Garnet, Montana

Photography by Lloyd Williams
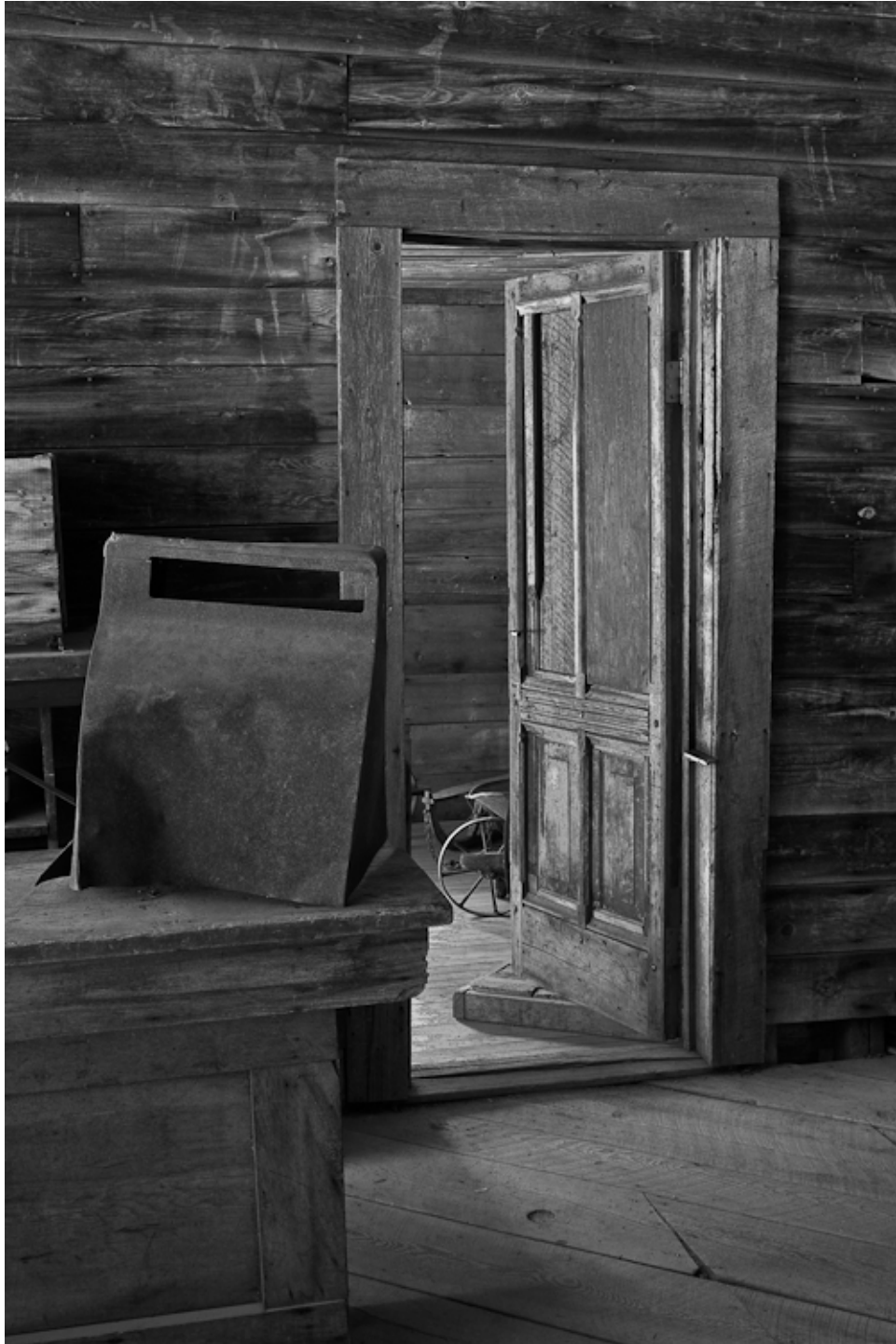
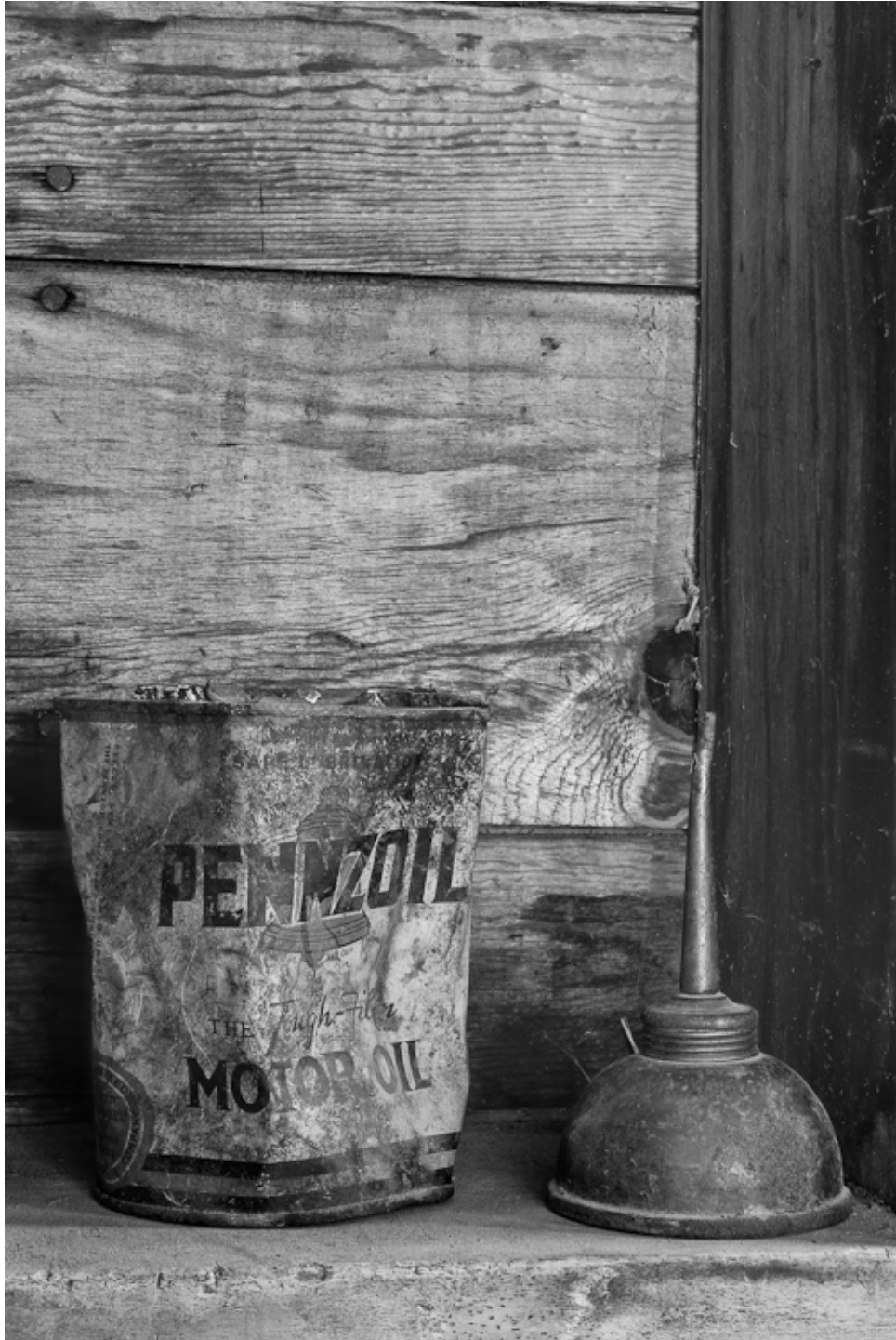Davey's Merchantile I

Sitting By The Fire

Davey's Merchantile II

Shopping At The Merchantile

Pennzoil

Wells Hotel Kitchen

Wells Hotel Guest Room

The Adams House

Garnet Ghost Town

The town of Garnet was established in 1895 by miners working claims in the Garnet Range of Montana. Soon after, a rich vein of gold was discovered and the town swelled to 1,000 residents. In its hey-day, Garnet boasted thirteen saloons, four hotels, four stores, a school with 41 students and a Miners Union Hall.

Frank Davey's general store provided the miners with necessities such as canned goods, meat, dry goods, shoes and hardware. He operated the store until his death in 1947.

The J. K. Wells hotel was constructed in 1897 and was the most luxurious in town. The cloth-backed wallpaper can still be seen hanging from the walls. The first floor had a large kitchen, a dining area and a ladies parlor. The second floor had sleeping rooms; and the third was an open area where those who could not afford a room could rent sleeping space on the floor.

By 1912, depleted gold deposits and a devastating fire drove the miners to leave the area, and the population dwindled. Although Garnet experienced a brief revival during the late 1930s, it did not last. With Frank Davey's death, Garnet officially became a ghost town.

Today, the Bureau of Land Management and the Garnet Preservation Association are working to preserve the site.

About the Images

Garnet is a visually rich environment. It also possesses a palpable sense of place along with a strong connection to those who made their lives in such an inhospitable place. I have tried to capture these qualities here.

The images in this folio were made on a single day in June of 2010. They were cap-tured digitally either as single files or high dynamic range (HDR) brackets. They were post-processed in Photomatix (HDR) and Photoshop.