

Historic Halifax State Historic Site

EARLY RIVER PORT TOWN OF THE ROANOKE VALLEY

Halifax was established in 1757 as a trading center on the Roanoke River. It became a recruiting center during the Revolutionary War. On April 12, 1776 the Fourth Provincial Congress met in Halifax and adopted the Halifax Resolves, the first official resolution by an entire colony recommending independence from England. The Fifth Provincial Congress also met here, and created North Carolina's first state constitution and appointed Richard Caswell as the first governor. Today, a tour of Historic Halifax can include restored historic buildings, museums, & demonstrations of colonial period crafts. Located just 6 miles east of Interstate 95, the site is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm year round, excluding most major holidays. The site offers free admission and guided tours of its restored buildings!

☞ The most popular features of Historic Halifax are the restored 18th and 19th century historic buildings, which are available for guided tours. These include two furnished houses: the **Owens House**, circa 1760, was the home of a prosperous merchant; and a wealthy planter's home, the **Sally Billy House**, was relocated from a nearby plantation.



☞ The **Montfort Archaeological Museum** is housed over the foundations of the home of Joseph Montfort, circa 1762. Montfort's fine Georgian style house no longer stands, but visitors can see the foundations which were exposed by an archaeological dig and view artifacts unearthed onsite.



☞ Two 19th Century public buildings include the **1838 Jail & the Clerk's Office**. The restored interior of the Jail features reconstructed and furnished cells. The Clerk's office currently houses a working **printing press!** The print shop is a favorite hands-on activity. Another 19th century feature of Halifax is the **Burgess Law Office**, circa 1808, furnished as a law office in the 1820s.



☞ Taverns were an important part of life in early Halifax. Today, Halifax has two restored late 18th century taverns. The **Tap Room** tavern is furnished as a it would have been in the late 1700s. It is furnished entirely with reproduction items, offering visitors a hands-on experience. **Eagle Tavern** is restored as a museum featuring exhibits on colonial era tavern life.

☞ The newest site feature is the **Underground Railroad Exhibit Trail**. This one quarter mile trail includes five exhibit panels which tell the story of freedom seekers who made attempts to escape slavery via the Roanoke River.



☞ The site **visitor center** is complete with a museum, 13-minute orientation film, restrooms, and a small **gift shop**. Guided tours of the historic buildings depart from the visitor center on a scheduled basis throughout the day.

☞ Groups can arrange for a customized tour of Historic Halifax. Our group tour coordinator will be happy to work with you to plan a unique experience!



www.halifax.nchistoricsites.org

Historic Halifax
(252) 583-7191

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Tour Site

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☞ The town of Halifax and the Roanoke River were strategic locations of the underground railroad for freedom seekers trying to escape slavery in North Carolina. Today, both the Old Town of Halifax and the Roanoke River are part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of the National Park Service. The program defines the underground railroad as resistance to slavery through escape and flight. The underground railroad exhibit trail at Historic Halifax offers five wayside exhibits which feature period advertisements from local newspapers placed by slave owners attempting to recapture freedom seekers. This trail featuring multiple wayside exhibits was the first of its kind in the Network to Freedom. The Old Town of Halifax has been designated as a District within the Network to Freedom, and is only the second such district in the nation!

☞ For more information, please contact:
Historic Halifax
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www.halifax.nchistoricsites.org
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Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Please check our web site for possible changes in days/hours of operation.

Admission is free. Closed most major holidays. Groups are requested to make advance reservations.

Annual special events:
April 12 - Halifax Day
2nd Saturday of December - Christmas in Halifax



☞ From I-95 in North Carolina, take Exit 168 and follow the brown Historic Site signs to the historic site visitor center in the town of Halifax, located at 25 Saint David Street.



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