Established in 1705 out of Bath County, Hyde County was chartered as Wickham Precinct before becoming Hyde Precinct seven years later. The precinct’s name was officially changed to Hyde County in 1739 after Bath County was abolished. Swan Quarter serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Hyde County include Engelhard, Fairfield, Germantown, Last Chance, Nebraska, Ocracoke, Scranton, and Stumpy Point.

While Hyde County’s population is just 5,757, the county draws many tourists. Ocracoke hosts the largest number of visitors, as tourists come to see its lighthouse and location on the Outer Banks. Ocracoke is also believed to be the death place of famed pirate Blackbeard, who used North Carolina’s waterways to hide from the British Navy.

The county is also recognized for its four wildlife refuges, including the Alligator River, Mattamuskeet, Pocosin Lakes, and Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge. Fishing, boating, and other recreational activities are prevalent in the county.