

Small Historic Towns across America.

As presented by Mr. Stadt's online Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org

Brief History of Ellensburg, Washington

Settler William Bud Wilson had the first claim and built the first log cabin in 1868 where Ellensburg now stands. Cowboys AJ Splawn and Ben Burch moved a 14' x 18' hewn log house to a spot nearby so they could open it as a store in 1870. John Gillispie, a young settler, made a sign for the store and dubbed it "Robber's Roost." Settlers were few and the post depended on trade in furs and horses with Native Americans to buy supplies.

In 1872, John A. Shoudy bought the store and 160 acres of land. A Civil War veteran, he had come to the valley in 1871 as part of a business plan of his family in Seattle to create an improved road connection with the Yakima country. In 1873, John started postal service in Ellensburg. John and his wife Mary Ellen platted the town and it was officially filed in April 1875. John named the new town Ellensburg for his wife.

Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).

The closest major airport is in Seattle, which requires a 2.5 hour drive. Directions from the Yakima airport, only 45 minutes away, will be given as well.

From Seattle Airport

17801 International Blvd

Seattle, WA 98158

Get on WA-518 E from Airport Expressway

Take I-405 N and WA-167 S to S 212th St in Kent.

Take the S 212th St exit from WA-167 S

Get on I-90 E from S 208th St, SE 224th St and WA-18 E

Follow I-90 E to US-97 S in Kittitas County. Take exit 106 from I-90 E

Take N Dolarway Rd to W 5th Ave in Ellensburg

Exit 106 turns slightly right and becomes US-97 S

Turn right onto N Dolarway Rd

Continue onto N Railroad Ave

Turn left onto W 5th Ave

Ellensburg, WA

From Yakima Airport

Yakima Air Terminal - McAllister Field

Head north on Air Fare Way toward W Washington Ave

Take the 1st right onto W Washington Ave

Take the 2nd left onto S 16th Ave

Turn right to merge onto US-12 E

Merge onto US-12 E

Take the exit onto I-82 W toward Selah/Ellensburg

Take the exit on the left onto I-90 W

Take exit 109 for Canyon Rd toward Ellensburg

Turn right onto Canyon Rd

Continue onto S Main St

Turn right onto W 5th Ave

Ellensburg, WA

Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time.



At the time Ellensburg was first organized as a town Ulysses S. Grant was the President of the United States. Our country had recently recovered from Civil War and technically we were still in a period of reconstruction. That era officially ended during Grants' administration when the last Union troops were removed from the southern states that seceded from the Union in 1860 and 62. Grant was a Republican from the state of Ohio.

In 1871 there were only 37 states in the United States of America. Here's the official flag.



Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.

To the right is the Historic Davidson Building, completed in 1890.

City government.

The City of Ellensburg utilizes the Council-Manager form of government with a City Manager hired by the City Council. The City Council elects a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem from the Council to serve two-year terms. Council Meetings are held 7:00 pm on the First and third Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Agendas and minutes can be viewed here:

<http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=100>



Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.

Discover Ellensburg's historic district offering a wide variety of cultural activities, eclectic shops, pubs and restaurants. Central Washington University draws a steady stream of plays, concerts, dance recitals, operas, musicals, films, lectures and other events featuring fine arts, crafts, pottery, weaving and sculpture. But the town is best known for hosting the Ellensburg Rodeo and Kittitas County Fair, the largest rodeo in Washington State and a tradition since 1923.

Where can we stay if we visit Ellensburg?



Holiday Inn Express

1620 Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926

GuestHouse Ellensburg

606 North Main Street, WA 98926



Why would I want to visit this historic small town?

Ellensburg is a very beautiful small town with a rich historical past. It is not far from an amazing large city, Seattle, and is a nice place to visit to see the breathtaking countryside of Washington. It has just about everything you could want to do, with its culturally rich and diverse festivals and events at almost every time of the year, including the jazz and film festivals, the yearly parade, and country fair. Simply prepare yourself for the wind.

Links you may wish to visit.

<http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/ellensburg/elnwa/hoteldetail>

<http://www.guesthouseellensburg.com>

<http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us>

<http://ellensburgrodeo.com>