

# Cowlitz County Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on additional sheets if needed.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name The First Aid Station  
other names/site number Pioneer Hall

### 2. Location

street & number 201 Morse Street  not for publication  
community Ryderwood, WA  vicinity  
zip code 98581

### 3. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal
- Tribal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the Cowlitz County Historic Register**

None

### 4. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

First Aid Station &  
Infirmary for loggers  
& their families

**Current Functions**

Home of The Ryderwood  
Women's Club for  
various meetings &  
other functions

**5. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Logging town rustic

**Materials**

foundation: Post & beam

walls: Wood

roof: Metal

other:

**6. Historic Narrative**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

See attached

**Narrative Description**

See Attached

## Historic Narrative

### Summary Paragraph

The First Aid Station, now known as Pioneer Hall is situated on the south side of Ryderwood, across the street from the city park. When first built by Long Bell Lumber Company in 1923 the building was isolated, but over time the land around it has been developed. Pioneer Hall is a simple rectangular building with small front and rear porches situated on a 50' x 100' lot.

### Narrative Description

Pioneer Hall is a rectangular building with a somewhat plain façade. The exterior of the building has changed very little over the years based on the few existing pictures from the Long Bell era. The original Douglas Fir narrow lap siding is still intact as is the original foundation. The building has a recent metal roof and updated windows and the wooden sidewalks of 1923 have been replaced with concrete walkways. A handicap ramp has been added. The interior of the building has been changed to suit its new purpose as a meeting place and club house. Very little information is available about the previous layout of the interior, but locations of previous walls are obvious, indicating that the rooms were opened up to accommodate crowds. We do know that the First Aid Station also served as a hospital for new mothers and their infants to stay after the birth for a week. The original floor plan included four hospital rooms, an office and living quarters for the doctor. Current large rooms were likely divided into smaller areas at one time. In spite of time and changes the First Aid Station is still recognizable by former residents as an intrinsic part of Ryderwood history.

**7. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Cowlitz County Historic Register listing.)

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history.
- Embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style, or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Is an outstanding work of a designer, builder, or architect who has made a substantial contribution to the art.
- Exemplifies or reflects special elements of Cowlitz County's cultural, special, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, or architectural history.
- Is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state, or local history.
- Has yielded or may be likely to yield important archaeological information related to history or prehistory.
- Is a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the only surviving structure significantly associated with an historic person or event.
- Is a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
- Is a cemetery which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or cultural patterns.
- Is a reconstructed building that has been executed in a historically accurate manner on the original site.
- Is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories.

**Criteria Considerations**

**Areas of Significance**

Ryderwood, Wa

**Period of Significance**

1923 - 1953 when Ryderwood was a lumber town

**Significant Dates**

1923

**Significant Person**

(If Applicable)

Dr. L.G. Steck, Dr. E.N. Sulas  
R.A. Long

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Long Bell

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

*See Attached*

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

*See Attached*

## Statement of Significance.

The building presently known as "Pioneer Hall" was originally the "First Aid Station" of the Long Bell lumber town known as Ryderwood, Washington. The building was renamed "Pioneer Hall" by the Ryderwood Achievers Group to honor all of the women who came before them. The First Aid Station was one of the first buildings constructed in Ryderwood and served the needs of the loggers and their families from 1923 to 1953. Ryderwood, like most lumber towns of the era was isolated, making the medical facilities of the First Aid Station vitally important for emergency treatment as well as day to day medical needs. After the sale of Ryderwood to the Senior Estates company in 1953 the building served various purposes including a Real Estate office. The Ryderwood Achievers Club purchased the building in 1976 and has used the facility since for gatherings of various women's groups.

## Narrative Statement of Significance

If a building could speak, Pioneer Hall would have many interesting stories to tell. The building was one of the original buildings constructed in the Ryderwood logging town in 1923. The first picture of the building is dated 1924, showing it sitting in the middle of an undeveloped area. Later pictures show little change in the exterior of the building. Originally known as the First Aid Station, the building was a vital part of a logging town that was relatively isolated from other communities. The nature of the work of loggers made the First Aid Station a very necessary first addition to the camp. Topping trees, falling trees, setting chokers and the terrain of logging sites made logging a dangerous job. Everyone lived in dread of the whistle that blew during the day indicating an accident in the woods. Loggers injured in the woods were brought into town to be treated or transferred to the larger hospital in Longview. The First Aid station had its share of joy too, many babies were born to the logging families! Some of those babies currently live here and some return to Ryderwood during the "Old Timers" picnic held in the park every August with stories of growing up in Ryderwood and returning to the First Aid Station for bumps, breaks and bruises and the removal of tonsils! The first doctor at the station was Dr. L.G. Steck, who moved on after a few years to become well known in Chehalis and Lewis County. The L.G. Steck Memorial Clinic was named in his honor. The long-time doctor was Dr. E.N Sulas, the beloved doctor of Ryderwood. Stories of his kindness and caring span many years from the 20's to the late 40's. This building is an important part of Ryderwood history and the many lives it has touched over the years.

**8. References**

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.

Longview Daily News - Ryderwood Historic Project  
Vignettes of Ryderwood, Wa. (Author unknown)  
Log of Long Bell, May 1928  
Minutes & files of Ryderwood Women's Groups

**Previous documentation on file:**

- preliminary eligibility for individual listing by Cowlitz County Historic Inventory
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- previously listed in the State Register
- previously listed in the State Heritage Barn Register

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Ryderwood Women's Club Files

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**9. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.2

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References for each contributing feature**

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

(Place additional UTM references on an additional sheet.)

46° 22' 22.19" N  
123° 2' 38.91" W

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Corner of Morse Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

*This is the boundary.*

**10. Form Prepared By**

name/title Meredith Zwiemelhofer  
organization Ryderwood Women's Club date 2/14/17  
street & number 215 Jackson / PO Box 483 telephone 360-295-0565  
city or town Ryderwood state WA zip code 98581  
e-mail merdyann@yahoo.com  
signature Meredith Zwiemelhofer

**11. Property Owner**

name Ryderwood Women's Club  
street & number 201 Morse St. telephone /  
city or town Ryderwood, WA state WA zip code 98581  
email \_\_\_\_\_  
signature Meredith Zwiemelhofer

**12. Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Vicinity Maps:** A map indicating the property's location within the County.
- **Sketch map of property.** Key all photographs to this map.
- **Photos**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Commission for any additional items.)





**Ryderwood, WA 98581**  
*Since 1953: A planned community for retired persons  
 in the foothills of Western Washington*



**Ryderwood Assessor Map**  
 DISCLAIMER: GIS maps do not carry legal authority to determine a boundary or the location of fixed works and are intended as a locational reference for planning, infrastructure management and general information. Cowitz County provides this information on an "as is" basis without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied including but not limited to warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, and assumes no responsibility for anyone's use of this information.

**RYDERWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**COMMUNITY HALL**

**RYDERWOOD COMMUNITY PARK**

**RYDERWOOD LAKE**

**PIONEER HALL**

**CAFE  
POST OFFICE  
LIBRARY**

**RED BARN**

**UPPER BRIDGE**

**LOWER BRIDGE**

605 6TH

601 6TH

114 6TH

112 6TH

110 6TH

697  
685  
683  
675  
673  
909

S R S O G

614

606

604

602

615  
MONROE

6TH ST E

6TH ST W

6TH ST W

5TH ST W

5TH ST W

5TH ST E

413 4TH

4TH ST W

4TH ST W

4TH ST E

315 3RD

215 2ND

213 2ND

109 1ST

107 1ST

105 1ST

101 1ST W  
FIRE HALL

101 1ST E

302 1ST  
T E

302 2ND

303 2ND

3RD ST W

3RD ST W

3RD ST E

2ND ST W

2ND ST W

2ND ST E

1ST ST W

1ST ST W

1ST ST E

2ND ST E

1ST ST E



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### **13. Photographs**

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Submit large, clear, and descriptive photographs. Key all photographs to the sketch map if necessary. Notate all photos using the example scheme found below:

**Name of Property:**

**Community:**

**Photographer:**

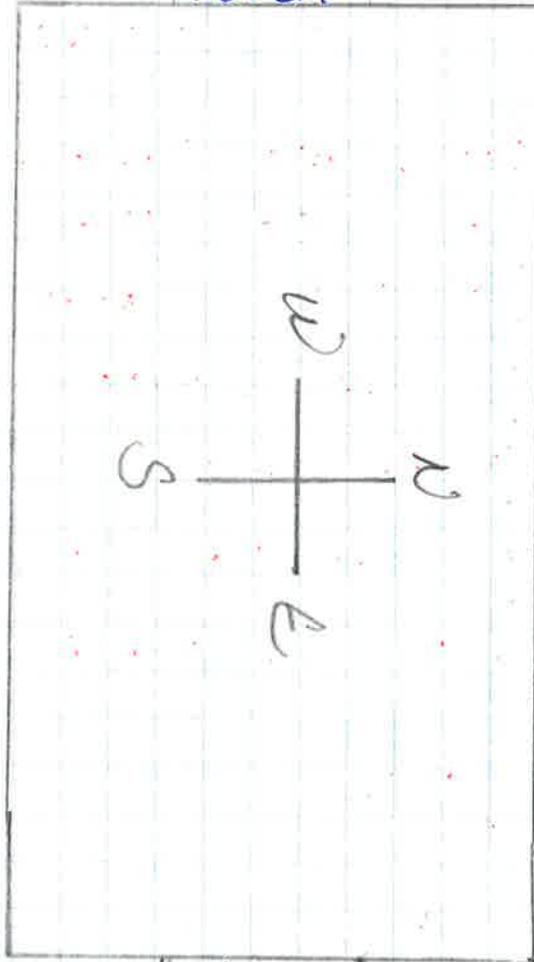
**Date Photographed:**

**Description of Photograph(s):**

1 of \_\_\_\_.

Alley

Back  
Porch



2nd Street W.

Front  
Porch

Pioneer Hall - 201 Morse

# First Aid Station / Pioneer Hall

*Photo 10/10*

## Doctor who delivered most of Ryderwood's babies dead at 85

**By Bud May  
The Daily News**

Dr. E. Noel Sulis, who delivered most of the babies born in Ryderwood and many others in Longview during 80 years of medical practice, died at 85 Thursday at his Longview home.

Dr. Sulis, who lived with his wife, Lila, at 3119 Nichols Blvd., retired some years ago, but continued to care for longtime patients at his home as long as his health allowed.

Born March 10, 1900, at St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, he graduated from McGill University Medical School in Montreal in 1923, the year Longview was founded.

After an internship at General Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., Dr. Sulis practiced medicine briefly in Kansas before moving to Ryderwood



In 1927 when the community was a nearly new Long-Bell logging town.

He had offices in a company-furnished building, where he took care of the medical needs of the town's loggers, their wives and children until moving to Longview in the late 1940s.

Most Ryderwood citizens still referred to him as "our doctor" long after he established his own clinic in Longview.

Those former patients remember him as a man who never turned down anyone in need of help, and who often forgot to send a bill.

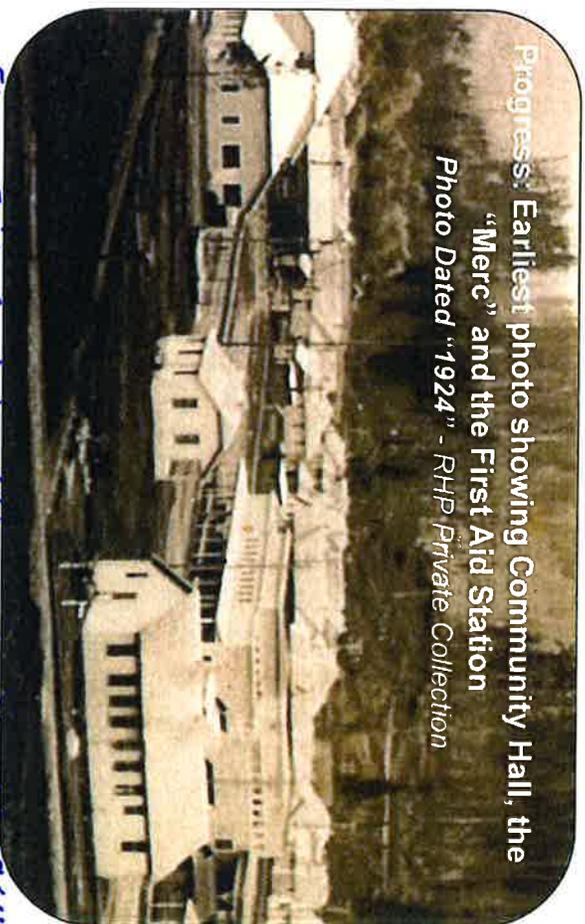
Luther Fleming, a retired teacher who now lives at Castle Rock, recalls that Dr. Sulis made house calls day or night.

"He came to our house one time at 2 o'clock in the morning when my dad was having gallstone problems.

*Article (partial) Dated: 2/8/1985 RHP Private Collection*

The First Aid Station was built in 1925 at the NW corner of Second & Morse (formerly Main) Streets, in the building known today as Pioneer Hall. From 1927 until the late 1940's, Dr. E. N. Sulis was the "town doctor". During his tenure, the building grew into a well-equipped Infirmary with an office, 2-3 hospital rooms, and living quarters in back. Dr. Sulis was known for his love of children, hate of tonsils, and dread of the inevitable accidents in the woods. He made house calls at any time of day or night, and often performed minor surgery and procedures in residents' kitchens. He never turned down anyone in need of help, and often "forgot" to send a bill.

In 1976, "The Achievers" (now "Ryderwood Women's Club") arranged to purchase the building from the real estate developer in exchange for showing new homes.



Progress: Earliest photo showing Community Hall, the "Merc" and the First Aid Station  
Photo Dated "1924" - RHP Private Collection

*First Aid Station, Pioneer Hall, 1924  
Ryderwood, WVA. Photographer - L. Kinsey*

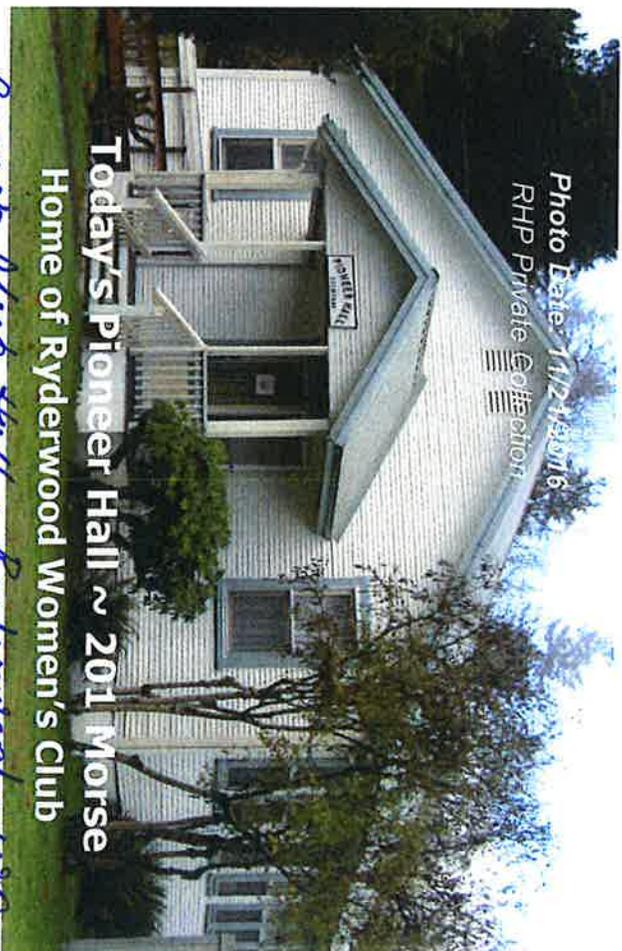


Photo Date: 11/24/2016  
RHP Private Collection  
Today's Pioneer Hall ~ 201 Morse  
Home of Ryderwood Women's Club

*Pioneer Club Hall - Ryderwood, WVA  
Photographer & Date Unknown*

Pioneer Hall, Rykerwood, WA  
Photographer Unknown  
Date - 1970's

Pioneer Hall - 1970's Front View from Horse Street



Photo 2 of 10

Pioneer Hall  
Ryderwood, WA.  
Photographer Unknown  
Date - 1993

front & back views of building  
#1 Rear porch taken from alley  
#2 front porch taken from Morse Street

#1



Front & Rear Porches 1990's

#2



1993

Photo 3 of 10

Pioneer Hall - Eastside  
Ryderwood, WA  
Photographer Unknown  
Date - 1957

Ryderwood Club members on front porch  
taken from Morse Street



Ryderwood Guit Club  
1957

Photo 4 of 10

Ryderwood Quilt Club 1960's  
 Interior of Pioneer Hall, Rydeswood, WA  
 Photographer Unknown  
 Date - 1960  
 Quilt Club Luncheon - interior of Pioneer Hall



69 • 61 •



19 • 69 •

Photos 5 of 10

Pioneer Hall Rydersonwood, WA  
Photographer - Meredith Zurieffelbauer  
February 2017 Front view from Morse Street

Photo 6  
of 10



Pioneer Hall Rydalswood, WA  
Photographer - Meredith Zupitelhofer  
February 2017 Rear View from the alley

Photo 7 of 10



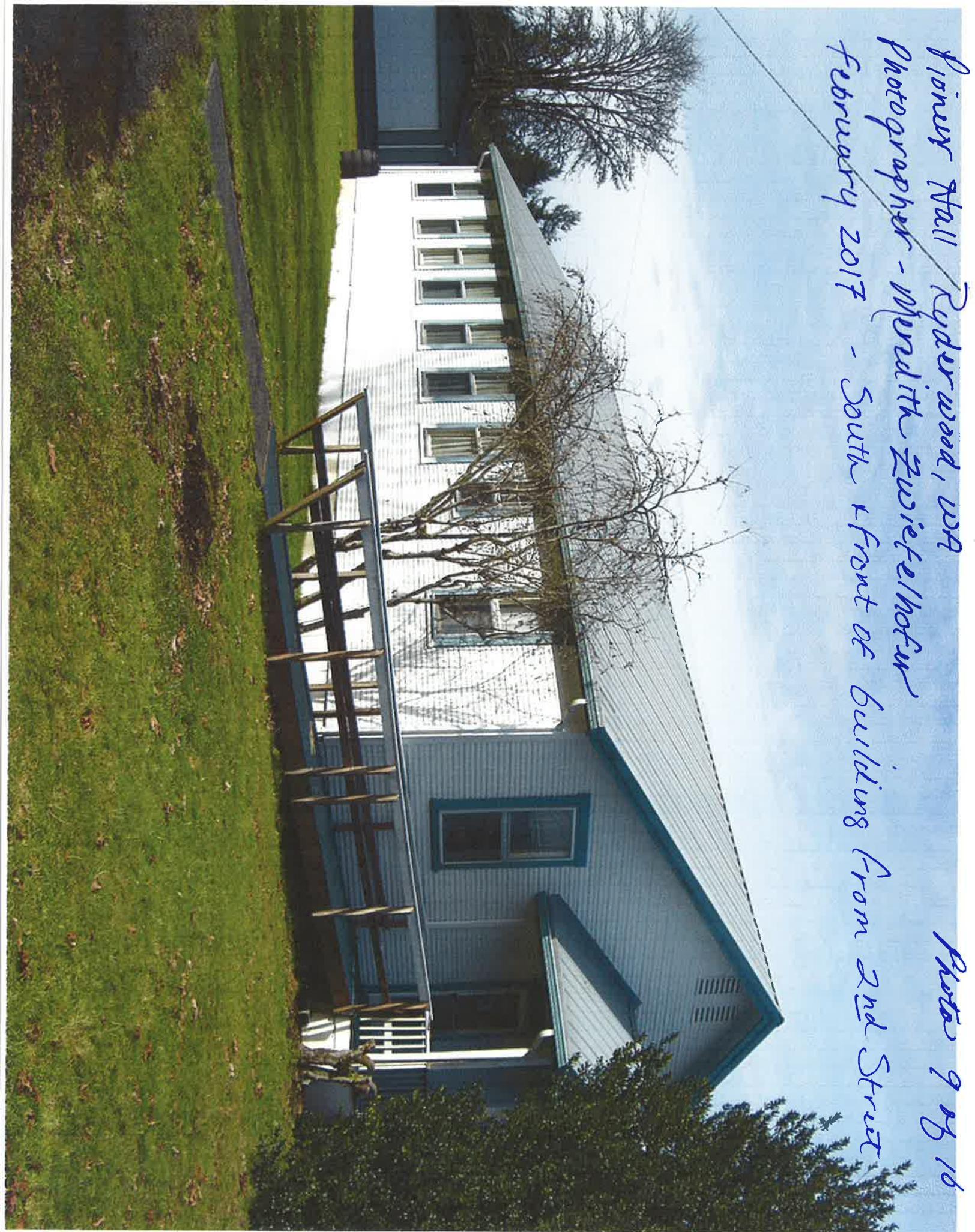
Pioneer Hall Redwood, WA  
Photos grapher - Meredith Zwerfelhofer  
February 2017 South & Rear of building from 2nd Street

Photos 8 of 10



Pioneer Hall Rydersonwood, WA  
Photographer - Meredith Zwickelhofen  
February 2017 - South front of building from 2nd Street

Photo 9 of 16



Pioneer Hall - Ryder Wood, left  
Photographer - Meredith Zuercherhofer  
February 2017 - Interior of Pioneer Hall

Photo 10 of 18

