

= 1815 North Carolina hurricane =

The 1815 North Carolina hurricane caused the most severe flooding in New Bern , North Carolina since 1795 . First detected east of the Lesser Antilles on 26 August , the disturbance drifted toward the northwestern Leeward Islands , arriving by 29 August . The hurricane soon approached Charleston , South Carolina , on 1 September , and subsequently made landfall near Cape Lookout in North Carolina on 3 September . The gale reached New England by 5 September , departing the region on 6 September . The hurricane caused significant impact even before coming ashore : many vessels were damaged , grounded , capsized , or destroyed offshore throughout the course of the storm . Extensive damage to corn , cotton , and rice crops was also noted . Flood waters brought rivers as much as 8 ft (2 @. @ 4 m) above normal , inundating streets and structures . Overall , the hurricane inflicted at least 15 deaths throughout its existence , and more than \$ 60 @, @ 000 (1815 USD) in property damage .

= = Meteorological history = =

The 1815 North Carolina hurricane was first detected far east of the Lesser Antilles on 26 August . The disturbance was next sighted at Saint Barthélemy on 29 August , where it produced severe winds . Eventually , it approached Charleston , South Carolina by 1 September , before making landfall near Cape Lookout , North Carolina on 3 September , where the hurricane 's effects lasted for three days . The storm then swept inland , curving east of Wilmington and nearing New Bern soon thereafter . The hurricane subsequently veered northeastward at Edenton , its deviation in track coinciding with a shift in winds toward the northeast west of the system 's trajectory . Tracking northeast , the system entered the Chesapeake Bay and passed into the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean after transiting over Norfolk , Virginia on 5 September , and continued to parallel the East Coast of the United States . Gales were observed on Long Island and in portions of New England , with heavy rain and strong winds noted . The disturbance remained offshore , however , and the system eventually departed the region on the morning of 6 September .

= = Impact = =

Maritime losses as a result of the hurricane were considerable . On the evening of 31 August , the 140 @- @ ton British vessel Spring , which originated from Liverpool , was beached near Cape Romain within the vicinity of the Raccoon Keys . Massive waves caused the boat to disintegrate , and the crew fled on a longboat toward Charleston , South Carolina , surviving but losing the ship 's cargo . The craft Brutus , meanwhile , overturned while en route toward Charleston from New York City , suffering the loss of its rigging and main boom . Despite experiencing damage to its cargo of cheese and potatoes , the ship arrived in Charleston safely . Meanwhile , off of Savannah , Georgia , the storm dismasted the clipper Richmond Packet which was delivering Spanish wine . Along the coast of Charleston , high waves prevented ships from docking at port , and boats did not remain with their moorings , with one breaking free and washing aground at James Island . Moving up the coast , the storm leveled fields of cotton , pushed salt water upstream , and destroyed dams protecting rice fields on the Cooper River , destroying the year 's harvest . An editor of the newspaper Savannah Republican composed a poem reflecting upon and lamenting the plight of seamen who died in the storm . At Sullivan 's Island near Charleston , the hurricane beached several vessels , and from Charleston to Georgetown , intense gusts and copious rainfall ruined cotton and rice fields in low @- @ lying regions .

The hurricane destroyed ships from Cape Fear to Currituck , North Carolina , ruined crops , uprooted forests , displaced gristmills , and demolished roads inland . At Wilmington , the storm inflicted damage to numerous buildings , among them the Cape Fear Bank , which suffered the loss of its chimneys . The city 's wharves also experienced moderate damage , with a sloop from Bermuda capsizing and a brig separating from port , drifting toward a nearby plantation . A saltworks at Masonboro Island and several other offshore barrier islands endured severe damage , with the

hurricane producing a 14 ft (4 @. @ 3 m) -high storm surge in some regions , driving thousands of pounds of salt to sea . In all , the salterns at Masonboro Island suffered approximately \$ 60 @, @ 000 (1815 USD) in losses . Damage was similarly severe near Bear Island and locations along the White Oak River . At Swansboro , meanwhile , two schooners struck a sand bar and another two were grounded nearby , and three other vessels later washed into a nearby forest . A second saltworks was completely obliterated , and on a nearby beach , a residence was destroyed , with five family members drowned . A second house was also swept away , with four individuals inside killed . Majestic shade trees throughout the state were uprooted , and doors of houses near Cape Lookout burst open despite being firmly locked shut . At Edenton , the hurricane was believed to have been worse than the 1806 Great Coastal hurricane . Winds uprooted numerous trees at Fayetteville , obstructing roads , with similar impacts at Raleigh . Significant crop damage was also noted at Winston @-@ Salem , where fences were toppled , and fields of corn , orchards , and forests ruined .

The remnants of a small unidentified vessel were discovered , abandoned , near the origin of the New River , likely delivering cheese from New England . At Beaufort on the Outer Banks , several structures along the shoreline experienced damage , and several under construction ships were wrecked . Nearby at the Shackleford and Bogue Banks , several watercraft were destroyed . On the eastern sector of the latter , Fort Hampton was nearly washed away by the high storm surge generated by the hurricane . The barracks of the fort were lifted afloat for some time , with survivors clinging to its roof . To the north , another 30 boats were found destroyed near Ocracoke . Six men were killed after being knocked overboard upon the Julia , which was washed aground between Hatteras and Ocracoke . Additionally , a number of vessels were grounded near Cape Hatteras . Inland , thousands of trees and many structures were toppled , and fields of crops were flooded , disrupting the impending harvests . New Bern suffered especially acutely , with the waters of the Neuse River breaking their banks and inundating the town with 6 ft (1 @. @ 8 m) of water ; there , the flood was considered to be the worst since 1795 . Buildings disintegrated under the force of high winds and flood waters , and many people attempted to escape their residences . Meanwhile , at Washington , the storm caused the neighboring Pamlico River to rise at a speed of 15 in (38 cm) per hour before peaking at a height 8 ft (2 @. @ 4 m) above normal . Massive amounts of lumber and naval goods were swept away by the high waters , and numerous ships broke free of their moorings , of which two were beached .

Four British ships were forced to dock at Norfolk , Virginia after experiencing damage on 5 September , and at Long Island , similarly severe gales were endured by ships at Long Island . Heavy rain occurred in sections of New England on 5 and 6 September , though no significant damage occurred .