

## **Surry County** <sup>[1]</sup>



Average: 4.1 (16 votes)

Surry County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### **SURRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

[www.co.surry.nc.us](http://www.co.surry.nc.us) <sup>[2]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:** Dobson

**FORMED:** 1771

**FORMED FROM:** Rowan

**LAND AREA:** 532.17 square miles

**2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 71,359

White: 92.9%

Black/African American: 4.2%

American Indian: 0.7%

Asian: 0.8%

Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Two or more races: 1.3%

Hispanic/Latino: 11.1% (of any race)

*From [State & County QuickFacts](#), US Census Bureau, 2020.* <sup>[3]</sup>

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 5TH

### **BIOGRAPHIES FOR**



<sup>[4]</sup>

[Surry County](#) <sup>[4]</sup>



<sup>[5]</sup>

### **WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR**

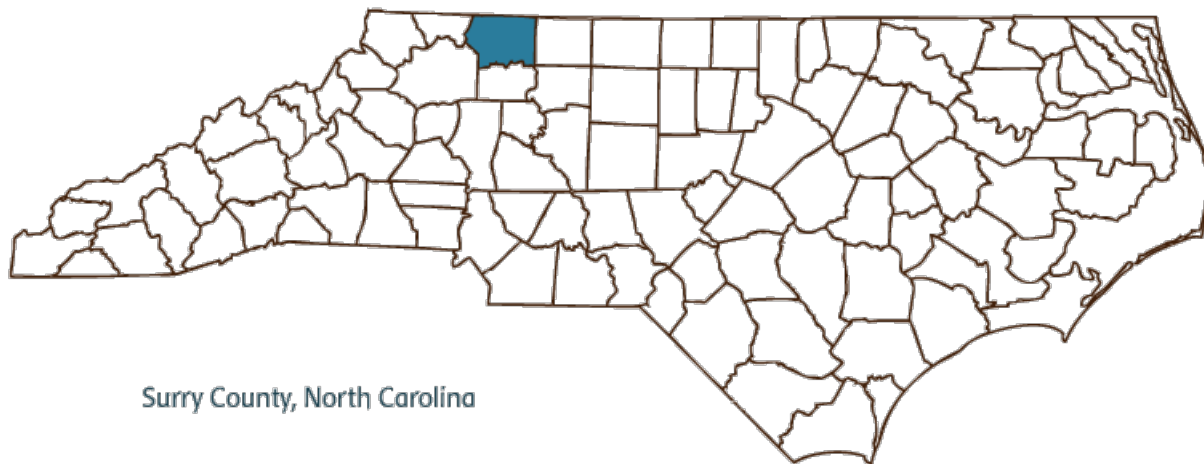
[Mountain region](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**REGION:** [Mountain](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, though technically some areas are in the [Piedmont](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

**RIVER BASIN:** [Roanoke](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, [Yadkin-Pee Dee](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, [Map](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** [Alleghany](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, [Stokes](#) <sup>[12]</sup>, [Wilkes](#) <sup>[13]</sup>, [Yadkin](#) <sup>[14]</sup>



See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) <sup>[15]</sup> (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Jay Mazzocchi, 2006

See also: [Andy Griffith Show](#) <sup>[16]</sup>; [Horne Creek Living Historical Farm](#) <sup>[17]</sup>; [Pilot Mountain](#) <sup>[18]</sup>.

Surry County, located at the juncture of the [Piedmont](#) <sup>[7]</sup> and [Mountain](#) <sup>[6]</sup> regions of North Carolina and partially bordering the state of Virginia, was formed in 1771 from [Rowan County](#) <sup>[19]</sup> and was named after either the English County of Surrey (birthplace of royal governor [William Tryon](#) <sup>[20]</sup>) or the [Saura](#) <sup>[21]</sup> (Cheraw) Indians who populated the area. Early inhabitants apart from the Saura were other Siouan Indians and the [Cherokee](#) <sup>[22]</sup>, followed by English and [German](#) <sup>[23]</sup> settlers. [Dobson](#) <sup>[24]</sup>, the county seat, was incorporated in 1891 and was named for either William Dobson, a local justice of the peace in 1776, or William P. Dobson, a member of the General Assembly in 1814. Other communities in the county include [Mount Airy](#) <sup>[25]</sup>, Level Cross, Ararat, Bottom, [Elkin](#) <sup>[26]</sup>, and Toast. [Pilot Mountain State Park](#) <sup>[27]</sup> is a much-visited natural site in Surry County, featuring a huge ancient quartzite stone monadnock visible for many miles. Flowing within Surry County are the Yadkin, Mitchell, and Ararat Rivers and numerous creeks, including Red Hill, Beaver, Toms, and Johnson. Mount Airy, "the Granite City," is home to the largest open-faced granite quarry in the world.

The original Siamese twins, [Eng and Chang Bunker](#) <sup>[28]</sup>, are buried at White Plains Baptist Church. Notable among Surry County landmarks and historic sites is the downtown area of Mount Airy, [Andy Griffith](#) <sup>[29]</sup>'s hometown. The town boasts several structures connected to the fictional town of Mayberry in the *Andy Griffith Show* television series, including the Snappy Lunch, Old City Hall, Floyd's City Barber Shop, and the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Other cultural institutions include the [Charles H. Stone Memorial Library](#) <sup>[30]</sup>, the [Horne Creek Living Historical Farm](#) <sup>[17]</sup>, and the Foothills Theatre. The county hosts many festivals and annual events, such as the Surry County Agricultural Fair, the Autumn Leaves Festival, [Mayberry Days](#) <sup>[31]</sup>, the Yadkin Valley Pumpkin Festival, and the Elkin Mid-Summer Invitational Tennis Tournament.

Surry County agricultural commodities include [tobacco](#) <sup>[32]</sup>, corn, soybeans, strawberries, apples, swine, beef cattle, dairy products, sheep, and poultry. Manufactured products include hosiery, apparel, textiles, concrete blocks, polished granite, precision tools, blankets, and yarns. Mined in Surry County are minerals such as feldspar, quartz, and mica, in addition to granite. The population of the county was estimated at 72,200 in 2004.

## Annotated history of Surry County's formation:

For an annotated history of the county's formation, with the laws affecting the county, boundary lines and changes, and other origin information, visit these references in *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties* (Corbitt, 2000), available online at North Carolina Digital Collections (note, there may be additional items of interest for the county not listed here):

County formation history: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> <sup>[33]</sup>

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> <sup>[34]</sup>

### Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*.  
<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> <sup>[35]</sup> (accessed June 20, 2017).

Surry County Government: <https://www.co.surry.nc.us/> <sup>[2]</sup>

Greater Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.mtairyncchamber.org/> <sup>[36]</sup>

DigitalNC, Surry County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/surry-county/> <sup>[37]</sup>

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format):<https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [38]

### Image credits:

Rudersdorf, Amy. 2010. "NC County Maps." Government & Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina.

### Subjects:

Counties [39]

### From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. [40]

### Authors:

Mazzocchi, Jay [41]

### Origin - location:

Surry County [42]

1 January 2006 | Mazzocchi, Jay

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**Source URL:**<https://ncpedia.org/geography/surry>

### Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/surry> [2] <https://www.co.surry.nc.us/> [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/surrycountynorthcarolina/POP010220> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/surry-county/biography> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/wildlife/mountains> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/our-state-geography-snap-mountain> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/region/piedmont> [8] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/roanoke-river-basin.pdf> [9] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/yadkin-river-basin.pdf> [10] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/allegghany> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/stokes> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/wilkes> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/yadkin> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/counties> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/andy-griffith-show> [17] <https://ncpedia.org/horne-creek-living-historical-farm> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/pilot-mountain> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/rowan> [20] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/governors/tryon> [21] <https://ncpedia.org/saura-indians> [22] <https://ncpedia.org/chokeberry/overview> [23] <https://ncpedia.org/german-settlers> [24] <http://www.dobson-nc.com/> [25] <http://www.mountairy.org/> [26] <https://www.elkinnc.org/> [27] <https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/pilot-mountain-state-park> [28] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/bunker-twins> [29] <https://ncpedia.org/griffith-andy> [30] [https://nwrl.org/wp-content/newfold-page-cache/pilot/\\_index.html](https://nwrl.org/wp-content/newfold-page-cache/pilot/_index.html) [31] <http://www.surryarts.org/mayberrydays/index.html> [32] <https://ncpedia.org/tobacco> [33] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553463> [34] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553609> [35] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> [36] <https://www.mtairyncchamber.org/> [37] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/surry-county/> [38] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [39] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties> [40] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [41] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/mazzocchi-jay> [42] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/mountain-23>