

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

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Mecklenburg County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### **MECKLENBURG COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

[www.mecknc.gov](http://www.mecknc.gov) <sup>[3]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:** Charlotte

**FORMED:** 1762

**FORMED FROM:** Anson

**LAND AREA:** 523.84 square miles

**2018 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 1,093,901

White: 57.5%

Black/African American: 32.9%

American Indian: 0.8%

Asian: 6.4%

Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Two or more races: 2.4%

Hispanic/Latino: 13.6% (of any race)

From *State & County QuickFacts*, US Census Bureau, 2018. <sup>[4]</sup>

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 9TH, 12TH

**BIOGRAPHIES FOR**  <sup>[5]</sup>  
[Mecklenburg County](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**REGION:** Piedmont

**RIVER BASIN:** Catawba, Yadkin-Pee Dee, Map

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Union



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

by Robert Blair Vocci, 2006

**NOTE: This article was published in 2006. Please see "Update from NCpedia staff" below the article for name changes, etc. since 2006.**

See also: Charlotte; Charlotte, Battle of; Levine Museum of the New South.

Mecklenburg County, located in North Carolina's Piedmont region, was formed from Anson County in 1762 and took its name from the German duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, home of the wife of King George III, Charlotte Sophia. The county seat, Charlotte (incorporated in 1768 and originally called Charlotte Town), was named after the queen as well. Today Mecklenburg County is the most populous county in the state (with an estimated population of 769,000 in 2004) and Charlotte the largest city; the communities of Davidson, Cornelius, Huntersville, Mint Hill, Matthews, Pineville, Newell, Allen, Paw Creek, and Caldwell are also in Mecklenburg County.

Catawba, Waxhaw, and Saponi Indians originally inhabited the region. In the mid-1700s, Scotch-Irish settlers established what would later become Charlotte at the intersection of two Indian trading routes near the Catawba River. Despite the allegiance to the king demonstrated by the city's chosen name, Charlotteans in time earned the moniker "Hornet's Nest" for patriotic fervor during the Revolution. The date of 20 May 1775 is featured on North Carolina's state flag in commemoration of the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," a disputed chapter in North Carolina history.

In 1799 a 17-pound gold nugget was unearthed in Mecklenburg County (in what is now Cabarrus County)-the first such discovery in the new nation-prompting a gold rush and the establishment of a branch of the U.S. Mint in Charlotte. The city grew into its role as a financial hub; by the early 2000s it was home to two of the largest banking chains in the country,

the [Bank of America](#) [35] and [Wachovia Corporation](#) [36], and had emerged as the nation's second-largest banking center (trailing only New York City). Today Charlotte is one of the most populous metropolises in the southeastern United States. The city is home to the [Charlotte Bobcats](#) [37] of the National Basketball Association, the [Carolina Panthers](#) [38] of the National Football League, and NASCAR [39]'s [Lowe's Motor Speedway](#) [40]. Among its natives sons are President [James K. Polk](#) [41] (celebrated by a [State Historic Site](#) [42]) and evangelist [Billy Graham](#) [43].

Other Mecklenburg County cultural and historic attractions include the [Hezekiah Alexander House](#) [44], the [Charlotte Museum of History](#) [45], and the [Latta Plantation](#) [46]. The [Levine Museum of the New South](#) [19] focuses on broader issues of the North Carolina Piedmont. The [Mint Museum of Art](#) [47], the Charlotte Repertory Theater, the [Charlotte Symphony Orchestra](#) [48], and [Opera Carolina](#) [49] add to the cultural fabric of Mecklenburg County. Institutions of higher learning in the county include the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, [Queens University of Charlotte](#) [50], [Johnson C. Smith University](#) [51], and [Davidson College](#) [52].

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## **Annotated history of Mecklenburg 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/289921> [53]

Index entry for the county: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290087> [54]

### **Update from N.C. Government & Heritage Library staff:**

Wachovia Corporation became [Wells Fargo](#) [55] in 2008.

The Lowe's Motor Speedway changed its name to the [Charlotte Motor Speedway](#) [40] in 2010.

Charlotte Repertory Theatre closed in February of 2005.

Charlotte Bobcats (basketball) changed their name to the Hornets in 2014.

### **References:**

Legette Blythe and Charles Raven Brockmann, *Hornet's Nest: The Story of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County* (1961).

Mary Norton Kratt, *Charlotte, Spirit of the New South* (1991).

### **Additional resources:**

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103> [56] (accessed June 20, 2017).

City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Government Services: <https://charlottenc.gov/> [57]

Charlotte Chamber of Commerce: <https://charlotteregion.com/> <sup>[58]</sup>

DigitalNC, Mecklenburg County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/mecklenburg-county/> <sup>[59]</sup>

Levine Museum of the New South: <https://www.museumofthenewsouth.org/> <sup>[60]</sup>

NASCAR Hall of Fame: <https://www.nascarhall.com/> <sup>[61]</sup>

President James K. Polk Historic Site: <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/president-james-k-polk> <sup>[62]</sup>

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/> <sup>[63]</sup>

### Image credits:

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

### Subjects:

[Counties](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[65]</sup>

### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[66]</sup>

### Authors:

[Vocci, Robert Blair](#) <sup>[67]</sup>

### Origin - location:

[Mecklenburg County](#) <sup>[68]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Vocci, Robert Blair

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Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/mecklenburg?page=0>

### Links

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- [2] <https://www.mecknc.gov/>
- [3] <https://www.mecknc.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>
- [4] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mecklenburgcountynorthcarolina,NC/PST045218>
- [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/mecklenburg-county/biography>
- [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/wildlife/piedmont>
- [7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/region/piedmont>
- [8] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/catawba-river-basin.pdf>
- [9] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/yadkin-river-basin.pdf>
- [10] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee>
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- [28] <https://www.ncpedia.org/catawba-indians>
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[30] <https://www.ncpedia.org/scottish-settlers>  
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[42] <https://www.ncpedia.org/james-k-polk-memorial>  
[43] <https://www.ncpedia.org/graham-william-billy-franklin-jr>  
[44] <https://www.charlottemuseum.org/HAH.asp>  
[45] <https://charlottemuseum.org/>  
[46] <https://www.lattaplantation.org/>  
[47] <https://www.ncpedia.org/mint-museum-art>  
[48] <https://www.charlottesymphony.org/>  
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[60] <https://www.museumofthenewsouth.org/>  
[61] <https://www.nascarhall.com/>  
[62] <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/president-james-k-polk>  
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