**Edgecombe County** [1]

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Edgecombe County

**EDGECOMBE COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

**COUNTY SEAT:** Tarboro

**FORMED:** 1741
**FORMED FROM:** Bertie

**LAND AREA:** 505.34 square miles

**2018 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 52,005

- White: 39.8%
- Black/African American: 57.8%
- American Indian: 0.8%
- Asian: 0.3%
- Pacific Islander: 0.1%
- Two or more races: 1.2%
- Hispanic/Latino: 4.8% (of any race)

*From State & County QuickFacts, US Census Bureau, 2018.* [3]

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 1ST

**BIOGRAPHIES FOR**
Edgecombe County [4]
Edgecombe County, located in the Coastal Plain region of eastern North Carolina, was formed in 1741 from Bertie County. It was named for Baron Richard Edgecombe, English member of Parliament and lord of the treasury. Aside from minor boundary adjustments, the county’s present dimensions are the result of geographical divisions in 1746, 1758, 1777, and 1855 to form parts of Granville, Halifax, Nash, and Wilson Counties, respectively. In 1764 the county seat was moved from Edgecombe Court House to Tarboro. Other Edgecombe County communities include Conetoe, Leggett, Macclesfield, Pinetops, Princeville, Sharpsburg, Speed, Whitakers, and parts of Rocky Mount (which straddles the Edgecombe-Nash county border).

Tuscarora Indians originally inhabited the lands of Edgecombe County, and the English settlers who followed represented some of the first families of colonial North Carolina. The town of Princeville is also notable among Edgecombe County “firsts”: established in 1865 by former slaves, it was the first all-black incorporated town in North Carolina. It and other Edgecombe County communities were devastated by the flooding of the Tar River following Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The first New Deal-era electrical cooperative began generating in Tarboro in 1937. The Tarboro Town Commons is today the only known example of a colonial common remaining in North Carolina.

Edgecombe County natural and cultural attractions include Riverfront Park in Tarboro and Battle Park in Rocky Mount; the Tar River Reservoir; Coolmore, an antebellum mansion built ca. 1860; and the Rocky Mount Arts Center. The Down East Festival of the Arts is held each October in Rocky Mount. Edgecombe County farms produce tobacco, cotton, corn, wheat, chickens, beef and dairy cattle, and peanuts, among other goods. County industrial products include furniture, farm machinery, electric transformers, and fabrics. In 2004 Edgecombe County’s population was estimated to be 54,000.
Annotated history of Edgecombe 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):


References:


Additional resources:


DigitalNC, Edgecombe County: [https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/edgecombe-county/](https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/edgecombe-county/) [27]


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From:


Authors:

- Criner, Allyson C. [32]

Origin - location:

- Edgecombe County [33]

1 January 2006 | Criner, Allyson C.

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