

Edenton's 1758 Cupola House is a National Historic Landmark.

Article and photos provided by the Edenton-Chowan County Tourism Development Authority.

historic edenton by the bay

a waterfront village full of grace & colonial history

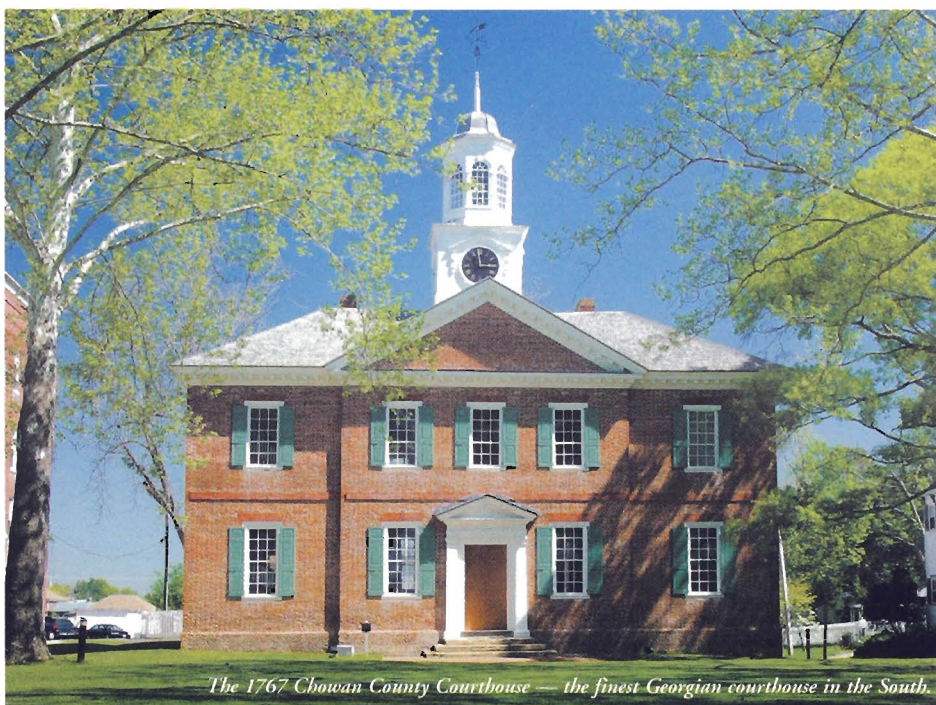
Spring is a wonderful time of year to find your way to Edenton. Nestled along picturesque Edenton Bay on the north shore of the Albemarle Sound, Edenton has been for almost three centuries one of the leading towns in northeastern North Carolina.

Established in 1712 and incorporated in 1722, Edenton served as the first Colonial Capital until 1743. Today the town is known for its fine examples of Jacobean, Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian architectural styles spanning over 250 years.

Guided walking and trolley tours leave the Historic Edenton Visitor Center daily, so experiencing much of the area's history is a reality. This Preserve America Community has been named one of the National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. It highlights the women that put Edenton on the map – Penelope Barker, according to tradition, organizer of the Edenton Tea Party in 1774 and a century later, Harriet Jacobs, author of *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*.

Edenton flourished before the American Revolution with trade with other American colonies, the West Indies, and England. Rising wealth fostered fine architecture.

National Historic Landmarks demonstrating this fine architecture can be seen in the 1758 Cupola House, built by Francis Corbin, land agent for John Carteret, Earl of Granville. Today, the Cupola House stands proud watch over the bay. Formal gardens restored, Cupola House anchors the town and pays homage to those who care and efforts saved this architectural treasure.



The 1767 Chowan County Courthouse — the finest Georgian courthouse in the South.

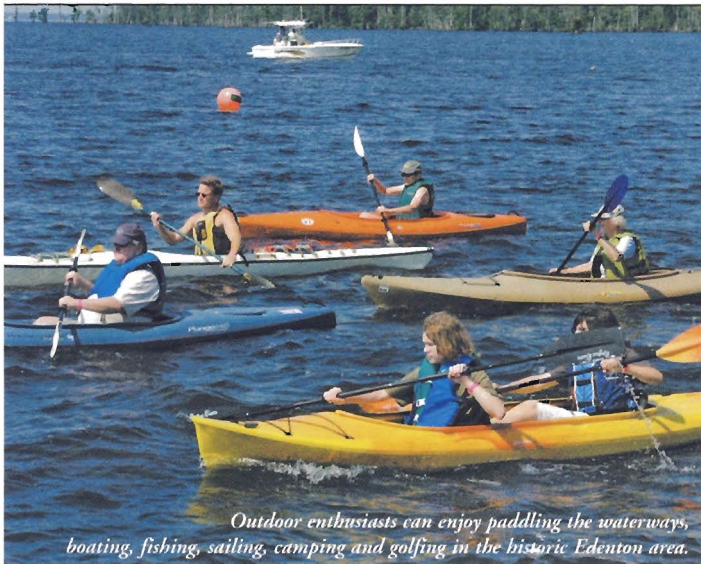
Another architectural treasure is the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, the finest Georgian courthouse in the South. Joseph Hewes, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was a commissioner to raise money for its construction. Prominent revolutionary patriots, Judges James Iredell and Samuel Johnston presided here.

Throughout the 18th century, Edenton was a leading center for political, social, educational and industrial activities. For three centuries, Edenton remained an unrivaled business and political center in the Albemarle Region, the state's oldest settled area.

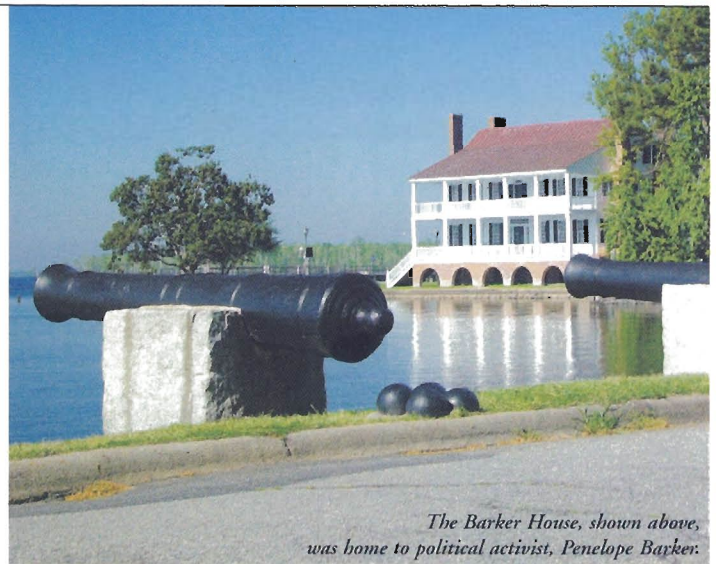
Barker House, home to political activist, Penelope Barker, is another site open daily. Visitors can become acquainted with the rich and varied history of the town that sets Edenton apart and qualifies it as a historic gem.

Recently moved and restored, the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse ("Lighthouse") is the last remaining screw pile light station in the United States. The Lighthouse was originally constructed as a navigational aid at the mouth of the Roanoke River in the Albemarle Sound.

Relocation of the Lighthouse in 1955 represented a tremendous effort to preserve a historic building. It was moved by barge to



Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy paddling the waterways, boating, fishing, sailing, camping and golfing in the historic Edenton area.



The Barker House, shown above, was home to political activist, Penelope Barker.

the edge of Filbert's Creek at Edenton Bay, where it was utilized as a private residence. In 2007 it was moved, by barge again, to Edenton's waterfront Colonial Park, in preparation for the structure's restoration and relocation from land back over water.

The Lighthouse's exterior has been recently restored. The final project phase consists of relocating it to its permanent home over water – where it belongs – and restoring its interior. Once completed, the Lighthouse will become an integral component of the Historic Edenton State Historic Site providing public access to a historic and cultural landmark while interpreting maritime transportation history. The Lighthouse will be available for daily operations in Historic Edenton for the purpose of interpretation, public tours and site events.

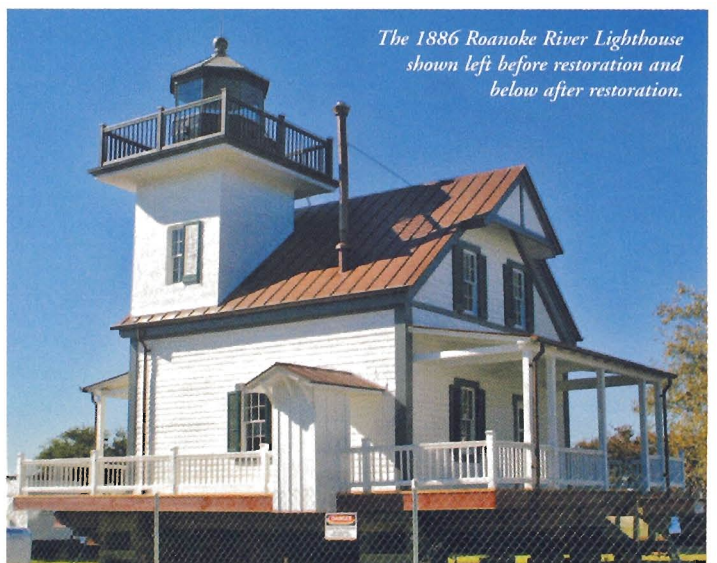
The commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (2011-2015) is tin full swing. Tours of Harriet Jacobs' escape from slavery via the Maritime Underground Railroad; Edenton Bell Battery, a local artillery unit organized using guns cast from the bells of churches and municipal buildings; Occupation of Edenton homes by Union forces such as the 1st New York Mounted Rifles; and battlesites of the War on the Chowan River/Bufalo Country and Edenton/Battle of the Albemarle Sound in Edenton Harbor highlight offerings. All are part of the North Carolina Civil War Trail.

Outdoor enthusiasts will love paddling our waterways while viewing the wildlife, and fishing or sailing the sound, creeks and rivers. Ten camping platforms for the adventurous are found on John's and Holladay's

Islands. Golf is another offering. Chowan Golf and Country Club, between Scotch Hall in Merry Hill and the Albemarle Plantation in Hertford, lets golfers experience three great courses in close proximity.

Cultural lovers must stop by the Chowan Arts Council in its new location on South Broad Street near Edenton Harbor. With rotating exhibits, a gallery shop and performances, the Council is enjoyable year round. The Cotton Mill Village Museum of History is also open to visitors.

Combining these offerings with seasonal activities, antique and boutique shopping, fine accommodations, special places to eat and beautiful vistas, Edenton makes for the perfect place to find visit this spring. Learn more at www.visitedenton.com or call 800-775-0111 or 252-482-3400.



The 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse shown left before restoration and below after restoration.