



Tryon Palace

2019
Annual Report



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Imagine for a moment that the Palace had not burned in 1798. How would the course of Tryon Palace have changed? A restoration of the original structure rather than a faithful rebuilding would have been the prime distinction. I suspect there would have been a movement to preserve the original Palace as there was a nationwide push to save early structures. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association was formed in 1853 to save George Washington's home – credited as the earliest preservation effort in the country. With the restoration and rebuilding of Colonial Williamsburg in the 1920s, saving early architecture came into the national view. That spirit is what propelled leaders in North Carolina to rebuild the Palace beginning in the 1940s, though I suspect there would have been equal fervor for a restoration if the Palace had survived.

What would it have taken to restore the Palace if it had survived? Surely it would have been altered over the years so the process of returning the Palace to its original design would have been as equally arduous as the complete reconstruction. Would John Hawks' original drawing have surfaced? Probably so. Would a restoration have been easier? Probably not. A thoughtful restoration would have taken as much effort as planning the reconstruction. And as much funding!



George Street would not have cut through to the water had the original Palace survived. Might other houses have been built around the Palace that needed to be removed? Would any elements of the original landscape have survived? This is an interesting intellectual exercise as we look back at the history of the Palace over 250 years since Governor Tryon first welcomed guests into the building in December of 1770.

The history of the Palace over the past 250 years has paralleled many aspects of American history. A colonial capital, a state capital, and ultimately a major effort in the broader historic preservation movement. Today, Tryon Palace is part of the heritage tourism industry. Now as we move forward toward the next chapter of the Palace, it is incumbent upon us to follow another national trend – telling the story of all people who were part of the dynamic environment of New Bern. We have important work ahead of us.

Sincerely,

William J. McCrea
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

Beautiful Tulips bloomed in spring decorated the front gates of Tryon Palace.

FROM THE FOUNDATION

Fast Forward...2020, a year like no other!

Happy 250th Anniversary to Tryon Palace! It is so wonderful to be a part of this historical event. This year has been one that no one anticipated. We, at Tryon Palace Foundation, send wishes of good health and happiness to you and your families for 2021.

Despite the chaos of the year, Tryon Palace Foundation has sustained 2020 with your support. My gratitude is extended to each and every one of our donors. The Palace closures to the public earlier this year, and continued tour limitations hurt. But given lemons you make lemonade. Tryon Palace received a \$1,000,000 award from the CARES Act - and with this funding we were able to make needed renovations to the Annex Building that houses our collections, create videos for virtual educational field trips, develop a new Tryon Palace Foundation website, and launch an SEO (Search Engine Optimization) analysis that will lead more visitors to our website and increase visitation.

For those of you who have not visited the New Bern Academy Museum, please plan to do so once it reopens in 2021. The New Bern Academy was the first school in North Carolina to be established by law (the legislative assembly incorporated it in 1766). Fire destroyed the original building in 1795, and the present building was constructed between 1806 and 1809. It served as a school until 1972, making it one of the oldest continuously used school buildings in America. The building, due to age, needed conservation. Thanks to the generous work of HistoriCorps, a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to saving and sustaining the nation's special places, this work has been done. They are committed to the preservation and stewardship of historic and cultural resources. I thank them immensely for the work completed on the Academy's copula and more during the month of October, and for their commitment to the preservation and stewardship of historic and cultural resources.

Jeannie Tyson
Foundation President, Tryon Palace



FROM THE COMMISSION

With all the damage, stress, and heartache that New Bern has suffered through from Hurricane Florence in 2018-19, who would have dreamed the effects of Covid-19? Basically a hurricane that has lasted 9 months! Tryon Palace staff and volunteers have weathered it all. Thanks to each and every one of you for the time and resources you have given to Tryon Palace. The entire Tryon Palace Commission salutes you.

William Cannon
Chairman, Tryon Palace Commission



2019 Annual Report

The Tryon Palace Annual Report is published to acknowledge the generosity of Tryon Palace's primary supporters and to highlight achievements from the previous year. This publication is available to all those who have supported Tryon Palace through the Tryon Palace Commission and the Tryon Palace Foundation.

Photos provided by Tryon Palace

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New Bern, NC 28563

About Tryon Palace

Tryon Palace, located in New Bern, NC, is part of the Office of Archives and History, an agency of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Tryon Palace is one of North Carolina's most significant historic sites. It is the home of the Governor's Palace, North Carolina's first colonial and first state capitol, and includes historic buildings, gardens, and the North Carolina History Center, which revolutionizes the visitor experience through use of the latest interactive technology. The History Center includes galleries, a performance hall, the museum store, and a waterfront café.

Tryon Palace's mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement in 1710, the development of statehood, and into the mid-20th century. It is dedicated to collecting, interpreting, and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation.

Tickets and visitor information are available at Tryon Palace, 529 S. Front St., New Bern, NC. For directions and further information about special events, programs, or group tours, employment and more, visit www.tryonpalace.org or call (800) 767-1560.



Volunteers Make Tryon Palace Great





Total Volunteer Base: 950

Our Tryon Palace volunteers continue to put forth their hard work and enthusiastic energy in preserving the history of our site, and aiding us on our mission to reach out to our local New Bern community.

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82 Hospitality
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Denotes total visitation at Tryon Palace by calendar year

VOLUNTEER HOURS



Number of volunteer hours worked
at Tryon Palace by fiscal year

2019

WINTERFEAST
GOVERNOR'S
CHALLENGE
PALACE POURS
FALL LANTERNS
ON THE LAWN
LIVE & LOCAL
SILENT AUCTION
HAMILTUNES
CANDLELIGHT
TAVERN

2018

WINTERFEAST
GOVERNOR'S
CHALLENGE
PALACE POURS
LIVE & LOCAL
MUMFEST PARKING
SILENT AUCTION
CANDLELIGHT
TAVERN

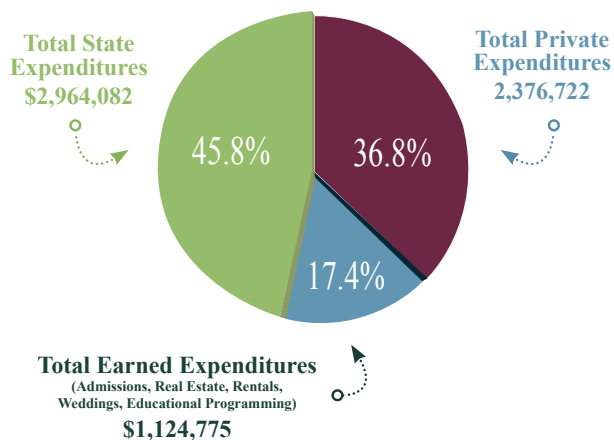
2017

WINTERFEAST
GOVERNOR'S
CHALLENGE
PALACE POURS
SPRING LANTERNS
ON THE LAWN
PIGGIN' & GRINNIN':
BBQ & BLUEGRASS
FESTIVAL
FALL LANTERNS
ON THE LAWN
MUMFEST PARKING
SILENT AUCTION
CANDLELIGHT
TAVERN

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

ANNUAL SOURCES OF FUNDING (FY 17-18)

for Tryon Palace operating expenditures



CANDLELIGHT ATTENDANCE



COME DISCOVER TRYON PALACE'S TRIUMPHANT HISTORY.

*R*oyal Governor William Tryon built the magnificent Georgian-style structure in 1770 to be the first permanent capitol of North Carolina. But his taxes to fund the building were met with tremendous uproar. *"We want no such House, nor will we pay for it."* The opposition helped fuel the Regulator Rebellion. Just five years later the Palace was occupied by Patriots, and after the Revolutionary War, became North Carolina's first State Capitol building.

*I*n 1790, a fire destroyed the stately building. In the 1920s, it became the dream of a group of strong-willed and influential women to rebuild Tryon Palace as a permanent and lasting memorial. New Bern's triumphal rebuilding of the Palace in 1959 is a testament to history, community, and rebirth.

*C*ome walk the paths of our Royal Governors and American Patriots. At Tryon Palace, you'll discover how the American Spirit has prevailed.

*Explore 14 acres of
beautiful 18th-century
period gardens.*

*The 250th
Anniversary Exhibit
at the NC History Center
opens in January*

- Year-round Palace Tours
- Outlander Tours
- Stimulating Exhibits at the History Center

- Beautiful Garden Tours
- Behind the Scenes Tours
- Living History Demonstrations



 **Tryon Palace**
Historic New Bern, NC

www.tryonpalace.org
252-639-3500