HISTORIC CONTEXT OF ROUTT COUNTY

Prepared for
Tread of Pioneers Museum

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Colorado Historical Society

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Winter & Company
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Tread of Pioneers Historical Commission Board Members

Pat Barney
Gael Fetcher
Becky Hammond
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Jayne Hill
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Bill May
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Pat Sandefur
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Nancy Brodie
Karen Campbell
Ingrid Burnett
Becky Hammond

Tread of Pioneers Museum Executive Directors

Winnie DelliQuadri
Ingrid Burnett

Report Prepared by
Winter & Company
Boulder, Colorado

Noré V. Winter
Molly Miller Winter
Marty Alexandroff
Betsy Shears

with the assistance of the staff of the Colorado Historical Society.
Special thanks to:
Dale Heckendorf
Holly Wilson
Joseph Bell
HISTORIC CONTEXT OF ROUTT COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

Routt County’s history is rich with events that have contributed to the heritage of the West. The stories told of exploration, adventure and settlement remain a part of the county’s culture today. Many of these events are represented in a variety of themes in the history of the development of the state and the nation. Numerous historic structures and sites survive in the county that aid in the interpretation of these historic events and, because they are important records of the county’s history, their preservation is vital.

Those who preserve historic resources in Routt County include local governments, individual and corporate property owners and state and federal agencies. These stewards of historic resources face a challenge, however, when making decisions about the disposition of their properties. One may suspect that a particular property is historically significant, but it is difficult to make an informed decision without information that can place the given resource in the context of similar properties and even among other themes of historic development.

Although many people may seek to make determinations of historic significance on an informal basis, others wish to formally designate their properties to an historic register. Many Routt County historic properties are recognized by listing in three registers: In 1992, Routt County, in recognizing that preservation of historic resources should be promoted, established an Historic Preservation Board, which maintains a register of historic places to acknowledge significant properties in the county. The State of Colorado also maintains a list of properties that are historically significant, and the National Park Service maintains the National Register of Historic Places, which includes properties of local, state or national significance. When making determinations to officially list properties as being historically significant on any of these lists, information must also be placed within the context of other events and resources.

This document creates a framework for planning for historic properties in Routt County. It establishes a list of themes by which the history of the county can be organized and provides a brief history for each of these divisions. For example, the history of mining for gold and coal in Routt County is discussed under the theme of “resource extraction.” The themes are based on ones suggested by the Colorado Historical Society and the framework for the document itself is based on historic contexts recommended by the National Park Service. Within each theme, a variety of buildings and other structures survive that can help to interpret its history. These “property types” and the issues associated with their preservation are also discussed in the Context.

One should note that it is difficult to completely categorize all significant events by themes, since life is a more complicated affair than that conveyed in linear categories, but the use of themes provides a structure to organize what would otherwise be an unwieldy amount of data. In a similar vein, it is important to recognize that the themes are not necessarily chronological, one following the other in time. Many, in fact, overlap.

This Historic Context for Routt County is by no means the definitive history of the area, as any single theme deserves a book in itself. Rather, it should be recognized as a planning document that can direct decision-makers to more detailed information when necessary. Only brief historic summaries are provided to suggest the topics that are significant in the history of the county.

Some themes are given more detail than others, in response to the limits of the scope of this first phase of the context project. Over time, the historic overviews should be expanded with greater detail and more detailed descriptions of property types should be provided. In this respect, the historic context is a living document, which will continue to grow as additional information is provided.

Although specific recommendations for additional research are provided with each theme discussion, some general observations should be made here:

• The historic resources of Routt County are some of the most important in the state, in terms
ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO, HISTORIC CONTEXT

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Situated in the northwest corner of the state, Routt County was a part of the extensive Colorado Territory, when it was established in 1861. The area first was designated a part of Summit County and later became a part of Grand County when it was created. An area officially named Routt County was formed in 1877, and was named in honor of John L. Routt, the Colorado Territory’s last governor and the State of Colorado’s first governor. By 1890, about 2,400 people lived in the County. The boundary included present-day Routt County, along with what later, in 1911, became Moffat County and thus extended as far west as the Utah border, north to Wyoming, east to the Continental Divide, and south to the Colorado (formerly the Grand) River. Even though reduced in size today, the county remains the second largest in Colorado, extending 91 miles in length and 55 miles in width, and containing 3,033,600 acres. Its population in 1993 was approximately 15,000. (Although reference will occasionally be made to Routt County when it included Moffat County, this Context is concerned only with the history of the present-day Routt County.)

A key factor in the shaping of the county’s boundaries and of the history within them has been the environment. Wide open spaces, rushing rivers, serene lakes, majestic forests, abundant wildlife and towering mountains are all potent images of the West and these qualities, along with remoteness and varied climate, aptly describe Routt County. The forces of the natural environment have provided opportunities and constraints that have influenced human activity in the area, and understanding their roles in the county’s history is essential. Although not an historic theme, people have been influenced by the natural environment throughout the history of the county, and therefore a brief description of these forces is appropriate.

Routt County is surrounded by mountains on the northern, southern and eastern boundaries. These towering mountain ranges served as boundaries that limited circulation and habitation patterns while also offering wildlife for food and resources for extraction. The Park Range, known as the Sierra Madre at its northern edge, boasts the county’s highest elevation—Mt. Zirkel at 12,180 feet. This range, which incorporates the Continental Divide, borders the county on the eastern edge. The Zirkel Wilderness Area is found at the north end of the range while Rabbit Ears Pass lies at the southern limit, where the Park Range becomes the Gore Range. The northern border of the county is defined by the Elkhead Range, which extends east and west across a third of the county, while the White River Flattops, Dunckley and Beaver Flattops, and Williams Fork Mountains define the southern boundary.

Miners were attracted to the mountains for gold, silver, copper, uranium, and coal, and thus the mountain ranges are associated with boom and bust cycles associated with resource extraction. This has been an important force, significantly affecting the county’s economy and population. The same terrain, with significant stands of aspen, pine and spruce, has provided major logging opportunities. Mountain forests have continued to provide habitat for abundant wildlife as well as recreational appeal.

Rivers also have played a key role in the history of the county, providing water for drinking, irrigation and recreation, and providing a source for food. Fur traders were drawn to the beaver in the waters of Routt County and trails along river shores have also served as important transportation routes. Perhaps the best known is the Yampa River, which originally was called the Bear River, and originates near the town of Yampa in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area, then flows through the southern part of the county, and then turns west from Steamboat Springs and then courses through today’s Moffat County to and on into Dinosaur National Monument, where it joins the Green River near the Utah border. Other rivers, including the Elk, Little Snake, Williams Fork and the Elkhead are also important to the history of the county.

Mineral hot springs are unique water resources that have contributed to the county’s...
THEME 1

EARLY EXPLORATION AND THE FUR TRADE
(1827 - 1925)

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Many adventurers crossed into Routt County while exploring the Western United States. Some were fur traders, some were guides, and others were government surveyors and researchers. They established contact with Native Americans, came to know the land, and in some cases called the area their home. Early explorers also brought back information about the land that later would fuel the county’s settlement.

Sub theme: Fur Traders (1827-1859)

Fur traders followed the lure of beaver into Routt County in the middle of the Nineteenth Century. Beaver were trapped for their fur, which was primarily used in the manufacture of hats for sale back East and in Europe. Many of the streams and rivers in Routt County, mainly along the Yampa and Little Snake rivers, provided a habitat for beaver, which were abundant. The Little Snake River Valley saw the greatest trapping activity since it was closest to Brown’s Park and to the fur trading centers at the forts in Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Early trappers called the Yampa River, which flows through the county, the Bear, but the Indians referred to it as the Yampa, named after the plant similar to a carrot, which grew along its banks and was used as a main source of food.

Many trappers traded with the American Fur and the Rocky Mountain Fur Companies, two well-established fur trading companies at the time. Two routes served as their primary entrances into the county: some traders came over Gore Peak and dropped into Sarvis Creek (the original name for the currently-named Service Creek). Other traders came from Brown’s Park, in the northwest corner of Colorado, through Slater and trapped the Little Snake River along the county’s northern border northwest of Hahns Peak.

A guide named Kelly made one of the first recorded visits into Routt County in 1827. Kelly, who worked for the American Fur Company, reported “buffalo were plenty here then.” During a return trip in 1839, Kelly told those he was guiding that the Yampa Valley was “all washed up” because the game (buffalo) had all been driven out.

Other mountain men came into the area, including Jim Bridger and Jim Baker. Accounts also place the famous mountain man, Jeremiah Johnson, in Routt County along the Snake River. His cabin may have been situated near the Wyoming border in far Northwest Routt County.

Trapping activity and, perhaps, competition for food ultimately led to encounters with Native Americans. One of the most notable confrontations occurred in 1841 and involved Henry Fraeb and Jim Baker, along with 35 trappers and their Shoshone allies: a band of Cheyenne and Arapahoe attacked the group along the Little Snake River near the Wyoming border. The odds were in favor of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians, who numbered nearly 500; however, the trappers prevailed, although with heavy losses. During the battle, the Indians' and trappers' wives hid behind a mountain on the south side of Little Snake River near Lucky Butte and the mountain subsequently was named Squaw Mountain. Other sites names commemorate the event: A tributary which joined the Snake River nearby became known as Battle Creek and a peak to the north, just over the border in Wyoming, was named Battle Mountain. This encounter on the Snake River was the largest single battle between Indians and fur traders in Colorado's history; and the only sizable battle to occur in Routt County.

Eventually, the fur trade declined, in part because the lakes and rivers in the region were trapped out and because silk hats had become fashionable. In response to the changing times, many of the fur traders and mountain men turned to guiding government explorations and private expeditions.
EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Little is known about structures and sites from this theme and additional research is needed. The theme of Early Exploration and the Fur Trade is one of the most romantic ones of early Routt County and deserves more research. The Battle Mountain site is very important and should be more thoroughly researched and documented. The Jeremiah Johnson cabin site and Baker family cabin merit additional investigation. Future archeological work may reveal resources which have not yet been identified.

Trapper's cabins were usually simple log structures. Photo: Courtesy of the Routt County Collection/Tread of Pioneers Museum.

1 "Legends of the Yampa Valley."
2 The History of Routt National Forest 1905-1972, 5.
4 "Jim Baker was one of the most illustrious of the early-day scouts and frontier builders. He made his permanent home on the Snake River, near the scene of the 1873 [*] battle, and lived there until his death in 1898." This account is recorded in a note from Indian Echoes: Tales of Early Western Colorado by Dr. John A. Campbell (1831-1917). Bill May reports that many of Baker's descendants still live in the Little Snake Valley. [*Al-

1-3

though this endnote says 1873, it is presumed the author meant 1841, the date of the battle), 13-15.
6 NOTE: This book contains two valuable resource lists: a list of "firsts" in Routt County and a list of "places" and how they received their names, 3; 13-15.
THEME 2

INDIAN-EURO-AMERICAN CONTACT AND CONFLICT (1816 - 1881)

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Native Americans in Routt County did not make contact with Euro-Americans until the 1800s. Small bands of Cheyenne, Arapahoe and Ute Indians occupied the area at that time. These American Indians considered the Yampa Valley a “resort” and a sacred place. They would return each year to the springs they called the Medicine Springs, which were their summer hunting ground and refuge. Ute hunting expeditions in the area yielded elk, antelope, deer and buffalo.

Recorded history mentions several Indian leaders: Ute Jack was a scout on the government payroll. Chief Douglas was the leader of the Meeker Incident. Chief Yarmony, who was also called Yarmonite, was considered the most favorable of the leaders. Others who frequented the area included Chiefs Colorow, Yarmony, and Washington.

Early Euro-Americans thought of themselves as the rightful owners of the lands they explored and settled and, although treaties gave the Indians ownership, the newcomers did not recognize the Indians as legal possessors of the land. This inevitably led to conflicts. During one episode, the Utes were reported to have started many fires in the county to either discourage homesteaders from settling in the area or encourage those who were settled to leave.

Treaties, notably the Hunt Treaty of 1868, established a single reservation for the seven Ute bands, reduced the size of the previous Indian lands in the Colorado Territory and provided two federal agencies on the reservation. But tensions did not subside: In 1879, the Utes engaged in a conflict with Nathaniel Meeker, Indian Agent for the White River Agency, who was determined to convert the nomadic Indian culture into one of farming. The encounter, which became known as the Meeker Incident, actually occurred on Milk Creek in Rio Blanco County, about 25 miles from Meeker, Colorado, but it greatly affected the history of Routt County when, in 1881, in part as a response to the incident, the Utes were removed from the Colorado mountains and were forced onto a reservation in Utah.

An interesting source of descriptions from this era is Dr. John A. Campbell, (1831-1917) historian of the Routt County Pioneer Association. Campbell wrote a book in 1905, Indian Echoes which was reprinted by Marcellus Merrill in 1970, that related pioneer reports of Indian relations. This excerpt relates an intra-Indian conflict:

A hard battle took place between them (the Arapahoes and Utes) in the early part of the 19th century at the Steamboat hot spring. The local evidence is the immense number of arrowheads found in earlier days on that locality. But an Indian chief, whose name was Yarmonite, visited Steamboat yearly... This chief witnessed... about 1816 or 1817... his father, who was also a chief, fell in that battle... The spot is about 12 or 15 rods from the bath house, on the old road we used to travel to Fish Creek Falls... The Utes were camped on the south side of the river, their camp extending from where Brooklyn is down about as far as the end of the race track. The Arapahoes came from North Park over Buffalo Pass and wend-
6. Ibid., 10-12, Notes.
7. Ibid., 7-9.
11. Ibid., 11.
THEME 3
RESOURCE EXTRACTION
(1860 - 1943)

Mining and other resource extraction industries played major roles in the economy of Routt County from early in its history. The minerals in the northern mountains were noted quickly, and mining followed soon thereafter, providing an industry for the county and, in coal, an energy resource for the nation. Throughout these years, mining followed cycles of boom and bust that have affected the character of many communities in Routt County.

Sub theme: GOLD AND SILVER (1860-1930s)

Gold and silver mining brought many people to north Routt County in the 1860s, shortly after Front Range mining started in 1859. What was anticipated as a major boom in gold and copper, however, never materialized because of the lack of appropriate transportation systems to ship the ore. After the Union Pacific Railroad completed service to Rawlins, Wyoming in the 1860s, the isolated gold area of northern Routt County became more accessible and more people arrived to pursue mining opportunities.

Dramatic changes occurred in the land as a result of the mining techniques used. Trees were cut down to provide lumber to construct mine shafts, leaving some areas stripped of vegetation. Waste from diggings were left in piles throughout the area.

Rose Wheeler’s God’s Mountain indicates that gold and silver mining continued in Routt County until the 1920s, although the “boom” days ended before the turn of the century. According to Thelma Stevenson in Historic Hahns Peak, mining production was steady, but slow; and the county seat stayed in Hahns Peak until about 1912 in response to the level of activity seen there. A few accounts exist of gold and silver prospecting in the mountains from Hahns Peak to Gore Pass, but no major strikes or operations other than in the Hahns Peak/Clark area. Mining stimulated the development of the railroad and enhanced agriculture in Routt County. The business was risky and some weren’t successful at mining. Many of the people who couldn’t survive the economics of mining switched to farming and ranching.

Historic Overview

German immigrant Joseph Hahn explored the Elk River area in the early 1860s looking for gold. What he saw must have encouraged him, because after the Civil War, Hahn returned in 1865 with companions William Doyle and Captain George Way to seek their fortunes. The stories of their travels indicate the severity of Colorado’s climate which ultimately rendered its toll on the lives of Hahn and Doyle. But before Hahn died, Doyle and Way had named the mountain on which they mined “Hahns Peak.” It wasn’t long before a camp was established at the foot of the mountain, and by 1872 it was booming. It became a mining district in 1874, the first to be organized on the Western Slope, where gold, silver, and red garnets were found.

The further development of Hahn’s Peak was due in large part to a wealthy Chicag oan named John Farwell, who financed mining operations. Farwell owned the Continental Placer Mining Company, and provided many civic and religious assets to the community. The mining camp had developed as two distinct communities: Bugtown, or International Camp was the first, and Poverty Bar was the second. Poverty Bar camp eventually developed into the village of Hahns Peak. Corporations were formed to float bonds and entice investors.

John Farwell’s International camp, two miles from Poverty Bar, was an example of a company town. Placer mining was dependent on water, and the miners encouraged Farwell to build a $160,000 ditch, which extended from the North Fork of the Elk River to Hahn’s Peak Basin. By 1876 International Camp’s population totaled seventy-five, which was the largest community in Routt County. One of the earliest roads in Routt County was built in 1877 to haul freight. It extended from Hahns Peak through Hog Park to Laramie. Hydraulics were introduced to mine the minerals
Sites associated with gold and silver mining in Routt County include:
- Open tunnels;
- Grave sites;
- Elkhead and Elkhorn Mines, North Routt;
- Farwell Mine, North Routt;
- Greenville Mine, North Routt;
- Lulu Mine, North Routt;
- Master Key Mine, North Routt;
- Royal Flush Mine, North Routt;
- Slavonia and Gold Basin, North Routt.

Districts associated with gold and silver mining in Routt County include:
- Gold and silver placer areas/mining districts, such as Columbine and Hahns Peak

For a more detailed list of resources and locations, see Appendix A.

Sub theme: COAL (1910 - 1943)

Early in the county's history, coal was identified as a natural resource in the area. Colonel John Fremont, on his expeditions through Routt County in 1844, identified coal as one of the minerals hidden in the Yampa Valley soils along the Yampa River and Oak Creek. In 1861 a railroad survey led by Lt. E. D. Berthod discovered coal at two locations in Twentymile Park. John Wesley Powell conducted the Yampa coal field's first scientific study in 1867 and 1868. Hayden's survey in 1870 further identified coal deposits, but, until the railroad came to the area, coal development was not practical. Many different ethnic groups came to work in the mines, and contributed to the cultural diversity of the county. Since the 1960s Routt County has been the leading coal producer in Colorado.
coal which is 200 feet or more below the surface. (The Haybro Mine was the only shaft mine in the County.) A drift mine is one in which a tunnel is dug into the hillside to reach the coal bed. A tunnel is also built, but sloped, to reach the coal near the surface when using a slope mine.

Room and pillar mining describes one of the two techniques used in underground mining. With room mining a series of rooms are built where the coal is mined. Pillars or columns of coal are left by the miners to support the roof of the room until it is mined out. The longwall method requires mining the coal along a long front called a face. This method was expensive and not often used as roof supports had to be built and maintained. Early miners picked the coal out of the coal beds often blasting with explosives to get to the coal. By the 1930s, however, most coal reserves were machine cut.

Mines and Strikes

The first strike in Northwest Colorado occurred in 1913 over wages and working conditions, when more than 400 miners were idled in Oak Creek. The coal district came under martial law in order to prevent heavy violence. It was then that the strike ended. Other strikes occasionally developed and continued until the 1920s.

Coal mines in the area included:

Arrowhead mine - Oak Creek - operated by Moffat Coal Company. Closed because of fire danger.


Juniper - Oak Creek - 1910 - closed after flooding, 1920.

Oak Hills/Perry Mine - Oak Creek - one of largest - very profitable.

Pinnacle Mine - Oak Creek - early 1900s - Morrison Coal Company - sold to Victor American Coal Company in 1910 - operated until 1946. The camp had 50 homes, a store, dance hall, school.

White City - Oak Creek - small camp near Pinnacle for miners who worked at McKindley Mine and Pinnacle mine. Two boarding houses - one for Japanese miners; one for others - never platted.

Osage Mine - McGregor - Creek miners - 1948 - 1962. (This was an underground mine until Osage took over; it then became a strip mine.)

Apex #2 Mine - Trout Creek - west of Oak Creek - 1933 - furnished heating coal for area residents until 1978.


Coalview - Hayden - 50 families in 1910. The present Milner store was moved from Coalview.

Twentymile Park - number of mines. One wagon mine in late 1890s; supplied coal to Steamboat Springs; sold to Energy Fuels in 1962; located near Trout Creek.

In public meetings conducted as a part of the context project, individuals also identified the following mines as ones that existed historically in Routt County:

Crow Bar Mine
Sleepy Cat Mine
Rice Mine (contained a vertical seam of coal)
Curtis Gulch
McGregor
Elk Creek
Coal View
Bear River
Butcherknife
Bill Gray Mine
Franz Mine
Block Mine
Coal Bank Gulch
Pilot Knob Mine
Seven Point Mine
Clark
Edna Mine
Keystone Mine (the last of the railroad mines to close)
EVALUATION

Several historic mining districts should be surveyed, especially White City/Pinnacle, Columbine, Hahns Peak, and Mount Harris, for potential National Register nominations. Consideration also should be given to developing interpretive materials to explain the history of these resources. Although substantial amounts of information exists about resource extraction in Rout County, a comprehensive survey of resources associated with this theme is still needed.

4. Ibid., 13.
5. Ibid., 15; 13.
7. Stevenson, Historic Hahns Peak, 14.
8. Ibid., 14-15.
10. Ibid., 21.
11. Ibid., 59.
13. Ibid., 45.
19. Mehls, Rout and Moffat Counties, Colorado, Coal Mining Historic Context, 42.
20. Ibid., 47.
23. Mehls, Rout and Moffat Counties, Colorado, Coal Mining Historic Context, 53-54.
THEME 4
TRANSPORTATION
(1855 - 1943)

Historic Overview

Game trails and man-made roads into Routt County opened the area for exploration and settlement. The miners requested that roads be built and, in response, toll roads for freight wagons, stage coaches and mule trains were established. The completion of the railroad through the county in 1912 bolstered mining, farming, ranching, and cultural development in the region. Early settlements were dependent for their commerce on wagon roads that connected to the railroads.

Trails and Wagon Roads (1855-1943)

Game Trails:

The first trails were created by animals that continuously used them. These game trails were also used by Native Indians in the territory. Hunters and trappers also made use of them. As ranching grew, some of these early trails were adapted to herding. Three major routes are indicated in The Historical Guide to Routt County:

One [trail] crossed the northern part of the county running from the Hayden area between Pilot Knob and Wolf Mountain, along Deep Creek to Elk River, up the Middle Fork, over Ute Pass into North Park. Another followed the Yampa River to Steamboat Springs, up Spring Creek, and over Buffalo Pass. A third trail, which cut across Twentymile Park and Dunckley Park to Yampa, is known as the Ute Trail and is listed on the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites.

Cattle and sheep used these same trails and established many new ones as they were moved back and forth from summer to winter feeding and to Wolcott and Steamboat for market. Some of these trails eventually became today's roads.

The Lamb Trail extended from Hinman Park to Elk Park along Copper Ridge near Steamboat Springs and was used until 1917 to trail the lambs to Steamboat. It marked the division between sheep and cattle ranges, eliminating potential conflict between ranchers and shepherders.

Rawlins sheepmen trailed their sheep to the Steamboat Springs market along the Fireline Driveway, referred to as the High Trail or Wyoming Trail. It was 1916 before the Forest Service realized the Wyoming shepherds were using the trail to excess and quotas were enforced.

The Ute Trail reached Hayden from the Williams Fork River of the Flat Top Mountains. According to the History of Routt National Forest 1905-1972, the road to Muddy Pass was a buffalo trail. Many of these trails later became wagon roads and later highways.

Wagon Roads:

Sir George Gore established the first wagon road in 1855 when he entered Egeria Park from the Gore Range. James Crawford, Steamboat Springs' first settler, brought his family across this same road in 1875. Neither the explorers, miners, nor settlers cut any definite roads until after the early 1900s.

Four roads are connected to Hahns Peak history: The Old Laramie Trail, the Ellis Freight-Wagon Trail, the Fireline Trail and the Seedhouse Road.

John Farwell built a wagon road to Laramie in 1877, most likely using the existing footpath from Hahns Peak. This road, the Old Laramie Trail, provided access over the Sierra Madre, Park Range and the Continental Divide into North Park. This was used to move freight from the railroad at Laramie to the mining community.

The Ellis Freight-Wagon Trail, built about 1898, began on the Elk River Road and ended at the Carbon Company Commissary on
The Conger/Pallas Stagestop was located at the junction of the main stage route from Steamboat to Yampa.

The Hitchens house served as a rest stop for freight wagons travelling from Steamboat to Hayden in 1884. This stage stop was named Pool;

the Rock Creek Stage Station was built in the early 1800's. It was the pick-up point for mail to Steamboat Springs from 1882 until the railroad reached Wolcott in 1888.18

Other stage routes included one in the Blacktail Mountain area and another in the Stagecoach Reservoir area.

Stage stops also existed outside of Milner and at Mystic.

Railroads (1908-present)

The railroad exerted the single most important influence on the economy and settlement of Routt County. Although the railroad reached Wolcott in 1888, financial troubles kept it from entering Routt County until 1908. David Moffat, through his Denver, Northwestern Pacific Railroad, brought access to the county. Ore was shipped on the railroad as were coal, cattle, sheep and fruits and vegetables from Yampa, Sidney, the Elk River Valley, and Strawberry Park.

The railroad first reached Yampa in 1908, Steamboat Springs in December 1908, and Hayden in October 1913. Moffat's dream was to build the railroad from Denver to Salt Lake City, but financial difficulties slowed down development. Even though the line never made it to Salt Lake, it had a profound impact on Routt County. The railroad alone created the centers for coal production, cattle, sheep, vegetable, and strawberry shipping, and cultural activities in the county.

Steamboat Springs was a large shipping point for cattle in the county19, while Yampa shipped tons of lettuce and spinach from its fields. Oak Creek, a major rail center, shipped coal. Phippsburg became a service center for the trains. An abundance of strawberries were shipped from Strawberry Park in Steamboat Springs,20 and Hayden was a major sheep and coal shipping point.

Tourists also used the railroad to visit the mineral springs in Steamboat Springs. For many years trains served the Perry-Mansfield Dance Camp as well. Cars were added to trains in New York and Chicago to accommodate the staff and students for the camp. They transferred to the Moffat line in Denver for the trip to Steamboat. Campers' parents, as well as audiences from Denver, also arrived in Steamboat Springs by the
RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS

Structures include:
• The Four Mile Bridge - Steamboat Springs, which was on the National Register of Historic Places, but was moved in the late 1980s; and
• the Gardner Bridge at Orno Peak.
• Gas stations,
• motels, and
• maintenance facilities.

Sites include: Box Creek Wagon Road at Box Creek.

Airports (1930-1993)

Several ranches had airstrips in the county as early as the 1930s. Airstrips also existed at Yampa, Hahns Peak, and Hayden. However, it was in the 1940s that aircraft started landing on a dirt runway at the present-day Steamboat Springs Airport located on County Road 129. Routt County maintained the airstrip and paved it in the 1960s. Rocky Mountain Airways began service in 1971. The City of Steamboat Springs bought the airport from the County in 1991 and operates and maintains it today.

The Yampa Valley Regional Airport (formerly the Yampa Valley Airport) was built in 1965-1966 just east of Hayden and Frontier Airlines began operations out of it in 1966. The airport was built by the Federal Aviation Administration when it initiated an Essential Airline Program subsidizing airlines to fly into rural areas in an attempt to link rural air travel with the National Transportation System throughout the nation. Frontier Airlines discontinued service in the region in 1986. That same year American Airlines began flights to Yampa Valley Regional Airport. The airport is only open to commercial airlines during the winter ski season months.

Several privately owned airstrips scattered throughout the county also remain active.

RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS

Structures include:
• Airports, such as the Yampa Valley Regional Airport, Hayden; and
• The Steamboat Springs Airport.
• Terminals
• Hangars

Objects include:
• Aircraft used at these airports.
• Runways

SIGNIFICANCE

The theme of transportation is one of the most important in the county. Transportation opened the region for the arrival of people and industries. The railroad contributed extensively to the economic development of Routt County, providing transportation of the natural resources and tourists.

EVALUATION

A more comprehensive survey of transportation routes is needed and then an interpretive plan should be considered. A marker program should be considered for the early trails, such as the Beef Trail and Lamb Trails. The survey should also identify stage stops and rail depots.

1 Steven F. Mehls, Colorado Mountains Historic Context, (Denver: State Historical Society of Colorado, 1984), 59-60.
3 The History of Routt National Forest 1905-1972, 50.
4 Ibid., 50.
5 Oral interview with Marty Alexandroff, participants of Hayden public meeting, August 3, 1993.
THEME 5
HIGH COUNTRY FARMING AND RANCHING
(1860 - 1943)

Early ranching and farming were inter-connected with mining in the history of the county because people often moved from one industry to another. In fact, the success of agriculture in the county can be attributed to the ability of those involved to switch back and forth between farming and ranching. Many settlers also worked at jobs in towns or mines during the day and worked the land on weekends and evenings.

Cattlemen were active in the area by the early 1850s, and some experimented with mining when gold was discovered. Other early settlers were drawn to Routt County by mining and, when discouraged with prospecting, stayed in the area to farm and ranch. With the enactment of the Homestead Act in 1862, public land opened up, on which settlers could file claim to 160 acres each. Homesteaders were required to live on the land for three years and cultivate a portion of it in order to "prove up" on the property. This incentive drew additional farmers and ranchers to the county.

Sheep herding appeared in the area in 1890, bringing with it disputes with cattle ranchers. Cattlemen did not take kindly to these or to other homesteaders who fenced the land around the normally open grazing acreage and watering holes. The "range wars" that resulted made headlines across the country and greatly contributed to the lore of the old west in Routt County.

The Grazing Homestead Act of 1916, which allowed for the purchase of 640 acres of public land at a fee of $35, further encouraged settlement in the area. The response in Routt County was overwhelming.

Sub theme: Ranching

Cattle and sheep ranching are two of Routt County's largest industries and have provided a rich heritage to the region. They have been significant factors in the quality of life and western heritage of Routt County.

Cattle Ranching

Cattle were first introduced in Browns Park in 1849, in an open range system of grazing. (Routt County included Browns Park before the county was divided into Moffat and Routt counties.) Routt County was an ideal area for raising cattle: the good grasses of the valleys fattened the cattle and brought better prices than those raised on the drier, harder grasses from other parts of the United States. Cattle were driven from as far away as Texas to graze on the unfenced, uncult bluestem grass during the summer months. The Yampa Valley and Little Snake regions soon became major cattle centers using the open-range method of grazing. Cattle became commonplace in the area about 1860.

In 1861 the territorial legislature passed an act forbidding non-residents to import any cattle, sheep, goats, mules or hogs into several Colorado counties for "grazing, herding or feeding same or quartering them on lands of any person or persons... Up went fences, starting a war between the cattlemen and sheepmen." Brands

Brands for cattle and sheep came through the efforts of the Colorado Stockgrowers Association, which was organized in 1867 to prevent cattle theft and to rid the area of cattle rustlers. This was the year that the first brand was officially recorded in Colorado, although brands had been in use informally earlier.

Ranching continued to expand in the county. In 1872, Noah Reader became the first to settle permanently on a ranch in the Little Snake River Valley. He also operated a small store from the ranch and served the miners from Hahns Peak.

George Baggs, one of the most astute cattlemen in Northwest Colorado, obtained the first homestead patent in approximately 1873, on the Little Snake River, in what was to become
head being stampeded down the street, even after municipal government was established (1900) and plank sidewalks were built.\textsuperscript{17} Cattle ranching became so important to Steamboat’s economy that the town was almost solely dependent upon the cattle industry for its existence for some time.

Ranching was also important to Yampa and Hayden. In fact, the headquarters ranches of the cattlemen on the upper Yampa were grouped around the three towns of Yampa, Steamboat Springs and Hayden, in a triangle that contained choice range country. The area was called Twentymile Park because of its approximate 20 mile distance between the three towns.

One of the early, most influential Routt County citizens was Farrington Carpenter, an attorney and rancher who practiced law in Hayden. Carpenter represented the local stock growers association and prompted legislation regarding cattlemen’s land rights. He was eventually selected as the Department of Interior’s first Director of Grazing and helped write the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act, which regulated public domain grazing lands.\textsuperscript{18}

The arrival of semi-trucks in the county changed the complexion of the livestock industry in the 1940s. Trucking eliminated the need for the long livestock drives to the railroad stations, a definite improvement for ranchers living in remote areas of the county. Rail activity declined as a result, until it ceased altogether in the early 1970s.

Through all these years, cattle ranching proved to be a lasting industry. “The Routt County cattle industry has weathered the bad times and prospered in the good,” the Steamboat Pilot once reported. “It has been threatened by transportation costs, drops in the cattle market, and imports.”\textsuperscript{19} But it survived. In the 1960s, many cattlemen were forced to sell their properties because some said “rising taxes, energy costs, inflation, interest rates and bad markets” had created an untenable climate for ranching. Recreational developers, including those seeking to develop skiing, were watching for the opportunity to develop some of the prime ranch land. Thus, some important acreage has been lost. Other significant holdings, however, remain intact. Some of those who have stayed in operation have done so by supplementing their activities with visitor-oriented attractions.\textsuperscript{20} Many have found it necessary to expand their operations by offering dude ranches, hay rides and sleigh rides.\textsuperscript{21}

The rodeo

An important part of ranching culture has been the rodeo. Rodeo events first appeared in Steamboat Springs, informally, around the turn of the century. Impromptu contests of skill became such a concern that, according to John Burrough’s Where the Old West Stayed Young, the “city fathers passed an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for cowboys to hold bucking contests and horse races on Main Street.” Citizens soon set about creating a place where such activities could occur without danger to the public, and thus the Steamboat Springs rodeo grounds were finally established in 1909, although there was no grandstand, corral, or fence until later.\textsuperscript{22} The formal rodeo included a range of competitions to demonstrate the local cowboys’ ranching skills—from bronco riding to calf roping. Some of these early rodeo grounds structures survived in 1993.

The roundup

According to one Steamboat Pilot article, a typical roundup crew consisted of a mess wagon, a bed wagon, and about 20 cowboys on horseback. They needed five teams of horses for the wagons, plus nine horses for each man, which added up to about 200 head. Each cowboy on the roundup had his duty: The nighthawk kept an eye on the horses at night, and he always drove the bed wagon. The wrangler cut wood and packed water for the cook. The other cowboys took turns at two-hour night shifts watching the cattle, driving around and around the herd and sometimes falling into a nearby wash in the pitch black of night. The cooks would put a big tent over the mess wagon and put up the stove underneath to prepare meals. The Pilot recounts that: “The drive to the railroad could easily take two weeks or longer...the roundup cowboy could be counted on as being a fun-loving, hard-twisted (sinewy) bachelor with a tendency to drink and have a good time once he hit town.”\textsuperscript{23}

Granges in Routt County

The grange movement made its way to Routt County and contributed to the system of order and to the social scene. The granges constructed halls which were used as meeting places and for community activities, such as dances.\textsuperscript{24} Two grange organizations operated in
gained control of other lands in the public domain near the tracks, giving them a substantial operating base on which to move sheep. To some, sheepmen appeared more soundly financed than the cattlemen.25

Many shepherders arrived in the 1890s, and most of these were Basque. Although they began as wage-earners for sheep ranchers, many prospered and eventually purchased and owned sheep ranches of their own. Greek sheepmen also came to the county and followed the example set by their Basque predecessors.26

Range conflicts

"From the early 1880's until well past the turn of the century, much of the history of Northwest Colorado consisted of the attempts of big Wyoming sheep outfits to extend their operations southward and the efforts of equally large, and many small, cattle outfits to keep them from it," states John Burroughs in Where the Old West Stayed Young. The cattlemen figured they owned the range since they had used it first. They claimed their cattle would not graze on land previously grazed by sheep and therefore the cattlemen did everything they could to keep the sheep outfits from coming onto the Colorado range lands.27 Cattlemen patrolled the border with armed line riders at what was referred to in the 1890s as the "dead line" south of the Little Snake River. They vowed to kill the sheep which crossed the line.

In 1895, sheepmen tried to drive 60,000 sheep through Routt County to the railroad at Wolcott. A Routt County sheep war ensued. From Hayden, several hundred armed men headed out to "discourage" the sheepmen from trailing through the county. The Snake River Stock Growers Association and other such organizations in Routt County declared a ban on sheepmen and sheep in the county. From 1895 until 1905, when the Routt National Forest was established, many conflicts arose between these two forces.

In 1905, when the federal government established the Routt National Forest, the high mountain meadows were opened for sheep grazing permits in 1911. The same year, the Homestead Act opened grazing lands to farming. Again, the sheepmen proved astute, as they bought up claims from homesteaders who decided to leave the area.28 This increased the range for sheep grazing. The number of sheepmen increased even further when, just prior to World War I, the beef market fell and many cattlemen turned to raising sheep as that market was stronger.29

As late as 1920, cattlemen and sheepmen were still battling over range rights in Rio Blanco County, in what was known as the Colorado-Utah Sheep War. It took Colorado Senators Phipps and Nicholson, along with a Colorado delegation to Washington denouncing this type of action in 1922, before the conflict of almost forty years of struggle between the cattlemen and sheepmen ended.30

Bales of wool are loaded for shipment in the 1966 photo. Photo: Courtesy of the Steamboat Pilot.
County were now shipped to other areas of the country by rail. In 1912, a grain elevator was constructed to facilitate shipment to markets back East. Today’s Fairview subdivision in Steamboat Springs occupies the location of this elevator. Another grain elevator in Hayden, owned by the Hayden Co-operative Elevator Company, reportedly shipped 15 cars of wheat in the fall of 1918.

Besides wheat, several other major crops kept Routt County on the map for many years. For example, strawberries held a notable position in county agriculture for some time. Strawberry Park in Steamboat Springs obtained its name from the large strawberry farms in its valley. A combination of rich black loam soil, sunshine, irrigation, and altitude contributed to the success of the expansive fields of strawberries. The Steamboat Pilot quoted from an early report:

"The first strawberry plants were brought by settlers from Boulder County and set in a garden. They produced so abundantly that a few others got plants and set a few rows (in 1892)...Until the railroad came to provide a market only enough were grown to supply the home demand...(in 1909) the first time they were placed on the market...There is no spraying, because there are no diseases to attack the plants; there is no mulching, because the heavy snows of winter act as a natural mulch; there is no resetting every third year, as in some parts, for one patch has been in production for six years and is as thrifty and productive as ever."

The Routt County Strawberry Company was formed in 1910, and the first 528 crates were loaded on a train leaving Steamboat Springs in 1911. That year, producers formed the Steamboat Springs Strawberry and Produce Association and shipped the fruit to Denver, Omaha, Chicago, New York and other places from the valley’s 200 acres of strawberries. Refrigerated cars were used to ship a total of 8568 crates that year. Production declined in later decades, however, as land changed hands and the valley developed and new owners lacked interest in raising the crop.

Potatoes were introduced to the county in 1911 and "Sidney became the major shipping point for potatoes until the cost of labor and purchasing seed potatoes, ... made production unprofitable."

Lettuce also was a popular crop. In Yampa, packing sheds were prevalent, and had become, by 1927, "the center of the head lettuce industry...the largest shipper of lettuce in Colorado." The rich soil and abundance of water, along with ideal temperatures and air currents were reported to make the lettuce grown in the area of high quality and "second to none anywhere on earth. In appearance, solidity, size, texture and flavor it excels, and readily commands the highest price of any lettuce on the market...Head lettuce was first grown on a commercial basis in Northwestern Colorado in 1921. In the way of an experiment the Kenley Bros. of Canon City planted three acres on the C. J. Wheeler ranch near Yampa...A total of 320 packed out crates per acre...during 1922 over 100 acres were planted in lettuce and 67 carloads were shipped from the Yampa station. A large packing shed was erected to handle this crop."

Farmers built more packing sheds in 1923 to handle the 252 carloads that were shipped. By 1926, the lettuce shipments required 540 cars out of Yampa. Production grew to the point that a report noted: Since 1922, "Yampa has shipped more carloads of Mountain Iceberg head lettuce than any other point in the state."

Ice sheds were built in Yampa for packing and refrigeration and remained on the town’s skyline until the mid 1980s, when they collapsed under snow load. By that time, the industry had long since ceased in Routt County, having lost markets to other states.

In the decades of the 1920s and 1930s, farmers produced a variety of other vegetables as well: Peas, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, carrots, turnips, rutabagas and artichokes were commercial crops produced in the Oak Creek-Yampa area during this period.
Sub theme: Non-Traditional Farming and Ranching

Although cattle and sheep have dominated ranching efforts in Routt County, ranchers have raised a variety of other animals. The abundance of wildlife in Routt County prompted some additional ranching, while markets for furs stimulated other activities. Some animals, not native to the area, were introduced, but did not last.

The first fox farm in Colorado was established in 1919 at Steamboat Springs. Reports in The Steamboat Pilot's Golden Anniversary edition in 1985 reported that 31 fox pens, with a total of 195 foxes, existed at the Tanana Silver Fox Farm, which was owned and operated by F. M. Light and R. Wayne Light. In addition to the foxes, the Lights raised Great Danes at the Tanana Great Dane Kennels. About 20 dogs were used to guard the fox farm and, in a 15 year period, over 215 were sold and shipped out of the county.54 The foxes were eventually turned loose in the mid-1940s, when they reportedly became too expensive to feed.55

Reindeer, llama, and buffalo also have been raised on various ranches within the county. According to life-time resident Junior Bedell of Clark, some Routt County ranchers raised elk for feed for many years. The elk were sold for meat or used for hunting purposes but, when the elk were placed on the tax rolls, the ranchers couldn't afford to pay the taxes and let them loose.56 Hayden rancher Lou Wyman continued to raise elk in the 1990s for breeding and hunting purposes.57 Others have raised buffalo, big horn sheep, antelope, or elk, some continuing to be raised in the area in limited numbers, in 1993.

RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS

Little is known about historic resources that may survive from non-traditional farming in Routt County. The following historic resources may survive to interpret this sub-theme:

Structures may include:
• Fish Hatchery, (now the Steamboat Springs Yacht Club)
• Ranch houses
• Corrals
• Pens

SIGNIFICANCE

Cattle and sheep ranching have been major industries in Routt County's economy and events associated with them have greatly affected the history of the county. Much of the early development and economic growth of the county can be attributed to ranching, as well as hay and wheat production. These businesses have contributed to the Western image and heritage of the area. Historic resources associated with the activities are vitally important and their preservation should be strongly encouraged.

THREATS

Historic secondary structures, such as barns and sheds, may be perceived to be less efficient than newer structures and may suffer from neglect. In other cases, inappropriate alterations may threaten the integrity of historic buildings, especially ranch houses.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDA-
TIONS

Preservation and documentation of the lifestyle of the ranchers is important. Although a substantial amount is written on the history of this theme, no detailed listing of significant properties exists. A survey of resources associated with the county's theme of farming and ranching should be conducted to more clearly define significant events and define resource types.

1 Pat Holderness, oral interview with Marty Alexandroff, August 3, 1993.
3 Comments from public meeting, August 1, 1993, by Bill May.
5 Husband, Colorado Plateau County Historic Context, 71.
6 "Old cowhands in Routt County," in The Steamboat Pilot, August 1, 1985.
7 "Old Cowhands in Routt County."
8 Burroughs, Where the Old West Stayed Young, 79-80.
9 Ibid., 99.
10 Ibid., 261.
THEME 6

WATER AND IRRIGATION
(1860s - 1943)

Historic Overview

Water is one of Routt County’s greatest resources and its availability has greatly influenced settlement and industry patterns of the County. Throughout the county’s history, residents have managed water resources through detention, diversion and treatment. Water has been produced for domestic and industrial use, for irrigation, and recreational purposes.

Abundant water is found as surface rivers and streams in the county, the most famous of which is the Yampa River. The headwaters start above the town of Yampa and flow through Routt County west to the Utah border, and beyond. Early mountain men called it the Bear River, but the name was soon changed to Yampa, the Indian name for the carrot-like root that grew along its banks.

Watersheds on the Routt National Forest are some of the highest water producing areas in the state. In a normal year, each surface acre produces about one acre-foot of runoff. Lakes and reservoirs were constructed to hold high flows from these rivers.

Ranches, towns and power plants were all dependent upon the waters of the Yampa River and the spring runoff from its tributaries for their operation. Hay fields (at one time) were irrigated by water diverted from these sources. Only a small portion of the Yampa River was diverted at the Upper Yampa Conservancy District’s Stillwater Ditch at the headwaters of the river. The diversion was for use in South Routt County.

Before a dam was constructed to create Lake Catamount, the Elk River meandered through Pleasant Valley. Photo, 1970, Courtesy of the Routt County Collection/Tread of Pioneers Museum.
ISSUES AND THREATS

Ditches may be altered and removed as land uses and irrigation techniques change.

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The county-wide layout of water management systems, including major ditches in the county, should be mapped, and a survey should be conducted to identify ditch equipment that may survive. Additional research should be conducted to expand this historic overview.

2 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Charlene Stees, oral interview with Marty Alexandroff, Steamboat Springs public meeting, August 2, 1993.
8 Marianne Kennerly, An Inventory of Historical or Archaeological Resources in Routt County. (Steamboat Springs, CO: Routt County Planning Department, 1984.)
THEME 7
HIGH COUNTRY LOGGING
(1860 - 1943)

Historic Overview

The first sawmills were established in Routt County in the 1860s during the mining operations at Hahns Peak. Later, logs were cut to supply railroad ties and telephone poles to the region when these services were introduced. Logging continued unregulated until the Routt National Forest was established in 1905, when permits were required for logging operations. Until that time, lumbermen and ranchers considered the forest lands their own, although they technically belonged to the federal government. In fact, early forestry employees were hired to report trespass on federal timberlands as early as 1879, well before official designation as a National Forest. With the formal organization of the forest, many loggers resented the action, feeling they had the right to use the land. Neither the lumbermen nor the cattlemen were happy with the permits. The high meadows of the forests were opened to sheep in 1907, increasing the controversy. Disagreements with federal employees about the mission of the forest created tensions and extended over many decades.

Timber sales for telephone poles began with the creation of the National Forest. A sawmill was in operation on Rabbit Ears Pass. Some of the loggers floated the logs downstream to mills. The Sarvis Timber Company, which operated from 1913 to 1919, used chutes to move logs from Sarvis Creek to the Yampa River and onto the sawmill at Steamboat Springs. By the 1930s, only a few lumber companies were left. Over the years, some report, the forests of the area were exploited and nearly exhausted.

Tie Camps and Sawmills

The railroad tie cutting camps were called tie hack camps, after the loggers, who themselves were called tie hacks. The largest of these was the Commissary Camp, which actually was located in Wyoming along the Encampment River. It served as the headquarters for the Carbon Timber Company, which employed many workers from Colorado and cut substantial amounts of timber from the forests around Hahns Peak. Extensive demand existed for railroad ties for use in laying major rail lines throughout the region, especially in Wyoming. At Encampment River and Meadows,” reports The Historical Guide to Routt County, “Each spring in the early 1900s half a million cross-ties cut from area timber, floated the river’s floodwaters to Fort Steele, Wyoming where the lumber was used in railroad construction.” A sophisticated system of temporary dams and channels was used to convey the logs downstream.

Many of the woodsmen were Scandinavians, whose cultural influence remains in the area. Along with their wood cutting skills, the lumberjacks also brought skis from the old country, a necessary mode of transportation in the severe winter of 1904-1905. Thelma Stevenson tells in detail about life in the tie camps and the famous river drives in her book, Historic Hahns Peak. She reports that huge quantities of logs were floated down rivers in the region. Once the forest reserve was established in 1905, however, the large cutting expeditions ended.

National Forest Lands

In 1993, Routt County contained more than a half-million acres of public lands. Routt National Forest is the most extensive of these reserves. It has served as a recreation area for hunting and fishing from the time that settlers first arrived in the area. Game were hunted intensively, including elk, and the last buffalo was shot in the forest near Bull Mountain in 1900.

Resource management in the forests began early, even before official designation as a National Forest. For example, the first trout were stocked in 1902.
by Forest Service employee Arthur Carhart. What resulted was the establishment of the nation’s Wilderness and Primitive Areas program managed under the Forest Service.  

Remains of forest fires and beetle kill have scarred the Routt National Forest, but it remains a forest of dramatic scope. The Utes were blamed for setting fire to the mountains to discourage the settlers. Mountain pine beetle also has rampaged the forest and many fires have erupted from lightning strikes during the 1940s and 1950s.11

**Trails and Roads in the Forests**

Trails and roads linked communities throughout the county and provided means to move goods. The High Trail was established in 1910 for moving sheep from Wyoming along the Continental Divide to Rabbit Ears Pass. The Lamb Trail, established in 1917, ran from Hinman Park to Elk Park and to the railroad at Steamboat Springs (see Theme 4).12

In 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide jobs for the unemployed men of the nation. Several camps existed in Routt County. CCC workers built most of the government trails in the county and many Forest Service buildings.

The Routt County road leading from Yampa and Phippsburg across Dunkley Pass to the Trappers Lake area was designated in 1991 as part of a Scenic Byway from Yampa to Meeker.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The vast stands of timber that are found in Routt County have provided a variety of jobs, from tie hack to forest ranger, all of which have contributed substantially to the history of the county. This theme is very significant to the history of the county.

**RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS**

**Structures may include:** Ranger stations, such as:
- Seedhouse at the end of Seedhouse Road was built in 1912 by the Forest Service to collect and dry seeds from spruce and pine cones. Later used as a temporary ranger station and a summer camp between 1930 and 1945. Destroyed in 1945. The New Seedhouse Station was built in 1933 by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps.)
- Summit Creek Ranger Station (1912),
- Bear River Guard Station (1939),
- California Park Guard Station, and
- Lynx Pass Station (1934);
- other CCC structures;
- Fire lookouts, such as the Hahns Peak Fire Lookout at the top of Hahns Peak (1912).

**Sites may include:**
- Sarvis Timber Co. ruined splash dams and log chutes;
- sawmills, such as Diamond Park, Sand Mountain, Picket Mountain, Clark, Brookstone, Columbine, Fairview, Toponas, and Yampa;
- tie camps, such as Elk River, Whiskey Park, Maijla, Gardner, Shorter Spur, and Greer.
- Logging roads.
THEME 8

RECREATION, TOURISM, & THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHWAYS
(1875 - 1943)

Historic Overview

Recreation and tourism have been significant industries of Routt County since the early 1900s. The hot springs at Steamboat were a notable attraction as early as 1849. Plentiful game also drew visitors for hunting and fishing early in the region’s history. The sportsman’s regard for Routt County was confirmed when Theodore Roosevelt visited the County on several hunting trips. Many communities in the county promoted their recreational amenities: the town of Yampa was considered “the gateway to the West,” for example. Over the years, the visitor economy has shifted, reflecting the changing tastes in recreation. Activities include those for the outdoorsperson, healthseeker, skier, hiker, and other recreation enthusiasts.

Skiing became popular in 1914 when ski clubs were formed and an annual Winter Carnival took place in Steamboat Springs. Dude ranches with the flavor of the “Old West” were established in the early 1930s to accommodate the tourist. The railroad again played a major role in bringing visitors to the remote county when it arrived in the early 1900s. With the influx of tourists came the demand for improved roads for automobile travel. Roadside parks, auto camping parks, picnic grounds and motor courts were built to facilitate the visitors. The 1920s saw a peak in tourism, which declined with the Depression and World War II and surged again in the 1960s and continued into the 1990s.

Health and Hot Springs

The Yampa Valley was considered sacred by the Native Americans. They referred to the hot springs clustered around Steamboat Springs as the “Medicine Springs” and came every spring and stayed through the fall to partake of the great waters and abundant hunting opportunities. Steamboat Springs’ first Anglo-American settler, James Crawford, counted more than 150 hot springs in the area.

Excerpts from Dr. Wake Brierly’s diary describe his visit in 1849 to the “lava springs” called by some Bear Springs. His account provides a detailed description of Steamboat Springs’ hot springs. Dr. Brierly states, “It is a matter of astonishment that no Indian or mountaineers or adventurers have ever settled upon it. It is a beautiful valley, fine water and plenty of timber. The only drawback whatever is the injurious effect of the water upon stock, which I think might with a little care be easily prevented.”

The hot springs contain a high mineral content derived from volcanic rock deep in the earth. The City of Steamboat Springs owns many of the springs in the area. A Steamboat Pilot article describes the elements contained in each spring.

Steamboat Springs obtained its name from the springs that are found on the Yampa River near the old depot. These springs once spouted water many feet into the air and made a chugging noise that sounded like a steamboat. However, some report that when the railroad was built in 1908, crewmen blasted the hill behind the spring, and they claim that the spring never spouted again. A different explanation is given in several accounts of The Steamboat Pilot which refer to young boys of the era claiming they had placed rocks in the spring, thus causing the decline of the spouting as well.

A geologist’s account of the springs in Steamboat is as follows:

“All of the springs . . . are thermal springs, and they probably derive their heat from rocks centered around Hahns Peak . . . Hahns Peak, about 30 miles north of Steamboat Springs, is a young volcano containing very hot rocks. Water gets into these rocks, flows along fault lines where it picks up minerals, then returns to the surface.
Fishing and Hunting

Hunting and fishing have been both a necessity and a recreation since the first inhabitants came to the county. Game was abundant and provided a source of food for the Ute Indians, miners, and homesteaders. Because game was so plentiful, the area became famous among sportsmen as early as the turn of the century. Theodore Roosevelt often hunted in the California Park region for bear and other big game, thus popularizing the area. Many ranchers supplemented their incomes by providing hunting outfitters and lodges for sportsmen.10

The numerous streams and rivers provide excellent fishing and were first stocked in 1902.11 James Crawford operated a fish hatchery on Buffalo Pass and a fish hatchery also operated along the Yampa River in Steamboat Springs. The most notable hatchery operating today is the Finger Rock Fish Rearing Unit, which lies south of Yampa and places trout in many of the Northwest Colorado streams and lakes.12

RESOURCES AND LOCATIONS

Structures include:
• Hunting and fishing lodges, such as the Wyman Ranch south of Hayden; the Royal Hotel in Yampa.

Sites include:
• Fish hatchery in Steamboat

• Finger Rock Fish Rearing Unit, Yampa;
• Hunting areas, such as the Flat Tops Wilderness Area, California Park, and others;
• Rivers, streams, and lakes.

Summer Sports

When the Routt National Forest was established in 1905, many recreational opportunities became available. The extensive forest lands throughout the county have offered fishing, sailing, hunting, hiking, biking, and rock climbing. Recreational sites have continued to increase in the county until, in 1993, nearly 7,000 camp and picnic sites were available for public use on public lands. From church camps to mountaineering, scouting, hunting and school camps, Routt County has excelled in the quality of camping life it promotes.

Specialized recreational and educational camps also have been fashionable in Routt County, beginning in 1914 when Portia Mansfield and Charlotte Perry established the Perry-Mansfield School and Camp in Strawberry Park (see Theme 10).

Other sports included baseball, boxing, and racing. Baseball was very popular among the miners. Hahns Peak, Mount Harris, Columbine, Hayden, Steamboat Springs, and Oak Creek all had baseball teams. The miners also enjoyed boxing events called “smokers.” Oak Creek and Mount Harris were popular for their boxing events during the years coal mining was booming. Both automobile and horse racing have been
This early photo of skiers includes Carl Howelsen as the leader. Photo: Courtesy of the Routt County Collection/Tread of Pioneers Museum.

affiliate with the National Ski Association. Steamboat Springs was the first school system in the country to make skiing an accredited part of the curriculum in 1944.

Steamboat Springs boasts of having produced more Olympians than any other place in the country. The Associated Press first called Steamboat Springs “Ski Town” in 1947. In the 1950s “Ski Town USA” was used to promote a high school ski band to Chicago. The Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club in 1987 registered “Ski Town USA” as its trademark.

Cross-country skiing also was a favorite in the county. As early as 1919, a women’s cross country ski club was formed for weekly outings. Forest rangers established the state’s longest cross-country course in 1937 on Rabbit Ears Pass.

Before gondolas and chair lifts were built, Alpine skiers had to pack the snow by tromping up the hills. In 1938, a boat tow was built at Howelsen Hill followed by a rope tow in 1945 and chair lifts in 1948. In the 1940s a jump was built over the downtown hot springs pool, which provided a spectacular event.

Many organizations formed around the traditions of skiing: the Steamboat Springs Ski Club 1917; the S.K.I. Club in 1919, a ladies ski group in 1920, the Ladies Recreation Club in 1931; and the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club in 1914. The Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club is the oldest ski club west of the Mississippi. Starting as a social club, this organization has become famous by providing training for thousands of young people in skiing and ski jumping. The Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club contributes to the area’s national and Olympic successes.

Howelsen Hill

Howelsen Hill is the oldest, continuously operating ski hill in Colorado, and the oldest ski jump in the nation. Carl Howelsen initiated the construction of a jump on the hill in 1914, which was completed the following year. The name Howelsen Hill was assigned in 1917. A grandstand was built in 1920, along with a toboggan slide and lighted skating rink. The boat tow began operation in 1938. In 1945 a rope tow was installed and in 1948 “the longest single-span ski lift in the country and first to combine chairs and T-bars was added.” Through the years the jump has been reconstructed and improved and an additional jump added, today providing both 70-meter and 90-meter jumps. In 1941 a viewing stand was erected when the old firehouse was moved onto the property and remodeled. This lodge was expanded in 1992, but the expansion collapsed in the spring of 1993. The original portion of the building was not damaged.
ISSUES AND THREATS

Many of these resources continue to be in operation and, as a result, changes may occur that would alter the character of some of these resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A comprehensive survey of these resources should be conducted and key resources should be recorded.

2. Sureva Towler, The History of Skiing at Steamboat Springs, (Denver: Frederic Printing, 1987.) Note: All information on Winter Sports was obtained from this book, 135.
6. "Diary of early adventurer describes springs in 1849."
13. Pat Sandefur, oral interview with Marty Alexandroff, Fall, 1990. Pat shared a multitude of pictures, articles, and brochures of the Focus Ranch through the years. Of particular interest was an account of the history of the ranch written by her mother.
THEME 9

MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS
(1861 - 1943)

Historic Overview

As greater numbers of people arrived in Routt County, settlements grew, where residents could share resources and provide community functions. Some communities developed in response to a specific economic opportunity, as did the community of Hahns Peak when gold mining boomed nearby. Some started as a stage stop or a post office for a scattered ranching population. Other communities evolved as shipping centers, where crossroads occurred, or where rail lines could be constructed. Each community developed with its own unique features and with a unique series of events.

Although many communities may have started for a single purpose, those that survived generally were ones that became diverse in their economies. Often, these towns were well-connected to major transportation systems and they served as supply centers for outlying populations.

Although many communities began haphazardly, growing from a central cabin, a store or post office, they usually adopted a more formal plan early in their history. A town plan typically began as a simple grid layout, with a commercial street as the central spine. In communities where slopes were steeper, the grid plan was sometimes modified, with streets following the contours of the hillsides. Residential streets spread out on either side of the main street and, if a rail line was introduced, it usually was found one or two blocks from the commercial street.

Buildings were constructed primarily with local labor and materials: Early boom towns began as tent and log communities, and those that lasted more than a few months then added frame structures with clapboard siding. Many communities remained towns essentially of wood construction. The more substantial and long-lasting communities, however, added masonry buildings to their stock. These were built of brick or stone and usually were constructed for commercial or institutional uses.

Sub-theme: Government

The history of Routt County’s governmental organizations began as a part of earlier territorial governments. In 1861, parts of the territories of Utah, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Kansas became the Colorado Territory. Territorial Colorado’s Summit County was soon divided with the new county of Grand acquiring all but the present-day Summit County. Grand County was later divided in 1877 with the western portions becoming Routt County, in the then newly formed State of Colorado. The new

This early photo of Yampa shows typical arrangement of commercial buildings in early Routt County communities: Wood frame buildings align at the sidewalk edge. False fronts establish a more imposing character to the street as well. Photo: Courtesy of the Routt County Collection/Tread of Pioneers Museum.
The school at Steamboat Springs was one of the finer in early Routt County. It stood two stories tall and a bell tower defined the main entrance to the wood frame structure. Photo: Courtesy of the Routt County Collection/Tread of Pioneers Museum.

**Sub theme: Religion**

In 1876, John Farwell built the first chapel for church services at Hahns Peak. Farwell was also the first in-residence missionary in the area. This may well have been the first recorded church in the county. Congregational churches were the first to appear in Yampa, Steamboat Springs, and Hayden.

It was James Lafayette Norvell, however, who seemed to gain notoriety as an evangelist. In the early 1900s, Norvell was conducting revival meetings in Yampa, Clark, and “the wicked town of Hahns Peak.” Norvell denounced dancing and called for the people of Steamboat Springs to decide if dancing was a danger “of immorality and degradation to our women.” Norvell was elected mayor of Steamboat Springs in 1914 and may possibly have had an influence on the town’s cautious attitude toward the Perry-Mansfield dancers (see Theme 10).

**Sub theme: Health**

The Steamboat Sanitarium Association opened a hospital in 1914 “to provide every comfort in the way of hotel and medical accommodations to those seeking to benefit from the climate and mineral waters of Steamboat Springs.” The present hospital in Steamboat Springs was built in 1950 and offers a full service extended care unit. A Visiting Nurses Association services outlying communities and towns and many of the Steamboat Springs doctors maintain office hours in more than one community.

In Hayden the Solandt Memorial Hospital opened in 1923 through the efforts of the Pioneer Women’s Club’s fund raising.

**Sub theme: Education**

The Crawford home in Steamboat Springs served as the first school in the county when it was established in 1876. Initially the Crawford children were the only pupils. The home served as the school until 1884 when Crawford built a log cabin school house near the family home. The first school district in the county was organized in 1881 in the Little Snake River Valley. School buildings were the center of activity in the early days of Routt County. Everyone gathered at the buildings for picnics, dances, and social activities.
building of note was the Columbine Saloon, which had a notorious reputation during the mining days. The schoolhouse, where Edna Trullinger began teaching in 1916, is situated on a one-acre site adjoining the property. Caron sold the town in the 1950s and the community then went through a sequence of seven owners who rented cabins in the summer and fall. The Columbine Shop continued to be a stopping place for shepherders and a variety of other visitors in the 1990s. The community is listed on the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites.

CONGER/PALLAS/HUGGINS:
Conger served as a freight stop for travelers at the junction of the main stage road between Steamboat Springs and Yampa. Its name was changed to Pallas in 1895 when a post office was established; the name subsequently changed to Huggins in 1904, but was changed back to Pallas in 1922. The post office there closed in 1926.18

DUNCKLEY PARK: Originally, this area was named Williams Park after its first settler who arrived in 1888. In the late 1890s, a post office was established at Williams Park. The name changed to Dunckley Park when nine Dunckley families located in the area in 1907. Three schools comprised the Dunckley School District No. 14. Mail arrived from Yampa on the Dunckley Stage and freight wagons traveling between Hayden to Yampa provided supplies.19

FAIRVIEW: Fairview was platted in 1902 and grew when the railroad arrived. Watson’s Mercantile supplied the area with food and feed. In 1899, the depot and section house were built here.20 Local farmers constructed the Farmer’s Elevator in 1912 to ship grain to other parts of the country. The elevator operated until 1979.

GLEN EDEN: Glen Eden was homesteaded before 1901 and received its name because it supposedly resembled the Garden of Eden. Originally a stage stop and site of the Clark Store, the Glen Eden Ranch remained a popular guest ranch and cross-country ski facility in the 1990s.

HANNS PEAK: Hahns Peak was the first settlement in Routt County, created in response to the mining boom. Joseph Hahn arrived in 1861, to mine gold, and established the settlement, first called Poverty Flats. The camp boomed and Poverty Bar eventually developed into the village of Hahns Peak. It was the largest community in Routt County in 1876, with 75 residents. A post office was established in 1877 and the county seat was moved there from its first location at Hayden in 1879. It remained in Hahns Peak until 1912 when it was moved to Steamboat Springs. Although the gold boom declined and the county seat was lost, mining activity continued to keep the community active through the 1920s (see Theme 3). The town was never totally abandoned, and in the 1990s remained home to a small collection of year-round residents. Hahns Peak also served as a vacation area for many others.

HAYDEN: Hayden was originally founded as a post for trade with the Utes. It was named for Dr. F. V. Hayden, the chief director of the United States Geological Survey, who conducted a survey in the Routt County area in 1876. Of particular note is that Hayden identified the county’s coal deposits.21 Major James B. Thompson, however, is actually attributed with founding Hayden. He returned with his family and built a log cabin in 1876, where he maintained a trading post for the Ute Indians “who passed in large numbers going and coming from their summer hunting grounds near Steamboat Springs and Egeria Park.”22 Thompson helped build a log cabin in Hayden, which served as Routt County’s first county seat.

It remained an informal settlement until the actual town site was laid out by Wm. R. Walker and Martin P. Walker in 1894. The first school, taught by Emma Peck,23 was held that same year in a local building. People were drawn to Hayden’s climate because it was the mildest in Routt County, since it was at the lowest elevation in the area. By 1901, a bridge had been constructed across the Yampa River, which was built “entirely cut of cottonwood logs and poles.”24 The town continued to grow and was incorporated in 1906. By 1912, its population had reached 714.

When the railroad arrived in 1913, business in Hayden improved even more.25 In those early days, Hayden’s goal was to become the railroad center of the county. They planned to ship coal, cattle, and sheep from Hayden in large volumes but other towns in the county took precedent with the railroad, and Hayden’s dream never materialized to the extent it hoped. Hayden
MCGREGOR: John McNeil named this coal camp after a Scottish uncle. The original camp employed many Greek coal miners. As it grew, a power plant was constructed nearby, in the 1920s and operated by the Colorado Utilities Company. By 1926, it supplied most of the valley's electricity. The coal mine closed in 1929 but a new shaft was sunk and the mine reopened in 1930. It once again closed in 1935. In 1941, the Yampa Valley Electric Association took over the management of the power plant and extended power to rural residents until 1965, when the Colorado Ute plant in Hayden was completed and took over this service. A strip mine, the Osage, opened here in 1948 and operated until 1962.

MILNER: The community of Milner is situated approximately halfway between Steamboat Springs and Hayden. F. E. Milner, a merchant and banker, settled in the area in 1898 and the town was eventually named after him, although it was never incorporated. In its early days, Milner served as a supply headquarters for the surrounding coal mines.

Farming also was strong in the area. In the early 1900s, the Hitchen brothers raised grain in the area, long before other farmers. The railroad arrived in 1910, boosting growth and, by 1912, the town had a store, a recreation hall, a barber shop, a bakery and a school. The Micheletti store was moved here from Coalview in 1923.

MOUNT HARRIS: Mount Harris, a coal company town, began in 1914 at the mouth of Bear River Canyon, between Steamboat Springs and Hayden. It was originally named Harris after the Harris Brothers who started the mine; however, the post office changed the name to Mount Harris so as not to confuse it with another town named Harris. The Colorado-Utah Coal Company, which was based at Mount Harris, was recognized nationally as a model company town. Laid out in three sections, each containing four rows of houses, most homes were painted white with grey trim and had large yards. Barns were provided along the river for families who wanted to raise livestock. Bachelors and minority groups, however, were required to live across the river in tarpaper shacks. By 1916, the town had a fire station, general store, post office, drug store, church, hotel, boarding house, and several other buildings. The community continued to grow and, in fact, was the largest town in the county in 1920 with 1,295 residents.

Tragedy struck, however, when a methane gas explosion in 1942 killed 34 miners. The mine continued to operate for another decade, but finally was closed in 1958. The town itself was dismantled to avoid paying taxes on improved land and for concerns of liability.

MYSTIC: Fred May named the settlement of Mystic in 1901 after his hometown in Iowa. Mystic was located at the head of Salt Creek and Trull Creek, where a post office operated from 1910 until 1942. The nearby Elk Mountain School operated from 1928 until the 1940s. The Elk Mountain Cemetery, located near the Fly Gulch turnoff, includes the graves of many Mystic settlers who died during a 1918 flu epidemic.

OAK CREEK: Although wagon mines were operating as early as 1887 and the Perry Mines opened around 1905, it was 1907 before three businessmen from Cripple Creek bought the B. G. Schuster Ranch at the head of Oak Creek Canyon, laid out a town site, and capitalized on the coal in the area. The three men, Sam Bell, John Sharpe, and D. C. Williams formed the Oak Creek Town, Land and Mining Company and filed a town plat. The town was incorporated that year and for a short time was first called Belltown.

The town boomed after the railroad arrived in 1908. Two-hundred residents were served by two general stores, the Pacific Hotel, a lumber yard, restaurant, barber shops, saloons, pool hall, livery stable, laundry, drug store, and dairy. A school and church were also built. Unionization efforts were initiated in 1910, and the first strike occurred in 1913, during which the militia was called in to keep order. By 1915 the town had grown to 2,000 residents. Strike worries continued. Men sent in to organize miners and encourage strikes were called "wobblies" and the strikes referred to as "wobble strikes." Troops were required to keep order on several occasions. The town boomed again from 1926 to the Depression when mines cut back and closed. Some reopened again, but in the mid 1940s, the mines started to close again and the town declined.
PLEASANT VALLEY: Mrs. Henry Monson named the Pleasant Valley area in 1886 after Pleasant Valley, California. Her family was one of the first to settle in the area. Another family, Emile and Percide Gay-Crozier, arrived from Switzerland in 1898. Four generations of the Gay family lived in the valley and descendants continued to live and ranch there in the 1990s. The original Gay family log cabin still stands in the middle of Bob Gay’s hay field. Others continued to settle until Pleasant Valley reached its peak in 1910, when twenty families lived there.

Other settlements sprung up at the mouth of each creek drainage in the valley. The community of Harrison had a store and post office in the valley and the Sarvis Timber Company operated a flume for logging along Sarvis Creek from 1912 to 1918.

Life changed in the valley in 1978 when a dam was constructed for the development of Lake Catamount. In the 1980s, the lake and agricultural valley were viewed by some as a prime site for a new ski area. The proposed Lake Catamount Ski Area is proposed for construction around the year 2000.

POOL: Pool was named in 1884 by James Hitchens for a nearby irrigation project. A post office was established at Pool in 1886 and Hitchens then served as the postmaster for 35 years. The post office was moved to Milner in 1918. The Hitchens place also served as a rest stop for freight wagons traveling between Steamboat Springs and Hayden.

PYRAMID: Located south of Dunckley Pass near the Rio Blanco County border, Pyramid was named after the pyramid-shaped peak located nearby. A post office, rest stop and horse barn existed on the Rio Blanco County side after a freight road opened over Dunckley Pass.

SIDNEY: Sidney was located eight miles south of Steamboat Springs on the main stage road from Wolcott to Steamboat Springs. A post office opened there in 1887 and the Sidney School District organized in 1894. The present school was built in 1895 and used until the 1950s. A church, blacksmith shop, creamery, and boarding house served the community in 1905. With the arrival of the railroad, Sidney became a shipping point for grain, hay, potatoes, and cattle. The construction of Highway 40 over Rabbit Ears Pass caused the demise of the community after traffic was diverted to this new route. The origin of the community name is uncertain.

SLAVONIA: The residents of Slavonia named this gold mining camp after the country from which they immigrated. The camp was located at the confluence of Gold and Gilpin Creeks near the Continental Divide at the end of Seedhouse Road, east of Glen Eden.

STAGECOACH: Stagecoach, located south of Pleasant Valley, was formed when the Stagecoach Reservoir was built in the 1960s. Originally envisioned as a companion ski area to Mount Werner ski area, condominiums were built to accommodate the skiers. The ski area never developed, and the area today serves as a commuter community for Steamboat Springs.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS: Six men led by James Crawford crossed Gore Pass into Egeria Park and into the Yampa Valley, following the Yampa River, during 1874. They traveled all the way to the present site of Craig before returning to the east and finding the springs along the shores of the river. Stopping at a bubbling spring, Crawford decided the site was conducive for a homestead and returned in 1875 with his family. He then built a cabin there on Soda Creek. That same year, while hunting deer east of the cabin, Crawford found a hot spring and constructed a small log shelter over the spring to accommodate bathers.

Trappers had earlier referred to the area as “Big Bend” because of the bend where the river starts flowing westward. The Ute Indians were certain the waters from the springs had healing powers and came in the summer calling the area “Medicine Springs.” Only one of the springs spouted water into the air and made a loud chugging sound that would give the town its name. It is not certain who named the town, but legend has it trappers heard the chugging noise and, before seeing the spring, thought they had heard a steamboat. As early as 1870 miners, trappers, and explorers traveling through the area referred to the community as Steamboat Springs.

Along with the Crawfords, five other families built cabins around the springs in 1875. Most left during the winter, though, leaving the
WHITE CITY: A mining camp just south of Pinnacle, White City served the McKindley, Tipple, and Pinnacle mines. It was owned by the Oak Creek Recreational and Development Company. Miners’ homes, a store, and two boarding houses made up the town, which never was platted or incorporated.56

WINDY POINT: Homesteaders settled this area in the 1930s and built a school. Windy Point was located off County Road 27 near Hayden.57 The road was often closed because of drifting snow. Eventually a road was built around the point.

YAMPA: Yampa was the gateway to the Flattop Mountains. Yampa was not a planned town; it grew naturally.58 It was originally called Egeria when the first claims were filed in 1881 by Peter Simon, Sam Fix, and Henry Crawford; however, the name was changed in 1886 to Yampa because of the abundance of yampa plants in the area. Yampa’s first store, Hernage’s Store, was established in that same year, when the Montgomery Ranch was the site of the first inn as well. Also in 1886, a sawmill was operating on the Yampa River.

An Indian battle was reported in Egeria Park, in 1887 or perhaps 1888, when Indians stole some horses and slaughtered cattle. Ranchers could not have survived in Yampa had it not been for the abundant wildlife, which they killed and sold to the markets in Breckenridge, Georgetown, Leadville, and Denver. Yampa’s first school was built in 1885 just north of the present cemetery. Yampa’s economy was based on the large cattle ranches in the 1880s and 1890s. The abundant forests of spruce and pine also supported a successful timber industry in the early 1900s.

In 1902, Yampa had 400 people, many of whom provided services for homesteaders who continued to arrive. Many came to construct the railroad or work in the coal fields or the lumber industry. At that point, three sawmills existed along with a brickyard. The Antlers, Royal and Monte Cristo hotels originated in 1903, as well as the Yampa Leader, a Congregational Church, and 40 homes. The town finally was incorporated in 1906.59 That same year, there were 12 sawmills in operation. The railroad reached Yampa in 1908.

In the 1920s, lettuce and spinach farming created an economic boom for the community. Large acreage surrounding Yampa produced the crops, which were transported by the railroad to other parts of the country. Many Hindus came to work in the fields. The industry declined in 1928 when the soil became depleted. By 1939, prices had fallen and a heavy freeze occurred, discouraging many from lettuce growing. Farmers abandoned the lettuce fields and took up raising hay. (See Theme 5.) The blow was somewhat buffered by tourism, which had grown since the railroad had arrived. Sportsmen came in great numbers to fish and hunt in the region.

RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS

The following historic resources may survive to interpret the general theme of Mountain Colony Settlements in the history of Routt County:

Structures may include:
• Boarding houses
• Single family houses
• Rail Depots
• Schools
• Town Halls
• Outbuildings, including barns, sheds and privies
• Stores
• Offices

Religious structures may include:
• Hayden Congregational Church, 1902
• Hayden Congregational Church, 1892
• Steamboat Springs, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1913
• Steamboat Springs, Christian Science Church, 1934.

Medical facilities may include:
• Solandt Memorial Hospital building, Hayden
• Routt Memorial Hospital, Steamboat Springs
• Oak Creek Miners Hospital, 1920s.

Sites may include:
• Town sites
• Cemeteries

Districts include:
• Residential neighborhoods
• Commercial districts
F.M. Light & Sons stands adjacent to the Routt National Forest offices in Steamboat Springs in this 1940s photo. Photo: Courtesy of the Routt County Collection/Tread of Pioneers Museum.

1 Comments from public meeting, August 1, 1993, Clark, by Bill May.
7 Dee Richards, "School days! School days! Dear old Golden Rule days!," in The Steamboat Pilot, 19__.
9 "One of Early Day Schools Was Organized in Pleasant Valley," __________.
10 "Sidney School Was Organized in 1894," __________.
11 "Story of Routt County’s Early Schools is Story of Emma Peck,"
15 Ibid., 141.
16 Ibid., 98.
18 Stanko, et al., The Historical Guide to Routt County, 134.
19 Ibid., 110.
20 Ibid., 124.
23 Ibid.
THEME 10
SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS
(1914 - 1943)

Historic Overview

The earliest settlers in Routt County brought their own form of culture to the land. During the mining era, the bar room was the social center and meeting place for many workers. As the towns developed and more families arrived, the community school house became the gathering place for social events. Dinners, dances, and meetings were held at the schoolhouse and residents of all ages participated. In ranching areas, grange halls also provided sites for community gatherings. Finally, formal theaters and assembly halls were constructed, some associated with hotels, and others with fraternal organizations. Although many cultural events were with homegrown talent, others drew upon serious students and professionals. More formal cultural institutions developed in the county as well, including arts organizations, historical societies and libraries.

Arts and Culture

One of the most notable cultural events in Routt County was the advent of the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School. Portia Mansfield and Charlotte Perry brought “culture” to Routt County in 1914 when they established the School in Strawberry Park, just north of Steamboat Springs, where they combined the instruction of modern dance and drama with horsemanship and a camping experience. The dance camp was quite controversial among some townspeople, who thought perhaps things were too “wild” out at the camp. The local Temperance Society, which was prominent in Steamboat Springs, and a local preacher criticized the camp and the “dancing girls” (an image in those days associated with women who danced in saloons), and tried to minimize their influence in the community. But there is no doubt that the camp, with its collection of talent, had an effect on the town. The dancers socialized with the cowboys, who taught them to square dance and students at the camp presented performances and artwork that broadened the town’s view of art.

One symbol of cooperation was a series of square dance festivals, which were held in the 1950s. Thousands of people from across the nation attended the festivals, which were held downtown on Lincoln Avenue in Steamboat Springs and which had been inspired by the Perry-Mansfield dancers. According to longtime resident Gloria Gossard, “The people that have lived here always felt a cultural influence that so many little towns could never have had without something like Perry-Mansfield Camp to spur them on.”

The camp has continued operations since its beginning and continues today, making it the oldest continuing dance camp in the nation.

Steamboat Springs Arts Council

Many theater and gallery groups developed in the county to promote the arts. Many of these gained a stronger voice when the Steamboat Springs Arts and Humanities Council was created to act as an advocate for the arts. Eleanor Bliss, a 1920s Perry-Mansfield camper who had settled in Steamboat Springs, was extremely important in the arts community and instrumental in creating the council. In 1972, Eleanor helped found the Steamboat Springs Arts and Humanities Council, which today serves as an umbrella organization for almost a dozen arts groups. The Arts Council makes its home in the historic Depot at 13th and Stockbridge, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Arts Council has several affiliate groups, including the Perry-Mansfield School and Camp, Strings in the Mountains, a writers’ group, dance groups, a theatre group, and a children’s festival.

Theatre

Theatre has been popular in Routt County for many years. Many communities had, at one time, stages in hotels, lodges or opera halls that accommodated performances. Many productions were home-grown, relying on local talent in musicals and melodramas. An example of this tradition of local theatre is at the Royal Egerian Hotel in Yampa. Other presentations


APPENDIX A

THEME 3

RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS
(MINING: GOLD AND SILVER)

Ruins of mines on Hahns Peak
Hahns Peak Village (structures)
Columbine
powder house (store dynamite)
rusted iron
open tunnels
many mine shafts and buildings were burned “as required by law for companies obtaining new, government subsidized, prospecting permits in the 1960’s

Gold/silver
Columbine - North Routt
Elkhead and Elkhorn Mines - North Routt
Farwell Mine - North Routt
Greenville Mine - North Routt
Hahns Peak Village - North Routt
Lulu Mine - North Routt
Master Key Mine - North Routt
Royal Flush Mine - North Routt - tipple
Slavonia and Gold Basin - North Routt
Site- Mining/Trash - Hahns Peak
House - Ruins- Rattlesnake Butte

Coal Lease - Buildings - Dunckley
Juniper Mine/Federal Mine - Oak Creek
Coal Lease - Shed/Ruins - Mount Harris
Coal Lease - Corral - Mount Harris
Coal Lease - Barn/House/Ruins-Mount Harris
Osage Mine - Strip mine - Milner
Black Dan Mine - Strip Mine - Milner
Coal Lease - Privy - Rattlesnake Butte
Coal Explor. - Little Snake
Coal Mine - Foundation - Rattlesnake Butte
Coal Mine - Foundation/Well - Rattlesnake Butte
Coal Mine - Rattlesnake Butte
Coal Mine - Well - Rattlesnake Butte
Core Hole - Silo/Storage bin - Rattlesnake Butte
Foidel Creek Mine Structures - Rattlesnake Butte
Foidel Creek Mine Silo/Storage bin - Rattlesnake Butte
Mine - Castor Gulch

A survey of all the historic wagon mines is available at the Tread of Pioneers Museum.

APPENDIX B

THEME 3

RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS
(MINING: COAL)

Miscellaneous Resources:

Union halls
Mine sites
Conveyors
historic landscapes
Mt. Harris Townsite - West Routt
Oak Creek Coal Mines - South Routt
White City/Pinnacle - South Routt
Coal Lease - House-Ruins-Oak Creek
Coal Lease - Root Cellar-Dunckley
Coal Lease - Tree Carving - Dunckley
Coal Lease - Camp-Archeol.- Dunckley
Coal Lease - Mine/Dump - Dunckley
Coal Lease - Buildings - Dunckley

APPENDIX C

THEME 5

RESOURCE TYPES AND LOCATIONS
(CATTLE RANCHING)

Lake Catamount - Hart property
Rehder Ranch - Lake Catamount
Pil Al Ranch - Gore Mountain
Barbwire Fence - Lynx Pass
Structures - Log Bunkhouse - Toponas
Buck & Pole Fence - Lynx Pass
Pedersen Place - Ranch Complex - Blacktail
Mountain - Stagecoach Reservoir
Black Place - Ranch Complex - Stagecoach Reservoir
McKnight Place - Ranch Complex - Stagecoach Reservoir
New Seedhouse Station - 1933 (CCC)

Summit Creek Ranger Station, on the road to Savery was built in 1912 and is still in use. It is on the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites.

California Park Guard Station

Lynx Pass Station - 1934

Bear River Guard Station - 1939

Hahns Peak Lookout at the top of Hahns Peak was built in 1912 and is on the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites.

Sarvis Timber Co. ruined splash dams and log chutes are listed on the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites. The mill site was at the east end of Steamboat Springs.

Sawmills

Sand Mountain
Picket Mountain
East of Crane Park
Clark
Brookstone (Saddle Mountain)
Columbine
Gardner
American Timber Sawmill - Green Ridge
Greer Sawmill
Yampa and Toponas each had several sawmills
Majila Camp - a 1945 community of Minnesotans
Fairview - 1950s and 1960s (kept Steamboat Springs alive when there were no other activities)
Diamond Park

CCC work
stonework above gate to Bear River Guard Station
Below Yamacola Reservoir near Dome Mountain
West end of Steamboat Springs
foundations on Vista Verde
camp at Hinman Park
government roads

Tie Camps
Whiskey Park

APPENDIX E

THEME 9

MOUNTAIN COLONY SETTLEMENTS

Miscellaneous resources

Bear River Townsite/Pumphouse - West Routt
Clark - North Routt
Clark Cemetery - North Routt
Deep Creek Cemetery - North Routt
Elk Mountain Cemetery - North Routt
Fairplay Cemetery - West Routt
Hahns Peak Cemetery - North Routt
Hahns Peak Village - North Routt
Hayden Pioneer Cemetery - West Routt
McGregor - South Routt
Pagoda - Southwest Routt
Pool - West Routt
Steamboat Springs Cemetery - Steamboat Springs
Volcano - South Routt
Yampa Cemetery - South Routt
Zulian Houses - West Routt
Camp - Structures - Oak Creek
Log Cabin - Misc. structures - Ruins - Lynx Pass
Harry Frazell - Homestead - Ruins - Clark House - Log house ruins - Hayden Gulch
Neske Homestead - Log house - Hayden Gulch

APPENDIX F

THEME 8

WINTER SPORTS

Miscellaneous Resources:

Howelsen Hill - Steamboat Springs
Howelsen Lodge - Steamboat Springs
Lift Shack at Howelsen Hill - Steamboat Springs: designed by Reginald “Fex” Gill built a low, two-pitched roof building for the towhouse in 1947 at the same time clearing was taking place for the ski runs and towers were being erected. The “chateau” style
Milner Bank & Trust - 8th & Lincoln
F. M. Light & Sons - 1905
Lyon Drug - 1908
J. W. Hugus & Company - 9th & Lincoln - 1897
Courthouse - 1922
Harwigs Saddlery & Western Wear - early 1890s
Steamboat Springs Depot - 1909 - National Register of Historic Places
Winter Carnival - 1914
Steamboat Springs Health & Recreation
Chief Theatre
Allen's Clothing - previously theatre
Schaffnit Residence - 405 Oak Street - Steamboat Springs
Crawford House #3 - 1184 Crawford - Steamboat Springs
Crawford House #4 - 1184 Crawford - Steamboat Springs
Archie Wither Home - 153 Maple St. - Steamboat Springs
F. M. Light House - 204 Park Ave. - Steamboat Springs
House - 344 Pine St. - Steamboat Springs
Crawford House #2 - 329 12th Street - Steamboat Springs
Sunny side: Grave/cemetery
Toponas
Trapper
Trull: Fly Gulch School moved to Strawberry Park Elementary School in Steamboat Springs
White City: The bed of a railroad spur built up to the McKindley Tippie remains a major access into White City which is listed in the Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites.

Windy Point
Yampa
Royal Hotel 1903
Montgomery Store
Lettuce Sheds
Blacksmith shop
Van Camp House 1884
Congregational Church 1902
Parsonage - Congregational Church
Millinery Shop 1902
Saloon
Amanda Fix Home 1888
Montgomery General Store 1888
Antlers Hotel 1902
Yampa Pharmacy
Ochampaugh Store 1886
Log Cabin Home pre 1900
Yampa Bank 1904
Creamery early 1900s

Masonic Lodge
Ladies Aide Hall
Beamis Homestead 1884, 1891
Nazarene Church
U. S. Forest Service
Brick home

APPENDIX I

THEME 9

MOUNTAIN COLONY SETTLEMENTS - COMMERCE

Miscellaneous Resources:

Milner Store - West Routt
Bell Mercantile - South Routt - National Register
Oak Creek Inn - South Routt
Bernards Gas Station - South Routt
Hamidy - South Routt
Bank Building - Oak Creek
B&B Self Serv. Gas station - Oak Creek
VFW - Fraternal lodge - Oak Creek
Elks Tavern - Saloon-Bar - Oak Creek
Town & Country - Commercial Bldg - Oak Creek
Spiros - Commercial Bld - Oak Creek
Villa Prop. - Commercial Bld - Oak Creek
Hageman Garage - Commercial Bld - Oak Creek
Lions Club - Fraternal Lodge - Oak Creek
Swain Prop. - Commercial Bld - Oak Creek
Merit Drug - Auto Show Room - Oak Creek
Curry Apts. - Apartment/Condo - Oak Creek
Albany Hotel/Odd Fellows Bld - 600 Lincoln
Safeway/Shortbranch Saloon - 744 Lincoln Steamboat Springs
Maxwell Building - 840 Lincoln - Steamboat Springs
Steamboat Laundry - 127 11th St. - Steamboat Springs
Bartz Hotel/Pioneer Hotel - 737 Lincoln - Steamboat Springs
1st Nat'l Bank - 803 Lincoln - Steamboat Springs
Pilot Printing - 1009 Lincoln - Steamboat Springs
Hahns Peak District Office - Steamboat Springs
Garage/Dairy - Steamboat Springs
## APPENDIX K
### DITCHES

### TWELVE MOST SENIOR WATER RIGHTS IN ROUTT COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AdminNumber</th>
<th>ADJ DATE</th>
<th>APPRO DATE</th>
<th>COURT NO</th>
<th>DECREED AMT</th>
<th>USES COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAMS IRRIG DITCH (ID=522)</td>
<td>1116.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>10/20/1883</td>
<td>2.5100 CFS</td>
<td>1 BEAR RIVER DITCH RIGHT. TP MARESALL ROBERTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARSHALL ROBERTS DITCH (ID=563)</td>
<td>1116.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>10/20/1883</td>
<td>8.7900 CFS</td>
<td>1 TP BEAR RIVER DITCH. 2.51 CFS TP WILLIAMS DITCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>WALKER IRRIG DITCH (ID=611)</td>
<td>111809.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>05/01/1882</td>
<td>8.7500 CFS</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>BROCK DITCH (ID=508)</td>
<td>12142.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>03/10/1883</td>
<td>4.5000 CFS</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOAST PUMPING PLANT (ID=628)</td>
<td>12158.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>04/15/1883</td>
<td>0.4500 CFS</td>
<td>1 PUMPING PLANT TP SHELTON D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHELTON DITCH (ID=592)</td>
<td>12158.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>04/15/1883</td>
<td>6.6900 CFS</td>
<td>1 ALT PT .26 CFS @ WILLIAMS PUMP W1203 AND HAYDEN INTAKE 81CW339</td>
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<tr>
<td>BURBACK D &amp; PUMP PLANT (ID=509)</td>
<td>12158.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>04/15/1883</td>
<td>0.3600 CFS</td>
<td>1 TP SHELTON D</td>
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<tr>
<td>MILL DITCH 1 (ID=777)</td>
<td>12198.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>05/25/1883</td>
<td>2.9300 CFS</td>
<td>1 BEAR RIVER [Mile 237.35] NW SW SEC 22, T2N, R85W [PALMER, DICK]</td>
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<tr>
<td>WOOLEY DITCH (ID=945)</td>
<td>12198.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>05/25/1883</td>
<td>0.7100 CFS</td>
<td>1 BEAR RIVER [Mile 238.58] SW NW SEC 28, T2N, R85W [SCHALWUS, OTTO]</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIX DITCH (ID=643)</td>
<td>12198.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>05/25/1883</td>
<td>1.2000 CFS</td>
<td>1 TP MILL D NO 1</td>
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<td>PENNSYLVANIA DITCH (ID=821)</td>
<td>12210.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>06/06/1883</td>
<td>5.3000 CFS</td>
<td>1 BEAR RIVER [Mile 236.33] NE NE SEC 22, T2N, R85W [HINKLE, DON]</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATSON CREEK DITCH (ID=921)</td>
<td>12218.00000</td>
<td>09/22/1892</td>
<td>06/14/1883</td>
<td>0.7500 CFS</td>
<td>1 WATSON CK [Mile 233.51] SW NW SEC 3, T2N, R85W [MOORE, FRANCIS]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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