



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
other names/site number Little White Schoolhouse / 5JF.5107

2. Location

street & number <u>26951 Barkley Road</u>	<table border="1"><tr><td>N/A</td></tr></table>	N/A	not for publication
N/A			
city or town <u>Conifer</u>	<table border="1"><tr><td>N/A</td></tr></table>	N/A	vicinity
N/A			
state <u>Colorado</u> code <u>CO</u> county <u>Jefferson</u> code <u>059</u> zip code <u>80433</u>			

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 ___ national ___ statewide X local

[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
 Signature of certifying official/Title

9-23-2013
 Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

 Signature of commenting official Date

 Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

[Signature]
 Signature of the Keeper

2-10-14
 Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	1	structure
0	0	object
2	2	Total

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 National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

Movements

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Wood – weatherboard

roof: Composite

other:

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Narrative Description

(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

The Conifer Junction Schoolhouse (referred to by the locals as the Little White School) sits on a one-acre lot in the unincorporated community of Conifer, Colorado. The schoolhouse sits towards the west side of the property with the entrance facing east. Behind the schoolhouse is the barn built sometime in the 1930s. Directly north of the schoolhouse sits a pump house, this sat as a concrete slab and pump until 1990 when the district built a small pump house around it to match the barn and schoolhouse in appearance. In 1996 while the school was a preschool the district brought a modular classroom to accommodate children with special needs. This unit sits northeast of the schoolhouse.

Narrative Description

SITE

The Conifer Junction Schoolhouse (1923) is located up the hill just 400 yards east of Junction Corner. Junction Corner was the beginning of Conifer. The southeast corner of the lot reaches Barkley Road. Residential properties surround the school, all zoned A2. The boundaries of the property sit slightly askew, angled slightly southwest of the north/south line. The site has a steep slope beginning from the southern edge of the parking lot down to the southwest corner of the site. On this hillside are shrub brush, tall grasses, flowers and coniferous trees. These include ponderosa pine, western wheat grass, wild rose, thistle, ragweed, sulfur flower, potentilla, cinquefoil, mullein, milkweed, blue bells, bindweed and yarrow. Though removed in the 1980s, because it was not safe, a swing set once sat on this hill. There are three buildings and one structure. The two contributing buildings sit next to each other on the west side of the property. Ten feet behind the schoolhouse is the barn, built in the 1930s. The barn has two privies attached to it, one for boys and one for girls. These likely replaced earlier privies; the location of the original privies is unknown. The third building on the property is a modular unit brought to the site in 1996. It currently serves as storage and a meeting hall, and is considered non-contributing. A small structure was constructed around the pump house in 1990, which is also considered non-contributing. The graded parking area takes over a large portion of the property, including most of the area east of the schoolhouse, the site slopes down from the south side of the parking lot, and up from the north. Between the parking area and the schoolhouse is a former playground area covered in woodchips, these are all that remain. A concrete sidewalk and metal chain link fence surround the woodchips. On the west and north sides of this area are two stone retaining walls (2006), built for the playground in order to have a flat area for the equipment. The Schoolhouse does not have a belfry or a flagpole. According to former student recollections there was a flagpole at some point out in front of the school building, but the date of its removal is unknown.

The land surrounding the school and other buildings is covered with coniferous trees, small shrubs and native grasses. In front of the school building, on either side of the front steps are two raised flowerbeds. The bed on the left has three French lilac bushes.

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Contributing Buildings:

SCHOOLHOUSE, 1923

Exterior (photo numbers 1-9)

The designer/builder of the schoolhouse is unknown, although George Green may have been the builder, according to a relative of his whose child attended Conifer Junction while it was a preschool. It is likely that there was no professional architect hired to design the building, as Conifer was a small, rural district at the time, with a limited budget. The families in the town likely came together to help build the schoolhouse alongside a local builder, as was common in the building of many schoolhouses across the country.

The schoolhouse is a rectangular in plan with the slightly longer side facing east/west. It measures 32' x 39' including the porch and cloakrooms. The schoolhouse consists of two floors, a main floor with the classroom and two cloakrooms, and the basement with a kitchen, office and bathrooms. The building is in good condition since it was in use up until 2012 and only vacant a short time.

The exterior of the building is painted white, and covered in horizontal wood weatherboard siding. The white paint is all people associated with the school can remember. The hip roof has low overhanging eaves around the entire building, initially wood shingles covered the roof, but in 2007 composite shingles replaced them. The windows and doors are original; the simple wood boards that trim the openings are 4 to 6" wide. The lintels are made up of two pieces of trim, one is thinner, only about 1" high, but sticks out from the wall 1" further than the lower, wider board. Unless otherwise indicated most of the windows are six-over-six double hung wood sash windows; most retain their original glass, with only a few replaced with Plexiglas after the panes broke.

East-facing side (main façade) (photo number 5)

The front façade is symmetrical. It has a central door that enters directly into the main room, but also has two cloakrooms that project five feet from the façade, with operable doors positioned on either side of the front porch. All three doors, one for the boys cloakroom, one for the girls and the third as a main entrance into the classroom, are accessible from the porch. The porch is 5' deep like the cloakrooms and 21' wide. The roof of the main room covers the porch as well without a break; two square posts flank the top step and support the porch roof and the balustrades that extend to either side of the centered steps. Six wooden steps lead from the porch down to grade. The original stone steps exist underneath the wooden steps. Dark green paint covers the porch floor and wood steps. The balustrade is painted white, matching the exterior walls. The two wood original doors leading to the cloakrooms are paneled, with five equal, evenly spaced panels covering the door. The front wood door is paneled as well, there is one large panel on the top portion, then three thin panels stacked below. The front door is currently painted dark green; in a class picture from 1954 the door is the same as the rest of the façade, white or light yellow. The door and doorframe appear as if the door was reversed at some point, but in the same class picture as mentioned above the door is in the same orientation as it is today. A pair of windows flank the front entry door. Each cloakroom has a window centered on the front wall; a window box sits beneath each of the cloakroom windows.

South-facing side (photo numbers 2 and 7)

There are three windows on the main floor of the south-facing side. Two of these windows are in the main classroom space; the third is in the stairwell. The windows are slightly off center and shifted just to the left,

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most likely to compensate for the cloakrooms on the right side of the façade where there is no window. On the lower level there is a single door, off-center to the left, and three four-light fixed windows. Two provide illumination for the office in the southeast corner, and the third illuminates the stairwell at the southwest corner.

West-facing side (photo numbers 6 and 7)

There are four windows on the west façade, two on either side of the stone chimney. Brown and red native granite stones make up the chimney. The stones are rough cut and vary in size. Mortar secures the stones in their stacked layers. The chimney stands straight, with a slight angle at the very top row of stones. The original heating system of the school is unclear, but the chimney likely functioned as an exhaust pipe for a potbelly stove in the basement. At the basement level there is a covered opening, it was likely used as the coal drop for the potbelly stove at some point.

North-facing side (photo number 6)

There is a second entrance into the classroom, as well as three windows on the north side. The door is on the west side of the façade. There is a simple 2" wide wood trim around the door, with no detailing. The door has a window made up of four lights in the top portion of the door and three stacked, recessed panels in the lower portion, it does not appear to be original as it does not match the others. The door is painted white. The trim around the door does not match that of the windows or the front door, and may have been added at an unknown date. Similar trim frames the windows that are located opposite the windows on the south wall, so that they sit 2' from the door.

Interior

The interior of the building has the classroom and the two cloakrooms on the main floor, and then in the basement are a kitchen area, office/storage room, restrooms (both boys and girls) and the mechanical room.

Main classroom (photo numbers 14-17)

The main room measures 36'-9" x 24'-9" with a ceiling height of 10'-1". There is beadboard wainscoting, originally unpainted, placed vertically up to the windowsill height around the entire room. The current paint scheme was completed in 2006, and a carpet covering half of the room was added in 1984. With the current paint scheme, the window trim on the north half of the building is dark purple, the walls are light yellow and the wainscoting is light green. In the southern half the wainscoting and window trim are light yellow, the window mullions and frame are dark purple and the walls are light green.

A counter with sink and drinking fountain sits under a window on the west of the room near the stairs heading to the basement. The low height of the sink and drinking fountain and the style of the Formica on the counter top, suggest they were new additions after conversion to a preschool.

The original pine plank-wood floor is in good condition although likely stained from the original color. Near the middle of the room are two patches of oak planks that closely resemble the pine. This is where the former registers existed for the potbelly stove; now the registers sit along the window walls. The pine is from the nearby Black Mountain to the west, where it was cut and milled.

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A new fire alarm system has been added to the building, with a large black box on the south wall. This box looks new and out of place but does not distract from the overall sense of the classroom. A partition wall added in 1980 divided the large room in order to have two separate spaces for preschool classes; this was removed in February 2013. The wall sat just to the north of the main entry door, running west to east with a gap on the east wall to move between the rooms.

Cloakrooms

The rooms are 6'-10" x 5', and 10'-1" high. The cloakroom on the south side has added shelves and functioned as an office while the schoolhouse was a preschool. The room on the north side has the original unpainted wood, and is mostly unaltered. The walls above are painted white. The window trim and frame are both unpainted. Shelving has been added to the north wall. The north cloakroom was used as a library office/book drop space twice a week while the preschool was in use. The remains of a book drop are visible on the door that leads from this cloakroom. Both cloakrooms have original doors connecting them to the main classroom; the doors are the same style as the exterior doors.

Basement (photo numbers 18-20)

The basement is 18'-6" x 24'; the rest of the square footage is a crawl space. The ceiling is only 6'-9" high. The stairs from the classroom end on the south wall right by the single exterior door in the basement. In the southeast corner of the basement is an enclosed office space that is 6'-9" x 7'-9". Along the east wall is a kitchen space open to the rest of the basement. Along the west wall are two water closets, likely the same that were installed in the 1950s, with a sink in the main space between the two rooms. A utility closet is located on this wall as well. The rest of the basement is open, and there is a support pole in the middle of the space.

BARN WITH PRIVIES, ca. 1930, (photo numbers 10-11)

The barn (16' x 24') is made of the same wood weatherboard siding as the schoolhouse, and also painted white. It is located about 15' west of the school. The foundation is concrete and looks similar to the basement level of the schoolhouse. The hip roof is similar to that of the schoolhouse, and is now covered in composite shingles, but was wood shingles up until they were replaced ca. 2007. There are two small caps on the roof, either once small skylights or vents. The south side is the main façade with the only door entering directly into the barn. The door is 2'-6" x 6'-8", it is unknown if there ever was a larger barn door. Any changes to the door are no longer visible. Former teacher, Phebe Granzella talked of bringing her horse and leaving it in the barn for the day and of students bringing goats and mules. More than likely the barn was only used for a short time as a barn. As vehicles became more popular, the barn functioned more as storage for the schoolhouse as it does now.

There are two attached privies (5' x 5'), one on the north-facing side of the building on the west corner, the other on the west-facing side on the south corner and under the same roof as the barn. They are both made of the same material as the barn. On the south wall there are two doors, the one in the middle enters into the barn, the other is no longer functioning, but leads into the outhouse. There is a single four-light, fixed, wood-frame window on the east façade. A thin metal grate covers the lower portion of the window. There is a window of the same size and shape on the north façade, but this window is boarded, a metal grate covers the top half of this window. A chain link metal fence runs from the corner of the north privy up to the property line. After the school district installed indoor plumbing circa mid-1950s, the school no longer used the privies. They were

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covered and the doors secured. These privies replaced the original privies; however, the location of the original privies is unknown, as there is no surface evidence revealing the location and may have been located where the barn was constructed.

Alterations

The exterior of the schoolhouse remains mostly the same. The stone steps were covered with wooden steps. The flower boxes under the front windows were an addition at an unknown date, but blend with the façade. The roofing material was replaced in 2007 with composite shingles. The plywood around the base of the building, covering any entrance to the crawl space, was added at an unknown date, it is unknown what was the previous covering. The balustrade of the porch was rebuilt in 1984.

The interior of the schoolhouse has changed in 1980 when a partition wall was erected, splitting the room in two. This wall was removed in February 2013 after Conifer Historical Society and Museum took over the building. Carpet covers the north side of the room, but will also be removed in the near future. The paint within the space changed several times over the schoolhouse's lifetime. The other main change within the space is the wall built around the stairs. Initially this was a half wall, the same height as the wainscoting around the rest of the room, but for safety concerns when the school became a preschool this wall was raised to the full height of the ceiling, and a door was added.

It is unknown if the entrance door to the barn was replaced. If it was there is no evidence remaining. The entrance doors to the privies have been boarded up. These boards are painted white to match the exterior of the barn. The coverings over the windows are also painted white. No other changes are evident.

The parking lot was changed when the playground was added. Previously the entrance road came almost up to the stairs of the school. Originally this road was only dirt; it was paved at an unknown date prior to the addition of the playground.

In 2006 the major change to the property was a playground and retaining wall installed in-between the main schoolhouse and the modular unit. The retaining wall is made of concrete blocks made to look like stone. The playground equipment since removed left behind woodchips in the area. Former students remember playground equipment, to the south of the schoolhouse on the hill leading down the property. The new playground had two swing sets, and larger unit with two slides, a sandbox, some bouncing elements and a low basketball hoop which have all since been removed. The property retains a large amount of integrity even with the addition of the modular unit and the approach change of the playground.

Non-contributing Buildings:

MODULAR CLASSROOM, 1996, (photo numbers 1 and 13)

The modular classroom is 24' x 40' and sits to the northeast of the schoolhouse. Its southwest corner sits about 45' from the northeast corner of the schoolhouse. The old playground sits between the two buildings. The unit is white, with vertical wood lap cladding. Dark green painted shutters surround the sides of the windows that match the dark green of the front door of the schoolhouse. The roof is a very low pitch, gable roof. There are two entrances, one with steps leading up to it on the west wall, the other on the north wall with

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a ramp leading to it. There are four horizontal windows on the south wall, and three on the north, with no windows on either the east or west.

PUMP HOUSE. 1990, (photo numbers 3, 4, and 12)

The district built a little pump house to match the schoolhouse and the barn. It is 12' x 12' with a double door on the north wall. It is painted white, with horizontal wood siding, and a low pitch hip roof. It sits on a concrete slab. There is a white wood-framed chimney that breaks through the roof just to the east of center.

INTEGRITY

The Conifer Junction Schoolhouse retains a high degree of integrity. In the last 90 years, the schoolhouse has changed very little. The major changes to the site are the addition of the playground, parking and modular unit. They changed the site, but did not take away from the site's integrity. The well house was built in the 1990s and is a non-contributing structure on the site, but keeps with the character and building style of the school and barn so it does not distract from the historic character. The location of the building and site remain the same, although some of the setting has changed. Houses and ranches built since 1923 surround the property. The 720 acres that were previously of Junction Ranch have been subdivided, and houses are closer together as a result, but the acre that the schoolhouse sits on still remains and the trees around the property help the schoolhouse feel more isolated. The schoolhouse has only had minimal alterations, and as such retains much of the original design integrity. The materiality retains much of its original integrity, with the exception of a few panes of glass, all of the windowpanes are original and the woodwork looks to be the same, some lights were added to the exterior of the schoolhouse, but do not take away from the appearance of the building. The feeling of the site is similar to what it was, the new additions do change the feeling of the rural one room schoolhouse, but they add to the sense that the site needed to grow and accommodate the continued use as a school building. Since most of the original materials are still present, including much of the original woodwork, windows, and detailing, the workmanship put in when the school was built is still visible. The construction is very simple and unornamented, serving its purpose as a schoolhouse very well. The schoolhouse's association with rural one-room schoolhouses remains intact since it is still the same one room with two cloakrooms that it was upon completion.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE
HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY/ Non-aboriginal

Period of Significance

1923-1965
1923-1955
1923-circa 1930s
Circa 1930s – 1950s

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification) The period of significance for education begins in 1923, the year of construction and ends in 1965 with its conversion to a preschool. Although the school retained its education function until 2012, it does not have exceptional significance needed to be eligible for activities less than fifty years old. The period of significance for social history is 1923-1955, at which point West Jefferson Elementary School was built and Conifer Junction was no longer the center of the social community. The period of significance for architecture is 1923-circa 1930s, to include the school construction date and the 1930s barn construction date. The period of significance for Historic Archaeology, Non-Aboriginal is circa 1930s, when the barn was constructed, to circa 1950s, when indoor plumbing was added to the school.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Conifer Junction Schoolhouse is locally significant under Criterion A for **Education** as a one-room schoolhouse in rural Colorado in continuous use from 1923 to 2012, though was two rooms from 1980 on, after a partition wall was installed. This wall has since been removed. The period of significance begins in 1923 when the school opened and ends in 1965 at the time the school was converted into a preschool. It is also locally significant under Criterion A for **Social History** as a central meeting place for the rural community of Conifer, used for many social events including dances and box socials. The period of significance begins with the school opening in 1923 and ends when West Jefferson Elementary School opened and Conifer Junction was no longer a central meeting place for the community in 1955.

The schoolhouse is also locally significant under Criterion C for **Architecture** as an excellent example of one-room rural schoolhouse architecture. The period of significance runs from 1923 for the construction of the schoolhouse until the 1930s to include the construction of the barn. Finally, it is significant under Criterion D for **Non-Aboriginal Historic Archaeology** for its potential to yield information important to history due to buried deposits. Two privies are attached to the barn, though have separate entrances from the barn, one for boys and one for girls. The privy pits have been covered and the doors secured after the school district installed indoor plumbing likely in the mid-1950s. The period of significance for non-aboriginal historic archaeology extends from circa 1930s to 1950s.

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

The Conifer Junction Schoolhouse was built in 1923 to replace the previous schoolhouse, which was in an abandoned reform Mormon Church. Conifer School District, District No. 9 decided a new school was necessary and approved the funds in 1922. John J. Mullen, nephew of well-known philanthropist, in Denver, J. K. Mullen, loaned the land. Conifer Junction Schoolhouse was the first purpose built school in Conifer. The school functioned as a one-room schoolhouse until after consolidation when Jefferson County decided to build a larger schoolhouse due to the population growth was necessary. A barn was built in the 1930s to house the animals that the teacher and students rode to school, including the horse that the teacher would previously bring into the basement while she was teaching upstairs. West Jefferson Elementary opened in 1955, north of the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse. The school district found the new school to not be large enough shortly after opening due to population growth so Conifer Junction became an overflow classroom. In 1965 the Jefferson County School District converted the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse to a preschool. It operated as a preschool until 2012 when it closed and was eventually sold for a very small sum to the Conifer Historical Society and Museum in late 2012.

Criterion A - Education

The schoolhouse is locally significant for its association with education in rural Colorado functioning as a one-room school for grades 1-8 until 1955 when it was used a single-grade classroom. For many early students in Conifer, this was the only schooling they received.

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The new schoolhouse opened the morning of February 12, 1923. A local newspaper reported that “teacher and pupils are delighted with their new quarters.”¹ Like other one-room schoolhouses a single teacher at a time taught at the school for most of its existence. It was only in 1953 when a second teacher arrived for the large number of students to share the space, with each teacher educating about half the students. The school had students from grades 1 through 8 for most of its lifetime from 1923 until the late 1940s.

Desks lined up in rows faced the west wall. The teacher’s desk moved around, but was mostly kept at the front of the room, along the west wall. A blackboard was hung between the two sets of windows on this same wall. Gerda Wilhelm Hess was also a student at the school. She was a student for two years for 7th and 8th grades between 1946 and 1948. She recalled Mrs. Granzella’s desk in the northwest corner of the room, and a semi-circle of chairs around it for recitations. Irene Wilhelm Wickham, Gerda’s younger sister, a former student for grades 1-6, began attending Conifer Junction in 1949 at the start of 1st grade. Wickham remembered Mrs. Granzella as her teacher for grades 1-4, then Mrs. Griffith for 5 and 6. When she started school there was no running water in the building, she remembered a five-gallon water dispenser with disposable paper cups in the classroom. In 1949, she recalled the basement being one large room, with a large coal furnace in the middle and a pile of coal along the side. By 1953 indoor plumbing and flush toilets was available for use according to Wickham.

Wickham recalled the school starting at 9am and ending at 3 pm. According to her memories the playground equipment was at the level of the basement. There were two swings, two teeter totters, a ladder-type monkey bar and set of bars at different levels. A merry-go-round was installed after she arrived at the school.

There was a bus driver who drove three different routes to pick up all of the students. Wickham indicated that the bus had two benches facing each other, and held about twelve students. She said there were three bus routes, one went east on US Highway 285 toward Denver up to the Sky Village Inn area, another went down Colorado Highway 74 towards Evergreen to the Flying J Ranch and then came back up the Shadow Mountain Road, the third route went west on US Highway 285 toward Shaffer’s Crossing and then came back to go up Pleasant Park Road.²

Criterion A - Social History

The schoolhouse functioned as various community needs over the years of its use, including a meeting place for the Conifer Civic Club, location of boxed lunch socials, picnics, dances, an entertainment venue and other club meeting spots and occasionally as a place for church services.

Many newspaper articles reference the new Junction school in the 1920s as a location of dances, music, holiday celebrations, box socials, and many other events. This is typical of small rural towns, where the local schoolhouse may be the only large public space where the community may gather. The school was occasionally used for church services, and likely other social functions as well. Newspaper announcements from the 1920s describe successful events held at the schoolhouse, including a “quite well attended” dance on Saturday night from an article in the Colorado Transcript from October 2nd, 1924. This article mentioned another dance coming up on the 11th of October the same year.

¹ *Colorado Transcript*, 22 February 1923, pg 6. From www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org. Last accessed April 2013.

² Irene Wilhelm Wickham, “Fond Memories of the Conifer Little White Schoolhouse,” 19 February 2013, Conifer Historical Society and Museum, Conifer, Colorado.

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Gerda Wilhelm Hess remembered regular square dances at the school, complete with a 'fiddler' and a caller. She talked of pie socials likely sponsored by the Conifer Civic Club at these events women brought pies and men bid on them. Gerda recalled that the baker of the highest bid pie, and the highest bidder sat down and shared the pie. She also remembers a mini-church service at the school, sponsored by the American Sunday School Union. She recalled playing piano for the service while she was in high school.

Criterion C - Architecture

The Conifer Junction Schoolhouse is a good example of a Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements style building as applied to a rural schoolhouse. Some defining characteristics are the low-pitched hipped roof, the overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, the porch with sturdy columns, and the single story helping to emphasize the horizontal. The architecture is an unusual and excellent example of a one-room schoolhouse. Most rural school buildings have a single front entry door into the main room; Conifer is distinctive with the entry porch and three doors that lead into the main room and protruding cloakrooms. Conifer Junction has no bell tower, and no indication of a previous tower. The one-room schoolhouse is common in the rural areas of Colorado, though Conifer Junction is wider than it is long, unlike many other schoolhouses of the same time period. White was a common paint color for frame schools across the country. Many other schools have a front gable roof; Conifer Junction instead has a hipped roof. The schoolhouse has a basement that was somewhat unusual for other rural school in the area. Over the years the schoolhouse remains mostly unchanged, and sits on its original site, along with three other buildings, one of which is also historic.

The exact date of the barn is not known, but it was built in the 1930s. Initially the barn was used for the horses and mules that students rode to school. As cars became more prevalent, a bus picked up the students. Although the small entrance door contests this, implications are that prior to the barn construction, students and teachers left their horses and mules in the basement of the school, but not after construction of the barn. It is not clear if the door to the barn changed over time or not. Later students remember the barn as a storage shed. Outbuildings such as barns were common with rural schools, and built for the same reasons, to house farm animals the teachers and students rode to school. Abandoned barns and other such outbuildings degraded over time and many do not exist today since they were sometimes built as crude and temporary buildings.

Criterion D – Non-Aboriginal Historic Archaeology

When the school district constructed the barn circa 1930s two privies were included under the same roof, although they had separate entrances, one on the north-facing side of the building and one on the west-facing side. These replaced the original privies; however, the location of the original privies is unknown, as there is no surface evidence revealing the location and they may have been located where the barn was constructed. After the school district installed indoor plumbing circa mid-1950s, the school no longer used the privies. They were covered and the doors secured.

There is a high likelihood of obscured and buried artifacts. The information yielded may include such details as the kind of items used for play by the children, the diet of the children, teachers, and community members attending classes and community events at the school. Additionally, it may yield information as to how those diets may have changed between the time of construction of the privies during the 1930s Great Depression and more economic prosperity in later years, and how the food provided in a "sack lunch" changed, if at all,

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between circa 1930s and 1950s. It may also provide information on the life ways/material culture of rural school students and teachers along with informative artifacts due to associative value in connection with an important broad historical pattern: that of attending and teaching a rural school and the social aspects in connection with rural community events.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Bradford Junction/Hutchinson/Conifer

Conifer, in Jefferson County Colorado, began as Bradford Junction. Bradford Junction was the junction of the Bradford Road, the Mount Vernon Road and the Denver and South Park Wagon Road, all stage lines to different mining areas from the larger cities, such as Denver. Early mining towns included Breckenridge, South Park and Leadville. Bradford Junction began at the crossing of Highway 73 and Bradford Road, where Robert Bradford purchased 320 acres. Bradford Junction started as a stage stop around 1860 with a small hotel and restaurant. The community grew as more people stopped and stayed, and the town added a post office in 1865. At this point the name changed to Hutchison, then shortly after to Hutchinson. The name of the area changed several times in the early years. In 1881, the F. V. Hayden Atlas of Colorado has the name listed as Junction.

The earliest mention of the town in the Colorado State Business Directories was in 1890 it is listed as Hutchinson. The town is described as a summer resort and post office in Jefferson County, located 30 miles southwest of Denver, with 100 "patrons of the office."³ Only a single business is listed, which was a general merchandise business run by E. A. Hamer.

It was during these early years that residents organized a district. It was district number 9 in Jefferson County, and originally named Junction District. Paperwork for the district was filed for record on October 2nd, 1860.⁴ The town followed several years later and created a school district. Circa 1868 the Junction School District came into being.

In 1885 the first school in Conifer was built. Before this time school was likely held in a community member's house. The Hutchinson School was the first school in Conifer. The school was located one-half mile south of Bradford Junction intersection. Memoirs of a former student, Hazel Bennett Kettle, refer to the school as a shack. In 1897, Hazel Kettle said that Conifer School District No. 9 purchased the Kemp church to replace the previous school.⁵ Phebe Granzella stated in her self-published book that the former church building was purchased by the school district in 1911 after the Mormons had abandoned the building. Either way this former church was located one-half mile south of Hutchinson, it was known as the Junction School.⁶

³ *Colorado State Business Directory*, 1890.

⁴ "This material taken from the first book of recorded records in Jefferson County. Book A. Page 101." *Jefferson County Historical Society* papers.

⁵ *Manuscript: The Manuscripts of Hazel Olive Bennet Kettle*, edited by Opal Longino, 2009, Western History and Genealogy, Denver Public Library.

⁶ Phebe Granzella, "A Century of Jefferson County Mountain Area Schools," Jefferson County Historical Commission, 1993, pg 30.

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The Hamer family was an early owner of the Junction Ranch, where the town of Conifer began. The three sons of the family dug the well on the ranch; one of the sons was Douglas Hamer. The name of the post office in Bradford Junction/Hutchinson changed in 1894 to Conifer. The origin of the name Conifer is believed to be the result of Douglas Hamer's love and amazement of the pine trees in the area, and his insistence that the name change to Conifer.⁷

The *Colorado State Business Directory* lists Conifer beginning in 1910, with a population of 40. The businesses listed include general merchandiser, a sawmill operator, a music teacher, the stage-line operator, a pastor and a postmaster. By 1915 the population had grown to 125, additional businesses include school principal, justice of the peace, barber, grocer, dressmaker, architect, a millinery and a painting company. In 1920 the *Directory* lists a population of 150. The list of businesses had shrunk dramatically though; the listed businesses are the Beaver Ranch Hotel and store, the stage line, a postmaster, grocer and blacksmith, a second grocer and a painting company. The listing in 1925 is very similar to 1920, with population still at 150. The final listing for Conifer in the *Directory* is in 1929, there is no indication why it is no longer included after this time.⁸

The population of Conifer grew to the point that a larger school became necessary; the community wanted the school to be more centrally located as well. The community abandoned the Mormon Church and built a new school. In 1920 there were 16 students in School District No. 9 according to a report in the *Colorado Transcript*. A vote held in July 1922 for the new schoolhouse passed. Since the funds were up for vote, the school district had use of the land already. The vote passed for the schoolhouse to be located at "the Junction."⁹

Conifer is now part of the Jefferson County School District R-1, though was historically its own district, District No. 9. The previous schoolhouse was in an old Mormon Church, though was not large enough to sustain all of the students. John J. Mullen, the owner of the property just down the hill, loaned the property to Conifer school district in 1922, the district did not own the property until 1946. J.J. Mullen was the owner and builder of the Yellow Barn down the hill to the west of the schoolhouse. The exact term of the loan is unknown, but it was likely that as long as the property was used as a school it was property of the district. The school district received the deed for the land in 1946, when J. H. Brubaker, a later owner of the property and of the city and county of Denver, sold the property to Conifer School District No. 9 for a total of "ten dollars and other good and valuable consideration."¹⁰

Rural Schoolhouse Education

Rural school education is an important piece in the history of education in the United States. Since settlers to the area moved from all different parts of the country there were many different backgrounds and religious beliefs. This lessened the construction of churches and other public facilities but pushed the importance of schools for the settlers. School became the central meeting place for many rural communities. Teachers who were just out of school themselves often taught in rural schoolhouses, as not many other options existed for teachers. School districts built many schools in rural Jefferson County in the late 1800s, most of these early

⁷ Margaret V. Bentley, *The Upper Side of the Pie Crust*, 1990, pg 20.

⁸ *Colorado State Business Directory*, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1929 and 1930.

⁹ *Colorado Transcript*, 20 July 1922, pg 3. From www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org, last accessed April 2013.

¹⁰ Property deed, Book 550, No. 499, 16 October 1946.

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generation schools were of log construction including the first Parmalee School, the Medlen School, the Sampson School, the Lamb School and the first school in Pleasant Park to name a few. By the 1910s and 1920s these early schools were too small for the school population and larger schools replaced them, some on the same site, some on new sites. Many of these buildings were built of frame construction like the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse; these include the Parmalee School and the Hodgson School. Several of these schools still exist today but have been altered more than Conifer Junction. Rural school districts scattered the countryside with over 50 school districts in Jefferson County alone.

Early territorial legislation in Colorado created a territorial superintendent of schools, as well as county superintendents. The legislation also allowed to an area with ten parents of school age children to petition to form a new school district. Most districts included only a single one-room school. Most teachers in these rural schools were women, although there were exceptions. Usually the women were young, single women, not usually much older than the school children. Until 1961, Jefferson County and the state of Colorado did not require rural schoolteachers to have a college degree.

The single teacher in the one-room schoolhouses taught a large variety to students of all the different ages. Grades usually ranged from 1-8, with no high school education in most rural areas of the country. Student ages ranged from 5 to 16. The curriculum often included recitations, arithmetic, reading, writing, U.S. history, grammar, physiology, geography and orthography for the older students. For younger students many of these would be taught, in addition to numbers and language. School days included two recess breaks one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and a break in the middle of the day for lunch. School years were often different in rural areas than in the larger cities and towns. They were both shorter and met sometimes in the summer instead of the fall and spring, although this was not always the case. This was often due to crop and ranching seasons, when not in school the students helped their families on their respective land.

Rural Schoolhouse Architecture

Rural schoolhouse architecture plan books were published around the country. They were published before the Civil War, but then a lull in printing occurred during the war. Afterwards the number of new rural school plan books grew, with many during the 1910s and 1920s. Standardization of school designs became more popular by the 1920s. A book published in 1918, states that standard size for a schoolhouse should be no larger than 24 by 36 feet, when 35 students or less are expected. "By the 1920s the days of the vernacular schoolhouse were almost over, and contractors worked from architects' designs in the plan books. Such plans called for hipped roofs, Palladian porticos or porches and even dormers, creating a striking resemblance to bungalow houses of the same period."¹¹ A large difference in the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse compared to others built at the same time are the windows on all four walls. In the 1920s most rural schools had windows on only a single wall, usually the east or west, allowing light to enter the classroom from only one direction and prevent eyestrain in students.

Although many rural schools had only a single entrance into the building there are examples from other rural parts of the country that have a layout similar to Conifer Junction including an Oklahoma model school floor plan and a model school plan from New Mexico. They still only have one entry door, but that entrance leads directly into a vestibule that then splits into three entrances, one into the main classroom, and one off either

¹¹ Andrew Guillford, *America's Country Schools*, Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1991, pg 194.

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side into boys and girls cloakrooms. The cloakrooms enter directly into the classroom as well, similar to Conifer Junction.

John J. Mullen

In 1923 John J. Mullen, the owner of the Junction Ranch, at the corner of Barkley Road and Route 73, loaned the school district an acre of land on which to locate the new school. Situated just up the hill along Barkley Road from the Yellow Barn, a local historic landmark, on the Junction Ranch property is the land. On February 20, 1918, John J. Mullen received the 720-acre Junction Ranch property in a warranty deed from Frederick Buechner. Shortly thereafter Mullen erected the three-story barn, known as the "Yellow Barn" to house his show horses. This barn is considered by locals to be a very important landmark for the history of Conifer.

The Mullen family sold the Junction Ranch property in 1942 to J. H. Brubaker from Denver. On October 16, 1946 Brubaker officially sold the acre of property loaned from J. J. Mullen to the schoolhouse to Conifer School District. At the same time he sold the rest of the property to Augustus Wilhelm and Ernest Kemintz. The Wilhelm family had two school age children who attended Conifer Junction School in the 1940s and 1950s. Both woman recently wrote their memories and gave them to Conifer Historical Society and Museum.

Jefferson County Growth

The years following World War II brought a population boom to most of the United States. Between 1940 and 1950 the population in Jefferson County went from 30,725 to 55,687. These are the years of the baby boom. The baby boom in the United States occurred between 1946 and 1964. War veterans came home en masse and with the new GI bill were able to purchase homes at very low rates. Families grew, and people moved out into the suburbs of the larger cities. The median age of residents in Jefferson County dropped from 34 years to 29 years.¹² The reason for the extraordinary growth in Conifer is undocumented, but may have been influenced by the renovation and rerouting of US Highway 285. US Route 285 was constructed in 1934 along existing routes, and in 1950 the route changed from being a very winding road to going over the hill near Tinytown to come out near the Meyer Ranch property. This easier road from Conifer to Denver likely encouraged more people to move from the city of Denver up into the mountains near Conifer. Improvements made to other highways between 1914 and 1950 and the paving of county roads improved safety and increased traffic.

In 1950 Conifer Junction School had 37 students and one teacher (Phebe Granzella). By 1953 Granzella felt overwhelmed by the number of students and requested a second teacher for the school. Pauline Griffith joined Granzella teaching students in the one room. Granzella taught the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades, while Griffith taught the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. The 7th and 8th grades transferred to Evergreen by 1953, a school around 10 miles away and a 20 minute drive from Conifer Junction. Wickham recalled that for part of the 1953-54 school year, the older students moved to the vacant Pleasant Park School, because there were just too many students for the one room. For the fall of the 1954-55 school year the 4th, 5th and 6th grades were all held at Pleasant Park.

¹² Karen Newman and Jeanne Varnell, "A School District is Born," Supplement to *Sentinel Newspapers*, 3 March 1977, pg 2A.

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Following the opening of West Jefferson School early in 1955 classes were held in the new school for the remainder of the school year.¹³

Granzella received a "third grade [teaching] certificate"¹⁴ after a single year of college in Greeley, CO in 1928. "At that time certificates were first, second and third grade (good, better and best). Third grade certificates were for inexperienced teachers."¹⁵ That same year Granzella began teaching at Conifer. She taught at several different schools around Colorado, but came back to Conifer in 1946 and taught for the remainder of her career until she retired in 1971.

Consolidation

In 1949 the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill No. 900, which facilitated the reorganization of school districts and also required a study to take place looking for possibilities of consolidation. The reason for this bill was to improve the education across the state, and provide equal education opportunities for student in urban and rural areas of the state. According the state school officials the education acquired by those in the rural areas were not equal to that of the urban cities. At the time high schools were more scarce and many very rural students were not able to travel to the existing high schools. School district structure and financing varied greatly across the state.

Jefferson County began making moves towards consolidation in the 1940s, and in 1949 a vote passed in the county to consolidate into one larger school district, to be known as Jefferson County School District R-1. Conifer residents voted for consolidation, but were unhappy later on when West Jefferson Elementary School was proposed as a single elementary school for the area by the school district. Residents wanted two schools built; one in Tiny Town the other in Shaffer's Crossing. The school board picked Conifer in May of 1953, then reconsidered after protests by Conifer residents, but then went back and chose Conifer in the end.¹⁶ Consolidation was a slow process, it began in 1950, but the local schools districts were to retain most of their control for that year.

Shortly after consolidation District R-1 conducted several studies and wrote reports to determine the needs of the district. A report given by Dr. Calvin Grieder in August 1952 showed that there was an "immediate need for fifteen new elementary schools, some modern rural schools, four junior high schools, and three high schools. Grier estimated the total cost of such a building program would be \$12 million."¹⁷ Earlier the same year it was forecasted that by 1957 only 41 percent of the R-1 District students would have adequate school room space. The school district decided upon the first bond issue and October 20, 1952 set for the election date. The Issue 1 bond was set for \$10 million; this amount was a great shock to residents of Jefferson County. After a major

¹³ Gerda Wilhelm Hess, "Memories of the Little White School House," February 2013, Conifer Historical Society and Museum, Conifer, Colorado. And Irene Wilhelm Wickham, "Fond Memories of the Conifer Little White Schoolhouse," 19 February 2013, Conifer Historical Society and Museum, Conifer, Colorado.

¹⁴ Granzella, pg 55.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Golden Judge Rejects Protest of Conifer Consolidated School," 30 June 1953, *News*, Conifer newspaper clippings file Denver Public Library.

¹⁷ Lois Kennedy, *A Tribute to Education in Jefferson County, Colorado*, Golden, CO: Jefferson County Public Schools, 2001, pg 25.

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public relations campaign by the district the measure passed. R-1, able to move forward, began talking with architects and planning the new school buildings.

School population was still steadily on the rise; in September of 1955 Jefferson County school population reached 18,920 students, that number rose by another 5,000 students over the next two years.

West Jefferson Elementary School

West Jefferson Elementary School opened in the spring of 1955. West Jefferson Elementary sits just up the hill from Conifer Junction at 26501 Barkley Road, less than one-half a mile away. Irene Wilhelm Wickham remembered going to the opening dedication ceremony on March 29, 1955. It was the main elementary school for many of the smaller consolidated school districts in the area, including Pleasant Park and Pine Junction. The school initially housed grades 1-8, but after West Jefferson Middle School was built in 1974, the elementary school served kindergarten through 6th grade, while the middle school held 7th through 9th. The middle school is further away, about a mile north, at 9449 S Barnes Avenue.

Overflow

The large number of students at the school from the start required more space than was available. Reports of 5th grade classes moved to the Conifer Junction School happened first, then 3rd grade classes, and finally kindergarten classes. Howard Smith worked as a temporary teacher to help accommodate the size of the school, he started out the school year likely in 1965 (he doesn't remember the year, but thinks it may have been 1965) and taught for only a few months. He remembers meeting his class at West Jefferson then walking with them down the hill to Conifer Junction for the day. He was hired temporarily because of more remodeling of West Jefferson. Teaching in a one-room schoolhouse was a new experience for him and he thought that it was quite an experience. Additions added to West Jefferson in 1960, 1963 and 1965 helped the school become large enough for the district's needs. The final remodel in 1965 lines up with when Smith temporarily taught at the school.

Use as Preschool/library

In 1965 Conifer Junction Schoolhouse changed to function as a preschool. Installed at this time were the sink and water fountain, since they are of a low height and more appropriate for preschool age children. The wall added in 1980 created two rooms, one side carpeted while the other left as wood flooring. Volunteers helping Conifer Historical Society took the wall down in February 2013. The south cloakroom became an office space for at least one of the preschool teachers. While in use as a preschool there were two teachers, and often an assistant for each room.

The schoolhouse functioned part of the week as a library. The second cloak room, the one on the north side, housed the books. Installed on the inside of the exterior door was a drop box so that books dropped off would not fall onto the floor. Alterations made to the exterior of the door allowed books through, but are not very noticeable.

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Transfer to Conifer Historical Society and Museum

The preschool closed in 2012, and the schoolhouse was left empty. Jefferson County was left with a vacant building and “[f]acing budget crises in 2012, the Jefferson County School Board voted unanimously to surplus the school and, in November of 2012, the school district donated the property to the Conifer Historical Society and Museum to be used as its first public museum.”¹⁸ The Conifer Historical Society and Museum (CHSM) is a not-for-profit group in Conifer dedicated to bringing the history of Conifer to the community. CHSM plans to restore the school. This includes removing the carpet that covers half the room, and bringing the paint scheme back closer to what it was historically. CHSM hopes to use the little schoolhouse as a museum dedicated to the people and history of Conifer.

¹⁸ Janet Shown, “Party! Little White Schoolhouse turns 90,” *Mountain Connection*, 2 February 2013.

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Wickham, Irene Wilhelm. "Fond Memories of the Conifer Little White Schoolhouse." 19 February 2013. Conifer Historical Society and Museum, Conifer, Colorado.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

History Colorado

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

5JF.5107

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

						(NAD 83)
1	13	473 527	437 6199	3		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting
						Northing
2				4		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting
						Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
"One acre of land in the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE1/4NW1/4) of Section Fourteen (14), Township Six (6) South, Range Seventy-one (71) West of the Sixth (6th) Principal Meridian, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point whence the Northeast Corner of said Section 14 bears North 70° 14' East a distance of 2940 feet, thence South 70° 14' West 260 feet; thence North 19° 46', West 164 feet; thence North 70° 14' East 260 feet; thence South 19° 46' East 164 feet to the point of beginning." (Deed between Jefferson County School District No. R-1 and Conifer Historical Society and Museum, October 12th 2012). Boundary is commonly referred to as 26951 Barkley Road, Conifer, Jefferson County, Colorado.

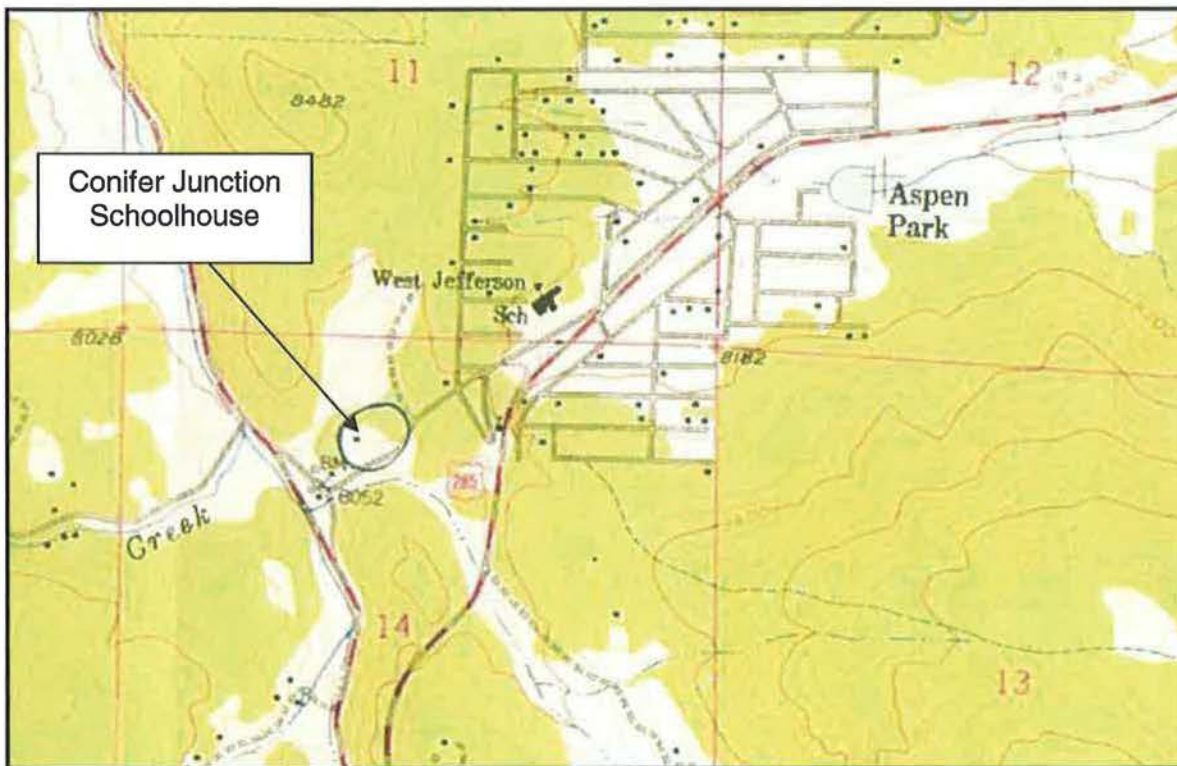
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary is the original boundary for the land loaned by John J. Mullen and historically associated with the school. The school has retained the same property lines since it opened in 1923.

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**USGS Map – close up perspective
Conifer quadrangle
7.5 minutes series**

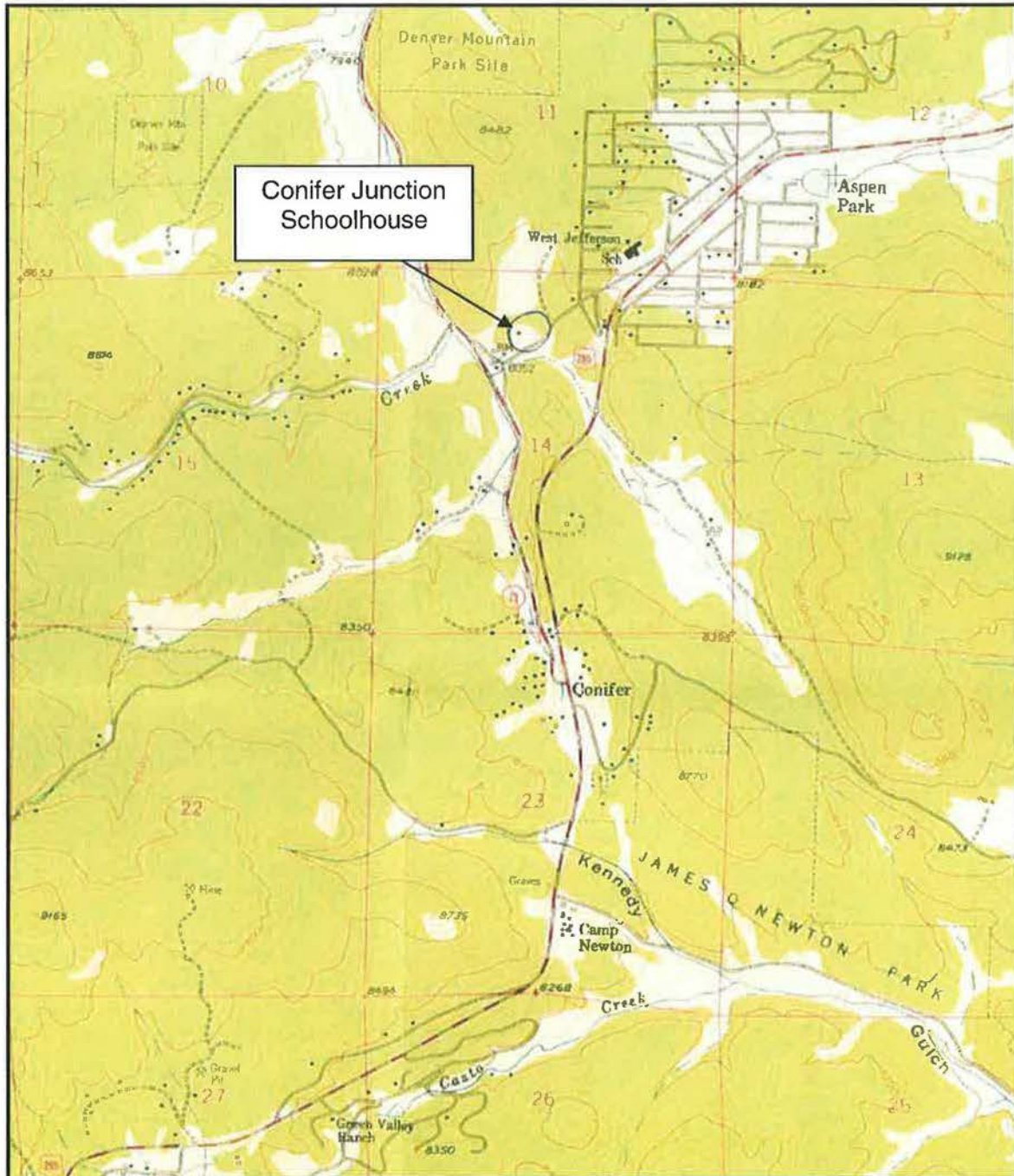
Elevation 8052'



Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property

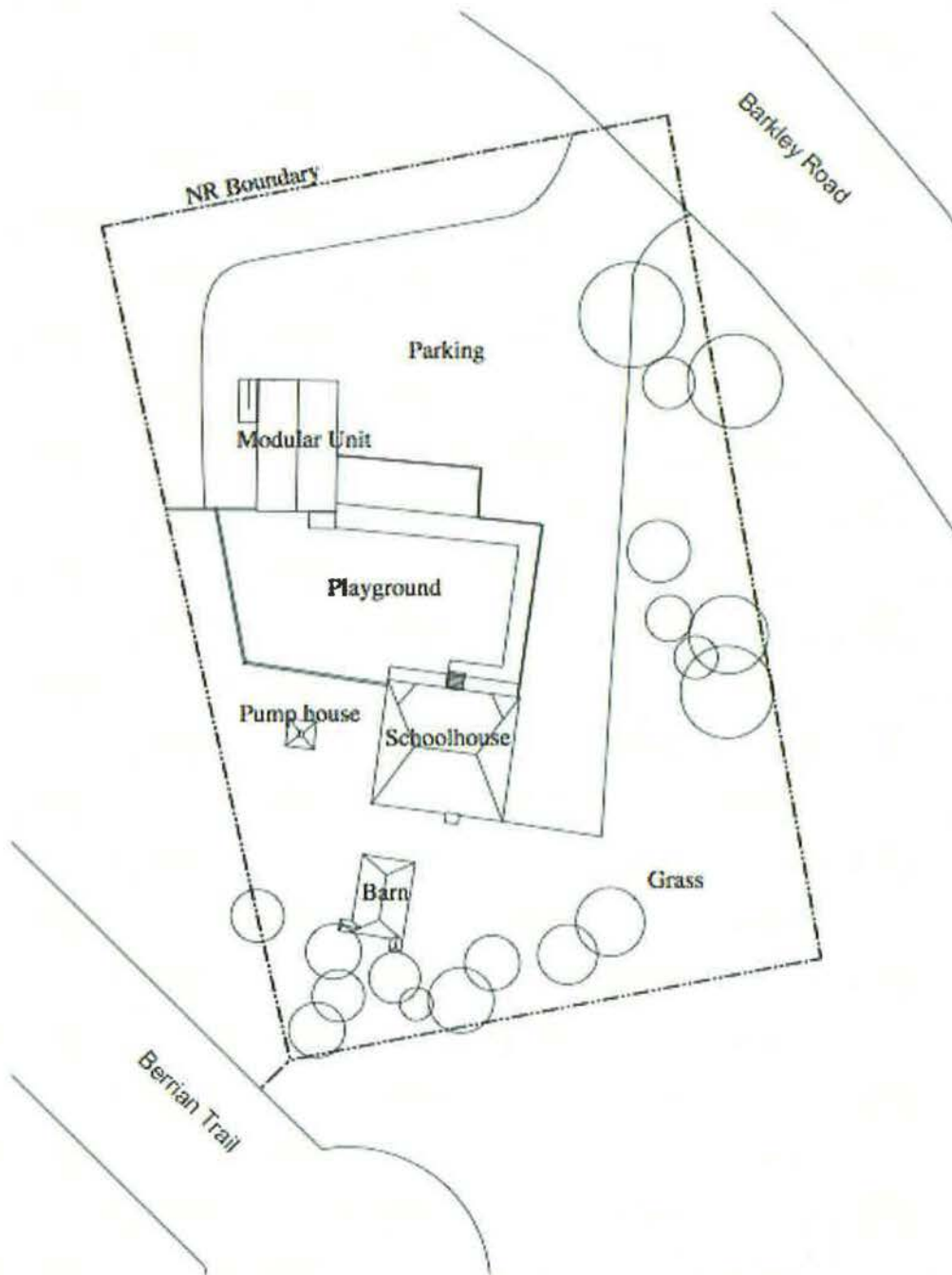
Jefferson County, Colorado
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USGS Map – regional perspective



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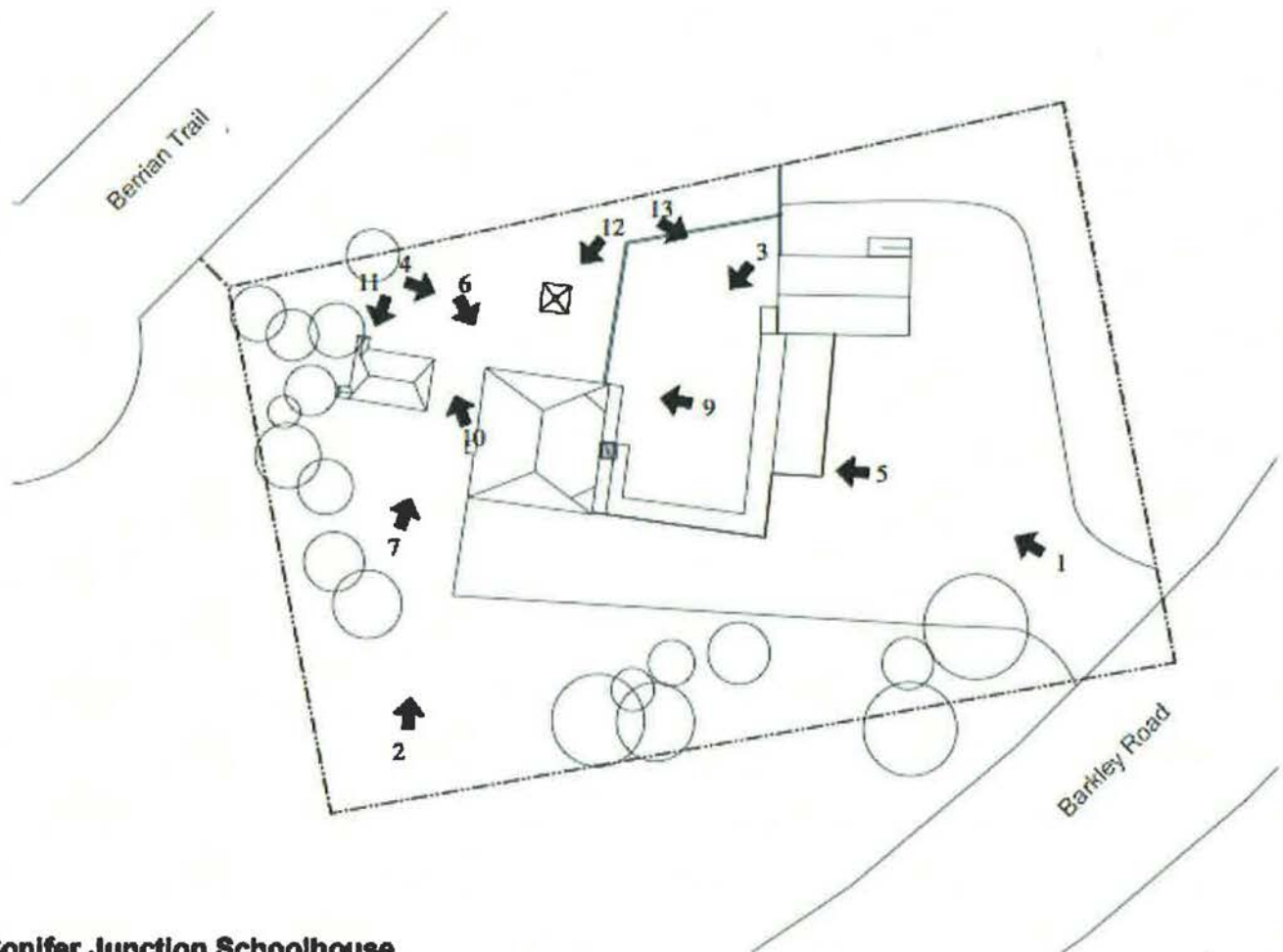
Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Site plan

Kirsten Gravidahl
Not to scale
28 May 2013



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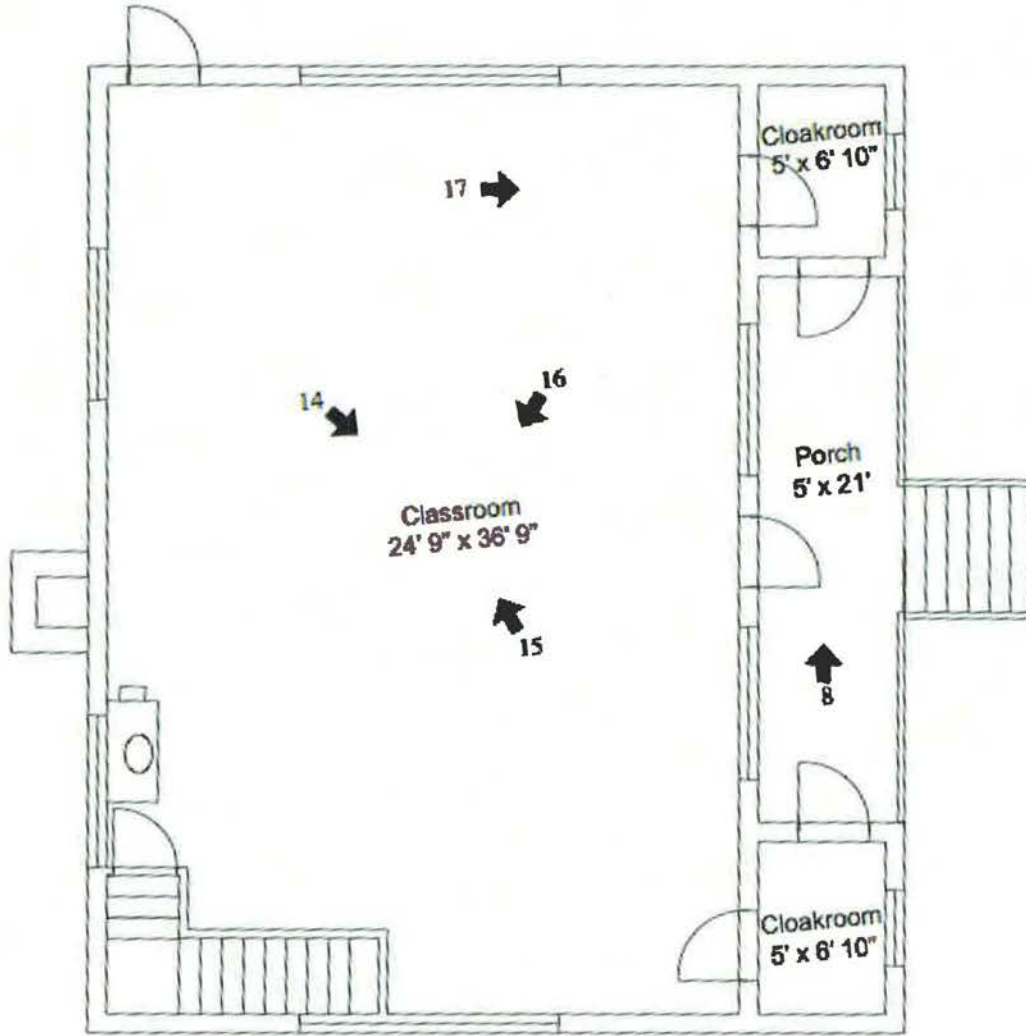


Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Site plan and photo log

Kirsten Gravdahl
Not to scale
28 May 2013



Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property

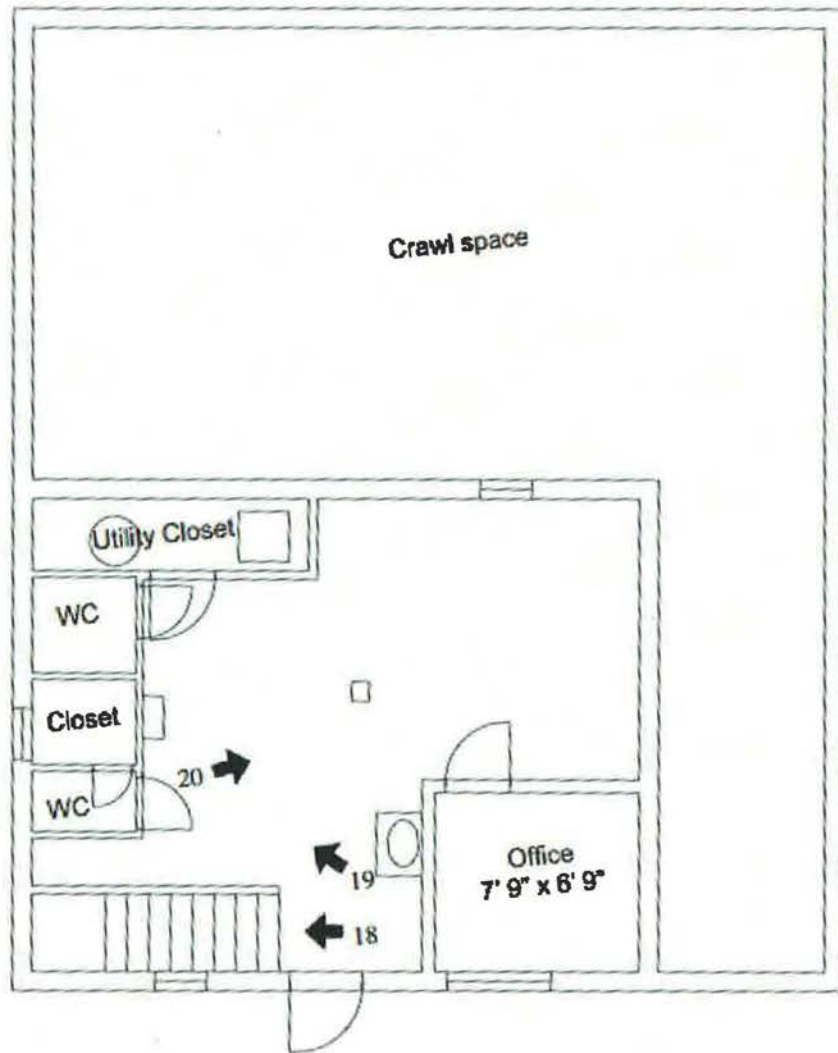


Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
First Floor plan and photo log

Kirsten Gravdahl
Not to scale
19 May 2013



Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property



Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Basement Floor plan and photo log

Kirsten Gravidahl
Not to scale
19 May 2013



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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirsten Gravdahl (for property owner)
organization Student/UCDenver date 19 May 2013
street & number 3680 Quail Street telephone _____
city or town Wheat Ridge state CO zip code 80033
e-mail kgravdahl@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
City or Vicinity: Conifer
County: Jefferson County **State:** Colorado

Photographer: Kirsten Gravdahl

Date Photographed: 8 March 2013 and 26 April 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- Photo # 1 East side of site looking north-west towards building complex
Photo # 2 South west corner of site looking north up hill at complex
Photo # 3 North edge of site looking south west towards schoolhouse
Photo # 4 Northwest corner of site looking south east towards building complex
Photo # 5 Parking lot looking toward main façade of schoolhouse
Photo # 6 Northwest corner of site looking at north and west facades of schoolhouse
Photo # 7 West side of site looking north east towards schoolhouse and barn
Photo # 8 Standing on front porch looking north toward cloakroom door
Photo # 9 Standing in former playground looking west at window of northern cloakroom
Photo # 10 Standing at the west side of the schoolhouse looking at the south and east sides of the barn

Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Colorado
County and State

- Photo # 11 Northwest corner of site looking south at the north façade of the barn
- Photo # 12 North edge of lot looking southwest at the north and east facades of the pump house
- Photo # 13 North edge of lot looking southeast at north and west façade of the modular unit
- Photo # 14 Standing inside the school room just north and west of the middle looking towards the front wall
- Photo # 15 Standing inside the school room just south and east of the middle looking northwest towards the corner
- Photo # 16 Standing inside the school room just north and east of the middle looking southwest towards the corner
- Photo #17 Standing inside the school room on the north side looking towards the northern cloakroom
- Photo # 18 Standing in the basement looking west up the stairs
- Photo # 19 Standing in the south side of the basement looking north west towards the two rest rooms and utility closet
- Photo # 20 Standing with back to the restrooms looking north west toward kitchen

HISTORIC IMAGES,
all are from *A Century of Jefferson County Mountain Area Schools*, by Phebe Granzella, 1993.

Figure 1	Conifer School graders 1-8, circa 1928..
Figure 2	Conifer School, 4 th , 5 th and 6 th graders, circa 1953.
Figure 3	Conifer School, 1 st , 2 nd , and 3 rd graders, circa 1953.
Figure 4	Conifer School, no date.
Figure 5	Conifer School Barn, no date.

Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Colorado
County and State



Figure 1 Conifer School graders 1 – 8, circa 1928.

Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Colorado
County and State

Conifer School - 1953-54 4th, 5th, and 6th Grades



Figure 2 Conifer School, 4th, 5th and 6th graders, circa 1953.

Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Colorado
County and State



Figure 3 Conifer School, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders, circa 1953.



Figure 4 Conifer School, no date.

Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Colorado
County and State

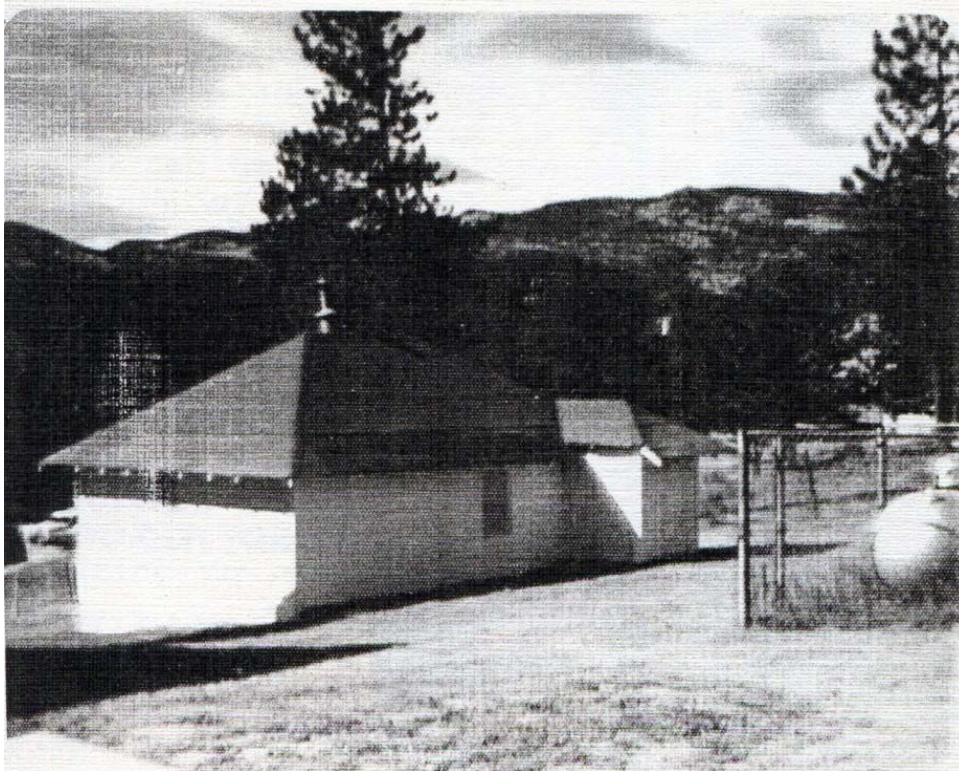
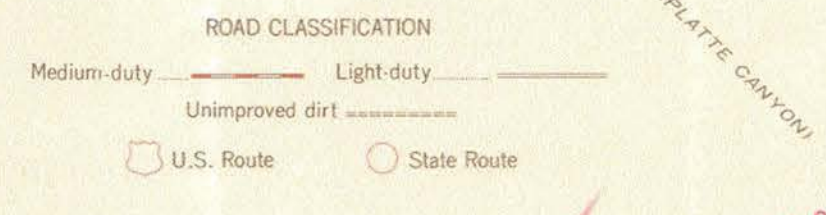
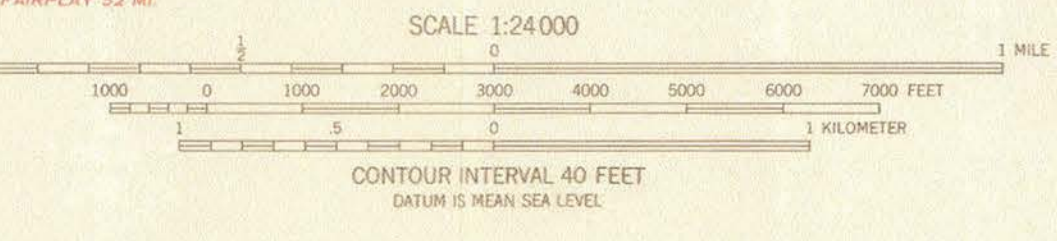


Figure 5 Conifer School Barn, no date.



CO - Jefferson
County - Conifer
Junction -
Schoolhouse
UTMs:
(NAD 83)
Zone: 13
478527mE
4376199mN

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin. Control by USGS and USC&GS. Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1953. Field check 1957. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, central zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue. Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations.



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS.
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 2, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

OFFICE COPY

CONIFER, COLO.
N3930-W10515/7.5

1957

LIBRARY USE ONLY











1100000

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EXIT

WARNING
OCCUPANCY
NOT TO EXCEED
25 PERSONS





EXIT









NOTICE

PLEASE DO NOT
SMOKE IN THIS
RESTROOM
SMOKING IS PROHIBITED
VIOLATORS WILL BE
PROSECUTED
BY THE CITY OF
SAN ANTONIO
FEBRUARY 2008



National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Conifer Junction Schoolhouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 12/23/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/08/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001167

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2.10.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2013

HC/OAHP

September 14, 2013

My name is Betty Fields Long, I was born in 1925 on the Sylvan Park Ranch, which was owned by my parents, George C & Theresia Fields, in the community we know today as Conifer, CO. I helped with the farming activities on the ranch, raising vegetables for market in Denver. The beef, chicken & pigs we raised, were butchered by dad, for sale to local residents.

I have many wonderful memories on my life in Conifer; but, some of the most formative were my school years. I was fortunate to be able to attend two of Conifer's historic one-room schools. I started at Pleasant Park School, which was built in 1894, for my elementary grades through 5th grade. In 1935, I moved to Fields's Trading Post Store, which was built by my dad & older brother, Walter, in 1929 & opened in 1930, to help my mother run the store. I had the privilege to continue my education at the Little White School House, which was built in 1923 and at the time, was called Junction School. I attended there through my 8th grade year.

I can remember running the 1 mile, from the store to the Little White School House, so I could be one of the first to arrive, beating the Morris boys to school. I enjoyed helping the teacher prepare the school for the day's classes and activities. During the cold season, when school was in session, I would bring in the firewood for the stove, which was our only source of heating the room. Each day we would take sack lunches to school, as we didn't have any meal preparations at school. You would think, since we had a wood burning stove, we would from time to time have the special treat of hot cocoa; but, the teacher was too busy with the 8 grades of students.

After graduating from 8th grade, I then had the opportunity to finish my education and graduate from high school. I had the choice of Shaffer's Crossing School or Evergreen High School. Knowing that I wanted to go on to nurses training; I wanted to go to an accredited high school. I became the first Conifer student to graduate from Evergreen High School in 1943. I then went on to St Luke's School of Nursing in Denver, Colorado. I worked as a nurse, with St Luke's, until I retired in 1993, making a 50 year career of my passion for nursing. In 1991, I received the Florence Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing Care.

Respectfully submitted:

Betty J Fields Long
12354 US Hwy 285
Conifer, CO 80433

RECEIVED

SEP 18 2013

HC/OAHP

National Designation support letter on behalf of the
Little White Schoolhouse written Sept. 16, 2013

Dear Mr. Nichols,

Many would agree that there is not a more valuable resource for our country, than our children. All we do is ultimately for their benefit, so that they and our country will continue to thrive. We do what is necessary to care for them and one of the most important things we provide – is education.

That is exactly what the early settlers of Bradford Junction were trying to do when they decided to build a new school in their small community.

The early residents started out by providing services to travelers. At the intersection of 3 roads, the Junction was not a destination; it was stop-over for people who were merely passing through, on their way to the mines in the mineral rich Rockies. These residents of the Junction, provided lodging, care for horses, a post office, and many other services necessary to weary travelers. An ad in an early edition of a Denver newspaper made Bradford Junction sound like a tourist resort.

In addition to the services, the early settlers sought other ways to support the growth of their families and their community. The abundant forests surrounding the area were filled with trees that provided lumber for the mines and the railroads for the hundreds of miles of train tracks that were slowly snaking their way through the mountains and valleys of Colorado. As the demand for lumber increased, a saw mill opened on Shadow Mountain Road. This lumber was also used to build homes for the families of the growing community. There were ranchers and farmers that needed fences, sheds, chicken coops, round-up pens and barns...barns to house, feed and milk the cows for the areas growing dairy industry. The Yellow Barn at Bradford Junction became the center of the dairy network.

Not quite a bustling metropolis, but Bradford Junction was growing. The hard working people recognized that if they were going to continue to grow, they needed to build a new school that would also serve as a place for community meetings, box socials, dances, celebrations and other gatherings to bring the families together to build a strong community.

Here is where I'll make a long story short...

After many community meetings regarding the need for a new school, the owner of the Bradford Junction property, J. J. Mullen offered to donate one acre of land, for a new, larger school. The school district eventually approved the plan. And the families of the children; who would attend the school - built the school.

The Junction School opened on February 12, 1923. Shortly after the opening, the superintendent from District 9 visited the proud patrons of the new school. She shared, "words of good council and encouragement" that were, "inspiring and inciting toward better things for the future of this district, which is awake and alert for progress."

Now let's jump ahead to June 3, 2012...the last student to ever attend the Junction School, walked out of the building – off into the rest of his or her life. After almost 90 years of housing the school children of the Bradford Junction/Conifer community, the Jefferson County School District decided to close and surplus the little school.

Through the years there were many children who walked on those creaky pine wood floor boards (cut and milled at the saw mill on Shadow Mountain road). There were thousands of children from 1923 to 2012, who did 'a lot learning' in the little school. And on their last day – they ALL walked out of the door to begin their future.

As a teacher with almost 40 years in the classroom, the thought of those children walking away to eventually become 'who knows what' has always fascinated me and filled me with wonder, and hope for the future.

Twenty eight of my almost forty years of teaching was spent at this Little White Schoolhouse. I was the director of the Jefferson County preschool program in Conifer from 1983 to 2010. I was fortunate to watch some of the children walk away into their tomorrows. And even through most of their futures remain a mystery to me; I do know what some of them eventually became:

Many became mommies and daddies, and brought their children back to attend the same one room schoolhouse that they attended. One family had four generations attend the school.

Some students walked away to become physicians, veterinarians, history professors, first responders on rescue teams, ranchers, mechanics, ministers, CPA's, teachers, painters, massage therapists, computer technicians, firefighters.

Some became carpenters, police officers, plumbers, contractors, yoga teachers, nurses, architects.

One became a lawyer who donated his time to help the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Many, many students went on to college, some in-state, some out-of-state and some in other countries.

Some later students will end up in professions that don't even exist yet.

One became a drummer in a popular band, who has returned to perform at Red Rocks Amphitheater.

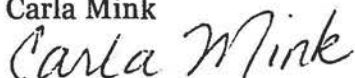
And many became soldiers who went out to defend this country in wars since WW I; some even gave their lives for it.

These are the few that I KNOW what they became. I can only wonder about the children who went to the school before my time there. Over the last three decades, older visitors would stop by and ask if they could look around the school, we would eagerly invite them in. They would walk through the door with a look of awe on their faces. That look would soon be replaced by a smile as the memories started flooding in. If we were lucky, they would begin to share their memories with us. For many of these past students – this little building was the only school they ever attended. And thank goodness the early settlers had the foresight to build it.

We can never know what far reaching benefit resulted from the life experiences and accomplishments of the students who attended this school. We can only imagine how their achievement impacted our community, our state and our nation.

Proud to have taught at the Little White Schoolhouse,

Carla Mink



RECEIVED

SEP 17 2013

HC/OAHP

Sept. 16, 2013

Edward C. Nichols
State Historical Preservation Officer
History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Nichols:

It has come to our attention that the Conifer Junction School has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Jeffco Public Schools is in support of the national designation for the old "Little White Schoolhouse". The school served many Conifer area students over the past 90 years who went on to graduate from the nationally-ranked Conifer High School.

Sincerely,



Tim Reed
Executive Director of Facilities & Construction Management
Jeffco Public Schools

Cc: B. Craddock

August 11, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the Little White Schoolhouse on Barkley Road in Conifer Colorado. I strongly believe that it merits national landmark status. My grandfather, John J. Mullen, donated the land for the purpose of building a quality school for the children of Conifer and surrounding area. His parents fled the hunger and deprivation of the Irish potato famine. Because of their struggle and striving, my grandfather was able to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in civil engineering. He had a great respect for the importance of quality education for all.

His own children, my father, aunt, and uncle, were educated in the Little White Schoolhouse. I often heard them speak of the merit of their education, the excellence of their teacher, of the character of the other students, of richness beyond the three Rs, of music, plays and festivals. All of John and Jeanette Mullen's children attended college, as did many of the children educated there. My father and uncle were engineers and my aunt worked in the medical profession. The Little White Schoolhouse is a simple yet elegant structure, a place my brother, sister, cousins, and now extended family of great grandchildren, often have visited and visit still. It has become a kind of pilgrimage for us to a unique and remarkable school of our ancestor's childhood.

Feelings of kinship to places that reverberate with family history are not uncommon. I believe that the Little White Schoolhouse holds much greater value than mere sentiment. The distinct architecture of the Little White Schoolhouse is part of what draws us to this place. I've never seen a small schoolhouse quite like it.

The area where the schoolhouse sits was known as Bradford Junction, a small piece of earth laden with history. Robert Bradford and his brother William Bradford Waddell founded the Pony Express. The Civil War well lies on the property. This corner, along with the hotel and toll gate, was an important stage coach route. bringing people and riches found in the mountains into the area when it was still a U.S. Territory. There are riches beyond those mined from the earth, there are the riches of spirit and intellect sparked and nurtured in that beautiful humble schoolhouse.

The Big Yellow Barn, also built by my grandfather, has attained national landmark status. It is a grand imposing structure that speaks of the commerce, culture and community of Colorado and a marker of our nation's ambition in those times. I truly believe that both structures need to be protected and preserved. The one seems mute without the other. We need roots as well as wings. These structures speak of the character of those who went before. We need to hold firm to what was, in order to find direction for what might be. I graciously thank you for your diligent consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Mullen

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2013

HC/OAHP

September 15, 2013

Edward C. Nichols
State Historic Preservation Officer
History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Nichols:

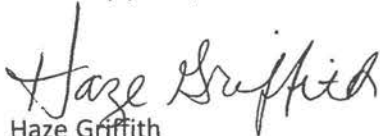
I attended second grade at the Conifer Junction School house in 1952. It was a one room school and my teacher was Mrs. Granzella.(sp?) She taught on one side of the room and my mother, Pauline Griffith, taught on the other side. I think my mom taught 3rd grade but I can't remember and I wish mom was still here so I could get more details.

Both teachers talked at the same time, and it was not noisy. Back then teachers had total control of their students. I don't remember much else except that I loved recess and playing out in the large school yard. I remember my friends and some I still keep in touch with today. In fact, we just attended our 50th H.S. Class of 63 last month, August, in Evergreen

As soon as West Jefferson School was finished being built, we moved up the hill to our new grade school. It seemed really big, but fun because my whole class went with me, and there was more swings, slides, monkey bars etc. Everything made of metal, the swings had the rubber seats there was a place to roller skate, someone always let us use their skate key. No one watched the play yard, if I remember correctly.

I hope this helps to get the support you need to put the Conifer Junction School on the Historical Society map.

Sincerely yours,



Haze Griffith
209 Wright St.
Lakewood, CO 80228
303-716-0659

Edward C. Nichols
State Historic Preservation Officer
History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

September 17, 2013

Re: Support Letter for Conifer Junction School House – Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting 09/20/13

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am writing in support of a nominated property under review by the Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board on September 20, 2013: Conifer Junction School (5JF.5107).

As a cultural resource specialist with 34 years professional experience, I have participated in the Section 106 process and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of various types of historic properties. In addition, I was a resident of the Conifer, Colorado area for 30 years, during which time I was on the board and served as an officer with the Conifer Historical Society and Museum. I believe my expertise and experience can lend support to the nomination of the Conifer Junction School House.

The property has been nominated under Criterion A – That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and Criterion C – That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. I would like to speak to Criterion A.

The property meets Criterion A by virtue of its role as a gathering place for the community. The Conifer area never had an established town center, and sites such as Bradford Junction with its “Yellow Barn,” Meyer Ranch, and the “Little White School House” have served as community anchors throughout the years. The connectivity of these sites, along with others, has played a significant role in the development of Conifer from a stop on a wagon road, to a ranching community, to an outlier of urban and suburban Denver. These types of gathering places have contributed to the cohesiveness of the community since its beginning, applicable to the Area of Significance – Social History. The property is eligible under Criterion A on a local and regional (i.e., mountain communities of western Jefferson County) level.

Please place this letter in the file for consideration of 5JF.5107 as eligible for listing on the National Register or, minimally, the Colorado State Register.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Hackett Bambrey
3861 S. Narcissus Way
Denver, CO 80237

Cc: Richard Wilshusen, Deputy SHPO

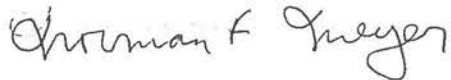
Norman F. Meyer
9345 Highway 285
Conifer, CO 80433

September 17, 2013

Edward C. Nichols
State Historic Preservation Officer
History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Nichols,

I enthusiastically support the nomination of the Conifer Junction School to the National Register of Historic Places. It is part of our heritage, and we are committed to supporting the preservation of our history.



Norman F. Meyer

Recipient of the first annual Norman and Ethel Meyer Award
for Historic Preservation in Jefferson County presented by the Jefferson
County Historical Commission

Wings Over the Rockies Hall of Fame Laureate

Norm F Meyer Award for Outstanding Service to Our Mountain Area

Past Member of the Jefferson County Historical Commission



OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION



December 18, 2013

Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye "I" Street, N.W. 8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005-5905

Re: National Register Nomination for the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse, 26951 Barkley Road, Conifer, Jefferson County, Colorado (5JF.5107)

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse, 26951 Barkley Road, Conifer, Jefferson County, Colorado. In accordance with the new submission policy, enclosed please find:

- CD with a PDF nomination and support letters for the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse
Note: **The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse to the National Register of Historic Places.**
- CD with TIF images
- Physical photos
- Physical USGS map
- Physical nomination with original signature page

The State Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on September 20, 2013. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the nomination met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

We look forward to the listing of this nomination. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (303) 866-4684 or at heather.peterson@state.co.us.

Best regards,

Heather Peterson
National & State Register Historian

Enclosures above noted