily “used as a storehouse for nailrod & other iron.” For a brief period in the 1790s, it was the site of a tinsmithing operation containing an anvil and forge. Isaac Granger Jefferson, trained by a Philadelphia tinsmith, recalled that he “carried on the tin business two years” before it failed. Archaeological evidence suggests that this structure also functioned as a small-scale nail-making operation and as living quarters for enslaved workers after the War of 1812.



1



3



2

1. A digital reconstruction of the storehouse for iron. The building will be physically reconstructed by the end of 2014 and was used for a variety of tasks.

2. The site of the storehouse for iron, showing the surviving Jefferson-era brick paving (to the left) as well as the base of the forge (upper right).

3. Mulberry Row lined with its namesake mulberry trees. The trees, a variety of white mulberry, were planted in 1995.