



Media Contact: Nancy Hawley
Tryon Palace Marketing & Communications
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Phone: (252) 514-4937
Email: nhawley@tryonpalace.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE DAY: “BUILDING NEW BERN”

**Saturday, February 6
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Underwriting provided by
THE HAROLD H. BATE FOUNDATION

(NEW BERN, NC)---In keeping with the theme, “Building New Bern” families will find a lot of fun things to do at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Free Day will feature a variety of lawn games, craft projects and other activities to highlight New Bern’s colonial history.

Some of the free activities planned include:

- Lawn games: hoops; graces; bowls; Jacob’s ladder
- Make your very own: windmill; colonial shoe; candle
- Demonstrations include: candle making; blacksmithing; tailoring
- Touch & Tell Table: Colonial trades

continued

Adults and children will also enjoy touring the first floor of the Palace, as well as the first floors of the three historic houses. The John Wright Stanly house, ca.1780, was home to a wealthy ship owner and privateer; and the George W. Dixon house, ca.1830, the home of a once prosperous merchant and tailor, and the Robert Hay house will provide visitors the opportunity to experience what life was like in 1835.

Visitors are asked to pick up their free passes in the Tryon Palace Visitor Center at the corner of Pollock and George Street.

This community appreciation event is made possible each year with underwriting provided by **The Harold H. Bate Foundation**. “The Harold H. Bate Foundation’s underwriting of Free Day is a wonderful gift to everyone who lives in eastern North Carolina,” said Kay Williams, director of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. “We are very grateful to have their continued support for Free Day and many other programs throughout the year.”

A visit to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens allows new and returning visitors the opportunity to experience North Carolina’s history from colonial days through the Civil War, and, in so doing, understand more about the rich and colorful history of the Old North State.

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Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is at the corner of George and Pollock Streets in New Bern's historic downtown. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Free Day.

Before entering the grounds, visitors should go to the Visitor Center to pick up their free passes. Tours of its historic sites begin on the hour and half-hour. The last tours of the day begin at 4 p.m. ###

The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement and development of statehood through the mid-twentieth century by collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation. The North Carolina History Education Center scheduled to open in July of 2010 complements and enhances this mission.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The Department of Cultural Resources is a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. For more information, visit www.ncculture.com.

Buildings currently open to the public include the reconstructed Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the George W. Dixon House, and the Robert Hay House. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Last tours begin at 4 p.m. The New Bern Academy Museum is closed until March 2010, but is open for group tours. Tickets and tour information is available at the Visitor Center located at the corner of George and Pollock streets.

The visitor center and the first floor of the Palace and gardens are accessible to visitors with disabilities. The North Carolina History Education Center is under construction and is scheduled to open in July 2010.

For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone (800) 767-1560 or (252) 514-4900 or visit our web site: www.tryonpalace.org.