



## Celebrate a National Historic Landmark as It Turns 250



The Chowan County Courthouse, the oldest government building in North Carolina, was built in 1767 while North Carolina was still a colony. This fine Georgian-style building served as the social and political center of Edenton and Chowan County and continues to do so today.

- The building, a National Historic Landmark, is considered the most intact Colonial courthouse in the United States.
- Future leaders who practiced law here included Joseph Hewes (who signed the Declaration of Independence), James Iredell (U.S. Supreme Court Justice), Samuel Johnston (governor, U.S. senator) and James Iredell Jr. (governor).
- The courthouse is one of only two places outside Raleigh where the N.C. Supreme Court can convene. The justices will do so in May 2017 as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- In other commemorative events, the Elizabeth II, modeled after a 16<sup>th</sup> century merchant vessel will sail to Edenton Bay in October.

The Chowan County Courthouse and other National Historic Landmarks and the Historic District contribute to the beauty and charm that earned the town recognition as “One of America’s Prettiest Towns” (Forbes.com), a “Dream Town” (Coastal Living), and one of the National Trust’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Visit Edenton to experience the pleasures that make its beauty more than skin deep.

## Outdoor Enthusiasts...

**Fishing, Sailing, Cruising, Cycling, Paddling, and Hunting** can all be found here with Open Bass Tournaments, Sailing Regattas, Cycling Routes, six (6) trails, part of the North Carolina Paddle Trails, weave through our river, sound and creeks giving paddlers an experience accompanied with wildlife and scenery that cannot be matched, along with a sense of well-being. A total of ten (10) camping platforms can be reached and the adventurous can book overnight lodging on either Holladay's or John's



Islands for outdoor recreation enjoyment. [visitedenton.com/recreation](http://visitedenton.com/recreation)

## Romance...

Bed & Breakfast Inns, Fine-Dining, Boutique & Antique Shops, Arts Council with Rotating Exhibits, Historic Homes, and Scenic Parks within the historic district of this charming town lend itself to rest and relaxation with that special someone that cannot be found just anywhere. This total package can also lead to a little hand-holding along the waterfront breakwater on Edenton Bay as well as a perfect setting for weddings with backdrops that complete the whole picture. [visitedenton.com/weddings](http://visitedenton.com/weddings)



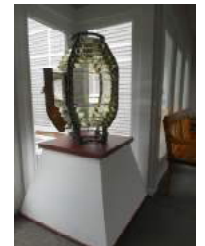
## Civil War...

Harriet Jacobs' escape from slavery via the Maritime Underground Railroad, The Edenton Bell Battery, an artillery unit organized locally using guns cast from the bells of churches and municipal buildings and Occupation of Edenton homes by Union forces such as the 1<sup>st</sup> New York Mounted Rifles - *Edenton/Battle of the Albemarle Sound* in Edenton Harbor are part of the North Carolina Civil War Trail. [nccivilwar.com](http://nccivilwar.com)



## Lighthouse...

Now settled over Edenton Bay, the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse started life in 1903 as a warning signal at the mouth of the Roanoke River and there it stood for 52 years, a marine salvage moved it to Edenton in 1955 and placed it on land at Filbert's Creek. This original one-and-half story screw-pile structure, last example in the U S, has become a Lightkeeper's interpretive site with daily touring. The Fresnel lens is now on exhibit at Historic Edenton Visitor Center. [edentonlighthouse.org](http://edentonlighthouse.org)



There are many reasons to visit Edenton, its history, culture and beauty are but a few; its people and charm touch you and make you want to stay.

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