



VAN CAMP STAGE STOP  
303 Rich Avenue, Yampa, Colorado

The **Van Camp Stage Stop** district was a bustling place in Yampa more than one hundred and twenty years ago. The Van Camp Stage Stop's strategic location on the route from Wolcott to Steamboat Springs, as well as at the gateway to the Flattops and Trapper's Lake made it an important stop for travelers, whether arriving by stage, or later train or automobile, and traveling for business, pleasure, or hunting. Horse-drawn stagecoaches and freight wagons traveling between Wolcott and Steamboat Springs stopped here for food, rest, and to obtain fresh teams of horses.

This historic collection of log buildings set in a grove of cottonwood trees includes some of the oldest buildings in Routt County still in use today. The property is significant because it reflects the evolution of transportation, community development, and tourism in Routt County and western Colorado from 1883, the approximate date the first cabin was constructed, until 1941, when Mrs. Van Camp passed away.

The property is significant for its association with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of Routt County. Newspaper accounts show that both Ira (1856-1939) and Louise (1861-1941) Van Camp were active and well-respected in their small community. The Van Camps moved to Yampa from Leadville in 1884. Mr. Van Camp served as mayor, school board member, and election judge and donated land for the Yampa Congregational Church, the

town's first church. Mrs. Van Camp was a charter member of Yampa's Ladies Aid Society and the Yampa Women's Club.

The Van Camp district exemplifies Routt County's cultural, economic, and social history. The appearance of the buildings and surroundings convey the pioneer era in which they were built. Stories of the people associated with the property, from outlaw Joe Ward, to cowboy preacher Jim Norvell, the Van Camps' good deeds, and the community gatherings in the Van Camp cottonwood grove are still remembered today.