

Jackson County ^[1]

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Jackson County



^[2]

JACKSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

<https://www.jacksonnc.org/> ^[2]

COUNTY SEAT: Sylva

FORMED: 1851

FORMED FROM: Haywood, Macon

LAND AREA: 490.76 square miles

2018 POPULATION ESTIMATE: 43,327

White: 85.3%

Black/African American: 2.3%

American Indian: 9.0%

Asian: 1.0%

Pacific Islander: <0.1%

Two or more races: 2.2%

Hispanic/Latino: 5.9% (of any race)

From [State & County QuickFacts](#), US Census Bureau, 2018. ^[3]

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 11TH

BIOGRAPHIES FOR  ^[4]
[Jackson County](#) ^[4]

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REGION: Mountain ^[6]

RIVER BASIN: Little Tennessee ^[7], Savannah ^[8], Map ^[9]

NEIGHBORING COUNTIES: Haywood ^[10], Macon ^[11], Swain ^[12], Transylvania ^[13]



Jackson County, North Carolina

See also: North Carolina Counties ^[14] (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties); Cherokee Indians ^[15]; Judaculla Rock ^[16].

by Robert Blair Vocci, 2006

Jackson County, located in North Carolina's Mountain ^[6] region, was formed from Haywood ^[10] and Macon ^[11] Counties in 1851, taking its name from President Andrew Jackson ^[18]. Webster served as the county seat until 1913, when it was moved to Sylva ^[19] (incorporated in 1889). Other communities in the county include Dillsboro ^[20], Cullowhee, Cashiers, Glenville, Balsam, Tuckasegee, and parts of Highlands, Cherokee, and Sapphire. Jackson County also contains part of the Qualla Boundary ^[21], the reservation of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians ^[15]. Natural features important to the area include Judaculla Rock ^[22], with Indian markings of ancient origin, and Ellicott Rock, a boundary landmark.

Bordering both South Carolina and Georgia in the extreme southwestern portion of North Carolina, Jackson County's location in the Great Smoky Mountains has ensured a vibrant tourist industry. Skiing and hiking opportunities are available, while the Tuckasegee River is renowned among enthusiasts of whitewater rafting and trout fishing. The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad ^[23], operating out of Dillsboro, offers a variety of scenic day trips, and the county also boasts no fewer than 16 waterfalls. Despite significant population growth during the 1990s, Jackson County remains heavily wooded—most of its area lies within the Nantahala National Forest ^[24], and lumber and Christmas trees are an important source of revenue. The town of Cullowhee is home to Western Carolina University and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching ^[25], the first state-funded program in the nation dedicated to the professional development of public school teachers. The estimated population of Jackson County in 2004 was 35,600.

Annotated history of Jackson 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: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/289903> ^[26]

Index entry for the county: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290085> ^[27]

References:

The History of Jackson County (1987).

Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103> ^[28] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Jackson County Government: <https://www.jacksonnc.org/> ^[2]

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.mountainlovers.com/> ^[29]

DigitalNC, Jackson County: <http://www.digitalnc.org/counties/jackson-county/> ^[30]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/> ^[31]

Image credits:

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

Subjects:

[Counties](#) ^[32]

[UNC Press](#) ^[33]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[34]

Authors:

[Vocci, Robert Blair](#) ^[35]

Origin - location:

[Jackson County](#) ^[36]

1 January 2006 | Vocci, Robert Blair

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

Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/jackson>

[2] <https://www.jacksonnc.org/>

[3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncountynorthcarolina,NC/PST045218>

[4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/jackson-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/little-tennessee-river-basin.pdf>

[8] https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/savannah-river_basin.pdf

- [9] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee>
- [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/haywood>
- [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/macon>
- [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/swain>
- [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/transylvania>
- [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/counties>
- [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/cherokee/overview>
- [16] <https://ncpedia.org/judaculla-rock>
- [17] <https://ncpedia.org/western-carolina-university>
- [18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/jackson-andrew>
- [19] <http://sylvanc.govoffice3.com/>
- [20] <https://www.dillsboronc.info/>
- [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/qualla-boundary>
- [22] <https://www.ncpedia.org/judaculla-rock>
- [23] <https://www.gsmr.com/>
- [24] <https://www.ncpedia.org/nantahala-national-forest>
- [25] <https://www.nccat.org/>
- [26] <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/289903>
- [27] <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290085>
- [28] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103>
- [29] <https://www.mountainlovers.com/>
- [30] <http://www.digitalnc.org/counties/jackson-county/>
- [31] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>
- [32] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties>
- [33] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/unc-press>
- [34] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->
- [35] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/vocci-robert-blair>
- [36] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/mountain-4>