



The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad was one of the great Midwestern railroads with more than 10,000 miles of track in 1970. Its predecessor, the Rock Island & La Salle Railroad was incorporated in Illinois in 1847 and an amended charter in 1851 changed the name to Chicago & Rock Island Railroad. Construction began in 1851 in Chicago and in 1854 became the first railroad to connect Chicago with the Mississippi River. In 1857, Abraham Lincoln represented the C&RI in a lawsuit regarding bridges over navigable rivers. In 1866, the C&RI formed the CRI&P, which expanded westward through construction and acquisitions. In the 1880's, the CRI&P built through Nebraska and into Colorado, reaching the Union Pacific (originally Kansas Pacific) tracks at Limon, Colorado (just east of the Southwest map area) in 1888. The CRI&P reached Colorado Springs in the same year, where it connected with the Colorado Midland, also completed in 1888. In 1889, the CRI&P contracted with the UP for the use of its former KP line from Limon to Denver, giving the CRI&P access to two major Front Range cities.

The CRI&P line from Limon to Colorado Springs was eventually abandoned, but remnants remain such as this bridge over a small creek near Falcon, Colorado.



Southwest view of the abandoned CRI&P grade, 4 miles northeast of the previous photo.



Northeast view of the abandoned CRI&P grade, at the same location as the previous photo.