

Grave Cr. Ford Crossings: 1846 - ca., late 1870s¹

Evolving Transportation Systems There were several land transportation systems from Indian and Hudson Bay trapper trails to pioneer trails and wagon roads, and during the auto age from dirt and granite roads to narrow paved roads, and finally the 4-lane, and larger, Interstate 5 (I-5) freeway.

1846 - ca., late 1870s Applegate Trail (Trail) pioneers ford Grave Creek.

1851 James H. Twogood left Oregon City south on the emigrant road for the discovery of gold in Southern Oregon in 1851.

“Jimmie related in his writings that there was no actual road but rather a pair of tracks through the wilderness that was nearly impassable from Canyonville to the Rogue River.” Page 1.²

1855 GLO Survey³ for *Trail* over Grave Creek. The GLO survey identified the *Trail* was approximately 350' - 400' west of the present Sunny Valley Road and 500' north of Grave Creek. A working hypothesis of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee⁴ is that the 1855 ford of Grave Creek was 350' - 400' downstream from today's covered bridge.

“47.40 [chains] Jacksonville Road c N&S”
“48.15 [chains] Leave Road, Enter field, Grave Cr House bear North”

1856 The 1856 GLO map matches the GLO survey.³

1874 Josephine County (JO CO) established its first county road in 1874. While the road survey identifies Grave Creek and a slough just south of the creek, it does not identify a bridge for Grave Creek.⁵

1855 General Land Office (GLO) Survey & 1856 GLO Map

1881 Pettengill's Diary: *Clearing log jams in creek to keep them from washing away the bridge.* Page 32²

1890 Edward Light, was working in the northern Josephine County area as a bridge builder and in 1890 was responsible for the construction of the Grave Creek and Jump Off Joe Creek bridges. Location of the Grave Creek Bridge is unknown.⁶

1903 Pettengill's Diary. *January 23, Grave Creek Bridge gone from high water and one telephone pole.* Page 34²; *March 13, water extremely high. Stage could not get over Grave Creek.* Page 34²



Grave Creek Ford: 1855

1895 The 1855 Grave Creek ford location matches the 1895 Josephine County Map.⁷

Modern Grave Creek Covered Bridge: 1920 - 2010

1920 Traffic passed through the portals of the present day 105-foot Howe truss Grave Creek Covered Bridge April 1920 as part of the project to pave the Pacific Highway. The Howe truss is supported by "dumb bell" concrete piers. Total cost of the construction was \$21,128.⁸ Two years later Carr's Corner became Radio Park Auto Court.

1965 - 1966 I-5 was completed from Mount Sexton to Canyonville and ownership and maintenance of the Grave Creek Bridge passed to JO CO.⁹

1979 The covered bridge was posted to the National Register of Historic Places on November 29, 1979.

1990s - 2001 In the late 1990s, the bridge was closed to traffic and was reopened in 2001 after repairs.

2010 The bridge is a wonderful interpretive site for the Applegate Trail.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood*.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. March, 2006. *Auto Camps In Northern Josephine County: 1910 - 2001*. Hugo, OR.
2. McLane, Larry L. 1995. *First There Was Twogood*. Sexton Enterprises. Sunny Valley, OR.
3. 1855 General Land Office (GLO) Field Survey Sub-Committee, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. February 10, 2006. *General Land Office Field Survey Notes: Hugo's Applegate Trail Segments*. Hugo, OR.
4. 1856 General Land Office Field Survey Sub-Committee, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. February 10, 2006. *General Land Office Field Survey Notes: Hugo's Applegate Trail Segments*. Hugo, OR.
5. Josephine County. 1874 Road Survey: "Road Survey No. 12; J. P. Mills. J. ? Knight and Beu Bull: Viewers. Alex Watts Surveyor, Homer Harknefs, & David Sexton Chainmen, C. Every Manken
6. Atwood, Kay. 1983 - 1984. *Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory*. Developed for the Josephine County Planning Office. Volume I. Grants Pass, OR.
7. Koch, Joseph, Draughtsman. 1895 Official Josephine County, Oregon. Map. Scale 1 inch = 1 mile. Messton - Dygert Book M'F'G. Portland, OR.
8. Oregon.Com. Downloaded from web May 17, 2010.
http://web.oregon.com/covered_bridges/bridges/grave_creek.cfm
9. Oregon Highway Division. 1988 *The First 75 Years*. Section B.

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. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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Grave Creek Crossing & Covered Bridge: 1846 - 2010

Brochure 1H of Hugo's Auto Camp
Brochure Series



Grave Creek Covered Bridge: 1920 - 2010
Courtesy of Oregon Blue Book

May 22, 2010

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**