



In September 1906, the Saratoga & Encampment Railway commenced grading from Walcott, Wyoming, on the Union Pacific mainline, to mining centers at Saratoga and Encampment. The S&E reached Saratoga in 1907 and Encampment in 1908. Copper prices had fallen by that time and instead of huge loads of ore, the S&E hauled lumber, cattle, agricultural products, and passengers. In 1928, a group of citizens formed the Platte Valley Railroad Committee and raised \$100,000 to purchase the S&E, which was in receivership. The group incorporated the line as the Saratoga & Encampment Valley Railroad and gave it to the UP to operate. The arrangement worked for decades, but in 1976, the UP removed the tracks from Encampment to Saratoga and in 1987 sold the remaining line to the Wyoming & Colorado Railroad. The Louisiana-Pacific lumber mill in Saratoga shut down in 2003, and in 2004, the W&C filed for abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board, but was denied the request. A year later the W&C successfully resubmitted, and the last train left Saratoga in 2007 and the railroad was abandoned back to Walcott.

Southward view of the S&E grade about 5 miles south of Saratoga. The riparian woodland in the distance is the North Platte River.



Eastward view of the S&E grade about one mile north of the end of the line at Encampment. The riparian woodland in the distance is the Encampment River, a tributary of the North Platte River.