



A, D, & J. STRAWBERRY PARK HOT SPRINGS
County Road 36, Steamboat Springs

Long before European descendents occupied the Yampa Valley, Native Americans frequented the area in summer to hunt game and restore themselves at the area's many mineral springs. Considered sacred by the Native Americans, the area was known as Medicine Springs. James Crawford, Steamboat Springs' first permanent white settler, arrived in the area in 1874 and staked a claim on 160 acres, some of which he envisioned transforming into a resort health community. He and several investors incorporated the town in 1884 and constructed a bathhouse at the Heart Spring, still in existence as a recreation center. The thermal springs in the area probably derive their heat from rocks in the Hahn's Peak area of North Routt and rise to the surface along fault lines in the Steamboat area. The original homestead parcel on which the Strawberry Park Hot Spring is located was purchased from the United States in 1884 by Samuel Tankersley, who sold the land, located seven miles from town, to Crawford's company

that same year. The company retained ownership of all of the springs until the Strawberry Park Hot Spring was purchased in 1980 by a private developer who created several bathing pools, terraces, decorative retaining walls, and small buildings as a tourist destination. The Strawberry Park Hot Spring, a unique natural feature that gushes from the mountainside at 147 degrees to flow into cooler Hot Spring Creek, is a significant reflection of the cultural heritage and early tourist development of Steamboat Springs and the Colorado frontier.