



**A & D. CARVER POWER PLANT
927 Oak Street, Steamboat Springs**

In 1900, Norman Carver and his three sons commissioned George Slater to build a coal-powered plant adjacent to their home to provide electricity to local businesses and eventually the general population, thereby distinguishing Steamboat Springs as the first town in Routt County to have electricity, a significant contributing event for the industrial history and development of Steamboat Springs. Coal for the Power Plant came from a mine near Oak Creek that was owned by the Carvers. Power began being generated in 1903 and was provided from 4:00 p.m. until midnight until circa 1911, when another generator was installed to provide daytime power. When electric washing machines began to be marketed, power was available on Monday mornings for washing and Tuesday mornings for electric iron use. The Power Plant's cut sandstone foundation was quarried on Emerald Mountain; the bricks used for walls were made locally at the Trogler Brick Yard located at the base of the quarry. The building is a two-story, gabled structure with four-panel, double-hung windows and wood-

shingled gable ends. Coal was delivered in the alley and shoveled into the building through large arched doorways that have since been bricked in. The steam that was a by-product of electricity generation was piped underground to heat nearby schools and residences. In early spring, the warm pipes melted the deep snow, and schoolchildren played marbles on the grass beneath. When the Plant ceased producing power, all of the machinery was removed and the building was used for storage by the Elkins family, which resided in the Carver home adjacent to the Plant. The City of Steamboat Springs purchased (1999) and renovated the building in 2000 for office and public meeting space. The interior of the brick walls, wood flooring, and many of the original panes of glass in the windows have been preserved and reveal structural techniques of brick-laying.