

Location

Stanly County is located in the gently rolling hills of the ancient Uwharrie Mountain range in the south central portion of North Carolina known as the Piedmont region. Albemarle, the county seat, is 42 miles northeast of Charlotte, 115 miles southwest of Raleigh, 125 miles east of the North Carolina Mountains, and less than 200 miles west of the North Carolina coast. It truly can be described as an area of “accessible isolation,” near large market areas, yet not hampered by industrial areas threatening to smother it. There are nine other incorporated communities in the county including Badin, Locust, Misenheimer, New London, Norwood, Oakboro, Red Cross, Richfield, and Stanfield.

Climate

The area enjoys a mild climate throughout the year, with an annual mean temperature of 60 degrees and an average yearly rainfall of 48 inches. The area also has a crop season of approximately 200 days.

Industry

Proof of Stanly County’s desirability as a great place to live and work is the expansion of many existing industries, and the arrival of a number of new firms seeking southern locations.

Although the county had an emphasis on textiles through the years, its industrial complexion is gradually changing as more diversified operations come into the area. The county’s top 10 industrial employers are:

1. **International Automotive Components**
North America Automotive Carpet Manufacturer - 420 Employees
2. **Michelin Aircraft Tire Corp.**
Aircraft Tire Manufacturer - 350 Employees
3. **Schult Homes**
Manufactured Homes - 282 Employees
4. **Palm Harbor Homes**
Manufactured Homes - 250 Employees
5. **Fiber Composites**
Plastic Extrusion - 227 Employees
6. **Clayton Mobile Homes**
Manufactured Homes - 215 Employees
7. **Performed Line Products**
Pole Line Hardware - 153 Employees
8. **Textron Fastening Systems**
Metal Fasteners - 152 Employees
9. **American Fiber & Finishing**
Medical Gauze/ light to medium weight woven industrial fabrics - 150 Employees
10. **Tuscarora Yarns**
Yarn Manufacturer - 124 Employees

Agriculture

Agriculture is a major industry in Stanly County generating an annual estimated income of \$60 million. In addition, agriculture and agriculture-related businesses contribute around \$203 million dollars to the total economy of the county. Listed below are statistics from Stanly County:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of Farms | 719 |
| Total Land in Farms, Acres | 107,549 |
| Average Farm Size, Acres | 150 |
| Harvested Cropland, Acres | 53,903 |
| Average Age of Farmers | 56 |
| Average Value of Farm & Building | \$569,832 |
| Average Market Value of Machinery & Equipment | \$66,535 |
| Average Total Farm Production Expense | \$68,097 |

| Crops 2006 | Harvest Acres | Yield | Production | State Rank |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Barley: Bu. | 700 | 89 | 62,000 | 6 |
| Corn for Grain: Bu. | 7,800 | 118 | 919,000 | 34 |
| Corn for Silage: Tons | 650 | 16 | 10,600 | 19 |
| Cotton: 480lb. Bales | 12,800 | 881 | 23,500 | 25 |
| Hay, All: Tons | 10,500 | 2.1 | 22,000 | 32 |
| Irish Potatoes: Cwt. | * | * | * | * |
| Oats: Bu. | 650 | 82 | 53,000 | 9 |
| Peanuts: Lbs. | * | * | * | * |
| Sorghum: Bu. | * | * | * | * |
| Soybeans: Bu. | 16,500 | 37 | 605,000 | 25 |
| Sweet potatoes: Cwt. | * | * | * | * |
| Tobacco, Burley: Lbs. | * | * | * | * |
| Tobacco, Flue-Cured: Lbs. | * | * | * | * |
| Wheat: Bu. | 6,500 | 60 | 390,000 | 19 |

| Livestock | Number | State Rank |
|---|------------|------------|
| Broilers Produced (2006) | 13,500,000 | 17 |
| Cattle, ALL (Jan. 1, 2007) | 18,000 | 16 |
| Beef Cows (Jan. 1, 2007) | 8,300 | 12 |
| Milk Cows (Jan. 1, 2007) | 1,100 | 16 |
| Chickens, Excluding Broilers (Dec. 1, 2006) | 365,000 | 15 |
| Hogs and Pigs (Dec. 1, 2006) | 2,900 | 53 |
| Turkeys Raised (2006) | 1,010,000 | 8 |

| Cash Receipts: 2005 | Dollars | State Rank |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry | 64,537,000 | 28 |
| Crops | 15,629,000 | 57 |
| Government Payments | 2,954,000 | 67 |
| Total | 83,120,000 | 37 |

Government

Counties in North Carolina are created by the state legislature, which has the authority to abolish or re-draw counties. State constitutional changes, the most recent in 1971, have considerably altered the forms of county government and increased the measure of home rule permitted, so that today many intra-county, inter-county and regional arrangements can be made.

A Board of Commissioners serves as the governing body of Stanly County. The administration of the government is under the direction of the county manager, who is hired by the commissioners. The county commissioners are elected to four-year staggered terms, with elections conducted every two years. Candidates for commissioner must be residents of the county, registered voters, and 21 or older. In 1962, the City of Albemarle adopted the Council-Manager form of government. It is governed by a mayor and six city council members and is administered by a city manager. Each of the other towns in the county is governed by a mayor, town council, or by town commission members. In keeping with its early heritage, the county has traditionally been governed by the two-party system.

The city and county have modern fire and police protection, which are maintained at a high level of efficiency. Each city and town has its own fire department.

Transportation

Highways - Albemarle is served by U.S. Hwy. 52 and N.C. Hwy. 24/27/73 and 740, which connect it with other cities in all directions. Other highways crossing the county are N.C. Hwy. 8, 49, 138, 200, 205 and 742.

Railroads - Albemarle and Stanly County are served by the Norfolk-Southern, Winston-Salem South Bound, Aberdeen Carolina, and Western railway companies.

Air - Dedicated in 1979, Albemarle-Stanly County Airport is classified as a basic transport category facility designed to accommodate aircraft up to the Boeing 737-300 class. Just forty-two miles northeast of Charlotte is Stanly County. Boasting an abundant existing supply of water, sewer, and strong “right to work” philosophy, the area presents a truly friendly and productive atmosphere to relocating businesses. Our county offers many features attractive to industry including our modern, towered airport with available industrial property to include the “Prime Power Park” around a 5,500-foot runway. Being a part of the beautiful Uwharrie Lakes Region, Stanly County offers over 10,000 acres of lakes and 175 miles of shoreline situated within the Uwharrie Mountains, the nation’s oldest mountain range.

The North Carolina Air National Guard has a significant presence on the Albemarle-Stanly County Airport. A 3,500-foot parallel short field runway and a Regional Home Station Training Site are housed at the airport. The Regional Home Station Training Site is utilized by military civil engineers for a multitude of training needs. Military units from around the country are able to meet those needs right here in Stanly County.

Health Care Facilities

For 56 years, Stanly Memorial Hospital has distinguished itself as the region’s premier not-for-profit healthcare provider. We have emerged as a state-of-the-art medical center with a growing number of patients seeking our unique blend of expertise and personal attention.

Today, Stanly Memorial has evolved to become Stanly Regional Medical Center.

Accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), Stanly Regional is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing both Stanly and Montgomery counties. Our main campus is a 119-bed medical facility consisting of 97 general acute beds, 10 rehabilitation beds, and 12 behavioral health beds.

With a staff of healthcare professionals using the latest medical treatments and technology, Stanly Regional Medical Center offers advancements in Cancer Treatment, Imaging, Rehabilitation, and Women’s Services.

Recreation

Stanly County has an abundance of recreational opportunities. In total, there are 24 parks including the state's #7 tourist destination, Morrow Mountain. There are over 10,000 acres of water and over 200 miles of shoreline found in Badin Lake and Lake Tillery. The recreational opportunities are endless!

Morrow Mountain State Park
(Church group camping, family camping, family cabins, hiking, fishing, canoe rental, swimming, equestrian trails, 3 picnic shelters)
49107 Morrow Mountain Rd.
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.982.4402

Albemarle Parks & Recreation Department
Main Office
114 Rock Creek Dr.
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.984.9560

Badin Memorial Park
(Firehouse Museum, Badin Museum)
Falls rd.
Badin, NC 28009
704.422.3470

Badin Recreational Park
(Baseball field, Soccer field)
Hwy. 740
Badin, NC 28009
704.422.3470

Chuck Morehead Memorial Park & Pool
(#8 disc golf course in the state, swimming, park, tennis, volleyball, hiking trails, Athletic field, basketball court)
211 N. E. Connector
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.983.3607

City Lake Park
(Fishing, amphitheatre, trails, children's playgrounds, picnic shelter, dock)
Hwy 73
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.984.9560

Darrell Almond Community Park
(Fishing, walking trail, park amenities, amphitheatre)
Norwood, NC 28128
704.474.3416

Don Montgomery Memorial Park
(Athletic field, children's playground, picnic shelter, trails, basketball court)
500 Us 52 North
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.984.9571

EE Waddell Center
(Gym, function rooms)
621 Wall St.
Albemarle, NC
704.984.9568

Ingram Park
(Athletic fields, children's playground, picnic shelter, basketball)
400 Hwy 2427 bypass east.
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.984.9560

Locust City Park
(encompassing)
Officer Jeff Shelton
Memorial Park
(Sports Complex,
including-four
baseball/softball fields,
football field, tennis
court, two soccer
fields, children's
playground, basketball
court, walking trail,
state of the art
playground and
facilities)
Park Drive
Locust, NC 28097
704.888.5260

Long St. Park
(Community building,
nutrition center, soccer
field, children's
playground, baseball
field)
626 N. Long St.
Oakboro, NC 28129
704.485.3351

New London Town
Park
New London, NC 28127
704.463.5243

Norwood Memorial
Park
(Basketball court)
Turner St.
Norwood, NC 28128
704.474.3416

Oakboro District Park
(Children's
playground, two picnic
shelters, Pond with
walking gazebo on the
bridge, walking trail)

(Coming soon –
amphitheatre, two
baseball fields, two
soccer fields)
423 S. Main St.
Oakboro, NC 28129
704.485.3351

Soccer Complex
(Soccer athletic fields)
College Dr
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.984.9560

Oakboro Main St. Park
(Fountain, concrete
benches, walkway)
309 N. Main St.
Oakboro, NC 28129
704.485.3351

Pete Henkel Park
(Basketball court,
tennis court, children's
playground, two
baseball fields, soccer
field)
Park Drive
Stanfield, NC 28163
704.888.2386

Pine Street Park
(Picnic tables)
Pine St.
Badin, NC 28009
704.422.3470

Richfield Community
Park
(Soccer fields, baseball
fields, picnic shelter,
walking trail,
children's playground,
fishing pond)
245 N. Hwy 49
Richfield, NC 27137
704.463.1308

Rock Creek Park
(Swimming, hiking,
tennis, ball fields, park
amenities, picnic
shelter, bocce courts,
trails, repelling tower,
various obstacles)
Hwy 52 South
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.982.1910

Stanfield Barn Park
(Donated by Pike
family)
(Barn, rest area,
facilities to come)
Hwy. 200
Stanfield, NC 28163
704.888.2386

West Badin Park
(Children's
playground, basketball
court, picnic tables,
permanent grill)
Sherman St.
Badin, NC 28009
704.422.3470

Stanly County Municipalities

Albemarle

The City of Albemarle is the County Seat of Stanly County and was incorporated in 1857. It is named for George Monck, the Duke of Albemarle, who was one of the eight Lords Proprietors, granted the province of Carolina in 1663 by King Charles II. The City's early growth in the late 19th century and early 20th century was generated by the growth of large textile mills. These mills remained an important part of the City's economy until the 1980's and 1990's when a more diversified economy began to emerge. The City currently covers an area of 15 square miles. The City is governed by a Mayor and a seven member City Council. The City Council is comprised of four members elected in districts, and four members elected at large. The Mayor serves for a two-year term, and members of City Council serve a four-year staggered term.

Badin

Located at the foot of the Uwharrie Mountains and on the shores of Badin Lake in northeastern Stanly County, the Town of Badin is one of the most unique company towns in North Carolina. Founded in 1913 by L'Aluminum Francaise, and later bought by the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA), the town's French heritage is reflected in its architecture and design. Little has changed since its founding, therefore, Badin offers visitors a glimpse of what life was like during the era of the company town.

Locust

Historically known as the "Locust Level", the town came into existence during the Civil War. Incorporated under an enabling act of the 1973 legislature, the town has a City Council-Mayor form of government. The mayor and council are elected for a staggered two-year term in non-partisan elections. Police department, zoning authority, etc., are under the direction of the council. Locust is currently growing rapidly and constructing a new town center that was demolished by the growth of Hwy. 24/27.

Misenheimer

Originally called "Gladstone", this village is near the northwest corner of the county. The local railway station was used by people stopping at nearby Misenheimer Springs for spring water. The spring water widely attracted vacationers and health seekers. Today, it is the home of the progressive Methodist-affiliated Pfeiffer University, a four-year liberal arts school with over 1,000 students.

New London

This quiet residential area in the northern section of the county is located on U.S. Highway 52. At one time, after the railroad was built and a gold mine started in the area, the town was larger than Albemarle. It is believed to have been named by a mining engineer who came from London, England. Early industries included a twine and a roller mill. Culp Lumber Co. was started early in the century and operated by the Culp family. Incorporated in 1891, New London is governed by an elected Town Council-Mayor form of government. Electricity is supplied by Duke Power, and water is available from the Albemarle plant through the Pfeiffer-North Stanly Water Association.

Norwood

Norwood is located in southern Stanly County on the shoreline of beautiful Lake Tillery. Indeed, Norwood prides itself on being the “gateway” to Lake Tillery. Unlike most small towns, Norwood is a self-sufficient town of about 2,500 people that has its own water, sewer, police, recreation, and volunteer fire departments. Norwood’s main attraction is Lake Tillery. Outdoor recreation is abundant, centered around a beautiful lake with boating, fishing, and other water sports readily available. The town is governed by a Town Council-Mayor form of government elected for two years in a non-partisan election. The arrival of the railroad in 1891 caused the community to flourish, and the name was changed to Norwood when the post office was moved to Norwood Brother’s Store.

Oakboro

Oakboro was founded in 1905 and incorporated in 1915. Industries and new retail developments help give Oakboro a thriving business community. Oakboro was the center of surrounding rural life located at the juncture of five roads. In fact, the community was called “Five Roads” for a time prior to the advance of the railroad. The town is governed by a Town Council-Mayor form of government elected every two years in a non-partisan election. Oakboro is home to the largest Cruise-In in North Carolina. Every fourth Friday of the month, thousands of people and hundreds of unique cars fill the streets.

Red Cross

Incorporated in 2002, this town sits at the crossroads of Highways 24/27 and 205, just ten miles southwest of Albemarle and approximately three miles north of Oakboro. In the mid-1700’s, Red Cross was part of a vast, grassy plain rich in timber and water resources. Given its many attributes, the area saw an ample migration of Dutch, Scotch-Irish, and German settlers from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Those of English descent came from Virginia and the Cape Fear River Basin.

Richfield

Located at the junction of N.C. 49 and U.S. 52, the town was named for the German family, Richie. It was incorporated in 1908 and then lost this status during the depression of the 1930’s. In 1947, Richfield regained the township status. The town is governed by a Town Council-Mayor form of government elected every two years in a non-partisan election. Central water is available from the Albemarle plant through the Pfeiffer-North Stanly Water Association.

Stanfield

The town was developed when the Norfolk Southern Railway extended its lines in 1912, thereby suppressing the growth of the older town of Locust. However, Highway N.C. 27 and Highway N.C. 200 brought modern transportation to Locust, and the communities now are separate towns with adjoining borders. Stanfield was incorporated in 1955 and is governed by a Town Council-Mayor form of government elected for two-year terms in a non-partisan election.

The Stanly County Arts Council

The Stanly County Arts Council was established by the unanimous action of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on April 9, 1974. This innovative action resulted from the stimulus provided by Albemarle being selected by the Southern Growth Policies Board, and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resource showing of the Michigan ARTRAIN. The Chamber of Commerce recognized the need for an administrative agency to promote and encourage cultural activities while providing a cultural education for the citizens of Stanly County.

The Cultural Education Program, developed and administered through the Stanly County Arts Council, integrated the arts into the established school curriculum. Within the structure of this program, teachers are provided with study guide material to prepare the students for the particular artist/company that they will experience. Special consideration is given to the unit of study for particular grade levels as specified by the NC Department of Public Instruction, when programs are scheduled. Programs are either held in the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center or in the individual schools. Each year, every grade level has the opportunity to experience a cultural event.

The Stanly County Arts Council has partnered with various community organizations and agencies to identify and address the cultural needs of the community. Funding for the programs of the Stanly County Arts Council is realized through grant programs, foundations, local government allocations, corporate sponsorship, and individual investments. There are unlimited volunteer opportunities available through the Stanly County Arts Council.