



This is the West
**Escape to our Landscape...
Steamboat Springs' Cultural Landscape
Steamboat Springs Originals**

For Immediate Release

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Steamboat Springs Originals: Local Cultural Heritage

The City of Steamboat Springs was incorporated in 1900, but its trappers, hunters, and explorers date back to the early 1800s. The Utes spent summers here prior to that. The first homestead was built in 1875 by James Crawford, the town's founding father, who also built the first bathhouse on the same site as the Old Town Hots Springs. Below are a few snippets of some stories that tell the tale of Steamboat Springs. There's more where these come from.

Cowboys' Roundup Days Fourth of July Celebration

Steamboat Springs' oldest tradition is its Fourth of July Celebration. No one knows for sure when the first rodeo competition in Steamboat Springs took place, however it has always been a part of the town's Fourth of July Celebration. The celebration includes many events characteristic of a small town: a flapjack feed, parade down main street, block parties and fireworks. To celebrate its Western Heritage, today's festivities include a cattle drive down our main street, Lincoln Avenue, these cattle will then play a part in the Ranch Horse Competition and Ranch Rodeo where local ranches will compete against one another.

From Cowtown to Culture Town

Steamboat Springs Depot welcomed its first freight train in December 1908 and the first passenger train arrived in January 1909. The railroad from Denver toward Salt Lake City was originally built to open access to Routt County's coal mines. However it also opened up opportunity for two of Steamboat's industries, cattle/sheep ranching and tourism. During the height of exportation, 1920-1950, more cattle were shipped from Steamboat Springs than anywhere in the country. Cattle were driven through downtown including the main street, Lincoln Avenue, until city officials in the early 1970s declared them no longer suitable for the town's image and the tourists who visited the town. Ironically, an annual cattle drive was brought back in 2000, as part of the City's Centennial Celebration, to entertain visitors. The Depot is now the home of the Steamboat Springs Arts Council and the Eleanor Bliss Center for the Arts. Within its gallery visitors enjoy a wide array of exhibits year round.

Preserving its Heritage, Preserving the West

In 2005 Steamboat Springs was one of the first 8 US cities to receive the Preserve America Community designation from the White House. Steamboat Springs has nearly eighty sites on its Country Register of Historic Properties. Twelve of these are on the National Register of Historic Properties and four are on the Colorado State Register. This is made possible by groups such as Historic Routt County! who work to preserve the county's heritage. Steamboat Springs' history museum, Tread of Pioneers, also hosts a wealth of information and artifacts featuring Native Americans, the early pioneers and the area's rich ski history. They also possess over 4,000 historic photos stored in their digital library which are available for the public to purchase.

Howelsen Hill: Colorado's Oldest Ski Area in Continuous Use

The heart of this ski town lies in the humble beginning of its first ski area. From the seeds planted early in the century, a community dedicated to the sport of skiing and the spirit of winter grew, producing a world-class winter recreation resort and 69 winter Olympians. In 2005, Howelsen Hill completed a \$2.8 million project to install a plastic surface for year round jumping. Funds were raised through grants from the Energy Impact Assistance Fund, City of Steamboat Springs, Gates Family Foundation, Great Outdoors Colorado, Boettcher Foundation, Daniels Fund and private donations.

Tread of Pioneers Museum

The Tread of Pioneers Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving and exhibiting the material relative to the history of Routt County and promoting an appreciation for the area's rich historic heritage. Displays include a 1908 Queen Anne-style Victorian home with Routt County artifacts, a Native American exhibit, a display of western life memorabilia and a history of skiing exhibit.

Downtown Walking Tours ~ Tuesday-Thursday, June-August

On Tuesdays learn about Steamboat's Olympic history on the Olympic Heritage Tour, also known as "Ski Town, USA" Steamboat Springs has produced more winter Olympians than any other town in North America. On Wednesdays, learn a little about the local geology on the Mineral Springs Tour, come and find out how Steamboat Springs got its name. Finally on Thursdays, learn about the history of the town on the Downtown Historic Walking Tour. All tours meet at the Tread of Pioneers Museum on 8th and Oak and last from 9:30-11 a.m. After the tour visit the Museum (discounted admission for all walking tour participants). Sponsored by Historic Routt County! Tread of Pioneers Museum and Yampatika. www.yampatika.org

Heritage Ranch Tours ~ July 1 & 6

Locals and Guests are invited to visit local working ranches and tour the Yampa and Elk River Valley's countryside with local historians. Learn about the rich ranching heritage of Routt County and its residents with hands on experiences. Each tour will be different, determined by the location and the tour guides, and may include stops at cattle, sheep, horse, bison and elk ranches throughout the County. The tours will start at 1:00 p.m. and return at 4:00 p.m.

Preserving the Routt National Forest for over 100 years

President Teddy Roosevelt visited the forests surrounding Steamboat Springs on hunting and fishing trips in the 1890s. With the vast beauty and unique landscapes, it's no wonder President Roosevelt felt the National Forest Service was a necessity and thus we have these open areas to enjoy today. In 1905 he established the National Forest Service and along with it, the Routt National Forest, which today contains 1,126,346 acres or nearly 1,760 square miles of forest land around Steamboat Springs.

Sibling Rivalry

Charlotte and Marjorie Perry, daughters of mining entrepreneur Samuel M. Perry. Charlotte, the actress, and Marjorie, the athlete, both left behind important legacies in Steamboat Springs. Marjorie introduced Norwegian ski jumper, Carl Howelsen, to Steamboat Springs and encouraged him to organize the first Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival. Charlotte Perry along with her friend Portia Mansfield found the Strawberry Park area a perfect place to inspire the artists who attended Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts Camp, the first of its kind in the country. The Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival is the oldest west of the Mississippi and Perry-Mansfield is the oldest performing arts camp in the country.

F.M. Light & Sons: Seven Generations of Business in a small town

F.M. Light & Sons have been "Outfitting the West" for over 100 years and in spite of small and large retailers coming and going through town, they've weathered it all and then some. F.M. (Frank) Light came to Steamboat Springs from Hicksville, Ohio with his wife and seven children and opened their store in the same spot it stands today. Best known for their yellow road signs that have lined the roadways into Steamboat Springs since 1928, this strategic marketing plan helped the business survive the depression and leads customers through their doors today.

Noteworthy Facts

- Named by French Fur trappers in the 1860s for a hot spring near the Yampa River that sounded like a steamboat
- There are more than 150 mineral springs in the area
- Hometown of 69 Winter Olympic athletes since 1932, more than any other town in the US
- Lincoln Avenue (US Highway 40), Steamboat Springs' main street was built wide to accommodate cattle drives
- Rodeo History dates back over 100 years
- Steamboat Springs weekly summer rodeo was named the "Small Town Outdoor Rodeo of the Year" by the ProRodeo Cowboys Association in 2002
- Holds oldest annual winter carnival west of the Mississippi River (since 1914)
- Home to Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp (opened 1913) attended by such performing artists as Dustin Hoffman, Julie Harris and Agnes de Mille
- One of the first 8 US cities to receive the Preserve America Community designation from the White House

Steamboat Springs Shows its Age

Year	Who/What	Year	Who/What
1875	First homestead: James Crawford & family	1908	Steamboat Springs Depot completed, first freight train arrived
1884	First bathhouse built: the Heart Spring		Mad Creek to Swamp Park Trail built
1885	The Steamboat Pilot Newspaper founded	1909	First passenger train arrived
1889	First Hotel: The Sheridan Hotel on Lincoln Ave.	1913	Perry Mansfield Performing Arts Camp established
1900	City of Steamboat Springs incorporated	1914	First Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival
1903	First Cowboys' Roundup Days Fourth of July Celebration		First Routt County Fair & Rodeo held in Hayden
1905	F.M. Light & Sons opened for business, 830 Lincoln Av.	1915	Rabbit Ears Pass Built
		1915	Howelsen Hill Ski Area opened
1905	Routt National Forest designated	1927	Rodeo Grounds built
1907	Steamboat Springs Chamber of Commerce founded	1963	Steamboat Ski Area opened
		1972	Steamboat Springs Arts Council and Steamboat Dance Theater Founded
		1987	Strings in the Mountains Music Festival Founded

