



**B, D, F, G, & J. SOUTH ROUTT COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
305 South Grant Avenue, Oak Creek**

The Town of Oak Creek was incorporated in 1907. The following year, the first loads of commercial coal were shipped from local coal mines. David H. Moffat, Jr.'s railroad arrived in Oak Creek in 1909. A tempestuous year of mining strikes began in 1913; State militia dispatched to Oak Creek remained there until 1917. The presence of the cavalry, billeted atop a hill that commanded a view of the town, provided protection for citizens, upheld the law, and caused the State to invest water and sewer infrastructure to the site. After the troops were removed, the Oak Creek Union High School, currently Soroco Middle School, was constructed on the site of the troops' headquarters. Classes were first held in the school in 1925, which continues to serve as an educational institution. The building embodies characteristics of the Mission style of architecture common in Colorado in the 1920s: It has formal curvilinear gables, small round recessed window or ornaments, a stucco/plaster finish, and a simplicity of decoration and form. Robert K. Fuller, principal architect of Roeschlaub and Fuller, one of Colorado's premier design firms, was head architect for the school as well as designer of other school and government buildings throughout the State. The large, two-story, front-facing T-shaped structure trimmed in white brick represents the area's prosperous mining era and continues to dominate the landscape as a familiar visual feature of the community, which has used the facility as a school and gathering place for other educational, social, and cultural events since its construction.