

Somerset Place, Social Story

Abbreviated tour: Suckey Davis' House, Reconstructed Hospital, Laundry/Kitchen, Collins' House. Send an email or call the site to set up a time for this sensory friendly tour.

Somerset@ncdcr.gov and 252-379-6020.

1. Arriving
2. Parking/walking
3. Visitor Center
4. A place of quiet/escape
5. Suckey/Hospital
6. Laundry/Kitchen
7. Collins Home
8. Back Home

We are going to an historic site called, Somerset Place. Historic sites can be a fun place to learn about people and see artifacts from a long time ago.

Somerset Place used to be a plantation (a really large farm) with thousands of acres of land. So, to get there we might have to drive for quite a while, because it's not near any big roadways.

When we arrive, we'll park in a parking lot where the big sign that says, Somerset Place State Historic Site, is. It's a fun little parking lot where you walk across a little foot bridge and follow a brick pathway to get to the visitor center. Did you know the brick walkway is rounded to prevent rainwater from forming large puddles? Pretty neat!



The visitor center is a pretty neat place with a gift shop to buy a souvenir or a book and another room with chairs and cool 3D map above the fireplace. The room with chairs is where we'll be starting the guided tour. I can sit with the adults who brought me. Along the way there will be objects that I can touch to help me understand the history a little bit better.



After we leave the visitor center our tour guide will take us through the white picket fence to a two-story house. This is a house that enslaved people used to live in.



Inside there are two rooms downstairs. One room has furniture, beds, eating table, pots and pans, and other items that enslaved people used in their houses.



The other room has benches where we can sit down and listen to the tour guide tell us about the people who lived in this building.



There are also items similar to what the enslaved men and women made, and we can touch some of those things while the tour guide is talking. If we raise our hand, we can ask the tour guide questions. They'll be happy to answer any questions we have.

The next stop on our tour takes us to the hospital building. It's another two-story building that looks like the one we were just in. The only difference is the glass windows.



When we go inside the hospital we will stand or sit on benches in the hallway. The tour guide will go into the room where there is all sorts of items that doctors used to help their patients. Including, tools for surgery, splints to help heal broken bones, and even a container that used to hold leaches!



After leaving the hospital, we will be halfway through with our guided tour. Our tour guide will take us to the Owner's Compound to a long blue/gray building. This building is called the Laundry/Kitchen building.



Inside the laundry half of this building enslaved women worked by washing and ironing clothes. They also repaired clothing by sewing.



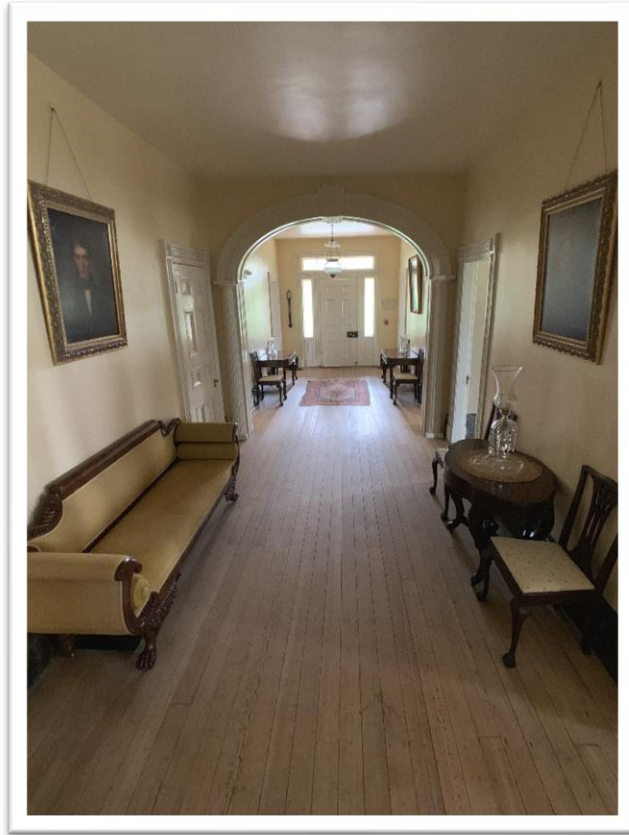
In the kitchen, enslaved women cooked huge meals over a large fire in large pots and skillets.



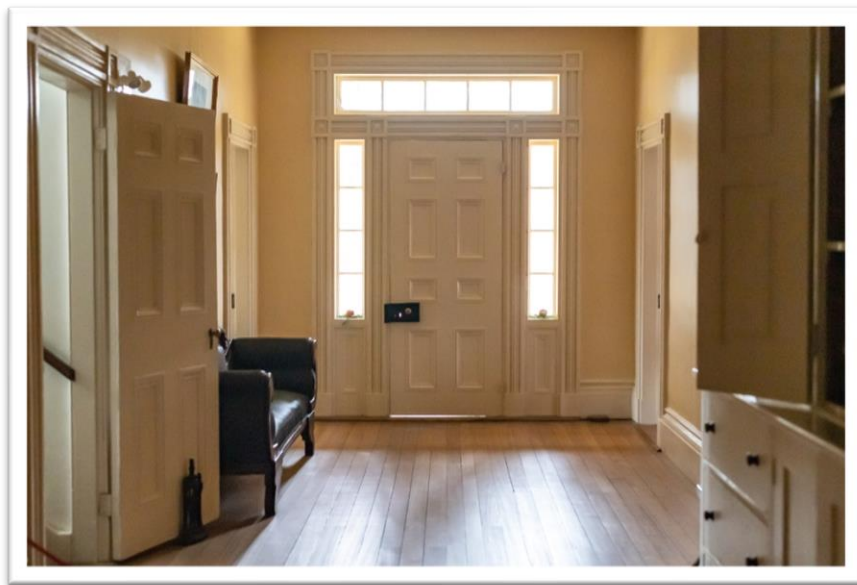
The last stop on our guided tour is the large house that the Collins family lived in. There are fourteen rooms and three floors. When we go inside, we cannot touch any of the furniture or items, because they are all very old.



There are five rooms on the first floor, and they are all off this entryway. There are many windows that let in a lot of sunshine.



After we look at all the rooms on the first floor, we get to walk up the stairs to see the rooms on the second floor! This floor is full of bedrooms, and our tour guide will tell us about who slept in these rooms.



Our last stop on the guided tour is the third floor! This floor is where the Collins children slept and played. Although we can't touch them, we'll get to see some pretty cool old toys. Their nanny also had a bedroom on the third floor as well.



After leaving the third floor, we'll exit the house onto the 2nd floor porch and make our way to the ground from there. This is the end of the guided tour!