



**A, B, C, & F. F. M. LIGHT HOUSE
204 Park Avenue, Steamboat Springs**

Three days after arriving in Steamboat Springs, Francis Marion Light purchased two lots with neither water nor sewer connections. For the next four years, he and his family carried water from Soda Creek for household needs. Shortly after the purchase, a horse barn, later to be used as a garage, was erected. Also in 1905, Light opened a small store that catered to ranch hands and their families and is still located on the same site. By 1910, the store was one of the largest businesses in Northwest Colorado; in conjunction with catalog sales, it served a four-state area. When automobile transportation became practical, salesmen traveled four states to take orders and deliver goods. Highway advertising signs still extant today advertise the store. In the winter of 1908, 18-inch sandstone blocks from the Emerald Mountain quarry across town were hauled by horse-drawn sled to the site to become the basement foundation and walls of the two-story, columned, frame house with wrap-around porch. The lime used in the mortar was produced at a kiln in the Brooklyn addition of Steamboat; the chimney bricks were from the locally-owned Trogler Brickyard. Carl Howelsen (See above), a stonemason, often skied to the site to work on the house. The F. M. Light home had running water and limited electricity by 1909. F. M. Light's son R. Wayne Light has owned the property since 1938. The charming home and elevated location are a familiar local landmark indicative of a prominent family that contributed significantly to the early development of the town.