ECONOMIC HISTORY OF PITT COUNTY
1690-2010

This economic history of Pitt County is by no means complete or exhaustive. Our information is from many sources, and early histories sometimes contradict each other and themselves. Nevertheless, though there may be some inconsistencies or omissions, the sequence of events and overall picture of our community is one of progressive thinking, adaptability, and accomplishment. We apologize for any oversights.

- Pitt County Development Commission

~ 1690's ~

1690
French Huguenots from Virginia settle Pamlico River area.

1696
Bath County, encompassing what will become Pitt County, is created.

~ 1710's ~

1714
First land patent in Pitt County by Lewis Duvall.

~ 1720's ~

1725
Tobacco inspection warehouse established at Red Banks, a Tar River landing.

~ 1730's ~

1735
Twenty families inhabit the Tar River section.

~ 1760's ~

1760
Pitt County is created out of Beaufort County. It was named for William Pitt the Elder, who was then Secretary of State for the Southern Department and Leader of the House of Commons. Commissioners are appointed and authorized to build a courthouse, prison, pillory, and stocks. Since the county has no money, John Hardee donates the use of his house for a courthouse. Five tobacco inspection warehouses are in the county. Turpentine, tar, and pitch are valuable exports. Many settlers migrate from Virginia.

1766
Pitt County's physical boundaries are almost identical to present day.

~ 1770's ~

1771
The Town of Martinsborough is established on high land along the south side of the river.

1775
A "Select Committee of Secrecy, Intelligence and Observation" is appointed. It begins to collect powder, lead, and cannon balls. On July 1, the "Pitt Resolves" are published bearing 88 signatures. Soon, Pitt County and other colonial communities will be engaged in the American Revolution and the founding of a new country.

1776
A courthouse is built in Martinsborough. Aiding the Revolutionary War effort, Pitt County citizens mine iron ore from mines on Tranter's Creek, as well as sending men to fight and provide leadership.

~ 1780's ~

1786
Community name changed from "Martinsborough" to "Greenesville" in honor of General Nathaniel Greene. Pitt Academy, "a seminary of learning (male only)," chartered in Pitt County. Pitt County's

population is 5,753. Businesses include seven tailors, two hatters, two millwrights, five blacksmiths, two physicians, five saddlers, one miller, two carpenters, six shoemakers, two ship's carpenters, four coopers, one cord winder, four merchants, four mariners, one wrestler, and three bricklayers.

1787
A free, tax-supported ferry established on the Tar River concentrated trade and commerce, providing a landing for the shipment of crops.

1789
The community petitions the State Assembly to allow them to lay an annual tax on its citizens to build a new courthouse, jail, and stocks in Greenville.

~ 1790's ~

1790
The nation's first official census shows Pitt County with a population of 8,275.

1791
Pitt County's chief exports are corn, pork, tobacco, and tar, though tobacco has declined with the loss of the British markets after the Revolution.

~ 1800's ~

1800
The Census of 1800 shows the population of Pitt County as 9,084, an increase of 809 in ten years.

~ 1810's ~

1810
The third official census finds Pitt County with a population of 9,169 – only an 85 person increase from 1800.

1811
The General Assembly authorizes Pitt County Commissioners to hold a lottery to raise $2,000 for building a bridge over the Tar River to replace the ferry.

1814
The Greenville Academy opened, still for young men only.

~ 1820's ~

1820
The county's population has increased to 10,001. Though most are farmers, twenty-five citizens are listed as being in trade and sixty-one in manufacturing.

1823
The wooden bridge over the Tar River is completed.

~ 1830's ~

1830
Greenville Female Academy is chartered. The Census of 1830 shows Pitt's population as 12,093.

1831-32
Three additional academies established in outlying areas of the county: Farmville, Pactolus, and near Martin County.

1834
The county's fourth courthouse, a supposedly fireproof brick building, is built on Evans Street.

1835
Steamboats begin traveling the Tar, though flatboats are still deemed more economical. Published by John Brown, the county's first newspaper appears; it is called the Greenville Gazette.

1839
A joint stock company for the growth and manufacture of silk is formed in Greenville. The company had its cocoonery and large grove of mulberry trees at Bensboro, a large plantation on the Tar River near Belvoir. They purchased Gay's Patent Silk Machine and turned out skeins of fine sewing silk until going bankrupt a few years later.

~ 1840's ~

1840
First free public schools provided by the state; one is located in Greenville. County's population drops to 11,806.

1849
Steamboat *Amidas* placed on the Tar River by John Meyers and Sons of Washington; it was chiefly

employed to tow flats and carry the mail everyday between Washington and Greenville. The Midway Male and Female Academy is incorporated near Pactolus.

~ 1850's~

1850
Greenville is the starting point for stagecoach traffic along the plank road planned to be the Greenville and Raleigh Plank Road, originating in Washington. The road reaches only to Wilson. Marlboro is the stagecoach stop on the road and is a thriving community. The plank road is a thriving business enterprise. Pitt County's population is 13,397: 6,664 white; 100 free Negroes; 6,633 slaves.

1852
Stagecoach service on the plank road is coordinated with service by steamboat and then with train service to the north from Wilson to improve mail delivery.

1853
The Governor Morehead replaces the *Amidas* on the Tar for the Washington to Greenville run. It is one hundred feet long, twenty three feet wide, and fitted with a large salon for passengers.

1850-60
International demand for cotton stimulates Pitt County production. Cotton becomes the county's major crop, increasing from 171 four hundred pound bales in 1850 to 7,634 bales in 1860.

1858
County's fourth courthouse burns. The fire consumed all records since 1792 except the deed books in the registrar's office. By this time, the village boasts seven doctors, three attorneys, The Eagle Hotel, the Clark Hotel, the Bell Tavern, the Macon House, a dressmaker, and a milliner. Churches are formally organized and, along with schools, serve as community social centers.

1859
Construction begins on the County's fifth courthouse. Because of disagreements, the courthouse goes unfinished for years. The first floor opens in 1863 but the building is not completely finished until 1877.

~ 1860's ~

1860
Pitt County has a population of 16,440: 7,840, white; 127 free Negroes; 8,473 slaves. Greenville's population is 828.

1861
North Carolina secedes from the Union, the last state to do so.

1862-63
Though Pitt County is not occupied by Federal troops, surrounding river and coastal communities are. Frequent raids by federal troops deplete local livestock, especially horses, and soldiers confiscate money, watches, brandy, silver, and firearms. The Confederate government claims one-tenth of all food crops; most of the remaining crops are purchased by the Confederate government with paper currency of little worth.

1865
The war ends. The county's newly freed black population seeks vocations and housing, selects names, and begins organizing their own churches. Many black citizens migrate north.

1866
The John Flanagan Buggy Company is established in Greenville to make buggies and carriages. As the town grows, sawmills, cotton gins, a brick works, and a veneer plant are established.

1867
Captain Bryant Smith of Falkland is granted a patent for the cotton planter which revolutionizes the cotton industry. J.C. Cox secures patents for improvements to the planter and the Cox planter is sold over the entire South. Black Americans are enfranchised. Twenty stores sell a variety of goods in the town and county. Blacksmiths, carpenters, brick masons, painters, mechanics, and barbers, many former slaves, open for business. Twelve physicians form the Pitt County Medical Society; a dentist opens a practice. Twelve attorneys are practicing law. The Greenville African School opens. Citizens make several attempts to start a newspaper, all short-lived. The Exposition, founded in 1867, was followed by the Conservative, Spectator, Register, and the Tar River Beacon.

~ 1870's ~

1870
The Census of 1870 gave Pitt County a population of 17,276 – 8,862 white and 8,414 black. Greenville's population has shrunk to 601 citizens, a loss of 227 in ten years.

1872
Town of Farmville is incorporated

1873
Town of Bethel incorporated. Free Will Baptist Press Foundation is established in Ayden.

1877
The Express begins publication; it was later purchased by J.R. and D.J. Whichard.

1879
The Old Dominion Steamship Company constructs a warehouse, wharf, and shed along what is now the Town Commons in Greenville.

~ 1880's ~

1880
The Census of 1880 shows Pitt County's population at 21,974. Greenville's population has increased to 912, Farmville has 111 citizens, Bethel has 127, Marlboro has 79, and Penny Hill has 36. Penny Hill, an important landing on the Tar River, was incorporated in the late 1870's; Marlboro was incorporated between 1870 and 1872. Turpentine remains an important export; a major turpentine still is located in Grifton.

1882
Daily Reflector is founded by brothers Julian R. and David Jordan Whichard.

1883
Town of Bells' Ferry incorporated; name changed to Grifton in 1889.

1884
Greenville Bottling Company opens to manufacture bottled beer. The company does well, there are 14 barrooms in the city, and is open until the early 1900's.

1885
David Jordan Whichard becomes sole owner and publisher of the Daily Reflector and uses it to advocate for the development of industry, commerce, agricultural diversity, and urbanization; one of his earliest projects is lobbying for train service to Greenville. Pitt County voters defeat the endorsement of a stock subscription to support train service. The closest train is located twelve miles north in Bethel, which thrived.

1886
First commercial production of flue-cured tobacco.

1887
Town of Falkland is incorporated.

1889
Greenville gets its first train service, Atlantic Coastline, which does not require county subsidy. Steamboat traffic begins to fade. Cotton and corn are the county's major crops, with tobacco beginning to be raised again. Pitt County soil proves ideal for raising the increasingly popular bright leaf tobacco.

~ 1890's ~

1890
The 1890 Census shows Pitt County with 25,519 citizens. Greenville's population is 1,937, Bethel has 377, and Farmville's population is 140. Grifton and Pactolus follow closely behind with 121 and 105 respectively. Marlboro's population is 92 and Falkland has 61 residents.

1891
Bethel Manufacturing is established to construct wooden pallets. Pitt County's first tobacco warehouse, The Greenville, opens, inaugurating the Greenville Tobacco Market. Two large tobacco processing plants employing 500 workers open as do two banks and a savings and loan. Manufacturing increases to include sawmills, distilleries and bottling works, brickyards, flour mills, woodworking plants, carriage factories, bicycle shops, machine shops, ice houses, and cotton mills. Town of Ayden is incorporated. It soon becomes the home to two good schools, Carolina Christian College and the Free Will Baptist Theological Seminary.

1892
The Washington Branch Railroad is built; it extends from Parmele to Pactolus to Washington, nearly all its length being in Pitt.

1893
Town of Grimesland incorporated.

1895
Firefighters become paid professionals in Greenville.

1896
E.B. Ficklen Tobacco Warehouse established. First telephone exchange established with approximately 100 subscribers. Other public utilities are not yet available. A major business district fire occurs; the courthouse is saved with great effort. The first community bank, the Bank of Greenville, is established.

1897
Town of Winterville is incorporated. The Winterville Cigar Company is formed. They produce about 1000 cigars per day using Sumatra and Cuban leaf tobaccos.

1899
A.G. Cox Manufacturing Co. opens in Winterville to produce cotton planters, carts, wagons, and buggies.

~ 1900's ~

1900
Greenville Ice and Coal Company incorporated. Carolina and Virginia Telephone Company buys out local exchanges; eventually becomes Carolina Telephone. East Carolina Railroad from Tarboro to Farmville is completed. The Census of 1900 gave Pitt County a population of 30,889. Individual town populations were Greenville – 2,565, Ayden – 557, Bethel – 457, Grimesland – 277, Farmville – 262, Grifton – 229, Winterville – 229, Falkland – 139, Marlboro – 111, and Pactolus – 52.

1901
First rural free delivery of mail is put into operation in Pitt County; three routes are established.

1902
Bethel is the county's first town to vote a tax and establish a graded school. Town of Shelmerdine incorporated.

1903
Towns of Fountain and Stokes are incorporated. Imperial Tobacco builds a warehouse and processing facility in Greenville; it is equipped with all the latest machinery. Eastern Lumber and Supply opens in Winterville. Greenville is the center of cotton, corn, and tobacco markets. Greenville has forty stores, six warehouses, six tobacco factories, six trains, a blind/door/sash factory, knitting mill, and a grist mill; it also has six churches and twelve barrooms. The city of Greenville votes a school tax and a graded school. Bond issues are passed to support public utilities, pure water, electricity, sewage disposal, and paved streets. All are in operation by 1907. At Ayden a special tax was voted, the Christian College property bought and a graded school begun.

1904
The first public library opens.

1905
Town of Maupin incorporated. Farmville's tobacco market opens.

1906
Grifton has two millinery shops, two meat markets, two barber shops, six general merchandise and farm supply stores, two livery stables and a drug store. The Grifton Manufacturing Company makes and repairs buggies and farm implements; it employs ten men. The National Bank of Greenville is established in Greenville. By 1914, its deposits were averaging between $750,000 and $1 million.

1907
State legislators approve Greenville as the site for a new teacher training college, based on the city and county's passage of local bond referenda. No other North Carolina county had ever approved a bond issue in support of higher education. A.C. Monk opens a tobacco processing plant in Farmville. Farmville also has two banks, an oil and fertilizer plant, stables, filling stations, and lumber mills. The Norfolk and Southern Railroad from Raleigh to Washington opens with stations in Farmville, Arthur, Greenville, Simpson, and Grimesland. The East Carolina Railroad is extended from Farmville to Hookerton.

1908
Groundbreaking for the East Carolina Teachers Training School is held on July 2. Greene Street steel bridge opens.

October 5, 1909
First students enroll at East Carolina Teachers Training School. The Daily Reflector announces it as "Greenville's Glad Day."

~ 1910's ~

1910
County's fifth courthouse burns, the second courthouse lost to fire. Pactolus is incorporated. The Farmville Enterprise is established when Rouse Printery opens in Farmville. The 1910 Census shows Pitt County with a population of 36,340. Individual town populations were Greenville – 4,101, Ayden – 990, Farmville – 816, Winterville – 484, Bethel – 469, Grimesland – 330, Grifton – 291, Fountain – 189, and Falkland – 132. Other incorporated towns in 1910 and their populations were Shelmerdine – 315, Marlboro – 225, Pactolus – 154, Maupin – 141, Stokes – 79, and Oakley – 57.

1911
Export Leaf Tobacco Company builds a plant in Greenville. Suburbs begin to develop around Greenville. Construction on county's sixth courthouse (still standing, though greatly expanded) is completed. First two year diplomas are awarded by East Carolina. Town of Maupin's charter is revoked.

1912
The Ayden Dispatch is established.

1913
The Farmers Bank, a state bank incorporated under the laws of North Carolina, opens for business in Greenville; it pays 4% interest on savings accounts.

1914
Greenville, population 8,000+, proclaims itself "the city of possibilities." It considered itself "in the adolescent stage, where it is no longer a village, or a country town, and is not yet, by many leaps and bounds, the city it is sure to be." Businesses expand in number and scope. ECTTS grows to 300 students. Citizens attend campus cultural events, and an 800 seat auditorium is built. The Board of Education partners with the training school to build a "model school" for public education. Shoppers travel from around the region to shop in Greenville. Flanagan Buggy Company signs an agreement to sell automobiles with Ford Motor Company. The county's first motion picture theater, White's Theatre, is built in Greenville; it has a capacity of nearly 700.

1916
Flanagan Buggy Company is producing as many as 60 buggies per day, employing 125 people. It soon ceases manufacturing and begins selling automobiles. The company remains open until 1958.

April, 1917
The United States enters World War I. Cigarette smoking increases dramatically and, in turn, so does the demand for tobacco.

1918
Town of Simpson incorporated. There are 20 manufacturing establishments in the county; eight of these establishments are within the corporate limits of Greenville. The Greenville Cotton Mills operates 5,280 spindles, consumes about 1,000,000 pounds of raw material, and turns out $335,000 worth of knitting yarns. 10,000 cases of Spanish Influenza sweep the community, October 11-November 11. Schools, churches, businesses, courts, factories, and warehouses are all closed.

1919
Garris-Evans Lumber Company established. With the war over, demand increases for grain, cotton, and tobacco. The economy becomes firmly based on cotton and tobacco. Community becomes more prosperous than ever. By early 1920's, the boomtown begins to wind down.

~ 1920's ~

1920
The average price of tobacco is 20 cents per pound. Pitt County's population, according to the 1920 Census, is 45,569; Greenville's is 5,772.

1921
East Carolina Teachers Training School is upgraded to a four-year degree-granting institution called East Carolina Teachers College.

1923
Pitt County's first hospital is chartered and construction begins. The last river shipment moves up the Tar.

1924
The Pitt Community Hospital opens; with 42 beds, it is operated privately until 1936. For the first time, black and white veterans march together on Armistice Day.

1929
Construction begins on a dedicated library building for Greenville; it is later named Sheppard Memorial Library. Masters degree is authorized for East Carolina Teachers College. Singing, talking picture shows premiere. 11,000 shoppers visit a new, three-story Montgomery Ward's on opening day. The community's economy becomes more closely tied to national and international forces. The stock market crashes.

~ 1930's ~

1930
According to the 1930 US Census, Pitt County's population is 54,456. Individual town populations were Greenville – 9,194, Farmville – 2,056, Ayden – 1,607, Bethel – 1,149, Winterville – 654, Fountain – 560, Grimesland – 377, Grifton – 403, Simpson – 209, and Falkland – 187. Other incorporated towns in 1930 and their populations were Pactolus – 349, Bell Arthur – 131, Stokes – 127, Oakley – 41, and Shelmerdine – 39.

1931
Local economy reaches its lowest ebb. Tobacco prices drop from $19 to $9 per hundred pounds. Taxes are unpaid and banknotes are not met. Nevertheless, Greenville emerges as the world's number one tobacco market.

1933
The price of tobacco rises sharply. Blount Fertilizer opens a feed mill factory. Greenville Marble & Granite Works opens for business. Concerns for schools are at an all time high, with the system reputed to be one of the finest in the state. ECTC awards its first master's degree. Greenville elects its first woman to Greenville Board of Aldermen.

1934
The pirate is adopted as East Carolina's athletic namesake.

1935
Pepsi-Cola Bottling opens. Carolina Dairy Products establishes a facility to make ice cream in Greenville.

1936
A group of citizens form a non-profit organization to operate a hospital they name Pitt General Hospital. They lease the Pitt Community Hospital and complete purchase of the building and equipment by 1940.

1938
Greenville Industries is chartered.

1939
Greenville's population swells to over 12,000. The Council passes an ordinance which officially changes Greenville from a town to a city.

~ 1940's ~

1940
Works Progress Administration grades a sod air strip owned by Greenville and Pitt County. During World War II, the Navy paves three 5,000 foot runways. The foundation for the Pitt-Greenville Airport has been established. The 1940 Census shows Pitt County's population at 61,244. Individual town populations were Greenville – 12,674, Farmville – 2,980, Ayden – 1,884, Bethel – 1,333, Winterville – 848, Fountain – 483, Grifton – 456, Grimesland – 405, Simpson – 298, and Falkland – 188. Other incorporated towns in 1940 and their populations were Pactolus – 369, Stokes – 210, Bell Arthur – 181, Shelmerdine – 70, and Oakley – 27.

1941
The ultra-modern bus station opens on Fifth Street. Train service is curtailed. Bachelor of Science degree is authorized for East Carolina; enrollment is 1,339. The United States enters World War II.

1945
World War II ends. Greenville and Pitt County build on their two major strengths: an agricultural marketing center and a state teachers' college. Community leaders begin to focus on diversity to develop a fully functioning, year-round economy. Cox Armature, an automotive parts rebuilder, opens. Union Carbide opens to manufacture desalination bags (converting salt water into fresh) for the war effort. When the war ends, the company manufactures Krene plastic products (shower curtains, garment bags).

1946
Hurst Concrete Products opens in Greenville to produce concrete block. Ayden Frozen Foods begins processing hamburger and sausage at its facility in Ayden.

1947
Greenville Industries is dissolved.

1948
Ward Machine Works (precision machining) established. Union Carbide retools and begins making batteries. Jefferson's Florist opens; now operates TransEast, a supplier of permanent botanicals. A bond issue for the construction of a new hospital passes.

~ 1950's ~

1950
Craft Steel & Machine Works opens its plant in Farmville. Cox Trailers is established in Grifton. Newspaper circulation is 5,727. East Carolina College has 2,075 students. Retail sales are $24,363,000. The city has 5,165 electric meters. The 1950 Census shows Pitt County's population at 63,789. Individual town populations were Greenville – 16,724, Farmville – 2,942, Ayden – 2,282, Bethel – 1,402, Winterville – 870, Grifton – 510, Fountain – 451, Grimesland – 414, Simpson – 278, and Falkland – 174. Other incorporated towns in 1950 and their populations were Pactolus – 265, Stokes – 217, Bell Arthur – 190, Oakley – 58, and Shelmerdine – 32.

1951
J.C. Pollard Slaughter House opens. Ormond Wholesale, later to become Millbrook Distribution Services, is established. Greenville Industries is reorganized and offers stock. East Carolina Teachers College becomes East Carolina College. Financed by public bonds, a new 120-bed hospital opens. The hospital is named Pitt County Memorial Hospital in honor of those killed in the World Wars.

1952
Fred Webb Feed Mill, later Perdue Farms, established.

1953
Coastal Chemical is established. White Concrete Company, a manufacturer of ready mixed concrete, opens in Greenville. The first television station in eastern North Carolina, WNCT, begins broadcasting from Greenville. It was the first successful station in a community of less than 25,000. The Grifton Times is established.

1955
Royal Crown Bottling Company establishes facility in Greenville.

1956
The Farmville Economic Council is formed by town business people. 54 citizens were approached to participate; 52 agree to pay the "sizable assessment" and serve on the board.

1957
The state legislature passes a bill creating the Pitt County Industrial Development Commission and grants it taxing authority. UNX Chemicals (laundry chemicals) is established in Greenville as Unichem, Inc. Winterville Machine Works (machine assemblies, plating) opens in Winterville. International Paper Company constructs a Formica flake board plant in Farmville. Lutz and Schramm Pickle Company is Ayden's largest company. Pitt County is home to 60 industries; the two largest are Greenville Mills (woolens) and National Carbon (batteries). Greenville's population is estimated at 25,000. Ayden's population is estimated at 3,500, Farmville's at 2,942, Winterville's at 870. The county's total population is 67,789. DuPont, in neighboring Lenoir County, is stimulating growth in both Ayden and Grifton.

1958
Tri-County Feed Mills opens in Bethel. Morgan Printers begins operations in Greenville. All passenger rail service is discontinued. Citizens approve a bond issue to expand Pitt County Memorial Hospital to 200 beds.

1959
Grady-White Boats begins building wooden, lap strake hulled boats. Greenville Industries has sold 2,450 shares of stock and purchases the 278 acre Dail Farm for industrial development, the beginning of the Greenville Industrial Park, which will become the largest industrial park in eastern North Carolina (2500 acres). The Pitt County Development Commission hires L.A. Weston as its first director. East Carolina College School of Nursing approved by General Assembly.

~ 1960's ~

1960
Fieldcrest Cannon buys Greenville Mills textile facility on Dickinson Avenue and establishes Greenville Yarns. Grifton Clothing opens. North State Garment Company opens in Farmville. Pitt County Development Commission hires its first full-time executive director, Dr. Sylvester Green. Enrollment at East Carolina College is 4,178; the School of Business is organized. The 1960 Census shows Pitt County's population at 69,942. Individual town populations were Greenville – 22,860, Farmville – 3,997, Ayden – 3,108, Bethel – 1,578, Grifton – 1,546, Winterville – 1,418, Fountain – 496, Grimesland – 362, Simpson – 302, and Falkland – 140. Other incorporated towns in 1960 and their populations were Pactolus – 211, Bell Arthur – 204, Stokes – 195, Shelmerdine – 29, and Oakley – 17.

1961
The Greenville Industrial Park is established as a joint venture of Greenville Industries, Pitt County, Greenville, Greenville Utilities, and the Pitt County Development Commission. The Superior Stone Company, a subsidiary of Martin Marietta, is established in Fountain. FCX Cooperative Mills opens a feed facility in Farmville. The Mutual Packing Company, a meat packing operation, begins operation near Grimesland. The Pitt Industrial Educational Center lays the foundation for Pitt Technical Institute, which will offer one year vocational and continuing education programs. Agricultural employment is at 8,500 people, manufacturing at 3,100. Pitt County Memorial Hospital adds 85 beds, increasing capacity to 205.

1962
Greenville Industries sells its first industrial acreage to Empire Brushes. Morgan Printers established in Greenville. Southern States Feed Mill and Farrior and Sons open in Farmville. Hampton Industries (Prepshirt) begins manufacturing men's and boys' shirts in Greenville. Schools of Art and Music are organized at East Carolina College. Greenville is awarded its first Holiday Inn franchise.

1963
Collins & Aikman opens its Farmville plant. Quality Foods (Space-Ship Drive-ins) opens a specialty baking plant in Ayden to make apple turnovers. A.L. Robertson, Inc. opens in Greenville for the manufacture of boat covers and related supplies. Summer theatre is inaugurated at East Carolina; School of Education is organized.

1964
Empire Brushes (later to become Rubbermaid) moves its manufacturing facility from New York to the Greenville Industrial Park. Hendrix and Dail opens its soil fumigants business. Mormac Printing established in Farmville. United Machine Works (fabrication millwright welding) begins operations in Stokes. Union Carbide opens new dry cell batteries manufacturing facility. White Concrete establishes a facility in Farmville. Carolina Leaf Tobacco Company is formed. Sit-Pic opens to manufacture cucumber pickers in Bethel. Eastern North Carolina Regional Planning Institute is created with Tom Willis as its first director. Pitt Technical Institute moves to its current campus. College of Arts and Sciences is formed at East Carolina College.

1965
National Biscuit Company and Asgrow Seed Company begin construction on warehouse and distribution centers in Greenville. Eastern Carolina Vocational Center opens. Royster-Clark fertilizer blending plant opens. Valor Manufacturing Company opens a cutting and finishing piece goods facility in Farmville. Metal Specialties, an ornamental iron fabricator, begins operations in Greenville. Sunnyside Eggs establishes poultry feed operation in Winterville. Marlin Boat Works and Craft Master Brooms announce plans to open facilities in Greenville. Ayden Garment Company begins operations. The Bethel Herald – a weekly newspaper – begins publication. Construction begins on a new 6,500 seat gymnasium building at East Carolina College which will house health and physical education departments as well as an Olympic pool. Talks begin concerning four-laning US264 from Zebulon to Chocowinity.

1966
Vermont American (high speed drill bits) is established in the Greenville Industrial Park. Brewer & Marshall Concrete Products opens in Greenville. Simmons Machine Works begins operations. Jewett and Sherman purchase land to open a brinery and cucumber buying station in Bethel. The Farmville Corporation (formerly Valor Manufacturing) establishes a pilot operation in Winterville but it closes after only 10 months of operation. The Waccamaw Veneer Company opens a plant east of Pactolus. Aunt Jane's Foods announces a brinery

and cucumber buying station for Greenville. Wachovia Bank plans to build an operations and data processing center in Greenville. American Cyanamid Company selects Ayden as the location for its new Farm Supply Center. Pitt Plaza Shopping Center opens. Local officials build a terminal at Pitt-Greenville Airport.

1967
Blue Bell opens in Bethel to produce women's jeans. Bonnie Sue Sportswear opens in the former Ayden Garment Company facility. East Carolina College becomes East Carolina University, adds more than 100 new faculty members and spends $12 million in new construction. On-campus enrollment exceeds 9,300.

1968
Eddie Smith purchases Grady-White Boats (National Boat Works) and begins conversion to fiberglass boats. Y&J Kromka opens in Fountain to produce woven carpets and rugs. H.A. Haynie, a textiles specialty firm, opens in Greenville. Allied Health Sciences established at ECU.

1969
S&S Repair Service opens in Winterville, constructing trailers and truck bodies. Fountain Apparel begins production at a facility in Fountain. Semroc Astronautics Corporation, a home-grown manufacturer of model rocket devices for the toy trade, opens in Ayden. Becton-Dickinson Company purchases property and announces plans to construct a $10 million facility in Greenville; project never materializes. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $2,523.

~ 1970's ~

1970
Burroughs Wellcome opens new $10 million, 600-employee pharmaceutical production plant, eventually manufacturing all human consumption drugs for North America in Greenville. 150 families relocate from Tuckahoe, NY to Pitt County. B&J Machine Works opens in Scuffleton, later relocates to Ayden. Barrus Construction Company (now Barnhill Contracting) opens in Greenville, as does a second division of Fieldcrest (Greenville Yarns). Grifton Clothing employs 280 people. Greenville has four banks with six branch offices. Greenville taxes are $1.54 and county taxes are $1.52 per $100 assessed value. Farmville's taxes are $1.60. Greenville also assesses a $.45 school tax, and Bethel, $.18. Greenville hotels include: Holiday Inn (100 rooms), Olde London Inn (46 rooms), Quality Motel (52 rooms), Smith's (45 rooms), and Towne House (60 rooms). East Carolina University enrollment exceeds 10,000; School of Industry and Technology is organized. Pitt County citizens approve a $9 million bond issue to fund a new 350-bed hospital. 27,900 workers are employed in the county. Newspaper circulation is 11,239. The 1970 Census shows Pitt County's population at 73,900. Individual town populations were Greenville – 29,063, Farmville – 4,424, Ayden – 3,450, Grifton – 1,543, Bethel – 1,514, Winterville – 1,437, Fountain – 434, Grimesland – 394, and Falkland – 130. The towns of Bell Arthur, Oakley, Pactolus, Stokes, Shelmerdine, and Simpson disincorporated during the 1960's. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $2,861.

1971
Hatteras Hammocks and Pactolus Lumber Company founded. Lisa's opens a cut and sew plant in Grifton to make boys' suits and jackets. After almost 11 years, Dr. Sylvester Green retires as the Pitt County Development Commission's Executive Director; James R. Horne Jr. is hired as his replacement. ECU's freshman class has 2,351 students. General Assembly appropriates $1.8 million for one-year medical program at ECU. The N.C. 11 Bypass, a 17-mile stretch of four-lane highway from Greenville to the Lenoir County line, officially opens. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $3,058.

1972
A division of USI, Inc. opens in Ayden (in what is now the Worthington Industrial Park) to manufacture women's slacks. Regional Storage and Transport opens to offer textile recycling and warehousing. A.C. Monk announces a 400,000 s.f. expansion, building its new facility on U.S. 264 in Farmville. S&H Farm Supply Company opens its farm parts company in Ayden. Tom McGuane Industries begins operations of its automotive component parts facility in Greenville. National Printing Company opens in Greenville. National Boat Works (Grady-White Boats) announces construction of a 150,000 s.f. facility in the Greenville Industrial Park. The state highway department announces plans to dual-lane 4 miles of U.S. 13. Greenville Utilities expands its water and sewage treatment facilities. Greenville Utilities Director Charles Horne reports that the demand for electricity has doubled in a space of four

years, saying, "What this means to me is that we added as much in four years as we added in the first 63 years of the plant…" Approximately 80 physicians are practicing medicine in Pitt County. Public schools, in a program administered by ECU, offers college level courses. Pitt Tech, with 602 students, is the 10th largest institution in the community college system. ECU, with enrollment of 10,286, is the third largest university in the state; the university awards 2000 undergraduate and graduate degrees and becomes a constituent institution of the UNC system. First class of students in the one-year medical program is admitted. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $3,440.

1973

Hymil Corporation purchases Bonnie Sue Sportswear in Ayden. Cooper Veterinary Products announces its relocation from Chicago and the construction of a 66,000 s.f. facility; the project never materializes. Merrimac Marine moves its fiberglass boat operations to Greenville. Daly-Herring opens an insecticide and fungicide facility in Ayden. Florence-Mayo Company opens a division in Farmville to make tobacco curers. Taft Manufacturing begins producing fiberglass boats at its Greenville plant. Valor Division of USI opens a ladies' body suit manufacturing operation in Grimesland. High school diplomas are awarded to 770 seniors county-wide. Pitt Technical Institute awards 130 degrees. ECU, in its 65th year, awards 2,381 degrees, 1,931 undergraduate and 450 post-graduate. 90% of those graduating are placed in jobs. A Student Union Building and the Jenkins Fine Art Center are under construction. The university installs one of the largest, most powerful computing systems in the state. Pitt Memorial Hospital announces the creation of the Department of Family Medicine. The Town of Farmville begins construction on a new waste water treatment plant. A 50-room Econo Travel Motel opens and a 120-room Ramada is under construction in Greenville. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $3,996.

1974

Berce opens in Ayden to produce women's apparel. Yale division of Eaton Corporation establishes a fork lift manufacturing facility in the Greenville Industrial Park; ultimately becomes NACCO Materials Handling Group. Procter & Gamble announces the construction of a Pringles manufacturing facility in Greenville Industrial Park. James R. Horne Jr. resigns as Executive Director of the Pitt County Development Commission; former Director Dr. Sylvester Green serves as interim director during the search. A $2 million bond referendum passes to build a consolidated sewage treatment plant to run the entire length of the new Highway 11 Bypass (becomes Contentnea Metropolitan Sewerage District), serving Ayden, Grifton, and Winterville. Eastern Access Road Corridor study explores the available alternatives for an eastern freeway from U.S. 17 to Interstate 95. Land acquisition is completed and construction begins on the new hospital. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $4,518.

1975

LBA Technology is established to produce electromechanical assemblies. Boise Cascade begins operations supplying cans for P&G's Pringles as does Container Corporation of America. Winchester Boats established. Mestek (Reed National) opens for business in Farmville as the Sterling Radiator Company. Winslow-Atkins opens a facility to manufacture railroad boxcar doors in Ayden. Quality Textiles, a maker of fashion merchandise, opens in Grimesland. North American Fiberglass begins production of fiberglass fishing boats in Greenville. Reese Hart is hired as the fourth Executive Director of the Pitt County Development Commission. The state legislature authorizes a four-year medical school at ECU. Pitt County Memorial Hospital and ECU sign an affiliation agreement making PCMH the school's primary teaching hospital. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $5,000.

1976

Sonoco Products begins producing composite cans for Pringles at its Winterville facility. Overton's (catalogue sales) is established. Georgia-Pacific announces plans to construct a lumber and plywood distribution center in Greenville. Too Tuff Togs opens an apparel plant in Grimesland. R.A. Jeffreys Distributing opens a warehouse in Greenville. Pitt County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority formed to issue Industrial Revenue Bonds. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $5,640.

1977

Carolina Ortho-Prosthetics opens in Greenville. Tom Togs (Cottontops) opens in Farmville. Edinburg Hardwood Lumber Co. begins production of furniture squares in Pactolus. Plastic

Commodities opens a plastic recycling facility in Winterville. The Roberts Company (metal fabrication and industrial construction) is founded as Roberts Welding. Stallings Company (septic tank manufacturer) opens. Carolina Bargain Trader begins publication. Consultants to the N.C. Board of Transportation recommend two highway corridors, U.S. 64 and 264. Pitt County Memorial Hospital opens its new 350-bed facility on a 100-acre site on Stantonsburg Road. Charter class of students begins studies in ECU's four-year medical program. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $5,881.

1978
Ajax Magnethermic opens a facility to produce electrical furnaces in the former Sonoco facility in Winterville. Electrical Utilities Corporation begins manufacturing capacitors in Farmville. McGraw-Edison begins production of nickel-cadmium storage batteries in Greenville. Procter & Gamble switches from Pringle's production to Pampers disposable diapers. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $6,779.

1979
TRW, manufacturer of rack and pinion steering mechanisms for automobiles, is established in the Greenville Industrial Park in the former Container Corporation of America building. Starling Enterprises (metal fabrication) opens in Farmville. Blue Bell opens a second production facility for women's jeans, this one in Ayden in the former USI plant. Allison Togs (cut and sew) begins operations in Grifton. Carolina East Mall opens. N.C. Board of Transportation approves the construction of a freeway between Wilson and Greenville. Construction on the Brody Medical Sciences Building at ECU begins. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $7,172.

~ 1980's ~

1980
Empire Brushes moves its corporate headquarters to Greenville. Knight Energy opens a facility to produce wood burning stoves in Grifton. AccuCopy of Greenville opens. Craftex, a manufacturer of men's knit shirts, begins operations in Farmville. Procter & Gamble begins production of Attends. Pitt Technical Institute becomes Pitt Community College, adding a two-year college transfer program to its existing vocational programs. Enrollment at ECU is 13,165. Pitt County's 1980 Census population is 90,146. Individual town populations were Greenville – 35,740, Farmville – 4,707, Ayden – 4,361, Winterville – 2,052, Grifton – 1,840, Bethel – 1,825, Grimesland – 453, Fountain – 424, Simpson – 407, and Falkland – 118. (Simpson was reincorporated as the Village of Simpson during the 1970's). Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $7,639, a 167% increase since 1970.

1981
Tom Togs opens another facility in Belvoir. Harvest Time Foods founded to produce frozen pastry dough. Belvoir Manufacturing opens in Falkland to make surgical garments. Spector Molding opens in Greenville. Reese Hart resigns as Executive Director of the Pitt County Development Commission; Robert J. Dunn is hired as the Commission's fifth director. First M.D. degrees are awarded by the ECU School of Medicine. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $8,495.

1982
American Coating Technologies, Parrott Canvas, Greenville Ready Mixed Concrete, and M.H. Wallace (tool sharpening) open in Greenville. Practicon (dental supply distribution) founded; later expands and builds in Indigreen Corporate Park. Sphenodon Tools (precision cutting tools) opens in Greenville. Print One, a screen printer, begins operations in Ayden. Package Craft leases the former Blue Bell facility in Bethel. Hexagon-Honeycomb, later Hexacomb and Pregis, begins production in Farmville. Dahlonega opens in Ayden. Governor Hunt dedicates new Fountain Library in October. Airport terminal is expanded to 5,000 s.f. ECU celebrates its 75th anniversary; the campus has grown to 77 buildings on 411 acres and enrollment is 11,725. The Brody Medical Sciences Building opens. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $9,149.

1983
Simpson Industries opens in the Greenville Industrial Park to produce diesel engine components. Berce relocates from Ayden to Grifton. Pitt Printing established. Michele Palmer, a cut and sew facility, opens in Greenville. John D. Chaffee is hired as the sixth Executive Director of the Pitt County Development Commission following the resignation of Rob Dunn. 130-room Sheraton Hotel opens. First PhD awarded by ECU. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $9,712.

1984
Carolina Windows and Doors and North State Steel open. Sew & Sew establishes a facility in Greenville to make doll clothes. White's Industries opens to make steering components. Print Tees begins operation of a screen printing facility in Greenville. Open heart surgery begins at PCMH. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is 10,798.

1985
Greenville Printing opens for business. Mojo Sportswear opens a screen printing facility. FMS Tools begins manufacturing metal cutting tools. Standard Register Company purchases land to construct a business forms printing facility; project never materializes. Cavalier Confections begins producing candy at its Greenville facility. Tom Togs opens an apparel distribution center and corporate headquarters in Greenville. The Roberts Company constructs new facility in Winterville. Piedmont Commuter (later U.S. Air Express) begins serving Pitt-Greenville Airport. EastCare begins emergency air transport service at PCMH. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $11,579.

1986
Carolina Medical Products, established in Chapel Hill in 1982, moves to Farmville. Energy Savers Window and Door, Inc. opens in Greenville. Viper Boats established in Ayden. Fieldcrest purchases Cannon Mills, then, as Fieldcrest Cannon, purchases Bigelow Carpets, merging the company with Karastan to form Karastan-Bigelow. Too Tuff Togs/Tom Togs opens International Screen Printing in Farmville. Greenville City and Pitt County schools consolidate into one system. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $12,194.

1987
Weyerhaeuser announces the construction of a multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art lumber mill in southern Pitt County, the largest project ever in the Ayden-Grifton area. Sag Harbor Industries, manufacturer of electronic components, opens in Farmville. Mid-Atlantic Fish Farms (later Carolina Classics) opens North Carolina's first catfish processing plant. Ralston Purina purchases the Eveready Battery division from Union Carbide. Charmtex Fashions opens in Greenville. Hatteras Hammocks becomes the world's largest distributor of rope hammocks. Unitec Plastics opens in the former Blue Bell facility and Stevry Manufacturing opens an apparel manufacturing facility in Ayden. Wash & Dye Togs, a garment dyeing and finishing plant, is established in Greenville. South Pitt Development Corporation raises $50,000 for industrial development and pursues plans to construct a 20,000 s.f. shell building. The Hilton Hotel opens. Pitt Memorial Hospital begins its 10th expansion since groundbreaking in 1974. The facility has 560 beds and employs 2300 people. Construction begins on the Ronald McDonald House. American Eagle begins service at Pitt-Greenville Airport. First heart transplant surgery performed at ECU. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $12,899.

1988
Corbett & Strickland (metal fabrication) begins operations. Global East Automated Machining, formerly Excel Design Tools (1983), is established. SAB Nife relocates manufacturing and corporate headquarters from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Greenville. Burroughs Wellcome adds an $8.2 million expansion. Printex America opens a textile printing plant in Greenville. The Pitt-Greenville Airport Terminal is doubled in size and the main runway is extended to 6,000 feet. ECU opens its Biotechnology Center. The county's bond rating is upgraded from "A" to "AA." Public-private partnership establishes a $1 million shell building program. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $13,945.

1989
Allied Tech, A&T Apparel, and J&P Machine Works open. Groundbreaking for first Pitt County shell building. Eveready Battery closes; site is razed and makes way for the $35 million University Commons Shopping Center. South Pitt Industrial Park (later renamed Worthington Industrial Park) is a joint venture of the South Pitt Development Corporation, Pitt County Development Commission, Town of Ayden, and property owner Levi Worthington. C.A. Lewis Construction commits to build a shell building in the park. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $15,327.

~ 1990's ~

1990
Atwell Industries purchases South Pitt Shell #1 and is the first company in new industrial park. Pitt Printing, Bryant's Pallets, and PIP Printing are established. Carolina Wood Products opens in Greenville. Signs Now opens to manufacture

banners and signs. Protech announces a security systems manufacturing facility for Greenville. Yale Materials Handling becomes Hyster-Yale, later using parent company name, NACCO. Burroughs Wellcome introduces Retrovir, an AIDS fighting drug and begins construction on its $150 million sterile products facility. Citizens pass a $25.7 million public school construction bond and a $10 million Pitt Community College bond. ECU's enrollment is 17,564. United Express begins service to Pitt-Greenville Airport; service lasts two years. Pitt County's 1990 Census population is 108,480. Individual municipal populations are: Greenville - 46,305; Ayden - 4,883; Farmville - 4,446; Winterville, 3,069; Grifton - 2,140; Bethel - 1,842; Grimesland - 469; Fountain – 445; Simpson – 432; and Falkland - 108;. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $16,270, a 113% increase since 1980.

1991

Dutton Industries establishes a contract sewing plant in Grimesland. Cairo Industries opens plastics manufacturing facility in Greenville. U.S. 264 from Greenville to Wilson is finally complete with the opening of the bypass around Farmville. Later improvements include constructing overpasses at all at-grade intersections and constructing a northwest bypass around Greenville to the Greenville Industrial Park. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $16,724.

1992

American Elements opens in the Greenville Industrial Park. Heritage Candy begins manufacturing candy in Farmville, after 83 years in Elizabeth City. Mid East Agricultural Services is founded to produce consumer greenhouses. Nike Sport Graphics opens for sportswear distribution. National Spinning Distribution Center is established in eastern Pitt County. Spectratex of North Carolina (textile dyeing and screen printing) opens in Farmville. The Hatteras Group adds 60,000 s.f. to its facility; owner Walter Perkins, Jr. is named N.C. Entrepreneur of the Year in the technology and manufacturing category. Vermont American adds 65,000 s.f., relocating router bit production from Vermont. Hyster-Yale Greenville becomes America's Operations Headquarters. H&A Scientific opens its instrument and software facility in Greenville. K&K Plastics begins plastic injection production in Ayden. Intabex relocates its tobacco sales headquarters to Greenville. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $17,403.

1993

Land sale allows Greenville Industries to begin development of Indigreen Corporate Park. Southeastern Hospital Supply opens in Greenville Industrial Park, purchasing the county's first shell building. Jack A. Farrior Steel Works becomes independent of Farrior & Sons. Spectra Designs is established in Farmville for textile dyeing and screen printing. Wachovia consolidates its 17 Sales Finance Centers statewide into a single Greenville facility. Winterville Machine Works adds its marine division. Mohawk purchases Karastan-Bigelow. Air Mania Custom Services establishes its screen printing facility. Greenville Utilities adopts a special economic development rate. Construction activity tops $100 million for the first time. Pitt County is designated a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and is known as the Greenville, NC MSA. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $18,197.

1994

Fullarton Computer Industries, a Scottish company, opens its first North American facility in Winterville. Metrics, Inc. establishes a new pharmaceutical testing and manufacturing facility. Mohawk expands Greenville Yarns. W.M. Green opens a mail order catalogue company in Indigreen. Pure Etch purchases the former SAB Nife facility to process circuit board etchants. Farmville Corporate Park is established; Pitt County Shell Building #2 is built in the park. Bill Stallings is named N.C. Entrepreneur of the Year in the finance category. American Eagle ends commuter service. ECU's first major fund drive tops $50 million ahead of schedule. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $18,769.

1995

ASMO, the county's first Japanese company, opens its facility for manufacturing small DC motors in Indigreen Corporate Park. Encelle (now Pioneer Surgical OrthoBiologics), a manufacturer of biotechnological medical products, is established. Phoenix Fabrication (custom laser cutting) opens in Worthington Industrial Park as does Anderson Truss Company. Fullarton Computer Industries opens a second facility in Winterville. Glaxo acquires Burroughs Wellcome, announces plans to dramatically reduce its workforce. Carolina Vinyl begins manufacturing outdoor plastic products in Grifton. Parker Overton is N.C. Entrepreneur of the Year in the wholesale/retail category. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $19,697.

1996
Edgcomb Metal, Metalcraft Air Filtration, and Lake Somers (NC), Inc. are established. Pitt County's second Japanese company, Asahi, opens in the Greenville Industrial Park. Practicon and Brody's construct facilities in Indigreen Corporate Park. Spectratex opens its textile dyeing business in Farmville. Local development officials and business leaders initiate creation of the Pitt County Committee of 100. Pitt County acquires a closed textile plant to convert into a technology based business incubator. The Daily Reflector joins the Cox Newspapers, Inc. family. John Roberts (The Roberts Company) is N.C. Entrepreneur of the Year in the construction category. New general aviation terminal opens at Pitt-Greenville Airport. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $20,441.

1997
Catalytica Pharmaceuticals purchases former Glaxo Wellcome facility. Carolina Marble Products opens in Farmville. Diversified Shafts & Steering opens in Fountain. IC Harness Technologies and Body Spirits are first tenants in the County's business incubator (Eastern Carolina Technology Center, now Technology Enterprise Center of Eastern Carolina). World Class Catamarans established; buys North American Fiberglass. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $21,802.

1998
Proctor & Gamble named Pitt County Industry of the Year. NACCO Materials Handling opens a new 95,000 s.f. corporate office and relocates its Hyster-Yale marketing, product development, and engineering groups to Pitt County. Hatteras Hammocks acquires Pawley's Island Hammocks, forming the HammockSource. Compro established in Technology Enterprise Center. DIMON is formed from the merger of Monk-Austin and Dibrell Brothers and announces the closing of the Carolina Leaf tobacco processing plant. Procter & Gamble announces plans to sell its "Attends" line and to relocate the "Always" line from Greenville. The Pitt County Development Commission establishes a website, www.locateincarolina.com, putting statistical, building, and quality of life data online. J.C. Penney's expands; Lowe's builds new superstore. The Gap, Barnes & Noble, Target, and Sam's Club enter the retail market. Pitt County agrees to transition Pitt County Memorial Hospital from a county-owned hospital to a private not-for-profit corporation. ECU commemorates its 91st anniversary, completes a major library expansion, and is named one of America's "most wired" campuses. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $22,197.

1999
Eddie Smith of Grady-White Boats is named Carolinas Entrepreneur of the Year. Fuji Silysia of Japan announces plans for a 100,000 s.f. manufacturing plant in Indigreen Corporate Park. PaperPak of California purchases Procter & Gamble's "Attends" line and its Greenville facility. Convergys opens a customer service center employing 420 people and Cox Publications is constructing a state-of-the-art printing facility in Indigreen Corporate Park. Encelle and Fairview Fittings open in the Technology Enterprise Center. Metrics breaks ground on a new facility in Indigreen. NACCO named Pitt County Industry of the Year. Manufacturing employment accounts for 1 in 6 jobs, government for 1 in 4, and wholesale/retail trade for 1 in 4. Over 100 manufacturers operate in Pitt County, employing nearly 11,000 people. Pitt Memorial Hospital employs 4,150 people; East Carolina University, 3,700; Pitt County Public Schools, 3,200. University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina becomes a legal entity and PCMH's parent company. Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd bring devastating flood waters to parts of Pitt County, but inspires community-wide heroism and determination to "rebuild it better:" the ECU football team wins the national Spirit Award for their inspirational playing in the face of the flood; infrastructure improvements are planned; industries help families get back on their feet; free concerts and dance recitals open the holiday season; industries sustain minor physical damage, keep their customers operating; all principal economic sectors remain strong; industrial activity maintains its same brisk pace. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $21,847.

~ 2000's ~

2000
Research Triangle Institute opens a facility in Greenville to conduct national and regional telephone surveys. Coastal Beverage purchases Pitt County Shell Building #2 in Farmville Corporate Park in order to consolidate its eastern North Carolina distribution operations. Collins & Aikman named Pitt County Industry of the Year. The Daily Reflector moves its operations to its new facility in

Indigreen Corporate Park. Dutch manufacturer DSM acquires Catalytica Pharmaceuticals. Pactiv Corporation expands its facility in Farmville, adding 30 new jobs. Vermont American expands its Greenville facility and is now wholly owned by Robert Bosch, Inc. Better Built Cabinets begins operations in Winterville; later moves company to Farmville. Sharron Precision Machining opens a shop in Greenville. PhytoMyco and Strahlung Services are the newest Technology Enterprise Center tenants. EastCare, the air ambulance service of University Health Systems, adds a second helicopter. City and business leaders finalize an agreement to build a convention center. Pitt County Memorial Hospital begins construction on a four-story emergency department with roof helipad. Pitt Community College has over 7,000 students. East Carolina University has an enrollment of 18,750. Pitt County's 2000 Census population is 133,719. Individual municipal populations are: Greenville – 61,209; Winterville - 4,794; Ayden - 4,622; Farmville – 4,302; Grifton – 1,939; Bethel - 1,760; Fountain – 533; Simpson – 464; Grimesland -440; and Falkland - 112. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $24,326, a 50% increase since 1990.

2001

The Roberts Company is named Pitt County Industry of the Year. DSM constructs new Dyneema High Performance Fiber UD facility adjacent to their Pharmaceutical plant site in Greenville. The HammockSource purchases the former Millbrook Distribution facility in the Greenville Industrial Park to position the company for future expansion. Grady-White wins J.D. Power award for Overall Boat Satisfaction. BSH opens an appliance/parts distribution facility in Greenville. Practicon expands its distribution facility in Indigreen Corporate Park. Netlink locates in the Technology Enterprise Center. Minges Bottling Group announces plans to construct a new Pepsi Distribution Center in southern Pitt County near Ayden; Minges Corporate Park is formed. Pitt Memorial Hospital celebrates its 50th anniversary. Construction begins on Lynncroft shopping center, a 24-acre retail center at the corner of Greenville Boulevard and Evans Street. Pitt County institutes a countywide Emergency Medical Service tax to fund EMS services. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $24,265.

2002

Grady-White Boats named Pitt County Industry of the Year. NWB USA opens to supply wiper blades to ASMO. Ideations and TCT Solutions locate in the Technology Enterprise Center. BSH opens appliance distribution center in Greenville. Caldwell Design opens a fiberglass parts fabrication facility in the former World Class Catamarans building. Janus Development Group, manufacturers of the SpeechEasy anti-stuttering device developed by a team of ECU faculty, opens an office in the Technology Enterprise Center. The 54,500 sf Greenville Convention Center opens in May. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $24,494.

2003

ASMO named Pitt County Industry of the Year. Metallix, a precious metals recycler, opens in the former Pure Etch plant in Greenville. Sequoiah becomes a new tenant and Pitt Community College leases space in the Technology Enterprise Center to teach biotechnology courses. Azteca Tortilla Factory opens in Ayden. Pitt County adopts a countywide zoning ordinance. The Town of Winterville breaks the 5,000 mark for population. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $25,121.

2004

Winterville Machine Works named Pitt County Industry of the Year. DIMON International announces plans to consolidate all production and facilities into its Farmville plant adding 100-150 new jobs. CoastalAgrobusiness, formerly Coastal Chemical, purchases the former Carolina Leaf facility in the Greenville Industrial Park. Duck Rabbit Craft Brewery opens in Farmville. Microbe Management, Carolina Chemicals, Autonomechs, CTMG, and the NC Community College BioNetwork BioProcessing office locate in the Technology Enterprise Center. ECU enrolls 30 students in its new engineering program. The Greenville MSA is expanded to include both Pitt and Greene counties. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $26,324.

2005

The HammockSource named Pitt County Industry of the Year. Harper Brush Works purchases the former Rubbermaid facility in the Greenville Industrial Park. Harmony House Foods establishes its dried food company. Rural Sourcing and Heli open in Technology Enterprise Center. Global Tobacco Processors opens manufacturing facility in former Atwell Building in Ayden. DSM Dyneema announces plans to expand its facility and create 60 new jobs

over the next three years. ASMO announces expansion of their Indigreen Corporate Park plant. DIMON International and Standard Commercial merge to form Alliance One International which will be headquartered in Farmville. NC Biotech Center opens regional office in Greenville. John Chaffee retires after serving as Executive Director of the Pitt County Development Commission for 22 years. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $28,047.

2006

AccuCopy named Pitt County Industry of the Year. Metrics, PaperPak, and Fuji Silysia announce expansions of their facilities in Greenville. Freddy & Friends and Chirazyme Labs locate in the Technology Enterprise Center. Wanda Yuhas named as the seventh Executive Director of the Pitt County Development Commission. Development Commission hires first dedicated Existing Industries Coordinator. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $29,134.

2007

DSM named Pitt County Industry of the Year. CMI Plastics relocates to Pitt County from New Jersey and constructs a new $10 million facility in the Minges Corporate Park in Ayden. Welex purchases former American Coatings building and begins production of plastics manufacturing machinery. DSM Dyneema expands its facility in Greenville. D&D Mechanical Services opens its metal fabrication company in Farmville. NLP Agency and Concurrent Technologies locate in the Technology Enterprise Center. East Carolina University celebrates its 100th anniversary; enrollment is 25,990. Per capita personal income for Pitt County is $30,984, a 27% increase since 2000.

2008

Metrics named Pitt County Industry of the Year. IOTO USA, a Brazilian company that manufactures reconstituted tobacco, establishes a presence in the Greenville Industrial Park. DSM Dyneema announces a major expansion; The Roberts Company and NACCO also expand their operations. Blount Precision Machining opens in Bethel. The East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU opens in October. The four-story, $60 million, 206,000 sq. ft. building houses offices and research labs as well as outpatient treatment facilities and educational facilities. Ground is broken for the ECU School of Dentistry building. The projected opening date for the school is set for fall of 2011.

2009

ECVC named Pitt County Industry of the Year. Cable Network Associates opens a cable manufacturing facility in the former Metaldyne Building. Carolina Classics Catfish, ASMO, and IOTO also expand. Ham Farms, a manufacturer of sweet potato puree, purchases the former Collins & Aikman facility in Farmville for future expansion needs. ABRI opens in the Technology Enterprise Center. Cox Enterprises sells the Daily Reflector to Cooke Communications NC. Final interlocal agreements between Pitt and Martin Counties are completed for LandsEast Industrial Park. The 788-acre multi-county, multi-regional park has been in development since 2005. The East Carolina Heart Institute at PCMH opens in January. The six-story, $150 million, 375,000 sq. ft. cardiovascular bed tower houses operating rooms, 13 interventional labs and 120 patient beds. Manufacturing employment accounts for 1 in 11 jobs, government for 1 in 3.5, and health care/social services for 1 in 4.5. Nearly 100 manufacturers operate in Pitt County, employing over 6,600. Pitt Memorial Hospital employs 7,373 people; East Carolina University, 5,253; Pitt County Public Schools, 3,111.

~ 2010's ~

2010

Attends Healthcare Products (formerly PaperPak) named Pitt County Industry of the Year. Fosaaen Technologies opens in the Technology Enterprise Center.

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