



**A, D, F, & J. HAYDEN DEPOT
300 West Pearl Street, Hayden**

The Hayden Depot was part of David H. Moffat's colossal undertaking to build a railroad over the backbone of the nation to open the rich Northwest. Hayden had long been intended to be the halfway point between Denver and Salt Lake City on the original Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway. These plans ended with Moffat's death in 1911 and the subsequent bankruptcy of the line. The company was reorganized as The Denver & Salt Lake Railroad in 1913, but due to lack of funding, the line never reached Utah, terminating instead in Craig, Colorado, 17 miles west of Hayden. The first train arrived in Hayden in 1913. Ezekial Shelton displayed produce at the celebration, which led to the establishment of the annual Routt County Fair. The Hayden Depot, a two-story pressed brick building with terra cotta tile hip roof, was completed in 1918 by the Railway and consisted of two waiting rooms, a telegraph office, a baggage room, a one-story attached freight room, and an apartment for the stationmaster and his family on the second floor. Hayden businessmen guaranteed \$1,000 for construction costs, and the Town improved the street and walkway and installed electric lights near the Depot. Wood flooring was installed in the 1940s; plumbing has been upgraded, and a new furnace was installed in 1968. Otherwise, the interior of the building remains original. Many times in the early days, snow slides delayed trains for days, and passengers awaiting trains camped in the Depot until the Moffat Tunnel, a 6.23-mile tunnel and one

of the longest in the world, was built through James Peak on the Continental Divide in 1927. The railroad was an essential link for the isolated region and served the Hayden community by exporting cream, coal, oil, agricultural products, cattle and sheep (Hayden was the largest sheep-shipping point in the United States during the 1930s) to cities such as Denver and importing equipment, supplies, and building materials into the area. Shortly after the Depot was completed, men traveled to various induction points for World War I; passenger service was discontinued in 1968. The Depot and its lot, deeded by the Railroad to the Town in 1970, currently houses the Hayden Heritage Center museum, which is open to the public (Call 970-276-4380 for times) and run by the Hayden Heritage Center, a non-profit organization. A loaned rock and mineral collection that prompted the formation of the Hayden museum is still on display there. NRHP-1992.