



A, D, F, G, & J. ROUTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
522 Lincoln Avenue, Steamboat Springs

Colorado's first governor, John L. Routt, appointed the first Routt County Commissioners, who, in 1877, held their first meeting in Hayden in a 14 x 16-foot log structure. An election moved the County seat to Hahn's Peak due to that area's successful mineral extraction operations and growing population, and the County records were transferred there in 1879 and remained until 1912, when Steamboat Springs was voted the County seat and County offices were housed in a building owned by the J. W. Hugus and Company for the next decade. The Routt County Courthouse represents the development of Routt County, its government, and the establishment of Steamboat Springs as the County seat. The understated, symmetrical, elegant Renaissance Revival building, designed by Robert Kenneth Fuller and completed in 1923, has horizontal blond pressed brick divisions of terra cotta belt courses and an arched entryway with Beaux-Arts influences such as a locally-quarried stone foundation, Doric columns, pilasters, and floral bas-relief decorative garlands. Hundreds of citizens gathered for the laying of the cornerstone in which a niche was carved, and a sealed copper box with memorabilia including an American flag; a letter from James Crawford, the town's founder (See Crawford House above); a local newspaper, and coins were placed. The intention was to use local sandstone for the entire façade, but the cost was prohibitive so stone was shipped in by rail and large local sandstone blocks were used only for the foundation course. Originally, the jail was housed in the basement level of the building; part of the current parking lot was the prisoners' exercise yard, and the entire building was fenced. At present, expanded County

offices use the basement level. The Courthouse was built to represent permanence, prosperity, and beauty, and continues to provide government services to the County's citizens and function as a prominent landmark.