

## SECOND PUBLIC NOTICE

### **Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of Three Former Slave Quarter Sites located at James Madison's Montpelier**

This is the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) second notice regarding the agency's Section 106 review of The Montpelier Foundation's (Foundation) proposal to excavate three former slave quarter sites located at James Madison's Montpelier. In accordance with NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the purpose of this notice is to provide the public with an update on NEH's Section 106 review of the Foundation's proposed study and also to invite further comments.

Since NEH's last notice, the agency, in consultation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), has found that the Foundation's proposed study will have an adverse effect on the Montpelier property, including the three National Register-eligible former slave quarter sites. This determination is based on NEH's review of the Foundation's proposal and on the VDHR's view that archaeological data recovery on National Register-eligible or -listed sites constitutes an adverse effect on historic properties because of its inherently destructive nature.

In order to mitigate or minimize the adverse effects to the historic properties, the Foundation has proposed the following measures:

1. **Public Interpretation**: The Foundation will use the three slave quarter sites for public interpretation of slave homes during the excavations. Currently, the Foundation has signage that introduces visitors to the sites and encourages them to interact with archaeological staff and ask questions. In addition, there is an archaeology lab that features exhibits, hands-on activities for kids, and study cabinets, all of which are open to the public.

The Foundation will add to these current efforts by arranging special open house days where the sites will be open to the local community for tours. Further, the Foundation will directly involve the descendent community and the public through its Archaeology Expedition programs, which provide the public an opportunity to work side-by-side with trained archaeological staff.

2. **Educational Training**: The Foundation will continue to host James Madison University (JMU) and the State University of New York (SUNY) archeological field school. Montpelier has hosted JMU and SUNY over the past 22 years and eight years respectively through intensive summer programs.

3. Technical Reports: The Foundation will report on its findings of the excavations. It will make site reports available as PDF files on the organization's technical report page (<http://montpelier.org/library/index.php#archaeology>). Montpelier Archaeological staff will present excavation results at regional and national conferences. In addition, the Foundation will publish a monthly blog that updates the public on the findings of the Foundation's excavations and research (<http://montpelier.org/blog/?cat=9>), and it will also publish its findings in professional journals, university press volumes, and booklets that will be available at Montpelier's visitor center and on the web

At this time, NEH is interested in hearing your comments on the agency's finding of adverse effect and the possible measures proposed by the Foundation to mitigate the adverse effect. You may submit your questions or comments to NEH via e-mail at [gencounsel@neh.gov](mailto:gencounsel@neh.gov) or by regular mail to: National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of the General Counsel 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 529, Washington, DC 20506. All comments should be received by **January 31, 2011**.