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File HBD-95-231.8

Name: Whitman School - 248 S. 4th Street

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		*Review Sheet Summary
		*Application form
		Review Sheets
		Receipts for fees paid for anything
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		Reduced copy of final plans or drawings
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		Evidence of title, deeds, easements
		*Mailing list to adjacent property owners
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		Reduction of any maps – final copy
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		Other bound or non-bound reports
		Traffic studies
		*Review Comments
		*Petitioner's response to comments
X	X	*Staff Reports
		*Planning Commission staff report and exhibits
		*City Council staff report and exhibits
		*Summary sheet of final conditions

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

X	X	Resolution No. 123-95 - **	X	X	Pictures of Whitman School
X	X	Historic Building Inventory Record - Colorado Historical Society			
X		Museum of Western Colorado Photographic Use Agreement			
X		Quit Claim Deed - (not Mesa Co. web) 9/21/65 - Industrial Dev. Inc. - Lots 25 to 32, Both inclusive, Block 125 of the City of Grand Junction			
X	X	Building Information			
X	X	Historical Information			
X	X	Correspondence			
X		Legal Ad - 11/27/95			
X	X	City Council Minutes - 12/20/95 - **			
X	X	Assessor's Tax Information			
X		Daily Sentinel Public Notice - 11/27/95			
X		Quit Claim Deed - 9/21/65 to Ind. Dev. Inc. Lots 25 to 32 - both inclusive of Block 125 of the City of Grand Junction			



NOT FOR FIELD USE
<input type="checkbox"/> ELIGIBLE
<input type="checkbox"/> DET. NOT ELIGIBLE
<input type="checkbox"/> NOMINATED
<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFIED REHAB
DATE _____

Historic Building Inventory Record

project name	county Mesa	city Grand Junction	state ID no. 5ME4151
current building name Museum of Western Colorado	owner Industrial Development Incorporated 360 Grand Avenue Grand Junction, Colorado 81501		
address 248 South 4th Street Grand Junction, Colorado 81501	township 1S range 1W section 14 ¼ ¼		
historic name Whitman Elementary School	USGS quad name Grand Junction 1962 yr. X 7.5' 15'		
district name	block 125	lot(s) 29-32	addition City yr. of addition 1881
film roll by K. Ashbeck no. 1	negative nos. 13	location of negatives City of GJ	date of construction _____ estimate 1925 actual
<p style="text-align: center;">paste photograph here.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(see attached envelope)</p>		source Tope, Richard E. Objective History of Gr Jct, CO	
		use Historical Museum _____ present Elementary School _____ historic	
		condition _____ excellent _____ X _____ good _____ fair _____ deteriorating	
		extent of alterations _____ minor _____ moderate X _____ major describe: Windows removed & filled in Modify front entry 1 story addition on back	
style Italianate (?)	stories 2	X original _____ moved date(s) of move:	
materials Brick and Concrete	square footage 8,650	National Register Eligibility Individual: _____ yes _____ no Contributing to district: _____ yes _____ no	
architectural description The main part of the Whitman School is a two-story brick building with a low-pitched hip roof. The wide eaves are very simple with little ornamentation. There is a masonry chimney on the northeast corner of the building. The front facade (west) is divided into three bays--one central entry and symmetrical bays on either end which are accentuated by "columns" of protruding brickwork. Each of		local landmark designation _____ name _____ date	
		associated buildings? _____ yes type if inventoried, list ID nos.	
additional pages _____ X _____ yes _____ no			

plan shape 	architect Unknown	original owner Mesa County School Dist #1
	source	source
	builder/contractor Unknown	Tope, Richard E. Objective History of Gr Jct
	source	theme(s)

construction history (description, names, dates, etc. relating to major additions or alterations to original structure)

The Whitman School was built in 1925 and utilized, without change, until 1962 when it was no longer needed by the school district. The building was turned over for use by the Museum of Western Colorado in 1965. At that time, the interior was remodeled to suit this new function and exterior renovation included removal of the windows, front entrance steps, canopy

continued yes no

historical background (discuss important persons and events associated with this structure)

As Grand Junction enjoyed a post-World War I growth period, this same pace was not maintained by the local school districts. By the school year of 1924 the Grand Junction District documented the need for new schools: "120 pupils in a building on the alley between 5th and 6th Streets behind Main Street; 40 pupils in congregational bungalow; 450 pupils in rooms that are over-crowded; and 180 8th graders in basement rooms with poor lighting and ventilation". (1)

continued yes no

significance (check appropriate categories and briefly justify below)

architectural significance: <input type="checkbox"/> represents the work of a master <input type="checkbox"/> possesses high artistic values <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> represents a type, period or method of construction	historical significance: <input type="checkbox"/> associated with significant persons <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> associated with significant events or patterns <input type="checkbox"/> contributes to an historic district
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statement of significance

The Whitman School is significant because it was erected and still stands on a site which, on the original town plat of Grand Junction, was designated as a school site. The site was first occupied by the Park Opera House which was eventually demolished. The school district then constructed Whitman on the site. The open feeling of the grounds of the building, its location across from a City park which bears the same name of Whitman and which was a designated park site on the original town plat, and its prominence on two major thoroughfares still reflect the ideals of town planning in the late 19th century. While no longer used for its original function, the Whitman School is still a prominent public building in downtown Grand Junction.

continued yes no

references (be specific)

Colorado Historical Society. Inventory Record. Resource No. 5ME4151. July 1982.

"Condensed History of Education in Mesa County 1892-1964". Unpublished manuscript. July 28, 1964. School District 51 Public Relations Department History File.

continued yes no

surveyed by Kristen Ashbeck	affiliation City of Grand Junction	date May 1993
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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

the end bays originally had two bands (one on each of the two floors) of five, 6-over-1 windows. This simple design reflects the principles of good school design of the day which dictated the rectangular shape, the symmetrical window placement and fenestration, and the functional floor plan (1).

Low concrete steps led to the doors of the school. The recessed entry had double 6-panel glass and wood doors with a large transom above. On the second floor of the front facade there was a pair of 6-over-1 windows over the central doors. A short canopy with a limestone lintel accentuated the entry.

The end facades (north and south) have no windows but are detailed with simple masonry work that creates a geometric pattern. The brickwork on the front facade in the areas where the windows were removed repeats this same geometric pattern. It is apparent that most windows on the rear or west facade were also removed and filled in with brick. There is also a metal stairway leading to a second story doorway on the back of the building.

The one story addition on the northeast corner of the original building was constructed to provide permanent and rotating display space for the museum. This part of the building is flat-roofed masonry with no windows and no ornamentation.

The site surrounding the Whitman School appears much as it did when the building was constructed. Large, evenly-spaced shade trees line the sidewalk of the front grassy area. The rear yard is gravelled--probably originally used as a play area, now used for parking.

- 1) National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Inez Johnson Lewis School. Monument, Colorado.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY CONTINUED

and limestone lintel, and a one-story addition to the east side. A copper fascia was added above the front entry. The facades on which the windows were removed were bricked in a pattern similar to that which exists on the north and south facades. Despite these changes, the grounds of the Whitman School have been kept intact, and the overall site and structure continue to exhibit a feeling of prominence as a public building.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND CONTINUED

Consequently, the community overwhelmingly passed a bond issue in February of 1925 to construct eight new schools--one of which was a four-room school located at 4th Street and Ute Avenue. The school at this location and the adjacent City park were named for the well-known western missionary, Marcus Whitman, whose journey to and from Oregon brought him through the Grand Junction area.

The two-story brick building housed grades one through four until declining school enrollments in the downtown area caused its closure after the 1961-1962 school year. Since 1965, the building has housed the Museum of Western Colorado which continues to be a growing resource for the Grand Valley community and its numerous visitors from throughout the United States. This use complements and carries on the educational tradition of the Whitman School building.

(1) Daily Sentinel. January 11, 1925. page 3.

REFERENCES CONTINUED

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel.

Sanborn Map. June 1926.

Tope, Richard E. "Objective History of Grand Junction, Colorado".
Unpublished manuscript. Museum of Western Colorado. 1982.

June 17, 1993

Barbara Norgren
National Register Coordinator
Colorado History Museum
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203



Re: Register Listing, Whitman Elementary School, Grand Junction

Dear Ms. Norgren:

I write this letter in support and further discussion of the application submitted by the City of Grand Junction Planning Department. The Museum of Western Colorado recently made a public announcement of expansion plans, on-site, which include renovation and more effective use of the Whitman School.

One possible outcome of your review of this nomination is the requirement that we restore the original facade, particularly the bricked-over windows, before a register listing is secured. I have an estimate to restore (reveal) the windows of approximately \$22,000. I would appreciate any suggestions you may have on possible grant sources to address that task. Certainly, as an element of a larger, multi-million dollar effort (rehabilitation, renovation, and construction of 74,000 square feet), we would find a way to eventually cover that expense.

Our strategy regarding a Whitman School historic designation is to then leverage preservation funding sources to help restore the school to its period appearance, and assign a principal function of museum education to the facility. Expansion plans include adjoining new galleries to the school, connecting the school with an empty warehouse 150 feet to the east. The warehouse would serve as our central collections storage facility.

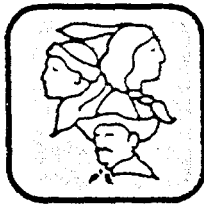
We may also pursue nomination of the C. D. Smith building (the empty warehouse) to the National Register during this expansion program. The building, constructed in the mid-1930s, was the anchor of a major retail/wholesale enterprise operated by one of the town's founders.

I appreciate the time and attention you give to the formal application for the Whitman School, and look forward to visiting with you further regarding our Museum expansion plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard S. Sims".

Richard S. Sims
Director



COLORADO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

JPA
WOLFE COPY
RSS

The Colorado History Museum 1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80203-2137

July 9, 1993

Richard S. Sims
Director
Museum of Western Colorado
PO Box 20000-5020
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020

Dear Mr. Sims

Our review of the Whitman Elementary School confirms your suspicions. The replacement of the facade and rear windows with brick infill, the alterations of the main entry and the construction of the 1965 addition to the rear caused such an extensive loss of historic material and design that the building no longer retains sufficient historic integrity to meet the criteria for evaluation and nomination to the National or State Registers.

You mentioned possible plans to renovate the facade through the removal of the brick infill, replacement of the missing windows with new material patterned to resemble the original and a similar reconstruction of the facade entry area. In assessing a building's historic integrity, we analyze seven factors: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The rehabilitation of the front facade might strengthen such factors as feeling and association, but questions about design, materials and workmanship would still be present. The presence of the one-story rear addition also raises integrity problems. The National Register requires us to look at the whole structure, including all additions. If you were to move forward with your renovation project, we can not guarantee that following completion the Whitman School would meet the criteria for evaluation and nomination to the National or State Register.

Adjoining new galleries onto the Whitman School or the C.D. Smith building could seriously decrease the historic integrity of the structures and thus threaten their eligibility for future listing. The physical joining of historic structures to modern or significantly altered structures could also cause the historic structures to lose eligibility because the entire complex would then have to be treated as a single building. We would suggest that you talk to James Stratis, the Historic Preservation Specialist in our office, about possible rehabilitation options for these buildings. James may be reached at (303) 866-4678.

Sims
July 9, 1993
Page 2

The State Historic Fund offers grants for rehabilitation projects on designated historic properties. You are in that difficult position of needing a grant in order to do a rehabilitation project so that your building might be eligible for historic designation. However, State Historic Funds are only available to properties already designated as historic by a Certified Local Government or by being listed in the National Register or State Register. You will probably have to seek funding through private, corporate or foundation sources. Craig Hunter coordinates the State Historic Fund and can answer your questions on the program. Craig may be reached at (303) 866-3385. The National Trust for Historic Preservation tracks historic preservation projects nation-wide and may be able to provide you with some innovative ideas for funding your project. The Trust operates a regional office in Denver and may be reached at (303) 623-1504.

While we believe it highly unlikely that your property would be recommended by the State Review Board for listing on the National or State Register, the final decision on continuing to pursue a nomination is yours. The preparation of a nomination requires considerable time and effort and we do not encourage people to invest the effort when the chances for a successful outcome appear small. However, if you would like a State or National Register nomination form, please call us at (303) 866-4681. We will mail one to you along with the necessary preparation instructions.

Sincerely,



Dale Heckendorn
National Register Coordinator

cc: Kristen Ashbeck



COLORADO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Colorado History Museum 1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80203-2137

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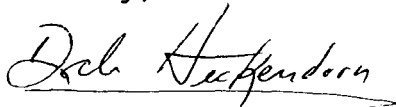
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Heckendorn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dale Heckendorn
National Register Coordinator

cc: Kristen Ashbeck

STAFF REVIEW

DATE: December 14, 1995

REQUEST: Historic Designation of the Whitman School in the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts

LOCATION: 248 South 4th Street

PETITIONER: Museum of Western Colorado / Industrial Development Incorporated

STAFF: Kristen Ashbeck

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Museum of Western Colorado is requesting that the Whitman School (248 S. 4th Street) be designated as a historic building in the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts.

BACKGROUND/STAFF ANALYSIS: City Council adopted section 5-14, Historic Preservation, in the Zoning and Development Code in August 1994 which established a City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts, to which eligible historic resources may be designated. The criteria by which the Historic Preservation Board and Council shall review a proposed designation are specified in the ordinance.

The following pages describe the characteristics of the Whitman School which justify its designation and detail the particular features of the building that should be preserved. Given this description, the Historic Preservation Board finds that the Whitman School meets the following designation criteria outlined in section 5-14-6 of the Zoning and Development Code:

- Structure is at least 50 years old;
 - Exemplifies cultural, political, economic or ethnic heritage of the City;
 - Enhances the sense of identity of the City; and
 - Is an established and familiar visual feature of the City.
-

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Approval (4-0)

Gary Carr
Marilyn - 2115 Grand
Public Info

History File

Mesa Co Schools
Past & Present
Project - Research
Committees
Delta Kappa Gamma
XI Chpt
1980-1990

***** -IND. XMT JOURNAL- ***** DATE NOV-21-1995 ***** TIME 09:37 *****

DATE/TIME = NOV-21-1995 09:36
JOURNAL No. = 15
COMM.RESULT = OK
PAGE(S) = 002
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RESOLUTION = STD

-CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION -

***** (FAX-950 U1.36)** -CITY OF GRAND JC- ***** - 303 244 1599- *****

- 36 -

Francis Strock
Marian Hinds
Laverne Tauss
Sadie Daniel

India Paulson
Lenore Watkins
Beulah Van Buren
Cora Miller

Miss Elizabeth Walker (Hinton) was County Superintendent at the time and she assisted in many ways.

The educational exhibit that won such high honors at the Exposition at Omaha was taken to the Colorado State Fair at the next meeting and it won the highest rating again. When the Mesa County Fair was running, there were always very interesting school exhibits. The writing was always superb. There were no new-fangled ideas about letting such things as legibility take their natural course. Pupils were taught to write so the hand writing could tell its story. After all writing is a simple task in school; there are only twenty-six script forms in the English language. Even if we had Phonetic spelling, there would be only 42 characters. That would not be exhaustive as an educative function. The story of a small boy comes to mind. His mother had been a school teacher before her marriage so she took the young hopeful in hand and soon taught him to write in a legible hand that was creditable to a youngster and his teacher too. Soon he came home sad and upset with the statement: "Now mother, see what has happened; you taught me to write, now the teacher has found out I can't spell. What'll I do now?"

PRESENT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

To complete this very early record, the school buildings of school district #1 are listed with the dates of erection. Questions frequently arise concerning when this and that took place and usually no one knows; here is a record:

Lowell School (old)	1884 center, 1889 west, 1907 east
Emerson School	1903
Hawthorne School	1908
Columbus School	1912, 1938
Riverside School	1917, 1937
Washington School	1920
Whitman School	1925
Lincoln School	1925, 1930 North
Lowell School (new)	1926
Junior High School	1911, 1917 west, 1920 east, 1926 Junior H. S. & Gym
Tope School	1941, 1950
Orchard Avenue	1948, 1953
Shop and Music Bldg, J. H. S.	1920, 1928
Administrative Bldg.	1938--see Historical Marker on the corner of the building
New High School	1955

EDUCATION

The fulfillment of all hopes depends heavily upon the young people in any generation; upon how well they are prepared in school to take advantage of the opportunities for more advanced education. The technology of each age becomes

more complex as invention and discovery develop new things. When transportation was by footsteps of either the man or his horse, time and ingenuity kept pace with the manner of locomotion; today we move by great machines on land, on the great seas and in the air. So our security, our living standards, our progress in commerce and in industry are based upon technology that is far more exacting than was ever dreamed before. Easy, simplified knowledge does not suffice. The world is a community so we need language construction, the world has surrendered its hidden resources and thorough training in the depths of mathematics and the sciences is fundamental.

Any enlightened people must understand education. To have a critical attitude toward the educational program should be natural; it should be expected and welcomed. The what and the why and the how are always relevant.

Grand Junction parents have always had a deep concern for proper educational standards. In 1910 there was deep concern about the educational standards. The discussion got into the open; parents of the school children were alarmed at some of the trends; too many elective studies to take the place of and set aside the standard exacting studies such as Latin; German; French; grammar and rhetoric; ancient history; medieval history; classical literature such as Shakespeare, Wordsworth, George Eliot, Victor Hugo, Tennyson, Walter Scott; botany; zoology; astronomy; physics; chemistry; geography - political and physical; all without abridgement and simplification.

At the time some of the colleges found it necessary to make rules concerning spelling and writing. They were forced to place students in spelling classes and writing classes from which they could not be released until they could pass tests in correct spelling and in legibility; Physics and Chemistry students could not compute division of decimals or work with compound denominate numbers or figure interest on things purchased on time. There was complaint that definite subjects were being crowded out by such artificially created subjects as general mathematics—a mess of miscellaneous mathematical subject matter that didn't teach mathematics at all; another simplification was that of the basic sciences being watered down to a sort of popular general science that did not teach any science at all; a third was a blend of history and geography and civil government into what was called "social Science" which was just something to talk about and which did not teach any of the subjects for which it was designed to be a substitute.

The people were somewhat isolated at that time. The only way to get to the rest of the country where their relatives, their friends and even their children who had gone away from home lived, was by train, with many changes. They could understand that though they lived in a fruit country it would be impossible to produce apples or a field of sugar beets or a good first-cutting crop of alfalfa without a knowledge of botany; though they lived in a region that might profit from the production of poultry and dairying, yet without fundamental knowledge of zoology there could not be produced a dozen good eggs or a bottle of sweet milk. It is needless to point out the value of physics and chemistry in all phases of mechanized living. Yet there was fear long ago that the young people of High School would eventually be robbed of their birthright by this clever substitution of improvised subject matter in place of the fundamental warp and woof of a real basic education.

The trouble with so many discussions and controversies is that both sides are in the wrong. Such a state is the worse because both sides are also often in the right. Each side will try to win the world to a narrow idea. The opposing wide

may be just trying to enjoy the world, and if this be true, the fondest wish of such a body of contenders is to have all the problems go away and leave them alone. The most serious predicament in education today is that the aim and trend has been enjoyment, pleasure, indulgence, choice, inclination rather than thought, contemplation, effort, results, achievement.

Records of the Mt. Garfield D.A.R.
F-194 Museum of Western Colorado

Chapter: Mt. Garfield

City: Grand Junction, Colorado

Date Submitted: February 24, 1975

DAR MARKERS, MONUMENTS, RESTORATIONS, ETC.

It was seven years following the organization of their chapter before the first marker was erected by the Mt. Garfield Chapter, but this was quite an impressive occasion for the city.

When the dispute over the valuable and rich land lying north of California became very great and it seemed imminent that England would take it for her own, Dr. Marcus Whitman and his wife decided that someone should go to Washington to tell Congress about Oregon and to save it for the United States. Dr. and Mrs. Whitman and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spaulding had opened a mission in the Northwest about 6 years before. The detail of their experiences in the Northwest is quite familiar to all so will not be dealt with here. However in order to reach Washington before Congress adjourned March 4, 1843, the journey would have to be made through the fall and winter months. On October 14, 1842, when the group, Dr. Whitman, Col. Amos Lovejoy and an Indian guide reached Fort Hall (now Pocatella, Idaho) they were warned of hostile Indians so they changed their course, going to Fort Uinta, Utah, in November. From there until they reached Fort Uncompahgre there was little detail recorded of their travels except that Dr. Whitman and his party swam the Grand River in midwinter at a point near where the city now lies. From there they went into the Gunnison area, on to Bent's Fort and from there followed the Sante Fe Trail to St. Louis. They did reach Washington on March 3, 1843, and through his efforts in just one day, before Congress adjourned Oregon and the Northwest Territory was saved for the United States.

Through the efforts of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution a monument was unveiled in his honor. In a beautiful little park located just a few blocks from the Grand River (now the Colorado River) the S.A.R. brought down a beautiful large granite rock and the D.A.R. furnished the beautiful bronze tablet which is mounted on the rock. On Colorado Day, August 1, 1917, the monument was presented to the city by the D.A.R. and the S.A.R.

The inscription on the bronze marker is as follows:

WHITMAN PARK
in honor of
MARCUS WHITMAN
Patriot---Missionary
Who swam the Grand River near this point
On his heroic trans-continental ride, Mid-Winter
1842-43,
Which saved the great Northwest to the United States
Mount Garfield Chapter D.A.R.
Grand Junction Chapter S.A.R.
July 4, 1917.

Chapter: Mt. Garfield
City: Grand Junction, Colorado
Date Submitted: February 24, 1975

DAR MARKERS, MONUMENTS, RESTORATIONS, ETC.

The third memorial was in the form of a steel flagpole, 60 feet high, erected in June, 1928, in Lincoln Park, to honor the men from Mesa County who served and gave their lives in World War I. It is centrally located in a beautiful setting in the park.

It was presented and dedicated in a very simple but effective program arranged by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Gold Star mothers and fathers were present along with representatives from other patriotic societies in the city and county. This was on the evening of June 21, 1928.

The flagpole was purchased from the Midwest Steel and Iron Works Co. of Denver who also furnished the bronze tablets and insignia. The pole is in four sections, weighed 800 pounds when shipped. The cast iron base was made locally by the Wier Foundry. There are 3 bronze markers representing the Badge of the D.A.R., one on each of the north, south and west sides of the base. The main inscription is located on the east face and it reads:

LEST WE FORGET
In Honor of
eight hundred Mesa County men
who gave their loyal service in the
World War, 1914-1918,
and
IN MEMORY OF
those among them who gave the
most that man can give, life itself.

This tribute is placed
in loving appreciation by the
Daughters of the American Revolution
Mt. Garfield Chapter
1928

First there is a picture of the rock with the plaque

MEMORIAL TO PATRIOT - This large rock, with its bronze marker names Whitman Park for the patriot-missionary, Marcus Whitman, who swam across the Grand River (now the Colorado) in the Grand Junction area. He was enroute to Washington, D. C. to tell Congress of the plight of the northwest settlers. The plaque was put up July 4, 1917, through the efforts of the Mount Garfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Daily Sentinel photo.

Brave Ride Remembered

WHITMAN PARK GOT NAME FROM HEROIC MISSIONARY

Marcus Whitman may be an almost-forgotten man in the annals of western history, but his heroic deeds were responsible for the name of Grand Junction's Whitman Park.

The park was named for the patriot-missionary through the efforts of Mt. Garfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and Grand Junction Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, in 1917.

The huge rock with the bronze marker, placed and dedicated by the two patriotic organizations, is still located in the park. The inscription says: "Whitman Park in honor of Marcus Whitman, Patriot-Missionary, who swam the Grand River near this point on his heroic transcontinental ride Mid-winter 1842-3 which saved the great Northwest to the United States, Mount Garfield Chapter DAR, Grand Junction Chapter SAR, July 4, 1917."

Mrs. W. E. Page, regent of the DAR at that time, wrote the inscription for the marker.

The Sons of the Revolution provided the boulder which carries the bronze marker. Mrs. E. F. Woods of Grand Junction, former DAR member, said she remembers James H. Rankin, C. E. Cherrington, O. D. Williams and C. L. Nichols as members of that men's organization.

Mrs. Woods also recalls that according to early-day history, Marcus Whitman was enroute to Washington at the time of John Tyler's presidency, to present the plight of the northwest settlers to Congress. He rode across the entire continent on horseback, swimming across the Grand River (now the Colorado) in the Grand Junction area.

Markers in Mesa County.

1. Tomb Governor Geo. A. Crawford on Reservoir Hill south of G. Jct. Crawford, the president of the original town company, organized in 1881 was buried here at his request. Died 1891. Tomb erected in 1898 by city.
2. Whitman Park. Bronze plaque on a granite boulder city of Grand Junction, 5th and Ute Sts. In honor of Marcus Whitman: Patriot-Missionary who swam the Grand River near this point on his heroic trans-continental ride Mid-winter 1842-3 which saved the great Northwest to the United States. Erected by D.A.R. and S.A.R. chapters of Grand Junction July 4 1917
3. Bronze Marker on Copper Theater 7th and Main Sts Gr. Jct. Original office of Grand Junction Town Company 1881 thus founding the town of Gr. Jct. Marker erected by Mt. Garfield Chapter D.A.R. 1924
4. Flag Pole and Marker in Lincoln Park. In honor of the 800 men who served from Mesa County in 1st world war. Tribute placed by D.A.R. Mount Garfield chapter 1928.
5. Highway Marker at the junction of Colorado 65 and U.S. 6-24 Colorado River Highway, known as the Pioneer Monument " erected to the Pioneers of the Mountains and the Valleys of Western Colorado. Placed by Elks Lodge #575 June 14 1931
6. Tablets on School Administration Bldg of District #51 on Rood St opposite the Mesa Co. Court House. Commemorating site of First Church Bldg Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Built in 1883

First School Election- June 1 1882 With names of 1st school board.

First school house, built of picket staves, near corner of 5th and Colorado Sts Miss Nannie Blain teacher 1883

School Administration Building was moved to this site in 1917, and to provide for expansion this building was erected in 1938
7. A W.F.A. Tablet in doorway of School Administration Bldg recites this building was erected through co-operation of Federal, State and Local Governments by Works Progress Administration 1938
8. Tablet on City Hall, near entrance on south side. Recites Administration Building City of Grand Junction, constructed by remodeling of Lowell School Building, originally built on this site in 1884. Built in 1949 by City of Grand Junction -Frank A. Hoisington Mayor
9. Marker erected on Site of First Newspaper, the Grand Junction News, a vital cultural influence in the town of Grand Junction was first published on this Site in October 1882- Edwin Price, Editor. Tablet placed by Mt. Garfield Chapter D.A.R. in 1957 Erected at time of Diamond Jubilee on Woolworth Bldg, the west boundary, Main St. (Bldg now owned by Golden and Purcell.)
10. Park Opera House. Bronze marker recites : Upon this site in 1891 was built the Park Opera House, a modern theater, which was for many years the center of the cultural life of Grand Junction. Placed by Daughters American Revolution at the time of Diamond Jubilee 1957 - Mount Garfield Chapter. On the west side of raehouse now owned by the O.D. Smith Company 5th and Ute Sts.

fence of lava rocks — the old Kilbourne ranch (now owned by Robt. Reiser) 3 mi from town of Mesa to commemorate the releasing of the Meeker women to the military in 1879. Following the massacre of the Indian Agent Nathan C. Meeker, his wife, daughter Josephine, Mrs. Price and her two little children were held as hostages by the Utes for 27 days. Chief Curay ordered the Utes to surrender them to the military forces— and they were taken in safety to the home of Chief Curay and Chipeta, his wife near Montrose.

None of the historians who have made diligent search can corroborate just where the surrender took place, but tradition of old settlers say this tree—(now nearly all dead) is the spot where the women were surrendered.

List Compiled by Mrs. E. F. Woods

County Superintendent's Office Comes Part Of Past

Daily Sentinel
July 2, 1967
Page 6

Months have passed since election, and the final date has arrived for the closing of the office of Basil Knight, Mesa County Superintendent of Schools.

Voters okayed the change last fall, bringing about an action that consolidation over the years actually caused.

It was once the only way to keep orderly records and to supervise the many little districts in an area which often operated with a single room and a single teacher. As roads and buses grew in importance districts were joined to form larger systems, and the need for a county superintendent ceased.

Here, as in many counties, the office continued, with talk about ending the old ways, but never any action. Basil Knight was elected to a four year term in 1962 and found so many things to do that the office took on new life. But with the elections in 1966, he was at the same time elected to another four years, and also voted out of office.

State law determines that such an office shall operate until June 30 following the election, with the duties and records turned over by then to other existing offices.

By now Knight has cleaned out the room on the second floor of the courthouse annex and is out of business. Records dating back to 1883 were indexed, packed in boxes and taken to the state archives in Denver. Books from the shelves were given to Dist. 51 and others. The ivy was taken home, but the portrait of Washington and the framed copies of the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence are left on the walls.

The room will soon be used for other county business.

Knight himself is continuing his connection with schooling, working through the harvest season as family contact man with migrants. School is available for their children and Knight is the one to keep in touch with youngsters and parents as they move in and out of the valley.

There will be time off the last half of the month for salmon fishing on the Campbell River on Vancouver Island in west-

ern Canada. With his wife, he will be staying at the cottage of Orville Richards, industrial arts teacher at Grand Junction High School.

More than that. Knight's camp on Grand Mesa will soon be rebuilt after being lost in a fire this spring. The secretary of the office, Miss Isabel Benson, intends to simply slow down for a second "retirement," after once finishing a teaching career. Now there should be time for volunteer work in the hospital and church, and for trips with her sister.

The office of the superintendent has touched every youngster who has grown up in Mesa County. Those boxes of records contain bits of history that show the change from a really remote, rural area, to one which is more and more in touch with the world.

From 1,026 students in 1892, the population has grown to some 13,000 now. The 14 districts grew to 39, then by consolidation to the present three. Collbran, De Beque, and the Valley District 51 now cover the schools of the county.

Costs show the change from the 25 cents a day in 1892, down to a low of 18 cents per student per day around 1900. Since then costs grew gradually until after World War II, when it jumped as high as the present nearly \$3.00 per day.

Teacher's salaries, once \$59 a month are now well over \$100. No longer is a comment possible like that in 1894, when Superintendent Edward Fisher said "Our corps of teachers is above average; . . . all except four have had at least a high school education."

Other years the number of high school graduates were noted as four in 1897, for example, and nine the next year. By 1918 there were eight high schools "which brings a high school within reach of nearly all the pupils of the county."

Population rose and fell, with 300 less students during one year in World War I, jumping maybe 348, 220, or once the "small gain of only 48."

Fourteen superintendents have served since 1892, some for only one year, others for as long as nine years. Many are forgotten, yet Frank Nisley has been honored by having a school named for him.

Dale Lundy, once a superintendent, is now with District 51 as director of food services, and Lucille Mahannah is active in many civic projects.

Times change, and the voters said that a superintendent is not needed in these days to supervise teachers, buildings, and curriculum.

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Registered and Licensed nurses 24 Hrs. a day. Special diets — Home cooked food. Room and board for both men and women in cottages. Special attention given to each resident.

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CONDENSED HISTORY of EDUCATION

in

MESA COUNTY

1892 - 1964

Taken from the records of the County Superintendent of Schools
Mesa County Courthouse, Grand Junction, Colorado

July 28, 1964

The County Superintendent of Schools' records for Mesa County, Colorado, date back to 1892. No records are available for the year, 1914.

The County Superintendents and their terms of office are as follows:

1892 - 1895	Edward T. Fisher
1896 - 1899	Elizabeth A. Walker
1900 - 1906	Z. B. McClure
1907 - 1908	Mrs. D. D. Breeze
1909 - 1912	C. G. Sargent
1913 - 1914	A. Lee Hampton
1915 - 1924	Elizabeth Hinton
1925 - 1932	Rose Bishop
1933 - 1936	Frank N. Nisley
1937 - 1938	Rose Bishop Pedigo
1939 - 1946	Sadie E. Hogsett
1947 - 1948	Dale Lundy
1949 - 1962	Lucille Mahannah
1963 -	Basil T. Knight

COMMENTS by the County Superintendents of Schools

- 1892 - "The school board of the Grand Junction High School has adopted a four year course which will prepare its students for the state university. There is organized a county teachers' association, county school board's society and a county teachers' library."
Edward T. Fisher
- 1894 - "In this Annual Report, the financial showing of the different school districts is not the most desirable. The cause of this can be attributed to the County Treasurer who embezzled \$4,600 of the school funds which is reported as temporary loans and to the railroad refusing to pay nearly \$3,000 Special levy because it was not ordered by the electors.
Our present State Superintendent is to be complimented on his untiring efforts to improve the conditions of the state school fund. Increase in A.D.A. - 15%."
Edward T. Fisher
- 1895 - "The corps of teachers for 1895-96 are above the average. Three are Boulder University graduates, two are Greeley Normal School graduates, and four are graduates of the Grand Junction High School. Six are graduates from colleges of other states. All except four have had at least a high school education.
The increase in A.D.A. - 31%. The average cost per month for each pupil based on enrollment, \$2.33; based on A.D.A., \$3.48."
Edward T. Fisher
- 1896 - "There is no Public Library fund in any district of Mesa County but many schools have good private libraries. Nearly every school has a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.
There has been formed 10 new districts this year and the number of teachers is advanced from 47 to 60.
A few schools have cut the teachers' salaries this year but on the whole, the salary is good."
Elizabeth A. Walker
- 1897 - "There were four graduates from our High School this year.
One new district, #33, was formed."
Elizabeth A. Walker
- 1898 - "Two new districts were formed this year, #34 and #35.
The election of school directors is now completely uniform with the general arrangement throughout the state.
Three new school houses have been built.
There were nine graduates from the high school."
Elizabeth A. Walker

- 1899 - "Six new school houses have been built. Three country schools have added the ninth grade to their course of study.
We have a larger percent of teachers who are Normal College graduates than at any previous time in the history of the county."
Elizabeth A. Walker
- 1900 - "Grand Junction has over 1000 pupils on her census list and will, therefore, take her place as a first class district next spring.
Three new rural schools have been built and, we are pleased to note, two of them are heated, lighted and ventilated according to modern ideas.
We hope soon to see fewer districts and larger, better schools."
Z. B. McClure
- 1903 - "The educational spirit in Mesa County is good. The people are demanding better schools. One Union High School was organized this year and a second is well under way.
Less than \$1,000 of registered warrants were on the treasurer's books at the close of this year."
Z. B. McClure
- 1906 - "We have endeavored during the past seven years to consolidate the schools so that the teachers would not have to teach so many grades; to improve the instruction and raise the wages. The most of the school boards are ready to pay additional wages to experienced teachers. Our greatest trouble is our inability to supply our schools with trained teachers."
Z. B. McClure
- 1915 - "The school population decreased almost 300 since 1914."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1916 - "A force of one hundred fifty teachers taught the year through."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1917 - "The county supports eight high schools which bring a high school within reach of nearly all the pupils of the county."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1918 - "The gain in school population during the past year was 305. Six additional teachers were employed and one new district formed.
All of the war movements recommended by the State Office were carried successfully through the schools."
Elizabeth Hinton

COMMENTS by the County Superintendent of Schools

(Continued)

- 1919 - "The gain in school population over last year is 220. Two new school houses were built.
On account of the influenza epidemic, the schools were closed for long periods."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1920 - "The gain in school population was small, only 48 over last year. One new school house was built."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1921 - "The gain in school population in the county this year was 466. Our county entered the State Spelling Contest and received second place.
There are now 208 teachers employed."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1922 - "The school census of Mesa County shows an increase of 348. Two new schools have been completed - the Collbran High School and the Mesa Junior High and Grade School building.
District #37 won the spelling contest in the county and generously sent their contestant to the State Contest.
One new district was formed - they total 44 now."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1923 - "Two new school houses have been built - one to replace the one at DeBeque, which was burned and the other at Mack, a new district.
DeBeque district sent the spelling contestant to the State Contest.
There are now 216 teachers employed."
Elizabeth Hinton
- 1925 - "Eight new buildings were finished. 277 teachers employed."
Rose Bishop
- 1931 - "Music has had a revival in Mesa County. We now have seven bands and three orchestras."
Rose Bishop

The comments of the County Superintendent of Schools were discontinued in the Annual Reports after 1931.

Statistics showing the trend of increase in school enrollments, teachers necessary, districts formed, teacher salary increases, and rise in cost per pupil per A.D.A.

Year	Number of Districts	Number of Teachers	Teachers Average Monthly Salary	Number of Students	Cost per pupil per A.D.A.
1892	14	27	\$ 73.00	1,026	\$.25 per day
1897	32	57	59.00	1,992	.21
1901	35	68	60.00	2,700	.18
1905	35	102	64.00	4,039	.18
1909	35	141	78.00	5,236	.26
1913	35	182	79.00	6,093	.28
1916	37	165	79.00	5,165	.32
1921	39	208	128.00	5,624	.50
1925	35	277	121.00	7,132	.53
1929	35	250	152.00	7,219	.80
1935	36	256	134.00	7,689	.47
1940	35	315	149.00	6,970	.57
1945	35	297	164.00	6,236	.73
1950	29	351	251.00	7,360	1.48
1955	3	407	305.00	9,058	2.06
1959	3	549	406.00	10,845	2.27
1963	3	596	454.00	12,195	2.55

Comparisons:

- (1) School enrollment in 1892 in Mesa County was 1,026 and 12,195 in 1963.
- (2) There were 27 teachers in 1892, in 1963 there were 596.
- (3) Teachers' average salaries increased from \$73.00 in 1892 to \$454.00 in 1963.
- (4) Cost per pupil per A.D.A. rose from 25¢ in 1892 to \$2.55 in 1963.

Mesa County school district reorganization took place in 1951, resulting in three school districts in the county - Mesa County Valley #51, first class; Plateau Valley #50, second class and DeBeque Public Jt. 49, third class.



HISTORY OF EARLY SCHOOLS IN THE VALLEY

2

When the Indians left the Grand Valley in 1881, all of Mesa County was one school district. The only school house was in Grand Junction.

Dr. H. E. Stroud was the first County Superintendent of Schools, having been appointed by Governor Grant.

James Nichols, then eleven years old, came into the Lower Grand Valley with his brother to settle on land for a family home. They filed on good grass land, south of the river, where Arbogasts now live. In 1863 James Nichols rode horseback to Grand Junction on Mondays and boarded with Jack Pollock's grandfather while he attended school sessions there.

Parents of school-age children who had settled here in 1882 asked the county superintendent of schools to set aside a separate school district in the lower valley. This was done, and District #2 was established in May of 1883. At that time Fruita had been started, so a little school house cabin 12 x 14 ft. was put up on The Jim McCary Ranch one mile southeast of where our town now stands. Sixteen pupils attended that first session of school. One of them was Bert Mahany known to most of the adults in our area today. B. F. Hughes was the teacher; S. G. Lane, W. S. Kelley, and B. F. Hughes were the first school board directors.

In 1884 Fruita had begun to grow, so a new school house was built where the Independent Lumber Yard is now located. Mrs. M. A. Smith taught that first year in the town of Fruita. Bert Mahany and James Nichols were two of the eighteen pupils who attended here that year.

Miss Richie, later the mother of Horace (Tex) Violet, taught the school for the next two years, 1885 and 1886.

In 1887 a brick school building was finished on the land now used by Fruita Central School. It had two rooms for classes on the first floor and one large room upstairs which was used for literary society, Sunday school, church, and all other community meeting. Miss Anna Barret taught all of the pupils in one of the first floor rooms that year.

In 1888 there were so many pupils that two teachers were hired, E. T. Fisher as Principal and Mable Ateel Kiefer.

High school subjects were added in 1890 and held in the upstairs room. In 1893 the first graduating exercises were held. Only three years of high school work were required for graduation in those first years. Five students graduated that year, and Miss Alice Murphy was the Principal.

In 1894 the addition was built on the brick school house in Fruita, but soon the Methodist Church was used for overflow classes. The Union High School was organized by the Fruita, Rhone, Star, and Loma Districts in 1904 and 1905. Hunter, New Liberty, and Mack Districts later joined this high school unit.

The high school building was erected in 1905 on South Maple Street in the block where Reed's Dairy is now located. This building burned in 1934, and the classes were held in the old Odd Fellows Hall and the Armory Building--now, City Hall, during 1934 and 1935 while the present high school building was being constructed.

On Glade Park, the Leslie School, West End School, and Pipe Line School have been closed to combine with Coates Creek and Little Delores Schools.

4

In the valley, these schools have been discontinued to join the present schools; Longfellow (Adobe) School, Mark Ross School, Loback School, Columbine School, Sunset School, Valley View School, High Point School, Park School, Farmesa Schools, Enterprise School, Star School, Rhone School, and Mack School.

There may have been other schools that we have not mentioned.

NEWS ITEMS

1894--Miss McGee has 75 pupils in her room in the new Loback School.

1912--Miss McGee has 67 pupils in her room this year as they move into the Appleton School Building.

Miss McGee, now Mrs. Thrailkill of Grand Junction, is not able to be with us tonight, and we are sorry.

The first high school class graduated from Appleton Consolidated School in 1914. John Snyder, now of Orchard Mesa, was a member of that class. Harold Bryant was an early student of Appleton High School.

Other early schools were built after the Grand Valley Irrigation Canal was finished, and many families settled in the newly irrigated valley.

Without good roads and means of transportation, the children could not attend school unless it was held within walking distance, so small one-teacher schools were built in various communities.

Many of these school names and locations are known, but we want to add to our records more about these little schools. We hope that anyone having information about the dates of these and other schools or more authentic records about any of our school history will call us at the high school office.

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS

R. J. Fretnell and M. A. Lee Hampton were prominent educators here in the 1890's.

Dr. Masser 1888 (father of Henry Masser) Fruita's first doctor.

The Fruita Starr-1884-Fruita's first newspaper (a weekly). This may have been the first newspaper in Mesa County. The primary building burned down and no other paper was started for a number of years.

Ben Kiefer was the first Fruita postmaster. He and the P. O. moved one night to Cleveland where it was kept for a year. The government by then insisted that it be returned to the Fruita town site.

5

Cleveland was developed as a town in competition to the Fruita stores and a "borrowed post" office. Several other business enterprises were there but later died out or were moved to Fruita proper.

Professor Allbright started the first Latin class in Fruita High School in 1903.

Miss Nettie Shever taught in Fruita in 1904 and 1905. Later, as Mrs. Nettie Freed, she was our State Superintendent of Schools.

Paul High's father drove the first carryall (or bus) to take children to High Point School before it closed in 1917. The carryall had been previously used to transport the Indian children to the government Indian school east of Grand Junction.

Valley View School house was built on the south side of the river. In 1918 when the river was frozen over, the building was moved across on the ice and taken to its present location where Inskeeps now live.

Longfellow or Adobe School building was moved to the Enterprise Community in 1919. Mr. Clark named the school Enterprise. Bob Warren, Elizabeth Lockett, Mrs. Kenabel, Mrs. Frank Miller, Miss Johnson, and a lady from New York taught at Enterprise before it closed. The building has become the Enterprise Community Clubhouse of today.

Garmesa School was given that name because it was located near the line of Garfield and Mesa Counties. School was first held in a frame dwelling in about 1905 and for a few years after. A post office called Gavin P. O. was also there at that time. Mable Ridenour (Chapman) taught in the first Garmesa School in 1916 after she graduated from Gunnison. Niesje Klapwick (Sommers) taught there in 1935, in a log cabin (not a modern architect's design for a school room.)

The old Loma frame school house stood south of the present building for many years after the new building was in use.

School teachers are many. We have many references to the pioneers. In 1911 there is: Maude Leslie at High Point, H. M. Baltosser at Longfellow, Otis G. Crane, L. B. Stevens, Ethel Beldon, Minnie Gigax, Mrs. Cora Beldon, Grace Hunter, Josephine Gladden, and Minnie Reed at Fruita. Flora Springston and Grace Sharp at Hunter. Anna Berg and Pearl Waltz at Star, with Jessie A. Lace at Mack.

W. Knowls, W. L. Davenport and William Loback were the directors of petitioners for the first Loback School.

Jim Schultz taught his first school when he came to this country at Park School just west of Vern Judson's present farm. Can anyone tell us more about this school?

6

J. B. Hunt, William S. Hunter and Margaret Stewart Hunter were the school board directors when Hunter's first one room building was erected one-half mile north of the present location.

The cornerstones for our present high school building were laid February 4, 1936.

School athletics--Athletics soon took their part when the four-year high school was started. Girls' basketball was very popular, and games were played with Grand Junction. Boys started football in the fall of 1904, but after a couple of defeats, it was dropped until 1909 when money was raised for equipment.

In 1909 it was proposed that a platform be built outdoors in order that basketball could be practiced and played; of course, practice depended entirely upon the weather. The project was financed by a basket social and public donations and built by the boys. The season ended with a trip to Telluride, Montrose, and Ouray which definitely proved that Fruita was not in championship form that year.

We have counted at least 124 teachers who have graduated from our high school. Doubtless there are others. How many do you know on these lists who are or have been teachers?

We are wanting the names of all the graduates who have gone on to take extra training and are or have joined the leaders in our world of engineering, sciences and other such fields.

School: Whitman Elementary District # _____

Location: _____

Date built: _____

Material: _____

*name of this
outside*

Description: No. of rooms _____ Teachevage _____ Grades _____

Picture? _____

Last date used as a school _____ Community center? _____

Final disposition of building _____

Principals and teachers: (DKG?)

Notes of interest:

1925

Whitman Elementary School and Whitman Park

Location: Ute Avenue and 4th St.

Enrollment: Grades 1-4

Principals: Miss Alice Aldrich

When disbanded: 1962; children sent to Hawthorne Elem. School teacher

Other uses: 1962-63 Special Ed - Elementary - Mrs. Dorothy Tyndall, ~~the~~
1966 - turned over to the city for a museum April 30, 1966

Still standing: Yes

Pictures: Available

Miscellaneous information:

The Park Opera House was located on the Whitman School grounds. When this building was condemned and torn down, the school supt. bought the bricks which were re-used in the following school buildings: Riverside, Columbus, Tope, Band and Shop buildings of Grand Junction High, and the Admin Bldg on Rood Ave.

Whitman School also underwent changes in use when the town school enrollments dropped as families with children moved to newly developing outlying areas. In the 60's, the remaining Whitman pupils were transferred to Hawthorne Elementary, which also had a decreased enrollment. Mrs. Dorothy Tindall's Special Education classes were conducted at Whitman School. Later when the need was evidenced for a museum in Grand Junction, arrangements were made with the School Board which permitted Whitman School to be remodeled for that purpose. It is now The Museum of Western Colorado - a special educational resource for the children and for the many adult visitors who come from all areas of the U.S.

WHITMAN SCHOOL

The other elementary school erected in 1925 was Whitman Elementary School. The school and the adjacent city Park were named for the well-known western missionary, Marcus Whitman, whose journey to Oregon took him through the Grand Junction area. An historical marker has been set in Whitman Park. The school, located at Ute Avenue and Fourth St, was a two-story brick building which housed grades 1-4. Miss Alice Aldrich, who had assisted in the Lowell kindergarten, was named principal of the new school.

Located on the Whitman school grounds was the old Park Opera House which provided rich cultural experiences for the residents of Grand Junction. As the moving picture films became popular and the building became older, it was finally torn down; but the bricks were purchased by the school district for re-use. Tope School, Riverside addition, and the 1938 Administration Building were places where these bricks were used again.

553

Newspaper Clippings

Concern of Grand Junction's Pioneers

Minnie Hatfield

Class Reunion about 1960

Board of Education elects Teachers ¹⁹⁴³⁻
and Summer Vacation - teachers 1951

List #51 appointed new Sept. 1983

Teachers Housed 1960[±]?

Minnie Hatfield - Obituary

Thunder Mountain - new school 1982

Margaret Bengel - Obituary 1981

Schools no. 1 Priority 1976

Seventh - Day Advertiser by Dale Laker

Dr. W.P.A. Helps Improve Mesa County
Schools (Early 1940[±])

Richard E. Tope - Obituary - 1962

→ History of Grand Junction Schools ¹⁹⁸

Oral History of Mesa County

Jan 1983 List 51 appointed new superintendent

Research Articles

✓ Reorganization in mesa county
by Peggy Lippath

✓ Columbine School - Brief Description
School Dist #1 by Jean Page

✓ Seventh-Day Adventist Schools
by Albert Brown

✓ Western University (Circles) a picture from the
#111 museum

✓ Carpenter School

✓ Mountain View - Barbara Johnson

✓ The Annual Altus Art Fair

✓ Columbus School History by

Marilyn Kinney

✓ Redlands School History by Dama Kitchley

✓ Teacher Principals Annual Report

Clifton Consolidated School 1926 ^{Don} _{Hunt}

✓ History of Lincoln Orchard 2000

by Eleanor M. Seeley

✓ Schools in Grand Junction - Marian Zipse

1882-1981

Schools - Grand Jct. The First Schools

by Jakob & Marian Zipse

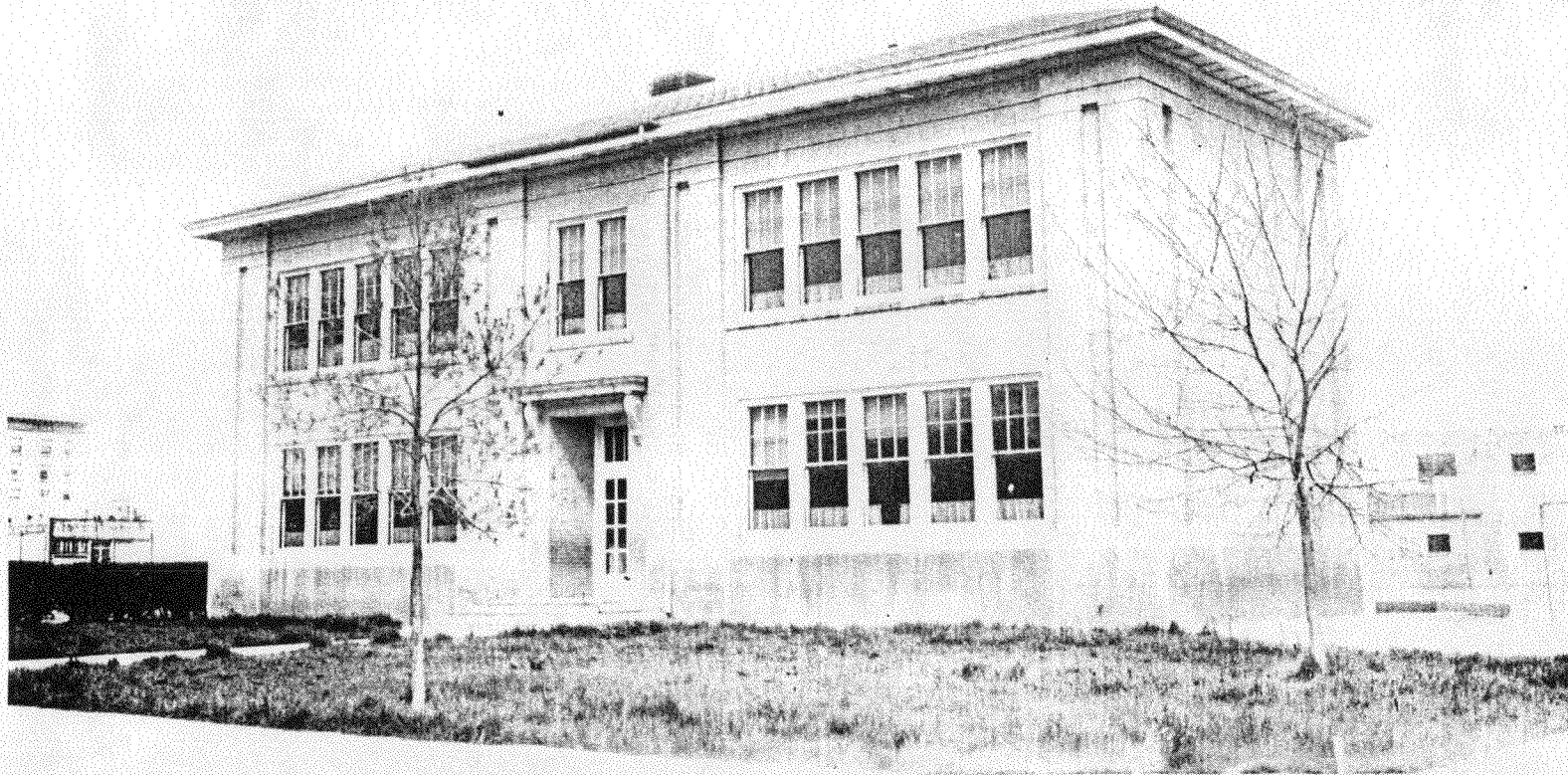
Clifton Area Schools

Education Sequences

Unawap and Gateway Schools by

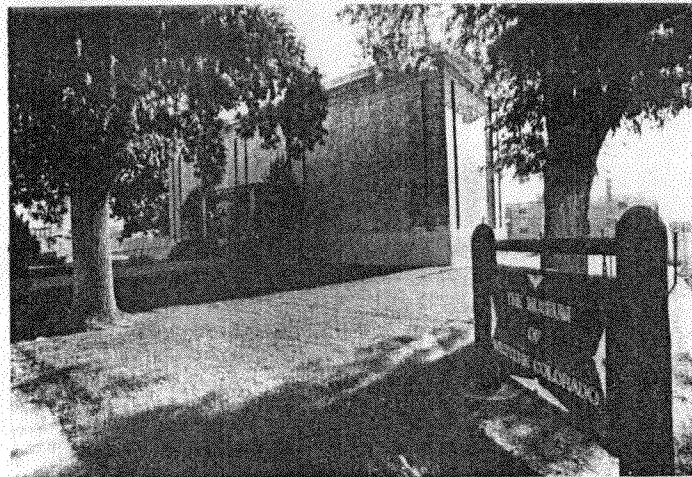
599

Phyllis Beckhuser



Whitman School, circa 1925

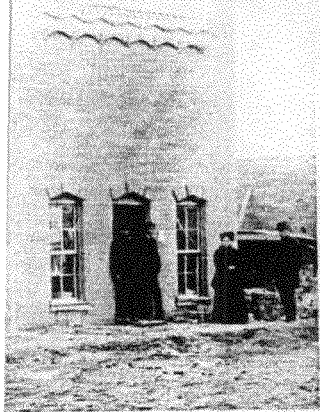
Judy Morehouse



Museum of Western Colorado, 1987

Whitman School housed elementary students from 1925 until 1965 when, due to declining enrollment, they were transferred to Hawthorne School.

The building now houses the Museum of Western Colorado. One of the first museums in the country to be accredited by the American Association of Museums, the institution can trace its beginnings to the Memorial Museum Association founded in 1949 and the Western Slope Museum Association formed in 1963. The Museum became a department of Mesa County in 1974 following a three to one ballot of the county's voters. In addition to the historical museum housed in the former school building, the Museum operates the Cross Orchards Living History Farm and Dinosaur Valley.



82. Colorado Historical

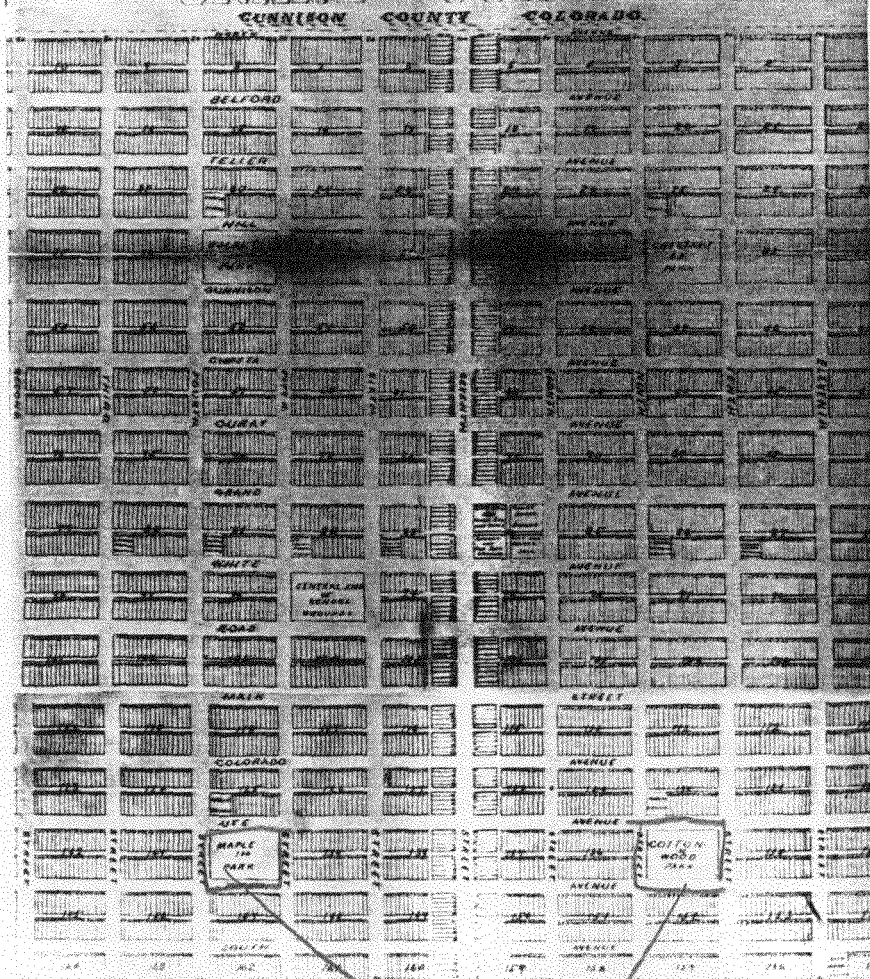
ust Go.



er Grocery of Colorado
WOLFE LONDONER.

vasive that it appeared
society.

PLAT OF THE TOWN OF GRAND JUNCTION.



The original plat of Grand Junction, showing land set aside for schools, churches, and public buildings.

Kris,
Cottonwood & maple parks changed
location back and forth. Cottonwood
Park later became Whitman.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Underwood, Kathleen Hill, 1944—

Town building on the Colorado frontier.

Bibliography: p.

Includes index.

1. Cities and towns—Colorado—Growth—Case studies.
2. Frontier and pioneer life—Colorado—Grand Junction—Case studies.
3. Grand Junction (Colo.)—Social conditions. I. Title.

HT371.U515 1987 307.7'62'0978817 86-30868
ISBN 0-8263-0951-8

*To the men
Fern Parry
and Robin*

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First edition

Nbhd: 10.98 L100 M073 B073 MESA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 51
 9000: Exempt
 C/O INDUSTRIAL DEV CO (MUSEUM)
 248 S 4TH ST
 GRAND JUNCTION CO 81501

Date 10/05/90
 Appr TBH
 CAMA 163040
 Value 163040
 By Market

BUILDING DATA

No	Bldg Feature	Description			
01	Model	COMMERCIAL			
02	Building Type	ALL OTHER-MISC			
03	Arch Style	EXEMPT	+--38--+		
04	Foundation		!	!	
05	Exterior Wall 1	FACE BRICK	!	!	
06	Exterior Wall 2	CONCRETE BLOCK	!	!	
07	Roof Cover	ASPH/COMP SHNGL	72	!	
08	Roof Structure	GABLE OR HIP	!	75	
09	Interior Wall 1	DRYWALL	!	!	
10	Interior Wall 2	DRYWALL	!	BAS(5387)	
11	Floor Structure		!	!	
12	Floor Cover 1	HARDWOOD	+--26--+	!	
13	Floor Cover 2	MIN/PLY/LIN		+---39---	
14	Heating Fuel	GAS	15	15	
15	Heating Type	FORCED AIR DUCT	++	FUS(2615)---	
16	Air Condition	CENTRAL AIR	25	FBM(252)5	
17	Quality	AVERAGE	!	UBM	!
18	Comm1 Frame	WOOD FRAME	+-----	7UOP(144)+	
19	Comm1 Ceil/Wall			+---	
20	Stories	2 STORIES			
21	Bathrooms	N/A			
22	Comm1 Fixtures	9 FIXTURES			
23	Rooms	0000		122	
24	Units	0000	BAS	5387	
25	Bedrooms		FUS	2615	
26	Comm1 Wall Hght		UOP	144	
27	Comm1 Fmtr Rto	APPROX 400 FT	UBM	252	
28	Actual Year Blt	1919	FBM	252	
29	Eff. Year Blt	1943			
30	Depr. Table	OBSERVED COND.		8650	

BUILDING SUMMARY

Base Area	8195
Bldg Rate	37.63
Repl Cost	308385
Depr Pct	66
RCNLD	104850

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

No	Use Description	Grade	Misc	Units	Adj Price	Yr	DT	Dpr	Value	
01	0107 CONCRETE-COMMERCIAL			1300.00	1.67	43	01	023	1220	
02	0115 ASPHALT-COMMERCIAL			1300.00	.99	43	01	023	720	
									MISCELLANEOUS VALUE	1940

LAND DATA

No	Use Description	Zoning	Land Units	Adjustments	Adj Price	Value	
01	9198 MISC-ALL OTHER EXEPT		25000.00S		2.25	56250	
						MARKET LAND VALUE	56250

14112 G.B.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Quit Claim deed

Sept. 21, 1965

To Industrial Development, Inc.

LEGAL DESC.

— LOTS 25 TO 32, BOTH INCLUSIVE,

Block 125, City of G.J.

2, 29, '36

option to buy lots 25-28

— 29-32 ?

Tax schedule # 2945 143 28 991

Owner: Industrial Development Incorporated

- * History of De Beque School
by Jean Page
- * History of Garfield School
by Christine Harris
- * Palisade Schools - Christine Harris
- * Cameo - Christine Harris
- * Mt. Lincoln Dist. #35 - Christine Harris
- * mesa College, History of
- * Garfield School Dist # 20
- * Intermountain Bible College
- * Ross Business College
by C. H. Buttolph
- * Private Christian Schools in Grand
Ox. area by Harriet Piper
- * Mount Garfield School by Isabelle ^{Smith}
- * Colorado West Music Festival History
by Ned Brinkley &
Paul Schneider
sent by Leland Schmidt
- * School Dist's prior to 1957
- * Principals & Schools - 1955
- * Bookcliff Junior High by
W. M. Baird

- One of GT's biggest events - June 1922 - Moyer ~~Br~~ Pool part of Lincoln Park.

Mesa Co. Courthouse - built 1922

After years of effort & years of opposition from various state leaders, GT finally became home to GT state Jr college in 1925 - forerunner of today's Mesa State College

The Grand Heritage: A Photographic History of GT, Colorado.
Fishell, Dave. The ~~Don~~ Donning Company / Publishers.
Norfolk, Virginia. 1985.



CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

250 North 5th Street

Grand Junction, CO 81501-2668

FAX: (970) 244-1599

11-21-95

FACSIMILE

To: Legal Ads

Location: Daily Sentinel

Telephone Number: _____

FAX Number: _____

From: _____

Telephone Number: (970) _____

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 2

Special Instructions:

If the telecopy you have received is incomplete or illegible, please call

Marcia at (970) 244-1430.

LEGAL AD

ACCOUNT #30238

Page 1 of 1

Publish One Time: November 27, 1995

Proof of Publication: Grand Junction Community Development
250 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

MEETING OF THE GRAND JUNCTION HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
Monday, December 4, 1995 4:00 pm
C.D. Smith Building, NW Corner Ute Avenue and 5th Street

The Grand Junction Historic Preservation Board shall review and make recommendation on designation of the following building to the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts at its regularly scheduled meeting Monday, December 4, 1995:

Whitman School (Museum of Western Colorado) - 248 South 4th Street
Owner: Industrial Development Incorporated

Upon recommendation by the Board, the Grand Junction City Council, at its regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, December 20, 1995 at 7:30 pm in the City-County Auditorium, 520 Rood Avenue, will consider designation of the Whitman School to the City Register of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts.



EDUCATION SHAPES OUR FUTURE

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Office of the Superintendent

December 12, 1995

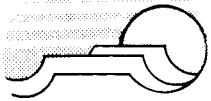
Christine Leusch
Development Officer
Museum of Western Colorado
P.O. Box 20,000
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dear Ms. Leusch:

We believe the preservation of Grand Junction's history is vital to the community. Mesa County Valley School District No. 51 supports the Museum of Western Colorado in applying for Historical Designation for the Whitman School Building.

Sincerely,

George J. Straface, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Industrial Developments, INC.

360 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501 (303) 242-3214

December 13, 1995

Christine Leusch
Development Officer
Museum of Western Colorado
P.O. Box 20000
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dear Ms. Leusch,

On behalf of Industrial Developments, Inc., and as the legal owners of the Whitman School Building, 248 S. 4th Street, Grand Junction, Colorado, we support the Museum of Western Colorado in their effort to have the building designated historical. We ask that the Grand Junction City Council approve the Museum of Western Colorado's application for listing in the local historic register.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kirtland
President
Industrial Development, Inc.

September 15, 1994

TO: Grand Junction City Planning Office

FROM: Judy Prosser-Armstrong and David Bailey, Museum of Western Colorado

RE: Submission of Whitman School Building (Museum of Western Colorado) to City Register of Historic Places

Description of General Characteristics of the Structure:

As a result of post-WWI population growth, the need for additional schools became acute in Grand Junction. Whitman School was built as a result, and was utilized, without change, until the early 1960s when it was no longer needed by the School District. In 1965 it was acquired through an agreement with Industrial Development Incorporated to be used as a museum.

When constructed in the mid-1920s, Whitman School was located directly adjacent to the Park Opera House. Later, the opera house was demolished to make way for new construction by C. D. Smith. The Museum's east wing, added in 1965, was built on part of the original grounds of the opera house. The museum is now operated by the Museum of Western Colorado, Incorporated.

Description of the particular features of the structure, site or district that should be preserved.

The Whitman School, built in 1925, is significant because it was erected and still stands on a location which was designated as one of the four original school sites when the Grand Junction townsite was platted in 1882 by the Town Company. As a result of its location at the junction of two major thoroughfares, it continues to reflect the ideals of town planning in the 19th century.

When the brick building was acquired to house a museum, its exterior facade was remodeled. Despite these changes however, the grounds of the Whitman School have been kept relatively intact. Sixty-five years after construction, the building continues to exhibit the characteristics of prominent public building in downtown Grand Junction.

In the 100th year of our National Education Association, the teachers of the Lower Valley wish to pay tribute to our own early school teachers.

This story of the development of education in our area is dedicated to our recently retired teachers:

Mr. Earl S. Forbus
Mrs. Dessie Dobler

Mrs. Ethel Parks
Mr. Philip L. Griebel

and to Mrs. Hogsett, who gave much to our valley as teacher, county superintendent of schools, and mother of teachers.

We wish to express our appreciation to the following:

Miss Ila Kiefer and her mother, Mrs. Mable Kiefer
Mr. James Nichols Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Berg
Miss Anna Berg Mrs. Bess Cox Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Jake Goss Mr. Philip L. Griebel
and many others who have also helped us gather our story.

This booklet is not presented as a documented record, but as a summary of many important and interesting happenings in the growth of education in our local communities.

We owe much to the county superintendents of schools:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Harrison E. Stroud (1881) | 8. C. S. Sargent |
| 2. George W. Caldwell | 9. Elizabeth Hinton |
| 3. E. D. Bonton | 10. Frank N. Misley |
| 4. M. O. Whitehead | 11. Rose Bishop Pedigo |
| 5. E. T. Fisher | 12. Sadie Hogsett |
| 6. Elis A. Walker | 13. Dale Lundy |
| 7. Z. B. McClure | 14. Lucille Mahanah (1947) |

The most recent development of importance to the schools of our Grand Valley was the formulation of our newly re-organized school district. In January of 1951 approximately eighteen school districts were reorganized into one district called the "Mesa County Valley Schools, District 51." Many persons were instrumental in bringing about such a reorganized district and deserve to be recognized. However, this would require a great deal more space and time for research than is available. People that should be mentioned, however, are those that have been instrumental in working for the continued improvement of our schools, and have served as the first administrators and board members of this district.

Mr. I. K. Boltz.....Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Rolland Powell.....Lower Valley Area Superintendent
Mr. Ray Hume.....Ass't Superintendent of Schools

Members of the First Board of Education of District 51

Mr. James Gormley Dr. Warren Shelledy Mr. Oliver Reed
Mr. George Bunte Mr. Joe Chamberlin

Newly elected board member (1956) Mrs. Ada Trissel

FIRST SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS IN DISTRICT # 2

7

1883

In a 12' by 14' frame building
South East of the present town
of Fruita.

Charles Roth
Henry Ross
Will Ross
Effie Mahany
Charles Mahany
Anna Mahany
Bert Mahany
Charles Lapham
Polly Lapham
Mida Lapham
James Lapham
Sadie Ross
John Stafford
Mamie Stafford

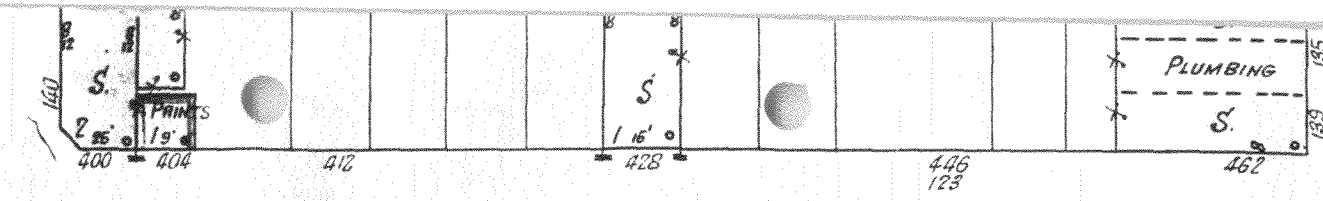
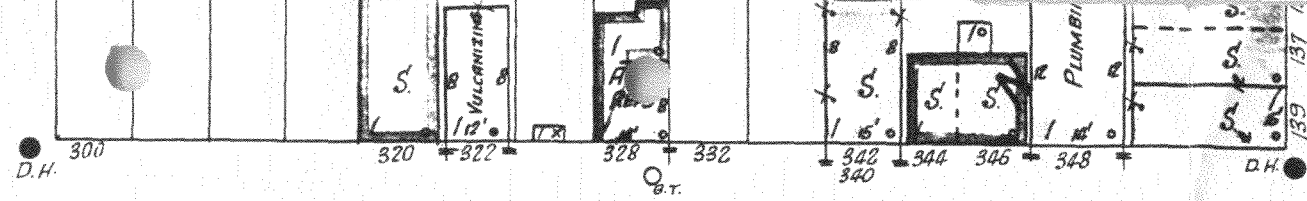
1884

In the new town of Fruita,
located where Independent
Lumber Co. now is.

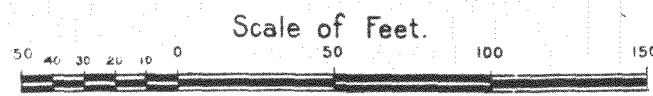
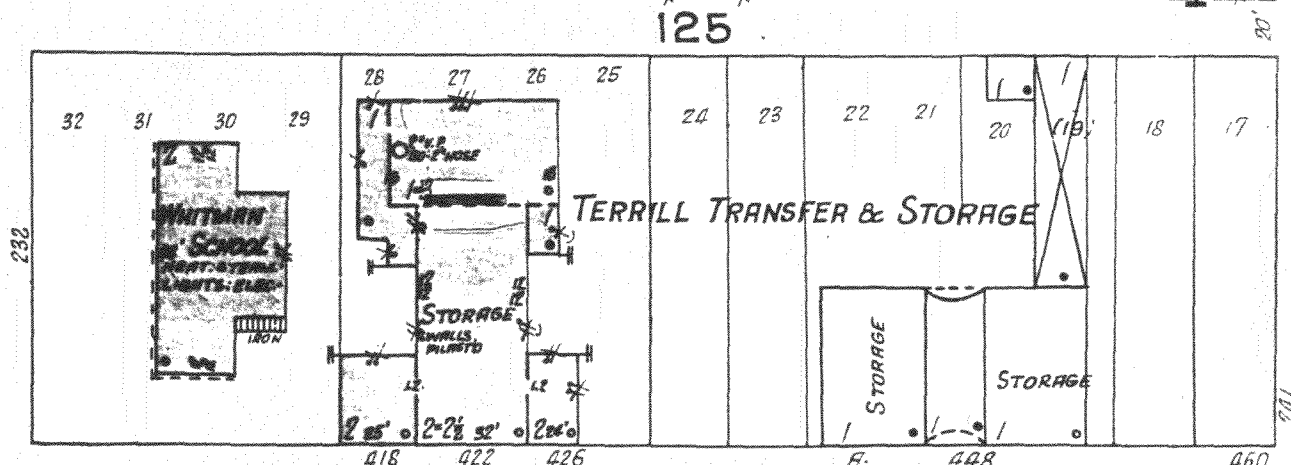
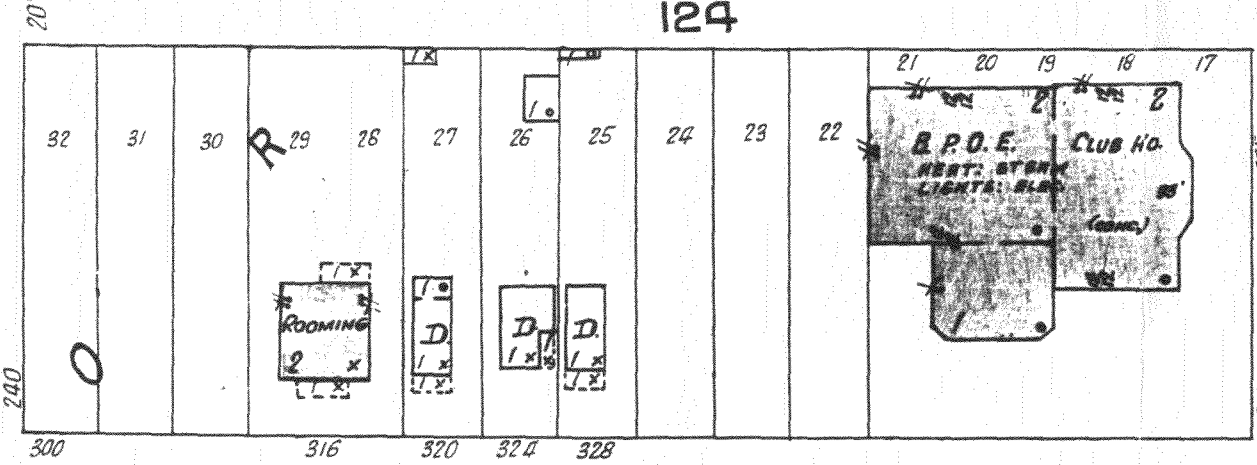
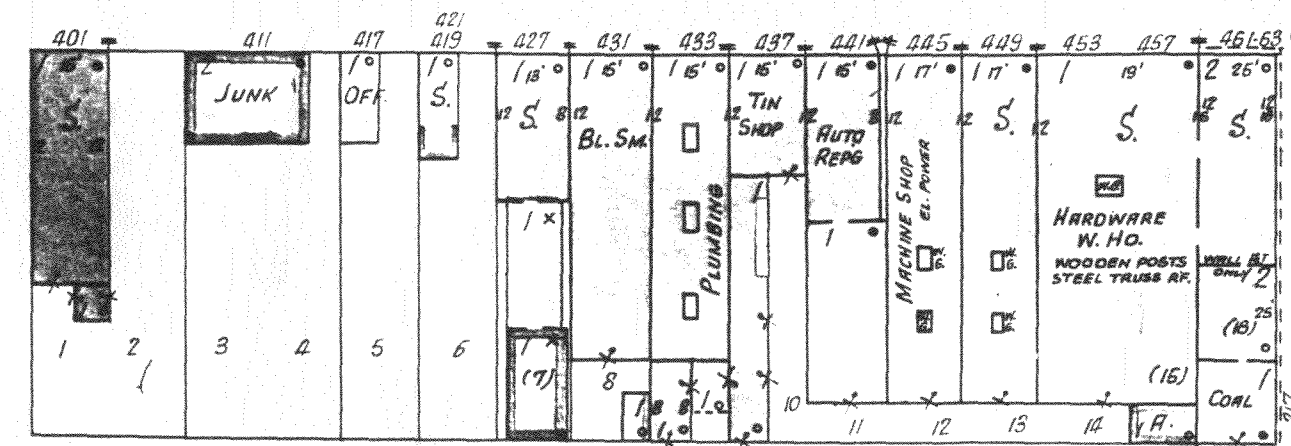
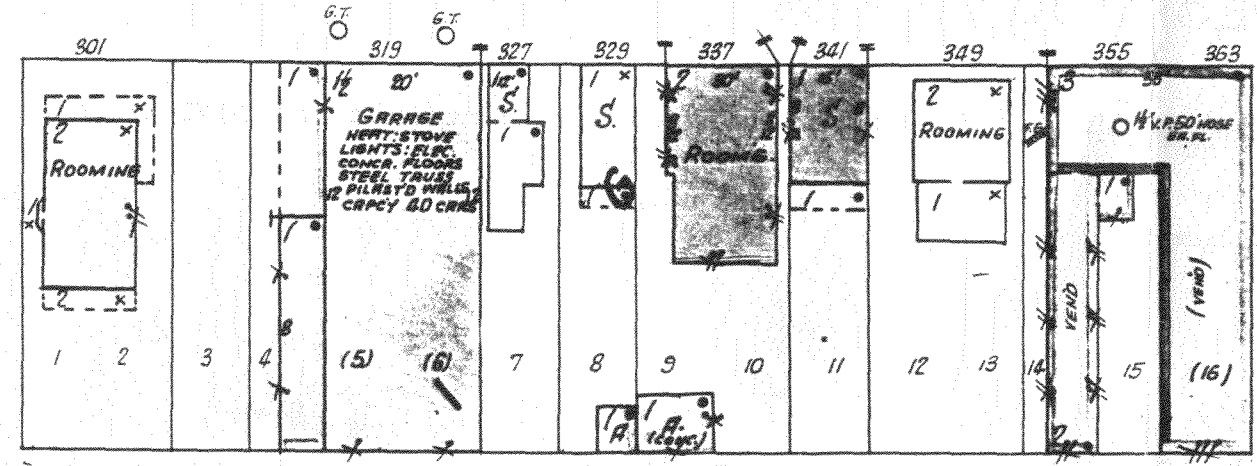
James Lapham
Mida Lapham
Jack Stafford
Mamie Stafford
Will Pabor
Frank Pabor
Charles Pabor
James Nichols
Effie Mahany
Charles Mahany
Anna Mahany
Bert Mahany
James Brown
Annie Brown
Dessie Brown
Mamie McCarthy
John McCarthy
Susie McCarthy
Katie McCarthy

SCHOOL-HOUSES MARK THE TRAIL

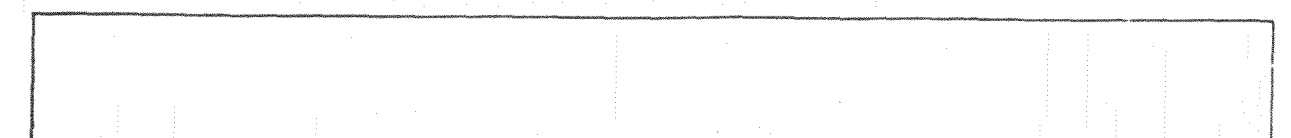
1st District #2 School, Southeast of Fruita	From 1883 to 1884
Fruita School (where Independent Lumber Co. now is located)	1884 to 1911
Loback School (near Bethel Church corner- west of Appleton)	1894 to 1911
Columbine School (5 miles West of Grand Junction on old River Road)	1897 to 1911
High Point School	1888 to 1917
Rhone School	1895 to 1955
Longfellow (Adobe)	? to 1916
"South of River" School	1907 to 1918
Hunter School	1895
Loma School	1900
1st Garmesa	1905 to 1910
Glade Park Schools	Early 1900's
West End	
Leslie	
Sleeper (Little Dolores)	
Coates Creek	
Pipe Line	
Mack	1906 to 1955
Sunset	1918 to 1930
Valley View	1918 to 1930
Park School	? to 1908
Appleton	1912
New Liberty	1918
Enterprise	1919 to 1925
2nd Garmesa	1927 to 1934
Mark Ross School ?	? ?
Mesa County Valley Schools District # 51	



E. COLORADO AV.

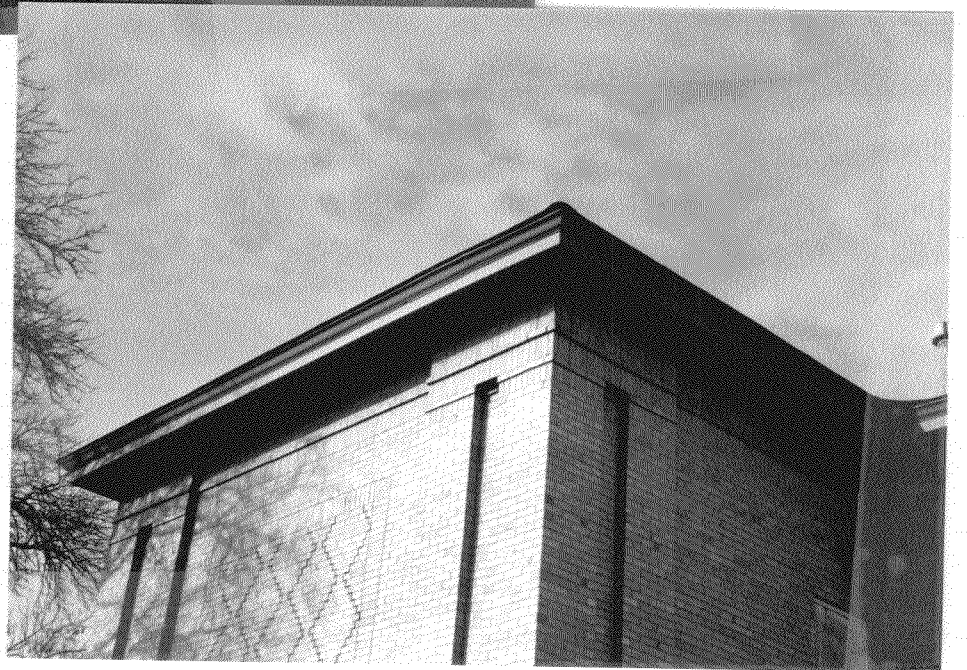


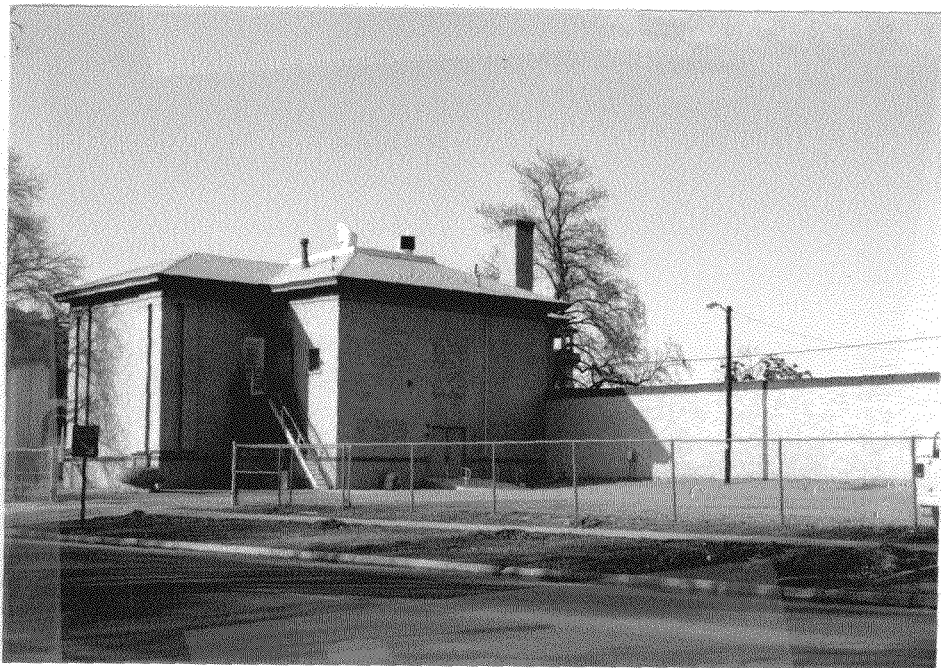
E. UTE AV.



26

June 1926
Sanborn





→ constructed 1917 → 1967 Remodeled from old J. Ed
to Elem.
Columbine Elem. Land acquired 1909 3.67 ac
Emerson / Pupil personnel 930 Ote 1902 (land acquired) 1.15 ac
Constructed 1903

→ Whitman - built 1925-1968

A.L. Cornelison - I.D.I. - Indus Dev Inc

July 2, 1967 - Sunset - Page 6

Emerson, Whitman, ~~Washington~~ Washington, Hill #9th

Helen Wright - Sunset Lane (Leslie - husband)
242-6423

p. 6 1/4/25 Scott's

67,680 Invested in new buildings during 1929
healthy & steady growth

Court House Presbyterian church,
The Avalon

1/11/25
p. 3

The schools
need your
support

The need is great

- 120 pupils on alley btw 5th & 6th behind main
- 40 pupils in Congregational bungalow
- 450 pupils in rooms that are over-crowded
- 180 8th grades in basement rooms - poor light/ventil

The Building Program

- A 4-room school, 4th & Ute
- A " " " 14th & Chipeta
- A 12-room school, 7th & White
- A 12-room Jr Hi ^{school} unit for 7th & 8th grades @ W School
- A Gymnasium for Jr & Sr hi-school students

The cost - just 1.108 mills or a little less than

\$1.11 on each

\$1,000

of
Valuation

Vote ^{Yes} School Bonds - Feb 4th

Turning point in City's history

1/25/25 w/h last 10 years - schools not kept pace w/ growth of city
→ constr.

2/5/25 - ~~ran~~ Sweeping victory for new schools

1925 - gain of 18% of tourist crop (in state)

Local Architects

Removed windows / steps
add suspended ceiling

{ Robert Fiske Hightower
{ Dean Blake Chambliss

New brick pattern similar to existing

remove existing canopy & limestone lintel
add copper fascia above door

To Do:

Library - Sentinel - 1920's → 22-27 especially
1983 → History of Grand Junction Schools

~~- Photograph old photo of school (off at ladder at Museum)~~

- Photograph (color/B&W)

~~- OWNER Address (Assessor)~~

Museum of Western Colorado

P. O. Box 20000-5020

Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020

Branches: Cross Orchards Living History Farm Dinosaur Valley



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Research Personal Display/Decoration (specify) _____

Publication (specify) _____

Other (specify) Historic Research/Historic Site Nomination Form

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Description of Image:

Image Number:

Whitman School Photograph, No #, MWC

Schiesswohl Building, Schiesswohl Collection, 1991.32

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Publication in which the image will appear _____

Projected Publication Date _____ Number of Copies _____

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Date Order Requested Date Order Completed

Total Reproduction fee \$ Total Commercial Use Fee \$

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COMM.RESULT = OK
PAGE(S) = 002
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RECEIVED ID = / 970 241 6860
RESOLUTION = STD

-CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION -

***** (FAX-950 U1.36)** -CITY OF GRAND JC- ***** - 303 244 1599- *****

Gary Carr
Marilyn - 2115 Grand
Public Info

History File

Mesa Co Schools --

Past & Present

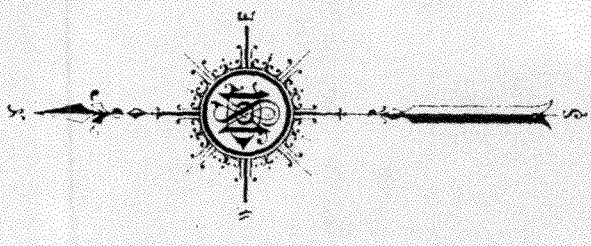
Project - Research

Committees

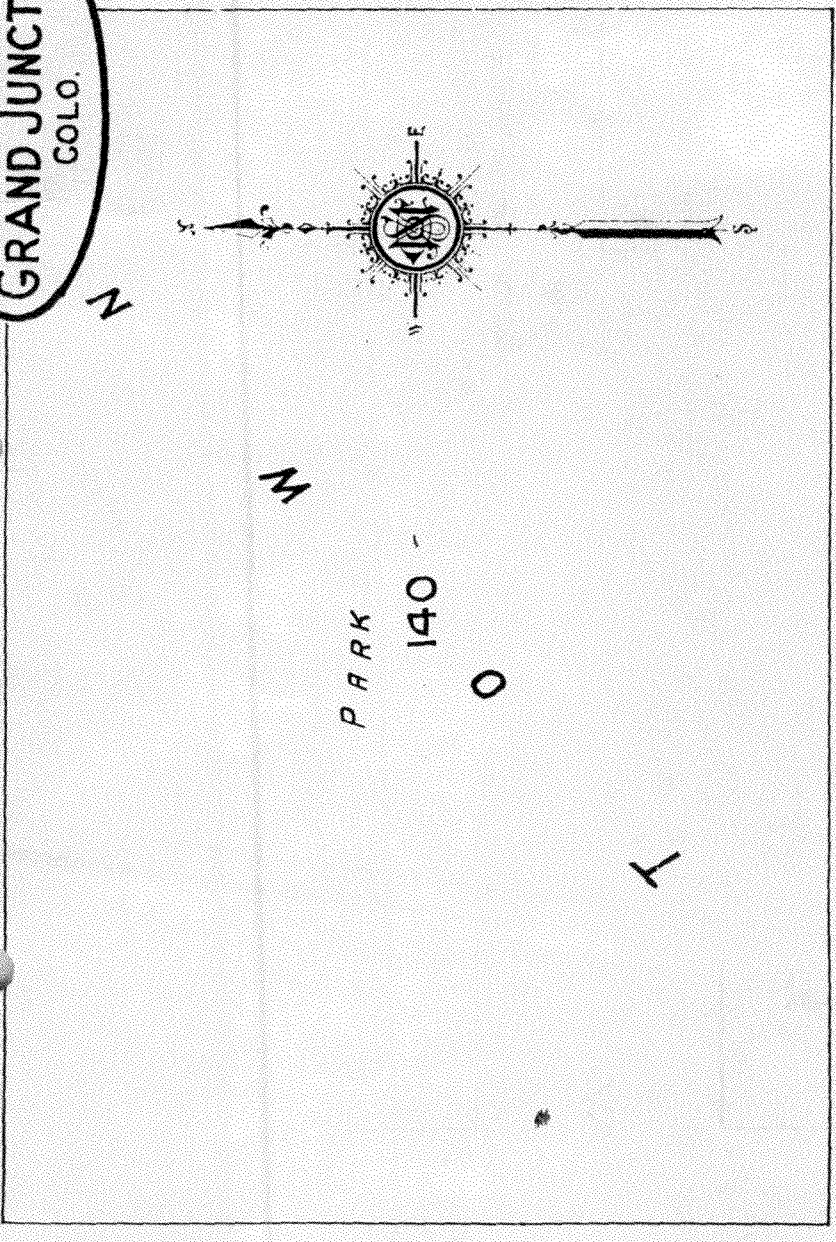
Delta Kappa Gamma
XI Chpt

1980-1990

JUNE 1926
GRAND JUNCTION
 COLO.



PARK
 140

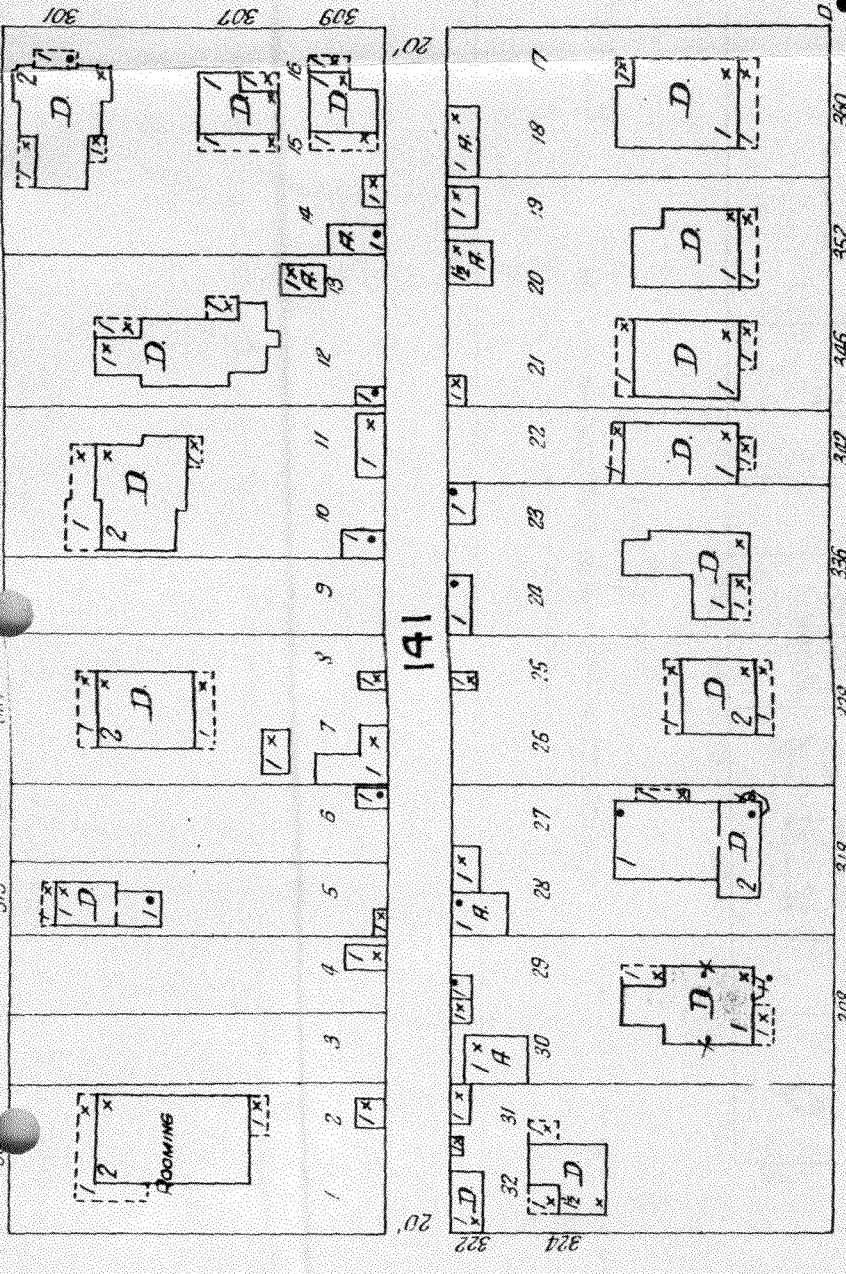


PITKIN AV.

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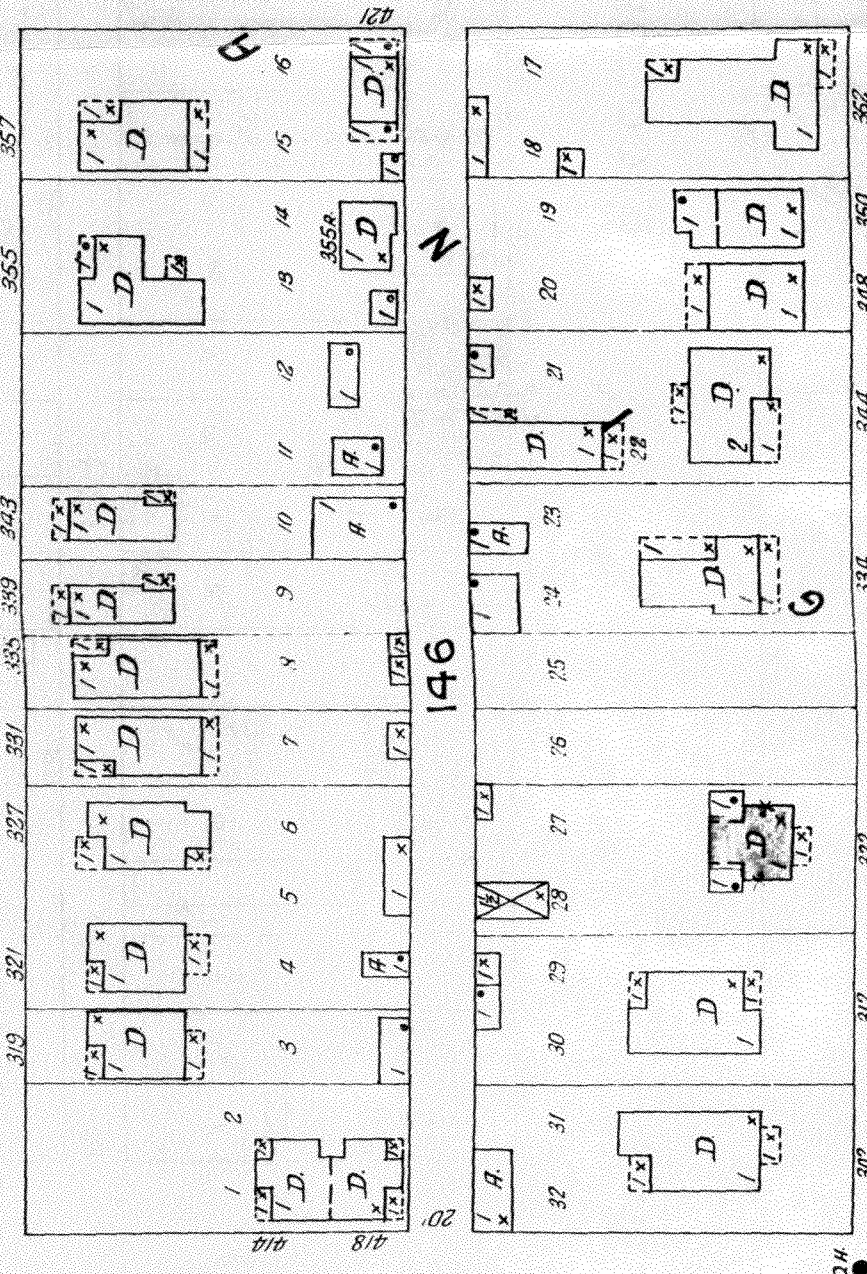
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80'

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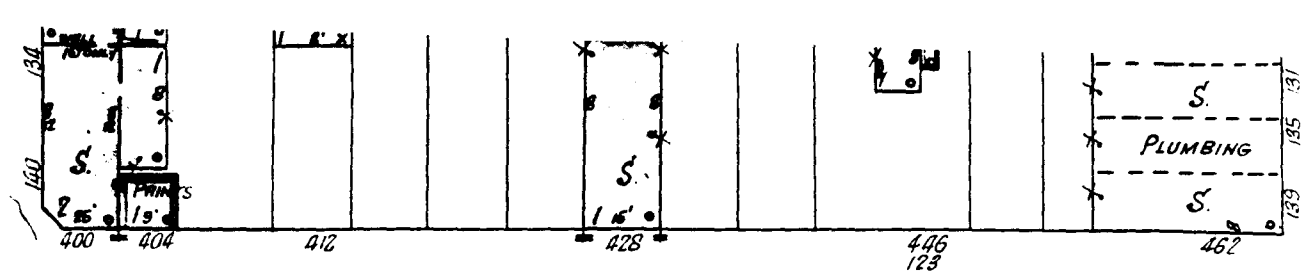
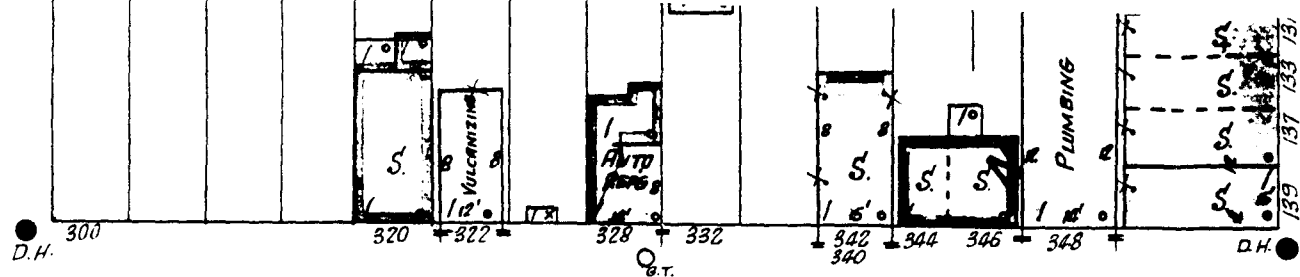
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284TH ST

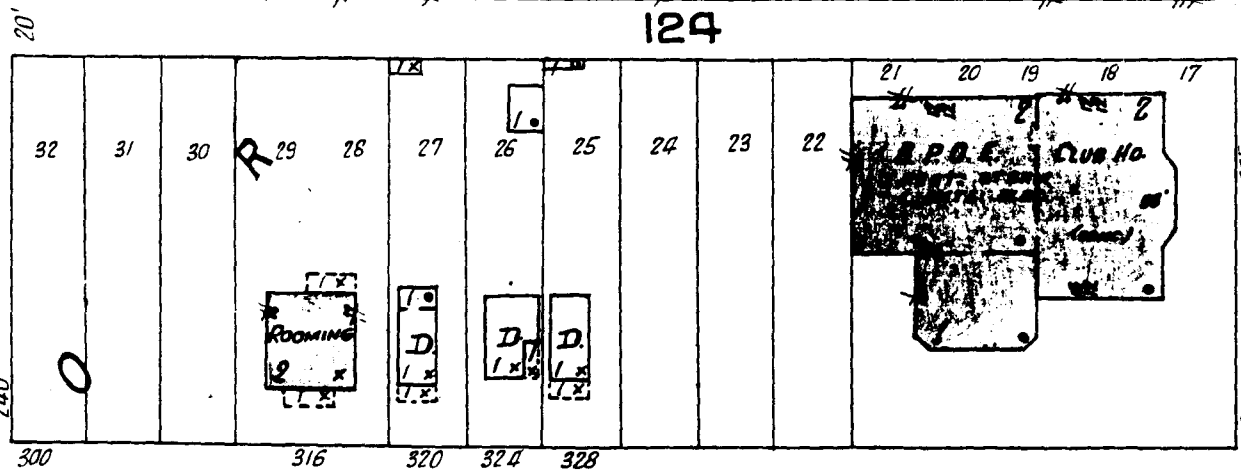
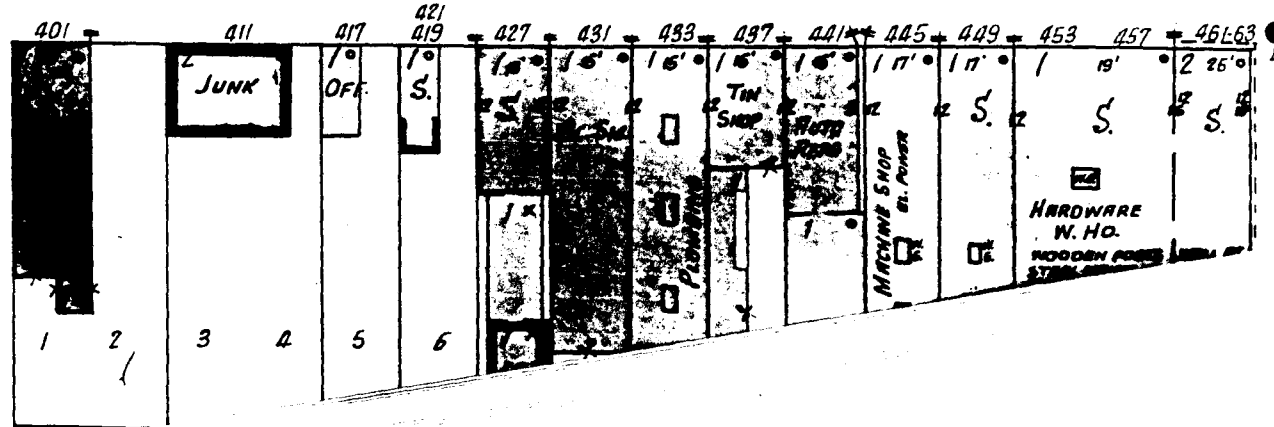
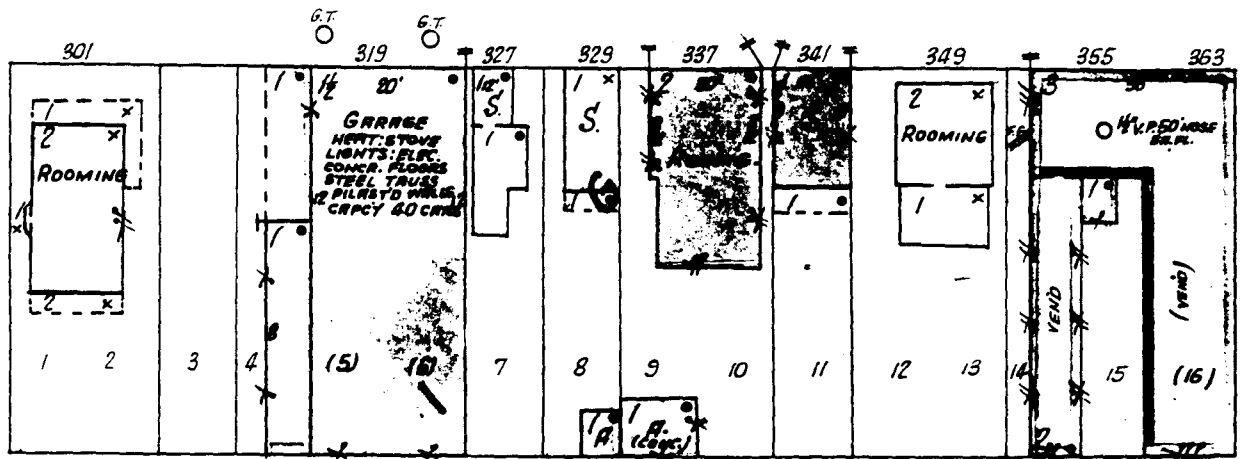
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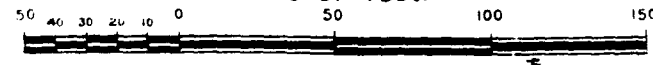
287TH ST



E. COLORADO AV.



Scale of Feet.



E. UTE AV.

26

Copyright 1826 by the Sanborn Map Co

School: Whitman Elementary District # _____

Location: _____

Date built: _____

Material: _____

name of this article

Description: No. of rooms _____ Teachevage _____ Grades _____

Picture? _____

Last date used as a school _____ Community center? _____

Final disposition of building _____

Principals and teachers: (DKG?)

Notes of interest:

1925

Whitman Elementary School and Whitman Park

Location: Ute Avenue and 4th St.

Enrollment: Grades 1-4

Principals: Miss Alice Aldrich

When disbanded: 1962; children sent to Hawthorne Elem. School teacher

Other uses: 1962-63 Special Ed - Elementary - Mrs. Dorothy Tyndall, ~~1964~~
1966 - turned over to the city for a museum April 30, 1966

Still standing: Yes

Pictures: Available

Miscellaneous information:

The Park Opera House was located on the Whitman School grounds. When this building was condemned and torn down, the school supt. bought the bricks which were re-used in the following school buildings: Riverside, Columbus, Topo, Band and Shop buildings of Grand Junction High, and the Admin Bldg on Road Ave.

Whitman School also underwent changes in use when the town school enrollments dropped as families with children moved to newly developing outlying areas. In the 60's, the remaining Whitman pupils were transferred to Hawthorne Elementary which also had a decreased enrollment. Mrs. Dorothy Tindall's Special Education classes were conducted at Whitman School. Later when the need was evidenced for a museum in Grand Junction, arrangements were made with the School Board which permitted Whitman School to be remodeled for that purpose. It is now The Museum of Western Colorado - a special educational resource for the children and for the many adult visitors who come from all areas of the U.S.