

Appleton .

Latitude 45.812 and longitude -121.271

Elevation 2,320 feet

Appleton appears on the U.S. Geological Survey Map.

Area Code: 509

Zip Code: 98602

Population: 133

The community was named as an apple-growing center.

Another little town that once had both a schoolhouse and a post office. There is still a post office, but it now occupies what was once the teacher's dorm adjacent to the schoolhouse property. Both the old post office and the two-story schoolhouse are now private residences. Appleton and Timber Valley (which also once had its own postmark,) are located west of the Klickitat River, in the plateau region east of the Snowden rural area about 15 miles north of Lyle. The Appleton Community Council serves this area's residents.

This high timber region once hosted apple orchards planted around the turn of the 20th century. The apple trees that had been planted by the optimistic pioneers were a source of pride. Appleton made sense as a name for the community. The high elevation and short growing season did not bode well for the apple orchards. The trees eventually quit producing and the apple orchards became a thing of the past.

The town site of Appleton was registered May 8, 1912, at the Klickitat county court house in Goldendale. George C. Howard, a real estate promoter likely gave Appleton its name officially when he platted and recorded the survey area for a town.

The settlement had previously been dubbed "New Missouri," because of the many families coming from Missouri to settle in Klickitat County. The old "Log Hall" at Appleton, was built about 1912 where the two story school building now stands. A large structure, the basic logs used for the walls gave testimony to the size of the trees available in the forest at the turn of the century. Sunday school and church services were held once a month in the 1890's at that location. The church building was used as a school, with high school classes held in the upper part of the town's store, until the new school was built in 1910-11. The log hall was restored nearby in the 1980's and 1990's and is used for community events.

The original store, well house, school barn, Methodist church, and blacksmith shop are all gone. Though a few apple trees struggle to survive, the old orchards have been replaced by homesteads and fir trees. The current post office still serves the residents and does double duty as a place to exchange news and gossip over a warm fire in winter.