



In 1914, the California Southern Railroad (not to be confused with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe-affiliated railroad of the same name linking Barstow and San Diego) was incorporated to build 50 miles from a point known as Blythe Junction, later renamed "Rice," on the AT&SF-owned Arizona & California Railway (1910) to reach the agricultural areas along the Colorado River around Blythe. Construction proceeded south and west from Rice through the desert and reached the agricultural center of Blythe in 1916 and reached the final end of track at Ripley, California (this location), in 1920. The high point of the CS (1920) route was a pass between the Big Maria Mountains and the Little Maria Mountains before dropping down to the agricultural lands along the Colorado River. The A&C/AT&SF leased the CS in November 1921 and completed its acquisition in 1942. Traffic declined until the last trains ran in late 2007.

In 2011 the owner, the independent Arizona and California Railroad, scrapped the CS (1920) trackage south of the first four miles from Rice and the last quarter mile, shown here at the original end-of-track in Ripley. Note the loading facility at the other end of the track in this eastward view.



Westward view of the other end of the track left in place at Ripley's abandoned loading facility, a quarter mile west of the previous location. In 2011, 40 miles of track was removed between here and 4 miles shy of Rice on the A&C (1910).