



In 1906, E. D. Shepard and Company of New York built the Santa Fe, Raton and Eastern Railroad to transport coal from his mines at Yankee, New Mexico. The line started at a junction with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe's New Mexico & Southern Pacific (1881) at Raton, New Mexico, and headed east for 7 miles through this location to the Yankee mine. Two branch lines were built at the same time. The first branch started from the SFR&E mainline at Carisbrook(e), located about midway between Raton and Yankee, and headed north 2 miles to a coal mine at Sugarite. The second branch was built by a sister company, the Santa Fe, Raton and Des Moines Railroad; the SFR&DM started from the SFR&E mainline at a location a half mile southwest (toward Raton) of Carisbrook(e) and headed 10 miles southeast to Cunningham on the St. Louis, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Railway (1907). I am not sure whether the SLRM&P (1907) actually had tracks in place at Cunningham when the SFR&DM arrived. In any case, Cunningham is as close as the SFR&DM tracks ever got to its destination of Des Moines, New Mexico (located just east of the Southwest Railroad History Map area on the Denver, Texas and Fort Worth [1888]). The SFR&DM had graded and installed trestles for the entire 31-mile route from Cunningham east to Des Moines, generally parallel to the SLRM&P (1907), but track was never laid. The 10 miles of trackage laid by the SFR&DM between Carisbrook(e) and Cunningham is shown on the Southwest Railroad History Map as part of the SFR&E (1906). The line was not profitable; abandonment had already begun by 1924 and the last operating section, between Raton and Sugarite, was abandoned in 1942.

Southeastward view of the SFR&E (1906) about halfway between Raton and Carisbrook(e). The breach in the fill grade is probably a steel culvert that was removed during salvage operations in 1942.





Northward view of the part of the SFR&E (1906) built by the SFR&DM. This location is 1,600 feet southwest of its starting point on the SFR&E mainline (Raton-Yankee) and 0.7 mile southwest (toward Raton) of Carisbrook(e).