



A, C, D, & F. NORVELL HOUSE
204 Hill Street, Steamboat Springs

The Norvell House exemplifies the development and heritage of Routt County and is associated with James Lafayette Norvell, an early settler, rancher and cattle dealer, and considered the County's first entrepreneur and developer who lived in the Craftsman style bungalow during the productive years of his life. He purchased the Steamboat Springs Townsite Company, which included all of the vacant lots within the town's corporate limits as well as the bathhouse and spring in 1908, is credited with developing the Norvell Additions to Steamboat Springs and Yampa and the development of Hayden and Craig. In the mid-1890s, he established the Norvell Mercantile Company a two-story building on the main street of Hayden (See West Routt, Hi-Way Bar & Grill), and built a hotel and a livery stable as well as a road through Yampa River Canyon. He purchased cattle from small ranch operations and trailed the herds to railroad loading stations in Walcott and Rawlins. He gave ranchers credit at his store rather than

paying cash for the steers, which guaranteed him profits on both aspects of the transaction. He lived in the Norvell House while basing his cattle operation on a 1,600-acre ranch in Pleasant Valley, then on a ranch in Yampa, and later on another ranch above Toponas, the community in which he established a second general store. Circa 1900, he became an evangelist known as the 'Preacher Cowboy'. Consequently, he sold the saloons adjacent to his stores and traveled throughout the region delivering sermons. He became a well-known figure throughout Colorado. He was elected Mayor of Steamboat Springs in 1914.

The one-and-a-half story, horizontal wood-drop-sided, rectangular house, built in 1910 and owned by Norvell until 1920, has the characteristic gabled roof; wide, overhanging eaves; dormers; decorative shingling, and full porch with square columns of the Arts and Crafts era that was popular in the area from 1910 through the 1920s. It retains its architectural integrity and remains a private residence to this day.