



**A, C, D, F, & J. CRAWFORD HOUSE**  
**1184 Crawford Avenue, Steamboat Springs**

James Crawford arrived in Steamboat Springs in 1874 and lived in an old trapper's log cabin until his family arrived by wagon with all of their belongings the following year, at which time they built a four-room, chinked log cabin in which the family of four lived. Later, a frame house was built above the cabin, and in 1892, construction began on the stone house on the hill. In each of their successive homes, over the next forty years the family hosted residents and travelers, including native Utes, trappers, and visiting dignitaries, and the home became a frequently-used social gathering place for literary guilds, community meetings, and discussion groups. All of the lights on all three floors were turned on at night to serve as a beacon of hospitality and a local landmark. James and Margaret Crawford founded the town with a group of Boulder investors in 1885 and were major contributors to the community's development. Crawford was the town's first postmaster, first mayor, the superintendent of schools, and the first County judge. He also served two terms in the State Legislature. Margaret founded the town's Christian Science Society; daughter Lulita, at sixteen, taught school in their log home to ten local children. She chronicled the family's life in

The Cabin at Medicine Springs. The locally-quarried sandstone—some blocks weighing up to 350 pounds—were hauled by wagon from Woodchuck Hill and Emerald Mountain to the site. The square, three-story mansion has a mansard roof at the sides, dormer windows, and a keystone archway front entry. The large front porch was added later. The first floor has separate inner and outer stone walls, for a total thickness of 20 inches. Many of the trees and shrubs were transplanted from the Crawford family's cemetery in Missouri. A yellow Harrison rose, known locally as "The Crawford Rose", was brought by Margaret from Missouri and shared throughout the region. Clusters of the rosebush still flourish in Steamboat's yards and alleyways. This influential, civic-minded, generous family represents the best of the pioneer spirit and settlement of the West.