



Elmer House
39911 County Road 80, outside the town limits

The Elmer house is a distinctive and familiar landmark just north of the railroad tracks from then Town of Hayden. It is a unique building constructed for Mathias and Maria Elmer, after they semi-retired from successfully homesteading and ranching in the Morgan Bottom area. They had the house built for them with all of the modern conveniences available at the time so they could move to town and semi-retire from ranching while allowing their youngest daughter to pursue her high school diploma. The house, built of brick and including modern conveniences in its construction, exemplifies the Elmer's growth in affluence afforded to them from proving up on their homestead and successfully ranching for a number of years in the area. The construction of larger homes with modern conveniences were due in part to the economic boom following the arrival of the railroad in 1913. The Elmers both contributed to the development of the area and were active members in the Hayden community. The brick house is a visual feature of the area just north of Hayden on County Road 80.

Mathias Elmer lived in the house until his death in 1922. According to his obituary in the *Steamboat Pilot*, he was "earnest, active and upright," and a "well known and influential citizen". Marie Elmer stayed in the house and practiced as a midwife. It is not known how many babies were delivered in the house. One verified birth was of Marlys Reeve (Myers) on July 2, 1925. Marlys was the daughter of Mrs. Ralph Reeve from the Youghal area in Moffat County. Marie died in 1931, having deeded the house to her daughter Emma and son-in-law, Elmer Birkett, in February of 1930. Emma sold the house in 1946 to Lester and Elva Grandbouche. Lester Grandbouche managed the Hayden Grain Elevator for several years. He and his family lived in the house until 1957. The house was then sold to George and Keturah Burrell, who lived there until 1981. The Burrells sold the house to Gerald and Pat Ford, owners of the Hayden Mercantile. The Fords, in December of 1989, sold the house to the current owner, Sally (Geissinger) Tyler.