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## Chapter IV - Boundaries

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Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

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## Chapter IV - Boundaries

### Acts of 1796 (First Session)

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** The following is the only section of this act which affects Washington County, the remaining sections have been omitted.

**SEC. 1.** That the county of Washington be divided by a line as follows, to wit.--Beginning on the line that divides this state from the state of North Carolina, at a point from which a line to be drawn due north, will strike the house of George Haines--thence the nearest direction to the top of the Buffaloe mountain--thence along the heights of the said mountain, to the high knob on the same, near the north end thereof-- thence a direct line to the house where Jonathan Tipton, Junior, now lives, leaving said house in Washington county-- thence a direct line to the south bank of Watauga river, at Jeremiah Dungan's ford--thence due north to the Sullivan line; and all that part lying to the east of said lines, henceforth be erected into a new and distinct county, by the name of Carter.

### Creation of the County

#### Laws of North Carolina 1777 Chapter 31

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** Washington County was created by the legislature of North Carolina while the area that was later to be Tennessee, was a part of North Carolina. The statute set out here is from the Acts of North Carolina. There were other North Carolina Acts altering the boundaries of Washington County but they are not included in this compilation.

**1.** That the late district of Washington, and all that part of this state comprehended within the following lines, shall be erected into a new and distinct county, by the name of Washington county, viz. Beginning at the most north westerly part of the county of Wilkes, on the Virginia line; thence running with the line of Wilkes county, to a point thirty-six miles south of the Virginia line; thence due west, to the ridge of the great iron mountain which heretofore divided the hunting grounds of the Overhill Cherokees, from those of the middle settlements, and valley; thence running a south westerly course, along the said ridge, to the Unacoy mountain, where the trading path crosses the same from the valley to the overhills; thence south with the line of this state, adjoining the state of South Carolina; thence due west, to the great river Mississippi; thence up the said river (with) the courses thereof, to a point due west from the beginning; thence due east with the line of this state, to the beginning; And it is hereby declared, that all that part of this state comprehended within the lines aforesaid, shall from henceforth be and remain the county of Washington, and shall be, and is hereby declared to be part of the district of Salisbury.

### Change of Boundary Lines

#### Public Acts of 1881 Chapter 145

**SECTION 1.** That the line between the county of Greene and the counties of Washington and Unicoi be and the same is hereby changed as follows: Beginning at a point where said line crosses the road leading from Horn creek to Carset creek in the lane between the farms of Alfred Painter and Thomas Painter and running thence south 25 degrees east 1 mile to the top of Cannon Knob, thence south 25 degrees east 4 miles to the top of Wilson Knob, thence south 25 degrees west to Low Gap in Flint Mountains to the North Carolina line, so as to include in Greene county all that territory lying between said line and the North Carolina line and the line as it now runs.

**SEC. 2.** That this act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.  
Passed: April 4, 1881.

#### Public Acts of 1980 Chapter 795

**SECTION 1.** The boundary line between the counties of Greene and Washington is hereby changed by detaching from the county of Greene and attaching to the county of Washington, that part of the hereinafter described territory, which is now lying in Greene County, to wit:

A parcel or tract of land lying partially in the first district of Washington County and partially in Greene County, and beginning at a post in the outside line and corner to tract sold to Roy Brown, thence N 5½ E 91½ poles to a pine stump; thence S 87½ E 109½ poles to a stake in the road; thence S 2 W 14 poles to a stake, Foxes corner; thence with his line three courses, N 85 W 12 poles to a post; S 6½ W 20 poles to

a post; S 87 E 12½ poles to a stake in the road; thence S 11 W 28¼ poles to a stake in the road; thence N 67 W 9-3/5 poles to a stake in the turn of the road; thence S 5½ W 33-4/5 poles to a stake in the forks of the road; thence with another road and Roy Brown's line N 87 W 99 poles to the beginning, containing 59.2 acres, more or less.

A parcel or tract of land now lying partially in the first district of Washington County and partially in Greene County and beginning at a planted rock, Ed Treadway line, white oak, Sourwood and Maple pointers and corner to I.W. Brown, thence 83-3/4 W 58-3/25 poles to a planted rock in Ira Brown's line, thence with his line S 2-3/4 W 28-17/25 poles to a planted rock post oak pointers, thence S 85-2/5 E 62-3/25 poles, thence N 3 E 17-3/5 poles to a planted rock; thence W 4-4/5 poles to a planted rock, Ed Treadway corner, thence N 2-3/4 E 9½ poles to the place of beginning, containing 10½ acres be the same more or less; and a second tract, adjoining the lands of Ira Brown and others, beginning at a planted rock Ira Brown's corner; thence with line N 77¼ W 57 poles to a planted rock Sourwood, Black Gum, White Oak pointers, thence N 2-3/4 E 29-6/25 poles to a planted rock post oak pointers, thence S 85- 2/5 E 57-8/25 poles to a planted rock, Sourwood pointers, thence S 3 W 29-6/25 poles to the place of beginning, containing 10 acres to be the same more or less; and a third tract, beginning at a stake in the road, corner to Howser and Corby, then north with Corby's line 168 feet to a rock, then east with Corby's line 51 feet to a rock, at the road, then with the road 175 feet to the beginning. A parcel or tract of land now lying partially in the first district of Washington County and partially in Greene County, and beginning at a rock on Broyles line, then N 19 poles to a rock in said line, then west 12 poles to a rock near a white oak, then south 20 poles to a rock near Burgners corner in Broyles line, then east 12 poles to the beginning. Containing 1½ acres more or less.

**SECTION 2.** This Act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.  
PASSED: March 26, 1980.

## Boundaries - Historical Notes

The following is a summary of acts which authorized boundary changes for Washington County.

1. Acts of 1779, Laws of North Carolina, Chapter 29, created Sullivan County out of parts of Washington County.
2. Acts of 1797, Chapter 12, authorized Nathan Shipley of Washington County and John Anderson of Sullivan County to define the boundary line between the counties of Washington and Sullivan starting at the head of Indian Creek to the highest part of the Chimney Top Mountain.
3. Acts of 1801, Chapter 54, appointed James Patterson as surveyor and John Parker as marker on the part of Greene County, and Joseph Brown surveyor and George Davis as marker on part of Washington County, to run and mark the line between the counties of Washington and Greene.
4. Acts of 1809, First Session, Chapter 27, altered the boundary lines between Washington and Carter counties to place the farm of Elihu Embree in Carter County.
5. Private Acts of 1832, Chapter 46, authorized the county courts of Washington and Greene counties to appoint a qualified surveyor for the purpose of running and marking the dividing line between the said counties.
6. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 192, attempted to create Powell County which would have been formed out of parts of Washington, Hawkins, Sullivan and Greene counties had the majority of the people in the affected areas voted to leave their respective counties.
7. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 15, was yet another attempt to form Powell County out of Washington, Sullivan, Hawkins and Greene counties, the formation of which was subject to approval by a majority of the voters in the affected area.
8. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 47, altered the boundary line between Sullivan and Washington Counties so as to place the farms of James Heltern and James Meredith in Sullivan County.
9. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 89, attempted to create Powell County out of portions of Washington, Sullivan, Hawkins and Greene counties, subject to the approval by referendum of the people living in the affected areas.
10. Public Acts of 1869-70 (1st Sess.), Chapter 30, again sought to create Powell County out of portions of Washington, Sullivan, Hawkins and Greene counties, all subject to the approval by referendum of the people living in the affected areas.
11. Public Acts of 1869-70 (1st Sess.), Chapter 88, changed the boundary line between Washington and Powell County so as to make a straight line from the point where the counties of Washington, Greene and Powell corner in the west to the point where the counties of Washington, Sullivan and

Powell corner in the east.

12. Public Acts of 1869-70 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 1, altered the boundary lines between Washington and Sullivan Counties so as to place the farms of A.R. Moulton, T.H.Reeves, W.A. Keene, P.C. Morrison, Sarah Vincent, George Vincent, John Hunt, Vanzant Morgan, Eli Keene, Mr. Ballard and J.H. Crouch in Washington County. This act was confirmed by Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 93.
13. Public Acts of 1869-70 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 21, altered the boundary line between Carter and Washington counties so as to place the farm of H.P. Phillips in Carter County.
14. Public Acts of 1877, Chapter 48, established the boundary line between Washington and Unicoi counties as run by the surveyor of Washington County and reported by him to the county court of said county.
15. Public Acts of 1881, Chapter 147, changed the boundary line between Washington and Unicoi counties so as to include the lands of James E. Deakins, A. E. Jackson and James Luttrell in Washington County.
16. Public Acts of 1891, Chapter 142, altered the boundary line between Greene and Washington Counties to place the farms of G.M. Gillispie, A.E. Gillispie, Thomas C. Williams and George T. Harris in Washington County.
17. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 176, altered the boundary line between Washington and Greene counties to place the farm of Benjamin Keelber in Washington County.
18. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 171, changed the boundary line between Carter and Washington counties so as to place the entire farm of H.B. Huston in Carter County. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 646.
19. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 176, changed the boundary line between the counties of Washington and Greene so as to make the east line of the farm of George H. Hartsell, of the fifteenth civil district of Washington County, the line between the two counties.
20. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 451, transferred the property of J. T. E. Williams from the eighth to the fifteenth civil district of Washington County.
21. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 17, changed the boundary line between the ninth and tenth civil districts of Washington County.
22. Public Acts of 1972, Chapter 450, altered the boundary line between Washington and Greene Counties to place the lands of Samuel Waddle in Greene County.
23. Public Acts of 1973, Chapter 79, altered the boundary line between Greene and Washington to place the lands of Annald and Beltro Nhomburg in Greene County.
24. Public Acts of 1973, Chapter 102, altered the boundary line between Greene and Washington to place the lands of Zule Dolen Hunt and Frances Hite in Washington County.
25. Public Acts of 1982, Chapter 855, realigned the boundaries between Greene County and Washington County by detaching from Greene County and attaching to Washington County the land described in this Act, containing 10 acres, more or less, but excepting 1.85 acres which had been sold to C. C. Fox by the owner, Charlie Brown.

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