



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**“Searching for Donum Montford, an African American Artisan in
Antebellum New Bern”**
Catherine Bishir
**Architectural Historian at North Carolina State University
and Preservation North Carolina**

NEW BERN, NC---Catherine Bishir will give a presentation on her exciting research project for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens on African-American artisans living in New Bern prior to the Civil War. This free lecture will be held on Thursday, April 10 at 7PM in the Tryon Palace auditorium.

Bishir’s presentation, “Searching for Donum Montford, an African-American Artisan in Antebellum New Bern” focuses on the life of a remarkable man of color, a plasterer and bricklayer who spent half his life enslaved and half as a free man. Over time, Donum Montford became one of New Bern's leading builders.

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Bishir will share the many sources, methods, and mysteries involved in the detective work of researching people of color before the Civil War. The research project for Tryon Palace, "Many Stories/One History" is funded with a grant from the Wachovia Foundation for on-going African-American programming under "Many Stories/One History" for exhibits in preparation for the opening of the North Carolina History Education Center in 2010.

If you would like more information about this or other events, go to www.tryonpalace.org or call 252.514.4900 or 1-800-767-1560. # # #



Administered by the Division of State Historic Sites, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens (www.tryonpalace.org) is part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture. The Cultural Resources theme for 2008 is "Telling Our Stories." For more information, visit www.ncculture.com.

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