



In 1884, the Denver, Utah & Pacific Railroad built 10 miles of narrow gauge track northwest from Longmont, Colorado, on the Colorado Central mainline, to sandstone quarries at Lyons, Colorado. Lyons sandstone shipped to the national rail network via the DU&P was used as rubble for railroad ballast, flagstone for sidewalks, and building stone for many of the beautiful buildings at the Colorado University Campus at Boulder as well as many other buildings in Colorado and the East. The Union Pacific, which controlled the CC, upgraded the narrow gauge road to standard gauge, then was lost with the CC to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, now BNSF. The largest industry in the area today is the Martin Marietta Cement Western Division (now CEMEX) just east of Lyons.

Cars await the next shipment of cement, which is conveyed to the railhead from quarries via the overhead conveyance structure at the Lyons CEMEX plant.





Another view of cars at the Lyons CEMEX plant. The replacement of the 1884 DU&P narrow gauge line with standard gauge track likely occurred in the 1890's, when UP controlled the CC.



The DU&P (now BNSF) end-of-track at Lyons.