

Florence

Welcome to Florence the center of what is commonly called the "Pee Dee Region." Florence, chartered in 1871 and incorporated in 1890, was named after Florence Henning Harlee, the daughter of General William W. Harlee, first president of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad. Florence, the same city that was founded as a railroad town, is now a bustling center of industry, healthcare, education, retail, culture and recreation.

In Florence, you'll find that there is something for everyone. From shopping malls, such as Magnolia Mall and the Florence Mall to the fine restaurants and clubs, to the many parks and cultural events, Florence prides itself on providing numerous opportunities for all walks of life.

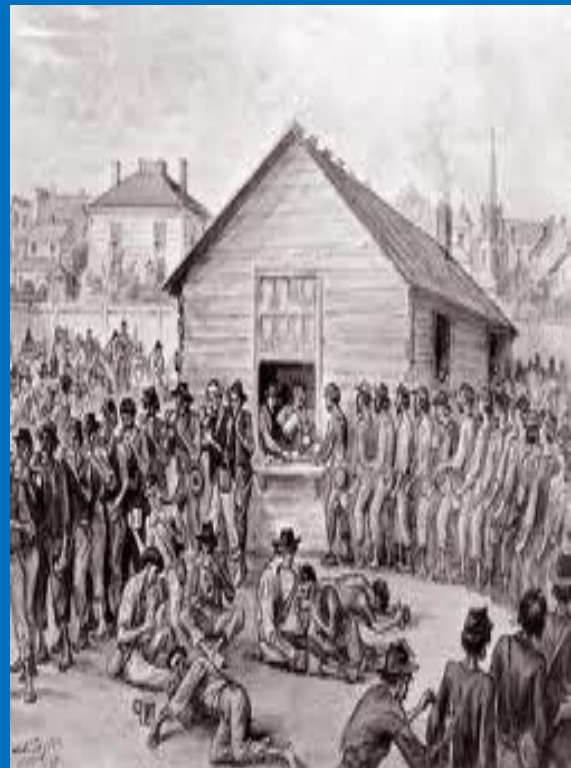


History of Florence

The City of Florence was chartered in 1871. Prior to its charter, the city was part of one of the original townships laid out by the Lords Proprietors in 1719. The area was gradually settled through the late and early 20th century. Early settlers practiced subsistence farming and produced indigo, cotton, naval stores, and timber, which were shipped down the Pee Dee River to the port at Georgetown and exported. In the mid-19th century two intersecting railroads were built, The Wilmington and Manchester, and the Northeastern. Gen. W. W. Harlee, the president of the W & M road built his home at the junction, and named the community Florence, after his daughter.

During the Civil War the town was an important supply and railroad repair center for the Confederacy, and the site of the Florence Stockade, which held between 12,000 and 18,000 Union prisoners of war.

After the war, Florence grew and prospered, using the railroad to supply its cotton, timber, and by the turn of the century, tobacco. During the 20th century the economy of Florence came to rely heavily on the healthcare industry, driven by two major hospitals and a number of pharmaceutical plants. Industry grew, especially after World War II, when Florence became increasingly known for textiles, paper, manufacturing and in addition to agricultural products.





Climate

The weather of Florence allows for a higher quality of life for residents by giving them the opportunity for outdoor recreation year round. Lovers of the outdoors truly appreciate the many scenic parks, lakes, rivers and creeks in the Pee Dee region. Golf enthusiasts welcome the traditional Southern climate, which gives them the opportunity for year round play on some of the outstanding courses that call the Florence area home. And, if you are a fan of NASCAR, you will certainly want to visit the excitement at the nearby Darlington Raceway at the annual spring race and at the NASCAR museum.

Local & Regional Demographics



Florence County is the hub of the dynamic northeastern South Carolina market area

The cost of living in Florence, South Carolina is 13% less than the national average.

There are nearly 330,000 people in the region's workforce and projections indicate that the workforce will continue growing into the foreseeable future.

Population

YEAR	Florence City Population	Florence County Population	30 mile Radius	60 mile Radius
2000	30,248	125,761	283,725	989,281
2010	31,758	136,016	291,573	1,091,799
2015	32,733	141,538	295,736	1,148,361

Race

Florence County 2010		30 Mile Radius	60 Mile Radius
Race	%	Radius	Radius
White	55.6%	51.1%	54.7%
Black	41.5%	46.2%	36.6%
Asian	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%
Hispanic	1.8%	1.9%	3.4%
Other	0.1%	0.2%	4.6%

Income

Florence County	2000	2010	2015
Median Household Income	\$35,139	\$44,200	\$50,764
Average Household Income	\$46,748	\$55,011	\$59,266
Per Capita Income	\$17,876	\$20,994	\$22,649

Age

Florence County 2010	
Age	%
0-4	6.5%
5-9	6.6%
10-14	6.6%
15-19	7.0%
20-24	6.5%
25-34	12.7%
35-44	13.4%
45-54	14.7%
55-64	13.0%
65-74	7.1%
75-84	4.1%
85+	1.8%

**All information provided by the Florence County Economic Development Project -

- www.acsnetworks.com/fcedp/localdemographics