



Whatcom County

was organized in 1854 from Island County and is named after a local Indian chief. It is located in the northwest corner of the state. In the eighteenth century Spanish and British explorers visited the county; Captain George Vancouver named Bellingham Bay. The first settlers in the county arrived in 1852 and began cutting lumber for the San Francisco market. In 1855

Captain George Pickett defended the early settlers from Indian attacks. By the turn of the century Bellingham was an important salmon processing, lumber manufacturing and export center. Today Whatcom County has a varied economic base led by wood products, manufacturing, food processing, mining and dairying. Western Washington University is a center for higher education in northern Washington.

Bounded by: British Columbia, Canada (N), Okanogan County (E), Skagit County (S), and San Juan County and Strait of Georgia (W).

County Seat: Bellingham, created in 1903 from the union of Whatcom (est. 1853), Sehome (est. 1871), New Whatcom (est. 1880), and Fairhaven (est. 1883).

Chambers of Commerce:

Bellingham Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.bellingham.com/> 119 Commercial St. Suite 110, Bellingham, WA 98225. Phone 360-734-1330. Email chamber@bellingham.com

Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.birchbaychamber.com/> 4550 Birch Bay-Lynden Rd, PMB B119, Birch Bay, WA 98230. Phone 360-371-5004. E-Mail info@birchbaychamber.com

Blaine Community Chamber of Commerce, <http://blainechamber.com> 728 Peace Portal Dr. , Blaine, WA 98230. Phone 360-332-4544.. 1-800-624-3555 E-Mail vic@cityofBlaine.com

Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.ferndale-chamber.com/index.html> 5683 Second Ave., Ferndale, WA 98248. Phone 360-384-3042. Fax 360-384-3009 Email info@ferndale-chamber.com

Lynden Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.lynden.org/> 518 Front St , Lynden, WA 98264. Phone 360-354-5995. Email lynden@lynden.org.

County Government: (www.co.whatcom.wa.us) 311 Grand Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225.
Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Assessor: Suite 106, Phone 360-676-6790. TDD 360-738-4555.

Auditor: Suite 103. Phone 360-676-6740. Fax 360-738-4556. Email sforslof@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Clerk: 311 Grand Ave. Suite 301, Bellingham, WA 98225. Phone 360-676-6777.

Treasurer: Phone 360-676-6774. Fax 360-738-2477. Email treasurer@whatcomcounty.us

Genealogical Society:

Whatcom Genealogical Society, (<http://wagenweb.org/Whatcom/WGS/wgs.htm>) PO Box 1493, Bellingham, WA 98227-1493.

Health Department: Whatcom Health Department,

<http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/Health/index.jsp> PO Box 935, Bellingham, WA 98225. Phone 360-676-6724. Fax 360-676-7646.

Historical Society:

Ferndale Heritage Society, PO Box 3127, Ferndale, WA 98248. Fax 360-384-6461.

Whatcom County Historical Society, PO Box 2116, Bellingham, WA 98227. Phone 360-966-2312.

Libraries - Academic:

Northwest Indian College, (www.telcomplus.net/lumilibr/) Lummi Reservation Library System, 2520 Kwina Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226. Phone 360-392-4298

Western Washington University, (<http://library.wvu.edu>) Mabel Zoe Wilson Library, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9103. Phone 360-650-3050.

Whatcom Community College, (www.whatcom.ctc.edu/library/index.htm) Library, 237 W Kellogg Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226-8003. Phone 360-383-3300. Fax 360-383-3291.

Libraries - Public:

Bellingham Public Library, (<http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/>) 210 Central Ave, PO Box 1197, Bellingham, WA 98227-9719. Phone 360-778-7323. Branches of this system includes:

Barkley Branch, 3111 Newmarket St. Ste 103, Bellingham, WA 98226 360-778-7290

Fairhaven Library, 1117 12th St Bellingham, WA 98225. Phone 360-676-6877. Fax 360-676-6996.

Whatcom County Library System, (<http://www.wcls.org/>) 5205 Northwest Rd, Bellingham, WA 98226-9092. Phone 360-384-3150. Fax 360-384-4947. The following are branches of this library system:

Blaine Branch Library, 610 3rd St, Blaine, WA 98230-8146. Phone and fax 360-332-8146.

Deming Branch Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Hwy, Deming, WA 98244. Phone and fax 360-592-2422.

Everson Branch Library, 104 Kirsch Dr, Everson, WA 98247. Phone and fax 360-966-

5100.

Ferndale Branch Library, 2007 Cherry St./1st NR Pioneer Park, Ferndale, WA 98248.
Phone 360-384-3647.

Island Branch Library, 2144 S Nugent, Lummi Island, WA 98262. Phone and fax 360-758-7145.

Lynden Branch Library, 216 4th, Lynden, WA 98264. Phone 425-354-4883. Fax 425-354-3149.

North Fork 7506 Kendall Rd., Maple Falls, WA 98266 360-599-2020

Point Roberts Branch Library, Community Center, Gulf Rd, P.O. Box 970, Point Roberts, WA 98281. Phone and fax 360-945-6545.

Sumas Branch Library, 451 2nd St, Sumas, WA 98295. Phone and fax 360-988-2501.

Libraries - Special:

Bellingham Family History Center, 2925 James St, Bellingham, WA. Phone 360-738-1849.

Bellingham Herald Library, 1155 N State St, Bellingham, WA 98227. Phone 360-676-2660.
Closed to the public; will assist libraries and certain situations.

Whatcom County Law Library, 311 Grand Ave, County Courthouse, Ste B-03, Bellingham, WA 98225. Phone 360-676-6556.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Bellingham Antique Radio Museum, (www.antique-radio.org) 1312 Bay St., Bellingham, WA 98226. Phone 360-738-3886.

Drayton Harbor Maritime Museum, <http://www.draytonharbormaritime.org/> 1218 4th St, Blaine, WA 98230. 360-332-5742

Lynden Pioneer Museum, (www.lyndenpioneermuseum.com) 217 W Front St, Lynden, WA 98264. Phone 360-354-3675.

Pacific Rim Museum of Culture, <http://www.kms.bham.wednet.edu/lobby.htm> Kulshan Middle School, 1250 Kenoyer Dr., Bellingham, WA.

Semiahmoo County Park, Drayton Harbor Maritime Association Museum, 9261 Semiahmoo Parkway, Blaine, WA 98230. Phone 360-733-2900.

Whatcom Museum of History and Art, <http://www.whatcommuseum.org/> 121 Prospect St, Bellingham, WA 98225. Phone 360-778-8930.

State Archives Branch:

Northwest Region (http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives_northwest.aspx) (Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties). Washington State Archives, Northwest Regional Branch, Western Washington University, MS-9123, Bellingham, WA 98225-9123. Phone 360-650-7930. Fax: 360-650-3323. Email NWBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov. Research hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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