



Jefferson County was one of the first counties organized by the Washington Territorial Legislature in 1852. It was named after President Thomas Jefferson. The county is located in the northwestern corner of the state and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west and Puget Sound on the east. It has one of the most colorful county histories in the state. In 1792 Captain George Vancouver named Port Townsend, the present county seat. During the mid-nineteenth century the city experienced a building boom resulting from its status as a major Puget Sound port of entry and it is now a showpiece of Victorian architecture. Today the county bases its economy on wood products and agriculture while the Olympic National Park, occupying over half of the county, and the unique character of Port Townsend make tourism a major industry.

Bounded by: Clallam County (N), Admiralty Inlet (E), Grays Harbor and Mason counties (S), and Pacific Ocean (W).

County Seat: Port Townsend (spelled Port Townshend until 1853)

Chambers of Commerce:

Port Ludlow Chamber of Commerce, (www.portludlowchamber.org) PO Box 63505, Port Ludlow, WA 98365-0305. Phone 360-437-9798. Fax 360-437-7684. Email info@portludlow-chamber.org.

Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce, (www.ptchamber.org) 2437 E Sims Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-7869. Fax 360-379-3804.

County Government: (www.co.jefferson.wa.us) PO Box 1220, 1820 Jefferson St, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Courthouse hours Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Assessor: Phone 360-385-9105. Fax 360-385-9197.

Auditor: PO Box 563. Phone 360-385-9118. Fax 360-385-9228.

Clerk: Phone 360-385-9125. Fax 360-385-5672.

Treasurer: PO Box 571. Phone 360-385-9150. Fax 360-385-9149.

Genealogical Society:

Jefferson County Genealogical Society, (www.rootsweb.com/~wajcgs/fgreeting.html) 210 Madison St, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

Health Department:

Jefferson County Health and Human Services, (www.co.jefferson.wa.us/health/default.htm) Castle Hill Center, 615 Sheridan, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-9400. Fax 360-385-9401.

Historical Society:

Jefferson County Historical Society, (www.jchsmuseum.org) 210 Madison, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-1003. Email jchsmuseum@olympus.net.

Libraries - Academic:

Libraries - Public:

Jefferson County Rural Library District, (www.jcl.lib.wa.us) PO Box 990, 620 Cedar Ave, Port Hadlock, WA 98339-0990. Phone 360-385-6544. Fax 360-385-7921.

Port Townsend Public Library, (wlo.statelib.wa.gov/ptpl/) 1220 Lawrence St, Port Townsend, WA 98368-6528. Phone 360-385-3181. Fax 360-385-5805. Email ptlibrary@ci.port-townsend.wa.us.

Libraries - Special:

Jefferson County Law Library, PO Box 1220, 1820 Jefferson St, Port Townsend, WA 98368-0920. Phone 360-385-9125.

McCurdy Research Library, (www.olympus.net/arts/jcmuseum) Jefferson County Historical Society Museum, 210 Madison, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-1003. Fax 360-385-1042. Email jchsmuseum@olympus.net.

Port Townsend Family History Center Library, 10104 Rhody Dr Rd, Chimacum, WA 98325. Phone 360-385-5191.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Commanding Officer Home Ft. Worden State Park, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-4730. Email geetee@olypen.com.

Jefferson County Historical Society Museum, (www.jchsmuseum.org) 540 Water St., Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-1003. Fax 360-385-1042. Email jchsmuseum@olympus.com. *Located in the historic City Hall, the museum's collections and exhibits focus on the rich and diverse heritage of the county. Collections include artifacts, archives, family histories and a photographic collection of the Native American tribes of the area, pioneer groups and the military. On site is the McCurdy Research Library.*

Naval Undersea Museum, (num.kpt.nuwc.navy.mil) 610 Dowell St., Keyport, WA 98345-7610. Phone 360-396-4148. Fax 360-396-7944.

Port Townsend Marine Science Center, (www.olympus.net/ptmsc) Fort Worden State Park, 532 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368-3431. Phone 360-385-5582. Fax 360-385-7248. Email ptmsc@olympus.net.

Puget Sound Coast Artillery Museum at Fort Worden, Bldg 201, Fort Worden State Park, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-3295. Fax 360-385-2328. Email artymus@olypen.com. *The museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Coast Artillery history, with special emphasis of the Harbor Defenses of Puget Sound, and 24th and 14th Coast Artillery regimental history. Collection includes artifacts, training manuals, photographs, artwork, newspaper clippings and models.*

Quilcene Historical Museum, (<http://Olympus.net>) PO Box 574, 151 Columbia St, Quilcene, WA 98376. Phone 360-765-4848. Email larymck@esd114.wednet.edu *Established in 1991, the museum reflects Quilcene and surrounding communities: the Native Americans, pioneers, industry and the Quilcene Country Store.*

Rothschild House, (www.parks.wa.gov) 210 Madison St, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Phone 360-385-1003. Fax 360-385-1042. Email jchsmuseum@olympus.net. *A Washington State Heritage site, the Rothschild house was built in 1868 by immigrant merchant D. C. H. Rothschild. The house remained in the family and generally unaltered for more than 100 years.*

Wooden Boat Foundation, 2 Point Hudson, Port Townsend, WA 98368-5620.

State Archives Branch:

Northwest Region (www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/nwr.htm) (Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties). Goltz-Murray Archives Building, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9123. Phone 360-650-3125. Fax: 360-650-3323. Email state.archives@wwu.edu. Research hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.