



Figure 5. Determination of the pre-1890 geochemical baseline in the upper Animas River below Eureka. A historical photograph from 1885 indicates that the river channel was on the east side of the river during this period. The alluvial fan immediately upstream from the site is apparent in the photograph (Denver Public Library photograph). The site is inside the railroad turnaround east of the road, which was completed in 1896 (Sloan and Skowronski, 1975). Ore was processed at the Gold Prince Mill in Animas Forks upstream on the Animas River, and at the Midway Mill on Eureka Gulch prior to this period, so there is some mining influence in the geochemical data. Concentrations of iron and the deposit-related trace elements are constant in the lower section and are only slightly elevated above those determined in the pre-mining silts (fig. 4; Church and others, 2000).