



The Laramie, Hahns Peak & Pacific Railway was established in 1901 by Issac Van Horn, who planned to construct the line to the mining camps near Gold Hill in the Medicine Bow Mountains west of Laramie. Van Horn and his partners also invested in the mining camp of Centennial 30 miles west of Laramie at the base of the mountains, constructing a sawmill, lumber yard, newspaper, and other improvements. The railroad began at a junction with the Union Pacific at Laramie and reached Centennial in 1907, by which time mining in the Medicine Bow Mountains had mostly died out. The company opted to turn 90 degrees to the south and keep building to North Park, Colorado, where the company bought a coal deposit and named it Coalmont. The first train reached Coalmont in December 1911.

This is the station in Centennial, featuring a UP caboose, with the foothills of the Medicine Bow Mountains in the background.



In 1914 the LHP&P was unable to pay its mortgage and the Colorado, Wyoming & Eastern Railroad took control. In April 1924, the line was sold and renamed the Northern Colorado & Eastern Railroad. The citizens in Laramie requested the name of the town be in the line, so in June it was renamed the Laramie, North Park & Western Railroad. The line struggled and in 1935 the UP acquired the LNP&W. UP ran the line under the LNP&W name until 1951, when the LNP&W became the Coalmont Branch of the UP and the LNP&W depot in Laramie was closed. Shortline Wyoming Colorado Railroad bought the line in 1987 and subsequently abandoned it.

This is the 1907 LHP&P grade just west of Centennial with the Medicine Bow Mountains in the distance in this westward view.