



**A, D, F, & J. DIAMOND WINDOW CABIN**  
**County Road 14, Stagecoach**

Several oral accounts report that the Diamond Window Cabin, named for its distinctive diamond-shaped window in the apex of its front gable end, was built in the 1880s. The County Assessor's Office shows the purchase in 1911 of the patent for the property by Park J. Gardner. By that time, sheep and cattle ranching were well established in the area as were the nearby towns of Oak Creek, Phippsburg, and Yampa. A railroad traveled through Morrison Creek Valley beginning in 1908, so Gardner could have lived on the land, built the cabin, and raised cattle earlier than the recorded patent, which his heir, Elmer McMillian, claimed. The property subsequently changed ownership several times. In 1956, Bruce Henderson and his parents took possession, and by the time they retired, they had acquired more than 22,000 acres in South Routt. Thus the area became known as Henderson Park. The property and additional acreage was sold to the Colorado Division of Wildlife, which currently owns it. Several area residents recall the names of people who lived in the cabin; one couple honeymooned in the cabin in 1941. One resident stated that a two-story

stage stop visible from County Road 14, an original stage route from Wolcott to Steamboat Springs, existed behind the hillside cabin, but it has since fallen. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the cabin functioned as a schoolhouse for a time. In spite of its vague history as a residence, the cabin has been a constant landmark for stage riders, Valley residents, and Stagecoach State Park visitors for more than ninety years. Its vertically-sawn log construction, set atop native rocks and complete with a log roof and dirt floor, maintains a physical integrity of location, setting, design, materials, feeling, and association, and hence exudes a sense of the area's early pioneer settlement days.