

Madison County ^[1]



Average: 3.9 (21 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**

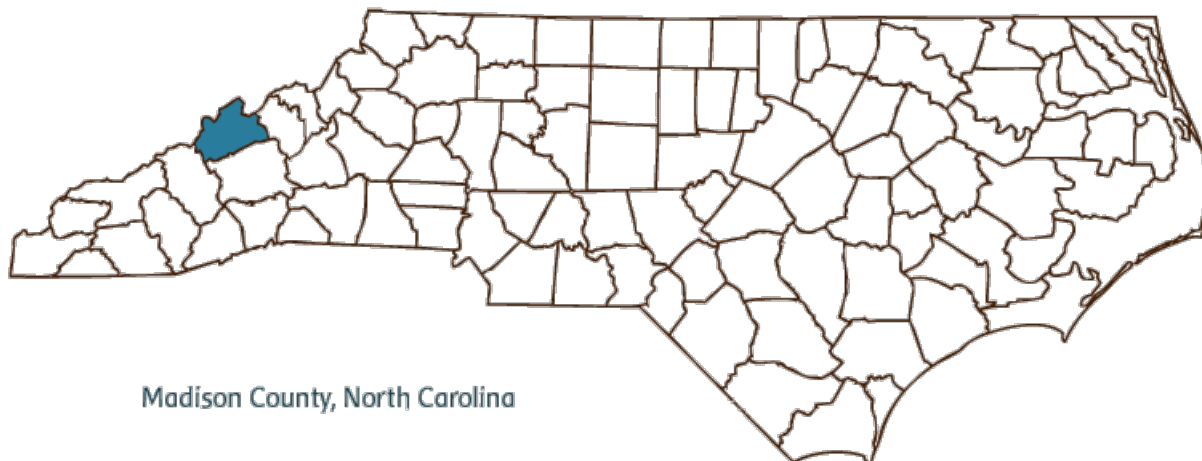
[Mountain region](#) ^[5]

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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

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

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



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>