



New Bern (NC) (Images of America)

Vina Hutchinson

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The second oldest town in the state, New Bern possesses a unique history in the Tar Heel experience, serving as a primary colonial port along the Neuse River and a center for early North Carolina political and cultural activity. Because of its prominence as a commercial hub and its central location in Eastern North Carolina, New Bern became the colony's first capital under the guidance of Royal Governor William Tryon and thus, proved an important player in the American Revolution. After the outbreak of the Civil War, New Bern again found itself in a strategic position,--this time, the prize of the Confederate and Federal armies. Falling under Union control early in the war, the city escaped potential devastation and tragedy as compared to other Southern cities. Over the next century and a half, New Bern has flourished with a variety of industrial interests and with the opening of the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point. This volume, with over 175 black-and-white photographs, explores the New Bern of yesteryear, from its humble beginnings as a colonial outpost under Baron Christopher DeGraffenried to its development into a prosperous town in the heart of Craven County. New Bern takes readers on a visual tour of their hometown of memories past, along its waterfront and familiar avenues. Longtime residents will recognize many of the older buildings and landmarks and will reflect on the dramatic changes that have occurred to this fishing village over the passing decades, while newcomers will enjoy seeing their city along the Neuse and Trent Rivers in a new light. However, this book is not just an architectural survey of the city, but touches upon the everyday people and events that have made this town so special, from their celebrations and parades to their jobs and civic responsibilities, including a chapter on its distinguished fire departments.

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