



In 1867, while in command of the troops protecting the crew surveying the Union Pacific transcontinental route in southern Wyoming, General John A. Rawlins expressed a wish for a drink of good, cold water. A detachment of scouts explored the countryside and discovered a spring. General Rawlins declared it was the most refreshing drink he had ever tasted. General Grenville Dodge, commander of the survey party, immediately named it Rawlins Springs and the community that grew around it became Rawlins, Wyoming. The UP tracks arrived in 1868, and Rawlins became an important railroad town because it was at the base of the climb westward over the first of two crossings of the Great Divide.

The Sinclair Oil Refinery is on the UP mainline 5 miles east of Rawlins.



Rawlins Depot and the UP mainline.



The UP mainline crosses the Great Divide Basin and therefore crosses the divide twice. This southward view of the UP mainline shows the gentle topography at the summit of the eastern of the two crossings at Hadsell, Wyoming, about 8 miles west of Rawlins.