

Historic Halifax



Hours of Operation

Tuesday through Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Guided Tours

Each Guided Tour:

\$2.00/adult, \$1.00/Seniors & Children 6-12

Children under 5 free

— Guided Tour Schedule —

10:00am Montfort Archaeology Museum

11:00am Burgess Law Office

11:30am Taproom with Colonial Games Activity

1:30pm Owens House

2:15pm Clerks Office with
Printing Press Demonstration

3:00pm Sally-Billy House

Self-Guided Tours

10:00am-4:00pm Eagle Tavern Exhibits

10:00am-4:00pm 1838 Jail

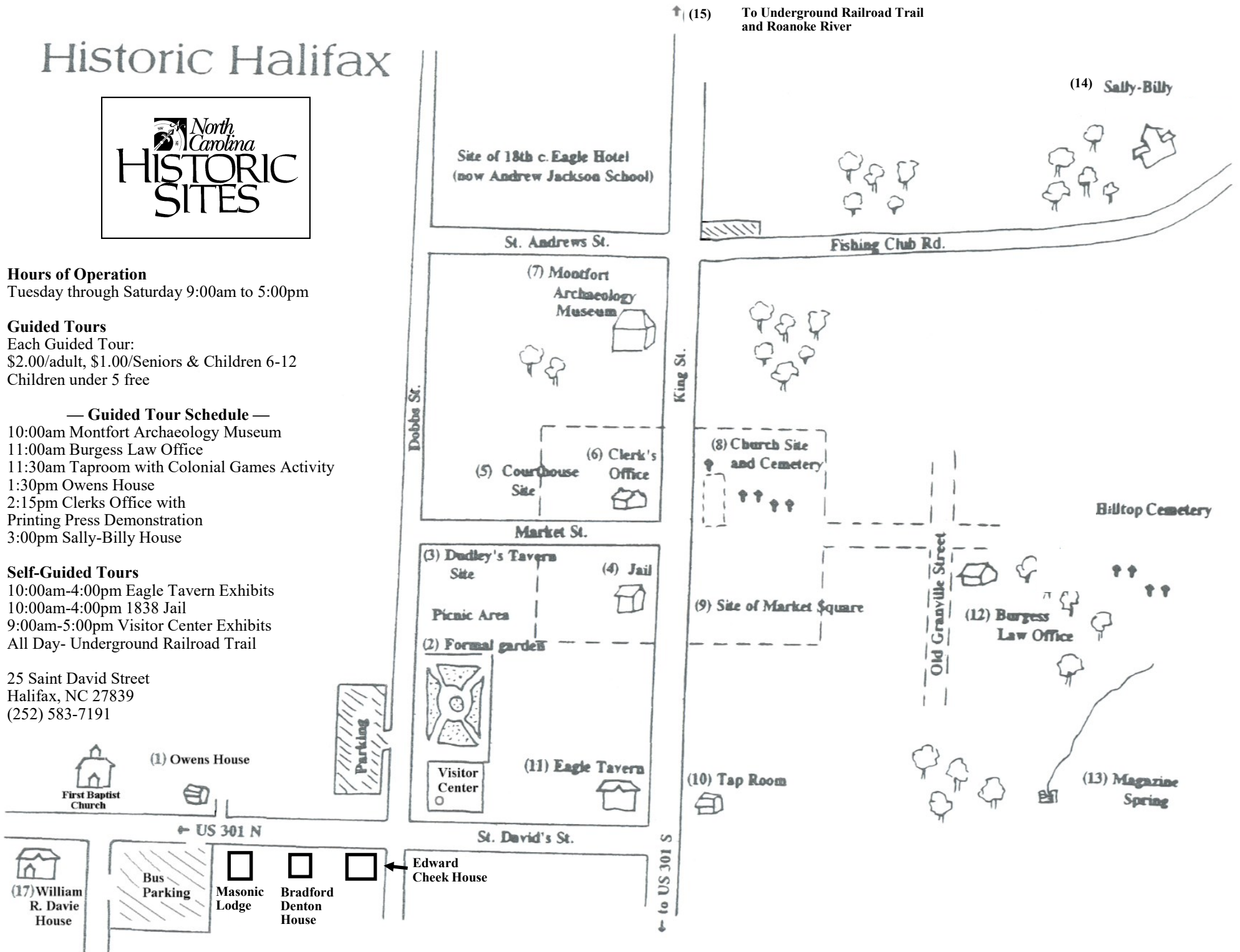
9:00am-5:00pm Visitor Center Exhibits

All Day- Underground Railroad Trail

25 Saint David Street

Halifax, NC 27839

(252) 583-7191



- (1) Owens House—c. 1760—Named for George Owens, a Halifax Merchant of the early-to-mid 1800s. The home features a gambrel roof and the building was moved to its present location before 1807. Today, it is furnished as a typical 18th Century merchant's home. The Masonic Lodge across the street was built in 1824.
- (2) Formal Garden (replica) c. 1769—as demarked on the Sauthier Map of Halifax. The garden was added during the construction of the adjoining visitor center in 1976.
- (3) Dudley's Tavern Site—Christopher Dudley's tavern existed here in 1772. The Mulberry Trees (over 200 years old) are recognizable by their gnarled trunks and were planted with hopes of entering the silk industry, but they were the wrong variety of Mulberry.
- (4) Jail—1838—Brick, two-story fireproof building. This is the third jail constructed on this same site. The first two jails, wooden structures from 1760 and 1764, were burned by escaping prisoners. The lower floor housed prisoners, and the second floor was used as a public armory. The building was used by the county as a jail until 1915.
- (5) Colonial Courthouse Site—Location of the original Halifax County Courthouse, c.1760.
- (6) Clerk's Office—1832—Brick, fireproof building which consists of three separate offices with no interior connecting doors. It originally housed a Register of Deeds Office, a Superior Court Clerk's Office, and the County Clerk's Office. The County Clerk's office is interpreted as such; another is interpreted as a print shop.
- (7) Montfort Archaeology Museum—1984— This large modern structure covers the brick foundations of Joseph Montfort's home. Artifacts displayed in building were found during an archaeological dig on this site.
- (8) Church Site and Cemetery—1793 Church, 1766 Cemetery (earliest marked grave) features many unmarked graves. The church was built on this site in 1793. By 1911, the building had collapsed. A stone marker interprets the history of the Free Church, which was the town's earliest church building.
- (9) Site of Market Square—The original town plan had four one-half acre lots designated as Market Lots. This lot remained vacant. Established to provide a market for produce, purchasing, trading of livestock, militia drills, and county fairs.
- (10) Tap Room—mid-to-late 18th Century— This small gambrel roofed building was used as a tavern. Dancing classes, Masonic meetings, and slave auctions were held here. Several large buildings once attached to this structure made up a complex containing nine chimneys with nineteen fireplaces in the 19th century.
- (11) Eagle Tavern –late-18th Century— Originally built with a two-story central section and flanking one-story wings which is known as Tripartite Federal style. The side wings were expanded to two-story in 1845, giving the present full two-story front façade. This building was originally located at the present day site of the Andrew Jackson School and was part of the large Eagle Hotel complex in the 18th and early 19th centuries.
- (12) Burgess Law Office –c.1806– Blue, Georgian Style house which served as the town office of local attorney, Thomas Burgess. The building is furnished with period furniture. In the woods behind the Burgess Law Office is the Hilltop Cemetery. This predominantly African-American Cemetery was used during the late 1800s and early 1900s. This cemetery has few grave markers or tombstones but many unmarked graves. The graves date from a wide period.
- (13) Magazine Spring—A natural water spring, traditionally used by American Indians, then colonists, and became a main source of water for town residents. Named during the Revolutionary war due to close proximity to a factory (Public Works), which produced clothing, ironwork, and ammunition.
- (14) Sally-Billy House—c.1808– The house is Tripartite, Federal style. Fine dentil work and early interior Chinese-Chippendale stair railings showcase fine early area craftsmanship. It is furnished with period furniture. Originally located near Scotland Neck, the house was moved to this site in the 1970s. Named for early residents, William Ruffin Smith ("Billy") and Sarah Norfleet Smith ("Sally").
- (15) Underground Railroad Trail and Roanoke River— Both the Town of Halifax and the Roanoke River are recognized by the National Park Service as part of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Waysides along the Historic Halifax State Historic Site Underground Railroad Trail interpret the stories of Roanoke Valley freedom seekers. Historically, warehouses, tobacco stores and a ferry were located at the Halifax riverfront.
- (16) William R. Davie House—1783– Restoration of this home is ongoing. Built for William R. Davie, a Revolutionary War veteran, legislator, North Carolina Governor, and father of the University of North Carolina.