

Louisburg Male Academy ^[1]

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by George-Anne Willard, 2006



Franklin Male Academy.

Image courtesy of Town of

Louisburg.

^[2]Louisburg Male Academy, known as Franklin Male Academy until the late 1820s, was chartered by the [North Carolina General Assembly](#) ^[3] on 6 Jan. 1787 and rechartered on 18 Dec. 1802. Located on the east side of the original town commons of Louisburg, the academy opened to students on 1 Jan. 1805 as the first school in [Franklin County](#) ^[4].

The first advertisement for the academy indicated that students would be taught subjects that included writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, and philosophy. The first principal (1805-8) was Connecticut native and [Yale](#) ^[5] graduate [Matthew Dickinson](#) ^[6]. The principals with the longest tenures included Franklin County natives and [University of North Carolina](#) ^[7] graduates John B. Bobbitt (1816-20, 1832-44) and [Matthew S. Davis](#) ^[8] (1856-80). Over the years, the academy prepared numerous students for admission to the [University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill](#) ^[7]; in its most successful years, enrollment probably did not exceed 100 students. In 1905 the academy property was conveyed to the Louisburg graded school and in 1961 was acquired by [Louisburg College](#) ^[9]. Somewhat to the northeast of its original location, the old academy building remains on Louisburg's campus.

Reference:

George-Anne Willard, *Louisburg College Echoes: Voices from the Formative Years, 1787-1917, with a Summary of the Expansion Years, 1917-1987* (1988).

Additional Resources:

The First Century of the First State University, DocSouth, UNC: https://docsouth.unc.edu/global/name_search.html?type=10&projid=10&name=Louisburg%20Male%20Academy&id=name0000604 ^[10]

Louisburg College History: <http://www.louisburg.edu/about/history.html> ^[11]

Image Credit:

Franklin Male Academy. Image courtesy of Town of Louisburg. Available from http://www.townoflouisburg.com/city-services/planning-and-zoning_historic-places-and-persons.aspx ^[2] (accessed November 5, 2012).

Subjects:

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[Schools \(K-12\)](#) ^[14]

Authors:

[Willard, George-Anne](#) ^[15]

Origin - location:

[Louisburg](#) ^[16]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[17]

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Links

^[1] <https://ncpedia.org/louisburg-male-academy> ^[2] http://www.townoflouisburg.com/city-services/planning-and-zoning_historic-places-and-persons.aspx ^[3] <https://ncpedia.org/general-assembly> ^[4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/franklin> ^[5] <http://www.yale.edu/> ^[6] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/dickinson-matthew> ^[7] <https://ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-chapel-hi> ^[8]

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