

# Public Power Profile | Louisburg, NC



## The Quintessential Small Town Setting

The engaging character of this charming small town, a part of North Carolina's Research Triangle Park region, offers a warm, friendly and more relaxed quality of life that stands in welcomed contrast to that of its metropolitan neighbors. Within a short drive of the full range of urban amenities, Louisburg offers the perfect character and atmosphere for those wanting to escape from the noise, congestion and more hectic lifestyle of the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill complex. Centrally located between NC's scenic mountains and beaches, and situated against the picturesque backdrop of a scenic river, rolling hills, wooded expanses and open fields, the Town offers a rich heritage, safe and secure neighborhoods, and efficient services for its satisfied residents. As a result of its many geographic advantages and superior standard of living, it is rapidly becoming a prime location for commercial and industrial development.

Louisburg was chartered in 1779 as the county seat of the newly formed Franklin County. Both Town and County names were chosen to recognize leaders of the American Revolution and the U.S. - France alliance that led to the colonists' victory: Benjamin Franklin and King Louis XVI of France. This legacy is reflected in the many forms of residential architecture dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries that can be found in the Town. The nation's oldest two-year private, church-affiliated institution, Louisburg College, can be found surrounded by the beautiful homes of the prominent and much-admired Historic District. The Town's traditional downtown area has an eclectic blend of commerce and government services. A ride or stroll along the tree-lined Main Street leads through a riverfront park, passes historic churches, crosses the downtown business district, and goes by stately homes with beautiful porches that front the street on either side of the College campus. Truly, Louisburg is an exemplary model for small town America.

Louisburg was an early center of commercial activity in Franklin County beginning with the marketing of locally grown cotton, wheat, and, eventually, tobacco. As agri-business markets and services expanded and population grew, the economy became more diversified and began to attract a wide range of business and professional services. The resulting wealth and prosperity resulted in strong, established social and religious organizations that remain today as important components of the Town's character. Louisburg currently offers exceptional educational, business, medical, recreational, and cultural opportunities in a charming village setting. Local leadership works to reinforce the resident's pride in their community through innovative restoration projects, downtown revitalization efforts, and a commitment to friendly, effective and efficient services. A strong focus on improving public facilities and business infrastructure enhances the prospect for continued growth and development.



Chartered: 1779  
2007 population: 3,700  
County: Franklin

### Louisburg Utilities:

- Electricity
- Water
- Wastewater

### Major Employers:

- Britthaven of Louisburg
- County of Franklin
- Food Lion
- Franklin County Schools
- Franklin Regional Medical Center
- Hon Industries
- Louisburg College
- Phelps Staffing
- Vance-Granville Community College
- Wal-Mart

### Transportation:

- Major highway routes serving Louisburg: US 401, NC 39, NC 561 and NC 56
- Air: Franklin County Regional Airport (general aviation), Ball Airport, North Raleigh Airport, Raleigh-Durham International Airport (25 mi)
- Rail: CSX Rail and Amtrak (Raleigh)



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## INTERESTING FACTS

Founded in 1787, Louisburg College has played a prominent role in the history of the area, from its origin as Franklin Male Academy, its use as a hospital and as an encampment for General Sherman during the Civil War, and its subsequent development as a solid academic institution offering associate degrees in arts and sciences and business.

The charm of Louisburg is enhanced by the extraordinary number of homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With more than 250 structures in the Louisburg Historic District, visitors can observe numerous forms of residential architecture from the 1700s and 1800s.

Louisburg offers parks and recreation opportunities for all ages including youth sports to senior activities. The scenic Tar River provides fishing and canoeing possibilities. River Bend Park and Joyner Park offer all types of outdoor exercise or casual viewing of picturesque natural settings. Walkers, joggers and bikers will enjoy the new Louisburg Bike Trail, a paved rail to trail facility.

Annual events and festivals draw attention to the attractiveness of the Town. Louisburg is host to the National Whistlers Convention, which crowns the nation's top whistlers by age group as well as draws the world's finest whistling performers. The Louisburg College Performing Arts Series headlines nationally acclaimed acts and shows. And, the Tar River Barbeque Festival provides fun-filled, family-oriented entertainment and is free to the public.

Green Hill Place in Louisburg, home of Major Green Hill, a leading colonial-era figure, is associated with the birth of Methodism in North Carolina. The house was built during the 1760s, and was known to Methodists as a landmark of the North Carolina circuit, the course of travel a pastor would follow in preaching throughout the state. The first Annual Methodist Episcopal Conference took place at Green Hill's House on April 20, 1785.



## Boosting Future Development Prospects

To benefit from its close proximity to the State Capital, Louisburg is looking along its main highway connector to Raleigh for new modern commercial development opportunities. The successful Louisburg Plaza and the burgeoning Burke Boulevard Commercial Division along US 401 are designed to capitalize on the traffic along this access strip. The newer residential areas along this corridor will have a different look and feel to the more traditional areas of the Town, offering a choice to prospective homeowners.

As an example of the Town's appeal to industrial prospects, the recently created Louisburg Industrial Park is home to its first tenant, Advanced Metal Processing, LLP. AMP is a state-of-the-art metals reclamation facility using advanced processes to reclaim multiple metals while virtually eliminating adverse emissions. The Park currently has 40 prime acres available for development in support of AMP or for independent industries looking to locate or expand.

## Maintaining Essential Community Characteristics

In addition to sustaining a business-friendly environment, local leadership has the utmost respect for the Town's heritage and the livability of the community. With an appreciation for its historic structures and a respect for traditions and history, Louisburg is resolute in preserving the best aspects of its social and cultural environment. In addition, it offers ideal community services, recreation facilities, and entertainment events with regional and national appeal. The Town's leadership is dedicated to continue providing the amenities that complement and maintain the hospitable, relaxed small-town culture that makes the quality of life so exceptional and provides residents and visitors with a uniquely rewarding experience.

