

Jacksonville Road (JR) Of Applegate Trail (*Trail*): Postal Telegraph (PT) Line¹

Hugo's JA from Willamette Valley to Jacksonville (route of the Applegate Trail) is located in Josephine County, Oregon from Louse Creek in the south to Grave Creek in the north. There are 17 GLO surveyed points of interest (POI) along the JR in Hugo's area of interest.³ There are many more like this 1886 - 1887 PT Line At Mt. Sexton Pass POI without a GLO survey.

MT. SEXTON PASS TRAIL SEGMENT

POI Name Mt. Sexton Pass ■ JA-14B.

POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-23-n/a-JA-14B

1870s - 1880s POSTAL TELEGRAPH LINE AT MT. SEXTON PASS

POI Name 1886 - 1887 Postal Telegraph Line At Mt. Sexton Pass ■ JA-14E.

POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-23-n/a-JA-14E.



CD 133 Star

POI Located With GPS/Interpretative Sign No.

1886 - 1887 PT Line Howard Banks, Insulator Expert⁴, identified a down pole at the south end of the road segment as a PT pole part of a line from the 1886 - 1887 when everything was pole to pole (see Photo 1 on title page).

The original insulator for the PT line was the Brookfield CD 133 Star. A wide variety of insulators were being used on the system when it was abandoned at the end of WWII: CD 145 California (CA), CD 208 CA, CD 210 CA, CD 154 Maydwell, CD 154 Whitall Tatum, CD 153 48-40's (Gayner), and others.

PT Line At Mt. Sexton Pass: 1876 - 1878

Postal Telegraph Company formed in 1881 to compete with Western Union. It capitalized on the email technology of its day. Telegrams were sent to destination offices, and then mailed to private and business recipients. Going "postal" was routine business for this telegraph company. Using local mail delivery still made it possible to transfer messages much faster than long distance mail. The concept was an immediate success, and PT went international in 1886.

Lines were built through Josephine County around 1886 - 1887. It was a smaller company that found a niche in the marker. Its niche was taking care of the little guy. For example, Western Union might be the only telegraph line providing service to your area. If you lived in Merlin or Grants Pass you could get telegraph service (somehow you would be notified if you had a telegraph line). If you lived further into the country, forget it.

The PT Company was set up to utilize both the telegraph and the post office. A telegraph might be sent from Iowa to Merlin, Oregon. At this point the telegraph would be mailed from Merlin to the family in Hugo. So now, all the little folks in the country could now get telegraphs, or send telegraphs by using the mail system. There were PT offices clear up to Prospect, Oregon. They covered a wide market. Later on Western Union also used this method.

Six-Pin Cross Arms The PT company operated the line until they had six-pin cross arms. The neat thing about the postal line was in the middle of WWII they merged with Western Union and the lines were left in place and they disintegrated into the ground.

CD 133 Star Insulators On Six Pin Cross Arms

Stakeholders Oregon Highway Commission/Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

OCTA Trail Classification Class ② Used Trail⁵

Coherence Rule Linear Uniformity. Yes
Corroborative Rule Confirming Evidence. Yes
Collateral Rule Physical/Topo Evidence. Yes
Correlation Rule Overall Agreement. Yes

Be Respectful *Do not trespass. The 1886 - 1887 PT Line At Mt. Sexton Pass is located on public property.*

More Information

Contact a member of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee.



1. General Surveyor Office of Oregon. Subdivision Lines For 1856 Map (T.34., R. 6. W., Willamette Meridian). Field Notes. Surveyor Luke G Hyde. Contract February 19, 1855; Surveyed March 31, 1856; Hugo Neighborhood. 2006. *Hugo's Applegate Trail Field Notes*. Brochures 10A - 10D in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR.

2. Rose, Karen. 2006. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. *Hugo's Applegate Trail Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences Project*. "Yellow Book Project" For Participants of the Diaries, Journals and Reminiscences Sub-Committee. Hugo, OR. Hugo Neighborhood. 2005 *Diaries & Journals*. Brochure 11 in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR; Hugo Neighborhood. 2006 *Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences Sub-Committee*. Brochure 11B in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR.

3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2009 *Hugo's Applegate Trail GLO Points of Interest*. Brochure 1 in Applegate Trail GLO Surveys Series. Hugo, OR.

4. Howard Banks. March 16, 2006. Interview. by Mike Walker. Banks is Publisher of *Crown Jewels of the Wire & Expert on Insulators*. Hugo, OR; Hugo Neighborhood & *Crown Jewels Of The Wire*. March 19, 2006. *Postal Telegraph Company*. Brochure 7 in Insulator Series. Hugo, OR.

5. Office of National Trails Preservation & Oregon-California Trails Association (P.O. box 1019, Independence, MO, 64051-0519, 816-252-2276, octa@indepmo.org). July 2002, 4th edition. *Mapping Emigrants Trails MET Field Manual*.

Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee

Hugo is blessed with a rich heritage of historic roads, rough though they were. The *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee* was formed to bring together all those who want to learn more about the early transportation in the area, from the casual admirer to the dedicated researcher. Its aim is to collect and record information about Hugo's emigrant trails, especially its two historic 1850s General Land Office mapped roads, and to share this information (e.g., through *Hugo History Day*, talks, hikes, group visits, training exercises, workshops, publications, web sites, etc.).

Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader
Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader

Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences SubCommittee

Karen Rose
Janet McKy
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Glen Campbell
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Joe & Leta Neiderheiser
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Penny Shipley
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General Land Office Field Survey SubCommittee

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Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area. Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings.

Hugo Neighborhood

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Brochure 18E of Applegate Trail GLO
Surveys Brochure Series



*Howard Banks & Norbert Tieman Near
Postal Telegraph Pole At Mt. Sexton Pass: 2006*

April 21, 2010

**Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society**