



The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation built the Yuma Valley Railway in 1914. The railroad was part of the Interior Department's irrigation and flood control project along the lower Colorado River; the YV constructed and was built upon a levee designed to prevent the river from flooding the newly irrigated lands on the Colorado River floodplain south of Yuma (the green fields to the left). The YV originally extended 25 miles from Yuma to the Arizona-Mexico border town of San Luis. In 1947 the YV was leased to and operated by the SP, which abandoned the last 9 miles. The YV operated into the 1980's and became a heritage railroad that operated an excursion passenger train until 2005. Some of the YV equipment was relocated to the Virginia & Truckee Railroad in 2013.

Northward view of the YV tracks, near the current end of track. The green fields to the left (west) are on the Colorado River floodplain, irrigated by the canal water.



Southward view of the YV, same location as previous.





Northward view of the YV grade (right foreground), one mile south of the previous location near Gadsden, Arizona. The Colorado River makes a bend so the river and the Mexican border, marked by the fence, are right next to the irrigation canal and there is no floodplain on the American side around Gadsden.