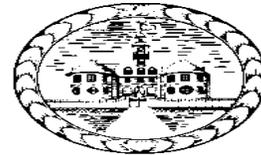


Small Historic Towns across America:

As presented by Mr. Stadt's online Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the fall and winter of 2014. You can learn more about are classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org

A Brief History of Williamsburg, Virginia

The city, first named Middle Plantation was settled in the year of 1638. Sixty-one years later in 1699 the city would officially become Williamsburg, the capitol of the Virginia Colony. By the time of the Revolutionary War, Williamsburg was the center of politics, art, and learning in Virginia. Many of the Founders such as Jefferson and Monroe were from the College of William and Mary, which was established in 1693. The city also played a key role in the War as Washington assembled his troops there in the year 1781 for his siege of Yorktown. By the year of 1780 the capitol was moved to Richmond Virginia where it remains today. John D. Rockefeller Jr. funded the restoration of the city in the year 1926 transforming it into the historical attraction it is today.



Location and Driving Directions

Colonial Williamsburg is Located on the I-64 Midway between Richmond and Norfolk, just off exit 238.



Political Environment when Founded

From the year 1699 to the year 1780, Williamsburg served as Virginia's capitol. It was also the center of politics all the way up to the American Revolution. Changing its name from Middle Plantation to Williamsburg in the year 1699 it was named after King William the 3rd of England.

Oldest Institutions and Businesses Today

To the right is a picture of Eastern State Hospital, originally founded as the first built American Psychiatric Hospital in the year 1770.



City Government

Williamsburg as an independent city has operated under the council-manager form of Government since 1942. The city council consists of five members that serve four year staggered terms.

Historical Attractions

Williamsburg's economy is driven primarily by Colonial Williamsburg, the largest tourist attraction in Virginia. The project funded in 1926 by Rockefeller Jr. was a restoration of the historic downtown Williamsburg. Key attractions include the Capitol building, the Governors palace, and the Bruton Parish Church.



The Governors Palace

Where to Stay When Visiting Colonial Williamsburg

- Williamsburg Inn, East Francis St. Williamsburg, VA 23185
- Williamsburg Lodge, 310 South England St. Williamsburg, VA 23185

Why would I want to visit this small town

Colonial Williamsburg, the largest tourist attraction in Virginia, is considered a living-history museum, meaning that it is set up to look and feel as it would in the 17th century. Colonial Williamsburg is populated by historical reenactors who demonstrate and talk about what life was like in the early days of Williamsburg, the town is educational as well as entertaining.

Links you may want to visit:

- www.williamsburgva.gov
- www.colonialwilliamsburg.com