

Roan Creek Toll Road, 5ME924, DeBeque Canyon, CO

OR... Italian Railroad Workers  
of the Western Slope

-Nicole Inman

# Roan Creek Toll Road, 5ME924

- In 2016, DARG received a grant from History Colorado State Historical Fund to record the extant portions of the Roan Creek Toll Road.



This resulted in 2.5 miles of newly recorded roadway.



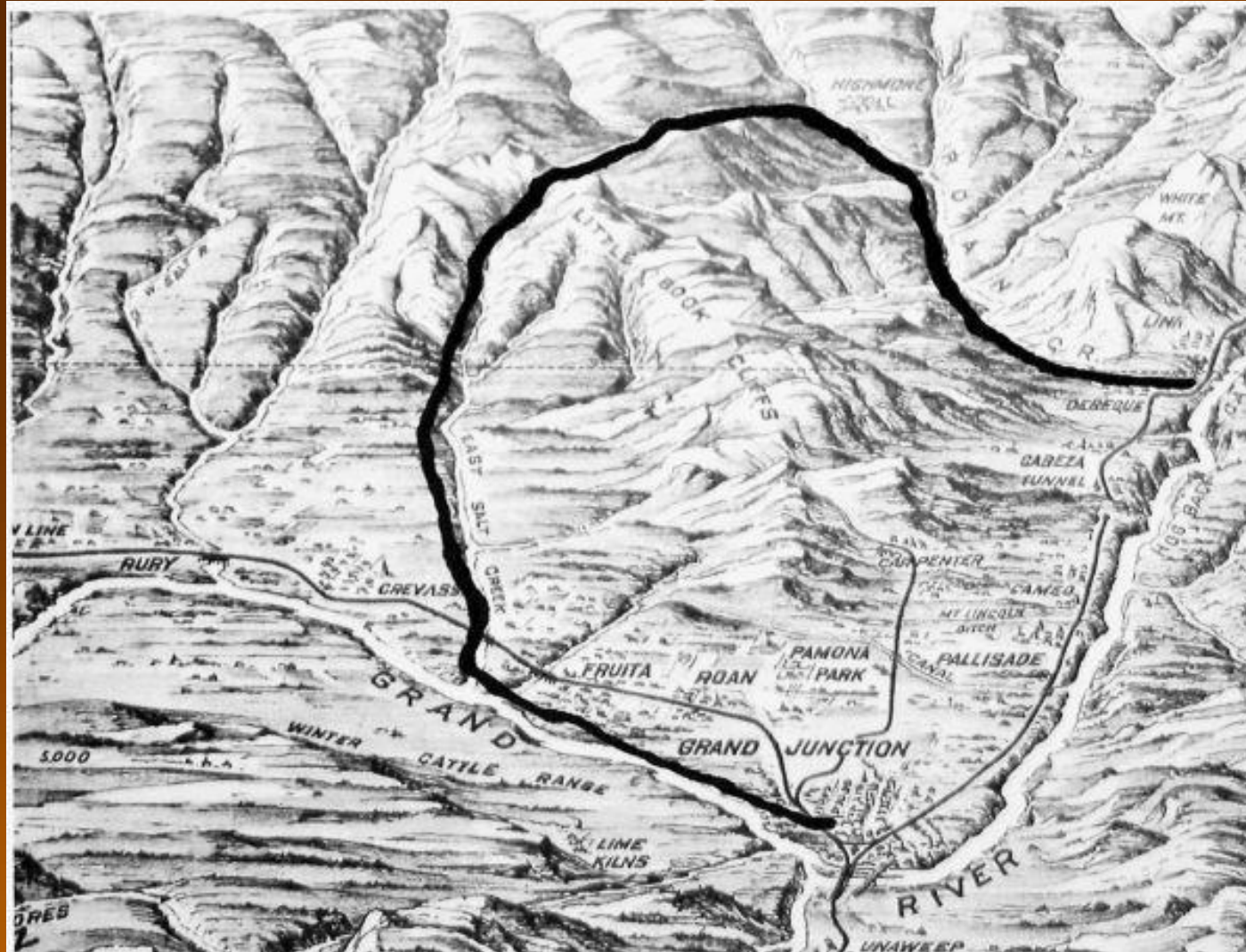


The toll road was the first road system through DeBeque Canyon





Previously, roads traveled through Rapid Creek or through Salt Creek.



# Henry Rhone's takes the credit and the road was constructed by 1885.

18

We have taken into account all the damages and benefits to land owners arising from the laying out of said road, and report, in tabular form, as follows:

NAME OF LAND OWNER.	DESCRIPTION OF LAND.				Subdivision.	Sec.	Tp. N	R.	No. & 1/2 of value of land taken.	Damages to or value of land taken.	Amount of damages to be paid to the owner.
	Part or width of strip taken.										

We have taken the following Government lands, viz:

We have taken the following Railroad lands, viz:

We have marked off the line of said road located by us by turning a furrow on each side of said proposed road. We estimate the probable cost of opening said road to travel to be \$

Respectfully submitted with our report of this date Oct 12 1883 George Hancock & S. Hollingsworth.

Which relating we have completed this

Filed in the office of the County Clerk.

By \_\_\_\_\_, 1883

County Clerk.

Deputy.

Presented to the Board of County Commissioners. Oct. 2nd 1883, when the following action was taken, and entered for record on the minutes of their proceedings, to wit: accepted and line of road changed Henry Rhone's road and credit is entered Rhone on Highway.

Filed for record the 21st day of November 1883 at 11 o'clock A.M.

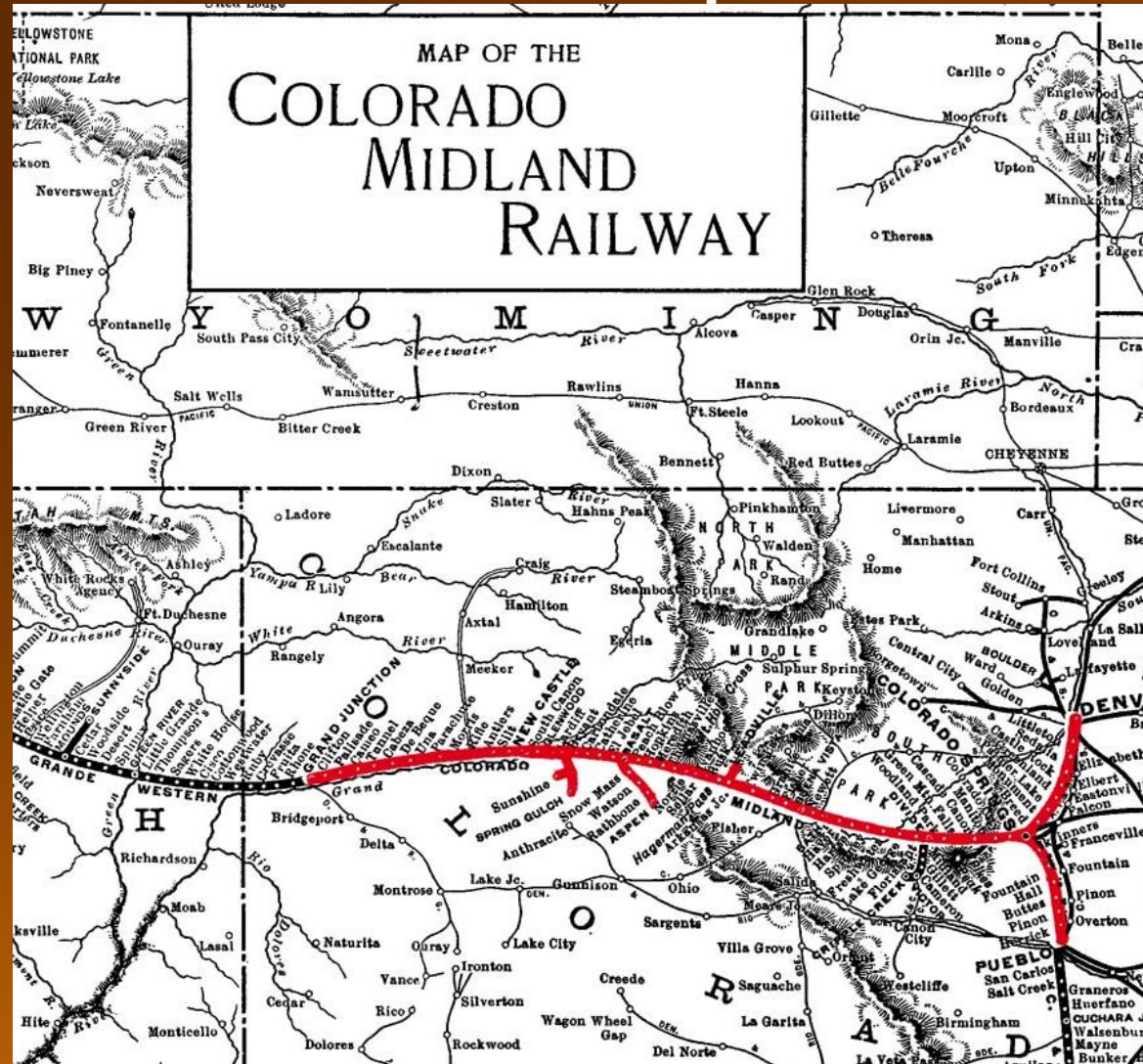
By \_\_\_\_\_, Recorder.

By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy.

\* Space for remarks.



By 1889, The D&RG partnered with Colorado Midland to purchase the ROW





In addition to the toll road, other sites were recorded as they were encountered. Segments of a transmission line...





# The last remains of a homestead...





# Homestead...



An unidentified building  
just outside the tunnel



But most impressive was site 5ME21641,  
an historic sheltered camp.



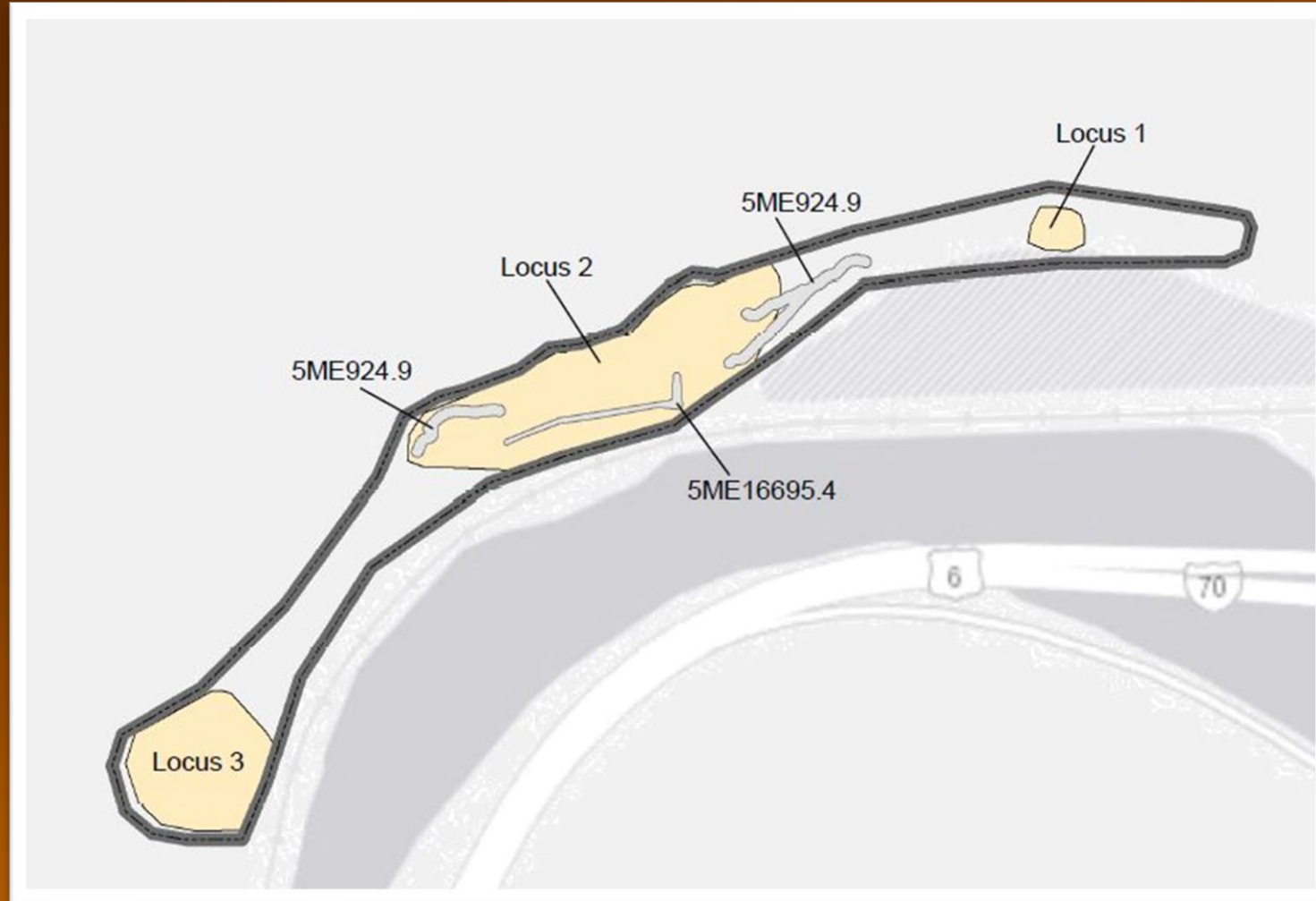


Numerous shelters, thermal features, and a sparse scatter of artifacts were recorded.

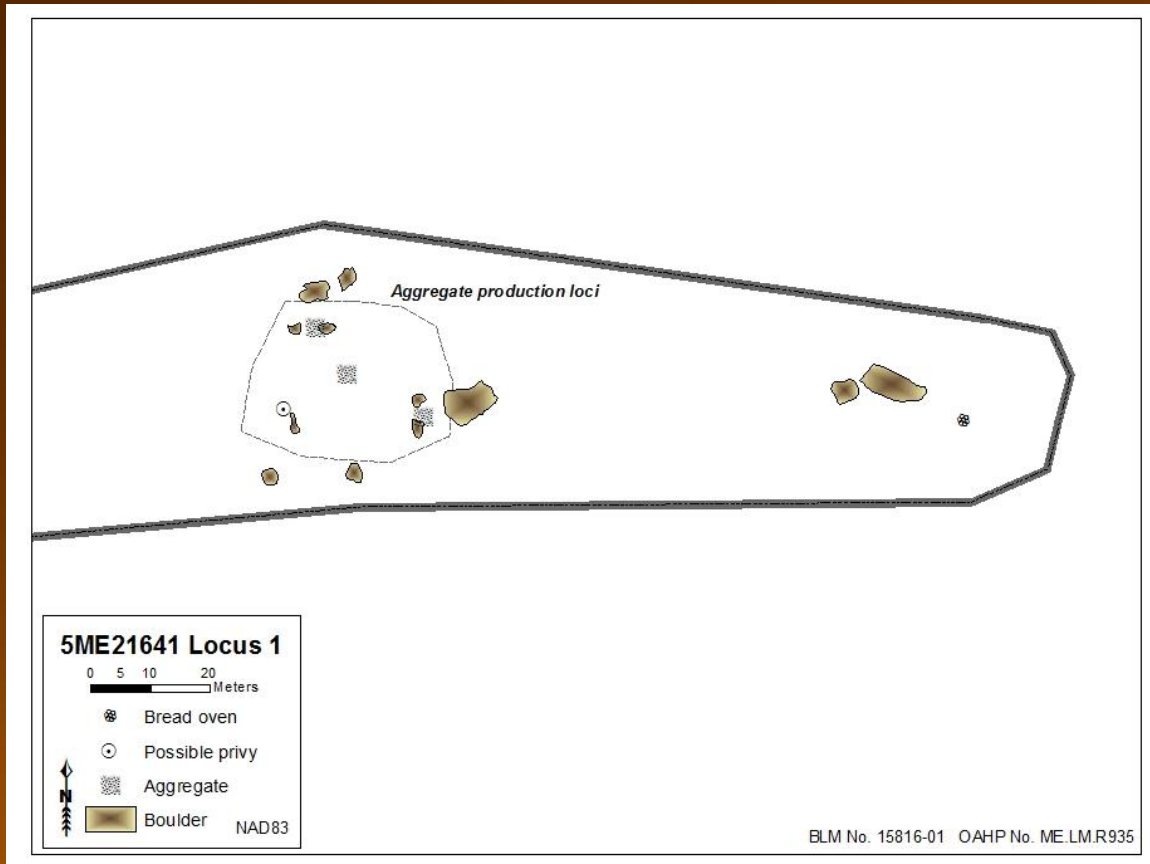




# Three distinct loci, with clusters within each forming possible social groups



# Locus 1 still had the clearest evidence of rock blasting.



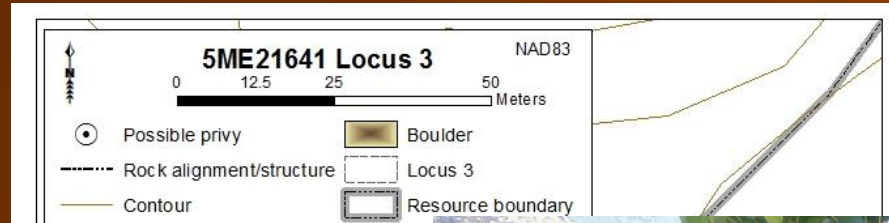


# Locus 2 had the largest number of habitation features.





# Locus 3 had several features of unusual construction.

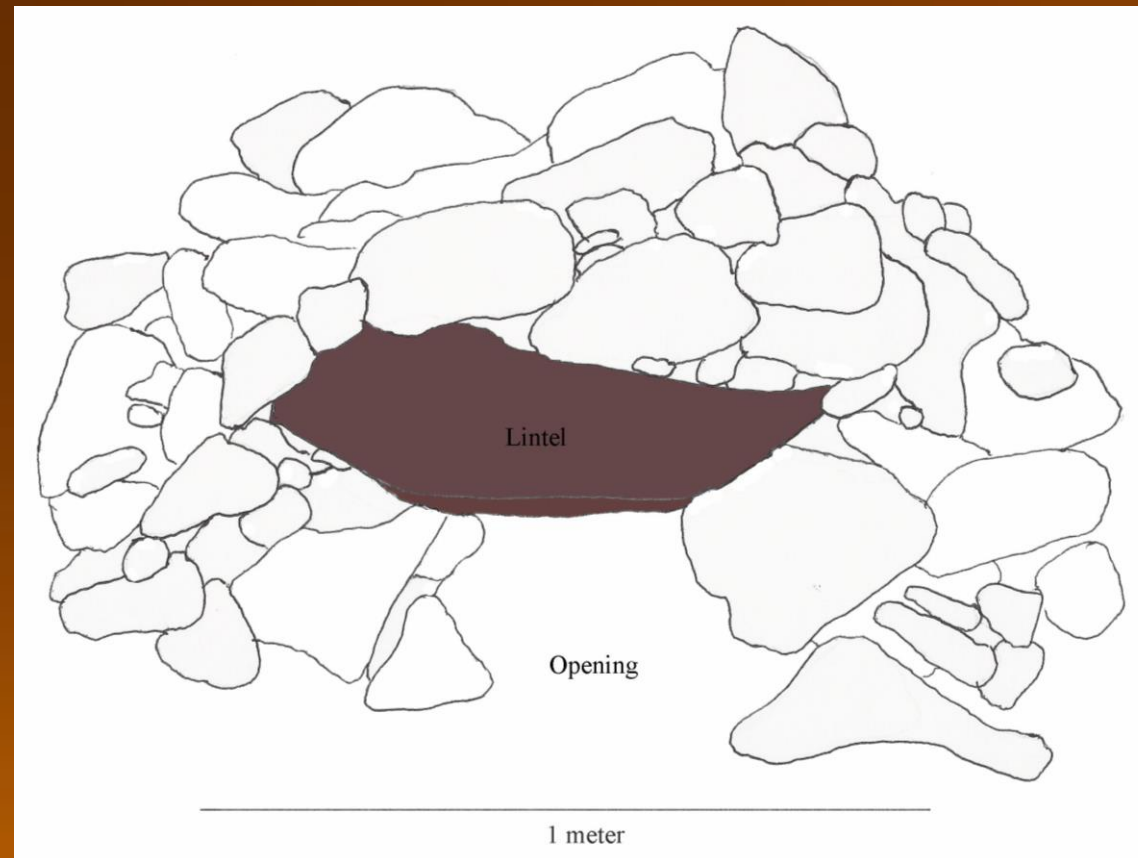




Black powder canisters = grading/rock blasting phases of railway construction



# Thermal features determined to be bread ovens





# Other bread ovens



**Figure 43. Complete stone oven from one of the Lake Fork Canyon railroad camps, 5GN1696.**



# Bread ovens at 5ME21641- Locus 1





# Bread ovens at 5ME21641- Locus 2





# Bread ovens at 5ME21641- Locus 2





# Bread ovens at 5ME21641- Locus 3





# Bread ovens at 5ME21641 – Locus 3

