Monticello Before the Mansion: A Comparative Study of Early Domestic and Industrial Structures on Mulberry Row

1. Overview

Located at the center of Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello Plantation, Mulberry Row was a dynamic, bustling landscape from the 1750s through the 1830s. In the words of the plantation, Jefferson changed the number, layout, and function of the structures on Mulberry Row multiple times during his lifetime. Historical documents provide snapshots of these configurations, the most detailed of which is Jefferson’s Musical Declaration. Declaration I illustrates and describes seventeen structures standing on Mulberry Row as of 1794 and demonstrates Jefferson’s endeavor towards a highly ordered landscape.

2. Site Details

The MRS-2 site, located between Building E and Building C, is traverse of Jefferson’s estate. Several post holes, brick support, and 18th-century brick walls were excavated at Mulberry Row junction, indicating Mulberry Row buildings, and possibly removed 20’ x 13 feet.

No foundations or post holes remain positively identified as being part of MRS-2, including a number of smaller structures, such as items to a 12 foot and a 6 foot size. The only architectural features positively identified are part of MRS-2.

3. Establishing a Site Chronology

The MRS-2 chronology is based on the radiocarbon dates of the site. The first phase of Mulberry Row correlates with the early post-Monticello period and the completion of the 1809 Stone House. The second phase is associated with the construction of the 1809 Stone House and reflects a change in the landscape. The third phase is associated with the construction of the 1809 Stone House and reflects a change in the landscape. The fourth phase is associated with the construction of the 1809 Stone House and reflects a change in the landscape.

4. How does MRS-2 fit in the landscape of Mulberry Row?

To see how MRS-2 fits into the larger Monticello landscape, we provide a detailed, large-scale map of Mulberry Row. The map illustrates the major elements of the landscape and provides a framework for understanding the relationship between MRS-2 and other structures on Mulberry Row.

5. The Changing Mulberry Row Landscape

Phase 1: The early phase of Mulberry Row consists of low buildings and a low-slope organization. The first Monticello plantation was constructed during this phase. The buildings are the oldest structures on Mulberry Row, and they reflect the original design of the plantation. The buildings are the oldest structures on Mulberry Row, and they reflect the original design of the plantation.

Phase 2: The mid-phase of construction along Mulberry Row coincides with the construction of the second Monticello-structure and much of the built environment reflects the transition from the early to the mid-phase. This period is characterized by the construction of a series of larger, more permanent buildings, including the 1809 Stone House.

Phase 3: The late phase of construction along Mulberry Row coincides with the construction of the second Monticello-structure and much of the built environment reflects the transition from the mid-phase to the late phase. This period is characterized by the construction of a series of larger, more permanent buildings, including the 1809 Stone House.

6. Discussion

Previously believed to date to the first phase of Monticello, our excavations have identified a new phase of construction. New Phases 2 and 3 give evidence to the existence of a new phase, which is characterized by the construction of larger buildings and a more organized layout. Phase 2 is characterized by the construction of larger buildings and a more organized layout.

During excavations in the 1980s, Dr. William Kelso uncovered the remains of many buildings on Mulberry Row. The remains of these buildings were identified as part of the MRS-2 phase. Excavators unearthed a cellar for one such building, designated as Building L, and it is likely that these were constructed to house some of the many workers located on Mulberry Row, only to be removed as the boom period of construction along Mulberry Row corresponds to a peak of activity on the Monticello.

Future analysis made possible by NSF funding will identify a new phase, which is characterized by the construction of larger buildings and a more organized layout. This phase is characterized by the construction of larger buildings and a more organized layout.

Funding for this Research Provided by: The Museum of Monticello.

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to: Special thanks to the staff and volunteers at the Monticello Institute of Archaeology.

References


Future Research

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Appendices

1. Detailed site information for the MRS-2 site.
2. A table listing the radiocarbon dates for the MRS-2 site.
3. A map of the MRS-2 site showing the location of the radiocarbon dates.

Figure 1: The MRS-2 site, located between Building E and Building C, is a traverse of Jefferson’s estate. Several post holes, brick support, and 18th-century brick walls were excavated at Mulberry Row junction, indicating Mulberry Row buildings, and possibly removed 20’ x 13 feet. No foundations or post holes remain positively identified as being part of MRS-2, including a number of smaller structures, such as items to a 12 foot and a 6 foot size. The only architectural features positively identified are part of MRS-2.

Figure 2: A table listing the radiocarbon dates for the MRS-2 site. The table includes the location of the radiocarbon dates, the radiocarbon age, and the associated error.

Figure 3: A map of the MRS-2 site showing the location of the radiocarbon dates.