

Columbus County ^[1]

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Columbus County



^[2]

COLUMBUS COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

<https://columbusco.org/> ^[2]

COUNTY SEAT: Whiteville

FORMED: 1808

FORMED FROM: Brunswick, Bladen

LAND AREA: 937.29 square miles

2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE: 50,623

White: 63.1%

Black/African American: 30.6%

American Indian: 3.8%

Asian: 0.5%

Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Two or more races: 1.9%

Hispanic/Latino: 5.6% (of any race)

From *State & County QuickFacts, US Census Bureau, 2020*. ^[3]

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7TH

BIOGRAPHIES FOR  ^[4]

[Columbus County](#) ^[4]



^[5] **WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR**

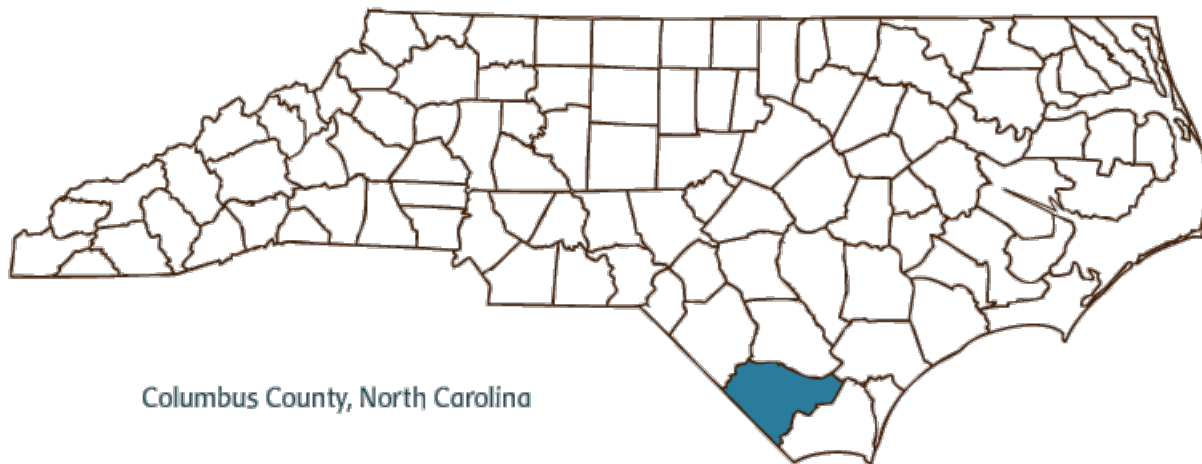
[Coastal Plain](#) ^[5]

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REGION: [Coastal Plain](#) ^[6]

RIVER BASIN: [Lumber](#) ^[7], [Map](#) ^[8]

NEIGHBORING COUNTIES: [Bladen](#) ^[9], [Brunswick](#) ^[10], [Pender](#) ^[11], [Robeson](#) ^[12]



Columbus County, North Carolina

See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) ^[13] (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties); [Waccamaw Indians](#) ^[14].

by Jay Mazzocchi, 2006

Columbus County, located in the [Coastal Plain](#) ^[6] region of southeastern North Carolina, was formed in 1808 from [Brunswick](#) ^[10] and [Bladen](#) ^[9] Counties and named for explorer Christopher Columbus. It partially borders the state of South Carolina. Early inhabitants of Columbus County include the [Waccamaw Indians](#) ^[14], followed by English, French, and [Scottish](#) ^[15] settlers. The county seat, [Whiteville](#) ^[16], was incorporated in 1832 and named for James B. White, who was the first state senator from Columbus County; he also donated the land for the county courthouse in 1808. Other communities in Columbus County are Acme-Delco, Brunswick, Fair Bluff, and Tabor City.

Among Columbus County agricultural products are corn, soybeans, sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes, catfish, pecans, peanuts, beef and dairy cattle, and poultry. Manufactured products include textiles, plywood, doors, windows, furniture, and a variety of tools.

[Lake Waccamaw State Park](#) ^[17] is Columbus County's premier natural attraction. Naturalists [John and William Bartram](#) ^[18] made extensive visits to the Lake Waccamaw area in the eighteenth century and recorded their experiences. Green Swamp is another important natural landmark, representing a unique environment with many animal and plant species. Historic sites in the county include the Robert E. Lee Brown House, built in 1910, and the Snowden Singletary House, dating from the early nineteenth century. Cultural institutions include the Columbus County Theatre Association, the Cultural Arts Center, and the Fair Bluff Historical Society. Whiteville is also home to an extension of the [North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences](#) ^[19]. Popular annual events include the North Carolina Yam Festival, the Strawberry Festival, and the Columbus Chorus Christmas Concert. About 1,800 members of the Waccamaw-Siouan tribe continue to live in Columbus and Bladen Counties. The total population of Columbus County was estimated to be 54,500 in 2004.

Annotated history of Columbus 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/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/289845> ^[20]

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290078> ^[21]

Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103> ^[22] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Columbus County Government: <https://columbusco.org/> ^[2]

DigitalNC, Columbus County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/columbus-county/> ^[23]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/> ^[24]

Image credits:

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

Subjects:

[Counties](#) ^[25]

UNC Press ^[26]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.^[27]

Authors:

Mazzocchi, Jay ^[28]

Origin - location:

Columbus County ^[29]

1 January 2006 | Mazzocchi, Jay

Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/geography/columbus?page=0>

Links

- [1] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/columbus>
- [2] <https://columbusco.org/>
- [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/columbuscountynorthcarolina/POP010220>
- [4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/columbus-county/biography>
- [5] <https://ncpedia.org/wildlife/coastal-plain>
- [6] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/region/coastal-plain>
- [7] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/lumber-river-basin.pdf>
- [8] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee>
- [9] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/bladen>
- [10] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/brunswick>
- [11] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/pender>
- [12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/robeson>
- [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/node/156/>
- [14] <https://ncpedia.org/waccamaw-indians>
- [15] <https://ncpedia.org/scottish-settlers>
- [16] <https://whitevillenc.gov/>
- [17] <https://www.ncparks.gov/lake-waccamaw-state-park/home>
- [18] <https://ncpedia.org/travels-william-bartram>
- [19] <https://naturalsciences.org/visit/whiteville/index>
- [20] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/289845>
- [21] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290078>
- [22] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103>
- [23] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/columbus-county/>
- [24] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>
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- [28] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/mazzocchi-jay>
- [29] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal--2>