Denver & Rio Grande Western

LOCOMOTIVE SHOP & SITE



Salt Lake Central Station, Looking West Toward Historic D&RGW Locomotive Shop, 2014.

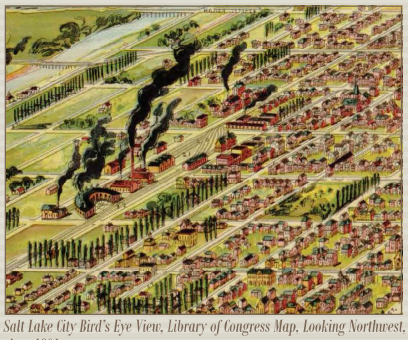
Site History

The large building in the picture to the left was known as the Locomotive Shop. The building originally opened on June 2, 1924, as part of a $1,500,000 renovation of the Denver and Rio Grande Western (D&RGW) railroad shops at Fifth West (now 600 West) and Third South. The new shops included the locomotive shop, a roundhouse, a wood car shop, a steel car shop, and a storehouse. Heavy maintenance and engine servicing occurred in the Locomotive Shop, while routine servicing took place at the other shops. The site operated as a railroad maintenance facility until the late 1950s. As of 2020, the site in front of you on the west side of the tracks is being used by the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) for a new bus facility. Operations at the site include a fuel and fare building, a bus wash building, bus parking, and a new bus maintenance building.



Historic D&RGW Locomotive Shop, Looking South, 1950. The bricks around the base of this display are from the historic site.

Take A Mobile Walking Tour of the Depot District.



Salt Lake City Bird's Eye View, Library of Congress Map, Looking Northwest, circa 1891.

Connecting Denver to Salt Lake City

The D&RGW railroad route from Denver to Salt Lake City that was completed in 1883 enhanced the community and economy by bringing additional people, goods, and jobs to Utah. The new route helped to establish Salt Lake City's prominent status as a rail hub. Shortly after the route was completed, D&RGW constructed a railroad maintenance facility at the site to your west where the Locomotive Shop was located. The original facility is shown in the Library of Congress map above from 1891 (left side of map with black smoke and roundhouse). Buildings at the site were replaced numerous times over the years as a result of fires.



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