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Tartan, Carolina [1]

State Tartan of North Carolina: Carolina Tartan

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NC Government & Heritage Library [2]

See also: North Carolina State Symbols and Official Adoptions main page [3]



"Carolina Tartan." Image from the North Carolina Manual.

The General Assembly [4] of 1991 officially designated the plaid pattern known as the Carolina Tartan to be the official State Tartan (*Session Laws*, 1991, c. 85 [5]).

Selection as the State Tartan

The bill to select the Carolina Tartan as the official state tartan was sponsored by Rep. Bill Hurley of Fayetteville. He promoted his bill in the House committee with a brief fashion show of kilts made with the tartan. The bill was unanimously approved in the state government committee and approved by the House of Representatives 86-3. Legislators said this selection served as ceremonial recognition of North Carolina's Scottish heritage. The Carolina Tartan was adopted by the St. Andrew's Society of North Carolina as early as 1981. North Carolina was the third state to select an official state tartan, and, as of 2017, has been followed by 16 others.

About the Carolina Tartan

A tartan is a repeating pattern of checkers in different colored bands, stripes, or lines woven into woolen cloth. It can be found in many cultures, but is usually associated with the clans of Scotland.

A unique blend of red, azure, black, yellow, green and white, the Carolina Tartan was first registered with the Scottish Tartans Society in 1981, and was also designated the Official Tartan for South Carolina [6] in 2002. The design is a variation of a tartan associated with two monarchs--King Charles II, who gave his name to the Carolinas, and the honorary bodyguard of King George II, who designated both North and South Carolina as Royal Colonies in 1729. Large numbers of Scots [7] helped to colonize the Carolinas in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the State is now home to a number of festivals, games, and organizations that celebrate Carolina's Scottish heritage, including the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and the North Carolina Scottish Heritage Society.

The Scottish Tartans Museum in Franklin, North Carolina, educates the public on traditional tartans and highland dress. Their exhibits display Scottish history, culture, and the evolution of the kilt.

Additional Resources:

South Carolina General Assembly. "An Act To Amend Article 9, Chapter 1 of Title 1, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, Relating to the Official State Emblems, by Adding Section 1-1-703 so as to Designate the Carolina Tartan as the Official Tartan of the State of South Carolina." https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess114_2001-2002/bills/5063.htm [6]

(accessed October 10, 2013).

Stinneford, Mark. "Hurley Presents Kilted Model During Push for State Plaid," *Fayetteville Observer*, The (NC), May 04, 1991.

Image credit:

North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State. "Carolina Tartan."*North Carolina Manual, 2011-2012*. p. 37.

Subjects:
State Symbols [8]
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1 June 2007 | Case, Steven; Kemp, Amy

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[1] https://ncpedia.org/tartan-carolina [2] https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ [3] https://ncpedia.org/symbols [4] https://ncpedia.org/general-assembly [5] https://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/HTML/1991-1992/SL1991-85.html [6] https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess114_2001-2002/bills/5063.htm [7] https://ncpedia.org/scottish-settlers [8] https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/state-symbol [9] https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/case-steven [10] https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/kemp-amy [11] https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/government