Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

*(Type all entries complete applicable sections)*

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Albemarle
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 1. NAME

COMMON: Monticello
AND/OR HISTORIC: Monticello

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 miles southeast of Charlottesville on Va. Rt. 53
CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7th
STATE: Virginia — CODE: 51
COUNTY: Albemarle — CODE: 003

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XX District ☐ Building | ☐ Public | Public Acquisition: | XX Occupied | Yes: |
| ☐ Site ☐ Structure | XX Private | ☐ In Process | ☐ Unoccupied | ☐ Restricted |
| ☐ Object | ☐ Both | ☐ Being Considered | ☐ Preservation work in progress | XX Unrestricted |
| | | | | ☐ No |

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural | ☐ Government | ☐ Park | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Comments |
| ☐ Commercial | ☐ Industrial | ☐ Private Residence | ☐ Other *(Specify)* | |
| ☐ Educational | ☐ Military | ☐ Religious | | |
| ☐ Entertainment | XX Museum | ☐ Scientific | | |

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 316
CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville
STATE: Virginia 22901 — CODE: 51

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Albemarle Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville
STATE: Virginia 22902 — CODE: 51

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Albemarle

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1937, 1940 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/Annex
STREET AND NUMBER: Prints and Photographs Division
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D.C. — CODE: 11

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | XX Excellent | ☐ Good | ☐ Fair | ☐ Deteriorated | ☐ Ruins | ☐ Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | (Check One) | | | |
| | ☐ Altered | XX Unaltered | ☐ Moved | XXX Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Monticello is approached by a private road that winds up through woods from a brick lodge. The mansion complex, on the leveled top of a "little mountain," looks across a wide expanse of rolling fields far below to the crest of the Blue Ridge and many miles of the Piedmont.

The mansion is red brick with snow-white trim, roughly oval in plan and in a green frame of trees. It is a fine example of the Classic Revival style which Jefferson did much to popularize in this country. To the southwest it presents a fine Roman Doric portico before the projecting end of a salon designed in the French manner. The room is topped by a large white-domed octagonal clerostory with circular windows. Behind a similar portico, the eastern and newer side has a low second story with half windows immediately above the lintels of the first floor windows, and a half story set back inconspicuously. The whole is tied together by a balustraded parapet and by a continuous Doric entablature, creating a deceptive appearance of smallness.

The house is at the center of a formal plan that embraces sunken and terrace-covered passages leading away from it on both sides to small templelike pavilions at the far ends of service quarters set in the hillside.

The interior is distinguished by beauty of woodwork and many evidences of Jefferon's ingenuity. At Monticello are dumbwaiters, disappearing beds, unusual lighting and ventilating arrangements, a duplicate-writing machine, the forerunner of the one-arm lunch chair, folding doors, book-shelves that become storage boxes, and an extraordinary clock which still runs by a series of weights and pulleys.

The large entrance hall opens, beneath a balcony, into the salon. Lateral halls lead to four chambers, to the dining room with monumentally proportioned arches over alcove, and to Jefferson's study. Two steep staircases are hidden in closetlike alcoves because Jefferson regarded them as unattractive architectural features. They lead to low bedrooms above the high first floor and to a "ballroom" in the cupola.

Jefferson began building Monticello from his own design in 1770 and by 1775 had completed the western part, including a two-tiered portico. In 1771 after his old home, Shadwell, had burned, he moved into the first completed pavilion and a year later brought his bride to it on horseback through a blizzard. Between 1796 and 1809 he enlarged the house in a style even more Roman, making it an example of classical design adapted to its environment and uses. Jefferson's careful symmetry had a far-reaching influence in developing the style of architecture now called Early Republican or Federal. The Marquis de Chastellux, visiting as early as 1782, wrote later, "We may safely aver that Mr. Jefferson is the first American who has consulted the fine arts to know how he should shelter himself from the weather."

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Soon after Jefferson's death in 1826 the house and estate were sold for $7,000, one tenth their real value. Jefferson had often entertained 40 or 50 guests daily during his last years, and his generosity had led him into financial straits. In 1834 Uriah Levy bought the house and attempted to restore it, but after 1839 he turned it over to tenants and steady deterioration. The house was confiscated in 1861 and its furnishings were sold. After the war, however, the property was restored to Commodore Levy, who recovered some of the furniture and attempted to leave Jefferson's house to the nation or the people of Virginia. His will was broken, and a nephew, Jefferson Levy, acquired full possession, restored the house, and enlarged the estate to about 2,000 acres. In 1923 he sold Monticello and 650 acres for $500,000, to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, who have greatly expanded their holdings since then. At present there are plans to build a visitor's center on the side of the mountain below the Monticello mansion. It would not be visible from the levelled mountain top. However, the present economic situation has postponed construction indefinitely.

## Boundaries

The boundaries are those of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, all of whose land was owned by Jefferson when he was living at Monticello. The area consists of 1,675.72 acres, which includes 651.74 acres known as "Monticello," 808.98 acres known as "Tufton," and 215 acres known as "Shadwell."

Beginning on Route 53, at Michie Tavern; proceed in a southeasterly direction along Route 53 for about 2400 feet; thence in a northeasterly direction for about 3450 feet; thence south for about 2800 feet; thence southwest for about 800 feet; thence south for about 500 feet; thence west for about 200 feet; thence south for about 200 feet; thence east for about 800 feet; thence south for about 800 feet to Route 732; thence east along Route 732 for about 1400 feet; thence south for about 3200 feet; thence southeast for about 1400 feet; thence in a north-northeast direction for about 6500 feet to railroad tracks; thence in a general northerly direction for about 4000 feet to the middle of Rivanna River; thence in a northeasterly direction for about 2500 feet; thence south for about 500 feet to the middle of Rivanna River; thence east in the middle of Rivanna River to Barn Branch Creek; thence north along Barn Branch Creek to Route 250; thence west along Route 250 for about 4000 feet; thence southeast for about 1300 feet to the middle of Rivanna River; thence in a west-northwest direction in the direction of Rivanna River for about 8400 feet; thence in a generally west-southwest direction for about 1400 feet; thence in a south-southwest direction for about 4000 feet to point of beginning.

7. DESCRIPTION (Abridged from American Buildings and Their Architects, William H. Pierson, Jr., (New York, 1970)

The Later Monticello

Monticello, as it finally took shape during the second building campaign (1793-1809), clearly reflects Jefferson's years in France. The low horizontal appearance of a single story, interlocked in the center by the spherical mass of the dome, is strongly reminiscent of the river front of the Hôtel de Salm in Paris. Jefferson achieved this effect by eliminating the original second-floor portico with its thin widely spaced columns, and by introducing instead the simple geometry of a low octagonal dome and its supporting drum. The general lowering of the profile which results is stressed by the addition of archaded porches beyond each octagonal end bay and is aided by the depressed attic story. The continuous balustrade also emphasizes the horizontal and joins with the entablature to unify the many parts of the extended mass. Together with the volume of the dome, it also gives the building greater monumentality. The over-all effect is more coherent and broader than the earlier scheme at the same time that it is very much more complex.

Equally decisive changes were made in the plan. The earlier plan shows on the first floor a central room with an octagonal side which projects as a bay beneath a four-columned portico. Adjoining this room on its inner side is a small entrance hall with flanking stairs. It, too, is fronted by a portico. These central spaces, from portico to portico, constitute a continuous block and delineate the primary axis of the building. Flanking this block on either side are identical square rooms which in turn are extended by octagonal bays. No plan of the second floor survives.

In his revised plan, begun after his return from France, Jefferson retained both the main room with its octagonal end and portico, and the flanking rooms with their octagonal bays. The meagre entrance hall and stairs, he eliminated altogether. Then by extending the outer walls of the old hall to more than twice their original length he created a new entrance hall. Like the adjoining central room, the hall terminates in a portico. On either side of this hall, but projecting slightly beyond it so as to form a recessed porch beneath the portico, Jefferson put a second pair of balancing rooms with attached bays. Access to these new rooms and to all but one of the original flanking rooms was by narrow lateral passageways which opened from either side of the main hall; narrow stairs off each of these passageways provided access to the second floor. The whole house was thus deepened by more than twice its original area and the plan made much more complex.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☒ 18th Century
- XX 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1772-1826

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☒ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other *(Specify)* |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Monticello was the home of Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) creator of the Declaration of Independence, political philosopher, third President of the United States, and universal man. The entire Monticello complex was designed by him; he lived there throughout the most productive years of his life and died there in 1826.

## Biography

Thomas Jefferson entered William and Mary College in 1759, at the age of sixteen. He was part of a small intellectual circle there which included William Small, George Wythe, and the lieutenant governor, Francis Fauquier. These men did much to influence the development of Jefferson's political thought in the direction of reliance on an educated, responsible citizenry for a nation's welfare. In 1767 he entered the Virginia Bar and was soon after made a justice of the peace. The legal experience he gained at this time led to his later conviction that revolution not founded on law, and the creation of new and better law, was anarchy. This sentiment he would share in common with nearly all the leading statesmen of his time. The result would be the establishment of unusually firm and enduring legal foundations for the new nation.

In 1772, Jefferson married Martha Wayles Skelton, and brought her to his new home at Monticello, still under construction. Three years later he was sent by Virginia as a delegate to the Continental Congress, where he emerged as a leader of the more radical element, despite his dislike for oral debate. Jefferson's talents as a fluent writer and superb legal draftsman were recognized by all. When the time came to draw up a declaration of independence, Jefferson was appointed the task. On July 2, 1776, his document was adopted, and signed two days later.

In 1779 Jefferson succeeded Patrick Henry as governor of Virginia. Since much of the state had been overrun by Cornwallis' army, his term in office was ineffective. At one point he barely escaped capture by dragoons of Tarleton's Legion.

Throughout this period Jefferson was active in the Virginia state legislature. Most of his proposed reforms were adopted by 1786: repeal

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

of the laws of entail, which kept property in the hands of one family in perpetuity; abolition of the laws of primogeniture, which required that inherited estates be delivered whole to the eldest son; disestablishment of the Anglican Church, and the initiation of a state-supported educational system. Jefferson's proposals for public elementary, grammar, and classical schools, along with public libraries, were never adopted in his lifetime. The University of Virginia at Charlottesville was opened only after his retirement from public office.

In 1783 Jefferson was a delegate to the congress of the newly formed Articles of Confederation. He was a member of the peace treaty committee which ended hostilities with Great Britain; he also helped adopt a decimal monetary system, and attempted to promote a similar system for weights and measures. Jefferson also helped plan a system of government for the Northwest Territory. These plans resulted in the 1787 ordnance which banned slavery from the territory after 1800--the first ban on the expansion of slavery passed by Congress.

In 1785 Jefferson succeeded Benjamin Franklin as minister to France. It was here that he wrote his Notes on Virginia, and wrote some of his most famous correspondence, including the oft-quoted remark that "the tree of liberty must be watered from time to time with the blood of patriots." On returning to America he drafted the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and became one of the principal engineers of the new Federal Constitution, adopted in 1787. He became Secretary of State two years later, in George Washington's first administration. Severe disagreements between Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, led to the beginnings of the two-party system in America. Hamilton's followers, who generally favored a strong central government by an intellectual or economic elite, were called Federalists. Jefferson's more egalitarian, localized philosophy was endorsed by the Democratic-Republicans. In 1796 Jefferson finished second in electoral votes to John Adams, the Federalist candidate. According to the Constitution at that time, Jefferson was named Vice-President, a most unhappy situation.

In 1800 party politics again played havoc with the Constitution. Jefferson and his running mate, Aaron Burr, each received an equal number of electoral votes, tieing for first. The House of Representatives was forced to elect Jefferson in a state-by-state vote. This situation was corrected in 1804 when the Twelfth Amendment was adopted, providing for the separate election of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates.

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Jefferson's election in 1800 was viewed with real alarm by many Federalists, who feared the onset of mob rule in America. The restraint Jefferson showed in not advocating radical changes or stirring to a higher pitch his followers' political passions, did much to establish more firmly in America a tradition of governmental stability.

In 1803, Jefferson effected the Louisiana Purchase, despite doubts as to the constitutionality of his action. This transaction nearly doubled the size of American territory; Lewis and Clark were sent by Jefferson to explore the new lands in 1804. The three year expedition vastly increased the nation's knowledge of its own frontier.

Jefferson was easily re-elected in 1804, but his second term was troubled by the Napoleonic wars then raging in Europe. America's rights as a neutral were so abused by either side that in 1807 Jefferson felt impelled to sign into law the Embargo Act, forbidding trade with any belligerent nation. This measure proved so unpopular that Jefferson had little problem deciding not to run for a third term, though he would almost certainly have been reelected. In the process, his decision helped reinforce the unofficial two-term-limit tradition begun by George Washington.

After his retirement, Jefferson spent most of his time at Monticello. He founded and designed the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, and kept up a voluminous correspondence. At this time he began to advocate a ward system for localizing political power. If implemented, it might have done much to reduce the political apathy which gradually overtook the majority of the American population during the next two centuries.

Jefferson was a man of incredibly varied interests. He was fluent in Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Italian, and Anglo-Saxon. He re-edited the Bible, excising everything except those words directly attributed to Jesus Christ. He was a philosopher, and wrote an effective and devastating refutation of Plato's Republic. He also spent much time studying the natural sciences, ethnology, archaeology, agriculture, and meteorology. He was a superb architect, almost single-handedly introducing the neo-classical style to this country. The Virginia State Capitol, as well as Monticello and the University at Charlottesville, are of his design.

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Jefferson's chief contributions, however, must be those made in the realm of political theory. The mainstream of American political thought has always been that described by Hamilton and James Madison in the Federalist Papers: stability, achieved through checks and balances on the ambition of powerful men and potentially violent masses. But a constant undercurrent, more optimistic in its conception of human nature, has also been a part of American political life from its beginning: a faith in the common man, and in his ability to do well with the liberties granted him. This is the concept basic to Jefferson's writings, and to his work. It is his truest legacy.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Carson, William E., Historic Shrines of Virginia, 1934.

Malone, Dumas, Jefferson and His Time, 2 vols., 1948-52.

Woods, Edgar, Albemarle County in Virginia, 1901.

Writers Project Administration, Virginia--A Guide to the Old Dominion, 1940.


## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

| CORNER | UTM |
|---|---|
| NW | 18.723190.4210890 |
| NE | 18.727710.4210520 |
| SE | 18.726040.4206690 |
| SW | 18.722830.4209540 |

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

| LATITUDE | | | LONGITUDE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1676 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE
2/8/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE
D.C.

CODE
11

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title

Date (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

Landmark Designated: Dec 19, 1960 date

Boundary Certified: Cornelius Heine 7-2-75 date

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys

Boundary Affirmed: 7/3/75 date

Director, OAHP

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973—729-147/1442 3-1