



C, D, H, & J. ELKHEAD ROCK SCHOOLHOUSE
off County Road 56E, Hayden

The Elkhead community, once located in a remote corner of Northwest Colorado, first inhabited by trappers in the 1880s, was surveyed for homesteading in the 1890s, and was a thriving ranching community at the turn of the century. The Elkhead Rock Schoolhouse, an unprecedented, architecturally elaborate structure for Routt County, was constructed by members of the community in 1915 of rocks collected from the surrounding area. It was built on a full basement that was used as a kitchen and a domestic science and manual training classroom; a gymnasium; a teachers' lounge, and social gathering place. The main floor was partitioned into upper and lower-level classrooms. The building had electricity and a coal furnace. Farrington Carpenter (See Carpenter Ranch, above.) and other eligible bachelors orchestrated the development of the school district to bring marriageable ladies to the area, one of whom

subsequently became Mrs. Carpenter. The school was later absorbed by the Hayden School District and closed in 1930 when most of the homesteaders sold out to sheep and cattlemen and moved away. The windows, furnace, stove, lumber partitions, and some of the furniture of the school as well as materials from the teacherage were ransacked after the building was abandoned. In 1961, Dwight and Barbara Green and Charles Fulton (See Walker Homestead, below.) purchased the property from the Hayden School District to use as a summer home and a fall hunting lodge. Dwight's father was Farry Carpenter's college roommate, and Dwight worked at the Carpenter Ranch in the late 1920s to the early 1930s.