



Mason County was organized in 1854 and was originally part of Thurston County. It was first called Sawamish and later changed to Mason after C.W. Mason, the secretary of the first territorial governor. The county is located on the southwestern end of the Hood Canal and Puget Sound, and extends into the Olympic

Mountains to the north. Much of the county's early history centered around road building as the early settlers were forced to cut through heavy stands of timber to gain access to trading centers. Today, Mason County's primary economic activity is in the production of wood products and logging.

Bounded by: Jefferson and Kitsap counties (N), Pierce County (E), Thurston County (S), and Grays Harbor County (W).

County Seat: Mt. Olive, now called Oakland, (1854-1888) and Shelton, originally founded as "Sheltonville", (1888 - present).

Chamber(s) of Commerce:

North Mason Chamber of Commerce, Mary E. Theler Center, Highway 3, Belfair, WA 98528. Phone 360-275-4898.

Shelton-Mason County Chamber of Commerce, 230 W Railroad Ave, PO Box 2389, Shelton, WA 98584. Phone 360-426-2021. Fax 360-426-8678.

Courthouse: Building I, 411 N 5th, Shelton, WA 98584. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00pm.

Assessor. PO Box J. Phone 360-427-9670, ext. 492. Fax 360-427-7792. *Be patient!*

Auditor. PO Box 400. Phone 360-427-9670, ext. 471. Fax 360-427-1753. *Monday mornings and Friday afternoons usually very busy - assistance can be limited by current business. Last day of month not recommended.*

Clerk. 4th and Alder, PO Box 340. Phone 360-427-9670, ext. 347. Fax 360-427-7266. *Research fee \$20.00 per hour, \$10.00 minimum. Charges for documents: \$2.00 for the first page and \$1.00 for each additional page. Adoptions are sealed and cannot be opened without court order.*

Treasurer. PO Box 429. Phone 360-427-9670, ext. 477. Fax 360-427-7267.

Genealogical Society:

Mason County Genealogical Society, PO Box 1535, Shelton, WA 98544-1535. *Membership available. Newly started library of genealogical materials.*

Health Department / District:

Mason County Department of Health Services, 303 N 4th, Shelton, WA 98584. Phone 360-427-9670. Fax 360-427-7798.

Historical Society:

Mason County Historical Society, PO Box 1366, Shelton, WA 98584. *Membership available. Operates the Mason County Historical Society Museum and an exhibit at the Mason County Fairgrounds.*

Libraries - Academic:

Libraries - Public:

Timberland Regional Library, 415 Airdustrial Way SW, Olympia (Thurston County), WA 98501-5799. Phone 360-943-5001. Fax 360-586-6838. [Headquarters only]. *The following libraries are part of this system:*

Belfair-North Mason Timberland Library, NE 23081 Hwy 3, Box 1239, Belfair, WA 98528-1239. Phone 360-275-3232. Fax 360-275-3232.

Hoodsport Timberland Library, N 64 Lk Cushman Ste 107, PO Box 847, Hoodsport, WA 98548-0847. Phone 360-877-9339. Fax 360-877-9695.

William G. Reed Public Library, 7th & Alder, Shelton, WA 98584-2571. Phone 360-426-3512. Fax 360-426-2959.

Libraries - Special:

Mason County Law Library, County Courthouse, Shelton, WA 98484. Phone 360-427-9670.

Squaxin Island Tribal Library, SE 70 Squaxin Lane, Shelton, WA 98584. Phone 360-426-9781. Fax 360-426-6577.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Mason County Historical Society Museum, Railroad Ave and 5th St, Shelton, WA 98584. *Exhibits of early county history. Collection includes files on early history, families, newspapers, census, probate and death records, and extensive photo display.*

State Archive Branch:

Southwest Region (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties). 1120 Washington St. SE, PO Box 40238, Olympia, WA 98504-0238. Phone 360-753-1684. Fax 360-664-8814. Research Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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