

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the Instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Appleton Log Hall  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 835 Appleton Road  not for publication  
city, town Appleton  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Klickitat code 039 zip code 98602

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Mary Simpson 8/10/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Gregory Sapsley 10/2/92  
**Entered in the National Register**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall

Vacant/Not in Use

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)Early 20th Century American Movements:  
Other: Rustic Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation	wood: log
walls	wood: log
	wood: weatherboard
roof	
other	wood: shingle

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Appleton Log Hall is a massive log and timber frame structure built in 1912 as a community auditorium in a rural western Klickitat County community. Located at the southern edge of the unincorporated town of Appleton, the hall is the largest and most distinctive landmark in the area. In both form and structure, the building evokes the Rustic Style popularized in the early 20th century for private mountain retreats and public parks and forests. Today the hall is deteriorated and vacant but remains structurally sound. It is located on a six acre parcel, surrounded by a grassy lawn and coniferous trees, which forms an undeveloped community park.

The Log Hall is a one and one-half story structure built on a rectangular plan. The hall measures 62 feet across the south facade and north elevation and 41 feet on the east and west side elevations. The first floor rises 18 feet to a steeply pitched gable roof; the roof climbs an additional 20 feet to a ridge, with jerkinheads on the east and west gable ends. Two gabled dormers project on the south slope of the roof, and two similar gables are located on the north side.

The building rests on log sills, and the first floor walls are constructed entirely of round cedar logs joined at the corners by saddle notches with extended and overlapping ends. The logs, whose diameters average about 18 inches, are laid with no visible chinking. The roof is faced in cedar shingles (reshingled in kind on the south facade in 1975) and the eaves of the roof overhang the walls below, with open eaves and exposed rafter tails. The east and west gable ends are faced with lapped cedar boards. The gabled dormers, too, are faced in overlapping boards and sheltered by shingled roofs. (The logs are not peeled and retain their bark.)

Light is admitted to the undivided interior volume through large windows in the dormers (with the sash and lights now removed) and through open vents in the east and west gable ends. Wide openings for double doors (now removed) are located on the first floor of the east and west sides to allow admittance to the hall.

The interior plan of the hall features a single open space with doors at either end. Originally a bandstand stood mid-point along the south wall, and a small kitchen was located in the northwest corner. Most signs of these are now gone. The floor is finished with four-inch wide tongue and

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groove floor boards. The rounded logs are exposed on the interior walls, and the high ceiling is supported by open timber trusswork.

The only permanent alteration to the building since its construction was the placement of upright timber posts about every 15 feet along both the exterior and interior walls. The posts were added in the 1930s to increase the stability of the structure. But over the years, the building has deteriorated from neglect; currently all doors and windows are removed, the roof leaks, and elements of the roof truss, floor boards and logs are rotted.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1912-1942	N/A
Social History		
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	Not known	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built in 1912 by the Appleton Progressive Club and distinguished by its massive log construction, the Appleton Log Hall is historically significant as the community center of an agricultural and timber district in western Klickitat County. The large hall and surrounding park-like grounds were entirely the product of community efforts; land, labor, and materials were all donated by Appleton residents. For four decades, the structure served as the venue for public meetings, school athletics, and social events. Although deteriorated and vacant, the Rustic Style building remains a distinctive architectural landmark and a reminder of community life in the early 20th century.

Historical Background: Located in the shadow of Mount Adams, Appleton is an unincorporated community about ten miles north of Lyle (on the Columbia River) and seven miles west of Klickitat (on the Klickitat River) on a plateau above the Klickitat River canyon. This sparsely populated region was first settled by white Americans in the 1880s and 1890s, and historically has been dominated by timber, cattle, and farming. Early settlers logged in the Cascade foothills or farmed in the valley bottoms, and transported their products to river landings for shipment to distant markets.

The early 20th century was a boom time for the Appleton region. Between 1905 and 1915, real estate speculators vigorously promoted dryland apples as an ideal crop for the area, and numerous orchards were planted in Appleton during those years. At the same time, small logging and milling operations were established. By the second decade of the century, the community was a thriving trade center for the area, boasting two general stores and a school.

With a growing population came the need for a center where public meetings and social events could be held. To fulfill that need, a group of local citizens formed the Appleton Progressive Club. Club members acquired land for a park at the southern edge of town, and began construction of a community hall.

The hall was an enormous building constructed of huge rounded logs joined with saddle notches and sheltered by a gable roof supported by a massive timber truss. Logs for the building were hauled to the site by teams of

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work horses, and a steam tractor and special ramps were used to place the logs on the 18 foot high walls. Materials and labor were donated by the local community. By March, 1913, the building was complete and the property owners formally deeded the building and grounds to the Appleton Progressive Club.

From its opening, the hall served many purposes: community meetings were held there; the hall served as a gymnasium for the local school; and nets were installed for basketball games. The hall and grounds were the site of special events, too, like the annual Fourth of July community picnic. But perhaps the most popular activity at the hall was the weekly Saturday dance. In early years, people came in buggies and on horseback from as far as 25 miles away. When automobiles replaced horses, visitors motored from points as distant as Portland to attend. Many of the couples who met at the dances later married, and the hall served as the site of numerous wedding receptions, too.

For nearly three decades, the hall was an active community hub. But as the region's population declined, the community was less able to sustain the hall. As early as 1920, insufficient rainfall and a lack of irrigation drove many orchardist out of business; by 1940, most orchardist had left and small mills and logging operators were increasingly put out of business by larger concerns. With the start of World War II, the dances were discontinued, and increasingly the hall fell into disuse. With neither an active program nor sufficient population, the Appleton Progressive Club deeded the hall and parcel to Klickitat County in 1953 with the stipulation that the property be used for public park purposes only.

Since that time, the hall has seen little activity. For a while, a local farmer used the structure as a barn. Sometime later, local children cleaned the structure hoping to convert the building to a roller rink. But the uneven floor proved unsuitable and the hall instead became an occasional basketball court. The last public use of the Log Hall was in 1985 when it was a haunted house for the community Halloween party.

Despite a lack of activity, the hall remains an important local example of the popular Rustic Style commonly used in both private and public architecture in mountainous and rural areas. The rounded logs with saddle notching and overlapping butts; the massive roof with jerkinheads and overhanging eaves; and the simple interior volume with high ceiling and exposed timber truss all evoke the handcrafted Rustic idiom, and place the building firmly in a vernacular building tradition of the era. No other building in the community exhibits the same degree of architectural character.

