Richmond County [1]

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Average: 3.8 (19 votes)
Richmond County

[2]

RICHMOND COUNTY GOVERNMENT:
www.richmondnc.com [3]

COUNTY SEAT: Rockingham

FORMED: 1779
FORMED FROM: Anson

LAND AREA: 473.82 square miles

2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE: 42,946
White: 61.3%
Black/African American: 31.9%
American Indian: 3.3%
Asian: 1.0%
Pacific Islander: 0.2%
Two or more races: 2.3%
Hispanic/Latino: 6.8% (of any race)

From *State & County QuickFacts*, US Census Bureau, 2020. [4]

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 9TH

BIOGRAPHIES FOR [5]
Richmond County [5]

[6]**WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR**
Piedmont region [6]

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REGION: Piedmont [7]
RIVER BASIN: Lumber [8], Yadkin-Pee Dee [9], Map [10]
NEIGHBORING COUNTIES: Anson [11], Montgomery [12], Moore [13], Scotland [14]

Richmond County, North Carolina

See also: North Carolina Counties [15] (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Jay Mazzocchi, 2006

Richmond County, located in the Piedmont [7] region in southern North Carolina, was formed in 1779 from Anson County [11] and was named after Charles Lennox, the third duke of Richmond. Early inhabitants of the area included the Saura [16] (Cheraw) Indians, followed by Highland Scot [17], German [18], Scotch-Irish [19], and English settlers. Rockingham [20], the county seat, was established in 1779 as Richmond Court House; the name was changed in 1785 to honor Charles Watson Wentworth, the Marquess of Rockingham, who maintained friendly relations with the American colonies during the Revolution. Other communities in the county include Hamlet [21], Ellerbe, Ghio, Cordova, and Hoffman. Notable physical features of the county include several lakes, as well as the Pee Dee River, Seaburn Spring, and Naked, Hamer, and Buffalo Creeks.

The North Carolina Motor Speedway [22] in Rockingham, known locally as "the Rock," was an important center for auto racing for decades, hosting NASCAR [23]'s AC Delco 200 Busch Grand National Race and the AC Delco 400 Winston Cup Race and bringing thousands of visitors annually to the county. The track held its last race in February 2004*. County cultural institutions include the National Railroad Museum and Hall of Fame [24], the Rankin Museum of American and Natural History [25], the Richmond County Community Theatre, and Richmond County Community Concert. Hamlet and Ellerbe have historic districts with many historic houses. The county also hosts a number of annual events, such as Seaboard Festival Day and the Rankin Museum Festival.

Richmond County produces agricultural goods such as cotton, peaches and other fruits, corn, tobacco [26], vegetables, and soybeans. Manufactured products include textiles and apparel, wood moldings, furniture [27], plastic closures, poultry processing, and steel fabricators. In 2004 Richmond County's population was estimated to be 46,400.

Annotated history of Richmond ;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... [28]

Index entry for the county: https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca... [29]

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

In 2007, North Carolina Motor Speedway was purchased by former NASCAR driver Andy Hillenburg. It changed its name to the Rockingham Speedway at that time. The track is now used for several races or touring events each year.

References:

John Hutchinson, *No Ordinary Lives: A History of Richmond County, North Carolina, 1750-1900* (1998).

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 [30] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Richmond County Government: http://www.richmondnc.com/ [2]

Richmond County Chamber of Commerce: https://richmondcountychamber.com/ [31]

DigitalNC, Richmond County: https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/richmond-county/ [32]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): https://digital.ncdcr.gov [33]

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