

NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY EDUCATION CENTER

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY – PUBLIC INVITED!

June 20, 2008

NEW BERN, NC (June 9, 2008) --- The public is invited to celebrate the groundbreaking for the North Carolina History Education Center – a landmark occasion for eastern North Carolina. The ceremony will take place on Friday, June 20 at 5 p.m. on the future site, which is located at the corner of Metcalf and South Front Streets overlooking the Trent River in downtown New Bern.

The new History Center will be a 60,000+ square foot green project with four major history museum galleries, a performance hall, other educational and conference spaces, and a waterfront exhibit and event area. The center's Great Hall will become the new entry to all of Tryon Palace's historic attractions.

As a green project, the History Center will feature wetlands, which filter storm water runoff into the Trent River. A cistern will capture rain water for landscape irrigation. The project will utilize recycled materials and is planned to qualify for Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) certification.

The state's commitment to the \$60.6 million project brings its total to \$42.7 million, which has been matched by a commitment of \$1.5 million from the City of New Bern and \$1.3 million from Craven County. Other public grants for the project include \$1

million from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, \$1 million from Golden LEAF Foundation, and \$75,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Board members of Tryon Palace Historic Site & Gardens have committed \$6.7 million to various aspects of the overall *Making History* capital campaign, including a \$1 million endowment from the Robert P. Holding Foundation and First Citizens Bank; \$1 million from the Mariam Cannon Hayes estate; \$500,000 from The Cannon Foundation; and a notable gift from the Thomas and Robertha Coleman Foundation.

Significant funding also includes \$1 million from PepsiCo; \$1 million from The Harold H. Bate Foundation; \$830,000 from Kellenberger Historical Foundation; \$250,000 from The Wachovia Foundation; \$147,000 from Save America's Treasures; \$100,000 from both the Felix Harvey Foundation and Minges Bottling Group, and gifts from individuals ranging from \$750,000 down.

Additional revenues of \$2.5 million for the Center will be realized from 2006-2010 Tryon Palace ticket sales. The remaining balance of \$5.5 million will be raised over the coming months with major gifts and with a general public campaign that will provide appealing gift opportunities for all North Carolinians.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement and development of statehood through the mid-twentieth century by collecting, interpreting and preserving

objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation. The North Carolina History Education Center complements and enhances this mission.

Schedule of Events:

5:00 p.m. – Performance by Jonkonnu Troupe

5:25 p.m. - Fife and Drum Corps on parade

5:30 p.m. – Groundbreaking Ceremony

6:15 p.m. – Press Conference

End

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is recognized by the American Association of Museums (AAM). Of an estimated 17,500 museums in the United States, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is one of only 23 AAM accredited museums in North Carolina and only 776 accredited museums nationwide.