

## ONLINE MAPPING PROJECT - 2017

### How to Use the Online Historical Maps of Snohomish County

The mapping system available throughout LOSCHO is extremely powerful – designed to allow the user to answer virtually any question involving “Where?”, and often “Who, What, and When?”. But the flexibility required for that is very high, and with that flexibility comes a certain level of complexity, and a massive amount of mapping data (greater than 300GB).

For that reason, many potential users shy away from the powerful (but complex) user interface. That’s disappointing, but understandable.

So, we took on the task of:

- 1) Simplifying the user interface – minimize the number of control buttons!
- 2) Shrinking the total amount of data required to display the maps
- 3) Making the maps available on PCs, tablets, and smartphones
- 4) Adding “search” features – allows users to easily search for an address, a town, or a perhaps a homesteader
- 5) Including pictures from “back in the day” that can be placed on the map(s)
- 6) Allowing the user to compare the vintage maps to modern aerial photographs

We have now completed a couple online maps that you can use as reference in your own historical research. While each one has some unique capabilities, there are some controls that are “standard” across the maps:

- 1) **Zoom in** by clicking on the “+”, **zoom out** by clicking on the “-”, **return to the original map** by clicking on the little “house”, or “home” icon.
- 2) **“Move”** by clicking and dragging the map, to center it where you want.
- 3) **Search** for a town or an address by entering the town name or address in the search box near the upper right of the map. Once you click on the search button (little magnifying glass), the map will zoom and center itself on that town or at that address. You will typically have to “zoom out” if you have asked the map to center itself at a specific address, unless that address is a VERY large piece of property. As you zoom out, the vintage maps will appear.
- 4) If you are looking at a downtown area, you will notice that as you continue to zoom in, there are 1910 downtown maps that show significantly more detail than the simple 1910 township maps. These more detailed maps will show only when you are zoomed in enough to make them useful.

That covers most of the map controls – **zoom in, zoom out, return to original map, search** (address or town). Notice that there are detailed downtown maps from 1910. As you zoom in or out, give the map image time to stabilize and clear – while we have minimized the amount of data required to display the maps, it still takes a small amount of time to update the zoomed area of the map. You’ll see it clear up in a matter of seconds depending, of course, on your internet connection speed. If you have a device that “knows where it is”, you can click on the small locator button (just below the zoom buttons) and a dot will appear on the map in your current location.

Now let’s discuss a couple unique controls that are available on each of the maps – these controls provide the special capabilities the maps are intended to offer.

[“Exploring Early Snohomish County”](https://loscho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingSwipe/index.html?appid=408cad1ea69943bb8aa15dc87d6cd50a) (Click on link at left or copy URL below into your browser)  
<https://loscho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingSwipe/index.html?appid=408cad1ea69943bb8aa15dc87d6cd50a>

This map consists of 1910 maps of the entire county (at least the entire portion that was mapped in 1910). You can zoom in and out, and move around as explained earlier. If you happen to be zooming in on a downtown area, when you get to a certain point, the detailed 1910 downtown maps will appear. If you continue to zoom in, Sanborn maps (showing every building and its function) from the 1910s-era will appear.

One special feature of this map is that if you are looking at one of the communities that have provided us with old pictures, you will see red arrows appear. Clicking on one of those arrows will bring up a small thumbnail picture of what you would have seen if you had been standing on that arrow, looking in the direction of that arrow, “back in the day”. We will continue to add more pictures as they are received – the current map has images from Mukilteo, Darrington, Monroe, Everett, Index, and Granite Falls, as well as pictures from the “lost” town of Pilchuck (about five miles north of Arlington, on the rail bed that forms the Centennial Trail today). The large mill called Waite Mill (about 2 miles southeast of Granite Falls, on the north end of a local lake) and a number of locations along the Mountain Loop Highway as far as Monte Cristo also are highlighted with pictures. You can click on the thumbnail to get a larger image.

Another special feature of this map is the “*spyglass*”, which you can click and drag around the map, and which allows you to view the modern aerial photographs (i.e. “the real world”) covered by the map.

**“Snohomish County First 100 Years”** (Click on link at left or copy URL below into your browser)

<https://loscho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=d88679dd9d04410f806546b0d7f776f2>

This map allows the user to select any of the vintage maps from 1910 to 1975. Think of them as stacked on top of one another in exactly the order shown at the left. Notice you can also select the 1910 downtown maps if you want to look at some downtown detail. To turn on any layer, simply click on the box next to that layer – a check mark will appear, as will that layer (covering any map/layer beneath it). Should you turn off all the vintage map layers, you’ll be viewing modern aerial photographs.

The special features on this map include the ***layer shown at left called “homesteads”***. You can click and turn on this layer, and you will notice red outlines overlaying the vintage maps. Those are the outlines of the original homesteads. Clicking on any of those homesteads will bring up the pertinent data associated with that homestead, including homesteader name, patent number, and patent date.

Another special feature is that you ***can select what to search (homesteads, world geography, or both/all)*** using the small arrow at the left of the “search” box. Entering an address or town works as before, but type in a homesteader name, and the map will automatically zoom and center itself on that particular homestead. You will then likely have to “zoom out” in order to get a good idea of where that homestead is located relative to other items on the map.

Another special feature is the small icon at the upper right of the map, which allows you ***to choose between aerial images and easy-to-read street maps***. Just click on that icon to toggle between those two choices.

Finally, this particular map also includes a layer called “Railroad NPRR”, which shows the various routes of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Snohomish County ca 1910. The 150+ individual maps appear merely as outlines until you zoom in far enough for them to be reasonably readable. You can zoom in several more times to make the extreme detail as legible as possible. The maps show every switch, siding, spur, bridge, culvert, etc. along the entire rail line (including the Monte Cristo and Darrington branches).

When you find what you want, this map also includes ***a “print” button*** that allows you to print your view.

**“LOSCHO Historic Asset Inventory”** (Click on link at left or copy URL below into your browser)

<https://loscho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=fadfb32918cd48ea9db81c63ebbc6d07>

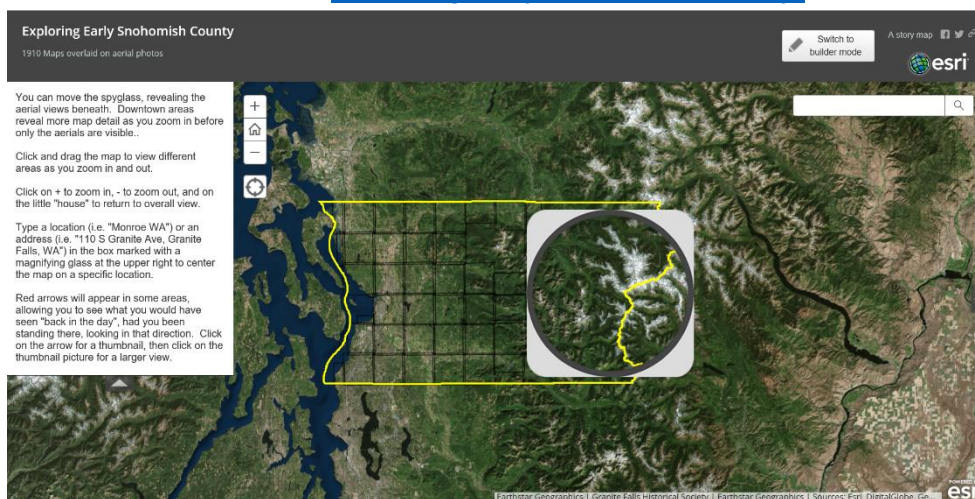
In 2015, Snohomish County hired a consultant to complete an “Historic Resource Scan” (HRscan) to gather a list of the potentially significant historic assets scattered throughout unincorporated county. They stipulated that the consultant should work from county records to identify properties containing items over 50 years old (the working definition of potentially historic), then drive past as many of them as possible to determine whether or not they still existed, and their current condition.

The HRscan identified 13,855 properties! Obviously, that was too many to attempt to manage for preservation purposes, so the list had to be filtered in some manner. In addition, the county records did not include things like railroads, tunnels, mines, cemeteries, mountain lookouts, bridges, abandoned communities or industrial sites, dams, etc., so items like those would need to be added in order to have a well-balanced inventory. The League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations (LOSHCO) made an attempt to filter the HRscan and add appropriate items from the other categories, ending up with about 465 items. This preliminary list has been created and mapped, and you can click on items that have been grouped into categories of agricultural, industrial, civic, domestic, commercial, infrastructure, and “other”. Preliminary datasheets with pictures have been created for most of them.

## **EXAMPLES:**

***“Someone told me the high-rise hospital building at 900 Pacific Ave in Everett used to be a hotel. Is that true?”***

Click on this link to start [“Exploring Early Snohomish County”](#)



County is outlined in yellow. Instructions at left can be closed by clicking on the small arrow at the bottom of the box. “Spyglass” can be dragged out of the center by clicking and dragging. The “+” zooms in, the “-” zooms out, and the little “home” returns you to this original view. Notice “search” box at upper right, where you can type in a town name, an address, etc.

Enter “900 Pacific Ave, Ever . .”, the address will appear, so click on the “search” icon (magnifying glass).



The specified address is at the center of the picture. You can drag the “spyglass” around to see the real world beneath the ca 1910 map. Notice the arrow at the lower left! Clicking on that arrow will show you what you would have seen “back in the day” had you been standing there looking in that direction.

Zoom in once by clicking on the “+” sign at the upper left, to get a better look.

Close the instruction box at the left by clicking on the small arrow at the bottom of the box.

Click on the red arrow pointing at 900 Pacific Ave to see a picture of that building taken in the early days. A thumbnail with a description will appear at the right (this will work the same way for any red arrow indicating an early picture). You can then click on the thumbnail image to see a larger version.





The thumbnail caption explains the history behind the Monte Cristo Hotel, and how it was purchased a decade after it was built, to become a hospital.

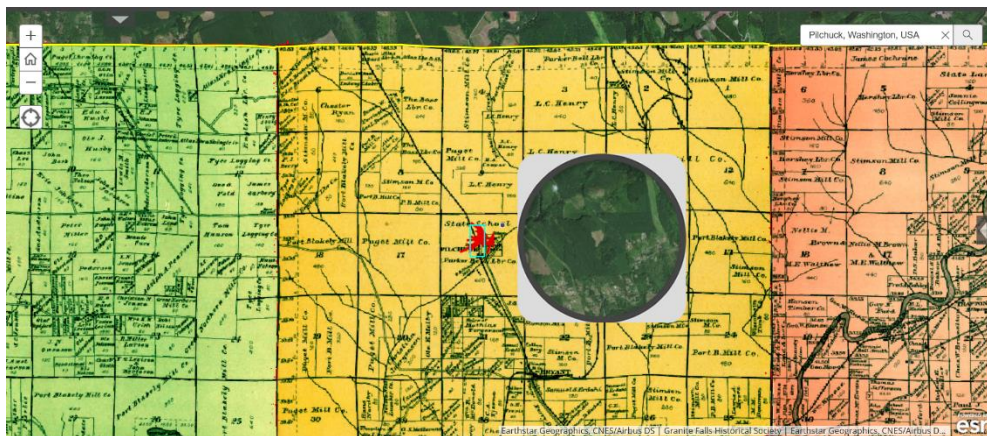
You can even read “Providence



Hospital, Sisters of Mercy” on the old map. The maps used in-house across the county allow you to zoom in much more clearly on all map layers. This online version is optimized for maximum speed and minimum memory, so you cannot zoom in any further to see more map detail. Feel free to visit any museum if you need greater clarity!

***“Someone told me the town of Pilchuck completely disappeared. Is that true?”***

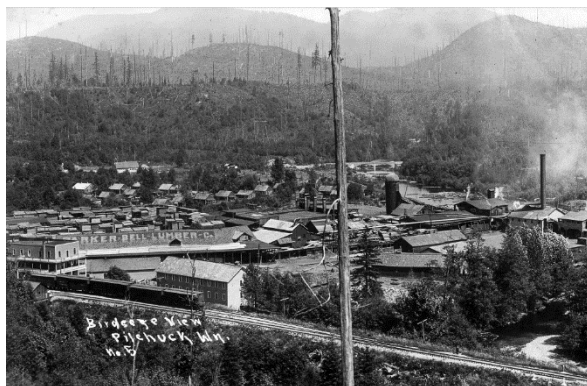
Enter “Pilchuck, Washington” in the search box and click on the “search” icon (magnifying glass).



Notice a number of red arrows happen to show on the map, close to a town named “Pilchuck”. You can drag the spyglass around the area to see that virtually nothing remains. You can see the old rail bed that has been converted to a trail (“Centennial Trail”).

Zoom in two or three times to get a closer look.

Click on the arrows to see what Pilchuck looked like “back in the day”. It had a number of homes, church, school, and a huge mill called “Parker-Bell Mill”. Today, nothing of the town or mill remains – just brush, scrub trees, and wetland. In this overall view, looking to the northeast (arrow at lower left of town), you can see the rail tracks shown on the map, now the Centennial Trail.



Zoom in a couple more times to see a detailed layout of the mill, and exactly where the pictures were taken.

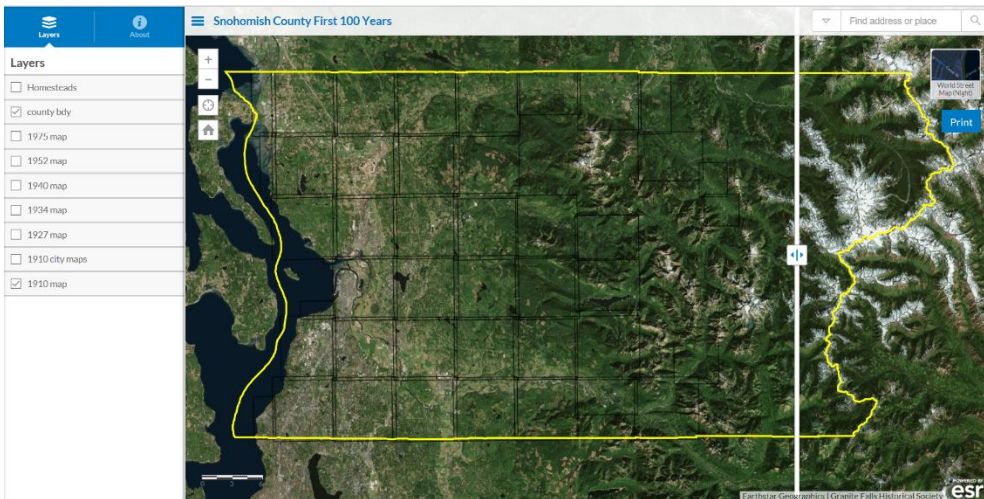


Dragging the spyglass across the area shows . . . nothing left!



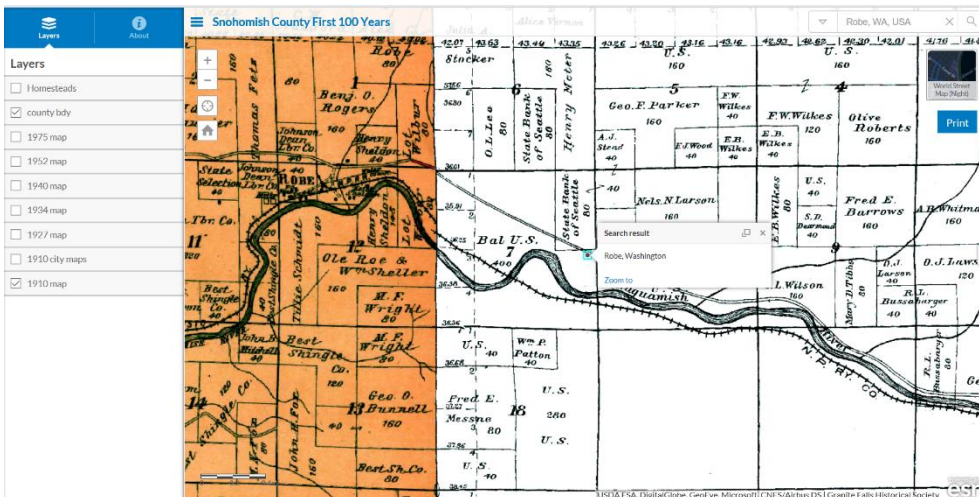
***“Someone told me the town of Robe moved around over the years. Is that true?”***

Click on this link to start [“Snohomish County First 100 Years”](#)



Again, a map opens with the county boundary shown in yellow. You have the same zoom controls and search box, but you have a list of map “layers” that you can turn on and off by checking the little box next to each layer. The 1910 layer is “on” by default at the start (but you can turn it off if you want). The white bar can be swept across the map to show homestead outlines.

Enter “Robe, WA” in the search box and click on the “search” icon (magnifying glass). The map centers itself on where it believes Robe to be today. But just in case it did move around somewhat over the years, you can zoom out once (i.e. click on the “-” symbol) to cover a larger area.



You can see that in 1910, the town of Robe is at the left side of the map as shown. There are a number of buildings shown along the railroad track, and a large mill called Johnson-Dean at the west end of town.

This application specifically allows you to overlay maps of various vintages, including original homestead lines, and township maps from 1910, 1927, 1934, 1940, 1952, and 1975. It turns out that the “location” of Robe on the maps corresponded to the location of the Robe Post Office. In 1910, the Post Office was located where shown (“P.O.” right under “ROBE” on the map). When the mill closed in the 1920s, the Post Office moved to the home of Postmaster Nichols, about a mile to the east, right next to the river crossing.

Click on the box next to “1934 map” and you can see the location change. But the railroad was dismantled in the late 1930s, so . . .

Click on the box next to “1952 map”, to see how the Post Office moved out to the motor highway, and the location of Robe once again shifted on the map!

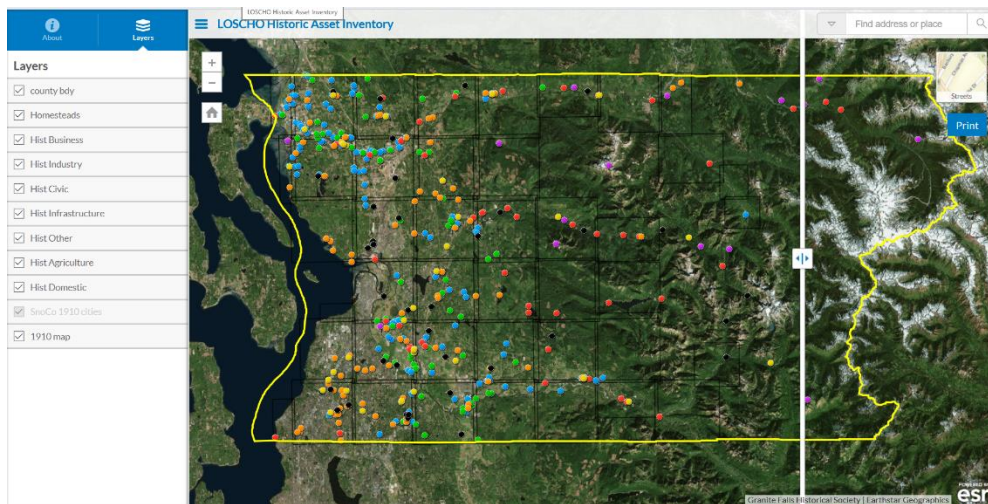
***[Should you want to see the history of your property, simply enter your address in the search box, and turn on the various map layers. You can see who homesteaded the property originally, and some of the owners and changes over the years.]***

***[Should you want to see pictures of Robe “back in the day”, you can go back to the map “Exploring Early Snohomish County”, search for “Robe, WA” and enjoy the detailed pictures!]***

***“Do you have anything on the old Oso elementary school or county bridge 102 near Granite Falls that they’re going to replace in the next couple years?”***

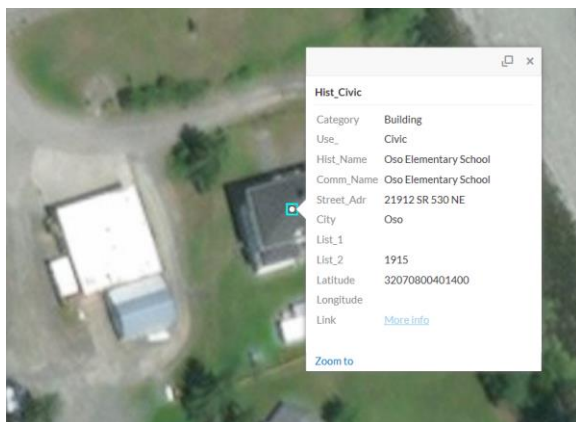
Click on this link to start [“LOSCHO Historic Asset Inventory”](#)

Click on the table title [“layers”](#) to see the various layers you can turn on or off.



The map opens with the county boundary shown in yellow. The vertical white bar can be swept across the map to show homestead outlines. Each category of historic items is color-coded. You can enter search terms to search ALL categories or just a single category by clicking on the arrow at the left side of the search box.

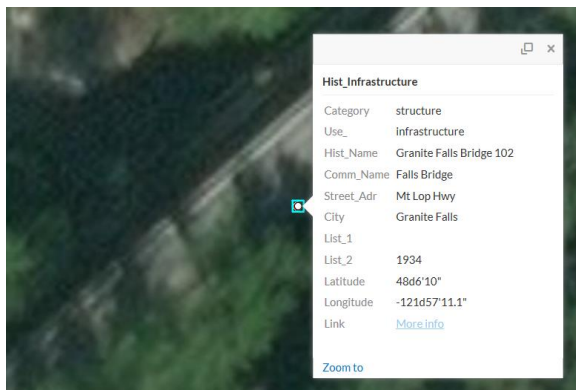
Enter **“Oso Elementary School”** in the search box and click the search icon (magnifying glass).



It automatically zoomed in on the school. In fact, it zoomed so tight that you’d have to zoom out in order to see the old 1910 map that forms the basis for this app.

You can click on [“More info”](#) at the bottom of the info box. That will bring up an inventory sheet that describes the item in detail, often with current pictures and/or historical information.

Select **“Infrastructure”** from the search box list and enter **“bridge 102”** in the search box and click the search icon (magnifying glass).



It automatically zoomed in on the bridge, again so far in that you need to zoom out in order to see the map. You can click on [“More info”](#) at the bottom of the info box to see details of the bridge with both old and current pictures.



**HAVE FUN**, and please let us know what you think, what you don’t like, what you would like to see as other maps or features, and whether or not these maps are tools you believe you can use. Send your comments to [info@gfhistory.org](mailto:info@gfhistory.org) and we’ll get back to you as quickly as we can. If you want this document in electronic form (all the links work), just ask for it and we’ll email it to you.