

Madison County ^[1]



Average: 3.8 (24 votes)

Madison County



^[2]

MADISON COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

madisoncountync.gov ^[2]

COUNTY SEAT: Marshall

FORMED: 1851

FORMED FROM: Buncombe, Yancey

LAND AREA: 449.57 square miles

2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE: 21,193

White: 96.1%

Black/African American: 1.5%

American Indian: 0.5%

Asian: 0.5%

Pacific Islander: <0.1%

Two or more races: 1.4%

Hispanic/Latino: 2.4% (of any race)

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

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 11TH

BIOGRAPHIES FOR  ^[4]

[Madison County](#) ^[4]



^[5] WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR

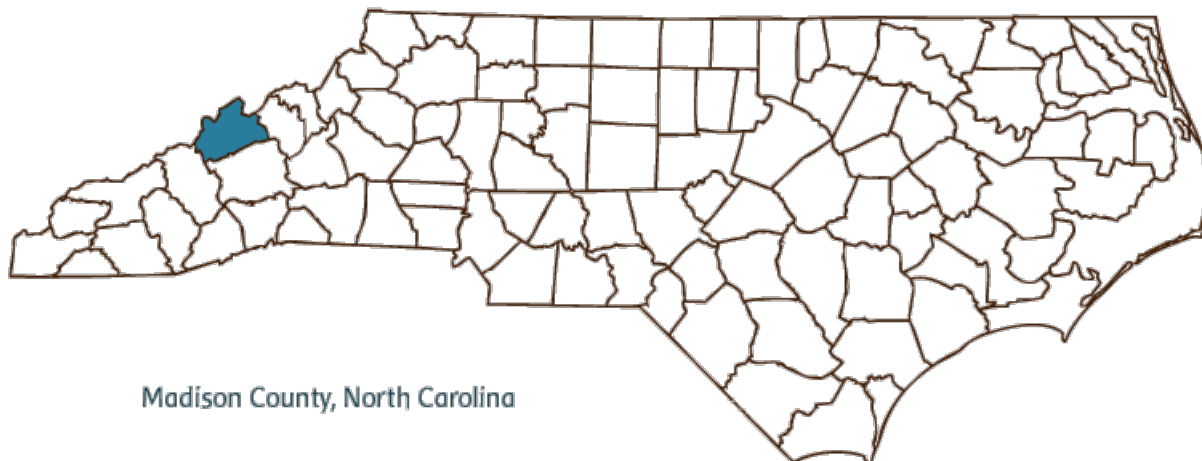
[Mountain region](#) ^[5]

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REGION: [Mountain](#) ^[6]

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

NEIGHBORING COUNTIES: [Buncombe](#) ^[9], [Haywood](#) ^[10], [Yancey](#) ^[11]



Madison County, North Carolina

See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) ^[12] (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Robert Blair Vocci, 2006; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, July 2023

See also: [Hot Springs](#) ^[13]; [Shelton Laurel Massacre](#) ^[14].

Madison County, located in North Carolina's [Mountain](#) ^[6] region, was formed from [Buncombe](#) ^[9] and [Yancey](#) ^[11] Counties in 1851 and was named for President [James Madison](#) ^[15]. Communities include the county seat of [Marshall](#) ^[16] (incorporated in 1863), [Mars Hill](#) ^[17], [Faust](#), [Hot Springs](#) ^[18], [Spring Creek](#), [Joe](#), [Trust](#), [Luck](#), [Walnut](#), and [Whiterock](#).

Located along North Carolina's border with Tennessee, the area that became Madison County was, like many of the state's Mountain counties, originally inhabited by the [Cherokee](#) ^[19] and then settled by immigrants from [Scotland](#) ^[20] and Ireland. The [Shelton Laurel Massacre](#) ^[21], the execution of several men and boys suspected of Unionist sympathies in 1863, led to the moniker "Bloody Madison." Due in part to its geographic isolation, the county has preserved a vibrant folk tradition that has incorporated the customs of these Scot-Irish pioneers. English folklorist Cecil Sharp collected ballads in the region in 1916. The mountains also yield a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, including skiing, hiking, and mountain biking, while the [French Broad River](#) ^[22] is a popular destination for whitewater rafting as well as canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. In addition, Madison County is home to Hot Springs, a resort named for its warm mineral waters, which flourished in the nineteenth century (and for a brief period during World War I held German prisoners of war). [Mars Hill College](#) ^[23], a Baptist school, was established in 1856. As vital as tourism is to Madison County's economy, its farms and forests-principally tobacco but also Christmas trees and other products-remain its driving force. The estimated population of Madison County was 20,000 in 2004.

Annotated history of Madison 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/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> ^[24]

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> ^[25]

Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> ^[26] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Madison County Government: <https://www.madisoncountync.gov/> ^[2]

Madison County Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.madisoncounty-nc.com> ^[27]

DigitalNC, Madison County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/madison-county/> ^[28]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> ^[29]

Image credits:

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

Subjects:

Counties ^[30]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.^[31]

Authors:

Vocci, Robert Blair ^[32]

Origin - location:

Madison County ^[33]

1 January 2006 | Vocci, Robert Blair

Source URL:<https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/madison>

Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/madison> [2] <https://www.madisoncountync.gov/> [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/madisoncountynorthcarolina/POP010220> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/madison-county/biography> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/wildlife/mountains> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/our-state-geography-snap-mountain> [7] https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/french-broad-river-basin_0.pdf [8] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/buncombe> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/haywood> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/yancey> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/counties> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/hot-springs> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/shelton-laurel-massacre> [15] <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/james-madison/> [16] <http://townofmarshall.org/> [17] <https://townofmarshall.org/> [18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/hot-springs> [19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/cherokee/overview> [20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/scottish-settlers> [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/shelton-laurel-massacre> [22] <https://www.ncpedia.org/rivers/french-broad> [23] <https://www.ncpedia.org/mars-hill-college> [24] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553408> [25] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553596> [26] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> [27] <https://www.madisoncounty-nc.com> [28] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/madison-county/> [29] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [30] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties> [31] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [32] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/vocci-robert-blair> [33] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/mountain-10>