

North
Carolina
HISTORIC
SITES



Field Trip Planner



Dear Educators,

Welcome to North Carolina's State Historic Sites! Comprising a system of historic places of statewide and often national significance, these 23 sites are located in all areas of the state from the mountains to the sea and interpret eight centuries of history. The individual sites range from an American Indian mound to colonial towns to a gold mine. Each has an important role in our state's history and a unique story to share with visitors.

We invite you, in preparing your plans for the school year, to consider visiting one or more of these unique sites. These visits allow students to experience history where it happened and also complements your classroom curriculum. Most sites offer a variety of educational activities including tours, exhibits, living history demonstrations, and interactive programs. Subject offerings are as rich and diverse as the state itself and include such topics as American Indian, African American, agricultural, cultural, political, and military history.

We appreciate your efforts in educating and molding our children, who will be the history-makers of tomorrow, and hope that this planner may be helpful.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at North Carolina's Historic Sites!

Sincerely,

Keith A. Hardison

Director

North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites and Properties

Scheduling Your Visit

Please contact the [historic site](#) you wish to visit directly. It is recommended that you make arrangements with them at least one month prior to the desired field trip date(s). Please be prepared to provide them with the following information when make contact:

1. School name
2. Contact person (person to call if there is a change in scheduling)
3. Phone number of school
4. Address of school
5. Date of field trip and arrival time (please have an alternate date and time)
6. Number of students and chaperones

You will receive a confirmation letter and other necessary information once the trip is scheduled. Please bring this with you on the field trip.

If the trip needs to be rescheduled, please contact the site as soon as possible.

Preparing for Your Visit

Many of the tours, activities, and demonstrations occur outdoors at historic sites. Please remind students to dress according to the weather. Unfavorable weather may force cancellation of some activities. Should this occur, the site may offer alternative activities. Please contact the site for its inclement weather plan.

Groups should be prepared for walking and standing during the visit. We recommend that students and teachers wear comfortable walking shoes and avoid open-toed footwear.

Picnic areas are available at most sites. They can be used on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rules for a Safe and Enjoyable Visit

For the comfort and safety of all our visitors, and for the protection of our artifacts, we ask that these guidelines be followed:

1. Groups must stay together unless instructed to do otherwise.
2. Visitors should not touch artifacts.
3. Student behavior is the responsibility of the teachers and chaperones.
4. No gum, food, or open drink containers allowed inside visitor centers or historic structures.
5. We request two chaperones for each class of students.
6. Be sure to ask about individual historic site-specific rules when scheduling your visit.

Hours of Operation

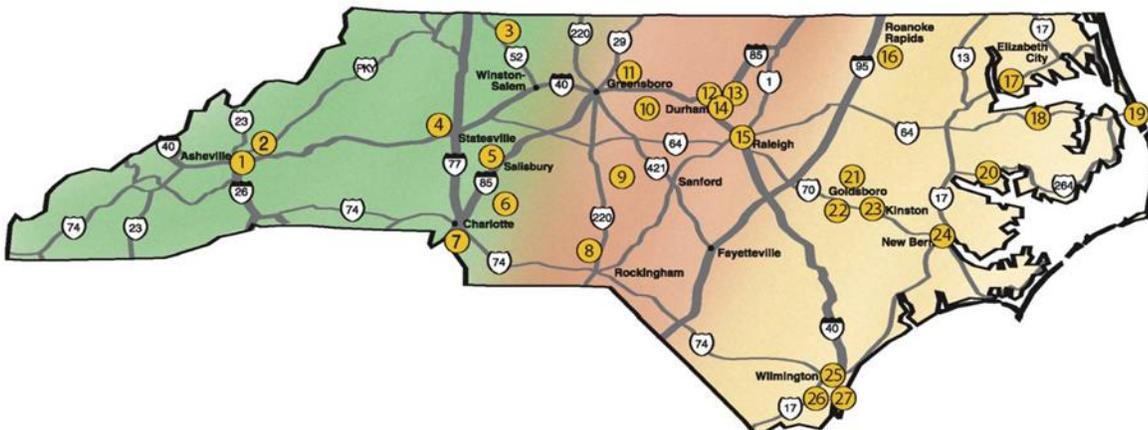
Because hours may change throughout the year and vary from site to site, please call individual sites for their specific hours and days of operation.

Admission

Some sites have minimal admission or material fees to cover cost of programming. Be sure to ask about pricing when you make contact with a site to arrange a tour.

What to Do Before the Visit

Please review these rules and any others provided by specific sites before arrival. It is also helpful to educate students on the history of the site in advance and what they should expect upon arrival. If the site has provided any worksheets, videos, or brochures, these will be helpful. Every site also has a website with additional information. Careful preparation will make your visit more enjoyable and educational for all. Encourage the children to ask any questions prior to the visit or along the way.



West

1. Thomas Wolfe Memorial
2. Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace
3. Horne Creek Farm
4. Fort Dobbs
5. N.C. Transportation Museum
6. Reed Gold Mine
7. President James K. Polk Site

Piedmont

8. Town Creek Indian Mound
9. House in the Horseshoe
10. Alamance Battleground
11. Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum
12. Bennett Place
13. Historic Stagville
14. Duke Homestead
15. State Capitol

East

16. Historic Halifax
17. Historic Edenton
18. Somerset Place
19. Roanoke Island Festival Park
20. Historic Bath
21. Gov. Charles B. Aycock Birthplace
22. Bentonville Battlefield
23. CSS *Neuse* and Gov. Richard Caswell Memorial
24. Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens
25. USS *North Carolina*
26. Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson
27. Fort Fisher

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North Carolina Historic Sites – West

Thomas Wolfe Memorial

52 N. Market Street
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 253-8304

Website: www.wolfememorial.com

Email: wolfe@ncdcr.gov

Many literary greats left their mark on history. One of those was Thomas Wolfe, whose work *Look Homeward, Angel* (1929), quickly became an American literary classic. Thomas Wolfe was born in Asheville and grew up in his mother’s boardinghouse.

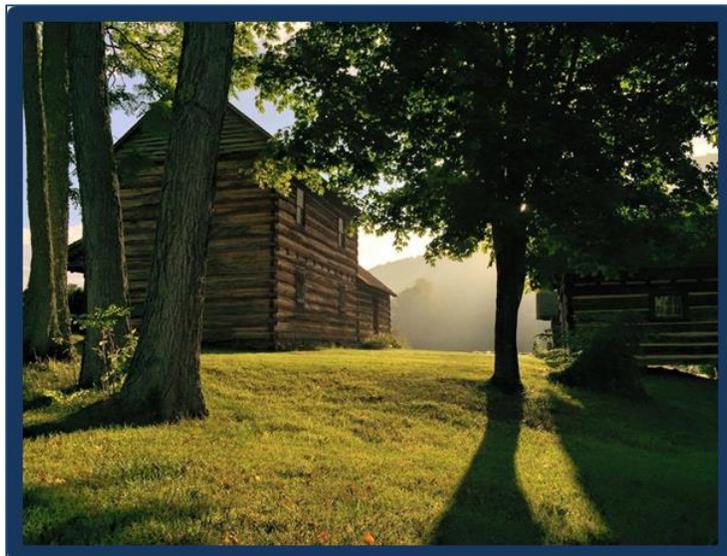
Today’s students can step into Thomas Wolfe’s shoes and write a work while visiting the writer’s boyhood home. On scavenger hunts through the visitor center exhibits, students learn about the life of this North Carolina novelist. Through fun and games at the “Old Kentucky Home”, boys and girls experience how children lived in turn-of-the- century America. A walking tour of Pack Square allows students to see Asheville through Thomas Wolfe’s eyes. A field trip to this site allows students to trace the life of one of America’s most powerful 20th-century writers. A complete tour of the site takes 1½ hours. Please call the site for availability of the tours and activities. A teachers’ booklet, containing pre- and post-visit materials, is available to teachers upon request.



Facilities:

- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- Restrooms
- Gift Shop
- On-site Bus Parking
- Nearby Restaurant

Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace



911 Reems Creek Road

Weaverville, NC 28787

(828) 645-6706

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/vance

Email: vance@ncdcr.gov

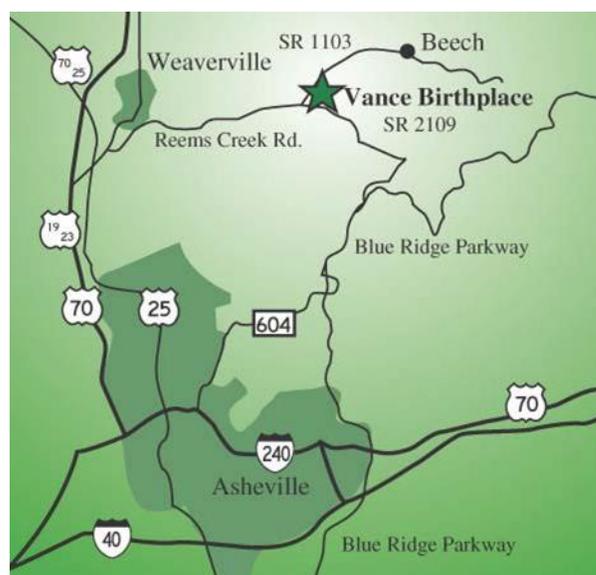
Zebulon Baird Vance was born in 1830 on the family homestead in the Reems Creek valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains. His family, which included veterans of the American Revolution and the War of 1812, state representatives, United States congressmen, physicians, lawyers, merchants, and farmers, raised Zeb to be a resolute, highly principled leader with a quick wit and sharp tongue. Vance’s rural mountain heritage instilled in

him a belief in self-government, individual liberty, and public service. Vance held positions of state representative, United States congressman, three-term governor, and United States senator. As NC Governor during the turbulent Civil War years, he motivated North Carolina to commit the greatest contribution of men and spirit to the Southern cause, earning him the title “War Governor of the South.”

Students visiting Governor Vance’s home place can experience many of the daily activities that went on at the family farm, from weaving cloth to cooking over an open fire. Guided tour of historic Vance homestead includes 6 outbuildings: corn crib, smokehouse, spring house, loom house, enslaved servant cabin, tool shed. The site offers various demonstrations either onsite or in the classrooms. Please call for information and availability.

Facilities:

- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Covered Picnic Area
- On-site Bus Parking
- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Limited Handicapped-accessibility in Historic Area
- Civil War Trails Marker
- Gift Shop
- Limited Nearby Restaurants & Lodging
- 6 miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Vance Cemetery is located across the street from the site.



Horne Creek Farm

308 Horne Creek Farm Road

Pinnacle, NC 27043

(336) 325-2298

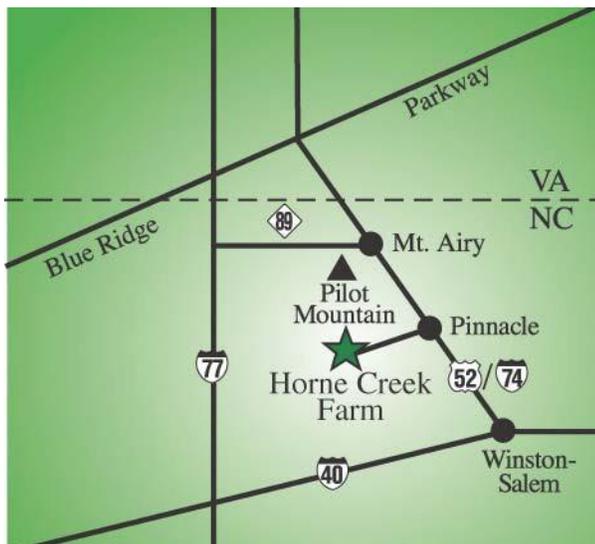
Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/horne

Email: hornecreek@ncdcr.gov

The land now comprising Horne Creek Living Historical Farm was farmed by the Hauser family for nearly 200 years. By 1900, through good farm management and sheer hard work, the Hauser's farm was increased in size to 450 acres. Thomas Hauser, his wife Charlotte, their family of eleven boys and one girl, and several hired hands raised crops which had been grown in the region for decades—fruit, corn, wheat, oats, rye, hay, and vegetables. In addition, they began growing tobacco, a new cash crop that was rapidly becoming more and more important to the state's economy.



Today Horne Creek Farm offers students a glimpse into agricultural life about 1900. Students can cut grass using a scythe or listen as an elderly member of the community recounts the lives of farmers in earlier times. Boys and girls can shuck corn, make a scarecrow, preserve fruits and vegetables, or tackle children's chores of that era. Please call the site to find out more about tours and hands-on activities available.



Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center and Restrooms
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- On-site Bus Parking
- Picnic Area (not covered)
- Vending
- Nearby Restaurants

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site



438 Fort Dobbs Road
Statesville, NC 28625
(704) 873-5882
Website: www.fortdobbs.org
Email: info@fortdobbs.org

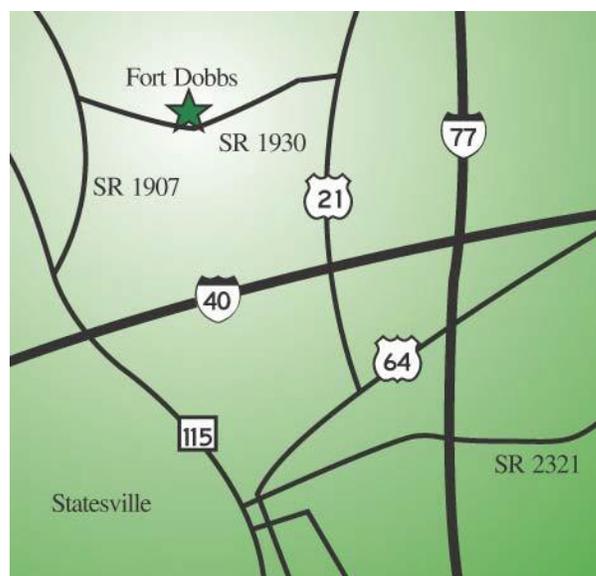
The French and Indian War was fought over nine years and five continents. North Carolina was among the first colonies to contribute troops to the British cause when the war began. In 1756, North Carolina Provincial soldiers built Fort Dobbs in what was then the westernmost part of the colony, and named it after Royal Governor Arthur Dobbs. During the Cherokee War in

February of 1760, the fort was attacked by over 60 Cherokees. By 1763 the war was over and Britain controlled almost all of North America east of the Mississippi River.

Today students can learn about the life of soldiers at a military post in western North Carolina, by seeing muskets fired and learning about the soldier's training, food, clothing and equipment. Several themed field trip and off-site programming options are available. Additionally, Fort Dobbs presents two special school day programs, with a variety of extra historical programming. Contact site for dates. Reservations are required on first come, first serve basis. A teacher packet is available with worksheets and background information that can be used as pre- and post-visit materials.

Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible
- Visitor Center
- Exhibits
- Trails
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Gift Shop
- Covered Picnic Area
- Bus Parking
- Nearby Restaurants



Reed Gold Mine

9621 Reed Mine Road

Midland, NC 28107

(704) 721-4653

Website:

www.nchistoricsites.org/reed

Email: reed@ncdcr.gov

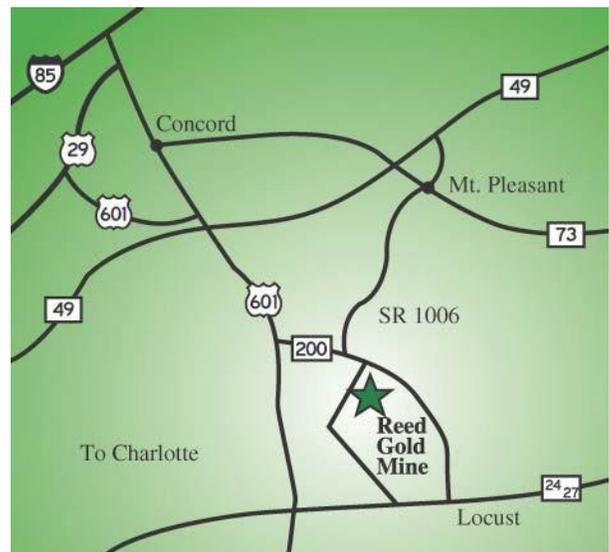
Young Conrad Reed was unaware that the yellow rock he found in Little Meadow Creek in 1799 would launch the nation's first gold rush. In fact, the rock served as the family's doorstep until his father, John Reed, took it to a Fayetteville jeweler in 1802. The jeweler purchased the rock from John Reed for \$3.50, when in reality it was worth \$3,600. Learning from his mistake, John Reed began mining for gold on his Cabarrus County farm. Eventually gold fever spread to other counties and states. During its peak years, gold mining became second only to farming in the state's economy. North Carolina actually led the nation in gold production until California's gold rush in 1848.



On a visit to Reed Gold Mine, students can travel back into time and become a gold miner panning for gold, go on a scavenger hunt and search for clues to gold history in North Carolina, and take a guided underground tour and see firsthand the working conditions of the miners. Exhibits and a film also detail the history of Reed Gold Mine and the mining industry in North Carolina. Teachers' packet available with curriculum in Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts.

Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- Exhibits
- Trail
- Audiovisual Program
- Picnic Areas (not covered)
- Gift Shop
- Vending
- Restrooms
- On-site Bus Parking
- Limited Restaurants Nearby



President James K. Polk Historic Site



12031 Lancaster Highway
Pineville, NC 28134

(704) 889-7145

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/polk

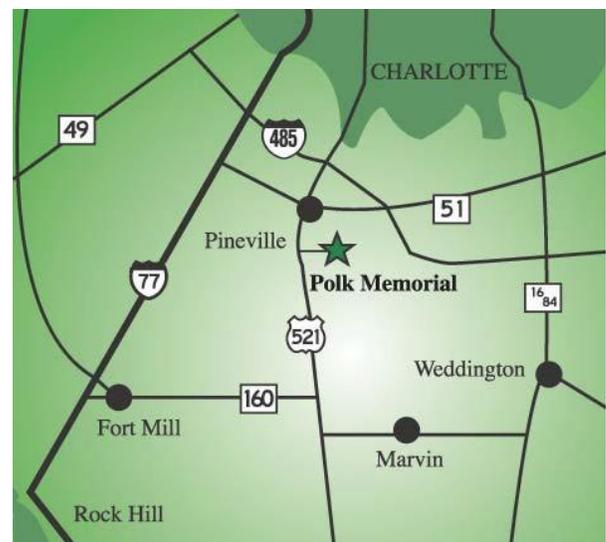
Email: polk@ncdcr.gov

The nation's 11th president, James Knox Polk, was born in Mecklenburg County in 1795. Nicknamed "Young Hickory" after his mentor Andrew Jackson, Polk became the first dark horse candidate to win the Democratic Party's nomination for president. The annexation of Texas and the Oregon boundary dispute became the chief issues of his 1844 campaign against Whig Party opponent Henry Clay. Polk ran the presidency like a business, with

dedication and an amazing sincerity. On a visit to the President James K. Polk State Historic Site, students can learn about the life of young James Polk, play with period toys and games, and hear the story of the early settlement of Mecklenburg County. A scavenger hunt of facts about Polk's life helps students learn of the events that shaped the character of our 11th president. Exhibits and a film trace the life of this native son. An educational teacher's packet is available for elementary students.

Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area
- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Picnic Area (not covered)
- Numerous Nearby Restaurants
- On-site Bus Parking
- Restrooms
- Gift shop



North Carolina Historic Sites – Piedmont

Town Creek Indian Mound

509 Town Creek Indian Mound Road

Mt. Gilead, NC 27306

(910) 439-6802

Website:

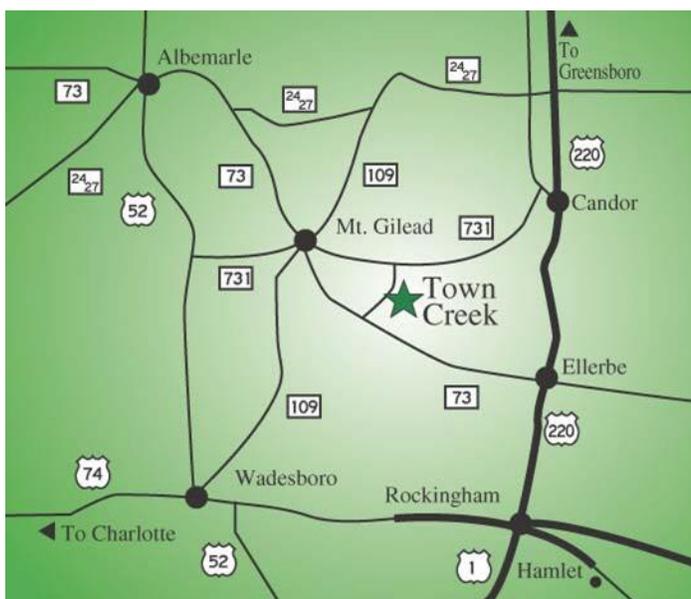
www.towncreekindianmound.com

Email: towncreek@ncdcr.gov

Town Creek Indian Mound is one of only a handful of reconstructed American Indian historic sites in the nation. Located on 50 acres at the junction of Town Creek and Little River, Town Creek Indian Mound is dedicated to understanding, teaching, and preserving the rich history of the Pee Dee people who once lived in villages and farmed across the floodplains of North Carolina’s Pee Dee River system. Since 1937, archaeologists have studied Town Creek in detail.



Today we share the results of their research in hands-on educational programs taught to age groups ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens. Students can take tours of the site and participate in hands-on activities to learn about aspects of American Indian life and how the science of archaeology reveals it. An annual Heritage Festival event with a Pow Wow atmosphere including dance, drum, song, and vendors usually takes place in September. Contact site for dates and details.



Facilities:

- Nature Trail
- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Handicapped-accessible Historic Site
- Audiovisual Program
- Bus Parking
- Restrooms
- Vending
- Picnic Area
- Gift Shop

House in the Horseshoe

288 Alston House Road
 Sanford, NC 27330
 (910) 947-2051

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/horsesho

Email address: horseshoe@ncdcr.gov

On a rise above a horseshoe-shaped bend of the Deep River sits the 1772 home of Philip Alston, known as the House in the Horseshoe. A colonel in the Patriot forces during the American Revolution, Alston's men were camped around the house when it was attacked by a band of Loyalists led by Colonel David Fanning. The walls of the house still bear the scars and bullet holes from that skirmish in the summer of 1781. Later purchased by Gov. Benjamin Williams, the house was then named "Retreat."



Williams made it the center of a profitable cotton plantation, enlarging it with two wings. By 1803, fifty enslaved servants were working his plantation. The house was later used as a headquarters for mineral exploration along the southern end of the Deep River Coal Field.

On a visit to House in the Horseshoe, students can learn about how early piedmont settlers lived. Hands-on activities include making clay marbles and learning about children's games during the Colonial period. A costumed interpreter provides demonstrations of the weapons and equipment used by Revolutionary War soldiers. A teachers' packet with instructional materials for grades 4 and 8 is available upon request.



Facilities

- Handicapped-accessible
- Exhibits
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area (not covered)
- Gift Shop
- Bus Parking
- Limited Nearby Restaurants

Alamance Battleground



**5803 South N.C. 62
 Burlington, NC 27215
 (336) 227-4785**

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/alamance

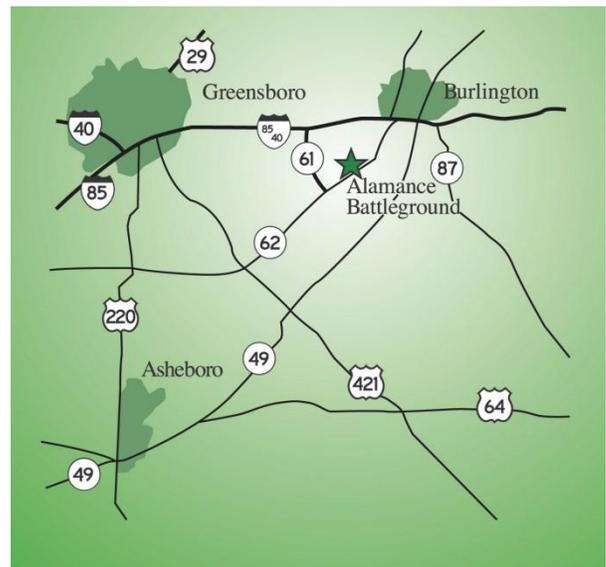
Email: alamance@ncdcr.gov

Before the American Revolution, many North Carolinians became dissatisfied with provincial and local government officials abusing their power. High taxes, illegal fees, and dishonest leaders plagued the everyday life of colonists in the western counties. The Regulators formed in 1768 to oppose such injustices and tried through peaceful attempts to gain reforms. Such attempts soon gave way to armed resistance, exploding into the so-called War of the Regulation. The “war” ended with the Battle of Alamance in May 1771 when Governor Tryon’s militia defeated the Regulators.

At Alamance Battleground students will experience life in the North Carolina backcountry during the late 18th century, including foodways, trades, and political activity. They will connect with the daily lives of backcountry farmers by seeing costumed interpreters load and fire a flintlock weapon, prepare food on the open hearth, and show how these settlers dressed. Through tours of the visitor center, Allen House, and battlefield, students will experience inspiring stories of the Regulator movement and learn about North Carolina's grassroots movement against injustice and corruption on the eve of the Revolution.

Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area
- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area (no shelter)
- Gift Shop
- Vending
- On-site Bus Parking
- Limited Nearby Restaurants



Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum

6136 Burlington Rd. (Hwy 70)

Sedalia, NC 27342

(336) 449-4846

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/chb

Email address: chb@ncdcr.gov

From 1902 until shortly before her death in 1961, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown played a key role in the development of African American education, interracial cooperation, and women's rights in North Carolina and the nation. In 1902 at age 19, she founded the Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, NC. Over the next 50 years of her presidency, Dr. Brown raised almost \$1.5 million which helped make PMI into one of the most renowned schools for African American youth in the nation. PMI and its graduates came to exemplify Dr. Brown's hard work and dedication to African American achievement. Beginning as a primarily agricultural and industrial school, it evolved into an elite preparatory school equipping its students with a classical education, discipline, high standards, poise and ambition. The school continued to operate under three successive principals and closed in 1971. Located on the former Palmer campus, the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum is North Carolina's first state historic site to commemorate the achievements of an African American and a woman.



Today's students can explore and learn about a unique environment where many African American boys and girls lived and learned during the greater part of the twentieth century. Visitor center exhibits tell the story of this remarkable woman and North Carolina's African American educational heritage. Tours of Dr. Brown's residence and guided walking tours of campus and its wayside exhibits highlight the history of the site. Teacher Resource Packet with historical information and class projects (all grades) is available.



Facilities:

- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Handicapped-accessible Restrooms
- Picnic Shelter (partially covered)
- Bus Parking
- Gift Shop
- Limited Nearby Restaurants

Bennett Place

4409 Bennett Memorial Road
 Durham, NC 27705
 (919) 383-4345

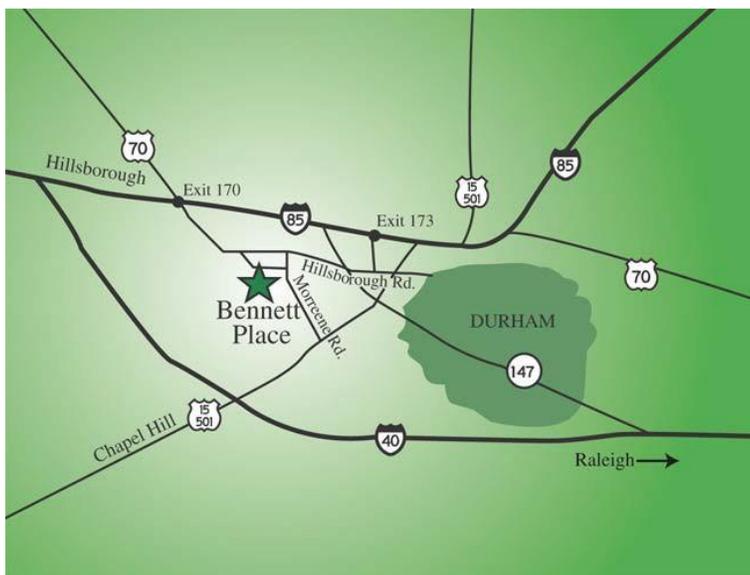
Website: www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com

Email: bennett@ncdcr.gov

The largest surrender of the American Civil War took place in the home of James and Nancy Bennett on April 26, 1865. Three times, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman and Confederate General Joseph Eggleston Johnston met inside the Bennett home before they reached an agreement, which surrendered 89,270 Confederate soldiers still fighting in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.



Today, students can walk along the Hillsborough Road on the actual grounds where two of the most prominent generals of the Civil War met to put an end to the four years of war, which cost this nation more than 600,000 American lives. Reconstructions of the main house, kitchen house, smokehouse, and vegetable and herb garden are all available for tours. A variety of hands-on activities are available. Teacher Resource Packets are also available.



Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Museum Gallery
- Nature Trails
- Audiovisual Program
- Everett-Thissen Research Library
- Picnic Area (Not Covered)
- Restrooms (Handicapped Accessible)
- On-site Bus Parking
- Vending
- Gift Shop
- Nearby Restaurants within 2 miles

Historic Stagville

5828 Old Oxford Highway
 Durham, NC 27712
 (919) 620-0120

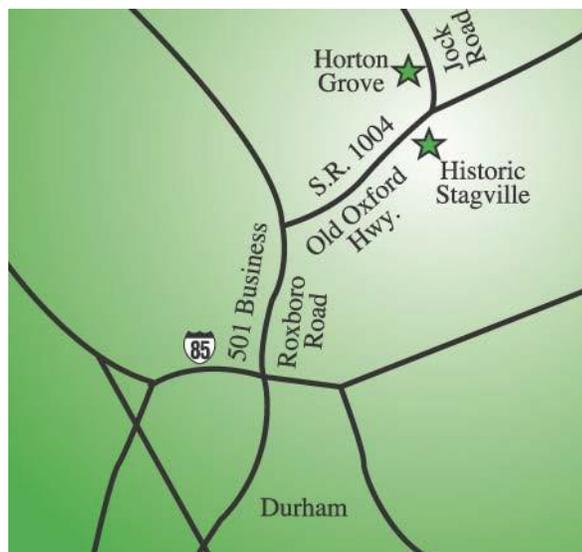
Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/stagville

Email: stagville@ncdcr.gov

Historic Stagville features the Bennehan-Cameron House (circa 1787, 1799), four surviving enslaved servant houses (circa 1850), and the Great Barn (circa 1860). Richard Bennehan started this plantation in 1787, and by the time of the Civil War, Stagville lay at the center of North Carolina's largest plantation complex, a 30,000 acres spread worked by over 900 enslaved people. Stagville's Horton Grove area contains several surviving enslaved servant houses. These two-story, four-room timber-frame quarters are rare examples of an unusual style housing for enslaved servants. Typical quarters were one-room, one-story structures. The Great Barn is one of the last structures built at Stagville with enslaved craftsman labor and at the time of its construction, it was one of the largest agricultural structures in the state.



Today at Historic Stagville students can travel back in time when touring the site. All ages are offered tours of the Bennehan-Cameron House, Horton Grove (the enslaved servant cabins), and the Great Barn. Other hands-on activities give children the opportunity to learn more about life on a pre-Civil War plantation. Pre- and post-visit educational materials available.



Facilities:

- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area
- Restrooms
- Picnic Tables
- Gift Shop
- On-site Bus Parking
- Nearby Restaurants

Duke Homestead

2828 Duke Homestead Road
 Durham, NC 27705
 (919) 477-5498

Website: www.dukehomestead.org

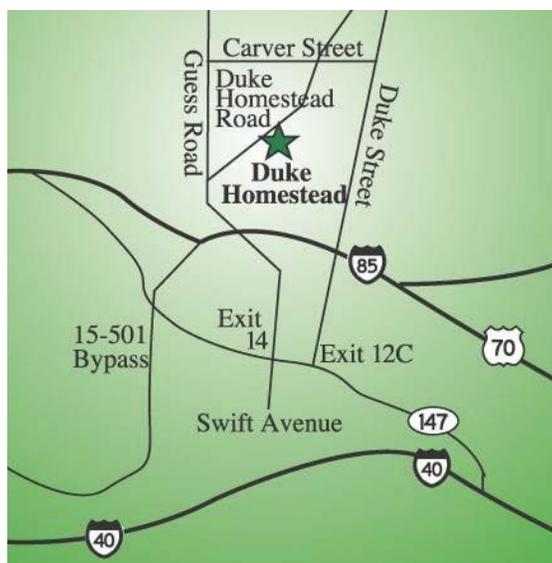
Email: duke@ncdcr.gov

The American Tobacco Company, at one time the largest tobacco product manufacturer in the world, had its roots on a small farm in what was then Orange County. Confederate veteran Washington Duke returned to his farm after the Civil War to discover Federal troops had helped themselves to his store of cured tobacco. Demand for this bright leaf tobacco grew quickly and hardworking Duke and his sons



were soon peddling their Pro Bono Publico brand of smoking tobacco across much of the state. The Duke family was soon on the road to building a fortune that would change their lives and the lives of many others, some of whom later benefited from the Dukes philanthropic ventures.

Today, Duke Homestead is a place where students can experience the daily lives of 19th century small farmers and businessmen. Through interactive exhibits, a film, and hands-on activities, school children will discover and learn about the social and economic history of tobacco.



Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Picnic Tables (not covered)
- On-site Bus Parking
- Gift Shop
- Vending
- Nearby Restaurants

North Carolina State Capitol

1 E. Edenton St. Raleigh, NC 27601

(919) 733-4994

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/capitol

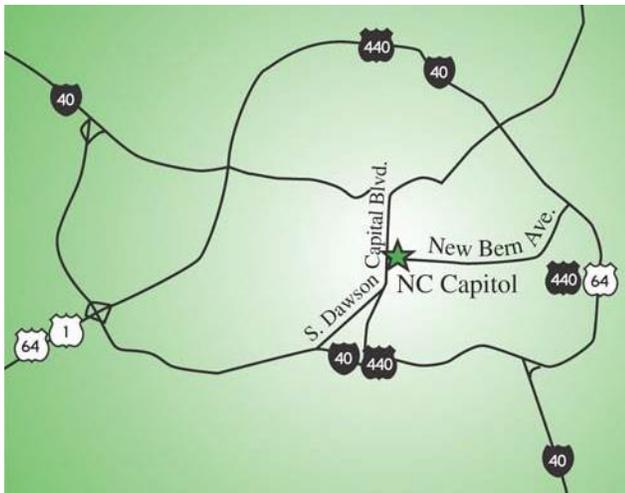
Email: state.capitol@ncdcr.gov

*scheduling is done through the Capitol Area Visitor Center: toll free (866) 724-8687

The North Carolina State Capitol, completed in 1840, is one of the finest and best-preserved examples of a major civic building in the Greek Revival style of architecture and serves as the symbol of North Carolina government. From 1840-1888, the Capitol housed all three branches of the state’s government, including offices of the secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, comptroller, and Supreme Court. From 1840 until 1961, the state legislature met and passed laws in the second-floor chambers. Many important decisions were made in the chambers, including North Carolina’s decision to enter the Civil War on May 20, 1861, when elected delegates signed the Ordinance of Secession in the House of Commons chamber. The legislative chambers also were used for state constitutional conventions and served as a 19th century “civic center” for Raleigh’s citizens. Today the Governor’s principal office is located on the Capitol’s first floor while the second and third floors have been restored to their 1840s to 1850s appearances. Today the Capitol is still used for many events including bill signings, swearing-in ceremonies, press conferences, living history programs, and other events related to the history of the Capitol and the functions of state government.



Tours include information about the development of Raleigh as the state’s capital; the history of the state house, which sat on Capitol Square from 1794 to 1831; construction of the current Capitol; historical significance of the Capitol; and the legislative process. Pre- and post-visit classroom activities that meet 4th and 8th grade curriculum goals are available.



Facilities:

- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- Exhibits
- Bus Parking (remote location, student drop off area provided near Capitol)
- Picnic Area (remote location)
- Nearby Restaurants

North Carolina Historic Sites – East

Historic Halifax

25 St. David Street

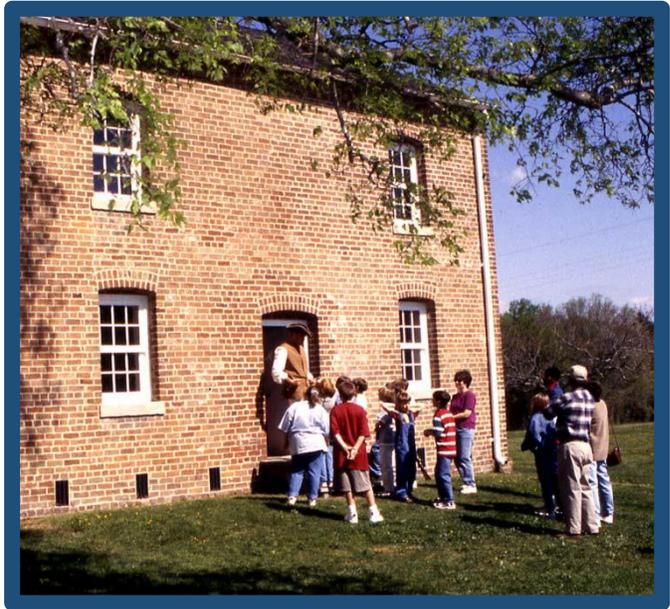
Halifax, NC 27839

(252) 583-7191

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/halifax

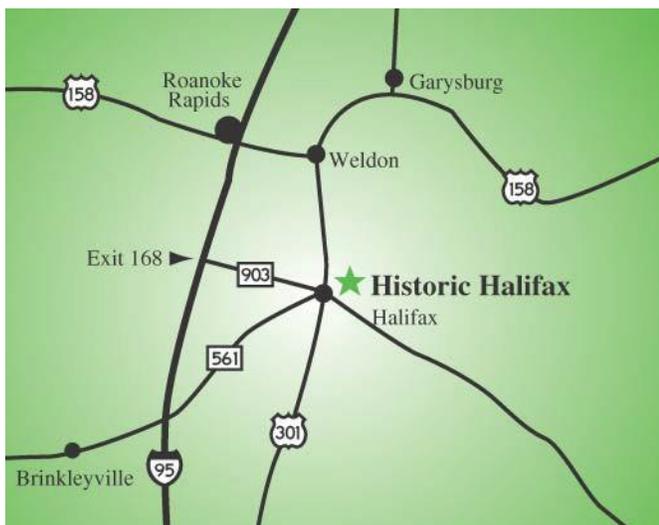
Email: halifax@ncdcr.gov

The colonial river port town of Halifax, founded in 1760 along the banks of the Roanoke River, quickly grew into a social and political hub. It was here on April 12, 1776, that 83 delegates to the Fourth Provincial Congress, representing virtually all of North Carolina, risked their fortunes, reputations, and indeed, their lives by adopting the Halifax Resolves, which made North Carolina the first colony to officially call for independence from Great Britain. Halifax's golden age followed the



American Revolution as the small town became wealthy and influential. Halifax emerged as a hub of Underground Railroad activity where people escaping slavery could blend into the county's large enslaved and free African American communities. Halifax continued to flourish until a new railroad, one of the first built in the state, bypassed the town in the late 1830s.

Students can tour exhibits and historic buildings and learn about the American Revolution, the Underground Railroad, and life in the region during the 18th and 19th-centuries. Halifax Day is celebrated annually on April 12th with special programming. Teacher Resource Packets available.



Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Picnic Tables (not covered)
- Gift Shop
- Vending
- On-site Bus Parking

Historic Edenton

108 North Broad Street

Edenton, NC 27932

(252) 482-2637

Website: www.edenton.nchistoricsites.org

Email: edenton@ncdcr.gov

Revolutionary War events and politically influential people have woven a colorful history in Edenton, North Carolina's first colonial capital. Also North Carolina's second oldest incorporated town (1722), Edenton was the home of such remarkable leaders as governor and U.S. Senator Samuel Johnston; U.S. Supreme Court Justice James Iredell; Justice Iredell's son, James Iredell Jr., a North Carolina Governor; Joseph Hewes, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; and Hugh Williamson, a signer of the United States Constitution. In 1774 Penelope Barker led 51 Edenton women in demonstrating their support of the patriot cause with a political statement supporting the Provincial Assembly. Later, known as the Edenton Tea Party, this declaration is believed to be the first political activity by women in the American colonies. Born into slavery, Harriet Jacobs hid in and then escaped from Edenton to freedom, and became a writer, abolitionist, and educator, publishing her autobiography in 1861. Historic Edenton is also home to one of the most intact and oldest Courthouses in America, and the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse.



Students visiting Historic Edenton can learn about its rich colonial history, early American law, or tour a 19th-century river lighthouse that protected North Carolina's interior coastal waterways. Trolley tours and hands-on activities are also available. Please call for full listing of available tours and activities.



Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Nearby Picnic Area (not covered)
- Bus Parking
- Nearby Restaurants

Somerset Place



2572 Lake Shore Road

Creswell, NC 27928

(252) 797-4560

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/somerset

Email: somerset@ncdcr.gov

Somerset Place offers a realistic view of 19th-century life on a large-scale North Carolina plantation. In 1785, Somerset Place became an active plantation and remained active until 1865, when the institution of slavery was ended in the United States. Most programs and exhibits at the site evoke life there in 1843. Originally, the Collins family plantation encompassed more than 100,000 densely wooded and predominantly swampy acres. An enslaved labor force converted

swampland into cultivated fields by digging six large irrigation, drainage, and transportation canals and miles of intersecting cross ditches. The plantation's major cash crops included rice, corn, wheat, and lumber. By 1860, Somerset Place was one of only four North Carolina plantations with over three hundred enslaved people on one property.

Today, this unique historical attraction is one of only a few former plantations in the state preserved as a historic site. Students can learn valuable lessons from the lives of both the free and enslaved inhabitants of Somerset through exhibits, tours of buildings in the slave community and owner's compound, and hands-on activities. Study guide with pre- and post-visit classroom activities available.

Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area
- Exhibits
- Handicapped-accessible restrooms
- Motorcoach/Bus Parking
- Gift Shop
- Vending
- Recreational Trails
- Picnic Area
- Pettigrew State Park adjacent to Site



Historic Bath



Box 148

Bath, NC 27808

(252) 923-3971

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/bath

Email: bath@ncdcr.gov

The village of Bath provides modern-day travelers with a glimpse of the early days in a colonial community. North Carolina's first town, Bath was incorporated in 1705. During the Tuscarora War, Bath was a refuge for settlers caught in the turmoil. The town also became a safe haven for the notorious pirate, Blackbeard.

At Historic Bath, students may tour the 1734 St. Thomas Church; the state's oldest church in continuous use, as well as the 1751 Palmer-Marsh House and the 1830 Bonner House. These buildings represent nearly a century of colonial and early national life in coastal North Carolina. Students can learn skills from interpreters such as rope making and candle making, as well as some of the leisure activities of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Visitor Center also offer exhibits tracing the history of Bath Town.

Facilities:

Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area

Audiovisual Program

Exhibits

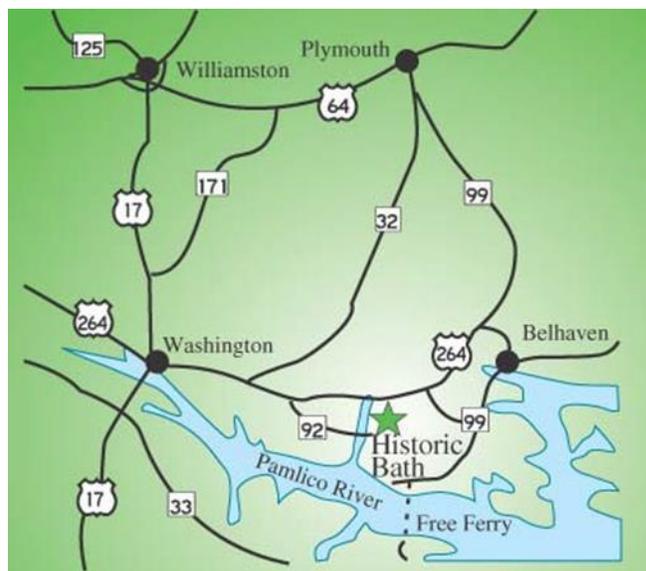
Gift shop

Picnic Areas (not covered)

Restrooms

On-site Bus Parking

Limited Nearby Restaurants



Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace

264 Governor Aycock Road

Fremont, NC 27830

(919) 242-5581

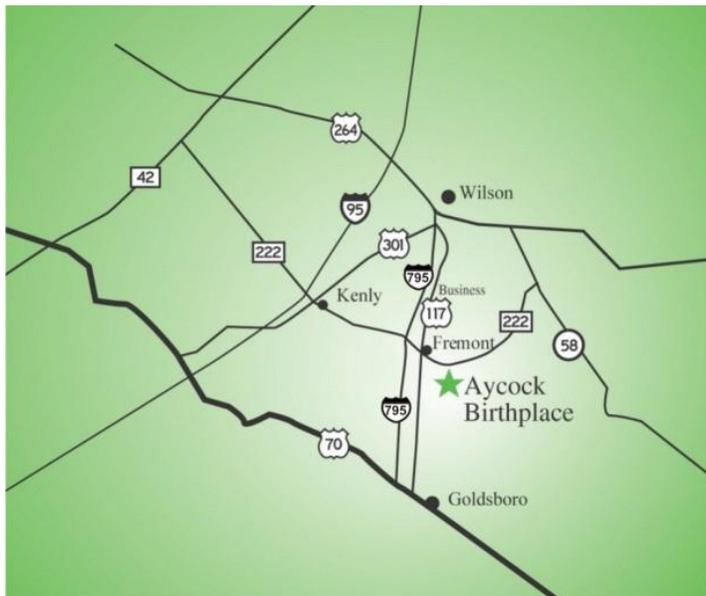
Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/aycock

Email: aycock@ncdcr.gov

Life for Charles Brantley Aycock began on his family's farm in rural Wayne County on November 1, 1859. Shaped by his family's values of hard work, education, and his father's interest in local politics, Charles grew to become a skilled orator, lawyer, and leader in the Democratic Party. Elected governor of North Carolina in 1900 in an election involving both white supremacy and "universal education" issues, Aycock served until 1905. He earned a reputation as the state's "Education Governor" because of his relentless championing of better school facilities and increased training and pay for teachers.



Today's students can experience farm life as it was for young Charles through tours, hands-on activities, and observing costumed interpreters performing daily chores. Visitor center exhibits trace Aycock's life and political career.



Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area and Buildings
- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area (covered)
- Gift Shop
- Vending
- On-site Bus Parking
- Limited Nearby Restaurants

Bentonville Battlefield



5466 Harper House Rd. Four Oaks, NC 27524

(910) 594-0789

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi

Email: bentonville@ncdcr.gov

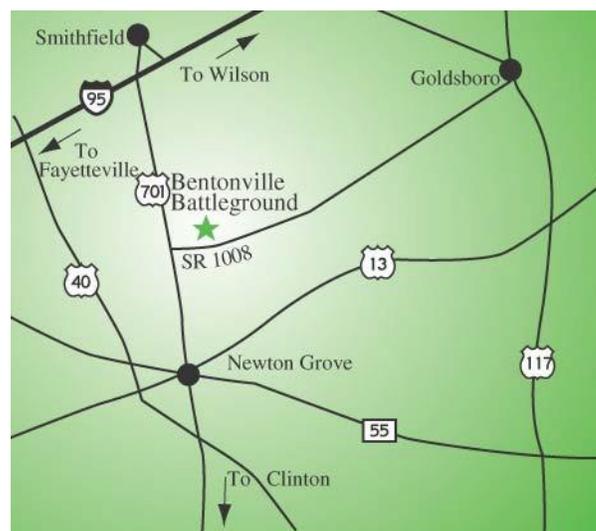
Hoping to stop the rampage of Union Gen. William T. Sherman's army through the South in March 1865, the Confederacy made one last attempt to halt his advance. The Battle of Bentonville took place March 19-21, 1865 in rural Johnston County. Union troops fought outnumbered Confederate forces under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. After three days of intense fighting, the Confederates retreated and Sherman's army moved to Goldsboro to be re-supplied. During the battle, the Union army

transformed the home of John and Amy Harper into a field hospital, where more than five hundred wounded soldiers were treated.

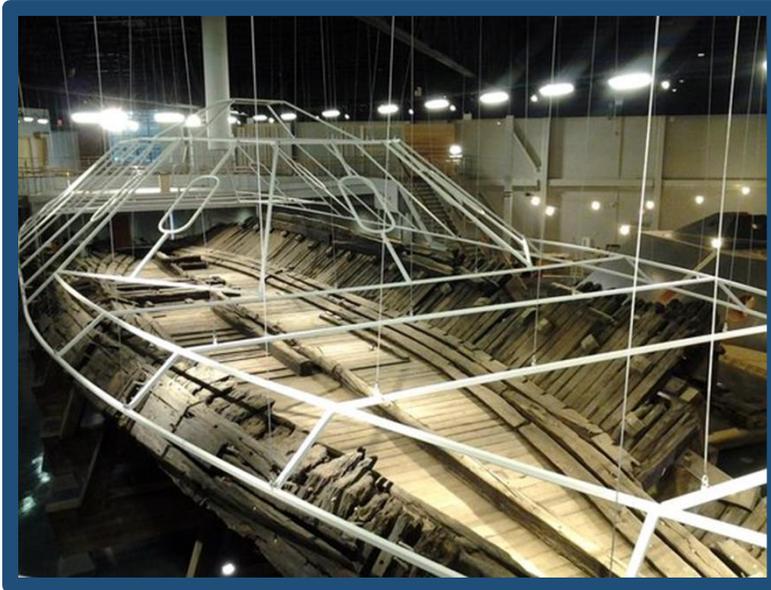
On a visit to this historic site, students can tour the Harper House and experience firsthand a Civil War field hospital, the monument area, the Harper family cemetery, and reconstructed field fortifications. Visitor Center exhibits tell the story of the battle with displays of artifacts from the struggle. Teaching materials and lesson plans available.

Facilities:

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Partially Handicapped-accessible Historic Area
- Exhibits – Fiber Optic Battlefield Map
- Audiovisual Program
- Picnic Area (covered)
- Restrooms
- Vending
- Gift Shop
- Limited Nearby Restaurants
- On-site Bus Parking



CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center/ Governor Richard Caswell Memorial



100 N. Queen St.
 Kinston, NC 28501
 (252) 526-9600

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse

Email: cssneuse@ncdcr.gov

Located in the new CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center in downtown Kinston, are the remains of the Civil War ironclad CSS *Neuse*. The *Neuse* was one of 26 ironclad ships commissioned by the Confederacy. During a Union advance on the town of Kinston in 1865, its commander was forced to scuttle the vessel. For nearly a hundred years, the *Neuse* rested on the river bottom before being raised from its watery grave.

On a visit to this historic site, students can learn what life was like for the sailors on the CSS *Neuse* through tours and hands-on activities. The nearby Governor Richard Caswell Memorial is also available for tours and programming upon request and availability. This historic site honors Richard Caswell, the first governor of the independent state of North Carolina. A teachers' packet is available for elementary grades.

Facilities

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center
- Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Gift Shop
- Nearby Restaurants



Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

8884 St. Philips Rd. S.E.

Winnabow, NC 28479

(910) 371-6613

Website: www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswick

Email: brunswick@ncdcr.gov

A quiet embankment along the lower Cape Fear River holds many secrets, including the remains of both a colonial town and Civil War fortification. Here under moss-covered branches once stood a lively port town. Brunswick, a bustling community, was home to royal governors and influential colonial citizens. Burned by the British in 1776, Brunswick faded into obscurity. During the Civil War, the Confederacy built Fort Anderson on the remains of the colonial



town as part of the Lower Cape Fear defense system. Union troops attacked the fort in February 1865 and the Confederates abandoned it under the cloak of night.

Today, students can visit the sites of these two conflicts as well as the Visitor Center exhibits detailing their history. Tours and hands-on activities of the sites are available for students on both 18th-century and Civil War themes.



Facilities

- Visitor Center/Museum
- Fully Handicapped-accessible Site
- Wayside Exhibits
- Audiovisual Program
- Restrooms
- Picnic Tables (shaded)
- Gift Shop
- On-site Bus Parking
- Limited Restaurants Nearby

Fort Fisher

1610 Ft. Fisher Blvd. South
 Kure Beach, NC 28449
 (910) 458-5538

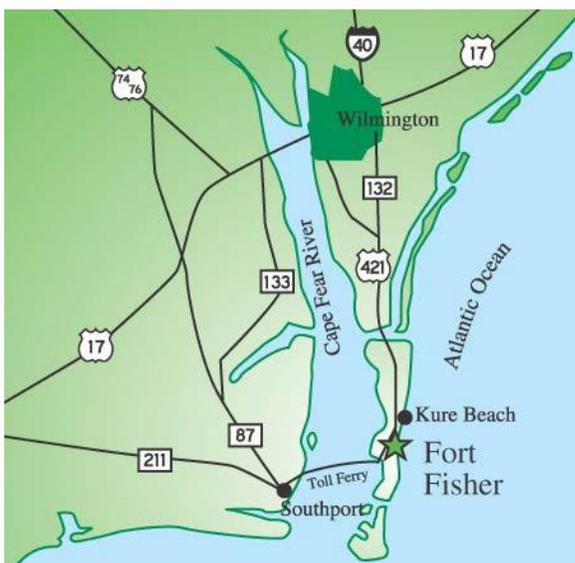
Website: www.friendsoffortfisher.com

Email: fisher@ncdcr.gov

In the Civil War, the agricultural South depended on Europe for manufactured goods and war materials. To stop the importation of these items, President Abraham Lincoln declared a naval blockade of Confederate ports. Wilmington's proximity to Bermuda and the Bahamas, added to its rail connections to Virginia, made it the lifeline of the Confederacy. Nicknamed "the Gibraltar of America," Fort Fisher's massive earthen walls stretched almost a mile and a half and averaged 30 feet high. The fort also had 30 underground bombproofs and magazines. Under the protection of Fort Fisher's 44 big guns, 4 field pieces, and 3 mortars, tens of millions of dollars' worth of goods and war material came into the Confederacy. After two attacks, Fort Fisher was finally captured in January 1865. The Confederacy's main supply line was severed. Three months later, out of supplies and hope, the Confederacy surrendered and the Civil War ended. The fighting at Fort Fisher was the largest combined operation undertaken by the US Army and Navy of the Civil War and wouldn't be surpassed until June 6, 1944.



Through tours, weapons demonstrations, and hands-on activities, students can step back in time and learn what it was like for soldiers on both sides of the fort – those protecting it and those trying to capture it. A Teachers' Packet containing information on Fort Fisher, activities geared towards elementary or middle school students, and a suggested bibliography is available.



Facilities

- Handicapped-accessible Visitor Center and ¼ Mile Tour Trail
- Civil War Museum/Exhibit Hall
- Fiber Optic Map Depicting the Second Battle
- Audiovisual Program
- Tour Trail Markers
- Restrooms
- Gift Shop
- Vending
- On-site Bus Parking