LIFE ALONG THE GRADE: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS, BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH

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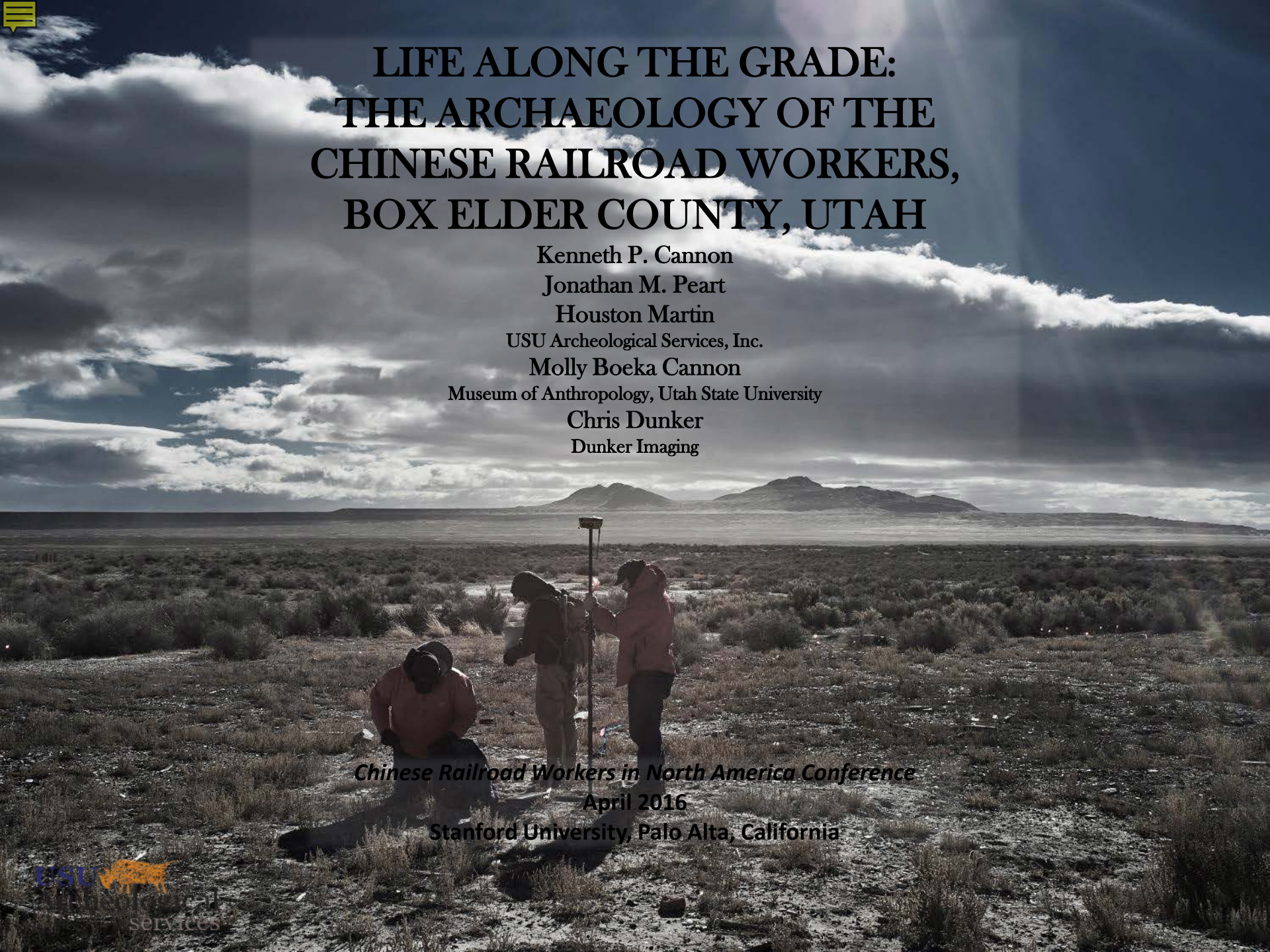

Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Conference
April 2016
Stanford University, Palo Alta, California

USU archeological services

Acknowledgements

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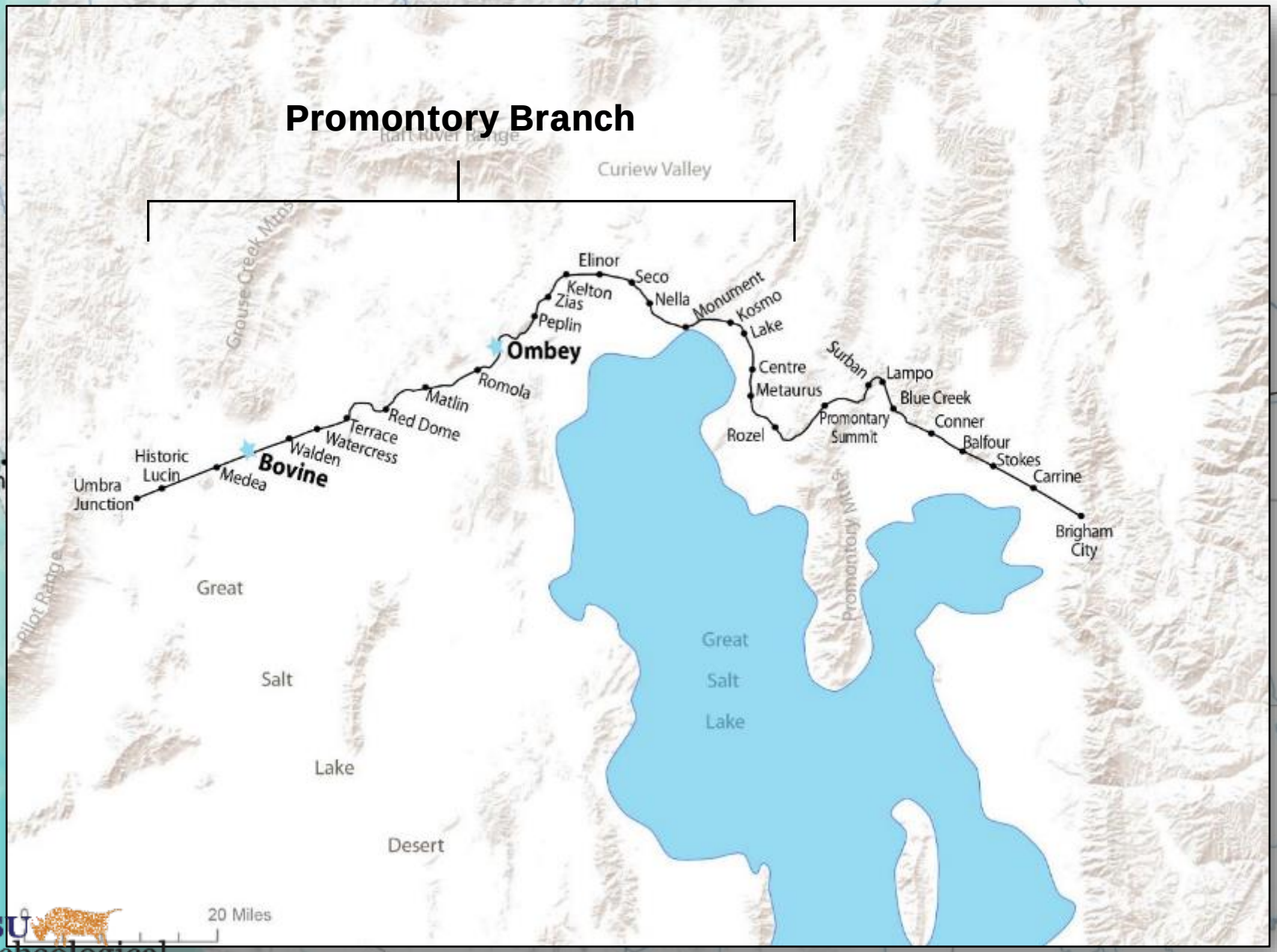

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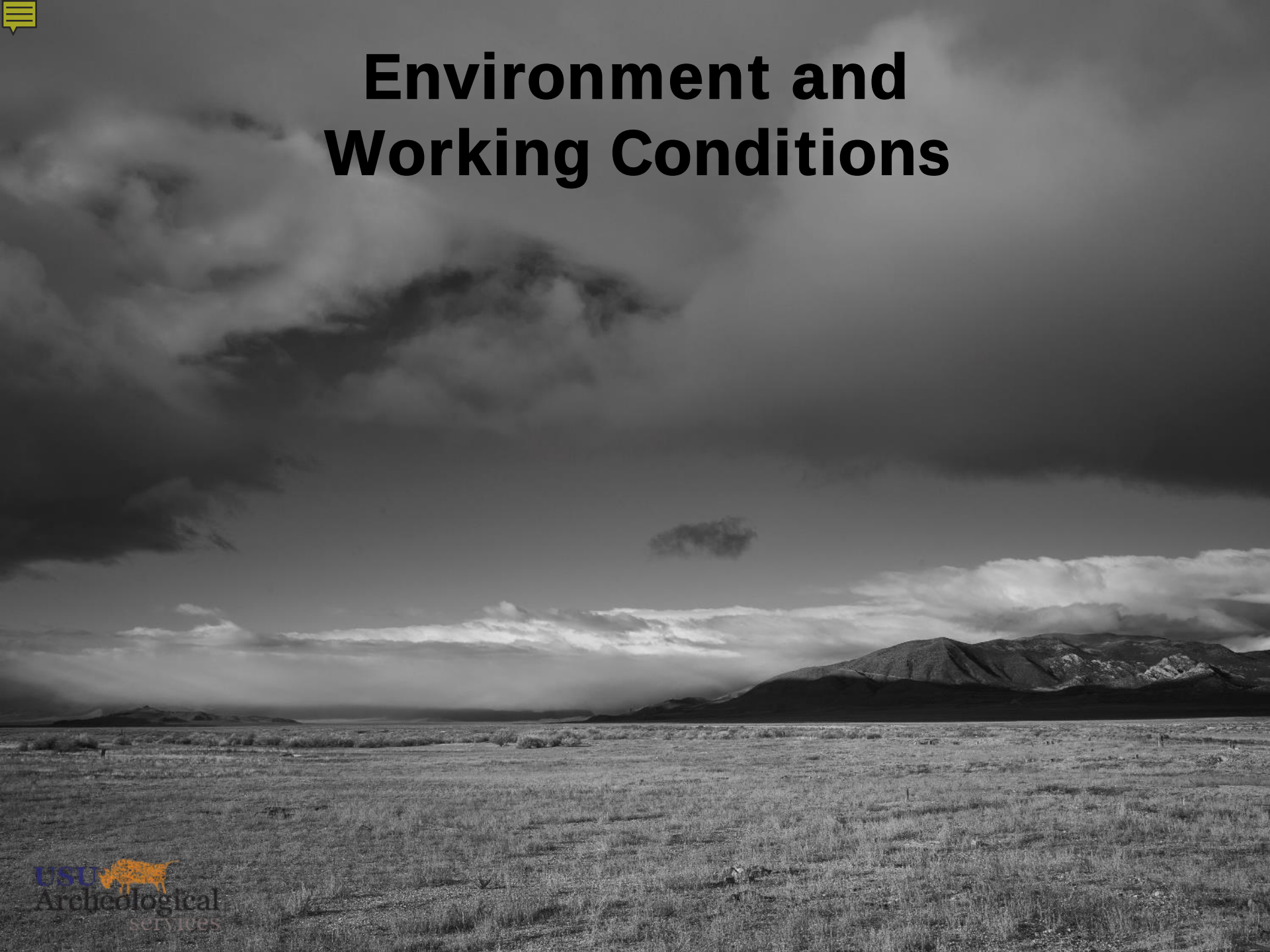
Environment and Working Conditions



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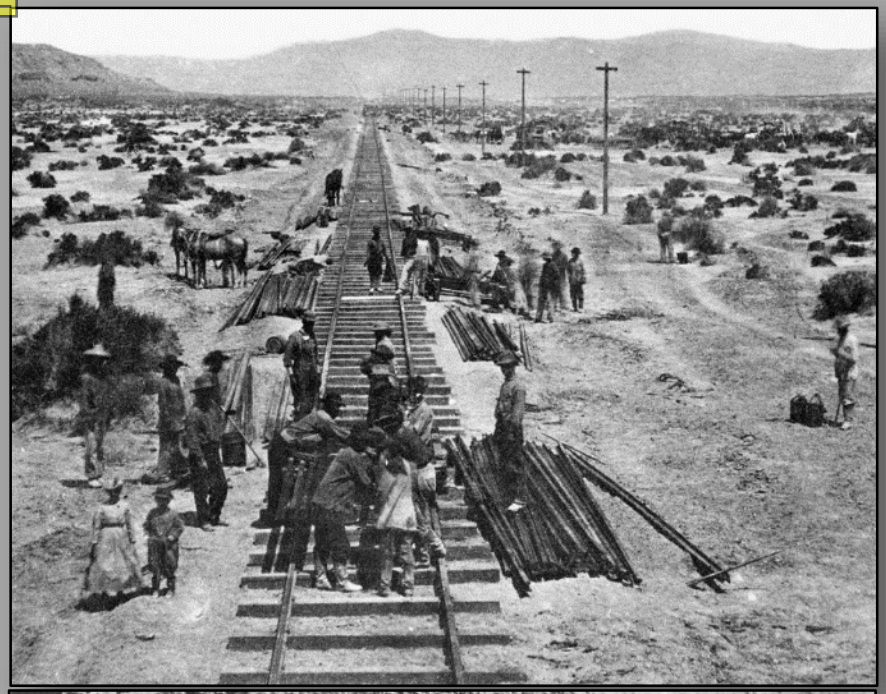
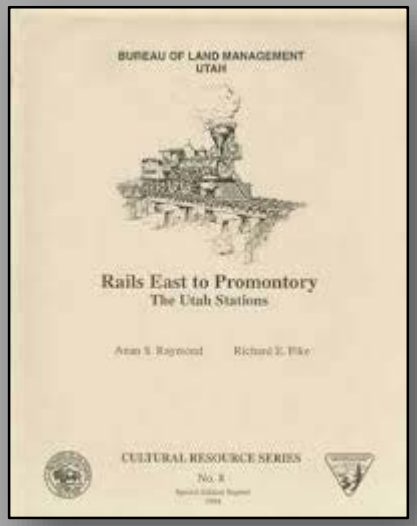
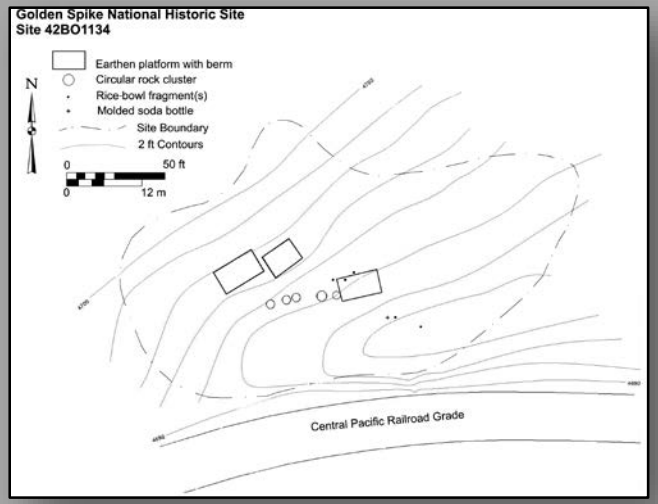


Wherever we put them, we found them good… and they worked into our favor to such an extent that if we found we were in a hurry for a job of work, it was better to put Chinese on at once.

-Central Pacific Railroad contractor Charles Crocker

Previous Research





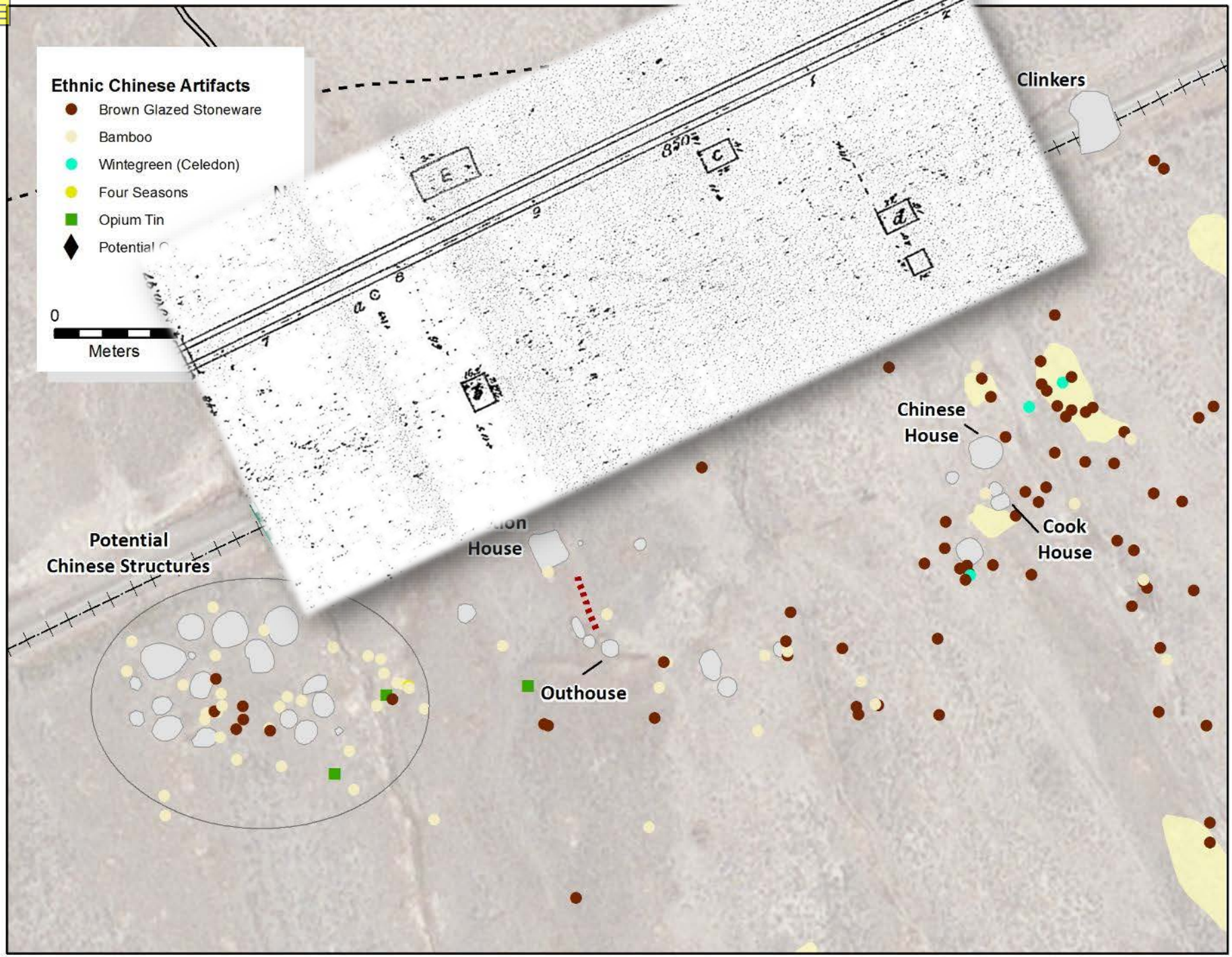
Methods

Bovine

- Served as a Section Station from 1869 to about 1905.
- In 1869 the facilities included a section house, train car body, Chinese bunk and cook house.
- 1870 census documents 2 white foreman and 17 Chinese workers were in residence.

Cook
House

Poten
Chinese St
Outhous


Ethnic Chinese Artifacts
Brown Glazed Stoneware
Bamboo
Wintegreen (Celedon)
Four Seasons
Opium Tin
Potential C
0
Meters
Clinkers
Chinese House
Cook House
House
Potential Chinese Structures
Outhouse

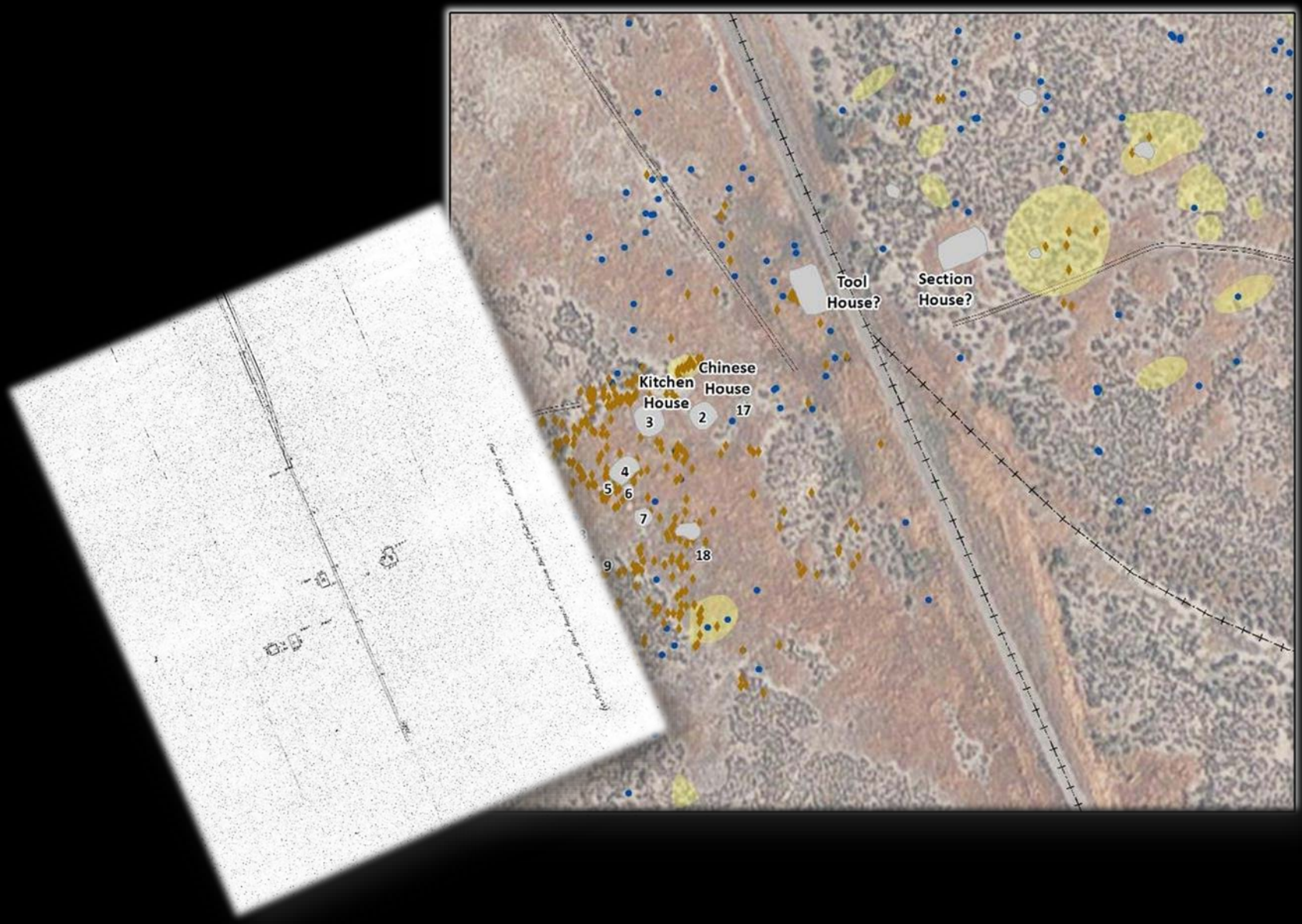
Ombey

- Served as a Section Station from 1878 to about 1910.
- Also had a wye constructed in 1900 to turn the newer heavier locomotives.
- 1881 records indicate the presence of a section house, tool house, Chinese bunk and cook house.

CM

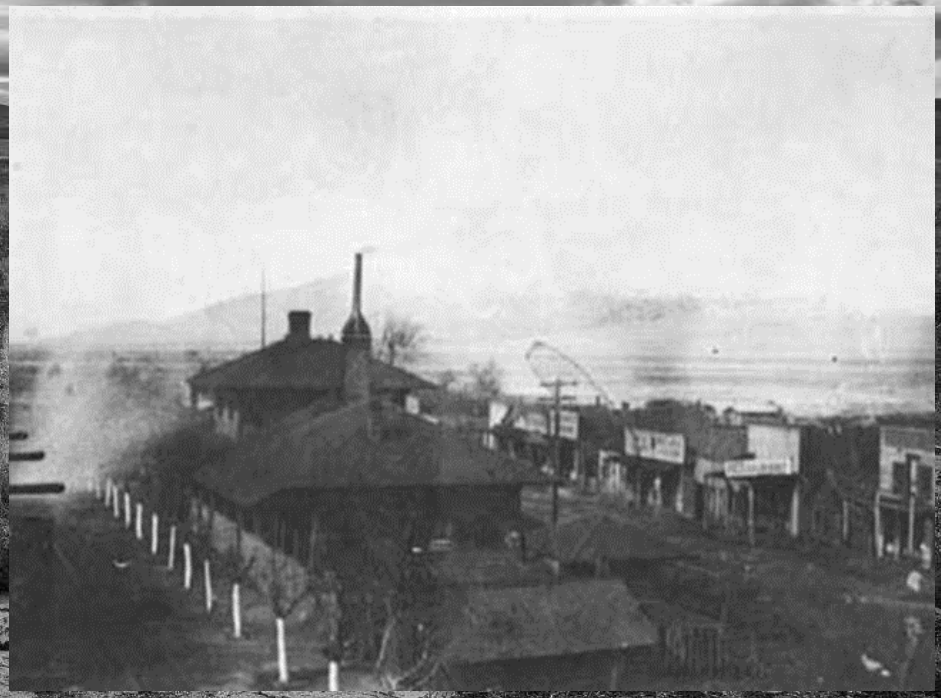
CM

Archeological
services
USGS 7.5' Peplin Flats, Utah Quadrangle
Mapped in UTM NAD 83 Zone 12 N

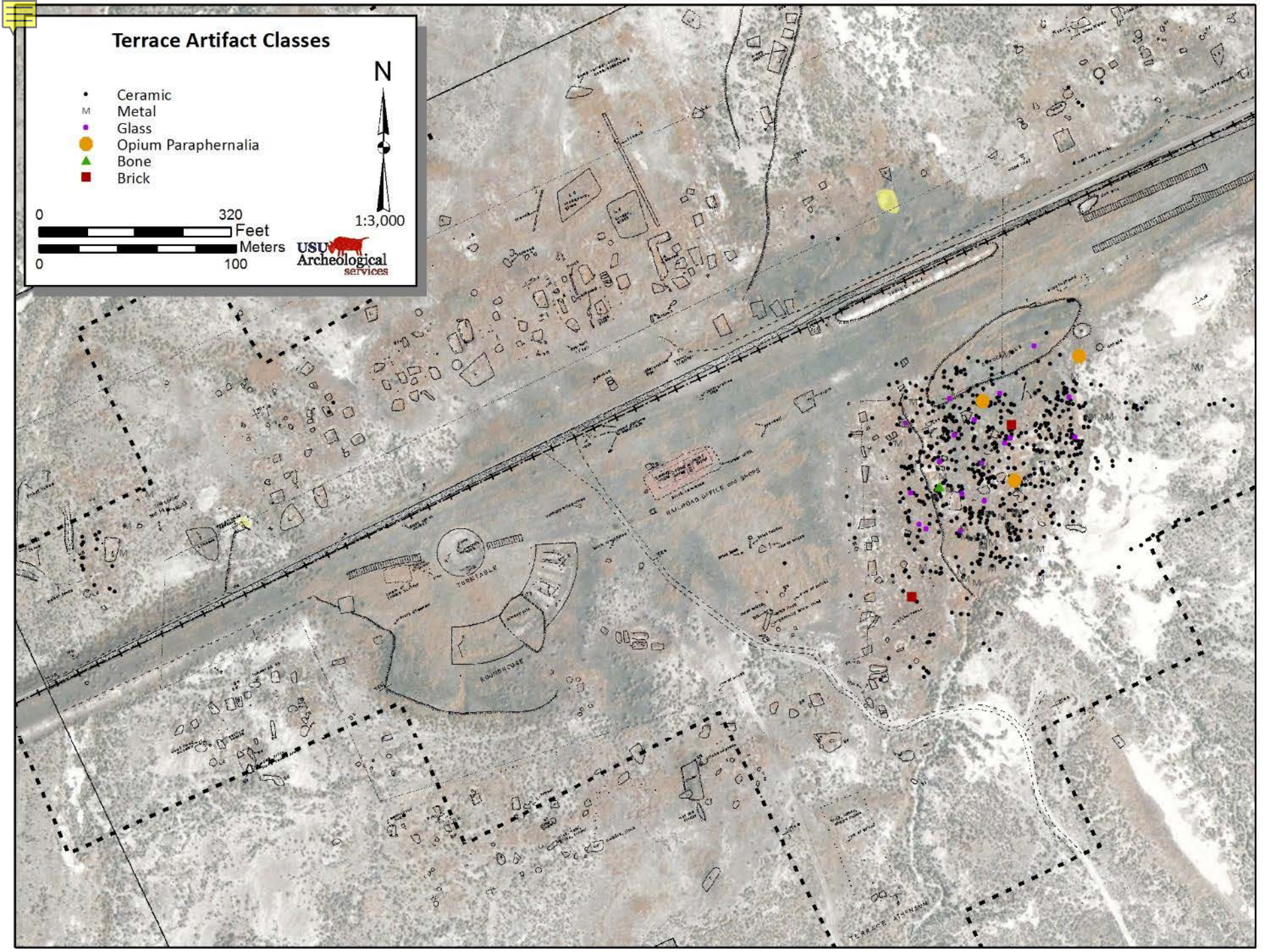

Tool
House?
Section
House?
Chinese
House
Kitchen
House
17
2
3
4
5
6
7
18
9

Terrace

- Served as CPRR maintenance and repair headquarters for the Salt Lake Division from 1869-ca. 1910.
- Extensive facilities existed to service the railroad, but also to support a community that at its height may have included 1000 residents.
- After completion of the Lucine Cutoff and the movement of the maintenance shops to Carlin, Nevada the town faded.
- 1870 census documented 22 Chinese men aged 14-55 and 1 28-yr old Chinese women.



RAILROAD OFFICE and SHOPS
TURNTABLE
ROUNDHOUSE
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community


Terrace Artifact Classes
Ceramic
Metal
Glass
Opium Paraphernalia
Bone
Brick
N
0
320
Feet
Meters
0
100
1:3,000
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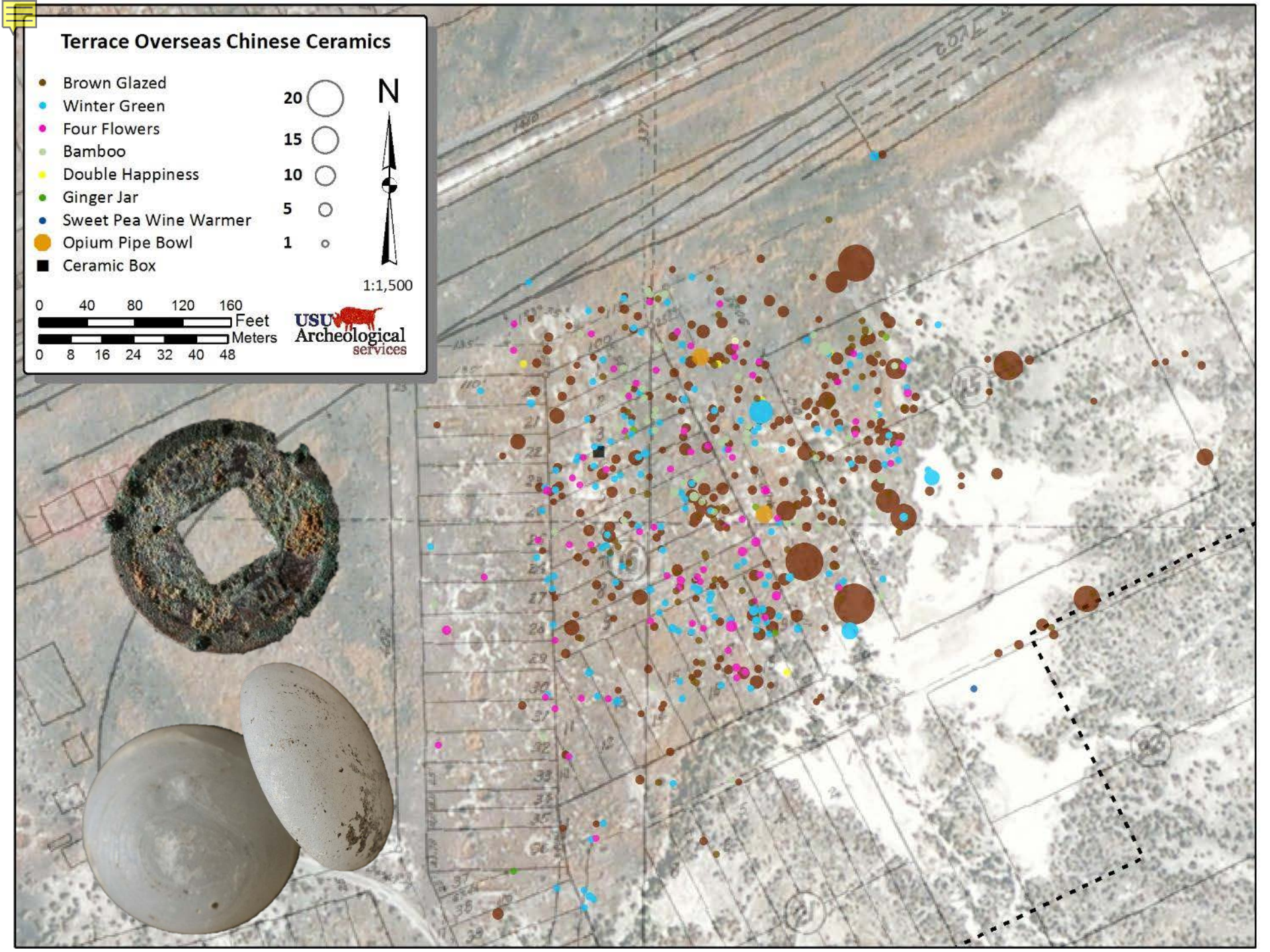
TURNTABLE
ROUNDHOUSE
RAILROAD OFFICE and SHOPS
TERRACE AVENUE


Terrace Overseas Chinese Ceramics
Brown Glazed
Winter Green
Four Flowers
Bamboo
Double Happiness
Ginger Jar
Sweet Pea Wine Warmer
Opium Pipe Bowl
Ceramic Box
20
15
10
5
1
N
1:1,500
0 40 80 120 160
Feet
Meters
0 8 16 24 32 40 48
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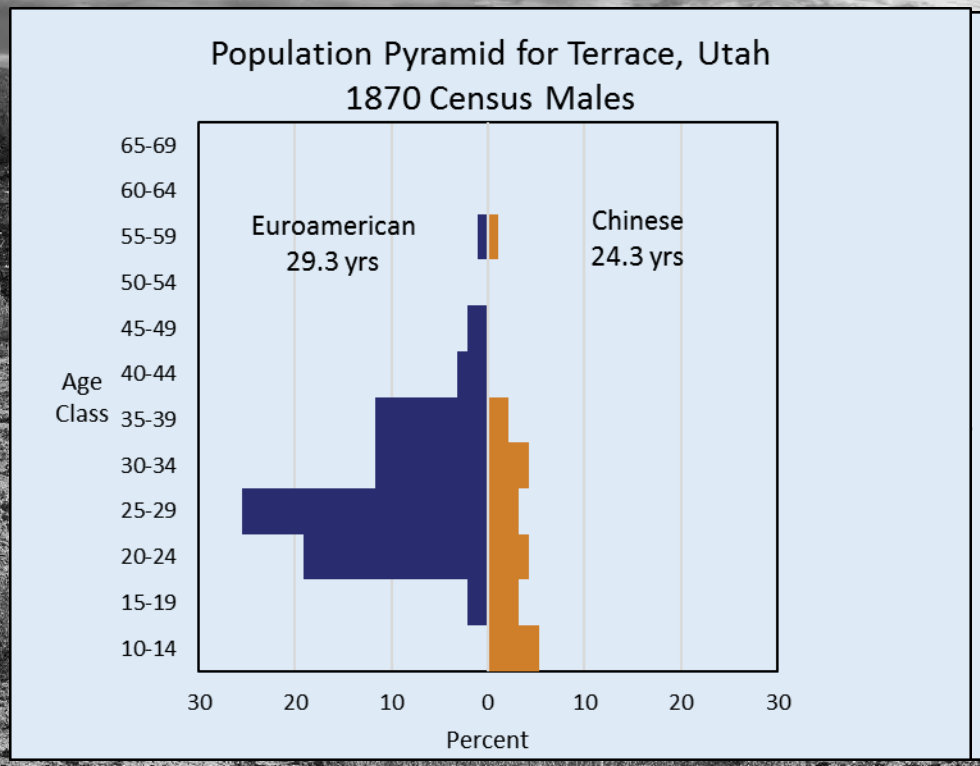
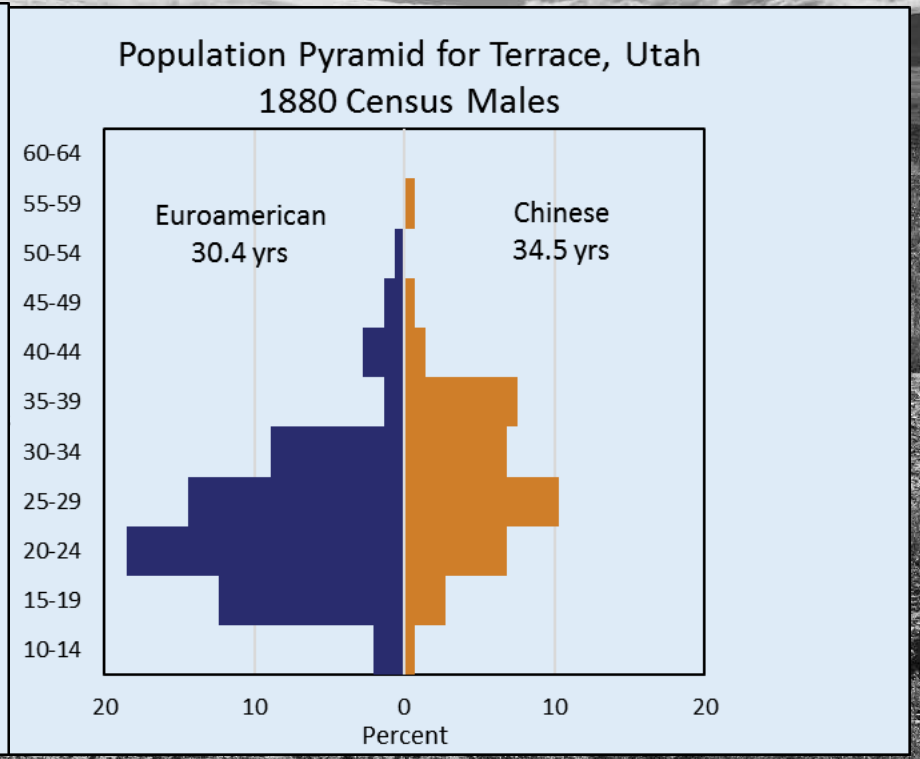

Population Pyramid for Terrace, Utah
1870 Census Males
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
Age Class
Euroamerican
29.3 yrs
Chinese
24.3 yrs
30
20
10
0
10
20
30
Percent


Population Pyramid for Terrace, Utah
1880 Census Males
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
Euroamerican
30.4 yrs
Chinese
34.5 yrs
20
10
0
10
20
Percent