



In 1881, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad's narrow gauge San Juan Extension reached Durango, Colorado, on the Animas River, then continued north across the Animas River through this location 5 miles north of Durango and was completed to its final terminus at Silverton in 1882. By 1971, the entire line from Chama, New Mexico, to Durango had been removed, but two sections of the narrow gauge route were preserved for tourist railroads: the Antonito to Chama line became the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad and the Durango to Silverton line, including this location 5 miles north of Durango, became the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Southward view of the D&RG Silverton Branch (1882n), now the D&SNGRR heritage railroad, 5 miles north of Durango and 40 miles south of Silverton. The branch line in the left foreground is the south branch of a wye. Historical topo maps from 1898 to 1963 do not show this wye or any junction at this location, but this wye now leads to a kiddie attraction so I assume it was built by the D&SNGRR.





Northward view of the D&RG Silverton Branch (1882n) and the D&SNGRR-built wye at the same location as previous.





Westward view of the tip of the D&SNGRR wye. The D&RG Silverton Branch (1882n) runs across the image in the distance.





Eastward view of the tip of the D&SNGRR wye. Note the stored cars in the distance.







Northwestward view of the D&SNGRR trackage east of the wye and the same stored cars as in the previous photo. The children's attraction is on the right, probably for Christmas excursions.





Northwestward view of the end of the D&SNGRR trackage east of the wye. The Animas River is 500 feet to the right (east).





Now we are back at the D&RG Silverton Branch (1882n) looking north, toward Silverton, where the north branch of the D&SNGRR wye joins the historic narrow gauge railroad.