

## THE MOHAVE AND MILLTOWN RAILROAD



The **Mohave and Milltown Railway** was a narrow-gauge private railroad built in 1903\* to serve the Leland Gold Mine near Oatman, Arizona, USA. The railway was incorporated in 1903 and construction of the 17-mile (27 km) line was completed that same year. The railway started on the Arizona side of the Colorado River, across the state line from Needles, California. From the Colorado River the railway went northeast through Milltown and terminated at the Leland Mine, Vivian Mine and the Midnight Mine (near Oatman).

The railway hauled ore from the mines near Oatman to the mill at Milltown.

The railway was operating for only one year when several washouts in September and October 1904 damaged six miles (10 km) of the railway and led to its abandonment. The rails were removed in 1912, the same year that Arizona became a state.

### *Historical timeline*

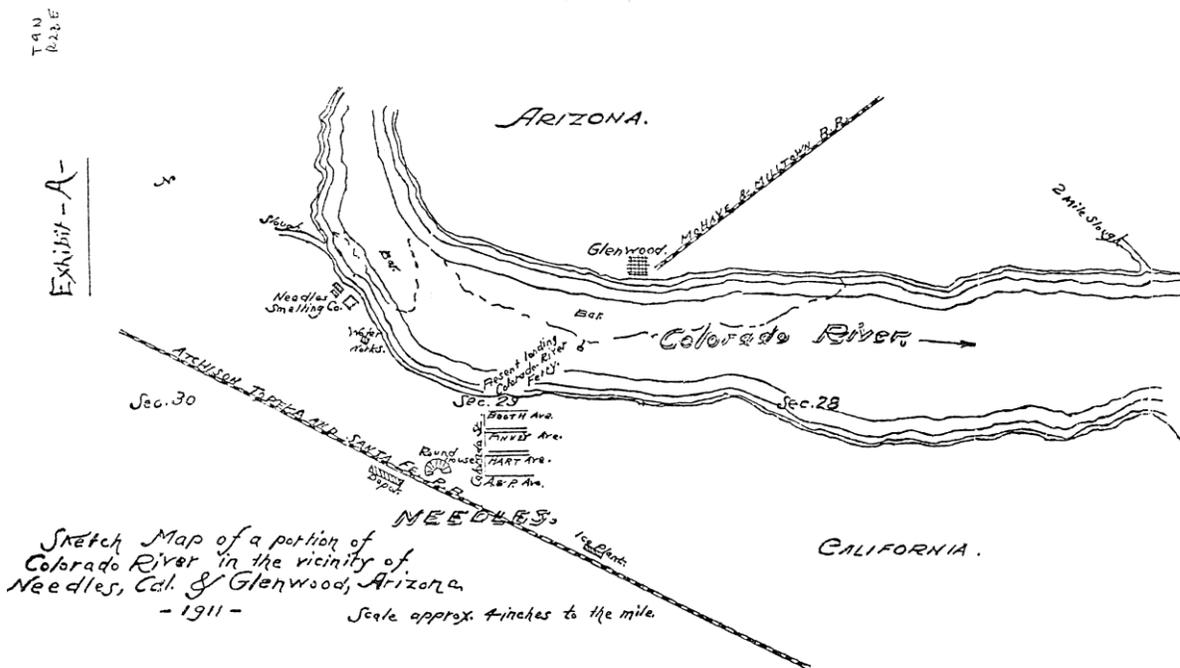
- March 16, 1903 - Incorporated
- June 27, 1903 - Materials for railway construction arrive by ferry boat from Needles.

- July 8, 1903 - Grading commences
- September 1, 1903 - Laying rails
- September 30, 1903 - Construction completed
- September/October 1904 - Track damaged by washouts and line abandoned
- 1912 - Track was removed

**Motive Power**

Mohave and Milltown Railway #1 was a Porter (Builder No. 2970) 0-6-0T built in December 1903.

*\*The narrow gauge Calico line was constructed in 1888 to reduce transportation costs of ore from the Waterloo and Silver King mines to the Oro Grande mill in Daggett. With the falling price of silver and the closure of the Waterloo (1892) and Silver King (1896), the rail line saw sporadic use until 1903, when all but a one mile section of rails were taken up and, along with the locomotives, sold to the American Borax Company and Mojave Milltown Railroad.*



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J.W. Morgan  
County Recorder.