

Furniture industry - Part 1: Overview ^[1]

Furniture Industry

by Patricia Phillips Marshall, 2006

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Part i: Overview; Part ii: [Colonial era to the Civil War](#)^[2]; Part iii: [Industrial age](#)^[3]; Part iv: [Modern furniture industry](#)^[4]; Part v: [Companies](#)^[5]; Part vi: [References and resources](#)^[6]

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Part 1: Overview



Lenoir Chair Company, Lenoir, NC
(Caldwell County); final assembly and
sanding, c.1943 (ConDev3171B)

^[7]

Furniture has been an important product of North Carolina artisans and manufacturers since the [early colonial era](#)^[8]. The massive success of the industry in the state led to North Carolina's acquiring the nickname "Furniture Capital of the World" during the 1980s, when the state produced approximately one-half of the furniture sold in the United States. While furniture remained a key segment of North Carolina's economy in the early years of the twenty-first century, with more than 600 furniture manufacturers in the state producing in excess of \$6 billion in furniture and furnishings and employing nearly 70,000 people, economic and international trade changes in the 1990s and early 2000s resulted in a significant downsizing of the industry.

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Keep reading - Part ii: [Colonial era to the Civil War](#)^[2] ➔ ^[2]

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"Lenoir Chair Company, Lenoir, NC (Caldwell County); final assembly and sanding, c.1943, photo by Patrick." Photograph no. ConDev3171B. From North Carolina Conservation and Development Department, Travel and Tourism Division photo files, [North Carolina State Archives](#) [9], Raleigh, NC, USA.

Subjects:

[100 North Carolina Icons](#) [10]

[Audio](#) [11]

[Furniture industry and trade](#) [12]

[Industry](#) [13]

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Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/furniture/overview> [2] <https://ncpedia.org/furniture/colonial-to-civil-war> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/furniture/industrial-age> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/furniture/modern-industry> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/furniture/companies> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/furniture/references> [7] <https://www.flickr.com/photos/north-carolina-state-archives/2731911665/in/set-72157606542436571/> [8] <https://ncpedia.org/history/colonial> [9] <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/north-carolina-icons> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/audio> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/furniture-industr> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/industry> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/marshall-patricia-> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->