



A, C, D, F, & I. GREEN CREEK RANCH DISTRICT
County Road 18C, 12 miles south of Steamboat Springs

The three 160-acre homesteads, currently more than 22,000 acres, that comprise Green Creek Ranch were originally proved up by the Gabioud family and the Bonard brothers, about whom little is known. The two family groups built several structures including three two-room log cabins, a barn (pictured), and a woodshed. One cabin and the barn remain and are still in use. The original homesteaders and early subsequent owners raised cattle and sheep. Around 1910, the Lugon family purchased the property and continued ranching operations, which were greatly enhanced by the coming of the railroad. The Dutch Colonial Revival, the main house that is still in use, was built in 1921-26. Zeb Lugon also built a water wheel that generated electricity for the entire house and all of the outbuildings, a feat that allowed the family to have the first electricity in the Valley. The diverted waters of Green Creek also supplied running water to the house. Robert and Elaine Gay, descendants of earlier homesteading families in Pleasant Valley, purchased the ranch in 1948. The former one-room Pleasant Valley Schoolhouse (circa 1909) was moved to the Gay ranch in 1959. Elaine still lives on the property, and cattle and horse ranching operations and the cultivation of grains and alfalfa are maintained by her son Bill and her nephew Todd Hagenbuch. The land, its buildings, and its owners represent the on-going importance of high country ranching as a major contributor to the economic and cultural development of the Valley and Routt County. Multi-generations of the Gay family continue to make significant contributions to that development by their lifestyle, hospitality, and diverse efforts to preserve the land and the ranching tradition on the property as well as in the surrounding area.