

## **Chatham County** <sup>[1]</sup>



Average: 3.6 (54 votes)

Chatham County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### **CHATHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

<https://www.chathamcountync.gov/> <sup>[2]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:** Pittsboro

**FORMED:** 1771

**FORMED FROM:** Orange

**LAND AREA:** 682.19 square miles

**2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 76,285

White: 82.2%

Black/African American: 12.4%

American Indian: 1.2%

Asian: 2.2%

Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Two or more races: 1.9%

Hispanic/Latino: 12.1% (of any race)

From *State & County QuickFacts*, US Census Bureau, 2020. <sup>[3]</sup>

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 6TH

### **BIOGRAPHIES FOR**



<sup>[4]</sup>

[Chatham County](#) <sup>[4]</sup>



<sup>[5]</sup>

### **WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR**

[Piedmont region](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**REGION:** [Piedmont](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

**RIVER BASIN:** [Cape Fear](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, [Map](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** [Alamance](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, [Durham](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, [Harnett](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, [Lee](#) <sup>[12]</sup>, [Moore](#) <sup>[13]</sup>, [Orange](#) <sup>[14]</sup>, [Randolph](#) <sup>[15]</sup>, [Wake](#) <sup>[16]</sup>



See also: See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) <sup>[17]</sup> (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties); [Devil's Tramping Ground](#) <sup>[18]</sup>.

by Jay Mazzocchi, 2006

Chatham County, located in the [Piedmont](#) <sup>[6]</sup> region of North Carolina, was formed from [Orange County](#) <sup>[14]</sup> in 1771 in response to troubles stemming from the [War of the Regulation](#) <sup>[19]</sup>. The county was named for William Pitt, earl of Chatham, who defended American rights in the British Parliament. Early inhabitants of Chatham County included Iroquoian and Siouan Indians, who were followed by [Scottish](#) <sup>[20]</sup>, English, and [German](#) <sup>[21]</sup> settlers. The county seat is [Pittsboro](#) <sup>[22]</sup>-also named for William Pitt-which was incorporated in 1778 as Chatham but renamed Pittsboro in 1787. Other communities in Chatham County include Goldston, [Siler City](#) <sup>[23]</sup>, Bennett, Brickhaven, Silk Hope, Moncure, Bynum, and Mount Vernon Springs. Physical features of the county include B. [Everett Jordan](#) <sup>[24]</sup> Lake, a sprawling reservoir popular as a recreation area, and the [Cape Fear](#) <sup>[25]</sup>, Deep, Haw, Rocky, and New Hope Rivers.

On the western edge of the booming Triangle area that includes [Raleigh](#) <sup>[26]</sup>, [Durham](#) <sup>[27]</sup>, Chapel Hill and environs, Chatham County is growing at a rapid rate. Nonetheless it still raises many agricultural products, including [swine](#) <sup>[28]</sup>, [tobacco](#) <sup>[29]</sup>, corn, soybeans, hay, poultry, and beef cattle. Manufactured products from the county include textiles, yarns, fabrics, furniture, and lumber. Sandstone, shale, coal, and iron are mined in the county.

Chatham County's historic landmarks include the Green Womack House (ca. 1819), the Pittsboro Masonic Lodge (ca. 1840), and the London Cottage (1861). The [Devil's Tramping Ground](#) <sup>[30]</sup>, a mysterious and legendary 40-foot circular path in which no vegetation will grow, is located in Chatham County near Siler City. The [Carnivore Preservation Trust](#) <sup>[31]</sup> is a sanctuary for unique endangered species located in Pittsboro and open to the public by appointment. The county's cultural institutions include the Chatham Theatre Guild and the Siler City Arts Council. Popular annual events and festivals include the [Silk Hope Old Fashion Farm Days](#) <sup>[32]</sup>, Deep River Crescent Celebration, and Siler City Chicken Festival. In 2004 the population of Chatham County was estimated to be 55,000.

## Annotated history of Chatham 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...> <sup>[33]</sup>

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> <sup>[34]</sup>

### 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> <sup>[35]</sup> (accessed June 20, 2017).

Chatham County Government: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/> <sup>[2]</sup>

Chatham County Chamber of Commerce: <https://ccucc.net/> <sup>[36]</sup>

DigitalNC, Chatham County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/chatham-county/> <sup>[37]</sup>

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> <sup>[38]</sup>

### Image credits:

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

**Subjects:**

Counties <sup>[39]</sup>

**From:**

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.<sup>[40]</sup>

**Authors:**

Mazzocchi, Jay <sup>[41]</sup>

**Origin - location:**

Chatham County <sup>[42]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Mazzocchi, Jay

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

**Links**

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/chatham> [2] <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/> [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/chathamcountynorthcarolina/POP010220> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/chatham-county/biography> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/wildlife/piedmont> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/region/piedmont> [7] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/cape-fear-river-basin.pdf> [8] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/alamance> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/durham> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/harnett> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/lee> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/moore> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/orange> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/randolph> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/wake> [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/node/156/> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/devils-tramping-ground> [19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/history/colonial/regulator-movement> [20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/scottish-settlers> [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/german-settlers> [22] <http://pittsboronc.gov/> [23] <http://www.silercity.org/> [24] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/jordan-benjamin-everett> [25] <https://www.ncpedia.org/rivers/cape-fear> [26] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/raleigh> [27] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/durham-city> [28] <https://www.ncpedia.org/hog-farming> [29] <https://www.ncpedia.org/tobacco> [30] <https://www.ncpedia.org/devils-tramping-ground> [31] <https://carolinatigerrescue.org/> [32] <https://silkhopen.org/offd> [33] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553325> [34] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553583> [35] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> [36] <https://ccucc.net/> [37] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/chatham-county/> [38] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [39] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties> [40] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [41] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/mazzocchi-jay> [42] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-9>