



A, D, H, & J. PIONEER BUILDING
737 Lincoln Avenue, Steamboat Springs

The Pioneer Building, a three-story, five-bay brick commercial vernacular structure, built by stonemason J. W. Critchfield in 1923 (some sources, including an Assessor's notation (1800s), claim 'circa 1895' and construction by local stonemason Art Gumprecht), served as a restaurant, bar, card room, and hotel until the late 1970s. The Critchfields managed the classic western boarding house ('inexpensive rooms above and a beer joint below') for 23 years, during which \$1.50 family-style meals were served to boarders and local residents and

\$1.00 pitchers of beer were sold. The establishment was managed for the next 36 years by the Boyles and the Lombardis. During that time, the hotel was notorious across Colorado for its wild parties. Children remember playing in the alley behind the building while their fathers 'downed a few', and adults considered the establishment a flophouse, if not a brothel. Refurbished in the late 1970s, it retains its original brick, windows, lintels, cut-stone embellishments, interior woodwork, exposed brick, and original ceilings. Before buildings were constructed beside it, an exterior, enclosed stairway led to the two upper stories' boarding rooms, which were rented primarily to bachelors. The building is significant in its contribution to the town's commercial development: Steamboat Springs has always been a popular tourist area, and many hotels were constructed to accommodate visitors. It is the town's oldest extant building that was once a hotel. At one time the establishment was known locally as the Bartz Hotel since a Mrs. Bartz prepared the home-cooked meals that were available to the public. The ground floor currently houses retail businesses, and the upper stories are office buildings.