

- 1 Dickson House**
150 E. King St.
- 2 Regulator Marker**
Behind the Orange County Board of Education building at the intersection of E. King St. & Cameron Ave.
- 3 Hughes Academy**
Behind the Regulator Marker
- 4 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**
210 St. Mary's Rd.; can be seen from the Academy
- 5 William Reed's Ordinary & the Stillhouse Branch**
157 E. King St.
- 6 William Courtney's Yellow House**
141 E. King St.
- 7 Old County Courthouse**
SE corner of E. King St. and Churton St.
- 8 Norwood-Jones Law Office**
131 Court St.
- 9 Downtown Commercial District**
Along Churton St.
- 10 Cedar Walk**
Across from Orange County Library; runs between Margaret Ln. and W. King St.
- 11 Masonic Lodge**
142 W. King St.
- 12 Colonial Inn**
153 W. King St.
- 13 Twin Chimneys**
168 W. King St.
- 14 Nash-Hooper-Graham House**
118 W. Tryon St.
- 15 Old Town Cemetery**
Near corner of Tryon St. and Churton St., behind church
- 16 Orange County Historical Museum**
201 N. Churton St.
- 17 Dickerson Chapel AME Church**
SE corner of Churton St. and E. Queen St.
- 18 Burwell School**
319 N. Churton St.





1 Alexander Dickson House (pictured above): The Dickson House was built around 1790 a few miles south of town near the intersection of I-85 and Hwy 86. Alexander Dickson, a farmer and businessman, occupied the house beginning in 1845. General Wade Hampton camped at the house with his troops, meeting here with General Joseph Johnston before Johnston headed to Bennett Place in Durham to surrender to the Union on April 17, 1865. It was the largest surrender of the war, accounting for close to 80,000 troops from North Carolina through Georgia.

Open Mon-Sat: 10am-4pm / Sun: 12pm-4pm

2 Regulator Marker: The Regulators were a group of colonists that formed in response to grievances of corruption in local officials and unfair representation and taxation. Following a Regulator riot in Hillsborough in 1770, they were defeated by British forces at the Battle of Alamance in 1771. The Regulator Marker sits where six of the Regulators' leaders were hanged following the battle.

3 Hughes Academy: Founded by Samuel Wellwood Hughes in 1845, the Hughes Academy held classes in this building beginning in 1864, which was originally located six miles north of Hillsborough. Although public education did exist in North Carolina, having been founded by Archibald Debow Murphey in 1839, the Academy offered more than the basic public curriculum, with a Greek and Latin program for \$25 tuition and an English program for \$15 tuition.

4 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (pictured below): First built prior to 1768, St. Matthew's originally stood at the corner of N. Churton and Tryon Streets. It was the site of the Hillsborough Academy and the NC Constitutional Convention in 1788, but by 1800 had disappeared, possibly due to fire. It was reorganized in 1824 and a new building was built on land donated by NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin in 1825.

5 William Reed's Ordinary and the Stillhouse Branch: Reed's Ordinary, or tavern, was built sometime between 1754 and 1768. It's also called Seven Hearths, as the house boasts seven fireplaces. The creek at the back of the lot is called the Stillhouse Branch, as freedman Africa Parker operated a legal still on the creek that likely served many local taverns.

6 William Courtney's Yellow House: Built in 1768 by Benjamin Merritt, William Courtney acquired the house in 1772. It has been called the "yellow house" since very early deeds. In 1780, Bishop Francis Ashbury preached to about 200 people from the porch. It was also the site of Hillsborough's first Telephone Exchange Morris Telephone Company from 1906 until the 1950s, run by Miss Mamie Gordon.



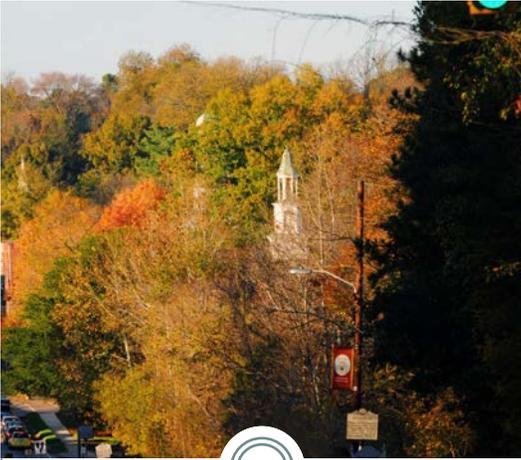
Today, the town is still laid out much as Churton set it up 200 years ago, on 400 acres near the center of what was then Orange County.

First named Orange after the county, Hillsborough went through several name changes. In 1754 it was named Corbinton (or Corbin Town) for Francis Corbin and then changed to Childsburg for Thomas Child in 1759. Corbin and Child were both land agents, but lost favor when they were found to be unscrupulous in their land transactions. So in 1766 Governor Tyron chose the name Hillsborough after Wills Hill, the Earl of Hillsborough and the British Secretary of State. At one point, the spelling of Hillsborough was changed to "Hillsboro", but was changed back to the original spelling in the 1960s after the discovery that the change was never made official.

Although mostly untouched by battles of the Revolution, Hillsborough was home to many prominent figures and events related to the war. These included William Hooper, one of three NC signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitutional Convention of 1788, during which the delegates decided not to ratify the new Constitution, due to its lack of a Bill of Rights.

Hillsborough was never an official NC capital; rather, it was one of five rotating seats of government during and after the Revolutionary War, all five of which were ruled out when it came time to choose a permanent capital.

Today, Hillsborough is still a bustling community with an impressive collection of buildings and sites representing every period of American history.



Founded in 1754, Hillsborough was one of the first European settlements in the backcountry of North Carolina, making it an economic, political, and social center throughout much of the state's history. It was founded as the county seat of Orange County, which was established just two years earlier in 1752.

Hillsborough was a prime location for settlement as it sits at the intersection of the Great Trading Path and the Eno River. Its first inhabitants were members of the Occaneechi tribe who lived here as late as the early 1700s. By 1720 the tribe was gone however, as the influx of European migrants from further north swelled the area's colonial population.

English surveyor and cartographer William Churton was tasked with choosing and mapping out the site for the new town of Hillsborough.

7

Old County Courthouse (pictured on front): This building was the fourth county courthouse constructed in Hillsborough. The first was built in 1756, but was then replaced with a larger building in 1778. That building burned in 1790, and a third courthouse was erected in 1799 which was eventually replaced by the current building in 1844. A fifth courthouse was built in the 1950s, directly behind this building across Margaret Street. Both the fourth and fifth courthouses are still operational today.

8

Norwood-Jones Law Office: It is believed that William Norwood, Superior Court Judge from 1820-1836, built this office around 1810. Cadwallader Jones, a prominent Hillsborough citizen, is also thought to have used this office. In 1842, William's son, John Wall Norwood, a member of the North Carolina General Assembly and a state senator, took over the office. This building is the only remaining of three law offices that once lined Court Street.

9

Downtown Commercial District: The downtown commercial district has been centered at Churton and King streets since the town was planned by William Churton in 1754. However, most of the current buildings are from the early 20th century, as preceding buildings were mostly built of wood and burned or were replaced.

10

Cedar Walk: Constructed in 1817, this walkway was designed as a path from Mrs. Mary Goddard Kollock Nash's house on Margaret Lane to her sister's house at Twin Chimneys on King Street. It is named for the red cedar trees that line the path, and is now a protected footpath in Hillsborough.

11

Masonic Lodge (pictured below): This lot was originally the site of Edmund Fanning's house, a corrupt and disliked British official, and his house was completely destroyed in the Regulator riot of 1770. The current building is on the National Register of Historic Places and measures a perfect cube at 40' x 40' x 40'. It was built by prominent Hillsborough brick mason John Berry and his mentor, Samuel Hancock. It was conveyed to the Eagle Lodge in 1824, a group which still owns and meets in the building today.

12

Colonial Inn: Despite its name, the Colonial Inn wasn't built until the 1800s. The original empty lot was purchased by Henry Schutt, on which he operated a hatter's shop. It was offered for public sale in 1820, and the Inn was built in 1838. It was first owned by Isaiah Spencer, who ran the Orange Hotel, known locally as Spencer's Tavern. It's also been labeled the Strayhorn Inn, Corbinton Inn, and the Occaneechee Hotel when it was part of a larger hotel complex with Twin Chimneys and the Inn at Teardrops.



13 Twin Chimneys: This house is named and best known for the massive pair of chimneys on each side of the structure. Edmund Fanning purchased the lot in 1768, and the property has had several owners since, including Rev. John K. Witherspoon, first resident clergyman in post-revolutionary Hillsborough; Harriet Strayhorn, postmistress from 1873-1881; and David C. Parks who also owned the Occaneechee Hotel (Colonial Inn) and The Inn at Teardrops. The house's side windows are possibly original to the house.

14 Nash-Hooper-Graham House: This is Hillsborough's only National Historic Landmark. It was built by General Francis Nash, a Revolutionary War hero who died at the Battle of Germantown in 1777. It was bought in 1781 by William Hooper, an NC signer of the Declaration of Independence, and remained in his family until 1853. Around 1870, it was bought by William Graham, a former legislator, NC governor, and Secretary of the Navy.

15 Old Town Cemetery: Founded in 1757, the cemetery is on the site of the original St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, and includes the gravesites of many notable Hillsborough figures and families, including John Berry, Frederick Nash, James Hogg, and Archibald DeBow Murphey. It was also the original gravesite of NC Declaration of Independence signer William Hooper, until a portion of his body was moved to the Signers' Monument at Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, NC.

16 Orange County Historical Museum: Built in 1934 as a WPA project under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, the museum building originally served as the town library. Today it includes exhibits and artifacts from the Occaneechi, who settled here in the 1600s, through the early 20th century. It also boasts the only complete set of colonial weights and measures in the United States.
Tue-Sat: 11am-4pm / Sun: 1pm-4pm

17 Dickerson Chapel AME Church: The building was the third and last of the 18th century county courthouses built in Hillsborough. It was purchased, moved, and used by the newly organized Baptist church until their chapel was built on S. Wake St. It then became a Quaker school for formerly enslaved children and was finally acquired by the African Methodist Episcopal Church near the end of the 19th century. The brick veneer was added in 1947, but the original hand hewn logs can still be seen in the basement.

18 Burwell School: The Burwell School for Young Ladies opened in 1837 by Rev. Robert Burwell and wife Margaret Anna Burwell. The school closed in 1857, and during the Civil War was rented by war refugees from the coast. *Guided tours available Wed-Sun.*

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*A Guide to
Historic Sites of*

Hillsborough, NC

Founded in 1754

