



FACT SHEET

Mission Statement: Tryon Palace's 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.

Description: Tryon Palace is a living history attraction and educational institution that interprets the past through first-person character interpretation, living history demonstrations, guided and self-paced tours of historic buildings, galleries, exhibits, and gardens, as well as workshops, lectures, interactive programs, special interest tours, events, concerts, its website, and publications.

With the opening of the North Carolina History Center, Tryon Palace expanded the traditional historic site guided tour with an interactive, participatory experience.

At the Pepsi Family Center, visitors enter through a Time Machine that takes them back to 1835, where an interactive virtual experience of what it was like to live in a small North Carolina coastal town awaits. Here, the whole family will enjoy the excitement of sailing a ship on the high seas; distilling turpentine and producing naval stores--one of the region's main products; joining an electronic quilting bee; creating the local newspaper; assisting the cook as she prepares recipes in a 19th-century kitchen; and helping the shopkeeper find items for local New Bernians in the dry goods store.

Across the hall, the Regional History Museum invites guests to discover the history of North Carolina's Central Coastal Region through the drama of the human experience. Interactive kiosks and fascinating historical artifacts bring to life the human stories and qualities of place that make this region unique. Visitors explore the environment; learn about the people and communities of the past, and discover the major industries that defined the economy of the region and times.

Organization: Tryon Palace is owned by the State of North Carolina and administered under the North Carolina Office of Archives & History. The Tryon Palace Commission is a state commission whose members are appointed to staggered four-year terms by the Governor to manage the Latham Trust for Tryon Palace and to function as a board of trustees in the development of policies regarding collections management, public programs, and preservation. There are up to 25 appointed members from across North Carolina plus five ex-officio, voting members including the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the Attorney General of the State of North Carolina, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of East Carolina University, the Mayor of New Bern, and the Chairman of the Craven County Board of Commissioners.

The Tryon Palace Foundation is a 501(c)(3)-membership organization that was formed in 1993 to develop audience and financial support for Tryon Palace. The Foundation is administered by a 25 member Board of Directors. The Foundation sponsors Tryon Palace's magazine, the Tryon Palace Annual report, and many educational programs presented annually by Tryon Palace, including the character interpretation program, the Fife and Drum Corps, the Jonkonnu troupe, and annual special events and performance based programs.

Member financial support helps us continue to offer high quality, educational and entertaining experiences that our visitors have come to expect while providing members with benefits all year long, including a

10% discount in the Museum Store, *Palace* Magazine subscription, discounted admission to lectures, concerts and Foundation events.

Through the Tryon Palace Foundation, members can be part of that heritage. Be a storyteller. Be a supporter. Make a difference. For more information please visit www.tryonpalacefoundation.org or call 252-639-3516.

Funding: The annual operation of Tryon Palace is funded from state appropriation, income from the Latham Trust, grants from the Kellenberger Historical Foundation, contributions from the Tryon Palace Foundation, income from retail sales in the Museum Store, and grants from other foundations, corporations, and charitable gifts. Admission receipts are restricted to capital expansion projects, repair and maintenance.

Ticket Type:	Adult	Student (Grades 1-12)	Admission To:
One Day Pass	\$20	\$10	Governor's Palace, historic homes, gardens, North Carolina History Center
Galleries Pass	\$12	\$6	North Carolina History Center and gardens
Gardens Pass	\$6	\$3	Gardens

Tryon Palace Can Make Your Next Event Beautifully Historic, (rental space available for):

- Weddings, receptions, and rehearsal dinners
- Business meetings, seminars, and presentations
- Corporate functions and VIP receptions
- Dinners, luncheons, and garden parties
- Awards ceremonies and banquets
- Anniversary and birthday parties
- Performances and lectures
- Graduation events

For more information please contact us at 1-800-767-1560 or 252-639-3500, www.tryonpalace.org or email us at: specialevents@tryonpalace.org.

Facilities: Tryon Palace manages over 87,000 square feet of interior space in 39 buildings and dependencies located on 16 acres of gardens, landscaped grounds and waterfront property in downtown New Bern, and an additional 51 acres of historic land on the south side of the Trent River. Major historic buildings administered by Tryon Palace include the reconstructed 1770 Palace main building and Kitchen Office, original Palace Stables, the 1779 Stanly House, the ca. 1804 Robert Hay House, the ca. 1809 Jones House, the ca. 1809 New Bern Academy, the ca. 1810 Daves House, the ca. 1830 Dixon House, the ca. 1880 Commission House, the ca. 1880 Disosway House, the ca. 1930 Waystation, and the ca. 1945 Douglas Preservation Center (formerly St. Joseph's Church and School, and Father Julian Hall). Tryon Palace's most recent addition is the North Carolina History Center, which is both the visitor center for Tryon Palace and an interactive museum interpreting more than 300 years of North Carolina history. The History Center is located on the Trent River adjacent to the Governor's Palace.

Staff: Tryon Palace staff includes 55 full-time permanent employees, approximately 36 temporary employees and about 450 active volunteers. The majority of the temporary employees and volunteers are museum guides, crafts and domestic skills interpreters, historic trades interpreters, and character interpreters who present daily programs to the public. Volunteers also work as gardeners, collections assistants, Christmas decorators, shuttle drivers, store associates, administration office workers, and helpers with many special programs including research, educational projects, and Foundation special events. Professional disciplines represented on the paid staff include history, horticulture, conservation, material culture, preservation, accounting, security, retail, library and information science, decorative arts history, museum education, historic food ways, blacksmithing, public history, research, fundraising, grant writing, and marketing.

Collections: Tryon Palace manages seven collections including the historic objects collection (about 7,000 historic objects), rare book collection (1,700), archaeological artifacts collection (200 cubic feet), architectural elements collection (200 cubic feet), plant collection, institutional history collection, and research library collection (nearly 4,000 books and manuscripts). Care of the historic objects collection and library collection is managed by the director of collections and conservation staff.

The *Tryon Palace Collections Society* was established in 2007 to recognize donors who have a passion for the art and artifacts of early America, and who support the development of the Tryon Palace collection. Donors who make annual gifts of \$250 or more to the Collections Fund or who make gifts of objects to the Collection valued at \$1,000 or more are eligible for membership in the Collections Society. Members receive invitations to exhibition previews and an annual, behind-the-scenes program featuring artifacts from the Tryon Palace collection, as well as updates on new acquisitions, and a discount on Tryon Palace Museum Store purchases.

Professional Affiliation: Tryon Palace is an accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). This is a significant achievement. Of the 16,000 museums in the United States, only about 750 museums are accredited.

Partnerships: Tryon Palace seeks partners for many projects and on-going activities. A strong institutional partnership was developed with East Carolina University, including programs such as collaborative archaeological research with the Department of Anthropology. Several Tryon Palace staff members have held adjunct faculty appointments. This gives scholars and the general public greater access to resources held at Tryon Palace.

Partnerships include collaboration with environmental groups to accomplish a wetlands restoration along the Trent River waterfront adjacent to Palace property, joint tourism promotions with local and state tourism agencies, and special history education projects with mentoring, school and area history organizations.

Audience: With a total visitation of more than 226,000 people in 2014, Tryon Palace continues to educate, entertain, and inspire a wide variety of visitors, including children with school groups, adult groups, and first-time visitors attending special events. Tryon Palace is open daily year round with the exception of Thanksgiving Day; December 24-26; and January 1.

History and Gardens Education:

Special educational programs for schools include:

- A Day in the Life: 19th Century New Bern: Although no longer the capitol of North Carolina, New Bern remained a bustling port into the 19th century and was one of the state's largest towns until the 1930s. Experience that history with tours of the Governor's Palace, Regional History Museum and the Pepsi Family Center, where students can help the town prosper by working at the wharves, in a turpentine distillery, and local businesses. Step back into 1835 and visit the home of Robert Hay and his family as you help them with their daily chores. Tour does not include Kitchen Office, Stable, gardens or the remaining 2 historic homes.
- The Living History Classroom: A free bi-annual educational publication for North Carolina teachers. It includes classroom activities and materials that can be used to prepare children for a visit to Tryon Palace or to complement classroom lessons on North Carolina history.
- Fall Family Day: A special fall Saturday dedicated to learning history as a family, Fall Family Day has special themed tours of our buildings and galleries and historic crafts, games, and activities the whole family can do together.
- Teachers Appreciation Day: A special day dedicated to educators, which allows them to explore history at Tryon Palace by engaging in innovative and interactive programming that opens the past for children and adults to discover and learn. Teachers and their families are welcomed to be a part of history by attending Teachers Day and taking the opportunity to explore the museums, learn more about Tryon Palace's educational programs, and discover how the site can help teachers link Essential Standards to the classroom.

Special programs for adults include garden workshops, public history lectures and workshops, concert series, the African American history lecture series, dramas and many other programs. Annual special events include the Christmas Candlelight Tours, spring garden weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, Veterans Day summer concerts, annual Celebration of Independence on Fourth of July, fall chrysanthemum gardens display, character interpretation programs and re-enactment of the 1802 Spaight – Stanly duel each September. During visits to historic buildings and gardens throughout the year, visitors encounter “people from the past,” as well as crafts, trades, and domestic skill interpreters and museum interpreters.

Marketing: As North Carolina's premiere historic site, Tryon Palace has developed a strategic marketing plan to ensure that all North Carolinians and visitors to North Carolina are informed of the role Tryon Palace and New Bern played in the history of North Carolina. The opening of the North Carolina History Center on October 22, 2010 allowed Tryon Palace to extend its menu based program of re-enactments and participatory experiences to computer-generated hands-on experiences. A branding study updated the Tryon Palace brand to include a contemporary approach to history-based experiences for visitors. The marketing plan includes selected ad placement, social media, and web/online marketing, soliciting travel writers, participating in familiarization tours for motor coach operators and convention planners and public relations campaigns. Tryon Palace enjoys great partnerships with other regional tourism agencies, with which New Bern, Craven County and Tryon Palace are marketed as a unique tourist destination.

Expanding and developing the web site for Tryon Palace is an ongoing priority. The address is: www.tryonpalace.org. The web site offers up-to-date visitor information, a current calendar of events, staff lists, and our blog, “Brick by Brick.”

Research: The staff is engaged in an important research program to document the original Governor's Palace as well as to add to the body of information regarding the reconstruction of the Palace in the 1950s. Significant discoveries include information about the 18th-century gardens of the Palace and previously unknown details regarding the interior finish and use of the rooms of the Governor's Palace and the Kitchen Office. A focus of the Palace Research Project is John Hawks, architect of the 18th-century Palace. The cellar, the Servants Hall, Steward's Chamber, Parlor, Dining Chamber, and Miss Tryon's Bed Chamber recently have been reinterpreted to better represent evidence uncovered during the Research Project.

Another important research project is focused on African American life in New Bern and is guided by a panel of nationally recognized scholars in African American history. This research is incorporated in guided tours, museum exhibits, public programs, articles, publications, and press releases. In 2000, *Recollections of My Slavery Days* by William Henry Singleton was published by the North Carolina Division of Archives & History with funding from the Tryon Palace Council of Friends and the Kellenberger Historical Foundation. Tryon Palace's annual Christmas Candlelight event features a re-creation of Jonkonnu (a Caribbean tradition) practiced by enslaved African Americans at Christmastime in North Carolina. In 2007, an exhibit entitled "Days of Jubilee" featured an interpretation of the road to freedom for enslaved North Carolinians during and after the Civil War. Funded by a Wachovia/Wells Fargo Bank grant to Tryon Palace, noted architectural historian Catherine Bishir completed extensive research into African American artisans in 19th century New Bern. Her work, *Crafting Lives: African American Artisans in New Bern, North Carolina, 1770-1900*. was published by the University of North Carolina Press in the fall of 2013.

An increased focus on archaeology is part of the overall research program for Tryon Palace. This effort has included an archaeological dig to determine the extent of remaining 18th century evidence in the grounds surrounding the Governor's Palace, research for re-creating the backyard of the Robert Hay House, and a study of the inventory compared to the artifacts recovered in the archaeological investigation of the 1950s.

Keep in Touch: Contact Tryon Palace and the North Carolina History Center by telephone at 252-639-3500, email at info@tryonpalace.org, and by visiting our website at www.tryonpalace.org

Follow Tryon Palace:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TryonPalace

Twitter: @tryonpalace

Instagram: @tryonpalace