Google Provides a New Look at Jefferson’s Mountaintop

“When I contemplate the immense advances in science and discoveries in the arts which have been made within the period of my life, I look forward with confidence to equal advances by the present generation, and have no doubt they will consequently be as much wiser than we have been as we than our fathers were, and they than the burners of witches.”

—THOMAS JEFFERSON, 1818

The spirit of Jefferson’s innovation and insatiable curiosity to learn more about the world still resonates with us today as we continue to push boundaries and implement new technologies. This summer Monticello became more accessible to a worldwide audience through the Google Street View™ service.

Street View is closely associated with Google Maps™ and allows users to navigate virtually through a vast collection of “spherical” or panoramic images of the world’s streets, highways, and pedestrian trails (as well as an increasing number of parks, historic sites, and private businesses). In 2012 interiors of the White House were captured and shared on Street View™. Earlier this year, Google captured interior and exterior images of Monticello to share with its global audience.

Google unveiled the new images on July 2, 2013, which included Monticello’s West Lawn, East Lawn, Mulberry Row, and Vegetable Garden, as well as Monticello’s Hall, Jefferson’s Cabinet, and the Dining Room.

“There’s no question that Jefferson, who owned hundreds of maps, would have loved to have seen how his innovative spirit is being showcased to viewers around the world—in places he didn’t even know existed,” said Leslie Greene Bowman, President and CEO of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

For those who cannot make it to the mountaintop in person, and for those who want to relive their memories of time spent here, the Google Street View is a great way to see Monticello.

Read the guest post from Leslie Greene Bowman on Google’s Lat Long Blog: www.google-latlong.blogspot.com