



**A, D, F, & J. SODA CREEK BUILDING,
27-131 Eleventh Street, Steamboat Springs**

The Soda Creek Building, built circa 1910, was the site of the original Steamboat Laundry, a commercial enterprise that reflected the economic prosperity and growth occurring in Routt County and Steamboat Springs in the early twentieth century. Constructed shortly after the

arrival of the railroad, the only laundry that served the County generated employment and provided services to area hotels, restaurants, and the rail line. The two-story, brick-faced, minimally brick-ornamented, blunt-cornered entryway, stone-linteled building typical of early twentieth century Commercial Vernacular, is believed to have been built of locally kilned brick and quarried sandstone. A small, one-story addition constructed at the rear of the building by Karl Howelsen (See Howelsen Hill above) in the mid-1920s of small river cobble and mortar, exemplifies a local architectural style and the use of native materials. A one-story brick addition build beside the structure is thought to have been constructed at approximately the same time. Historically, the laundry had a steam whistle that blew three times each day at 8:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. A painted sign, 'Steamboat Laundry, Dry Cleaning and Pressing' is still legible on the side of the building. The business was owned and operated by several owners, many of whom used the second floor as their living quarters, between 1926 and 1946, at which time the dry cleaning business became separately owned and operated from the laundry business. Currently, the first floor is a restaurant, and offices occupy the second floor; the cobblestone addition houses the restaurant's kitchen, and the brick addition houses a restaurant. The blunt entryway corner edged in dovetailed brick remains a unique feature of this prominent local landmark.