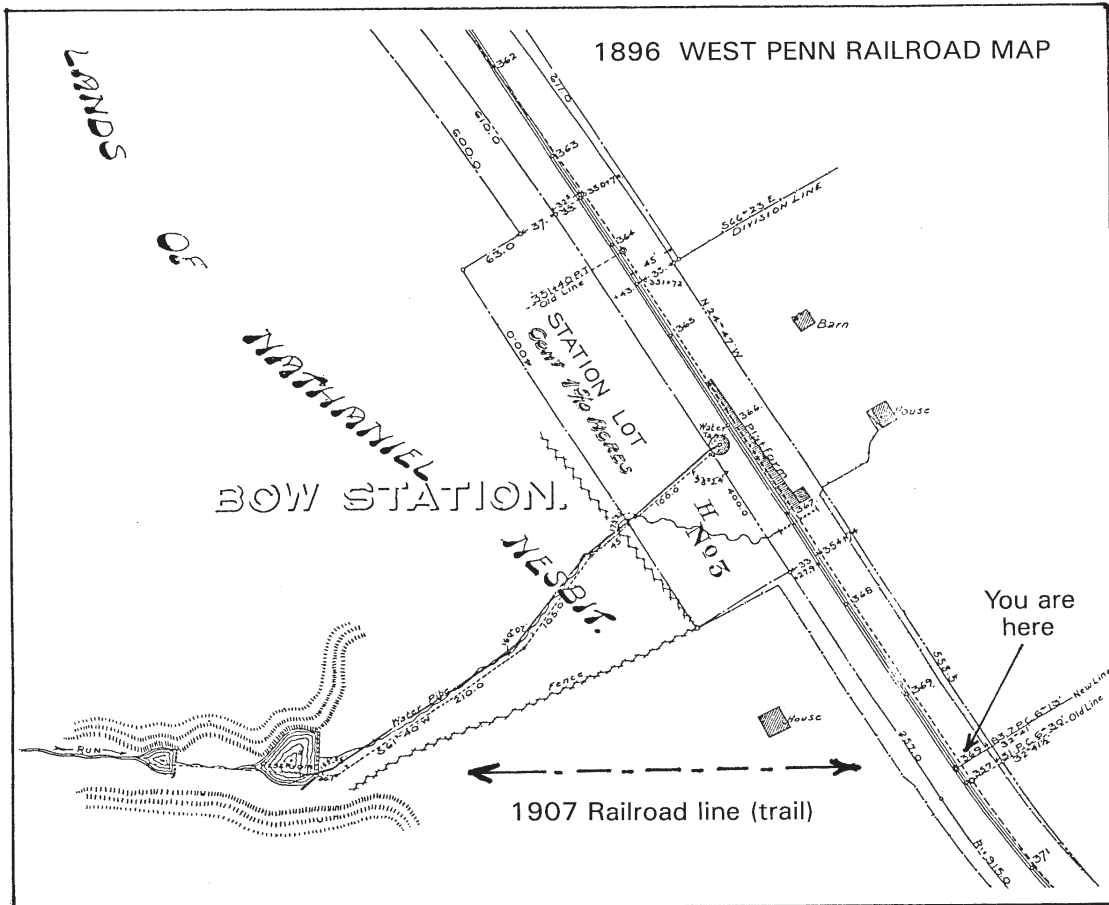


# WEST PENN TRAIL at BOW STATION



You are standing where the 1907 railroad grade (the bikeway) is crossed by the original (1854-1907) roadbed for the West Penn Railroad, which ran along the bank of the meandering river. Along that original line, one can find stone culverts built in 1854, and some building foundations. North of this signpost, the original railroad bed curved and crossed the river and immediately entered a tunnel, through Bow Ridge, that was completed in 1864.

A short distance south from this signpost, there was a small station where trains stopped, to refill the water tank carried by every steam locomotive. That track-side tank was itself filled by gravity flow from two ponds perched on top of the hill adjacent to the station. Those ponds were destroyed when the hill was cut through during straightening of the rail line, in 1903. At the same time, a new water-supply pond was created at the west end of the cut, on the north side of the new rail line.