

Background Information on One Room Schoolhouse No. 3, also known as Corinth School

- Schoolhouse No. 3, also known as Corinth School, sits in the rural landscape of Monroe Township in Delaware County, Indiana. Located at 400 S and 200 W, about a ½ mile from Ind. 67.

- It stands as a rare and enduring symbol of 19th century education.

- Built in 1875, this brick one-room schoolhouse served generations of local children until the end of the1910-1911 school year.

- In its earliest years, the school was more than a place of learning. It was the heart of a small rural settlement known as Corinth. The name "Corinth" comes from the local community, not an official town, highlighting how these schools were often defined by informal rural place names rather than municipalities.

- It served Monroe Township's District No. 3, one of many rural school districts common in Indiana during the 19th century.

- Like many one-room schools of the era, it brought together students of varying ages into a single classroom, where one teacher instructed all subjects. Students ranged from grades 1 – 8 and class size was around 18 students.

- The school fostered academic growth, as well as discipline, cooperation, and a shared sense of community among local families.

- Schoolhouse No. 3 had both male and female teachers. Female teachers were typically required to be single, because if a woman married, she was usually forced to quit, as her primary duty was then considered to be her own household.

- Following the 1910-11 school year, the school closed as part of a broader movement toward consolidation, with students transitioning to larger centralized schools and brought by "school bus". Students from Schoolhouse No. 3 were taken to Cowan School. Many of the early buses were horse drawn farm wagons or carriages known as "kid hacks". It is unknown when the local buses in Muncie began using the automobile chassis.

- For the next 85 years, the One Room Schoolhouse No. 3 remained closed and neglected. A quiet reminder of the past and gradually succumbing to time and elements.

- Well known Indiana artist and Ball State art instructor, Jim Faulkner, loved the schoolhouse. He painted it when it was a forgotten, dilapidated building and again after it was restored by Norman Miller.





- In 1992, with the encouragement of Norman Miller, the structure was donated to the Delaware County Historical Society by Helen Ross with additional adjacent land to be used for parking, donated by Eleanor Miller, the wife of the late Ross Miller, and brother to Norman Miller.

- It was the hope of everyone to restore it back to its original condition. However, after a severe windstorm in 1995 which caused significant damage to the slate roof and additional interior damage, restoration was not pursued. Instead, in a pivotal moment that would determine the building's future, Norman Miller approached the Historical Society to sell him the schoolhouse for $1 and he would commit to getting the necessary restoration work completed at his own expense, along with donations from the community. He refused to let it be lost and returned it to a condition reflective of its early 20th century use.

- The Miller family has deep roots in the area, spanning more than 110 years. Norman Miller, a longtime veterinarian in Muncie, Indiana, held a deep personal connection to the schoolhouse, which was located just down the road from where he grew up. Both his father and grandfather attended the school, making its preservation a labor of love.

- Norman hired and worked alongside local Amish craftsmen. He picked them up and brought them to the schoolhouse each day to work on the repairs. Norman and his brother, local farmer Perry Miller, worked to find donations of period school desks, wood stove, school bell, books and other items from that time period. All were donated by local farmers and community members who found them in attics and barns, wanting them to be back in the school where they could be appreciated.

- Through his dedication, the building was not only saved, but given new life as a living history classroom, where students could experience firsthand what education was like in a one-room school. For a time, the school once again echoed with the voices of children during 4th grade field trips and educational programs run by the local Retired Teachers Association.

- As Norman aged, he was unable to keep up with the increasing maintenance demands of the historic structure. Eventually, the building again faced deterioration, and the beloved field trip program was discontinued. The future of the schoolhouse again became uncertain with deterioration compounding.

- The “golden era” of one-room schools in Indiana, where these schools also doubled as community centers and civic spaces, is a rare surviving physical example in a region that once had hundreds of such buildings.

- Today, Corinth School stands at a crossroads. It remains a powerful symbol of rural education and community history, but also a reminder that preservation is not a one-time act, but an ongoing commitment.

- As one of the last remaining one-room schoolhouses in Delaware County and in the nation, its survival has already been shaped by extraordinary individual and community support. Its future depends on a new generation willing to carry that work forward.

The 501c3 organization, One Room Schoolhouse No. 3, Inc. was established on March 4, 2026
www.oneroomschoolhouseno3.org PO Box 84, Muncie, IN 47308 765-729-5177

Mission: To preserve, protect, and activate Schoolhouse No. 3 as a living landmark where history, education, and community intersect. Honoring the legacy of those who cherished it, while providing meaningful programming, learning experiences, and cultural opportunities for future generations.

The 501(c)(3) will be governed by a volunteer board with expertise in business, education, finance, and community engagement. **Current Board Members:** Colleen Cooper, President. Peggy Hazlett, Secretary. Mary Coffman, Treasurer. Hilary Casstevens, Member

Economic & Geographic Advantage. Tapping into the growing demand for authentic, experiential tourism.

- Prime location with access near Interstate 69 and State Road 67
- Within 60 minutes of over 1.4 million people (including Indianapolis). Without Indianapolis, a 500,000-person regional market
- Strong potential for regional tourism, educational field trips and special events, highlighting the one room school house and the history of Muncie and Delaware County.

Sustainability will be achieved through:

- Individual donations and memberships. Grants (historical preservation, education, humanities). Program fees and special events. Partnerships with schools, universities, and civic groups

Fund Raising Goal: There is currently a restoration fund raiser for $52,000+ for completing vital repairs to the schoolhouse including a new roof, repaired gutters, repaired and painted cupula, new and repaired shutters and entrance door, ceiling and flooring repairs and important brick replacement and mortar tuckpointing. All with a goal of strengthening the building to last another 150 years. The organization has raised 32% of its goal, but needs to raise the remaining amount to begin the restoration work before winter. Gifts can be made by check to One Room Schoolhouse No. 3, Inc. PO Box 84, Muncie, IN 47308 or online at www.oneroomschoolhouseno3.org. Gifts of appreciated stock and IRA charitable distributions are also accepted.