

Conifer Junction Schoolhouse



Conifer Junction Schoolhouse, referred to by locals as the Little White Schoolhouse, sits on a one-acre lot in the unincorporated community of Conifer. A nearby barn, built sometime in the 1930s, housed the animals that the teacher and students rode to school. The school functioned as a one-room schoolhouse until the growth necessitated a larger school in 1965. The Little White Schoolhouse was continuously used from 1923 to 1965 for grades 1-8.

The Conifer Junction Schoolhouse replaced a previous schoolhouse, which was in an abandoned reform Mormon church. In 1965 the Jefferson County School District converted the Little White Schoolhouse to a preschool, which operated until 2012 when it was sold to the Conifer Historical Society and Museum. The school provided a central gathering place for dances, box socials, and other community events over the years, including church services.

Conifer area families probably came together to help a local builder construct the school. Its two floors include a classroom and two cloakrooms, with a basement kitchen, office, and bathrooms. The school and the 1930s horse barn are good examples of the Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements architectural style. The low-pitched hipped roof, the overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, the porch with sturdy columns, and the single-story design help emphasize its horizontal look. The entry porch, with three doors that lead into the main room, and the protruding cloakrooms make this schoolhouse distinctive.

On February 10, 2014, the Conifer Junction Schoolhouse at 26951 Barkley Road was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (5JF.5107).

