



**A, B, C, D, F, I, & J. CLARK SCHOOLHOUSE DISTRICT
54200 County Road 62, Clark**

This one-acre District is comprised of the schoolhouse, a teacherage, a gymnasium/cafeteria, a shed, an outhouse, and a playground. The schoolhouse is a hip-roofed building; all other buildings are simple, utilitarian, clapboard-sided, frame structures with gable roofs. The schoolhouse was built in 1915 and operated from then until 1961 as an elementary school, at which time, due to County-wide redistricting, it was absorbed into the Steamboat Springs school system. The Clark community, many of whom had attended the school, vehemently disputed the closing. Through the efforts of the community, the property was acquired in 2000 from private ownership and, in 2001 was established as the North Routt Community Charter School; a preschool is scheduled for construction in 2007.

The school has a small classroom and the upper, or 'big' room. In the early days, one teacher taught all of the children, often with the assistance of an older student. Later, a teacher/principal taught the younger children, and a second teacher taught the older grades. Students recall that a special chore was ringing the school bell to start the school day. The schoolhouse was a significant building in the area: it has hosted many meetings, weddings, funerals, Girl Scout and 4-H events, graduations, and other gatherings. The support for returning the site to a shared community gathering place is indicative of the early pioneering spirit of working together to accomplish a goal.