



Thurston County was organized in 1852, and was named for Sam R. Thurston, the first Territorial delegate from Oregon. It is located at the southern end of Puget Sound. The first American settlement north of the Columbia River was established in the county in 1845 at Tumwater, along with the first industry, a gristmill established the next year. In 1853 Governor Isaac Stevens proclaimed Olympia the Territorial capital, and the first Washington Territorial legislature met here in 1854. Today, Thurston County, in addition to having the seat of government at Olympia, bases its economy on wood products manufacturing, dairying and poultry raising. The Port of Olympia continues to grow in importance as an exporter of wood products.

Bounded by: Mason County (N), Pierce County (E), Lewis County (S), and Grays Harbor (W).

County Seat: Olympia

Chambers of Commerce:

Lacey-Thurston Chamber of Commerce, 701 Sleator-Kinney Rd SE #7, Lacey, WA 98503-1134. Phone 360-491-4141. Fax 360-491-9403. Website www.laceychamber.com.

Olympia/Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, 521 Legion Way, PO Box 1427, Olympia, WA 98507-1427. Phone 360-3362. Fax 360-357-3376. E-mail olywaccc@orcalink.com. Website olympiachamber.com.

Tenino Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 506, Tenino, WA 98589. Phone 360-264-5075.

Tumwater Chamber of Commerce, 488 Tye Dr, Tumwater, WA 98512. Phone 360-357-5153. Fax 360-786-1685.

Yelm Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 444, Yelm, WA 98597. Phone 360-458-6608. Fax 360-458-8301. E-mail Yelmchamber@yelmtel.com.

Courthouse: 2000 Lakeridge Dr SW, Olympia, WA 98502. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Assessor. Building 1. Phone 360-786-5410. Fax 360-754-2958. E-mail osullik@co.thurston.wa.us. *Parcel number needed. Staff has limited time to help researchers.*

Auditor. Building 1. Phone 360-786-5224. Fax 360-786-5223. E-mail reeds@co.thurston.wa.us. *We have a customer service area, which is staffed from 8am- 5pm each workday. We are glad to assist someone who comes into our office. When customers request information over the phone, we limit the search to online information, marriages 1973-1974, 1976-present. If the request requires a hand search, we will look through one year at no fee. All other searches must be requested with an accompanying fee of \$8.00 per hour. All of our original records have been relocated to the Southwest Washington Branch Archives in downtown Olympia. We have microfilms of this information.*

Clerk: Building 2. Phone 360-786-5430. Fax 360-753-4033. E-mail gouldb@co.thurston.wa.us.

Treasurer: Buildings 1. Phone 360-786-5550. Fax 360-754-4683. E-mail huntr@co.thurston.wa.us. *Office hours 7:00am - 5:00pm. Records are not for use by the public. Fees are charged for research and is completed by staff as time permits. Prefer requests in writing.*

Genealogical Society:

Olympia Genealogical Society, PO Box 1313, Olympia, WA 98507-1313. *Membership available.*

Health Department:

529 W Fourth Ave, Olympia, WA 98501. Phone 360-786-5581. Fax 360-754-4564. Website www.halycon.com/thurston/tchd/

Historical Society:

Lacey Historical Society, 2020 Centerwood Dr, Olympia, WA 98501.

South Thurston County Historical Society, Park St, PO Box 339, Tenino, WA 98589. Phone 360-264-4321. *Membership available. Operates the Tenino Depot Museum and has copies of local weekly newspaper from 1920 to 1960. Though not indexed, they are available to the public.*

Tumwater Historical Association, 602 Des Chutes Way, Tumwater, WA 98501.

Washington State Capital Historical Association, 211 W 21st Ave, Room 11, Olympia, WA 98501.

Libraries - Academic:

Daniel J. Evans Library, Evergreen State College, L2300, 2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW, Olympia, WA 98505-0002. Phone 360-866-6000. Fax 360-866-6790.

St Martin's College Library, 5300 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Phone 360-438-4516. Fax 360-459-4124.

South Puget Sound Community College Library, 2011 Mottman Rd SW, Olympia, WA 98512-6292. Phone 360-754-7711. Fax 360-664-0780.

Libraries - Public:

Timberland Regional Library, 415 Airdustrial Way SW, Olympia, WA 98501-5799. Phone 360-943-5001. Fax 360-586-6838. *The following are branches of this library system:*

Lacey Timberland Library, 500 Cole St SE, Lacey, WA 98503-1240. Phone 360-491-3860. Fax 360-459-6714.

Olympia Timberland Library, 313 8th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-9300. Phone 360-352-0595. Fax 360-586-3207. *The Olympia Genealogical Society's library is housed here and includes microfiche collections of newspapers, Donation Land Claims, Death Indexes and Census.*

Tenino Timberland Library, PO Box 4017, 172 N Central, Tenino, WA 98589-0510. Phone 360-264-2369. Fax 360-264-2369.

Tumwater Timberland Library, 7023 New Market St, Tumwater, WA 98501-6563. Phone 360-943-7790. Fax 360-943-6753.

Yelm Timberland Library, PO Box 940, City Hall, Yelm, WA 98597-0940. Phone 360-458-3374. Fax 360-458-5172.

Libraries - Special:

Diocese of Olympia Archives (Episcopal), 1551 10th E, Seattle, WA 98102. Phone 206-325-4200. Fax 206-325-4631. *Limited access at the discretion of the Archivist. Collection includes non-active official records of the Dioceses, sacramental records of closed churches, Bishops' Papers, photographs, audiovisual recordings and scrapbooks. The archivist can provide research assistance.*

Family History Center Olympia, 1116 Yew (Peuget & Yew), Olympia, WA. Phone 360-705-4176.

Nisqually Indian Tribe Library, 4814 She-Nah-Num Dr SE, Olympia, WA 98513. Phone 360-456-5221, ext. 600. E-mail nisqlibr@orcalink.com. *Houses the Nisqually Tribe Archives.*

Olympian Newspaper Library, 1268 4th Ave E, Olympia, WA 98501. Phone 360-754-5438. Fax 360-357-0202.

Thurston County Law Library, County Courthouse Building 2, PO Box 40947, 2000 Lakeridge Dr SW, Olympia, WA 98502. Phone 360-786-5559.

Washington State Archives and Records Management Division, PO Box 40238, 1120 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98504-0238. Phone 360-586-1492. Fax 360-586-9137.

Washington State Capital Museum, Library & Photo Archives, 211 W 21st Ave, Olympia, WA 98501. Phone 360-753-2580.

Washington State Library, PO Box 42460, 16th and Water Sts, Olympia, WA 98504-2460. Phone 360-753-5592. Fax 360-586-7575.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Bigelow House, 918 Glass, Olympia, WA 98506. Phone 360-753-1215. *Membership available in the Bigelow House Preservation Association. Built in 1854 by early pioneering family the house has been partially restored and is one of the oldest frame buildings in the state. Off-site collection includes genealogical*

material on the Bigelow and Stuart-White families, brief memoirs, Dr. Bigelow's diary, accounts of the Overland Trail, photographs and newspaper clippings.

Lacey Historical Museum, 829 1/2 Lacey St SE, PO Box B, Lacey, WA 98503. Phone 360-352-7596. *The museum holds artifacts, photographs and information relevant to Lacey history from the time of settlement to the present day. The earliest photos date from the 1880's.*

Tenino Depot Museum, PO Box 339, Tenino, WA 98589. *Located in old railroad depot and spotlights local history, particularly logging, railroading, sandstone quarries and wooden money collection.*

Washington State Capital Museum, 221 W 21st Ave, Olympia, WA 98501. Phone 360-753-2580. *Dedicated to preserving the political history and culture of Olympia.*

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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Thurston County Auditor's office
Death records, 1891-June 30, 1907

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Real property records, 1852-present

Thurston County Assessor's office
Field books (includes chain of title), 1961-present

Thurston County Treasurer's office
Excise affidavits, 1951-current
Real and personal property tax records, 1977-current

LAND / PROPERTY - Published sources

LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL RECORDS

MARRIAGE - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

Thurston County Auditor's office
Marriage records, 1844-present

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Thurston County Auditor's office
Military discharges, dates unknown

MILITARY - Published sources

NATURALIZATION - Personal, governmental, or organizational records

National Archives Branch, Seattle, WA
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Depositions and interrogatories, 1929-1941
Naturalization case files, 1849-1907
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