



In 1867, Colorado Territorial Governor John Evans, together with David Moffat and other Colorado business leaders, partnered with East Coast investors to form the Denver Pacific Railway to link Denver and the Colorado Territory with the national rail network at Cheyenne, Wyoming, where the UP arrived in the same year. The DP broke ground on May 18, 1868, cheered on by a crowd of nearly 1,000 local citizens, and the first train arrived in Denver from Cheyenne on June 24, 1870.

The DP, sidings, and agricultural loading facilities at La Salle, Colorado.



In 1880, the DP and Kansas Pacific Railroads merged with the Union Pacific system. In 1881, the Union Pacific completed construction of its Julesburg Branch, connecting the DP line at La Salle to Julesburg on the UP transcontinental main line (east of map area).

The DP mainline is the un-rusted track in the foreground, with sidings in the distance, and the curved track to the right with stored cars is the south branch of the wye for the UP Julesburg Branch at La Salle. The Julesburg Branch tracks continue for 13 miles east of La Salle and are abandoned from that point 70 miles east to a point just east of the map area, where a 10-mile-long cutoff connects the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (now BNSF) to the remainder of the Julesburg Branch.





Southward view at same location as above; the DP mainline is the un-rusted track in the foreground, with a siding to the left for the UP Julesburg Branch, and the switch and track to the far left is the south branch of the La Salle wye for the Julesburg Branch.