Washington County, the 10th county formed in Georgia, was created in 1783. One of Georgia’s original counties, it was the first in the nation to be named for General George Washington. Its first settlers were Revolutionary War veterans, who were given land grants for their service to the country.

Washington County is the "Kaolin Capital of the World." One of Georgia’s most important minerals, kaolin is a white, alumina-silicate clay used in hundreds of products ranging from paper to cosmetics to the nose cones of rockets.

The Official State of Georgia Historical Plates, depicting events and people from the state’s history, were designed by Sandersville native Louise Irwin in 1933. The plates are made in England by Wedgwood and are available for sale at the Sandersville Public Library.

About two dozen historical markers are placed throughout the county, most relating to the Civil War. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places are the Francis Plantation, an antebellum mansion, and the former site of the Washington County Courthouse, now officially known as the Courthouse Square.