

A visual interpretation of the history of the Virginia City engine yard: 1869-present

Presented at the 2011 Virginia and Truckee Railroad History Conference

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Introduction

This is a graphical depiction of the changes to the Virginia City engine yard from 1869 to the present. It is largely based on research by Tom Smith, Stephen Drew, Charlie Siebenthal, and Michael Collins.

This presentation was originally presented at the Virginia and Truckee Railway Historical Society convention October 7th, 2011, and has been revised with feedback from that event.

Any errors are mine alone.

Where are we talking about?

Located South of Virginia City proper

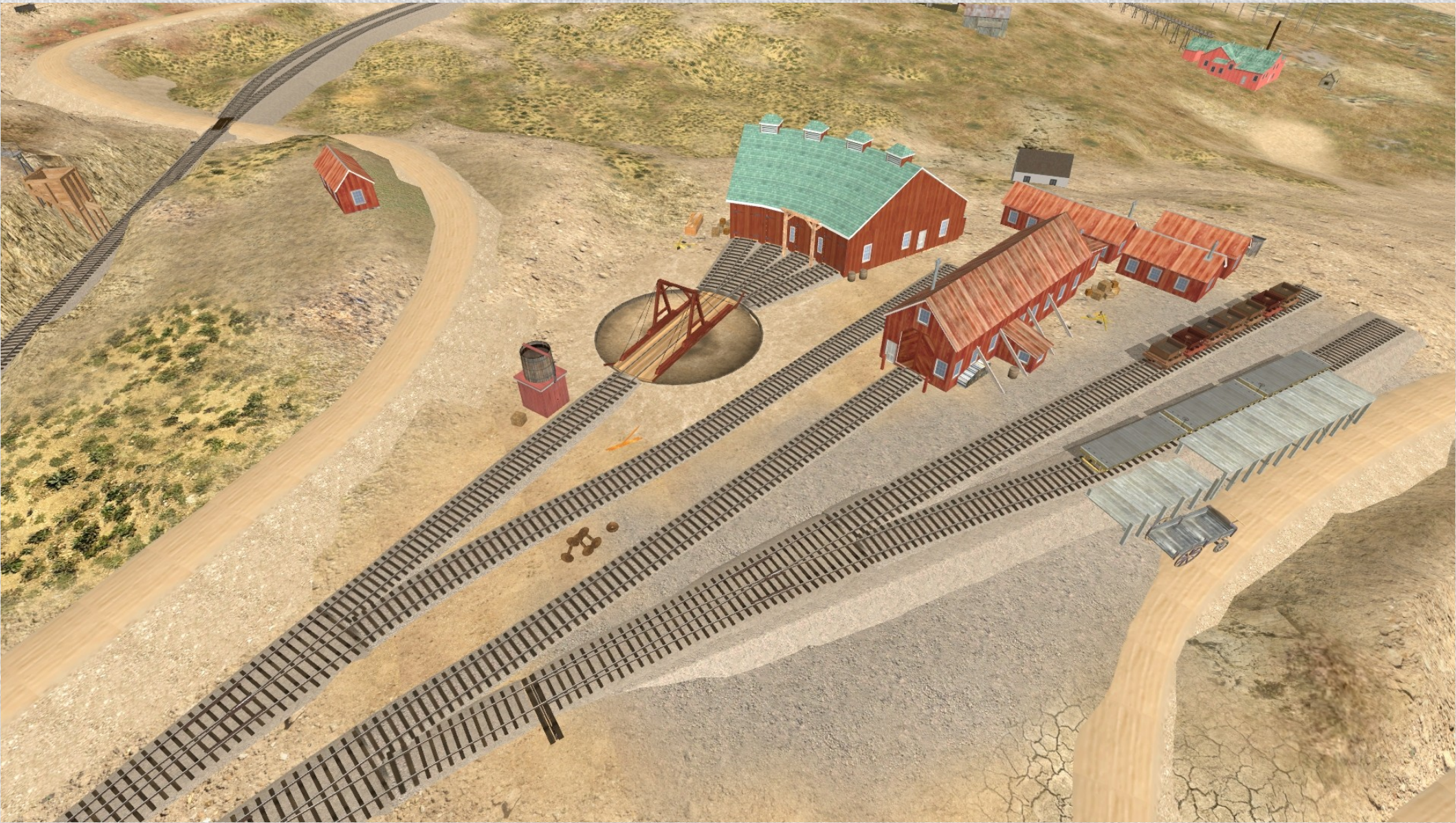


map image provided by Bing maps

An aerial, isometric view of a 3D model of a steam locomotive pulling a freight train through a desert landscape. The train, consisting of a red and blue locomotive and several freight cars, is traveling along a set of tracks that curve around a large, circular, dry lake bed. In the background, there are several wooden buildings, including a large barn and a smaller house, and a dirt road. The terrain is arid and hilly, with sparse vegetation and a winding river or path in the distance.

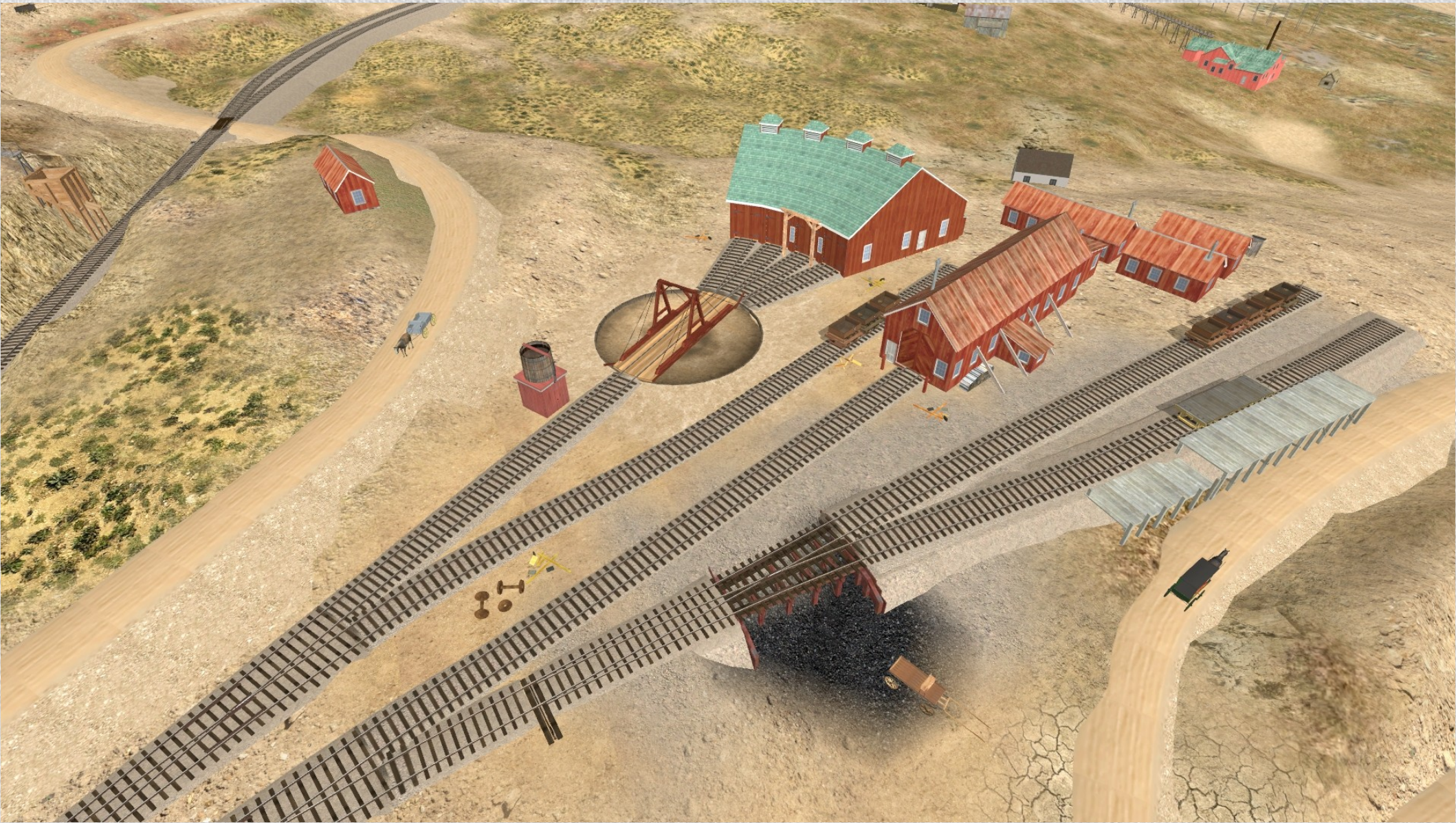
Workshop is up; track complete to Carson

1870



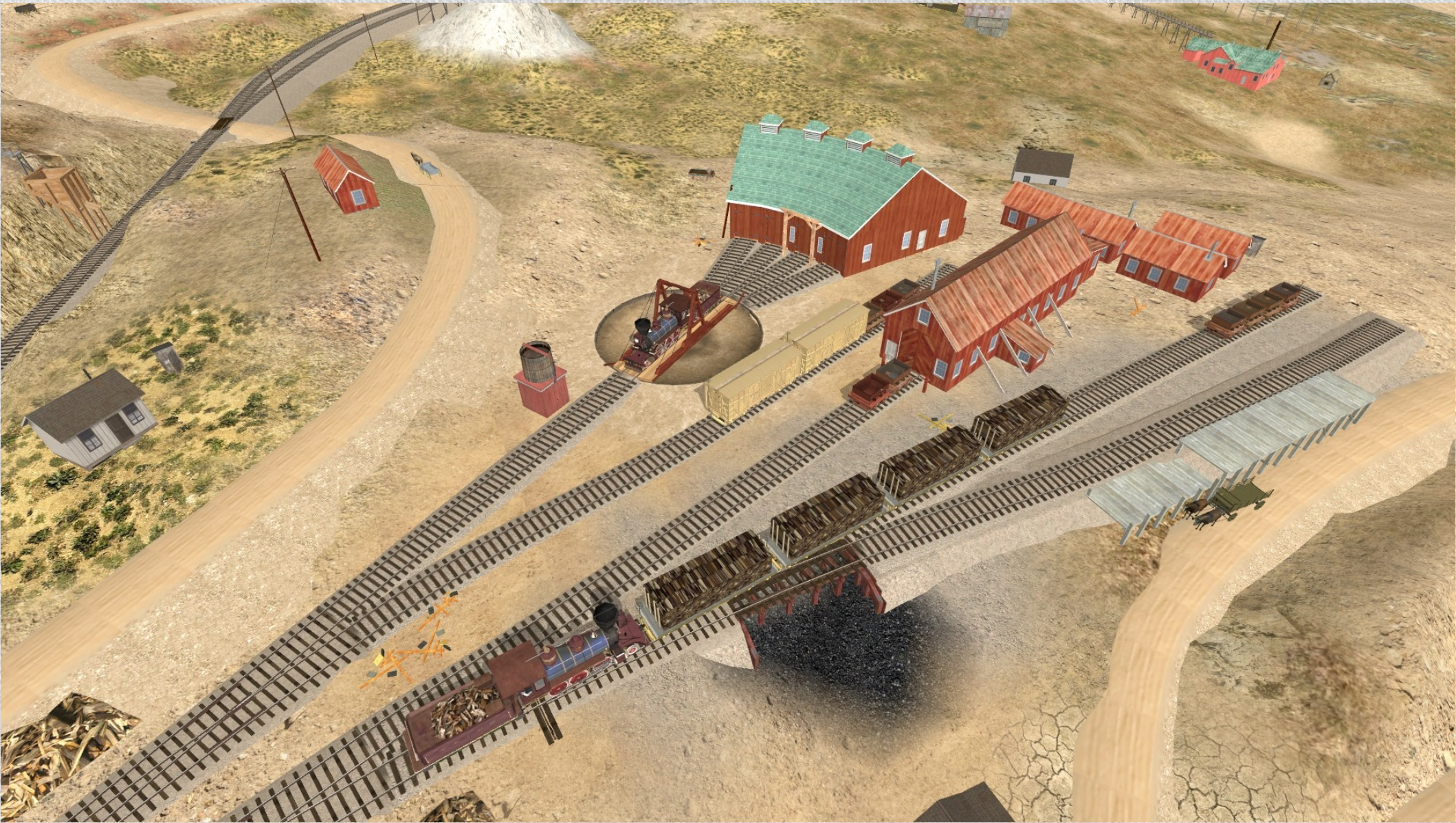
Roundhouse is complete, cut to the south is complete

1871



Coal dump to the south of the roundhouse added

1873



Chollar trestle built over tracks, small winter house built for switch tenders

1874



New turntable, blacksmith shop, machine shop

1875



'Low line' added, new roundhouse under construction

1876



UM&M dump gone, new roundhouse complete, tunnel added under Chollar trestle

1878



Wood fuel shed built

1890



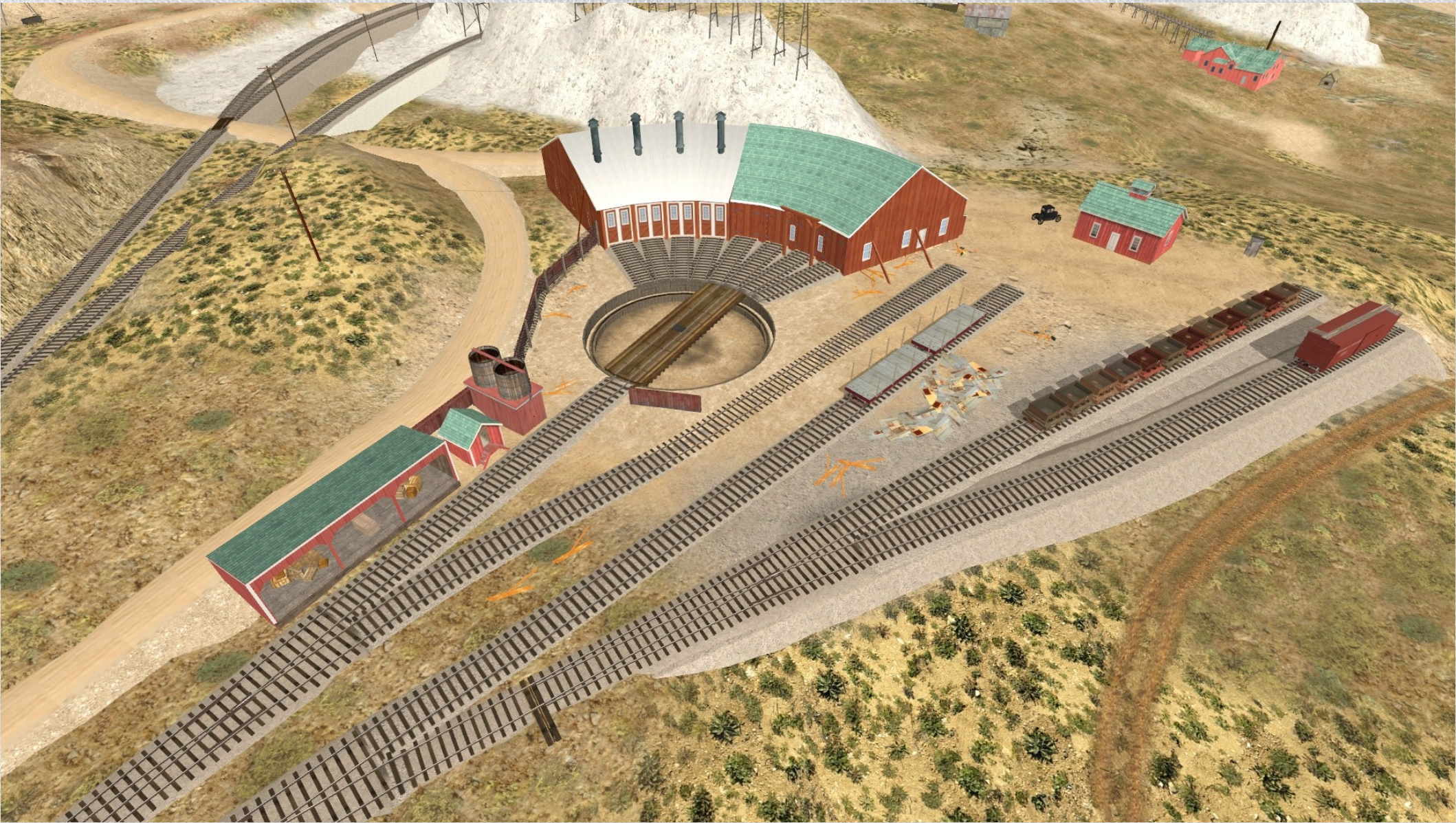
Turntable replaced; roundhouse roof patches gone

1908



Car shops gone by this date

1914



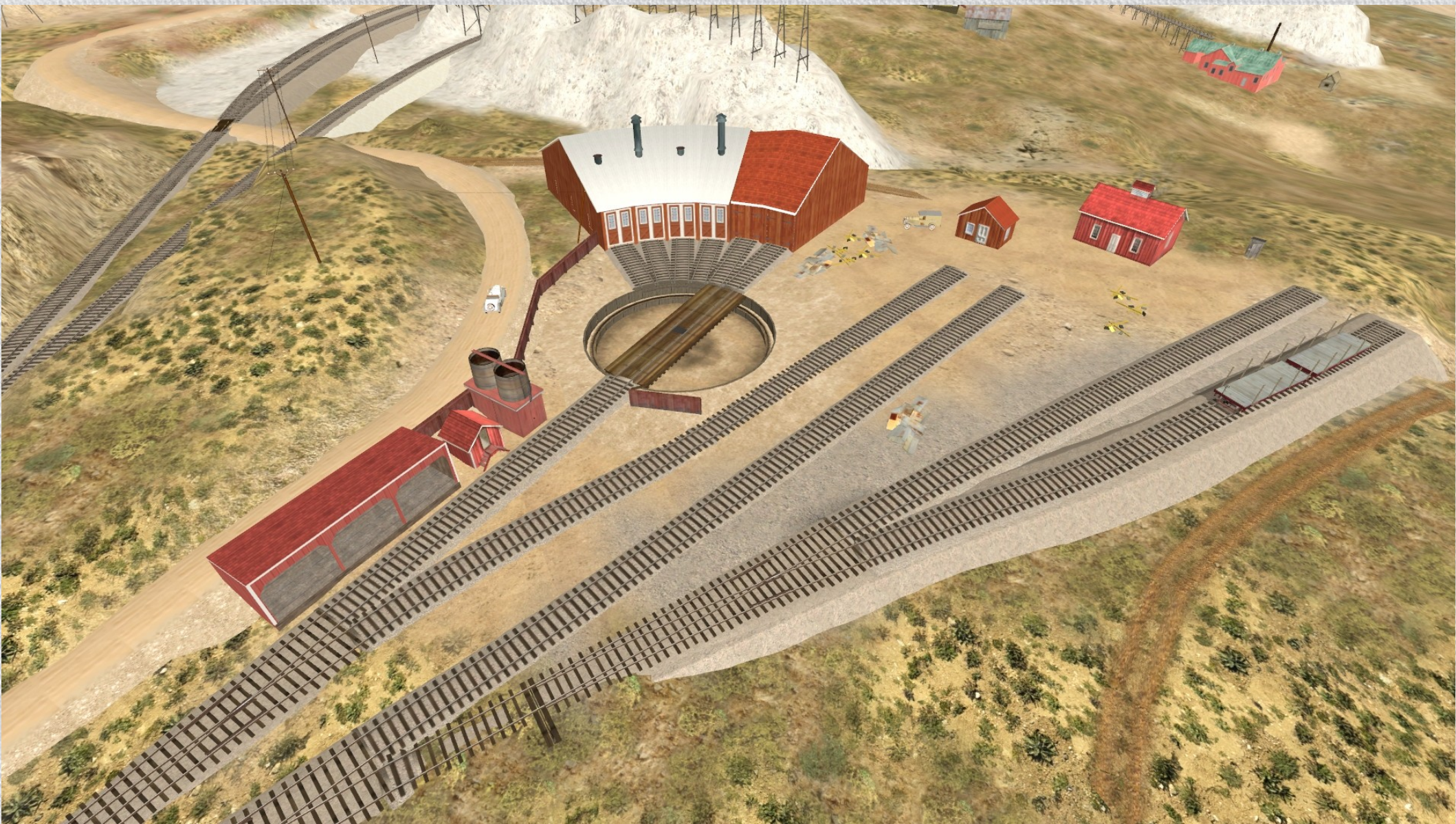
Down to two water tanks. Chollar tunnel and old smoke jacks gone.

1921



2 stalls removed from east end of roundhouse; office is separate

1937



New roundhouse is down to 2 full smoke jacks

1938



Old roundhouse is completely gone

1941



Track, turntable removed

later



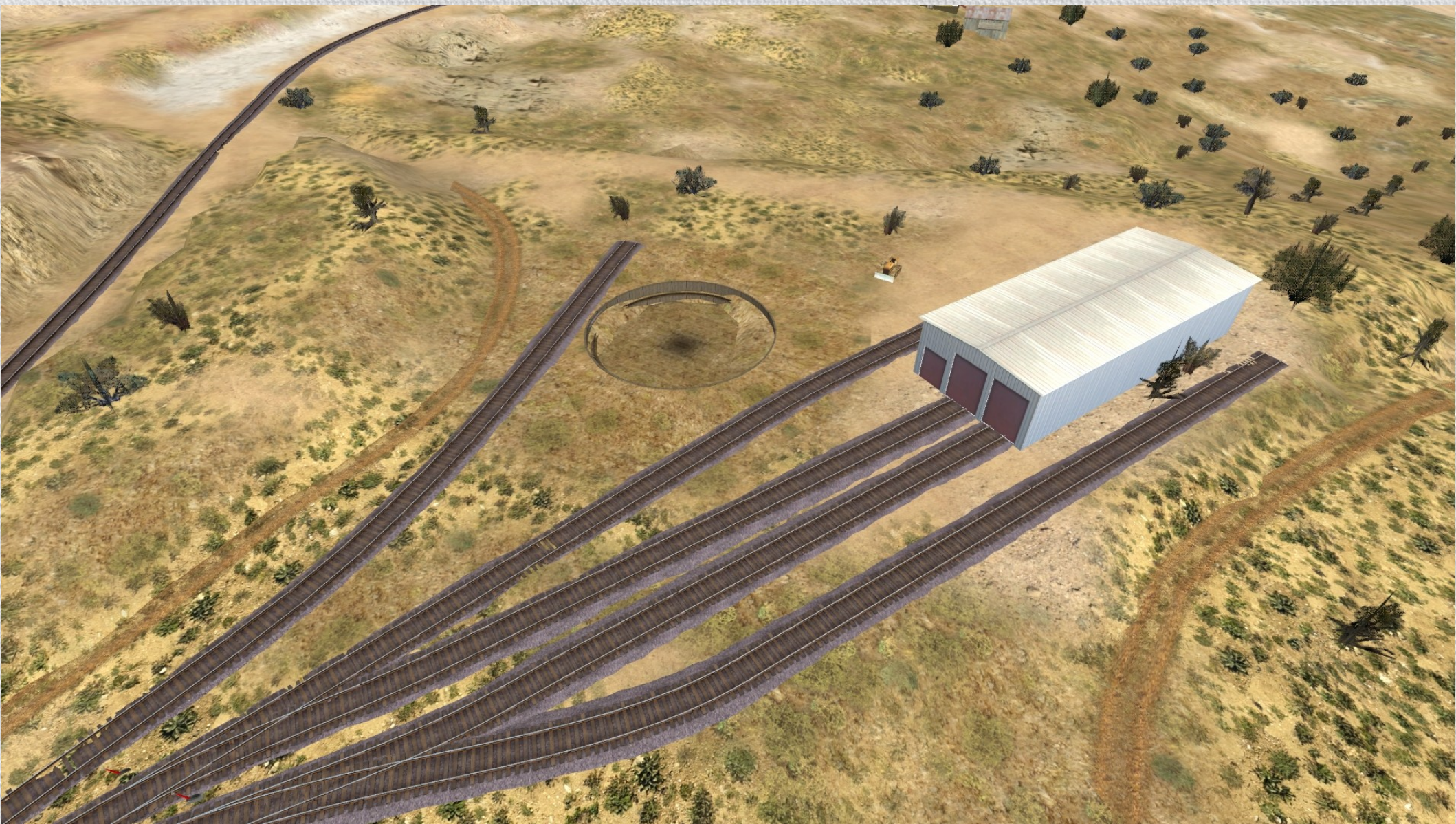
Site returns to nature

1973



New engine house completed

1975



Track laid

today

