



**A, C, D, F, H, & J. BROCK HOUSE**  
**295 West Washington Avenue, Hayden**

Norris Brock arrived in Routt County from Canada in 1876. He worked on a ranch and later purchased his own homestead and eventually other ranches on which he successfully raised hay, cattle, and horses; he served as the Routt County Sheriff between 1884 and 1885. He was an owner of the Hayden Concrete Company, the only producer in Northwest Colorado of the decorative concrete blocks used to construct the Brock House and several other buildings in Hayden. Peter Hofstetter and his son Melvin arrived in Hayden in 1909 and became owners of the company as well (See Hayden Inn below). Together they helped construct the building that later became the Hayden Concrete Gas & Electric Company when the interest in concrete block construction waned.

Ornamental concrete block construction was popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as an attractive, low-maintenance, durable, do-it-yourself construction material and represented a significant architectural innovation. Sears Roebuck sold instructional drawings and example buildings to create with concrete blocks. The Brock House is a fine example of the elements of design, detail, materials, and craftsmanship of the Ornamental Concrete Block style home and a rare example of the construction material being used for a two-story building. The residence is rectangular, with a hip-on-gable

roof, painted wood trim, columned porch, and a stone masonry foundation. The blocks are laid in a running pattern with formed concrete projecting sills and symmetrically placed lintels. The mortar is the same taupe color as the blocks, but the back elevation suggests that all of the original mortar was at one time painted red. The Brock House remains a familiar visual landmark in the historic section of downtown Hayden.