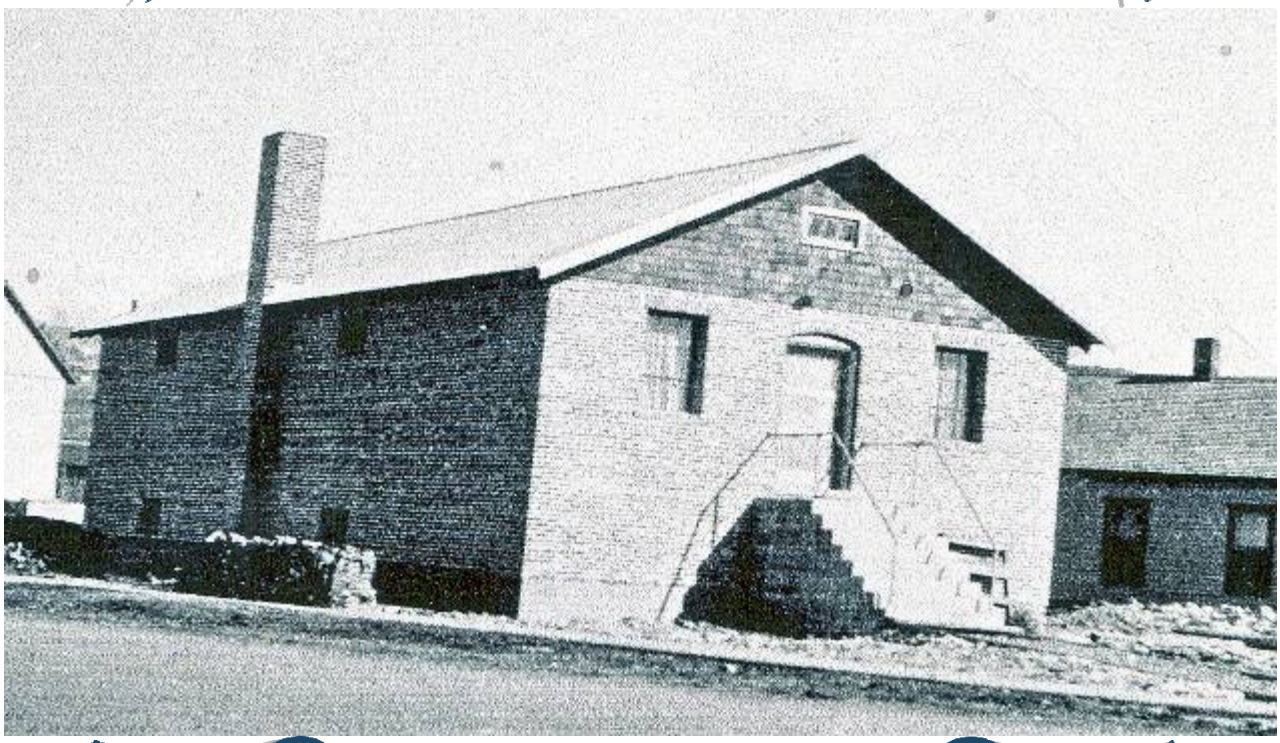

C, D, & J. HAYDEN MASONIC TEMPLE
299 West Jefferson Avenue, Hayden

The Hayden Masonic Temple, a familiar landmark in Hayden, is not square with the street, but it is 'square with the world', in accordance with the Masonic Order's association with the four compass points. Many early settlers to the area were Masons who initially had to travel by horseback or horse and buggy to the Masonic lodges in Steamboat Springs, Yampa, or Craig, which necessitated an overnight stay. The Hayden Valley Lodge #126 first met in Hayden in May, 1907, in a room rented from the Odd Fellows. In the midst of the Depression, funds were scarce, but Dr. W. W. Sloan donated two lots to the Masons, and plans for a temple in Hayden began in 1934. Much of the labor to build the modest one-and-a-half story, front-gabled, Craftsman-style, rectangular temple was volunteer; the bricks came from a razed Steamboat Springs mill. At the first meeting in the Hayden Masonic Temple, held on February 25, 1935 and registering 98 members, life-long membership was bestowed on Dr. Sloan, whose one request was that the Lodge organize and sponsor a DeMolay chapter. The Masonic Temple has served as a community gathering place since its completion: it has been the meeting place for the Masons, a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay, and has hosted community

New Year's dances, smorgasbord dinners, and box socials. Although the Rainbow Girls and DeMolay chapters have ceased to exist, the Masons and Eastern Star members continue to use the building for which it was constructed, and members of the community continue to congregate there for social gatherings.