

Market Houses ^[1]

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by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 2006



Market House, Fayetteville, NC, no date (c.1920's?), from the Barden Collection, North Carolina State Archives, call #: N_53_15_192, Raleigh, NC.



Fayetteville, NC, drawing of old Market House, no date. From the North Carolina Conservation and Development Department, Travel and Tourism Division photo files. North Carolina State Archives, call #: ConDev2409C. Raleigh, NC.

^[3]Markets in colonial ^[4] North Carolina were a #: ConDev2409C. Raleigh, NC. ^[5]part of the English tradition brought by early settlers. As early as the thirteenth century town markets in England offered opportunities to buy and sell. North Carolina's first town, Bath ^[6] (chartered in 1705), had a town common where fairs and markets were held. In the 1720s the colonial Assembly passed acts to create marketplaces in towns, and in 1731 Governor George Burrington ^[7]'s commission empowered him to establish fairs and markets.

Some courthouses and, occasionally, municipal buildings had open space underneath them for public markets. Early market houses existed in Charlotte ^[8], Edenton ^[9], Fayetteville ^[10], New Bern, Raleigh ^[11], Salem ^[12], and Wilmington ^[13]. Maps, plans, and documents for other places contain references to streets named "Market," clear evidence that they were common. Wilmington and New Bern had separate fish markets, and Salem by 1803 had a meat market that was open twice a week. The *Kinston Journal* on 30 Dec. 1878 announced the pending opening of a large town hall built over a market house. Municipal, county, and state governments continue to provide market space to the benefit of both producer and consumer.

References:

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Image Credit:

Fayetteville, NC, drawing of old Market House, no date. From the North Carolina Conservation and Development Department, Travel and Tourism Division photo files. North Carolina State Archives, call #: ConDev2409C. Raleigh, NC. Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/north-carolina-state-archives/4155397851/> ^[15] (accessed August 31, 2012).

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Powell, William S. ^[18]

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