

Landmarks and Cultural History Sites

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission was created in 2008 to recognize buildings, places, sites and objects deemed important to the understanding of local history. To date, 20 landmarks and 17 cultural heritage sites and objects have been designated. In addition, 20 sites have been recorded on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, and four of those are also local landmarks.

Visitors must be aware that, whether designated by national, state, Randolph County or municipal governments, the landmarks and cultural history sites described in this brochures are often privately owned and are not normally open to the public.

For additional information regarding accessibility and for a complete list of historic landmarks and cultural history sites, please contact the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau by phone at **800-626-2672** or **336-626-0364**, or online at **HeartofNCLandmarks.com**



Resources for Randolph County History:

MUSEUMS OPEN ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE:

- American Classic Motorcycle Museum
- Linbrook Heritage Estate:
 - Historic Hoover House
 - Linbrook Hall
 - Neal Agricultural & Industrial Museum
- NC Aviation Museum and Hall of Fame
- North Carolina Pottery Center
- Petty Enterprises Historic Site
 - Petty's Garage
 - The Petty Museum
 - Toomes-Petty House

OTHER LOCAL MUSEUMS:

- Patterson Cottage Museum
- 1855 Trinity Museum / Winslow House
- Ramseur Community Museum
- St. Paul Museum

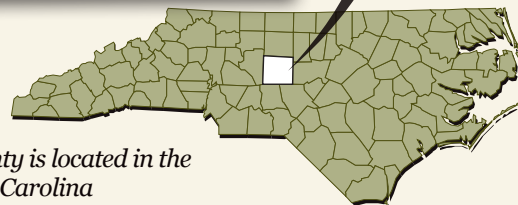
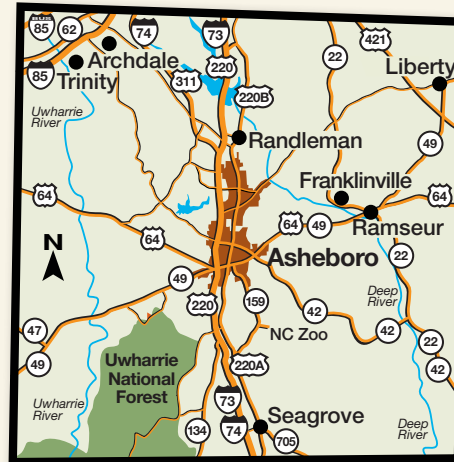
HISTORIC SITES AND PARKS:

- Franklinsville Riverside Historic Park
- Pisgah Covered Bridge

COUNTY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY:

- The Randolph Room at Randolph Library

For more info on the above museums, hours of operation and admission charges, please call **800-626-2672** or **336-626-0364** or visit **HeartofNorthCarolina.com**



Randolph County is located in the Heart of North Carolina

History & Heritage

preserving the past for the future

Randolph County, NC



HeartofNCLandmarks.com

Immigration & Transportation



Historical drawing of the Old Plank Road in Seagrove

For thousands of years what became Randolph County was a crossroads for itinerant Native American tribes such as the Keyauwee and Tutelo. The first white explorers in 1670 and 1701 used these native paths to open the way for future settlers. One of the earliest UNC-Chapel Hill archeological excavations took place near Ridge's Mountain in 1936. The world's longest wooden plank road was built through the county in 1850, with toll houses at Seagrove, Asheboro and New Market. At one time Randolph had more wooden covered bridges than any other county in the state.

Sites accessible to the public: **Pisgah Covered Bridge, Thayer Farm Site (NR)**

Law & Government



1909 Randolph County Courthouse - Asheboro

Asheborough was located in 1792 at the exact center of the county and gradually grew to be the county's center of law, government, economics and entertainment.

Sites and artifacts accessible to the public: **1909 Randolph County Courthouse - home of weights & measures, courthouse bell; Asheboro City Hall**

Agriculture, Crafts & Economics



Pottery Kiln - Seagrove

Farming, milling and agricultural crafts such as pottery have created some of the signature products identified with Randolph County. The county's five factories powered by Deep River made it one of the industrial centers of North Carolina before 1860, and after the war Randleman and Asheboro were among the first to diversify into hosiery knitting. Locally-made bobbins and shuttles needed by the textile industry gradually grew into a booming furniture industry.

Sites accessible to the public: **Crafts - Mt. Shepherd Pottery, Dennis Pottery (NR), Franklinville Cotton Mill, Cedar Falls**

Military & Emergency Services

Never the scene of a full-scale battle, Randolph has still yet seen more than its share of open warfare. In the War of the Regulation, the Revolutionary War, and the Civil War, the county was torn apart internally by factional guerrilla warfare. A staging area for the southern Continental Army in 1780 became the headquarters for the Tory leader David Fanning in 1781. In 1861, despite voting against secession, hundreds of county men and boys went into Confederate service. But



Faith Rock - Franklinville

hundreds also deserted at every opportunity, living in camouflaged holes dug into the slopes of Purgatory Mountain. Many county families had members who served on both sides, who refused to serve at all, or who worked against the Confederacy in the "Red String". The first North Carolinian to win the Congressional Medal of Honor was a Randolph native - Howell Gilliam Trogdon, fighting in Vicksburg in 1863 for General U.S. Grant.

Sites and artifacts accessible to the public: **Balfour Cemetery, Buffalo Ford, Faith Rock, Randolph Hornets Battle Flag**



Randolph Hornets Battle Flag

Religion, Education, & Social Services



John Wesley's Stand - Sophia

Maryland in the 1750s, with Scotch Presbyterians and Baptists from New England arriving soon after. Quaker and Methodist "First Day" schools grew into private institutions such as Trinity College (now Duke University).

Sites accessible to the public: **Sandy Creek Church, John Wesley's Stand, St. Paul's Church, Randleman Graded School (NR), Central School (NR), Hanks Masonic Lodge, Trinity College Site**

The county was an ethnic melting pot in the 18th century, and the diversity of origins was reflected in a multitude of religious creeds. English Quakers moved down from Pennsylvania and



Hank's Masonic Lodge - Franklinville

African American & Minorities



Coffin-Makepeace House - Franklinville

Randolph and its neighboring "Quaker Belt" counties were oddities in Southern society due to the low level of slave ownership. Quakers were one of the first groups to oppose "America's Original Sin," and many advocated forcefully against the practice. Friends who moved from the island of Nantucket in the 1770s were

the most active, holding meetings to abolish slavery and colonize Liberia with freed slaves. Elisha Coffin of Franklinville and Joseph Newlin of New Market are two residents known to have worked with the Underground Railroad. Even before 1865 freed blacks congregated together in places such as Strieby, but segregated school systems for black and white children were not integrated until 1964.

Sites accessible to the public: **Coffin-Makepeace House, New Market Inn, Hop's Barbecue - site of Asheboro sit-ins**

Sports & Entertainment



Petty Enterprises Historic Site - Randleman

Sports and entertainment have gone hand-in-hand since the first colonial horse races. Before radio and television, Asheboro and the Deep River towns hosted traveling circuses and moving picture shows, "Fiddler's Conventions" and Chautauquas. A long county tradition of home-

made corn whiskey created the need for "blockade runners" who would wholesale corn whiskey or "moonshine" to bootleggers. Out of that tradition the Toomes and Petty families of Level Cross created the most prominent dynasty in NASCAR racing.

Sites accessible to the public: **Petty Enterprises Historic Site, Sunset Theatre**



Sunset Theatre - Asheboro

For a comprehensive list and the most up to date information on Randolph County's Landmarks and Cultural History Sites call **800-626-2672** or **336-626-0364** or go online at **HeartofNCLandmarks.com** (NR = National Registry)