

Small Historic Towns across America.

as presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org



Brief History of Sequim, WA

The land of Sequim, WA was originally property of an Indian tribe called the S'Klallam. In the Klallam language, which is spoken by this tribe and some others mostly on the Olympic Peninsula in the Washington State, the name "S'Klallam" actually translates to "the strong people." Furthermore, "Sequim" is the Klallam word for "a place for going to shoot," which refers to Sequim's abundance of game and wildlife.

European settlers arrived at the Dungeness Valley in Dungeness, WA in the 1850s, and they settled nearby in Sequim land. Between the 1850s and the 1890s, the land in Sequim along the river was fertile, but the remainder of the land was what they referred to as "the desert," or prairie lands. After the creation of irrigation canals, which carried water from the Dungeness River to the prairie and made that land fertile, farmland greatly expanded. That resulted in the emergence of many dairy farms, and new ones are still coming into existence.

On October 31st, 1913, Sequim was incorporated into Washington State.

Locations & Directions to Nearest Major Airport

The nearest U.S. major airline site is the Bellingham International Airport. To get there, head west on E. Wellington St. toward S. Sequim Ave. for 118 feet, and at 0.5 mi, take the first left onto S. Sequim Avenue. Turn left to merge on to US-101 E. at 17.8 mi, and in 7.8 mi, turn left on to WA-20 W. Following that, turn left at 2.1 mi onto WA-20 E., continue on to W. Sims Way for 0.4 mi, and take the 1st exit at the traffic circle, staying on W. Sims Way for 0.3 mi. After that, take the 2nd exit on the traffic circle and stay on W. Sims Way for 1.9 miles, and continue on to Water St. for 453 ft, turning right on to Ferry Terminal at 0.1 mi. Take the Port Townsend-Coupeville Ferry to Coupeville Toll road for 6.0 mi, and continue straight for 249 ft on to WA-20E. Turn left on to S. Engle Rd., continue for 3.5 m and follow on to S. Main Street at 0.5 mi, and turn left on to WA-20E for 9.5 mi. Turn left onto WA-20 E/S Oak Harbor St Continue to follow WA-20 E for 16.4 mi, turn right to stay on WA-20 E for 11.7 mi, turn right onto the Interstate 5 N ramp at 0.3 mi, and merge onto I-5 N at 27.2 mi. Take exit 258 toward Bakerview Rd/Bellingham International Airport at 0.2 mi, turn left onto Airport Dr. at 0.6 mi, and turn right onto Airport Way at 0.4 mi. Lastly, continue onto Mitchell Way for 0.5 mi, and at the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on Mitchell Way Destination for 0.3 mi. The airport will be on the right.



Who was the U.S. President at this time in history, and what was the political environment?



Woodrow Wilson was the President of the U.S. at the time of Sequim's incorporation into Washington State. He had won a landslide victory, as the democratic candidate, over Presidential Republican Candidate William H. Taft. Not only did the Democratic Party win the majority vote in the executive branch; they also took control of the U.S. Congress. During his presidency, Wilson induced a conservative Democratic Congress to pass a progressive legislative agenda, an agenda unparalleled until the New Deal in 1933.

Oldest Business in Sequim, & Largest Business in Sequim

The first business in Sequim was a general store built around 1892 by William Horner. The largest business in Sequim today is the Olympic Game Farm (occupying what's presumed to be 84 acres of land), a drive-through zoo housing hundreds of different animals.



City Government

In 1995, residents of Sequim voted to adopt a council-manager city government form. The City Council is comprised of elected officials, those officials serving as the governing body. The City Council appoints the city manager, and his or her responsibility is directing staff in the accomplishment of the City Council goals and monitoring the efficiency of the city government.

Historic Attractions in the Area. Festivals and Events.



Not only is the Irrigation Festival the longest-running festival in Sequim, WA; it is also the longest-running festival in Washington. Sequim residents celebrate this festival annually, commemorating how irrigation was brought from the Dungeness River to the prairie. During the festival, many different events hosted by residents, businesses, and outsiders are held, some of them including competitions, parades, performances, auctions, and carnival shows. Residents have celebrated this festival for a time span of 119 years. As of this year (2015), the Irrigation Festival will have its 120th anniversary.

Where can we stay if we visit Sequim?

15 miles outside of Sequim, there is a beautiful resort at Discovery Bay, property of WorldMark. The resort offers a beautiful, condensed view of the Northwest, and offers all kinds of experiences, from whale watching to boat rides in Victoria, B.C., and Canada. Wonderful place to stay while visiting, and the resort holds a 5-star rating from many visitors.



Why would I want to visit this historic small town?

Over the past two years, I have visited Sequim annually. For both occasions, I have stayed at the Discovery Bay Resort, and I often found myself in Sequim enjoying different activities. It is a wonderful experience for anyone who enjoys history, or likewise adventure and variety in life.

One of the things I like to look for when I visit another town is food. Often, one's culture will immerse itself in everything he or she does, and this is nothing far-fetched in regards to Sequim. Sequim is, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful cities I have visited in my life, and that beauty is reflected in their cuisine.



In regards to cuisine, there is a small restaurant in Sequim called "Nourish," which offers an ever-growing variety of healthy meals created from organic, non-GMO food sources. Most of these food sources, in fact, are straight from their outside garden, where visitors can walk around and enjoy the full beauty of this garden, and likewise, the restaurant.



Links you may wish to visit.

More info about the Olympic Game Farm: <http://olygamefarm.com/>

More info about Sequim: <http://www.sequimchamber.com/sequim-area/sequim-history-facts/>

More info about the Festival: <http://www.irrigationfestival.com/>

More info about the Discovery Bay Resort: <https://www.worldmarktheclub.com/resorts/db/>

More info about Nourish: <http://www.nourishsequim.com/>

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