

## **Louisburg Male Academy** <sup>[1]</sup>

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by George-Anne Willard, 2006



Franklin Male Academy.

Image courtesy of Town of

Louisburg.

<sup>[2]</sup>Louisburg Male Academy, known as Franklin Male Academy until the late 1820s, was chartered by the [North Carolina General Assembly](#) <sup>[3]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[4]</sup>.

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](#) <sup>[5]</sup> graduate [Matthew Dickinson](#) <sup>[6]</sup>. The principals with the longest tenures included Franklin County natives and [University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[7]</sup> graduates John B. Bobbitt (1816-20, 1832-44) and [Matthew S. Davis](#) <sup>[8]</sup> (1856-80). Over the years, the academy prepared numerous students for admission to the [University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill](#) <sup>[7]</sup>; 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](#) <sup>[9]</sup>. 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](https://docsouth.unc.edu/global/name_search.html?type=10&projid=10&name=Louisburg%20Male%20Academy&id=name0000604) <sup>[10]</sup>

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

### **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](http://www.townoflouisburg.com/city-services/planning-and-zoning_historic-places-and-persons.aspx) <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed November 5, 2012).

### **Subjects:**

[American Revolution \(1763-1789\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Education](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[Schools \(K-12\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

### **Authors:**

[Willard, George-Anne](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

### **Origin - location:**

[Louisburg](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

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### **Links**

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[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/d/Davis,Matthew\\_Smart.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/d/Davis,Matthew_Smart.html) [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/louisburg-college> [10]  
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