



In 1878, the AT&SF built from Colorado to Raton Pass and was the first railroad in New Mexico. Building to the south and west from Raton Pass was performed under other names as affiliates, subsidiaries, joint ventures, or other railroads. In 1881, the AT&SF affiliate New Mexico & Southern Pacific completed a line from Raton Pass southward past Santa Fe and through Albuquerque to the new Southern Pacific line at Deming, New Mexico, forming a new transcontinental main line. In 1885, the AT&SF built a branch line west from Socorro (this location) to Magdalena to ship cattle from the Plains of San Agustin and ore from the mines around Kelly, a few miles from Magdalena.

The AT&SF/NM&SP (1881) runs horizontally in the distance across this eastward view at Socorro. The wye and line in the foreground are the AT&SF Magdalena Branch (1885), which until 1971 shipped out cattle from cattle drives to Magdalena.



Westward view of the now-abandoned Magdalena Branch at the Socorro wye; cars such as this old caboose are stored on a few miles of the Magdalena Branch that was left in place.



Old caboose and modern art on the 1885 Magdalena Branch at the Socorro wye.