
we live here

STORIES *of* OUR SOUTHERN HOME

Boaters approaching the Edenton waterfront see several town icons, including the Penelope Barker House (pictured at left), the Chowan County Courthouse, and the Roanoke River Lighthouse. Read more about Edenton on page 18.



THIS MONTH

EDENTON by Trolley | Farm to Front Door in **HILLSBOROUGH**
a Ukulele Strum-Along in **WILMINGTON** | **ROSMAN'S** River Resource
the **YOUNG AT HEART** Test the Waters | Fun(gi) **RECIPES**

Edenton

Climb aboard: A trolley offers a unique vantage point from which to explore this waterfront town. But as a seasoned tour guide can attest, a great ride is about much more than names and dates — it's about making connections.

written by KATIE KING



A tour on *Edenton No. 1* has been a favorite way for visitors — and locals — to explore the town's historic neighborhoods since the trolley was purchased from Asheville in 1987.

The 1782 home of Penelope Barker, leader of the Edenton Tea Party, now serves as a welcome center. Enjoy a book on local history in the lounge, or on the wide porch overlooking Edenton Bay, where ospreys nest in the cypress trees.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES HARRIS; HISTORICAL PORTRAIT IN THE PORTRAIT COLLECTION #P0002; NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION, WILSON LIBRARY, UNC CHAPEL HILL

On Sharon Keeter's first trolley tour in Edenton 20 years ago, she had just one passenger. And the woman didn't even listen. "She hung her head out of the trolley the whole time I was speaking, and she was waving at people like she was in the Christmas parade," Keeter says.

"I was a little bit nervous, and when I saw that she wasn't paying any attention, I thought, *Well, hell, just talk to yourself and give yourself the tour.*"



Sharon Keeter

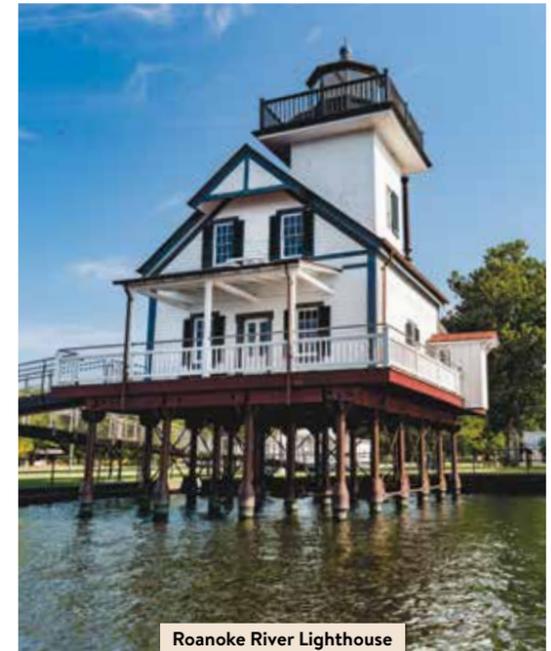
These days, Keeter is right at home seated at the front of a full trolley, microphone in hand. She can recite names, dates, facts, and figures, but she doesn't claim to be a history person — she's a people person. On Broad Street, she points out the gift shop at Byrum True Value Hardware ("That's where I spend a lot of my money," she

admits), and tells the young women about Downtown Diva, Feathers Boutique, and Polka Dot Palm. "Lots of times, a man will say to me, 'Don't point out no more shops!' And I say, 'Look! You see those benches? That's just for you!' And they will just bust out laughing," Keeter says. "I learned a long time ago: Have some fun and make them smile, because people will forget names and dates, but they won't forget *you* if you're happy and you're enthused and you give them a fun tour."

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES HARRIS; HISTORICAL IMAGE COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND



Broad Street



Roanoke River Lighthouse

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

On Edenton's trolley tour, the sights and sounds of today are paired with lessons on the town's fascinating past.

1722

The town of Edenton is established as the first colonial capital of North Carolina.

1774

Penelope Barker leads 50 women in a boycott of English goods known as the Edenton Tea Party.



Penelope Barker

1776

Edenton resident Joseph Hewes becomes one of three North Carolinians to sign the Declaration of Independence.

1787

Dr. Hugh Williamson of Edenton is named a delegate to the federal Constitutional Convention to draft and sign the U.S. Constitution.

1790

Edenton resident James Iredell is appointed to the first U.S. Supreme Court by President George Washington.

1861

Harriet Jacobs publishes *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* after escaping slavery in Edenton.

1864

The Civil War comes to Edenton during the Battle of Albemarle Sound. Neither side claims victory, and the town is left largely untouched.



The USS Sassacus rams the CSS Albemarle during the Battle of Albemarle Sound.



Edenton Bay Trading Company

Drink

Edenton Bay Trading Company. The “secret” patio (left) behind this wine and craft beer shop is the perfect place to try Debbie King’s secret-recipe sangria (below), served during weekly Trivia Nights and Vinyl Nights.



Eat

Edenton Coffee House. “When you walk in, Linda Norman is behind the counter, and she knows everyone’s names,” Keeter says of Edenton’s local hangout. “You feel like you’re in a family environment.”

309 Bistro & Spirits. Casual lunches by day give way to elegant plates of seafood, steak, and pasta in the evenings. Keeter likes the salads and wraps. “They have a chicken wrap that I would say is my favorite,” she says.

Blount’s Mutual Drugs. A 1920s soda fountain offers ice cream and classic ‘ades at this old-fashioned drugstore. “I go there every single morning to get a vanilla Diet Coke before I get on the trolley,” Keeter says.

Stay

Captain’s Quarters Inn. Don and Diane Pariseau host dinners (try Don’s award-winning brisket or pulled-pork sandwiches), mystery weekends, and rib-cooking classes, taught at their backyard smoker.



Captain’s Quarters Inn



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES HARRIS; HISTORICAL IMAGE COURTESY OF EDENTON COTTON MILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

1898

The Edenton Cotton Mill opens for business as one of only two spinning mills in the area. It helps fuel the local economy until 1995.



Edenton Cotton Mill

1909

The Edenton Peanut Factory becomes the first peanut processing plant in northeastern North Carolina, and operates until 1949.

2000

A new breakwater in front of Colonial Park allows boaters to dock in Edenton.

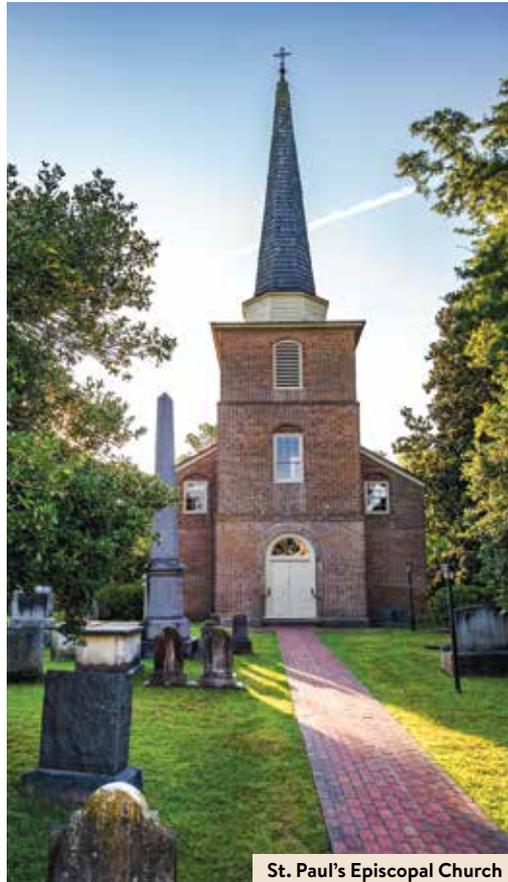
See

St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This historic church was built in the mid-1700s, and the cemetery dates back to 1722, the year that Edenton was founded.

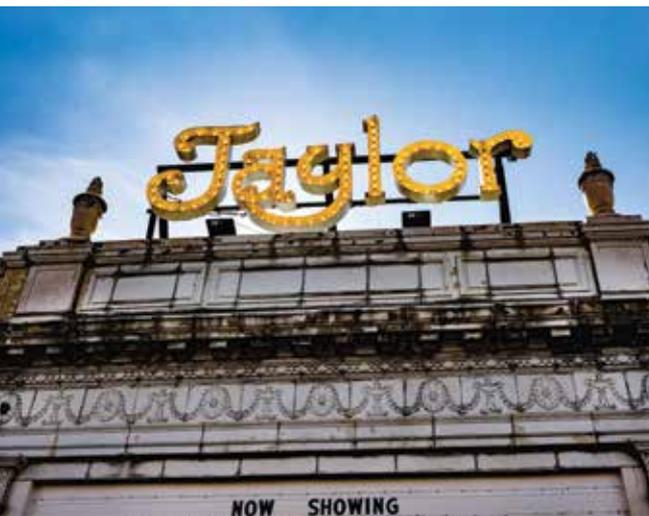
Taylor Theater. "I saw all of Elvis Presley's movies there," Keeter says. "When I was asked to go with friends on Saturday, I didn't tell them that I had already been on Friday night."

Chowan Arts Council. Woodwork, pottery, jewelry, and other works by area artists are on display in a bright and airy building on Water Street. "It's so colorful," Keeter says. "The paintings are beautiful."

Privott House. In 1900, Haywood C. Privott, director of the cotton mill, used 20,000 leftover bricks from the mill's construction to build his Queen Anne-style home, which still serves as a private residence today. The same type of brick, made by Edenton Brick Works, was also used to build St. Paul's.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Chowan Arts Council

Local Landmarks

CHOWAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Little has changed at this courthouse since 1767, making it the most intact colonial courthouse in the country. It's the oldest government building in the state and is still used to try cases.
117 East King Street
(252) 482-2637, historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/historic-edenton

CUPOLA HOUSE

Named for the octagonal tower perched atop the roof, this 1758 house features beautiful reproduction woodwork that covers much of the walls.
408 South Broad Street
(252) 482-2637, cupolahouse.org

PENELOPE BARKER HOUSE

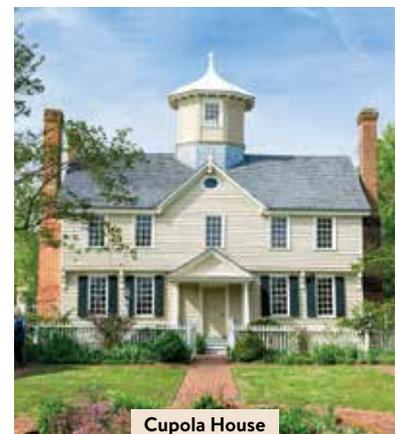
See where the leader of the Edenton Tea Party once lived and learn about local history through exhibits at this welcome center, often called "Edenton's Living Room."
505 South Broad Street
(252) 482-7800, ehcnc.org

ROANOKE RIVER LIGHTHOUSE

Built in 1886, this lighthouse once guided ships from the Albemarle Sound to the Roanoke River. Today, the two-story structure is furnished as it would have been when the lightkeeper lived there.
7 Dock Street
(252) 482-2637, historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/historic-edenton

WATERMAN'S GRILL

For nearly 25 years, Waterman's has been a favorite for Edenton locals looking for fresh fish — steamed, grilled, or fried — Southern sides, and homemade desserts.
427 South Broad Street
(252) 482-7733, watermansgrill.com



Cupola House



Lane House

2012

The Lane House on East Queen Street, built in 1718, is discovered to be the oldest home in North Carolina.

Today

Continuing a long legacy of strong women leaders, roughly 70 percent of Edenton entrepreneurs are female.