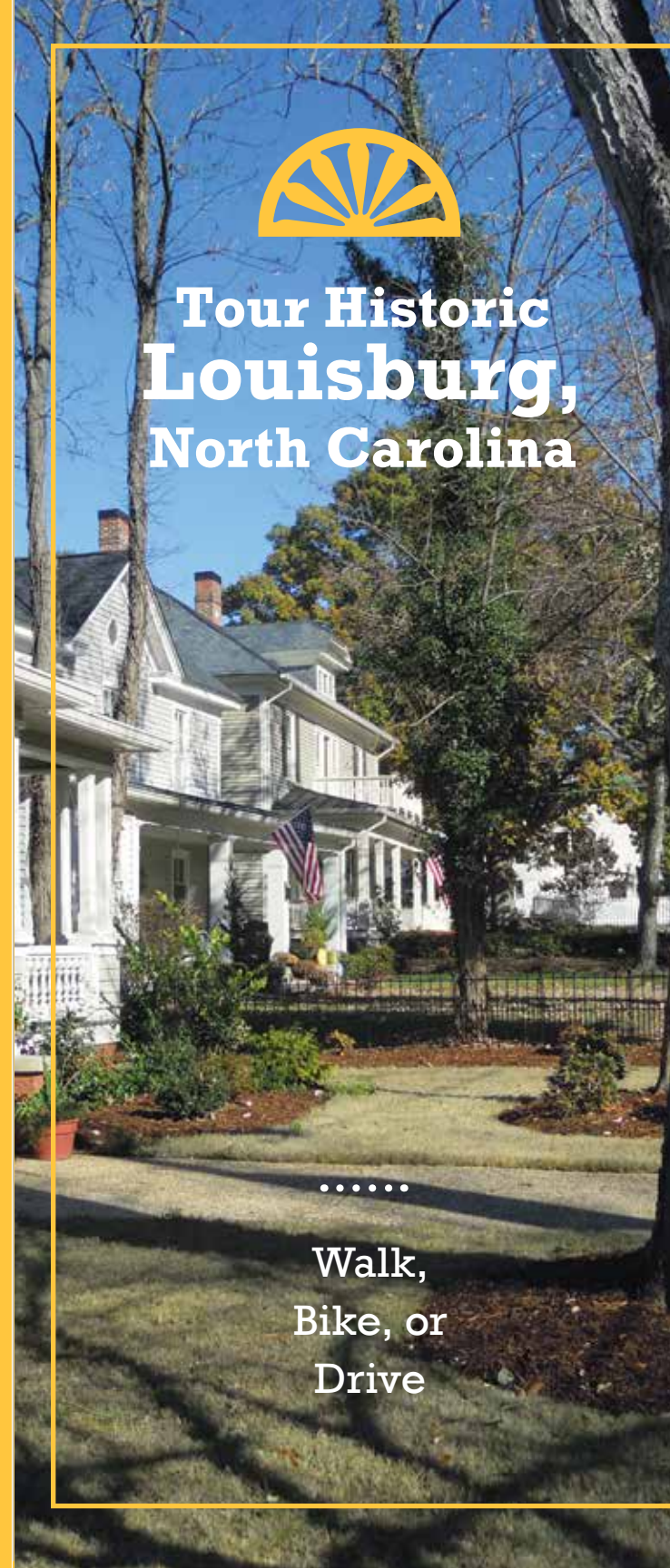




Tour Historic Louisburg, North Carolina



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Walk,
Bike, or
Drive



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Walk, Bike, or Drive

Tar River Center for History
and Culture Foundation, Inc.

LOUISBURG, N.C.

2015

A Word about This Publication

This historic tour booklet is the first imprint of the Tar River Center for History and Culture (TRCHC) at Louisburg College, which was established in 2013 by President Mark D. La Branche. The TRCHC works with local governments, private organizations, educational institutions, and individuals in the Upper Tar River region of North Carolina to develop the area's historical and cultural assets, to foster economic development, and to promote knowledge of the past. The text is based on information compiled by Vickie E. Mason for *The Historic District of Louisburg, North Carolina* (Louisburg, N.C.: Town of Louisburg, 1990). Town Administrator Mark Warren graciously gave the TRCHC permission to draw upon Ms. Mason's work. This was supplemented by research undertaken by Lucy T. Allen, Sharon Billings, John Pitts Launey, and Drucilla H. York. Mrs. York took the photographs of tour properties. The entries that follow the brief history of Louisburg are keyed by number to the foldout map at the end of the publication, which was designed by Michael T. Southern. Users with limited time may wish to take the short tour (entries 1–11). Others may have time to take the long tour (entries 12–41) or to visit all of the properties. Enjoy your stay in Louisburg, and please come back often!

For more information about the Tar River Center for History and Culture, visit our Web site (<http://www.louisburg.edu/tarrivercenter>), find us on Facebook, or call (919) 497-3252.

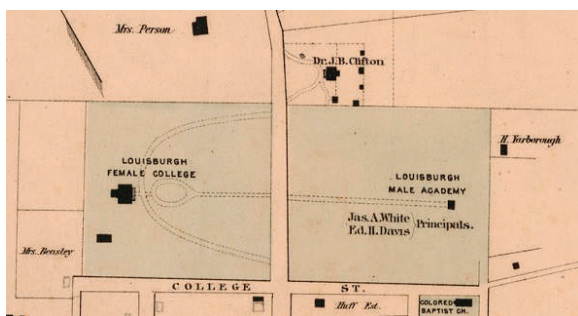
Maurice C. York
Director

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A Brief History of Louisburg

Historic Louisburg features buildings dating from throughout the town's history; many reflect architectural styles that were popular during times of relative prosperity. In 1779, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted a law that divided Bute County into Franklin and Warren counties. The same year, legislators authorized commissioners to establish Lewisburg as the county seat of Franklin County. Early documents refer to this new town as Lewisburg and Louisburg. Situated near an established ford on the Tar River and on an important road running from Virginia to present-day Fayetteville and points south, Louisburg could be reached by additional roads from Halifax and Hillsborough. In addition to serving the county's legal needs, Louisburg developed as the trading center for a county whose principal agricultural commodities were cotton, tobacco, wheat, and livestock. The primary markets for these products were Petersburg and Richmond.

Patewills (or Pate Wills) Milner, whose small Georgian-style home was located northeast of the intersection of present-day Cedar and Nash streets, sold 100 acres of land for the development of the town. The commissioners who oversaw the establishment of Louisburg set aside 22 ¼ acres for a town common on the north side of the property. It was here that Franklin Male Academy (opened 1805) and Louisburg Female Academy (opened 1815) were established. It is thought that



Louisburg Female College and Louisburg Male Academy, 1882



Louisburg Methodist Church

around 1789, Milner's son, Wilson, constructed the Georgian-style home that today comprises the south wing of the Person Place, located just north of this town common.

The Louisburg area was a center of Methodism. The first annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held at the home of Green Hill in 1785. Dr. John King and his descendants played a prominent role in the growth of this denomination in the region.

Like North Carolina, Louisburg experienced a measure of prosperity during much of the antebellum period. The production of cotton and tobacco supported this economic upswing. Most early buildings were of mortise and tenon frame construction, but on occasion a few public and private buildings were constructed of brick. Amid this time, William P. Williams built a two-story Federal-style frame addition to the Person Place, and Peyton Brown constructed a substantial brick home on Church Street. A number of large frame Greek Revival-style homes appeared along Main Street. Louisburg Female College in 1857 completed a four-story brick building on the site of the female academy, which was moved to a nearby location. Albert G. Jones, a builder from Warren County, oversaw the construction of the college building and several residences in town.

Although the Civil War had a negative impact on the local economy, Louisburg experienced no action during the conflict. On May 1, 1865, just after the

suspension of hostilities, thousands of soldiers in General William T. Sherman's Army of the Tennessee marched into town. They camped in the Louisburg Male Academy and Louisburg Female College groves before continuing their trek from Raleigh to Washington, D.C. A Civil War Trails marker on the Louisburg College campus commemorates this event.

Facilitated by the opening in 1885 of a spur line of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad from Franklinton to Louisburg, considerable development took place in Louisburg during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Cotton remained a key commodity in the local economy, but the production, sale, and processing of tobacco became increasingly important, attracting new citizens with experience in this field. Much of the industrial development associated with these two crops took place near the railroad depot that overlooked the south bank of the river. The population grew from 730 in 1880 to 1,954 in 1920. In 1905, a particularly productive year, the town completed an electric plant, opened a new graded school, and began work on a new municipal reservoir and pumping station. Partly in response to fires that destroyed portions of the downtown, merchants built new brick stores. Residents continued to build handsome residences, most of them of frame construction and many reflecting the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles. The Baptist, Episcopal, and Methodist congrega-



tions completed new churches during this period. Louisburg Female College constructed several new buildings between 1913 and 1929. Among those responsible for many of the structures dating from after the turn of the twentieth century were Masey Frank Houck, a builder who also owned a brick manufacturing company, and Marion Stuart Davis, a local architect.

The Great Depression and World War II had a major impact on Louisburg's development. It was not until after the war that significant residential development resumed in areas contiguous to the town's original boundaries. Although the central business district continued to host county and municipal offices, the construction of Bickett Boulevard in the 1950s fostered significant commercial development along that thoroughfare.

In 1986, the Town of Louisburg completed a survey of the town's historic buildings; the following year, the Louisburg Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the town's Historic Preservation Commission works to ensure that Louisburg's important architectural resources are maintained for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Tour Properties

(keyed by number to foldout map at back of booklet)



1. Franklin Male Academy

Cedar Street (Louisburg College Campus) – 1804

Chartered first in 1787 and again in 1802, Franklin Male Academy opened on January 1, 1805, in this two-story transitional Georgian- and Federal-style frame building. Matthew Dickinson, a recent graduate of Yale College, served as the first preceptor or principal. Later known as Louisburg Male Academy, the school remained a private institution until 1905, when construction of the new Louisburg Graded School required moving the academy to its present site. An exhibit, “Franklin Male Academy: A Century of Commitment to Education, 1805–1905,” and period furnishings complement this restored building. 🌅

2. Main Building (Louisburg College)

501 North Main Street – 1857

Main Building at Louisburg College stands on the site of the former Louisburg Female Seminary. Albert G. Jones, a noted regional builder from Warren County, constructed it for the newly chartered Louisburg Female College. This impressive brick Greek Revival-style building rises three stories on a raised basement and features a monumental

2



Doric portico. The college opened August 5, 1857. Tobacco magnate Washington Duke purchased the college in 1891. His son, Benjamin Duke, transferred ownership of the college in 1907 to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. The school became a co-educational institution in 1931. Today, Louisburg College is the oldest two-year church-related college in the United States and enrolls approximately 700 students. 🌅

3. Arthur W. Person House

601 North Main Street – 1915

Built for A. W. Person (1880–1969), a cotton broker, this Colonial Revival-style dwelling with coved German sheathing is dominated by a steep pyra-

3



midal roof with dormers and a wraparound porch supported by Doric columns. The central entrance has single-paned sidelights beneath a patterned transom. The dwelling was restored in 2013 as an honors residence for female students at Louisburg College and named for E. Carroll Joyner. 🌅

4. Person Place

605 North Main Street – ca. 1789–1830

The Person Place is inextricably connected to the history of Louisburg and of Louisburg College. The property on which the house stands once belonged to Patewills Milner. When he died in 1788, one of his five sons, Wilson, inherited 149 acres north and east of the town. It is thought that Wilson Milner soon constructed the small Georgian-style house that now comprises the south wing of the Person Place. Matthew Dickinson, the first preceptor of Franklin Male Academy, acquired the property in 1807 and sold it a year later. William P. Williams, a wealthy landowner and legislator from Warren County, purchased the house in 1822 and is thought to have built the two-story Federal addition around 1830. Asher H. Ray, headmaster of Louisburg Male Academy, acquired the property in 1845. He lived here with his wife, Jane, who operated Louisburg Female Academy. Thomas Arrington Person purchased the property in 1858. It remained in the Person fami-





ly's possession until 1970, when it was acquired by Louisburg College. The Person Place Preservation Society, established in 1979, restored the house and continues to maintain it. 🏡

5. John W. King House

615 North Main Street – ca. 1900

Merchant John William King (1866–1928), a direct descendant of Dr. John King, a pioneer of Methodism in America, had this late-Victorian-style house built for his family. Distinctive features include a pyramidal roof with multiple gables faced with decorative shingles; and a one-story porch with gable-front entrance and robust turned work: spindle frieze, posts, and balustrade. 🏡



6. Nicholson-Bickett-Taylor House

621 North Main Street – ca. 1897

Combining late Victorian and Queen Anne styles, this house was built for Dr. William H. Nicholson. It exhibits a distinctive tall central tower and a flanking polygonal bay, as well as decorative use of sawn and turned detailing: shingles, brackets, and balustrades. Nicholson sold it in 1901 to Thomas Walter (1869–1921) and Fannie Yarborough (1870–1941) Bickett. Thomas Bickett, a lawyer, served as the state's governor from 1917 until 1921. A local lumberman, George Taylor, purchased the house in 1919. His family retained it until 1974, when Louisburg College bought it for its presidents. The college later sold the property. 🌿

7. Barrow-Wilson House

701 North Main Street – ca. 1890

This late Victorian-style dwelling with slate roof was built on a two-acre lot purchased by Pattie Ballard, the wife of Joseph J. Barrow (1860–1924), who served first as Louisburg's postmaster and later as clerk of the Superior Court of Franklin County. Distinguished by a projecting two-story central gable, it has a porch exhibiting ornate sawnwork balustrade and posts with drop pendant brackets. 🌿



8



8. Shaw-Ragland House

807 North Main Street – 1930

In 1930, Chester A. Ragland (1886–1943), a road contractor who helped to pave the streets of Louisburg and built some 200 miles of roads in Franklin County, had this Dutch Colonial Revival-style brick house built by hiring local architect M. S. Davis and master carpenter William H. Edens to remodel the former home of J. K. Shaw. A distinctive gambrel roof with shed-roof dormers defines this dwelling, which also features an engaged porch and a sunroom with attached porte cochere, all of which exhibit robust Tuscan columns. Plain flat clay tiles sheathe the main roof. 🌞

9



9. Aaron Tonkel House

714 North Main Street – 1935

Born in Latvia, Aaron Tonkel (1886–1952), a Jewish merchant, settled in Louisburg with his wife Frances in the early twentieth century and established a department store in 1923. He had this Tudor Revival-style brick home built by William H. Edens. Typically, a massive stone chimney and a projecting gable with flared roofline define the front façade. Diamond-patterned panes accent its windows, and a round arched batten door with medieval-style hinges highlights the entrance. 🏡

10. Dr. Ellis Malone House

704 North Main Street – 1855

Builder Albert G. Jones began this Greek Revival-style dwelling around 1855 for Ellis Malone (1805–1877), a physician. Owing to a financial setback, Jones did not finish the house; this was done by Thomas Raney. Original features include molded and fluted corner pilasters with a spool motif characteristic of the work of Jones and a central front entrance with transom and sidelights. Cornerblocks with rondels accent the principal door and window surrounds. Alterations made to the façade in the late nineteenth century include two front-facing gables and a new porch. 🏡



11



11. Davis-Allen-Ford House

610 North Main Street – ca. 1860

Built prior to 1861 for lawyer Joseph Jonathan Davis (1828–1892), this house with central tower and deep cornices reflects the Italianate style popular in North Carolina during the mid-nineteenth century. Davis served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1875–1881) and on the N.C. Supreme Court (1887–1892). His daughter Mamie Allen inherited the property, which remained in the family until 1946. Purchased by Charles Ford, grandson of George W. Ford, one of Louisburg’s most active early twentieth century businessmen, it remains within his family. To the south of the house stand important outbuildings: a smokehouse and garage. 🌞

12



12. First Baptist Church

411 Spring Street – 1925

Built for a black congregation, this brick church stands on a raised foundation, with stairs leading to flanking side entrances: a three-stage bell tower with crenellated parapet and an opposing modest side entry. A projecting front gable containing notable stained-glass windows dominates the central pyramidal roof. This structure replaced the original frame church built ca. 1836 by local Baptists. Until after the Civil War, the congregation consisted of both whites and blacks. Its African American members purchased the site in 1873. 🏛️

13. Patterson-Pinnell House and Office

406–408 Spring Street – ca. 1820–1843

This one-and-one-half-story Federal-style frame dwelling with hall-and-parlor plan and separate one-room office were built for the Patterson family on Main Street. Margaret C. Patterson in 1850 sold a lot at the corner of Main and Noble streets for a new Methodist church, and between 1862 and 1896 these were used as a parsonage and pastor's study. The church sold both structures and their current lot in 1896 to Polly Pinnell, who moved them. Sheathed with beaded weatherboards, the dwelling features interior elements typical of the Federal period: an enclosed stair, mantels, wainscoting, and six-paneled doors with H-L hinges. 🏠



14



14. Allen-Bruton House

312 North Main Street – 1908

Felix Hill Allen (1870–1938), who owned a cotton gin and other businesses, hired Samuel Harris, a black carpenter, to build this house, possibly under the supervision of M. Frank Houck. It combines notable Queen Anne and Colonial Revival features, including wraparound porch with Tuscan columns and semicircular portico, decorative stained-glass windows, and dentil cornices. 🏠

15. Brown-Boddie-Allen House

310 North Main Street – ca. 1854

Built for dry goods merchant Peyton J. Brown (1805–1885), this frame dwelling is one of the finest

15



examples in Louisburg of the Greek Revival style. Typically two stories tall, with a low hip roof and center-hall plan, it features on the exterior classically derived tall baseboards, paneled corner pilasters, and a cornice with paneled frieze. Samuel Perry Boddie (1880–1936), a pharmacist, bought it in 1904. 🌅



16. Louisburg Baptist Church
302 North Main Street – 1901–1904

Designed by Charles W. Barrett of the firm of Barrett and Thomson, Architects of Raleigh, this Romanesque-style brick church is dominated by a three-stage corner bell tower with ornate double-door entrance and typical semicircular headed bays. The interior contains handsome stained-glass windows, stained woodwork, a vaulted ceiling, and a serpentine balcony. Construction began in July 1900, and the first service was held April 21, 1901. 🌅

17. Williamson House
401 Cedar Street – ca. 1858

This well-preserved one-story Greek Revival-style plantation house was built for Temperance Perry Williamson, the widow of John N. Williamson. Typically, it exhibits a two-room-deep center-hall plan and features a primary hip roof and small hip-roof porch with Doric fluted pilasters and posts. A brick

17



in the foundation bears the name of P. W. Motley and the year 1858. The daughter of Jeremiah Perry, owner of Cascine Plantation in Franklin County, Temperance moved to Louisburg from Covington, Georgia, after her husband's death. She lived here with her two sons, John P. and Benjamin, and farmed this Fox Swamp tract comprising 85 acres. Among the 94 slaves Temperance owned in 1860 was John H. Williamson, who after the Civil War became a prominent state legislator and newspaper editor. The house remained in the Williamson family until 1998, when it was purchased and restored by Dean Ruedrich and Cynthia Satterfield. The couple moved the ca. 1800 rural law office of Alexander Falconer from its original location several miles north of town. 🌅

18



18. Walker-Fleming-Wilder-Taylor House

208 North Main Street – ca. 1825

This tripartite dwelling was constructed for the family of Rebecca Walker. John B. Bobbitt, principal of Louisburg Male Academy, lived here from 1831 to 1850. In 1903, Samuel Wilder, an employee of the American Tobacco Company, purchased the house and enlarged it to its present form prior to 1922. Chimneys exhibit original cut granite blocks with brick additions at the north and south elevations. 🏠



19. Capt. R. F. Yarborough House

204 North Main Street – 1902

M. Frank Houck built this house for Richard Fenner Yarborough (1834–1910), a Civil War veteran and respected businessman. Distinctive features include gables with fan motifs and an engaged porch with central balcony and flanking dormers. Half-timber designs highlight each side elevation. 🏠

20. Collie-Best-Taylor House

209 North Main Street – 1903–1904

This one-and-one-half-story Queen Anne-style dwelling features paired segmental arch windows and fan woodwork motifs typically associated with contractor M. Frank Houck. Built for James R. Collie,

20



a tobacconist and member of the board of trustees of the Louisburg Graded School system, it was purchased in 1925 by Edward Leigh Best, the first superintendent of the Franklin County schools. 🌂

21. Julia P. Scott House

105 Sunset Avenue – ca. 1925

This one-and-one-half-story, three-bay Craftsman brick bungalow is sheltered beneath a side-gable roof and is dominated by a projecting gable-front porch with low, extended eaves and brick balustrade. It exhibits both gable-front and shed-roof dormers. Staggered-patterned shingling faces each gable and dormer. The house was built for Julia P. Scott (1877–1979), the daughter of W. H. Pleasants,

21



Sr. and owner of a ladies' clothing store. The property includes a fallout shelter built during the Cold War era for Gen. Edward F. Griffin, the husband of Mildred Scott Griffin. 🌅



22. Circuit Riders Parsonage *210 Church Street – ca. 1810*

One of the earliest extant houses in Louisburg, this dwelling is thought by local historians to have been built on a different site by Daniel Blue, a wheelwright, for rental purposes. Later, it was used to accommodate Methodist Episcopal circuit riders in the Tar River Circuit. A pastor of the Louisburg Baptist Church, Charles A. Jenkins, lived here in the late 1870s. The house possibly was a one-room dwelling that soon was enlarged to two, with exterior end chimneys and an enclosed corner stair. Hand-planed boards sheath all ceilings and attic walls. Typical late-nineteenth-century additions are the front gable, boxed cornices with returns, and beadboard wainscoting. 🌅

23. Odum-Fuller House *202 Church Street – ca. 1906*

This picturesque one-story Queen Anne-style dwelling with unusual corner entrance was built for Maggie and Elijah Odum (1859–1919), a local dry goods merchant, shortly after they purchased the lot for \$500. It was later owned by Neva and

23



Festus Fuller, a merchant and postal employee. The pyramidal roof features projecting pedimented gables and wraparound porch with turned posts and balustrade. 🌿

24. Thomas-Johnson-Beasley House

201 Church Street – ca. 1904

Built as a one-story dwelling for James A. Thomas, editor of *The Franklin Times*, this was later the home of his daughter, Sadie, and her husband, Asher F. Johnson, also editor of *The Franklin Times*. Joseph C. Beasley, a farmer, bought the house in the 1920s. He added the second story and extended the porch around 1925. 🌿

24



25



25. Brown-Brummitt-Wheless House
207 Church Street – ca. 1847

Initially constructed as a tripartite house for merchant Peyton J. Brown, this dwelling stands as the oldest brick home in Louisburg. Sold in 1861 to John Ruffin Brummitt (d. 1873), an architect and undertaker, and in 1905 to Dona Wheless (1880–1956), wife of Frank Wheless (1872–1947), a dry goods merchant, it was enlarged to its present two-story form around 1910. The house includes a boldly paneled double-door entrance. Bull’s-eye corner blocks accent each lintel and variations record development. 🏠

26. Frank Reid Pleasants House
209 Church Street – ca. 1900

Frank Reid Pleasants (1876–1954), a druggist, built this asymmetrical Queen Anne-style house.

26



Features include corbel-capped interior chimneys, a wraparound porch, and a two-story gallery along the north side. 🏠



27. William H. Pleasants, Jr. House
211 Church Street – ca. 1900

Merchant William H. Pleasants, Jr. (1869–1918) built this as a one-story house and then added a second story ca. 1910. Distinguishing features include a projecting central gable, two stepped-single-shoulder chimneys, and front porch with central entrance. W. H. Pleasants, Sr. (1833–1906), a merchant and former Louisburg mayor, was the father of Reid and William Pleasants. 🏠



28. Pleasants-Yarborough House

213 Church Street – 1927

This Georgian Revival-style brick-veneered house was designed by Raleigh architect Howard Satterfield and constructed by William H. Edens for Missouri Alston Pleasants, the widow of W. H. Pleasants, Jr. Features include a distinctive slate-covered hip roof and flanking frame one-story wings, each crowned with a Chippendale balustrade. To the rear stands its original brick garage. The house was purchased by R. F. Yarborough in 1972. 🌅



29. W. Norwood Fuller House

301 Sunset Avenue – ca. 1924

Built by William Norwood and Lena Fuller, this impressive two-story brick Colonial Revival-style dwelling has a flanking one-story sun room and a two-story wing. A companion brick garage is located at the rear of this corner lot. Serving as Franklin County Accountant from 1932 to 1939, Fuller (1890–1941) supervised the remodeling of the Franklin County Courthouse in the late 1930s. 🌅

30. Lola Jackson Jeffress House

313 Sunset Avenue – ca. 1930

Lola Jackson, a bank bookkeeper, built this two-story house around 1930, the year she married



Thorton Jeffress. The low-hip roof and exaggerated offset of the porch reflect the popularity of the Prairie style and massing of the American Four-square. ☂

31. Alsbrook-McKinne-Washington House *401 Sunset Avenue – ca. 1913–1919*

This frame Craftsman-style bungalow with shingle details was erected for N. B. Alsbrook. It was sold in 1919 to David F. McKinne (1878–1965), part-owner of McKinne Brothers hardware, and purchased in 1940 by Samuel Washington. Features include an engaged porch with porte cochere, an elongated shed-roof dormer, and a central entrance with side-lights and transom containing small multi-panes.



Most double-sash windows have twenty-four-over-one lights. 🏠



32. William R. King House

308 Sunset Avenue – ca. 1855

This Greek Revival/Italianate-style dwelling was erected for Dr. William Richmond King (1814–1888), a Louisburg physician, as the domestic center of his 120-acre plantation. Originally located west of the town's limits at the terminus of Middle Street (now Sunset Avenue), the house had a circular drive and faced the Williamson House, four blocks to the east. Having purchased a portion of the property from Mary King in December 1912, James Turner soon moved the house here as he was developing the street. The dwelling exhibits an unusual inset corner porch and entry, ornate bracketed cornice, and fluted Doric corner posts. 🏠

33. Malcolm McKinne House

306 Sunset Avenue – ca. 1922

Malcolm McKinne, part-owner of McKinne Brothers hardware, had this home built next door to his brother's. This Colonial Revival-style, two-story frame dwelling with hip roof and modillion block cornice has a side porch, a diminutive central portico with its original side benches, and flanking bay windows, all of which are one story. The

entrance features a six-panel door, fanlight, and sidelights. 🏡



34. McKinne-Beasley-Beam House

302 Sunset Avenue – ca. 1913

Designed by M. S. Davis for Frank McKinne, part-owner of McKinne Brothers hardware, this two-story, double-pile frame dwelling is squarely proportioned, with hip roof, a full-façade hip-roof one-story porch, and side port cochere. Its central entrance features a leaded-glass transom and sidelights. All double-sash windows have one-over-one lights. The property includes a contemporary auto house and shed. 🏡





35. St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Parsonage
305 Church Street

Organized in 1845, the congregation purchased this property in 1852, built its first church in 1853, and in 1895 built next door this substantial Queen Anne-style parsonage. Decorative saw-tooth shingles sheathe the exterior of the second floor and dormer. The Gothic-Revival-style church, designed by Charles W. Barrett of Barrett and Thomson, Architects in Raleigh, replaced the original, outgrown church in 1900. It is cruciform in plan, with a porch featuring a two-stage corner bell tower and arcade. Local stone, shingling, and a combination of round and pointed arch windows highlight the exterior. The interior contains stained-glass windows and Gothic-Revival dark-stained woodwork. 🏰



36



36. Shine-King House

303 North Main Street – ca. 1790

Built on a raised Flemish-bond brick foundation, this dwelling is one of the oldest in Louisburg and is associated with the family of Sarah Long Shine (1760–1846), a key figure in local civic and religious life. Dr. Robert E. King, a dentist, purchased it in 1891 and then had it expanded to its present size by 1901. It features a clipped gable roof, a central dormer, and gable ends with decorative shingles. 🌸

37. Hughes-Watson-Wheless House

305 North Main Street – 1900

Contractor M. Frank Houck began this handsome Queen Anne-style dwelling for Col. William T.

37



Hughes, a merchant and tobacconist from Virginia, in 1899. A distinctive wraparound porch features Tuscan columns resting on frame pedestals and a turned balustrade. The pyramidal roof is distinguished by dormers and projecting gables, some of which include fan motifs typical of Houck. At the curb stands the only surviving carriage mounting block in Louisburg. Directly behind this house at 306 Church Street, William's brother, A. Clark Hughes, a hardware merchant, had Houck build his dwelling with similar details. 🌅

38. Fuller-Malone-Parham House

307 North Main Street – ca. 1857

Builder Albert G. Jones constructed this Greek Revival-style suburban villa for Jones Fuller, a cotton broker and merchant, and his wife, Anna Long Thomas, a noted local diarist. Their son, Edwin Wiley Fuller (1847–1876), a graduate of the University of Virginia, published the book-length poem, *Angel in the Cloud* (1871) and a novel, *Sea-Gift* (1873). Originally, the property included nearly the entire block, with the house centrally located and approached by an elaborate lane that circled at the dwelling's entrance, a remnant of which survives. The two-story frame dwelling, with hip roof and one-story hip-roof porch, incorporates a spool design motif in its porch and corner pilasters that is identified with



the work of Jones. Local tradition maintains that the house incorporates an earlier dwelling owned by Jordan and Ann Long Thomas. 🌅



39. Bailey-Yarborough House

311 North Main Street – 1895

This Queen Anne-style house was built for William Bailey, founder/president of Farmers and Merchants Bank, one of Louisburg's first banks. William Henry Yarborough (1870–1943), a local attorney, purchased the house in 1913. Distinctive features include a circular tower with bell-cast roof capped with a metal finial, massive central chimney, and wraparound porch. The house exhibits decorative woodwork: shingle patterns, fan motifs, and paired columns in combination with an openwork balustrade. Tradition maintains that the one-story servants quarters to the rear initially housed carpenters working on the site, which originally included a cistern and 7,500-gallon water tower. 🌅

40. W. Perry Neal House

401 North Main Street – ca. 1904

Barrett and Thomson, Architects of Raleigh designed this two-story frame dwelling for dry goods merchant Willie Perry Neal (1860–1909). Its present porch, an addition made between 1914 and 1922, features a projecting gable entrance with paired posts and brackets that form a Gothic Revival-style



motif. A notable hip-roof outbuilding stands at the rear. 🌅

41. Louisburg United Methodist Church *402 North Main Street – 1900*

Benjamin D. Price, an architect in Philadelphia who was associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church's Board of Church Extension and author of *Church Plans*, designed this brick church, which is distinguished by flanking entrance towers with broach spires. The southwest one is a taller, three-story bell tower. The interior features notable stained glass windows and woodwork. Construction commenced in 1899, and the first service was held on July 13, 1900. 🌅





42. St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

Junction of South Main and Seaboard Streets

– 1894

This church grew out of the efforts of Henry Beard Delany of Raleigh, who from 1889 until 1904 served the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina as a member of the Commission for Work among Colored People. According to the 1893 annual report of the diocese, a lot near the Tar River had been purchased for a church and construction was underway. Workmen completed the church the following year, and Delany conducted the first service in St. Matthias' Chapel on May 18, 1894. The congregation sponsored a school nearby for African American children. By 1919, St. Matthias' School was considered the largest parish school in the Diocese of North Carolina. 🌅

43. Franklin County Training School

53 West River Road – 1951

After WWII, many Franklin County black military veterans, who had been conscripted without being allowed to finish high school, returned to the United States with few marketable skills. They learned building and carpentry skills by donating their time to the construction of this ten-bay, side-gable, single-pile brick building that has a shed-roof porch running the full length of the façade, with the

43



promise that they would then be educated in other vocational skills here. Known as the Porch Building, it has been in continuous use, first as a vocational and technical training center, then as classrooms for Riverside Union School and Louisburg Elementary, and, currently, as part of the administrative services of the Franklin County Schools. A “Carpenter’s Wheel” quilt block on the end of the building commemorates the contribution of these veterans. 🌅

44



44. Green Hill House

*Near Junction of S.R. 1760 and 1761 –
late 18th century*

Probably built for Green Hill (1741–1826), a Methodist minister and Revolutionary War leader, this structure is a remarkably well-preserved one-

and-one-half-story Georgian plantation house. A Heritage Landmark of the United Methodist Church, the house was the site of the first annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (1785). Distinctive features include a full raised basement laid in Flemish bond, narrow dormers on the front and back of the steeply pitched gable roof, and a double-shoulder chimney laid in Flemish bond. Interior woodwork includes heavy molded architraves, flat-paneled wainscot, molded chair rails, and Federal-era mantels. A basement kitchen with fireplaces remains in use today. The house is a private residence. 🏠

Contributors



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Town Common, showing Louisburg Male Academy and Louisburg Female College, from *Gray's New Map of Louisburg, Franklin County, North Carolina* (ca. 1882), North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Louisburg Methodist Church, completed in 1850 and demolished in 1900, to make room for the present church. Courtesy of Linda Cottrell.

"Main Street, Looking North, Louisburg, N.C.," ca. 1915-1930, Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards (P077), North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

