

Somerset Place State Historic Site



2572 Lake Shore Road

Creswell, NC 27928

(252) 797-4560

www.nchistoricsites.org/somerset

Email: somerset@ncdcr.gov

This historic site 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 abolished 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 300 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 free and enslaved inhabitants of Somerset through exhibits and tours of buildings in the slave community and owner's compound. They also can experience antebellum domestic chores by ginning cotton, dipping candles, and making sedge brooms.

Facilities

Handicapped-accessible visitor center

Partially handicapped-accessible historic area and buildings

Exhibits

Gift Shop

Handicapped-accessible restrooms

Motorcoach/Bus Parking

Vending

Recreational Trails and Picnic Area (Pettigrew State Park adjacent to site)

Activities and Tours

Guided tour of historic features, including the buildings and grounds.

Hands-on Educational Program Activities:

Rope Making	Ginning Cotton
Open Hearth Cooking	Basket Making
Candle Dipping	Broom Making

Each student will make a traditional craft to take home.

The cost of the educational program is \$2.15 per participant to defray the cost of materials.

A complete tour without activities takes 1 ½ hours, while a complete tour of the site with activities takes 2 ½ hours.

STEAM Education Program

The STEAM education program offers 4th through 8th grade students to integrate knowledge across disciplines of science, technology, engineering, arts and math. This will encourage students to think in a more connected and holistic way. Students will explore and learn concepts from different disciplines in different contexts, all in ways that are naturally engaging to them and will allow them to explore the history of Somerset through cross disciplinary lens.

The 2.5-hour STEAM program will allow students to participate in an orientation of Somerset's general history and engage in a STEAM based walking tour and learning activity. This program may include one or more North Carolina Essential standards. A \$2.15 fee is applicable per student. Reservations are required.

STEAM Learning Activities:

Measuring Tree Height	Butter Making
Candle Making – Illumination	Predicting Weather

African Drumming and Dancing

Call the site to determine which activities are appropriate for your grade level.



Additional Teaching Materials

- Made from off the Land Exhibit
- American Civil War Lesson Plans can be found at <http://civilwarexperience.ncdcr.gov/somerset/somerset.htm>

Directions to Site

From US 64 in Creswell, take Exit 558 and follow the brown signs south through downtown Creswell. Turn right on Thirty-Foot Canal Road. Proceed for approximately 5 miles, and turn left on Lake Shore Road. Somerset Place is on the right approximately ½ mile past the Pettigrew State Park headquarters.

Site GPS Coordinates = N 36.0745240° W
76.6110380°

