

# 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 Ryderwood Cafe / Library  
 other names/site number WN0320124

## 2. Location

street & number 208 Morse St.  not for publication  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
1		site
1		structure
		object
<b>3</b>		<b>Total</b>

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

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

## 4. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

The building served as a Cafe for the logging community. Primary patrons were single loggers, lodgers and visitors staying in the Tavern across the street.

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### Current Functions

The Building has served as a Library for Retirees since 1956.

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## 5. Description

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### Architectural Classification

Territorial

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### Materials

foundation: Unknown

walls: — Interior: wood "bead" board original  
— Exterior: wood, much has been replaced

roof: — Roof: flat roll down

other: — The original front windows and doors remain

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## 6. Historic Narrative

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(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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Located at 208 Morse St. in the village of Ryderwood, WA, this little 1200 sq. ft. building is distinguishable by its front (west facing) wall of original glass doors and windows.

The building was designed by Long-Bell architect E. N. Larry and completed by 1926. It served as a Cafe for the family logging town.

By 1956, it was repurposed as a lending Library for Retirees, which is its current purpose.

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### Narrative Description

Designed by Long-Bell architect E. N. Larry and completed by 1926, 208 Morse St., the building is one of three distinctive buildings of Larry's designs that remain in town. The others are the Post Office next door (same 1200 sq. ft. footprint, different facade) and the beautiful Ryderwood Community Church at 315 Jackson St.

During the Long-Bell years, the building served as a Cafe for the logging community. The primary patrons were single loggers, lodgers and visitors staying in the Tavern (hotel) - now gone - across the street. The loggers picked up box lunches there to take into the woods.

The earliest photos (1926) show no porch, but there is one in a 1928 photo. It is the addition of that porch that has preserved the building's most significant feature, the front (west facing) wall that is comprised of the original "wavy glass" windows and doors from 1923.

In 1956, the building was converted into a lending Library by the Retirees. At that time, a beautiful oak lighted buffet with a once-refrigerated compartment was relocated to the dining room of Community Hall where it remains today.

The exterior siding is mostly replaced, but still in character with the original. The interior bead-board walls and ceilings are intact. Flooring has been replaced.

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**7. Statement of Significance**

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**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

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**Period of Significance**

1923-to-present

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**Significant Dates**

1923

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1955

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**Significant Person**

(If Applicable)

R. A. Long, E. N. Larry, Harry Kem, Jr.

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**Cultural Affiliation**

Logging

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Retiree Library

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**Architect/Builder**

E. N. Larry

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

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

Completed by 1926 to serve as a Cafe for the logging community, the building is significant due to its age and near-original condition. Most exterior siding has been replaced, while interior bead-board is intact.

All the doors and windows on the west-facing (front) wall are original and intact.

The building's designer, E. N. Larry, is also significant, as he designed many buildings, homes and bridges in both Rydewood and Longview.

In 1956, the building was converted into a Library for the Retirees.

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

Completed by 1926 to serve as a Cafe for the logging community, the building is significant due to its age and near-original condition. Most exterior siding has been replaced, while interior bead-board is intact.

The building's most significant feature is the array of original glass doors and windows that line the front of the building. The earliest photo shows no porch, but thanks to the early addition of one (by 1928), those doors and windows remain intact.

The building is an excellent example of Rydewood's dual histories: First, it served as a Cafe during R. A. Long's Long-Bell logging years (1923-53); then, after the town's conversion to a retirement community by Harry Kem's Senior Estates (1953), the building became a lending Library, which is its current purpose.

The building's designer, E. N. Larry had a productive career with Long-Bell that was cut short by his untimely death in 1926. He also designed the Town's original steam heating plant, the Post Office building next door (same footprint, different facade), the former Tavern (hotel) and the beautiful Rydewood Community Church. This building, the Post Office and Church are the ones that remain.

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**8. References**

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

Long-Bell Log, May 1928

Cowlitz Co. Historical Quarterly, September 2016; "E. N. Larry, A Creative Longview Giant"

Ryderwood History Project, "The Town With Two Histories", pp. 7 and 39

**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: DAHP.gov  
Cowlitz Co. Building and Planning Dept.  
Ryderwood History Project, Inc.

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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**9. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** \_\_\_\_\_

(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.)

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.)

The building is located on a 50' x 100' lot in the middle of the 200 block of Morse, East side of street.

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

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**10. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Cissy Sanders / Cowlitz Co. Historic Preservation Commissioner  
organization Ryderwood History Project date 4/17/2019  
street & number P. O. Box 15 telephone 360-355-7315  
city or town Ryderwood state WA zip code 98581  
e-mail cistersanzer@gmail.com  
signature Cissy Sanders

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**11. Property Owner**

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name Ryderwood Improvement & Service Assn.  
street & number 305 Morse St. / P. O. Box 143 telephone 360-295-3651  
city or town Ryderwood state WA zip code 98581  
email ryderwood@centurytel.net  
signature David E. Romano / RISA President

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**12. Additional Documentation**

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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.)



**Name of Property:** Ryderwood Cafe / Library  
**Community:** Ryderwood  
**Photographer:** Google  
**Date Photographed:** Recent  
**Description:** Satellite view; 1 of 8.



**Name of Property:** Ryderwood Cafe / Library  
**Community:** Ryderwood  
**Photographer:**  
**Date Photographed:** 2/2/1926  
**Source:** Longview Public Library  
**Description:** Earliest known photo of original Cafe; 2 of 8.  
**Sign on window says "Ryderwood Cafe"**



**Name of Property: Ryderwood Cafe / Library**

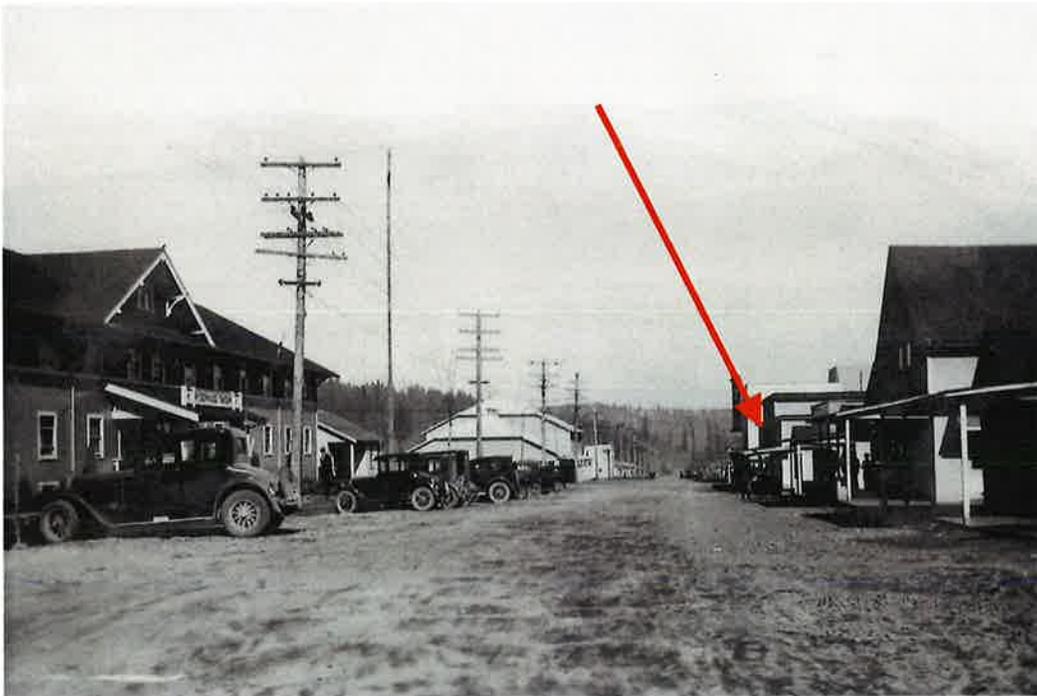
**Community: Ryderwood**

**Photographer: Unknown**

**Date Photographed: 1928**

**Source: Private collection**

**Description: The Cafe building has an overhanging porch in this photo. 3 of 8.**



**Name of Property: Ryderwood Cafe / Library**

**Community: Ryderwood**

**Photographer: Unknown**

**Date Photographed: 1953**

**Source: The Daily News**

**Description: The Cafe building has an overhanging porch in this photo. 4 of 8.**



**Name of Property:** Ryderwood Cafe / Library

**Community:** Ryderwood

**Photographer:** Cissy Sanders

**Date Photographed:** 3/10/07

**Source:** Private collection

**Description:** Photo shows original windows and doors. 5 of 8



# 208 Main / Morse St.

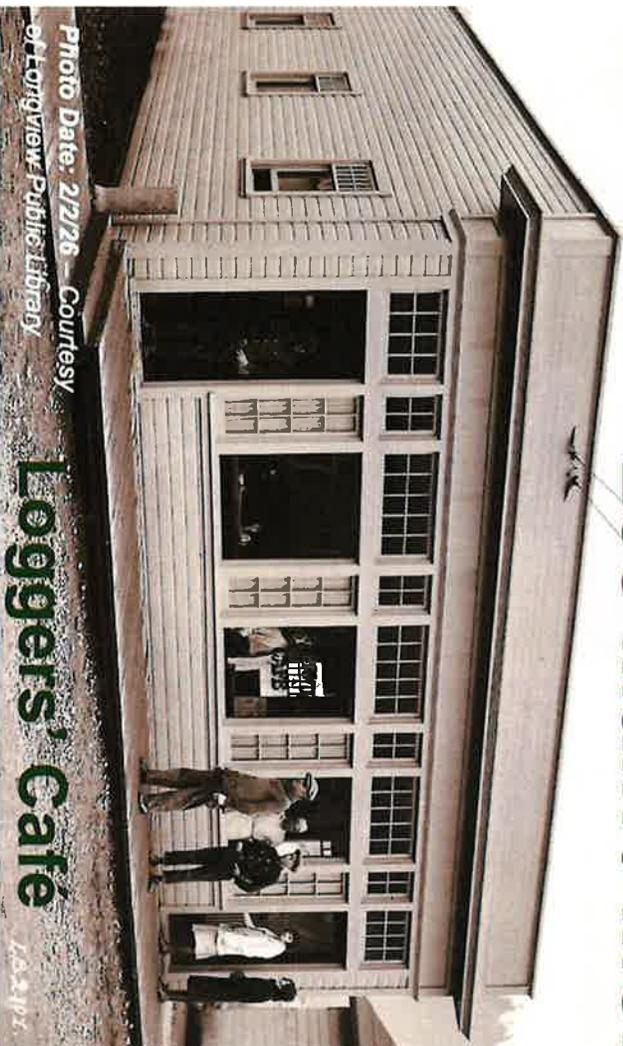


Photo Date: 2/2/26 - Courtesy of Longview Public Library

## Loggers' Cafe

## Retirees' Library



Photo Date: 3/10/2007 - RHP-Private Collection



### Architect E. N. Larry

The designer of the Port of Astoria, became Long-Bell's in-house architect in 1922. He engineered numerous projects during the early years of Longview and Rydewood before his untimely death in 1926 at the age of 35.

Along with designing the Port of Longview, "he engineered most, if not all, the rail bridges between the Long-Bell mill and Rydewood."

His experience designing commercial buildings and bungalows meant Long-Bell had an in-house "architect to help build the community at Rydewood... which was still in the planning stages."

Name of Property: Rydewood Cafe / Library  
Community: Rydewood

Photographer: N/A

Date Photographed: N/A

Source: "The Town With Two Histories"

Description: Page 7 of "The Town With Two Histories"; 6 of 8.

also designed the former "Iavern" building shown on Page 4. (This paragraph has been edited since original 2017 publication.)

Source: Cowlitz Historical Quarterly, September 2016  
Upper photo courtesy of Donald Everett Larry, AIA



**Cafe Building At Ryderwood Is Renovated**  
 RYDERWOOD — A new community project has been launched in Ryderwood. A group of citizens,

1956



Name of Property: Ryderwood Cafe / Library  
 Community: Ryderwood  
 Photographer: N/A  
 Date Photographed: N/A  
 Source: "The Town With Two Histories"  
 Description: Page 39 of "The Town With Two Histories". 7 of 8.

ANNIVERSARY  
 FEB. 16th. 1924 to 1974



## 208 and 210 Morse Street

- Long-Bell architect E. N. Larry designed these side-by-side buildings. They have identical "footprints" but different facades.
- The Post Office has served its original purpose continuously since 1924.
- The Library's front windows and doors are original, and an added porch appears in several early photographs.
- Both buildings are eligible for the Cowlitz Co. Historic Register.

Name of Property: Rydewood Cafe / Library  
Community: Rydewood  
Photographer: Cissy Sanders  
Date Photographed: 12/11/2018  
Source: Private collection  
Description: Photo of large buffet that was once located in the former Rydewood Cafe (Library) . 8 of 8.

