



PIONEER SALOON FACADE



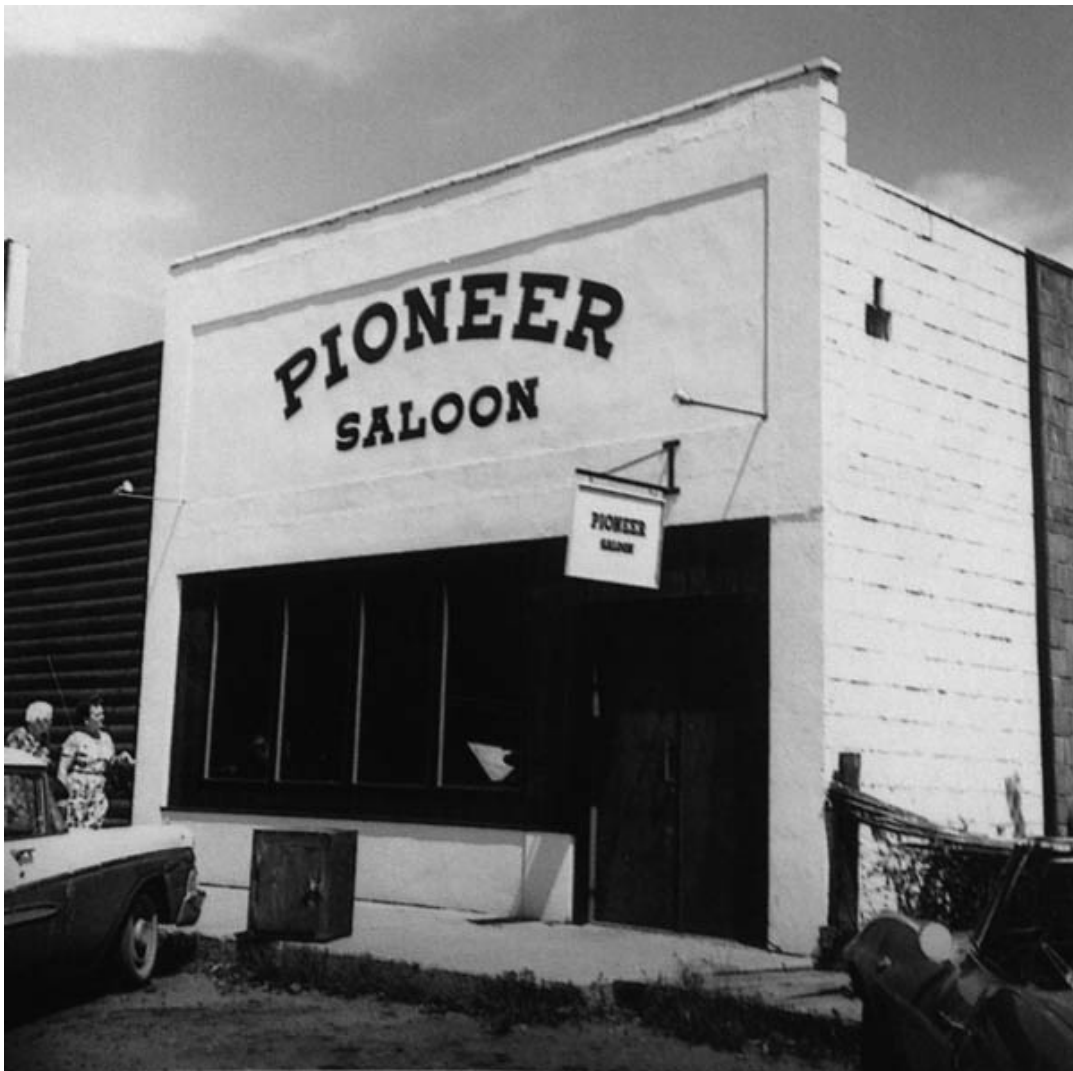
REAR ELEVATION



EXPOSED PORTION OF S. SIDE ELEVATION



Source: [pioneersaloon.com/history](http://pioneersaloon.com/history)



Source: [pioneersaloon.com/history](http://pioneersaloon.com/history)





Source: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/133321473424577>



Source: <https://ketchumbnr.com/pioneer-saloon>





Source: [pioneersaloon.com/history](http://pioneersaloon.com/history)



The Pioneer Saloon after its 2002 facade renovation.

Source: [visitsunvalley.com](http://visitsunvalley.com)



# Overview of the History of the Pioneer Saloon

“The Pioneer Saloon—originally known as The Commercial Club—first opened its doors in the 1940s as a gambling casino operated by Otis Hobbs. A few years later, the casino closed, and the building was repurposed by the American Legion as a meeting hall. For a brief period, it also served the community as a dry goods store before eventually becoming the beloved establishment it is today.

Around 1950, the building was revived as a gambling casino by Whitey Hirschman, who gave it the name it still carries today—the Pioneer Saloon. Although gambling was never legal in Idaho, it thrived in Ketchum until 1953, when enforcement of the law brought it to an end. Following that period, Whitey continued to operate the Pioneer as both a bar and a uniquely eclectic antique store, maintaining its vibrant character until the spring of 1965.

In the mid-1960s, the Pioneer underwent a transformation, emerging as a full-service restaurant. The current incarnation of the Pioneer Saloon dates back to 1972—an important milestone that inspired the phrase “Where were you in ’72?” This sentiment serves as the theme of our annual Pio Days celebration, held each November to honor the Saloon’s enduring legacy and the community that surrounds it.

Over the years, the Pioneer Saloon has seen a number of thoughtful additions and renovations. In 1984, the downstairs dining room was added during a summer-long construction project. In 2002, the building’s front façade was transformed from stucco to its current wooden exterior, and that same year, the back bar was redesigned by Doug Tedrow of Wood River Rustics. In May 2012, the interior was further enhanced with custom woodwork, updated lighting, and the addition of many new artifacts that reflect the Saloon’s rich heritage. Duffy and Sheila Witmer have been the sole owners of the Pioneer Saloon since 1986. Together with their children—Alyson, Chloe, and Dillon—and in collaboration with current General Manager Chris Saxton, they continue to preserve the spirit of this historic landmark while introducing fresh ideas to Ketchum’s vibrant restaurant scene.”

SOURCE [PIONEERSALOON.COM/HISTORY](http://PIONEERSALOON.COM/HISTORY)



## **Written Narrative Supporting Facade Alteration**

The Pioneer Saloon, as a restaurant, has played a significant part in Ketchum life for more than 50 years. However, the building facade itself has been altered repeatedly with multiple changes of fenestration and finish materials. The current detailing of the facade is not historic. The scale of the building is important to retain as it contributes to the scale of the historic streetscape.

The proposed alteration of the facade does not change the scale of the structure and, therefore, does not impact the significance of the structure within the community core and improves the aesthetic relationship to adjacent properties. It does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan.

The size of the facade is retained. The fenestration is unchanged from the 2002 renovation. The proposed materials and detailing are consistent with the general character of the existing facade as well as the facade's of neighboring buildings.

The proposed alteration of the facade materials does no adversely affect the historical or architectural distinction of the structure or the community core. It is intended to bring it back towards its historical roots.