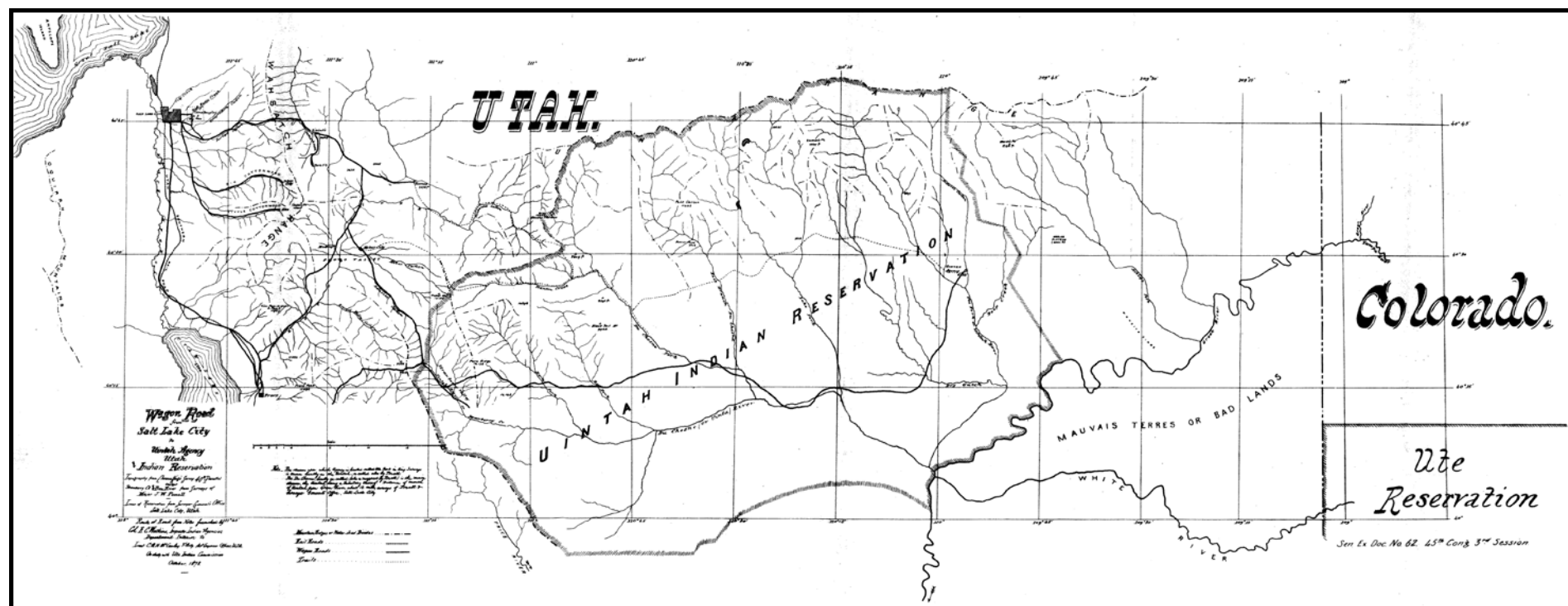


The Uintah Valley Reservation

Upon the urging of Samuel C. Stanbaugh, Surveyor General of Utah, concerning the pending survey and settlement of the Uintah valley by white settlers, President Abraham Lincoln, on October 3, 1861, reserved “the entire valley of the Uintah River within Utah Territory, extending on both sides of said river to the crest of the first range of contiguous mountains on each side, to be reserved to the United States and set apart as an Indian reservation” encompassing 2,080,000 acres. Brigham Young’s 1861 settlement scouting party described the isolated area as “one vast contiguity of waste ... valueless excepting for nomadic purposes, hunting grounds for Indians and to hold the world together.” Congress confirmed President Lincoln’s 1861 action on May 5, 1864, creating the Uintah Valley Reservation. The land was “set apart for permanent settlement and exclusive occupation of such of the different tribes of Indians of [Utah] territory as may be induced to inhabit the same.”

On June 8, 1864, a treaty was concluded with the Ute Indians of eastern Utah, in which they ceded all their land claims in eastern Utah, except the Uintah Valley which was reserved for their exclusive use and occupation. This treaty



was never ratified by Congress. By 1870 most members of the Tumpanawach, San Pitch, Pahvant, Sheberetch, Cumumba, and the Uintah bands of Utes relocated to the reservation and became absorbed into the Uintah band. In 1875, news came of measuring off the land causing the Utes to speculate as to what was going to happen to them. Would they be moved again and placed in another area?

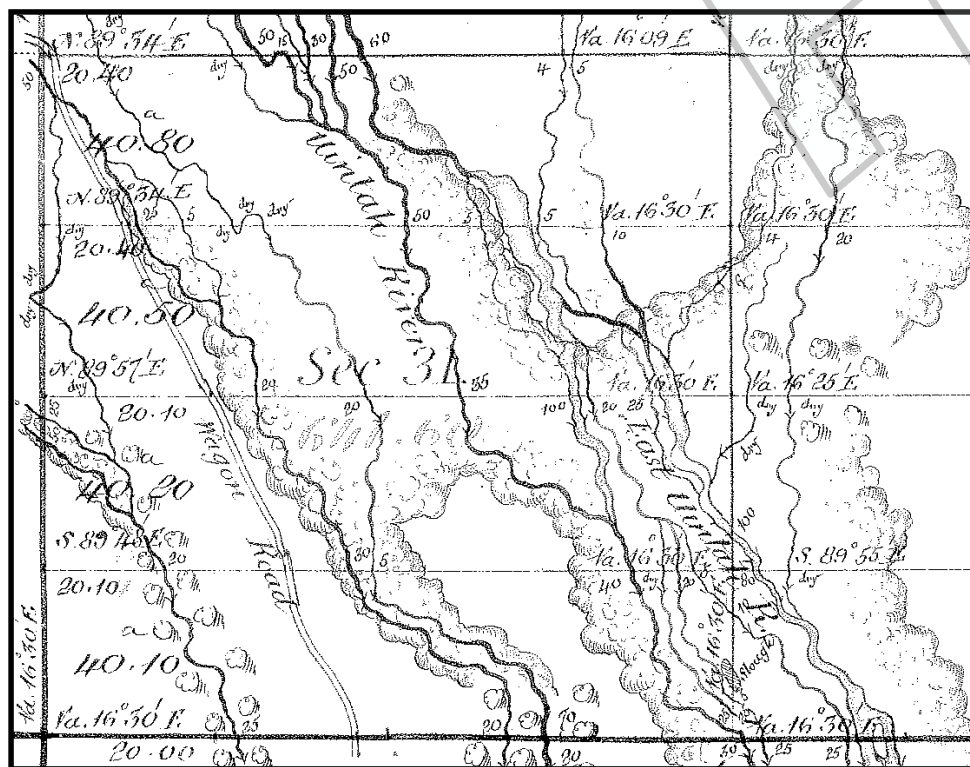
Initial Point of the Uintah Special Meridian

Fifty-five feet south of this marker, under a specially designed cover and marked by a 4-inch Brass Cap, lies the Initial Point for the Uintah Special Meridian, the beginning point for all surveys made on the Uintah Indian Reserve. On August 3, 1875, Nathan Kimball, Surveyor General in Salt Lake City, was authorized to enter Contract No. 64 with Charles L. DuBois as Deputy Surveyor of the Uintah Indian Reservation to “select the most available point within the reserve for an initial point and to survey the proper base, meridian and standard parallels as a basis for his township and subdivisional surveys.” On August 30, 1875, DuBois selected the site of the Initial Point and marked it with a “mound of stone 6 feet in diameter at the base by 4 feet high, with a stone 20 x 12 x 10 on the top marked I.P. 1875” as replicated by this marker. The Initial Point being thus established, DuBois surveyed and marked the meridian line north 6 miles to the base of the Uintah Mountains and 17 miles south to the Reserve boundary. He then extended and marked a base line 6 miles east and 6 miles west, then began the arduous process of subdividing the land.

*From the Initial Point, marked
by a mound of stone 6 ft. in dia
at the base by 4 ft. high, with
a stone 20 x 12 x 10 on the top
marked I.P. 1875 run
North between Secs. 31 & 36.
Pa. 16° 30' E.*

The Three-mile Method

Deputy Surveyor DuBois’ instructions provided for a unique survey process called the Three-mile Method, dividing the land not only into Townships measuring 6 miles by 6 miles with 36 Sections in each Township, but further dividing each section into 40-acre allotments by setting a stone monument at every corner of each 40-acre tract. By the close of the June 30, 1876 fiscal year, DuBois had run 1,300 miles of line, set over 4,000 stone markers every 1/4 mile and subdivided over 161,000 acres of the Uintah Indian Reservation land for allotment.



The Allotment Era

The period from 1870 to 1900 marked a change in Federal Indian policy which was dominated by removal, treaties, reservations, and even war. The new policy focused on breaking up communal living on reservations by granting land allotments to individual Native Americans. The General Allotment act of February 8, 1887, (the Dawes Act) provided that all Indians on (or off) a reservation would be allotted a tract of land, from 20 up to 160 acres, depending upon the type of land being allotted. The Indian Appropriations Act of May 27, 1902, required all allotments within the Uintah Reservation be completed by October 1, 1903 (later extended to September 1, 1905), and the remainder of the reservation to be restored to public domain and opened for settlement.

On April 3, 1905, a commission composed of Capt. C.G. Hall, U.S. Army, acting Indian agent of the Uintah Agency; W.H. Code, chief engineer of the Indian irrigation service; and Mr. Charles S. Carter, a local citizen, was appointed to allot the Indians and to select the lands to be reserved for use in connection with Indian service. By June of 1905, all allotments

had been completed. By Presidential Proclamation on July 14, 1905, Theodore Roosevelt declared all unallotted lands in the Uintah Indian Reservation open for settlement under the provisions of the homestead and townsite laws. Hundreds of “non-Indian Heads of Households” lined up around the land office to pay their \$1.25 per acre. Of the original 2,080,000-acre Uintah Reservation, roughly 104,000 acres were allotted to individual Indian families and 1,072,000 acres held in trust for their benefit; the remaining 1,004,000 acres was returned to the Public Domain.

