

Open Houses, Candlelight Tours Scheduled for Historic Sites

Christmas open house! A delight and a tradition everywhere.

North Carolina's state historic sites are no exception. In every area of the state, staffs of the various historic sites are decking the halls with natural decorations. Staff and volunteers in period dress will be on hand to welcome visitors for open house festivities and throughout the holiday season.

Following are open house dates and times for the various sites:

Executive Mansion

Governor and Mrs. Jim Hunt will again be hosts for the annual Open House at the Executive Mansion this year. Decorations prepared by the mansion staff are designed mostly of natural native materials. Although regular guided tours will not be offered (due to the large number of visitors expected) hostesses will be stationed in each room to answer questions.

Large groups should plan to call the Capital Area Visitor Center, (919) 733-3456, to avoid the crush for specific time periods. Otherwise, reservations are not necessary.

Dates and times are: Saturday, December 13, 1-5 p.m.; Sunday, December 14, 1-5 p.m.; Monday, December 15, 1-5 p.m.; and Tuesday, December 16, 10-12 a.m. and 1-5 p.m.

The Executive Mansion is located at 200 N. Blount St., Raleigh. Admission is free.

State Capitol

North Carolina's historic State Capitol will be decorated in mid-nineteenth century style during the 1980 holiday season. Throughout the holidays, beginning Monday, December 15, through Tuesday, December 23, various musical groups will perform daily. The Capitol will be open for candlelight tours December 15-18, 7-9 p.m.

The Capitol is located on Capitol Square in downtown Raleigh. Admission is free.

WEST—

Thomas Wolfe Memorial

The "Old Kentucky Home," boyhood home of Thomas Wolfe, will be decorated with greenery and candles and other traditional trimmings during the holiday season.

The Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site is located at 48 Spruce St., in Asheville. Visitor fee charged.

Vance Birthplace

1830s period decorations will grace Vance Birthplace State Historic Site for the holiday season. Open house with traditional refreshments will be held on Sunday, December 14, 1-5.

Vance Birthplace is located near Weaverville, off U.S. 19-23 and five miles east on Reems Creek Rd., or five miles north on Ox Creek Rd. off Blue Ridge Parkway exit. Admission is free.

PIEDMONT

Polk Memorial
Candlelight tours are

scheduled for James K. Polk Memorial on Sunday, December 14 and Sunday, December 21. Decorations will be in place from December 5 for the holiday season.

Polk Memorial State Historic Site is in Pineville on South Polk Street, U.S. 521. Admission is free.

Reed Gold Mine

Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site will be decorated with a Christmas tree and traditional nineteenth century trimmings.

Visitors may reach Reed Gold Mine, near Concord, by driving ten miles east on N.C. 200 to Georgeville and SR 1100, south two miles on SR 1100. Admission is free (Fee charged for panning.)

Alamance Battleground

Decorations of berries, popcorn, calico birds and other handmade items will be highlights of the decorations at Alamance Battleground's eighteenth century Allen House Open House on Sunday, December 14, 1-5 p.m. Visitors will see a display of period toys under the Christmas tree, and staff members in colonial dress will welcome visitors and serve light refreshments.

Alamance Battleground State Historic Site at Burlington is six miles south of N.C. 62 (Marked exists from I-85). No admission charge.

House in the Horseshoe

Traditional trimmings will decorate the Alston House during the holidays, and area school groups will be invited to the site to view the decorations.

House in the Horseshoe is located near Sanford. (Take US 42 west for twelve miles to Carbondon and SR 1644, left on SR 1644 for five miles.) Admission is free.

Bennett Place

Bennett Place will be decorated with traditional greenery of the 1860s period.

Bennett Place State Historic Site, where Gen. Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to Gen. William T. Sherman, is located near Durham, west on U.S. 70 Business; marked turnoffs onto Neal Road (eastbound on I-85 take Duke University exit; westbound, U.S. 70 exit). Admission is free.

Duke Homestead

"Christmas on the Farm" is the theme of holiday festivities at Duke Homestead from December 1 through January 1. Decorations will be fashion-

ed from things that grew or could be found on the farm around 1850-1870.

The kitchen will be brought alive with the aroma of spices, with red and white checked gingham at the windows and on the tables; and sweet potatoes on the hearth. The dining room will boast greenery, fruits, nuts along with cornhusk items. The bedroom, candles, bows and calico items. The parlor will receive special attention with a cedar tree laden with festive decorations. Windows will be trimmed along with the tables, mantle, fireplace and walls. Greenery on the front and back doors will bid a special welcome to all who visit the Old Homestead.

Duke Homestead State Historic Site in Durham can be reached by taking Guess Road exit off I-85, north on Guess Road to Duke Homestead Road, right on Duke Homestead Road one-half mile. Admission is free.

Stagville

Stagville's annual open house, hosted by Stagville Associates is set for Sunday, December 7, 2-4 p.m. The Bennehan House will be decorated with greenery, berries and other items, all from Stagville Plantation. Wassail and cookies from nineteenth

century recipes will be served.

Stagville is located from I-85 (sign on both sides of interstate) east on Old Oxford Road, seven to nine miles. Stagville is on the right. Admission is free.

EAST

Caswell-Neuse

Caswell-Neuse State Historic Site Visitor Center and the lobby of the Neuse Museum will be decorated with handmade holly wreaths and other similar holiday pieces.

Caswell-Neuse is located at Kinston, west of city limits on U.S. 70 business. Admission is free.

Historic Halifax

The fifth annual "Christmas at Historic Halifax" tours scheduled December 13-14 will feature interior and exterior decorations made entirely of natural materials in the visitor center and restored colonial buildings during regular visiting hours. The Halifax Garden Club will serve light refreshments on Sunday, December 14.

Historic Halifax is on U.S. 301 at Halifax (marked exits from I-95). Admission is free.

Historic Bath

A learning experience will be a feature of Historic Bath's holiday celebration. A Christmas workshop December 8-12 will teach par-

ticipants to make decorations for the Palmer-Marsh and Bonner houses, using native greenery and fruits, along with handmade ornaments for the Christmas trees.

Open house, at the Palmer Marsh House (ca. 1744) and the Bonner House (ca. 1830) scheduled on Sunday, December 14, will open the holiday festivity which will continue through December 21.

Historic Bath State Historic Site is on N.C. 92 fourteen miles east of Washington. Open House, December 14 is free. Visitor admission fee during regular visiting hours.

Iredell House

Edenton's Cupola House and Iredell House State Historic Site will celebrate Christmas in traditional colonial custom. The sixth annual "Wassail Bowl" celebration at the Cupola House (ca. 1725) is set for Sunday, December 7, 4-7 p.m. Edenton Choral Society will present an hour of Christmas selections.

The Iredell House will be decorated in traditional greenery.

Iredell House is located in Edenton, 107 East Church St. The Cupola House is in downtown Edenton. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.



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