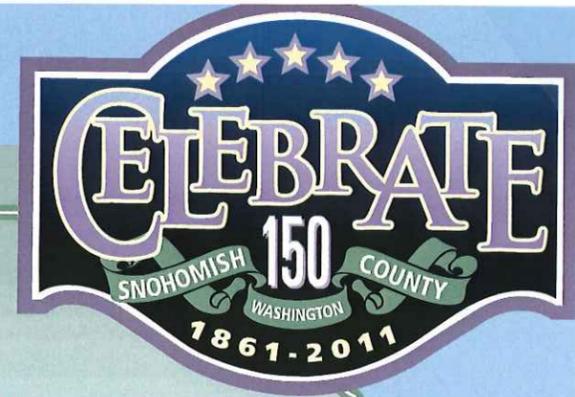


Snohomish County Cultural & Historic Sites



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY: Snohomish County is one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. Larger than the states of Rhode Island or Delaware, it stretches from Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountain crest, including 10,436' Glacier Peak. Most people live in the narrow Puget Sound Lowlands. Three narrow river valleys begin in the mountains and run to the sea. The north and south forks of the Stillaguamish River drain most of the region. To the south, the Snohomish River is formed from the Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Pilchuck, and Sultan. All were named for the Native American people who lived along them and used them for transportation. They had a highly developed culture based on fishing, foraging, hunting, and trade.

Europeans first arrived in 1792. Captain George Vancouver of the British Navy landed near the present site of Everett to claim the Pacific Northwest. He named many bodies of water, including Puget Sound, Port Gardner Bay, and Port Susan. Lieutenant Charles Wilkes of the U.S. Navy later mapped this area in 1841.

Snohomish County was carved out of Island County on January 20, 1861 and grew slowly during the territorial years to 1889. During this period settlements were founded at the Tulalip Indian Reservation, Snohomish, Mukilteo, Lowell, Monroe, Stanwood and Edmonds. The Great Northern Railway brought a major economic boom down the Skykomish Valley to the new industrial city of Everett in the early 1890s. Index, Gold Bar, Startup, and Sultan grew because they were situated along the railway. Depression in 1893 ended this prosperity, which was followed by a recovery based on timber and farming.

After World War II, growth quickened in the southwestern county near Seattle. Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood, Brier, and Woodway all incorporated. In the 1960s the Boeing Company's 747 plant near Everett and high technology industries brought major population increases to Marysville, Arlington, Lake Stevens, Mukilteo, and Mill Creek. Timber production and agriculture both declined sharply, affecting mill towns and smaller communities, including Darrington and Granite Falls. In 150 years the changes have been dramatic!

Keep this map and guide for travel throughout Snohomish County and learn how these landmarks contributed to local culture and history.

1. Point Edwards

This point on the Edmonds waterfront was named in 1841 by Commander Charles Wilkes of the United States Navy.

2. Alderwood Manor

In 1917, Puget Mill Co. platted Alderwood Manor on a portion of its logged off land to create a community of families around poultry farming.

3. Maltby

Originally called Yew when its post office was established in 1889. It was changed to Maltby in 1893. The Northern Pacific Railroad chose that name instead for its station there for land owner Robert Maltby.

4. Cathcart

Isaac Cathcart was perhaps the richest individual in the county in the late 1880s. A powerful merchant in Snohomish, he developed this fertile land along the upper Snohomish River valley into an area of dairy cattle and crop farming. Nearby Beecher Lake and the forks of the river were used as a native village site.

5. Washington State Reformatory

This institution in Monroe serves to house inmates convicted of less serious crimes based on models of reformatories in New York and Kansas. It opened in 1908 with a population of some 30 convicts and 11 officers.

6. High Rock

Rising sharply to the east of the valley floor, this landmark rock served to guide members of other Native American tribes to the Snoqualmie people's site for trading goods they obtained from Eastern Washington or produced themselves.

7. Cedar Ponds Lake

In the 1930s, Miller Logging dammed the creek that flows through the area, creating the present lake as a holding pond for cedar logs. By the early 1940s, a fishing resort prospered on the lakeside.

8. Mount Persis

Persis Gunn and her husband Amos Gunn settled in to raise their family in what became the town of Index, which they platted in 1893. Alpine meadows and ponds near the summit frame views of Seattle and the Puget Sound lowlands.

9. Mount Index

Sheer cliffs on its north face and its abrupt rise from the valley of the Skykomish River make this mountain one of the most photographed in the Cascades, as both highway and railroad travelers pass beneath it. The main trail passes Bridal Veil Falls on the north side.

10. Heybrook Ridge

Forms the dividing line between the North and South Fork Skykomish River. Almost completely logged off by 1920 and now regrown with trees, it also is the site of a restored Forest Service fire lookout and new county park.

11. Mount Baring

This sharp finger of rock was the original Mt. Index, named by for its resembling an index finger. The name was changed by The Mountaineers early in the century to coincide with the settlement at its base.

12. Picnic Point

Centerpiece of a two-mile stretch of beach. A boathouse, operating at the end of the south bay at Norma Beach, was once the site of a railroad stop called Mosher.

13. Mukilteo Treaty Site

Here at Point Elliot in January 1855, Native American people from throughout northwestern Washington gathered to sign the treaty ceding their lands to the U.S. government.

14. Snohomish County Airport (renamed Paine Field)

Ground was broken in 1936 for the building of the Snohomish County Airport on the high plateau by the federal Works Progress Administration. It became an Army Air Corps base during World War II.

15. Silver Lake

Once a quiet spot for fishing and resort recreation, when swimming in Port Gardner Bay became too dangerous due to pollution, the city of Everett created a new City Beach on the lake.

16. Fort Ebey

Colonel Isaac Ebey of Whidbey Island and his soldiers constructed a small island fort here to block any hostile Native American forces from reaching Puget Sound along the Snohomish River.

17. Blackman's Lake

The Blackman brothers of Snohomish, Alanson, Elhannon, and Hycranus, were lumbermen in the late 19th century who had a series of mills in the county.

18. Harvey Airport

Sky divers, hot air balloons, and recreational aircraft all share the facilities of this very popular airport south of downtown Snohomish. Homesteaders John and Christina Harvey helped create Snohomish County in 1861.

19. Wagner Lake

Originally called Lake Pearsall, this was the site of a shingle and box mill developed by young E. Milton Stephens in 1897.

20. Woods Creek

Called "silver salmon creek" by the Snohomish people, it was a location for Indian berry and nut gathering, fish traps, and hunting. A trail ran from here to the village site near the Skykomish River.

21. Lake Chaplain

Lying directly east of the City of Everett at the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, Lake Chaplain was identified early in the settlement of the Everett as a potential source of drinking water.

22. Olney Falls

In the early 1890s seventy settlers and thirty families called the valleys of Olney Creek home. The falls is most noted for augmenting the electrical power for the Great Northern Railway.

23. Spada Lake

The lake is named for John Spada, an immigrant from Italy early in the century, who encouraged the formation of the Public Utility District (PUD), which came into being in 1936. A diversion dam was built in 1929.

24. Wallace Lake and River

Skykomish Indian people called the river "spidalgo", a place of clamshell heaps. At the mouth of the river they had a village, potlatch house, and cemetery, and from here they traveled upstream to gather berries and hunt.

25. Galena

Located at the mouth of Silver Creek, the townsite of Galena City was platted in 1891 at the height of the local mining boom. Galena was mined in this area along with gold, silver and molybdenum.

26. Mineral City

Upstream along Silver Creek, Mineral City flourished briefly at the end of the nineteenth century due to its gold and silver deposits. In 1980 a major flood ended easy access.

27. Garland Hot Springs

These abandoned springs have had several names, including Soda Springs and Starr Hot Springs. By the 1920s visitors could bathe and swim in a 45 by 100 foot pool, stay in the hotel or furnished cabins, and camp.

28. Cady Pass

This traditional Native American route across the Cascade Mountains links the Little Wenatchee River and Lake Wenatchee with the North Fork Skykomish River and then on westward to Puget Sound. It was a major avenue of trade.

29. Hat Island (Gedney Island)

Named by U.S. Navy Commander Charles Wilkes on his 1841 voyage of exploration, this little island honors his friend from New York, Jonathan H. Gedney.

30. Tulalip Bay

This was a densely populated, sheltered location for the Snohomish tribe and the site of several villages. When the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliot required the native people to move here, it then became the location of the Indian Agency as well as the Roman Catholic mission of St. Ann, the first church in the county.

31. Port Gardner

Captain George Vancouver entered these waters as the first European explorer to see them. He named the bay for Rear Admiral Sir Alan Gardner of the British Royal Navy.

32. Priest Point

Father Eugene Casimir Chirouse was ordered from the Yakima region to Puget Sound to conduct missionary work among the native peoples when war broke out in Eastern Washington. Some 200 Snohomish and other tribal members joined him.

33. Spencer Island

Agriculture has played an important role in the history of Spencer Island, now a county park and wetland interpretation area.

34. Machias

This was one of the two village sites of the Kwet'libuc band of the Snohomish tribe and was called Tb'tcas by them. The Pilchuck River here always has been an excellent fishing ground, and the fertile valley soon attracted settlers.

35. Hartford

This little town and its neighboring town site of Ferry were created as a result of the construction of the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railway northward up the Pilchuck River valley.

36. Kellogg Marsh

Before the settlers arrived, this was a favorite place for the native people to gather berries. The Kellogg family homesteaded here and with other settlers dug extensive drainage ditches to make it suitable for farming.

37. Granite Falls

This spectacular waterfall is just upstream from the area used by Native Americans for carrying their canoes from the Pilchuck River to the South Fork Stillaguamish. A fish ladder was installed at the falls in 1954.

38. Robe Canyon Park

Truitt K. Robe established a settlement at the head of the canyon with several shingle and lumber mills. In the 1990s a portion was purchased for public use and people can walk some of the abandoned railroad grade to see the remains of the six railroad tunnels.

39. Mt. Pilchuck

Although only a mile above sea level, this mountain is at the western edge of the Cascade Range and creates rain forest conditions in the valley below. It is a popular hiking destination with its 1921 remodeled fire lookout on top.

40. Verlot

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest 1936 headquarters of the new Monte Cristo Ranger District. Becoming the Verlot Public Service Center in 1983, it is on the National Register of Historic Places for its 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps architecture.

41. Gold Basin

The Rohde and Hempel families first homesteaded this area along the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway. In 1910 the Gold Basin Lumber and Shingle Company erected a sawmill at the end of a pond next to the track to cut Forest Service timber.

42. Silverton

Gold, silver, and copper were discovered here in 1891, and the town of Camp Independence formed. Floods, economic depressions, and low metals prices ended active mining after 1907.

43. Big Four

On the south side of this steep 6153' mountain is a huge snowfield in the shape of a "4", thus, Big Four. It is only visible from the Monte Cristo area. A large hotel complex was operated between 1920 and 1949.

44. Barlow Pass

Named for railway construction engineer J.Q. Barlow, this divide between the south forks of the Sauk and Stillaguamish rivers enabled the line to be built through Robe Canyon and Silverton. The Sauk-Suiattle people called the pass Squal-quass.

45. Monte Cristo Lake

This wide, marshy section of the South Fork Sauk River was the scene of a battle between the Sauk-Suiattle people and intruders from across the mountains. The snags visible in the lake are said to be skeletons of the people in that battle.

46. Bedal

At the forks of the Sauk River the native people had a summer village site, and nearby in 1891 James Bedal and his wife Susie, daughter of Sauk-Suiattle chief Wa-wet-kin, made their home and raised their children.

47. Monte Cristo

In the 1890s this was the most famous gold mining area in Washington State. Developed by the same New York financiers under John D. Rockefeller who were creating the city of Everett. It was hard hit by depressions in 1893 and 1907.

48. Seventy-Six Gulch

On Wilmans Peak high above the gulch the first mines were opened at Monte Cristo.

49. Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Area

Congress set aside 103,581 acres of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in 1984 as a Wilderness Area.

50. Indian Pass

For thousands of years Native Americans living along the rivers and salt water of the Puget Sound and Cascade Mountain regions crossed the steep barrier and traded with the Plateau people of Eastern Washington.

51. Site of Kennedy Hot Springs

This was one of three in the vicinity of Glacier Peak, with others on Sulphur and Gamma creeks. The U.S. Forest Service erected a guard cabin/shelter for crews on their way to fight fires. Destroyed by huge landslide in 2003.

52. Glacier Peak

At 10,451 feet tall, this seldom seen major volcanic mountain is the loftiest point in Snohomish County. Some 12,000 years ago it erupted at least nine times, covering ridges a dozen miles away with a layer of pumice twelve feet thick.

53. Camano Island

Camano Island was named after Jacinto Camano during Spanish exploration in the 1700s. The first major influx of population was in the 1850s when logging became the attraction.

54. Utsalady

Utsalady, on Camano Island, was established in 1855 when Grennan and Cranney cut and shipped spars and set up a lumber mill. The logging operation made Utsalady an early seaport on the West Coast.

55. English Boom

English Boom was used as a storage area for log booms. The English Lumber Co. was founded in 1901 and operated in southern Skagit and northern Snohomish County until 1946.

56. Iverson Spit

Iverson Spit, also called Sunrise Point, was first settled by O. B. Iverson, who arrived in 1874 and was hired to survey much of the Stillaguamish Valley and other parts of Snohomish County.

57. Leque Island

Originally headquarters for logging operations, the island was diked and then farmed. It has now a state wildlife refuge.

58. Warm Beach

Warm Beach holds the distinction of being the site of the first overnight stay in Puget Sound by Captain George Vancouver in 1792. One of his ships became stuck in the mud, giving time for the Captain to explore the area in a rowboat.

59. Florence

The town of Florence was a rival of Stanwood in the early days. It was the head of navigation on the Stillaguamish River, located some three and a half miles up the river from Stanwood.

60. Cedarhome

This Scandinavian settlement became known locally as the Big Burn after a forest fire in 1880 ravaged the area.

61. Silvana

The town of Silvana was a hub for the extension of the Great Northern Railway. A Scandinavian community, it was settled between 1872 and 1884.

62. Lakewood

In the 1880s several families migrated into the area now known as Lakewood/English/Seven Lakes. The community centered around the Great Northern railroad junction near the first store, the Pioneer Mercantile.

63. Smokey Point

In 1946, a restaurant called "Rex's Corner" stood at the intersection of Old Highway 99 (Smokey Point Blvd.) and the Edgcomb Rd. New owners added a large outdoor barbecue oven and named the restaurant "Smokey Point" It operated only 12 years, but the name remained.

64. Island Crossing

This area used to be a virtual "island" with a major slough on the south and the Stillaguamish River on the north. From 1936-38, the river bank was reinforced with heavy rock, closing off the water.

65. Stillaguamish Tribal Reservation

For thousands of years, salmon fishing has constituted a means of subsistence for the Stillaguamish (Stoluckquamish) Indians, signers of the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliot.

66. Edgcomb

At the center of a well-developed farm district, Edgcomb was a community situated five miles south of Arlington on the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Highway, which became Highway 99.

67. Kent Prairie

Frank Kent was a homesteader in the early 1880s and established a farm on this prairie.

68. Stimson Hill

This large area was logged by Stimson Mill Company, which operated from 1891 to 1926.

69. Jordan

Jordan was named in honor of Jordan, Minnesota by Sophie Lundberg, who moved here in the early part of the century with her husband Charles. Its swinging bridge, for foot traffic only, commemorates the famous bridges and the community.

70. Jim Creek Naval Reservation

During the Cold War with the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the United States Navy built the Jim Creek facility to send very long radio waves through the earth as a way of communicating with distant submarines. On clear evenings its radio towers may be seen above Twin Lakes.

71. Oso

Oso was established as a post office in 1889. It was approximately a three-day journey by canoe from Stanwood along the North Fork Stillaguamish River.

72. Hazel

The first homestead at Hazel was that of the Higgins family, which settled in 1887. Nearby Mt. Higgins was named for Walter D. Higgins in 1890.

73. Swede Heaven

Swedish immigrants from Minnesota settled this area, claiming homesteads and working primarily for the shingle mills of McCaughey (at Fortson) or Lamson and Dickenson.

74. Fortson

In 1926 Fortson was a busy logging and lumbering town with 320 inhabitants. Settlement along all river valleys consisted of logging the virgin timber inward from the riverbank, floating the lumber downstream to the nearest mill and then farming the logged-off and natural meadow land.

75. Three Fingers

This lofty mountain is the location of one of the most spectacular U.S. Forest Service fire lookouts. Mountain climbing equipment is required to cross the glaciers and crevasses to reach it.

76. Squire Creek Park

The Squire Creek area was logged in 1917. Realizing how logging of the area was changing the landscape, the Darrington Improvement Club, formed in 1924, preserved this 27-acre area for use as a public park.

77. Darrington Ranger Station

The Darrington Ranger District was formed in 1908. It now administers most National Forest lands in the county. In 1933 a Civilian Conservation Corps camp constructed a number of new buildings.

78. North Mountain

Four miles from Darrington the U.S. Forest Service erected a fire lookout on the north summit. Built in 1962, it is accessible by road and gives a view from Glacier Peak and Mt. Baker westward to Three Fingers and Mt. Higgins.

79. Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Reservation

After many years of struggle, the people who lived along the Sauk River finally obtained federal recognition as a tribe in 1974 and created a place for their tribal center and housing.

80. Sauk Prairie

The Sauk-Suiattle people had their permanent winter village of at least four large communal houses and many smaller buildings. In the 1880s, while people were gone to Puyallup to earn money harvesting hops, settlers burned the houses and then obtained legal title to the land.