

## **Cultural Resources, Department of** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Natural and Cultural Resources, Department of**

### **[Previously named: Cultural Resources, Department of]**

*The Department name was changed to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (2015).*

by Wiley J. Williams, 2006; Revised December 2021

See also: [Archives and History, Office of](#) <sup>[2]</sup>; [Library, State](#) <sup>[3]</sup>; [State Historic Sites Program](#) <sup>[4]</sup>.



Image of the logo for the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

The [Department of Art, Culture, and History](#) <sup>[5]</sup> was created by the Executive Organization Act of 1971 and activated in 1972. By this statute, various commissions, boards, and independent state agencies were consolidated and placed under the new department. The formerly independent agencies included the [North Carolina State Library](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, founded in 1812; the [Department of Archives and History](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, formed in 1943 from the [North Carolina Historical Commission](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, which dates from 1903; the [North Carolina Museum of Art](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, established in 1965 as an outgrowth of the [North Carolina State Art Society, Inc.](#) <sup>[9]</sup> (1979); and the [North Carolina Symphony](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, organized in 1932. While these agencies retained their statutory functions and authority, managerial and executive responsibilities were transferred to the head of the new department, a cabinet-level secretary appointed by the governor.

The department was replaced by the Executive Organization Act of 1973 with the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR), whose secretary continues to have administrative responsibility for the department, including such culture-related boards and commissions as the [Edenton Historical Commission](#) <sup>[11]</sup>; the [Bath](#) <sup>[12]</sup>, Hillsborough, Murfreesboro, North Carolina, and [Tryon Palace](#) <sup>[13]</sup> Commissions; and the [USS \*North Carolina\*](#) <sup>[14]</sup> Battleship and [First Flight](#) <sup>[15]</sup> Centennial Commissions.

The modern DCR attempts to fulfill its mission of enhancing the cultural life of citizens and visitors through the preservation, development, promotion, and dissemination of artistic, historical, and informational resources; the exploration and interpretation of the state's collective culture; and the provision of access to that culture through its various programs. Administratively, the DCR is divided into the [Office of Archives and History](#) <sup>[16]</sup> and the Office of Arts and Libraries. Within these offices are numerous divisions, including the [Division of State Historic Sites](#) <sup>[17]</sup>, the Division of State History Museums, the [State Archives](#) <sup>[18]</sup>, the [State Historic Preservation Office](#) <sup>[19]</sup>, the [Office of State Archaeology](#) <sup>[20]</sup>, the [Historic Publications Section](#) <sup>[21]</sup>, the [State Library](#) <sup>[22]</sup>, the [Arts Council](#) <sup>[23]</sup>, and the [North Carolina Symphony](#) <sup>[24]</sup>.

On September 18, 2015 the Department of Cultural Resources was [renamed](#) <sup>[25]</sup> the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. At that time a number of divisions in state government were transferred to the department. These included the North Carolina Zoological Park, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, North Carolina's aquariums, North

Carolina's state parks, the Clean Water Trust Fund, and the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program.



Image of the logo of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

[26]

### Additional Resources:

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources official website: <http://www.ncdcr.gov/> [27]

Archived webpages, 2001-present. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources: [http://wayback.archive-it.org/194/\\*/http://www.ncdcr.gov](http://wayback.archive-it.org/194/*/http://www.ncdcr.gov) [28]

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Facebook webpage: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Carolina-Culture/61815681457> [29]

North Carolina General Assembly Renaming Legislation: <https://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?BillID=H97&Session=2015> [25]

North Carolina State Government Publications Collection: <http://www.ncgovdocs.org/> [30]

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[26] (Accessed June 25, 2013).

### Subjects:

[Art](#) [31]

[Culture](#) [32]

[Fine arts](#) [33]

[Government agencies](#) [34]

[Performing arts](#) [35]

### Authors:

[Williams, Wiley J.](#) [36]

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[Raleigh](#) [37]

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[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) [38]

### User Tags:

[search-forms](#) [39]

1 January 2006 | Williams, Wiley J.

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### Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/cultural-resources-department> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/archives-and-history-office> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/library-state> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/state-historic-sites-program> [5] <http://www.stateschedules.ncdcr.gov/AgencyHistory.aspx?L1=Department%20of%20Cultural%20Resources> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/archives-and-history-office> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/historical-commission> [8] <https://ncpedia.org/north-carolina-museum-art> [9] <https://ncpedia.org/state-art-society> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/north-carolina-symphony> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/node/144> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/node/146> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/node/148> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/north-carolina-uss> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/airplane-first-flight> [16] <http://www.history.ncdcr.gov/> [17] <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/> [18] <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/> [19] <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/> [20] <http://www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov/> [21] <http://www.ncpublications.com/> [22] <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/> [23] <http://www.ncarts.org/> [24] <http://ncsymphony.org/> [25] <https://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?BillID=H97&Session=2015> [26] <http://www.ncdcr.gov> [27] <http://www.ncdcr.gov/> [28] [http://wayback.archive-it.org/194/\\*/http://www.ncdcr.gov](http://wayback.archive-it.org/194/*/http://www.ncdcr.gov) [29] <http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Carolina-Culture/61815681457> [30] <http://www.ncgovdocs.org/> [31] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/art> [32] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/culture> [33] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/fine-arts> [34] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/go> [35] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/performing-arts> [36] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/williams-wiley-j> [37] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-0> [38] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [39] <https://ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/search-forms>