Scotland County

SCOTLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT:  
www.scotlandcounty.org

COUNTY SEAT: Laurinburg

FORMED: 1899  
FORMED FROM: Richmond

LAND AREA: 318.85 square miles

2018 POPULATION ESTIMATE: 34,810

White: 45.1%
Black/African American: 39.0%
American Indian: 12.4%
Asian: 0.9%
Pacific Islander: <0.1%
Two or more races: 2.6%
Hispanic/Latino: 3.1% (of any race)


CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 9TH

BIographies FOR  
Scotland County
Scotland County, located at the border of the Piedmont [17] and Coastal Plain [7] regions of North Carolina, was formed in 1899 from Richmond County [11] and named for the ancestral home of many of its inhabitants. It partially borders the state of South Carolina. Early inhabitants of the area included the Saura [18] (Cheraw) Indians, followed by Highland Scots [19] and English settlers. Groups of Quakers [20] also migrated to the area in the eighteenth century. The county seat, Laurinburg [21], was incorporated in 1877 and named for the McLaurin family, prominent among the county’s early Scottish settlers. Other communities in the county include East Laurinburg, Gibson, Old Hundred, Laurel Hill, Hasty, and Johns. Notable physical features of the county include the Lumber River, Shoe Heel and Jordan Creeks, Big Muddy Lake, Juniper Swamp, and McNair Pond.

Scotland County’s heritage as a destination for thousands of Scottish settlers [16] during the eighteenth century greatly influenced its growth and development. St. Andrews Presbyterian College [15], the successor of a number of Presbyterian educational institutions dating back to the nineteenth century, was established in Laurinburg in 1958. It houses the Scottish Heritage Center. The county is home to several historic sites and landmarks, including Camp Mackall Military Reservation (1943), the Richmond Temperance and Literary Society Hall [22] (1860), and the Jesse Mason House (1895). Cultural institutions include the Indian Museum of the Carolinas [14] in Laurinburg, and the Vardell Art Gallery. The county hosts festivals and annual events such as the John Blue Cotton Festival [23], ScotchFest, and the Laurinburg Christmas Parade.

Scotland County generates forest products and agricultural goods such as cotton, corn, soybeans, tobacco [24], and swine [25]. Manufactured products include textiles and apparel, hospital equipment, cabinet accessories, and mobile homes. The population of Scotland County was estimated to be 36,800 in 2004.

See also: North Carolina Counties [13] (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Jay Mazzocchi, 2006

See also: Indian Museum of the Carolinas [14]; St. Andrews Presbyterian College [15]; Scottish Settlers [16].
Annotated history of Scotland 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):


Additional resources:


Laurinburg and Scotland County Chamber of Commerce: [https://www.laurinburgchamber.com/](https://www.laurinburgchamber.com/) [29]

DigitalNC, Scotland County: [https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/scotland-county/](https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/scotland-county/) [30]


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- UNC Press [33]

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- *Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press,* [34]

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