



**Island County**, now the state's second smallest in area, once encompassed Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom and San Juan counties. It was created from Thurston County in 1853. The county is located in the east central portion of Puget Sound and consists primarily of Whidbey and Camano Islands. The county was first settled by I. N. Ebey in 1850 and

later by Captain Thomas Coupe in 1852. The U.S. Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island created an economic revival in the county when it was founded in 1942. Its county seat, Coupeville, is now a preserved historic town. Today the main economic activities in the county are government, farming, fishing and tourism.

**Bounded by:** Deception Pass (N), Skagit Bay (E), Puget Sound (S), and Admiralty Inlet (W).

**County Seat:** Coveland (1853-1864), Coupeville (1864 - )

#### **Chambers of Commerce:**

Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce, ([www.centralwhidbeychamber.com](http://www.centralwhidbeychamber.com)) PO Box 152, Coupeville, WA 98239-0152. Phone 360-678-5434. E-mail [cwcc@whidbey.net](mailto:cwcc@whidbey.net).

Freeland Community Chamber of Commerce, ([www.islandweb.org/freeland](http://www.islandweb.org/freeland)) PO Box 361, 1604 E Main St, Freeland, WA 98249. Phone 360-331-1980. Email [freeland@whidbey.com](mailto:freeland@whidbey.com).

Greater Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, ([www.oakharborchamber.org](http://www.oakharborchamber.org)) PO Box 883, 32630 SR 20, Oak Harbor, WA 98277. Phone 360-675-3535. Fax 360-679-1624. E-mail [info@oakharborchamber.org](mailto:info@oakharborchamber.org)

Langley Chamber of Commerce, ([www.whidbey.com/langley](http://www.whidbey.com/langley)) PO Box 403, Langley, WA 98260. Phone 360-221-5676. Email [langely@whidbey.com](mailto:langely@whidbey.com).

**County Government:** ([www.islandcounty.net](http://www.islandcounty.net)) PO Box 5000, 1 NE 7<sup>th</sup> St, Coupeville, WA 98239-5000. Phone 360-679-7300. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

**Assessor:** Phone 360-679-7303. Fax 360-240-5565.

**Auditor:** Phone 360-679-7366. Fax 360-240-5553.

**Clerk:** Phone 360-679-7359. Fax 509-678-4141. *After approximately 1980 the hard copy of civil and probate files are retained in the office until they are microfilmed and transferred to the Archives in Bellingham, Washington. All hard copy before 1980 is stored at the Archives.*

**Treasurer:** PO Box 699. Phone 360-679-7302. Fax 360-240-5567. E-mail [treasurer@co.island.wa.us](mailto:treasurer@co.island.wa.us). *Call ahead a few days or fax a request for information. November is a busy time.*

#### **Genealogical Societies:**

Genealogical Society of South Whidbey Island, ([www.rootsweb.com/~wagsswi/frgestbk.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wagsswi/frgestbk.htm)) PO Box 976, Langley, WA 98260.

San Juan County Genealogical Society, 338 Shoreland Dr, Lopez Island, WA 98261.

Sno-Isle Genealogical Society, (<http://rootsweb.com/~wasigs/>) PO Box 63, Edmonds, WA 98020-0063.

Whidbey Island Genealogical Searchers, PO Box 627, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-0627.

**Health Department:** Island County Health Department, ([www.islandcounty.net/health/](http://www.islandcounty.net/health/)) PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239. Phone 360-679-7350. Fax 360-679-7390.

**Historical Societies:**

Island County Historical Society, 902 NW Alexander, Coupeville, WA 98239. Phone 360-678-3310.

South Whidbey Historical Society, 312-2<sup>nd</sup> St, Langley, WA 98260. Phone 360-579-3519.

**Libraries - Academic:**

Skagit Valley College, Whidbey Campus Library, 1900 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-3099. Phone 360-679-5321. Fax 360-679-5341.

**Libraries - Public:**

Sno-Isle Regional Library, ([www.sno-isle.org](http://www.sno-isle.org)) 7312 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Marysville, WA 98271-7417. Phone 360-651-7000. Fax 360-651-7151. (Headquarters). *The following libraries are part of this system:*

Clinton Library, 4781 Deer Lake Rd, Clinton, WA 98236. Phone 360-341-4280. Fax 360-341-2989.

Coupeville Library, PO Box 745, 788 NW Alexander, Coupeville, WA 98239. Phone 360-678-4911. Fax 360-678-5261.

Freeland Library, PO Box 1357, 1695 Layton Rd, Freeland, WA 98249. Phone 360-331-7323. Fax 360-331-1572.

Langely Library, PO Box 365, 104 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Langley, WA 98260. Phone 360-221-4383. Fax 360-221-3067.

Oak Harbor Library, 1000 SE Regatta Dr, Oak Harbor, WA 98273. Phone 360-675-5115. Fax 360-679-3761.

**Libraries - Special:**

Island County Law Library, County Courthouse 6<sup>th</sup> & Main, PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239. Phone 360-679-7363. Fax 360-679-7396.

Oak Harbor Washington Family History Center Library, 201 NE O'Leary St, Oak Harbor, WA 98273.

**Museums and Historical Sites:**

Deception Pass CCC Interpretive Center, ([www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)) 41229 State Route 20, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-7924. Phone 360-675-2417. Fax 360-675-8991. *Documents the story of the Civilian Conservation Corps.*

Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve, PO Box 774, Coupeville, WA 98239. Phone 360-678-6084. *One of the first national historical reserves established, its purpose is "to preserve and protect a rural community which provides an unbroken historic record from the nineteenth century exploration and settlement in Puget Sound to the present time". The reserve includes the town of Coupeville and many nearby historic sites.*

Fort Casey Interpretive Center, ([www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)) PO Box 5000, 1280 Engle Rd, Ft. Casey State Park, 1280 S Ft. Casey Rd, Coupeville, WA 98239. Phone 360-678-4519. Fax 360-678-4519. *The Interpretive Center is located in the Admiralty Head lighthouse and details the fort's history as part of the Puget Sound defense system and as a military training center.*

Island County Historical Society Museum, PO Box 305, 908 NW Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239. Phone 360-678-3310. Fax 360-678-1702. Email [ichscpvl@whidbey.net](mailto:ichscpvl@whidbey.net). *Membership available. Museum's collections and displays illustrate early Whidbey Island history. A walking tour of nearby sites is available. Museum has a library and researchers can write to the librarian for assistance. Their collection includes census records, oral histories, newspaper clippings, manuscripts and a local book collection. A photography collection is being cataloged to improve access by the public. Reference can be given to individuals in the community with private collections of note.*

Northwest Token Kai, PO Box 1271, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-1271.

South Whidbey Historical Museum, PO Box 612, 312 Second St, Langley, WA 98260. Phone 360-730-3367. *Membership available. Housed in the home of Langley's founder, Jacob Anthes, the museum includes displays and memorabilia of south Whidbey Island.*

**State Archives Branch:**

Northwest Region ([www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/nwr.htm](http://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](mailto:state.archives@wwu.edu). Research hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.