

BAILEY YARD TIMELINE

Golden Spike Tower

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying thicknesses, slanted diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right, set against a dark blue background.

- ▶ *December 3, 1866* – The first train entered what was known as “Hell On Wheels”, a mobile town that followed the construction of the railroad. It wintered in North Platte that year.
- ▶ *January 2, 1867* – Mainline operations into North Platte officially open.
- ▶ *May 10, 1867* – The Golden Spike is driven at Promontory Summit, Utah.
- ▶ *January 14, 1880* – Union Pacific acquires the Kansas Pacific between Kansas City and Denver, and the Denver Pacific between Denver and Cheyenne. Forms the Union Pacific Railway Company.
- ▶ *May 1987* – E.H. Harriman purchased the Union Pacific at an auction in Omaha, Nebraska.
- ▶ *March 1910* – Construction of the second main line started through North Platte.
- ▶ *July 13, 1918* – The American Red Cross-affiliated canteen begins operating out of the North Platte freight house. Operation ceases on September 1, 1919.
- ▶ *November 17, 1919* – The Union Pacific Hotel and Depot burned and was replaced the next year.
- ▶ *1927* – A railroad bridge consisting of 40 spans, each measuring 50 feet, is built over the North Platte River.

- ▶ *September 30, 1937* – North Platte native son William Jeffers becomes president of the Union Pacific Railroad.
- ▶ *December 25, 1941* – The North Platte Canteen, located in the passenger depot, begins. The Canteen would go on to serve more than 6 million members of the armed services before closing on April 1, 1946.
- ▶ *September 1, 1948* – The new \$750,000 North Platte Freight Depot opens.
- ▶ *November 1948* – Opening of the retarder yard at North Platte. The \$3.5 million project has a five-mile retarder yard with 31,000 feet of new mainline with about 51 miles of additional yard track with 40 classification tracks in the bowl.
- ▶ *1966 to 1970* – The eastbound hump yard and the diesel shop were constructed.
- ▶ *October 19, 1968* – UP President Edd H. Bailey donates locomotive UP 3977, the Challenger steam locomotive, to the City of North Platte for display at Cody Park.
- ▶ *October 25, 1968* – the new \$12.5 million “Bailey Yard,” an 800-acre site, is christened in honor of UP President Edd Bailey.
- ▶ *April 1971* – The diesel shop facility opens and at the time is the largest running repair shop in the world.
- ▶ *October 1973* – The “one spot” car repair facility was opened.

- ▶ *November 1973* – The passenger depot was torn down and replaced with a small park.
- ▶ *1976* – Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) is installed through North Platte.
- ▶ *August 1985* – The UP 6922, the “World’s Largest Diesel Locomotive,” is donated to the City of North Platte.
- ▶ *1988 to 1991* – Westbound and eastbound fueling facilities were constructed and a coal yard was expanded.
- ▶ *August 1992* – The westbound coal yard was expanded and computer-aided dispatch was installed.
- ▶ *May 1994* – The eastbound fuel facility was opened.
- ▶ *January 1, 1995* – The Guinness Book of World Records lists Bailey Yard as the world’s largest classification yard.
- ▶ *July 1995* – The new westbound fuel facility was opened.
- ▶ *March 1996* - Union Pacific & Southern Pacific merger created the nation’s largest rail system.
- ▶ *2006* – A third main line is added in North Platte.
- ▶ *2010* – UP Plans to invest about \$6 million on improvements at Bailey Yard.

