



Franklin County was created in 1883 and was formerly part of Whitman County. It was named after the American patriot, Benjamin Franklin. It is situated in the southeast part of the state and is bounded by the Columbia River on the west and the Snake River on the east. Its early history centered on transportation. The Caribou Trail, used from 1859-68, traversed the county. Later means of transportation included the establishment of ferries on the Columbia and Snake rivers closely followed by the introduction of railroads through the county. Today Franklin County bases its economy on agriculture with wheat, barley and beans its principal crops. Its county seat, Pasco makes up part of the dynamic Tri-Cities.

Bounded by: Grant and Adams counties (N), Whitman County (E), Walla Walla County (S), and Benton County (W).

County Seat: Ainsworth (1883-1885) and Pasco (1885-present)

Chambers of Commerce:

Greater Connell Area Chamber of Commerce, 600 S Columbia, PO Box 401, Connell, WA 99326. Phone 509-234-8731. Fax 509-234-8722.

Pasco Area Chamber of Commerce, 1600 N 20th Ave #A, PO Box 550, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-547-9755. Fax 509-547-9756.

Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau, 6951 W Grandridge Blvd., Pasco, WA 99336. Phone 509-735-8486. Fax 509-783-9005.

Courthouse: 1016 N 4th Ave, Pasco, WA 99301. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm

Assessor: PO Box 1451. Phone 509-545-3506. Fax 509-546-5840.

Auditor: Room 205. PO Box 1451. Phone 509-545-3536. Fax 509-545-2142, 509-545-2148. *Researchers are on their own. Before and after elections, staff time and workspace are very limited.*

Clerk: West Annex. Phone 509-545-3525. Fax 509-545-2243.

Treasurer: Room 204. Phone 509-545-3518. Fax 509-545-2136.

Genealogical Society: Tri-City Genealogical Society, PO Box 1410, Richland, WA 99352-1410. *Membership available. Tri-City Genealogical Society's holdings are located at the Richland Family History Center.*

Health Department: Benton-Franklin Health District, 506 McKenzie, and Richland, WA 99352. Phone 509-943-2614. Fax 509-546-2916. Satellite offices: 1020 Prosser Ave, Prosser, WA 99350. Phone 509-786-1633; 1218 N 4th, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-547-9737; 800 W Canal Dr, Kennewick, WA 99336. Phone 509-586-0207.

Historical Society:

Franklin County Historical Society, 305 N Fourth, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-547-3714. *Membership available. Operates the Franklin County Historical Museum.*

Libraries - Academic:

Columbia Basin College Library, 2600 N 20th Ave, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-547-0511. Fax 509-547-5293. *Collection includes Columbia Basin College yearbooks, 1956-1969.*

Libraries - Public:

Mid-Columbia Library [Service center - not open to the public], 4101 E Lattin Rd, West Richland, WA 99352. Phone 509-627-0285. Fax 509-545-2054. *The following libraries are part of this system.*

Basin City Branch, 50-A N Canal Blvd, Basin City, WA 99343. Phone 509-269-4201. Fax 509-269-4201.

Connell Branch, 118 N Columbia St, PO Box 657, Connell, WA 99326. Phone 509-234-4971. Fax 509-234-4971.

Kahlotus Branch, 255 Weston, PO Box 147, Kahlotus, WA 99335. Phone 509-282-3493. Fax 509-282-3493.

Merrill's Corner Branch, 5240 Eltopia W, Eltopia, WA 99330. Phone 509-297-4341. Fax 509-297-4341.

Pasco Branch, 1320 W Hopkins, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-545-1019. Fax 509-547-5416.

Libraries - Special:

Basin City Family History Center, 160 Bailie Blvd, Basin City, WA. Phone 509-269-4237.

Benton/Franklin County Law Library, Columbia Basin College Library, 2600 N 20th Ave, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-547-0511. Fax 509-547-5293

Richland Family History Center, 1321 Jadwin Ave, Richland, WA. Phone 509-946-6637.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Franklin County Historical Museum, 305 N Fourth, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-547-3714. Fax 509-545-2168. *Collection includes local yearbooks, telephone directories, scrapbooks, vertical file of local clippings, early day police records, and alphabetized collection of obituaries.*

Sacajawea Interpretive Center, (Sacajawea State Park Rd, 40 E), 2503 Sacajawea Park Rd, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-545-2361. *Collection includes native american artifacts and Lewis and Clark display and slide show. Hours of operation limited to availability of volunteers.*

Washington State Railroads History Museum, 122 N Tacoma Ave, Pasco, WA 99301. Phone 509-543-4159.

State Archive Branch:

Central Region (Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan and Yakima counties.) Bledsoe-Washington Archives Building, Central Washington University MS 7547, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7547. Phone: 509-963-2136. Fax 509-963-1753. E-mail: archives@cwu.edu. Research Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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