



Project Report

Mt. Harris: First Thing First Building the Database

Report Date: 03/15/2023



Hayden Heritage Center. "Mount Harris Panoramic." Circa 1920s.

Contents:

1. Project Overview
 - Information from the grant and Historic Routt County (HRC) MOU
2. Site Evaluation
 - Buildings and Site History
3. Data Gathering/Site Procedures
 - Methodology
 - Findings
 - Site Photos Historic
 - Site Photos Current
4. Data Management
 - House Templates
5. Appendix

www.historicrouttcounty.org

PO BOX 775717 | Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477 | (970) 875-1305



1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Team:

Project Lead

Karen Whitney

Property Owner

Historic Routt County

Kelly Halpin

kelly@historicrouttcounty.org

Director

Hayden Heritage Center

Laurel Watson

haydenmuseum@zirkel.us

Director

University of Colorado Denver

Adriana Ulloa

adriana.ulloa@ucdenver.edu

R. Assoc.

Ekaterini Vlahos

kat.vlahos@ucdenver.edu

Professor

Project Location:

Mount Harris Site

15235 US Highway 40, Hayden, CO 81639

Project Dates:

Grant Awarded:

March 11, 2022

Site Visit:

Oct 29, 2022

Project Development:

March 2022 - March 2023

Project Delivery:

Mar 15, 2023



"Site Visit with owner Karen Whitney" (pictured). Mt. Harris, CO. 2022.



"Current Photo of landscape." Mt. Harris, CO. 2022.

www.historicrouttcounty.org

PO BOX 775717 | Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477 | (970) 875-1305



2. SITE EVALUATION: Buildings and Site History



Hayden Heritage Center. "Mt. Harris looking from the houses to the mountains." Mt. Harris, CO. Circa early 1900s.

Mount Harris was founded in 1914 when the Colorado-Utah Coal Company purchased the land to begin a coal mining venture. Two brothers from Iowa, Byron and George Harris, were in charge of developing this mining town which would become home to many people over the next 44 years.

Mount Harris was noted as a "model coal camp." The streets were wide and tree-lined, and a large natural grove of cottonwood trees was made into a playground. The residential area was planned out generously, allowing homes to be scattered for more than half a mile, each with liberal yards and gardens for each family. A baseball park in the center of

town was home to one of the best teams in the Yampa Valley League, and the sand rocks from the Gibraltar rocks below the town were used to build the business district. A single rock building housed a mine office, general store, drug store, pool hall, barber shop, and post office, each business having its own separate entrance. Two doctors were in residence, with one on call at all times. A unique two-level filling station serviced Highway 40 from the top level and local town residents from the lower level. The town also boasted three boarding houses and a community center for dances, meetings, and movies. In 1916, the coal company built a four-room grade school.



2. SITE EVALUATION: Buildings and Site History



Hayden Heritage Center. *"Mt. Harris looking North from the across the river."* Mt. Harris, CO. 1940.

Two other mines operated in the area employing Mount Harris residents. The original Colorado-Utah Coal mine operated from 1914 to 1958, with its entrance on the south side of the Yampa River. The Wadge mine was opened in 1887 by James and his wife, Sarah Jane, who homesteaded the land. The Wadge mine entrance was on the north side of present-day Highway 40 and operated until 1942, when a disastrous explosion occurred, taking the lives of 34 miners. The Wolf Creek Mine ran from 1915 until 1942 and was located up the draw north of the Wadge Mine.

The tunnel mining era ended on May 20, 1958, when the Mt. Harris Coal Company auctioned

off the entire town. The houses and mining equipment were sold and moved, and the town of Mount Harris became only a memory for those who lived there.

The narrative of Mt. Harris makes the landscape come alive when you pass by the blank canvas of this once-vibrant community. Karen Whitney, the current owner of the former Mt. Harris site, initiated the concept behind the project to locate and chronicle as many of the Mt. Harris homes as possible before the history is lost. While locating and documenting homes, the story of Mt. Harris evolved, creating the context of understanding for this cultural landscape in Northwest Colorado.



2. SITE EVALUATION: Buildings and Site History



Hayden Heritage Center. *"Mount Harris Homes Plan View."* Mt. Harris, CO. 1920.

The story unfolded as we spoke with relatives of former residents and located some of the homes of the largest coal company town in Routt County. The land is now privately owned but still holds remnants of the past occupants visible upon the landscape. Many homes auctioned off in 1958 were moved to nearby locations within the region and used as housing and outbuildings or were dismantled and used for lumber. The buildings tell the story of how the communities in Northwest Colorado developed, and it is crucial to document the remaining structures before they disappear. Northwest Colorado, like other areas, has seen rapid growth along with gentrification. More demolition permits are requested than

historical designations are issued, and many of these structures have yet to stand the test of time.

First Thing First: Building the Database for Mount Harris, was made possible by a generous grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We would also like to thank Karen Whitney, the current owner of the former Mt. Harris site, for having the vision to initiate this project in a partnership between Historic Routt County, The Hayden Heritage Center in Hayden, Colorado, and The University of Colorado, Denver, Architecture Department.

3. DATA GATHERING AND GENERAL SITE PROCEDURES

Methodology & Findings

The initial research focused on existing materials gathered by Historic Routt County and the Hayden Heritage Center. Materials included historic photographs, oral histories, and personal accounts by former residents of Mt. Harris during a summer gathering in 2021. Additional materials were gathered from the Denver Public Library Western History Collection and History Colorado archives. Historic Routt County and the Hayden Heritage Center reached out to local residents through their organization’s websites, and local newspaper ads requesting addresses to known houses moved from the mining town. A database of existing Mount Harris homes was developed from former Mt. Harris homes in Craig, Hayden, Oak Creek, and Steamboat Springs.

A trip to the northwestern part of the state included:

- Visiting the former Mount Harris town.
- Requesting access to Mount Harris homes currently occupied.
- Measuring homes in Steamboat Springs and Hayden.
- Creating a template for drawing the houses.



Hayden Heritage Center. “A vehicle transporting a house.” Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1955. Mt. Harris, CO.

ENTIRE MODERN MINE AND MILL MACHINERY & EQPT. OF THE MT. HARRIS CO.
Formerly Owned by THE COLORADO & UTAH COAL CO. MT. HARRIS, COLO.
Located 17 Miles West of Steamboat Springs, Colo., 26 Miles East of Craig, Colo., U. S. Highway 40
300 MILES WEST OF DENVER

ONE OF THE FINEST MODERN MINE AND MILL OPERATIONS IN THE ENTIRE STATE OF COLORADO
TUES., MAY 20 STARTS AT 10 A.M. (M.S.T.)
INSPECTION DAILY FROM MAY 12th
DAVID WEISZ CO. Auctioneers
540 SAN JULIAN ST. MILENGO, COLO.

TIPPLE BUILDING - 100' x 80' - ALL STEEL
Bolted & Riveted Construction, Galvan. Steel Covered, Appr. 50' High.
NOTE: DESIGNED AND BUILT BY LINK BEEY.

CAR DUMP BUILDING — 150' x 30'. All Steel Bolted and Riveted Construction. Galvanized Steel Covered.
HOIST BUILDINGS — ALUMINUM — 18' x 24' and 18' x 28'.
CARPENTER SHOP BUILDING — 90' x 28'. Wood Frame Construction. Tin Wall, Wood Frame.
MACHINE AND ELECTRICAL SHOP BUILDING — 60' x 40'. Stucco and Cinder Block Walls, Wood Frame Roof. Asphalt Roofing.
ELECTRICAL BUILDING — 50' x 30'. Wood Frame, Corrugated Covered Roof with Hollow Tile Walls.
CHURCH BUILDING — 50' x 28'. Frame and Composition Roof.
OFFICE, MARKET AND POSTOFFICE BUILDING — 150' x 10'. Two-thirds, 2 Story. One-third, 1 Story.

STORE FIXTURES
BUTCHER EQUIPMENT — Globe Slicer, Slicer, Saws, Cases, Display Containers, Koch 15 ft. Porcelain Meat Display Case, 6' x 2' Beverage Booth with Units.

(1) ALL STEEL CONVEYOR BUILDINGS, 175' and 145' 17' x 8'. Steel Catenary, Bolted and Riveted Construction, Galvanized Iron Covered.
(2) MACHINE SHOP BUILDINGS — 60' x 40'. Wood Frame, Galvanized Iron Covered.
MACHINE AND ELECTRICAL SHOP BUILDING — 60' x 40'. Stucco, Cinder Block, Composition Roof, Tin Floor Covered.
CARPENTER SHOP BUILDING — 90' x 24'. Wood Frame, Composition Roof.
POWER HOUSE BUILDING — 56' x 40'. Steel Construction, Bolted Steel Truss, Galvanized Steel Roof, Hollow Tile Walls.
BOILER HOUSE BUILDING — 150' x 40'. Corrugated covered on one side, Frame Construction, Corrugated Steel Roof.

(37) FRAME HOUSES — Composition Roofs
(2) 2 ROOM
(12) 4 ROOM
(13) 5 ROOM
(10) 6 ROOM
(9) 7 ROOM
(1) 8 ROOM
(4) 2 ROOM APARTMENTS
Appr. 10 ROOM HOTEL

(20) STUCCO HOUSES — Composition Roofs
(10) 4 ROOM
(3) 5 ROOM
(5) 6 ROOM
(3) 7 ROOM

(13) WITH BATHS
(1) 2 ROOM

CORRUGATED COVERED GARAGES

STEEL BRIDGE
To Be Sold At This FABULOUS AUCTION
235 FT. LONG - 22 FT. WIDE

CATERPILLAR D4, 7U SERIES TRACTOR — With Cat. Front End Power Unit, Austin Dredgbot Loader, Angle Digger, Safety Cab, 1900 Hours.
'53 INTERNATIONAL 1 1/2 TON DUMP
'46 INTERNAT'L KB 2 1/4 TON DUMP
'46 INTERNATIONAL 1 1/2 TON DUMP
'46 CHEVROLET 1 1/2 TON DUMP.

PLANT & MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT
SHAW BOX 15-TON OVERHEAD TRAVELING CRANE — 25 ft. Spm, 3-Way Travel.
HOME 18-TON PLATFORM SCALE.
TIMBER CIRCULAR SAW — 30" CAP. Invert Tooth Blades, V Belt Drive, with Motor.
AMERICAN COMBINATION TABLE SAW AND JOINTER.
DERRICK WITH 80 FT. MAST.
Car Movers — Re-Batteries — Rail Bender.
Snatch Blocks — Power Crane Equip.
Sill Saw — Simplex 3 to 50 Ton Jacks.
Gear Reducer, Heaters, Fire Hose, Fluorescent Lights, Etc., Etc.

OFFICE & ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT
Desks, Chairs, Steel Files, Calculator, Typewriter, Adding Machine, Check Writer, (4) Safes, Drafting Machine and Tables, Engineering Tables, Transit Levels, Targets, Tapes, Etc., Etc. PHONE SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PLANT.

Hayden Heritage Center. “Sales Brochure of Mt. Harris Houses and other buildings.” Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1958.

3. DATA GATHERING: Historic Site Photographs



Hayden Heritage Center. *"Mount Harris looking SW with boarding Houses in the foreground and miner's homes behind."* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1940s.



Hayden Heritage Center. *"Mt. Harris and Tipple mine works, power plant in the foreground looking north."* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1930s/1940s.

3. DATA GATHERING: Historic Site Photographs



Hayden Heritage Center. *"The original school, wood siding."* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1920s.



Hayden Heritage Center. *"New school built in 1930s after the first school burnt down."* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1940s.

3. DATA GATHERING: Historic Site Photographs

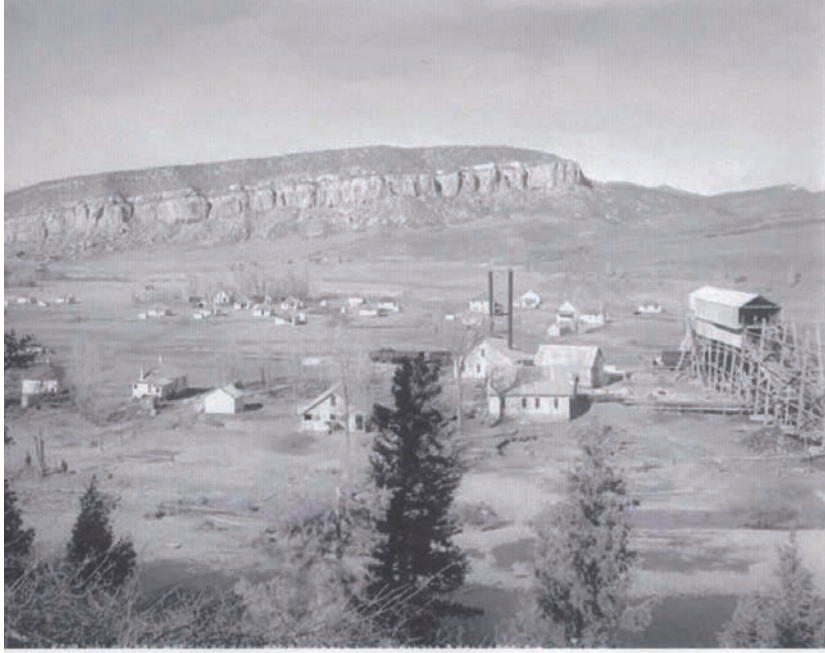


Hayden Heritage Center. *"Home of Byron Harris (later became the mine managers residence) before 2nd story addition,"* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1914.



Hayden Heritage Center. *"Same house as above after addition of the second story,"* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1920s.

3. DATA GATHERING: Historic Site Photographs



Hayden Heritage Center. *"Partially erected tibble"* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1915.



Hayden Heritage Center. *"Typical Miner's Home."* Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1920s.

3. DATA GATHERING: Historic/Current



Hayden Heritage Center. "Ice rink in the winter created by flooding the field with homes in the background." Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1920.



Hayden Heritage Center. "Sledding Hill with homes on top of the hill." Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1920.

3. DATA GATHERING: Historic Site Photographs



Hayden Heritage Museum. "Mine Plant." Mt. Harris, CO. Circa 1940s.



"Mount Harris, CO Site Visit, same location as photograph above." Mt. Harris, CO. 2022.

4. DATA MANAGEMENT: House Templates



Current Location: 124 Hill St,
Steamboat Springs, CO
80487

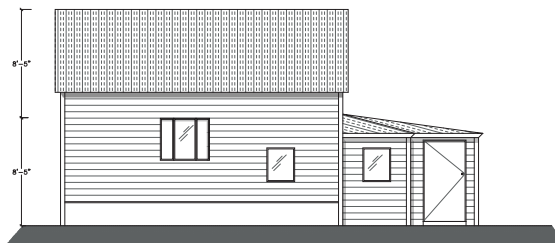
Current Owner: Betsy Rapp

Current Use: Family Residence

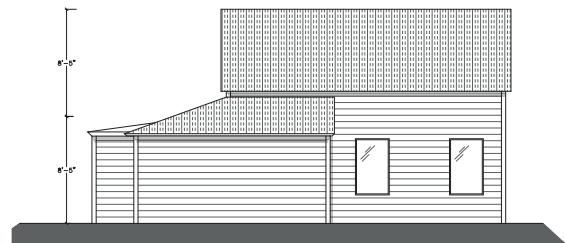
Status: Existent/ Redeveloped



FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

4. DATA MANAGEMENT: House Templates

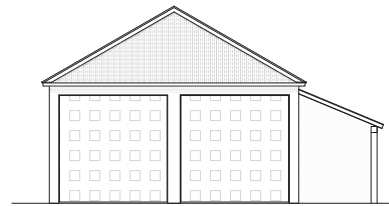


Current Location: 112 W Lincoln Ave
Hayden, CO 81639

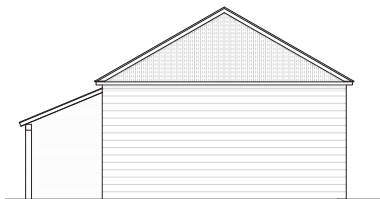
Current Owner: Stephan Logan

Current Use: Storage

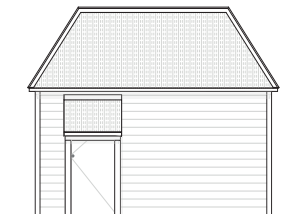
Status: Existent



FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



4. DATA MANAGEMENT: House Templates

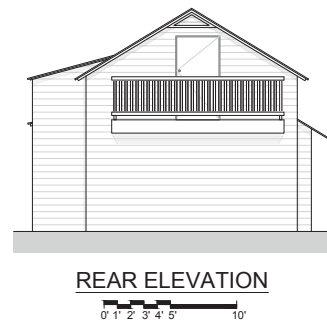
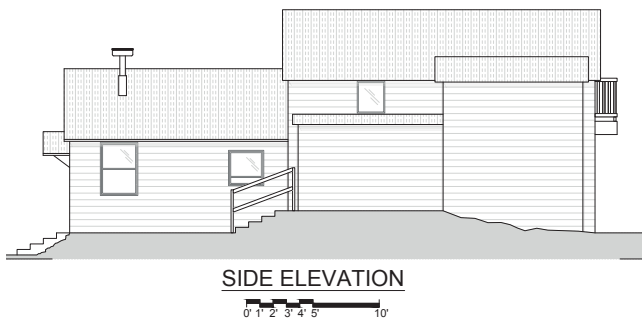
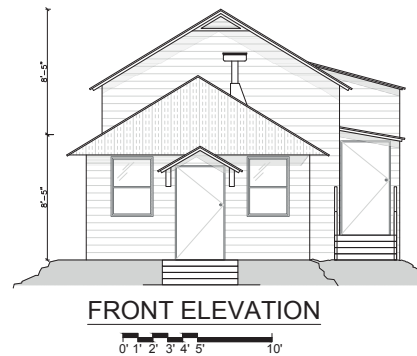


Current Location: 253 Hill St,
Steamboat Springs, CO
80487

Current Owner: Kay L Wagner

Current Use: No Information

Status: Existent



4. DATA MANAGEMENT: House Templates

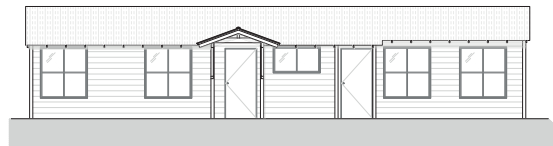


Current Location: 6 Spruce St,
Steamboat Springs, CO
80487

Current Owner: Ken & Wendy Kowynia

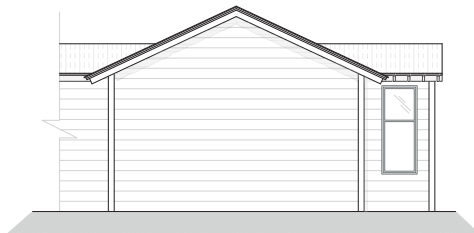
Current Use: Residential

Status: Existent



FRONT ELEVATION

0' 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 10'



SIDE ELEVATION

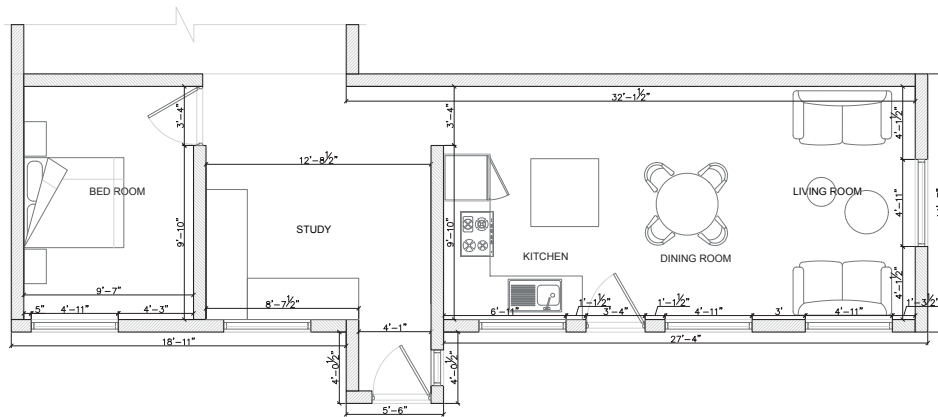
0' 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 10'



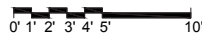
SIDE ELEVATION

0' 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 10'

4. DATA MANAGEMENT: House Templates



FLOOR PLAN 1 LEVEL



"Photographs of the Kowynia House," Steamboat Springs, CO. Site Visit, 2022.

During this visit, the property owners Mr. & Mrs. Kowynia, shared valuable information about their house with us. This Mount Harris building is a 2x4 single family house construction. The owners built an addition where the living room and dining stand today; initially, this house had one bedroom (which they kept in the original place), a living room that is now a study room, and the kitchen, which according to the owners was small for their needs, so they decided to extend and remodel it. The roof structure needed a new beam that supports the new roof structure, but they kept the original bedroom division with the door.



5. APPENDIX

There are 63 buildings noted in the research auctioned from Mt. Harris in 1958, but we do not have addresses or specifics on the auction. Current and former residents identified the homes on the spreadsheet.

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Residential 2 bed, 1 bath	Status (E, D, or R) R	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 269 River Rd # 1, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Paula Rapp
Owner Contact Info rappaula1@gmail.com	Square Footage 841 sqft	Notes

Current Use Not Specified	Status (E, D, or R) R	Bldg Type Not Specified
Current Location (address) 22215 County RD 52E Steamboat Springs, CO 80487-9437		Current Owner William J. Badaracca
Owner Contact Info fairsquareoffice@gmail.com	Square Footage	Notes Moved in 1929

Current Use Residential	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 235 N Poplar St, Hayden, CO 81639		Current Owner Patrick & Denise Turton
Owner Contact Info denise_turton@hotmail.com	Square Footage	Notes



5. APPENDIX

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Residential	Status (E, D, or R) R	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 253 Hill St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Kay Lynn Wagner
Owner Contact Info contactus@ mountainsoapfactory.com	Square Footage 1/910 sqft	Notes

Welch

Current Use Residential 2 bed, 1 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 124 Hill St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80484		Current Owner Betsy M. Rapp
Owner Contact Info 970-879-5891	Square Footage 980 sqft	Notes House Sold 04/28/22, built in 1910

Current Use Residential 3 bed, 3 bath	Status (E, D, or R) R	Bldg Type Not Specified
Current Location (address) 140 S. Walnut St, Hayden, CO 81639		Current Owner Essam Welch
Owner Contact Info essamwelch@gmail.com	Square Footage 4,018 sqft	Notes Can't find in assessor database



5. APPENDIX

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Residential	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 749 Washington Ave, Hayden, CO 81639		Current Owner Nancy Pogline & Margaret B. Bertram
Owner Contact Info 970-846-0462	Square Footage 1,224 sqft	Notes Mt. Harris former residents: Roy & Dena Angelo

Current Use Residential 4bed, 2 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 303 Pine St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Sally M. Rawlings
Owner Contact Info gregrawing@yahoo.com	Square Footage 1,596 sqft	Notes https://agner.co.routt.co.us/assessor/taxweb/account.jsp?accountNum=R6771370

Current Use Residential 3 bed, 1 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 101 W. Lincoln Ave., Hayden, CO 81639		Current Owner Alicia K. Penrose & Matt Heiner
Owner Contact Info aliciakpenrose@gmail.com	Square Footage 1,265 sqft	Notes Recently remodeled interiors



5. APPENDIX

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Church	Status (E, D, or R) D	Bldg Type O
Current Location (address) 846 Oak St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner St Paul's Episcopal "Old Stone Church"
Owner Contact Info N/A	Square Footage Not Specified	Notes Steamboat Pilot Article

Current Use Wood Barn two story	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type O
Current Location (address) 399 E Jefferson Ave Hayden, CO 81639		Current Owner Brian & Shauna Watterson
Owner Contact Info bwatterson13@msn.com; shaunna.watterson@ticus.com	Square Footage 450 sqft	Notes Available to show their house, they use the barn for storage.

Current Use Residential 2 bed, 1 bath	Status (E, D, or R) R	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 38955 Pine St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Yvonne Carrouth
Owner Contact Info mycarrouth@hotmail.com	Square Footage 1,186 sqft	Notes Built in 1930



5. APPENDIX

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Guest House	Status (E, D, or R) R	Bldg Type O
Current Location (address) 532 Pine St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Brian & Portia Bonebrake
Owner Contact Info jefogliano@comcast.net (970-846-7745); ediefogliano@gmail.com (970-734-4535)	Square Footage 2,192 sqft	Notes Joe & Edie Fogliano were former owners (520 Pine St., SS CO)

Current Use Residential 3 bed, 2 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 512 1/2 Pine St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Brian T. & Karen J. Feeney
Owner Contact Info 303-807-8494	Square Footage 1,306 sqft	Notes Remodeled interior in 1997.

Current Use Residential 2 bed, 2 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 101 S 4th St, Hayden, CO 81639		Current Owner Alicia Soroka
Owner Contact Info sorokamiss@gmail.com	Square Footage 1,322 sqft	Notes



5. APPENDIX

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Residential	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 1920 N. Yampa, Craig, CO 81625		Current Owner Timothy Edward Miles
Owner Contact Info 970-824-6300	Square Footage 1,275 sqft	Notes Built in 1944 and was last sold in 1995

Current Use Residential	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 610 Pershing St Craig, CO 81625		Current Owner Not Specified
Owner Contact Info Not Specified	Square Footage 2,559 sqft	Notes Jeannie Higgins lived there 34 years and stated 3 or 4 houses next to it are also Mt Harris houses

Current Use Non Existant	Status (E, D, or R) D	Bldg Type O
Current Location (address) School Building		Current Owner N/A
Owner Contact Info N/A	Square Footage N/A	Current Use Sold for a penny per brick. Bricks were disintegrating.



5. APPENDIX

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Residential 3 bed, 1 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 1221 13th St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Rockton 1221 13th, LLC
Owner Contact Info 2801 N. 11th St, Erie, CO 80516 sallytestrake@gmail.com	Square Footage 1,320 sqft	Notes Built 1940. Frame, wood siding house. Sally Testrake bought it from Leo Snowden in 1992, sold it in 2005.

Current Use Residential 1 bed, 1 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 1020 Thornburg St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner 1020 Thorburg, LLC
Owner Contact Info Tracy Andrew 864-346-8540	Square Footage 520 sqft	Notes https://agner.co.routt.co.us/assessor/taxweb/account.jsp?accountNum=R6776409

Current Use Residential 3 bed, 2 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 6 Spruce St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Wendy and Ken Kowynia
Owner Contact Info 970-870-6045	Square Footage 1,824 sqft	Notes Built in 1910. The owners allowed us to document their house in 2022.



5. APPENDIX

KEY: E= Existant - D= Demolished **KEY:** SF= Single Family
 R= Remodeled O= Other

Current Use Residential 4 bed, 3 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 430 3rd St, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner James Lewis
Owner Contact Info lewis.jojo@gmail.com	Square Footage 2,522 sqft	Notes Moved in 1938. Addition was placed in early 1970's

Current Use Sheds Wary of Public Access	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type O
Current Location (address) 41590 Co Rd 44, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Adonna & Troy Allen; Marsha & John ("Doc") Daughenbaugh
Owner Contact Info Rocking-C Bar Ranch 773-870-6585	Square Footage	Notes https://agner.co.routt.co.us/assessor/taxweb/account.jsp?accountNum=R8180219

Current Use Residential 3 bed, 2 bath	Status (E, D, or R) E	Bldg Type SF
Current Location (address) 244 Missouri Ave, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487		Current Owner Linda Curzon
Owner Contact Info 970-846-9253	Square Footage 1,306 sqft	Notes Built in 1907