



## St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company Collection (R1506)

**Collection Number:** R1506

**Collection Title:** St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company Collection

**Dates:** 1852, 1916-1984

**Creator:** St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company

**Abstract:** The St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company Collection contains records of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company “Frisco.” These records include AFE completion reports, ICC valuations, equipment registers and inventories, and materials on corporate history.

**Collection Size:** 18 cubic feet  
(14 folders, 81 volumes, 33 oversize volumes)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company Collection* (R1506); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive on January 3, 2022 (Accession No. RA1710).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company Collection can be found in the following collections:

*Kansas City, Clinton, and Springfield Railway Company Records* (R0091)  
*St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company Records* (R0362)

*St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company Photograph Collection (R1385)*

*St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company Maps Collection (R1486)*

*St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company Collection (R1491)*

*St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company Employee Records (SP0057)*

*St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Letter Book (C1229)*

**Processed by:** Processed by Kathleen Seale, March 1, 2022

### **Historical Note:**

The St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company, commonly known as the Frisco, originated with the South West Branch of the Pacific Railroad in the 1850s. The St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company organized in 1876. Through a series of financial troubles and renaming, the line officially became the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company in 1916. Headquartered in St. Louis the line served a wide area, including large portions of Missouri and into other states such as Arkansas, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Florida. The line merged in 1980 with the Burlington Northern Railway (now BNSF).

The company had many subsidiaries and acquired numerous smaller lines including the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railway; Kansas City, Clinton, and Springfield Railway; Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Memphis Railway; St. Louis, Kennett, and Southeastern Railroad; Bonneville and Southwestern Railroad; Tyronza Central Railroad; Butler County Railroad; and the Quannah, Acme, and Pacific Railroad.

The Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railway was chartered in 1885 to connect Fort Worth and Brownwood, Texas. The line was acquired by the Frisco in 1901 which extended the line to Brady, Texas in 1903 and then to Menard in 1911. The line was sold in 1937 to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company.

The Kansas City, Clinton, and Springfield Railway was established in 1885 by the consolidation of a railroad company of the same name and the Pleasant Hill and De Soto Railroad Company. The line came under the control of the Frisco in 1898 and assumed formal ownership in 1928.

The Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Memphis Railway has origins dating to 1865 and the Kansas and Neosho Railroad. It also owned one half of the capital stock of the Kansas City, Clinton, and Springfield Railway. The system was consolidated in 1888 as the "Memphis Route." The Frisco gained control of the line in 1901 and assumed formal ownership in 1928.

The St. Louis, Kennett, and Southeastern Railroad was chartered by Louis B. Houck in 1890. Eighteen miles of track ran between Campbell and Kennett, Missouri. It consolidated with the Pemiscott Railroad Company in 1895 and was sold to the St. Louis and Gulf Railroad Company in 1902. The Frisco gained corporate control in 1903, and in 1904 the Frisco passed rights to the St. Louis, Memphis, and Southeastern Railroad Company. The property and rights were sold back to the Frisco in 1907.

The Bonneville and Southwestern Railroad was acquired in 1905 by the Frisco. The line was dissolved in 1927. Another Arkansas line, the Tyronza Central Railroad, formed in 1902. It was taken over by the Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Memphis Railway and acquired by the Frisco in 1906. The line was dissolved in 1927.

The Butler County Railroad was incorporated in 1905. The line built track between Poplar Bluff and Kennett, Missouri in the early 1910s. The Frisco leased the railroad in 1927. In 1950, the line was officially sold to the Frisco.

The Quanah, Acme, and Pacific Railroad was incorporated in 1902 as the Acme, Red River and Northern Railway. The name change occurred in 1909 and in 1911 the Frisco assumed control of the line.

“St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company: River and Cape Division,” *All Aboard* June-July 1990

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following five series with fourteen subseries:

Corporate Records

Financial Records

Completion Reports

Arkansas

Kansas

Missouri

Oklahoma

Texas

Interstate Commerce Commission

Oversize

Equipment

Completion Reports

Reports and Registers

Property

Interstate Commerce Commission

Valuation Reports

Reports

Financial

Equipment and Appliances Ledgers

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Corporate Records**

This series contains corporate and operational records of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company and its subsidiaries. Included in the series are histories and organization charts of Frisco. Of note, folder 2 contains a listing of railroad lines and subsidiaries controlled by the Frisco as of 1916 and their order of incorporation. This series is arranged in chronological order.

**Financial Records**

This series consists of materials pertaining to the financial records of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company and its subsidiaries. There are records for dividend accounts, property values,

income taxes, among others. The records pertain mostly to the companies Missouri operations. This series is arranged in chronological order.

### **Completion Reports**

This series contains Authority For Expenditure (AFE) completion reports for lines owned by the Frisco in Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. The AFE reports contain corporate purchase orders used by the Frisco for capital projects. The volumes contain engineering, accounting, and operational reports as well as other elements relevant to the project. Also included in the reports are blueprints of railroad stations, trackage, bridges, drainage ditches, and other construction projects. The reports detail dates of construction, completion dates, cost, description of projects, tracks/spurs being moved or retired, line abandonment, relocation or retirement spurs used by various companies. This series is arranged by state with completion records from railroad lines in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Each subseries is arranged by division or railroad line, then chronologically.

### **Interstate Commerce Commission**

This series consists of records kept by the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company and its subsidiaries for the Interstate Commerce Commission. These records include valuations, statistics, and reports. The valuation report subseries contain construction history of specific lines, lists of assets and their value, and also reports on tracks, right away, chaining and grading, mile index, and telephone lines run. The reports subseries contains the state statistics and annual reports which contain trackage totals, list of assets, revenue, stockholders, number of crossings, property value, and investments. This series is arranged by material type and then chronologically.

### **Oversize**

This series contains oversize volumes with records of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company and its subsidiaries for equipment, Interstate Commerce Commission, and financial. The Equipment subseries contains completion reports, registers, and property records for equipment owned by the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company and its subsidiaries. These records include valuation, replacement, retirement, purchasing, and building of engines, steam locomotives, freight and passenger cars, shop machinery, and building equipment, among others.

The Interstate Commerce Commission subseries contains reports including valuations, reports on equipment, and engineers' final reports. The reports contain property descriptions and values. The Financial subseries contains records for the Frisco Transportation Company and unclaimed wages, property, and dividend checks. The Equipment and Appliances Ledgers subseries contain records of equipment, their value, when they were purchased, and when they were sold or retired. This series is arranged in chronological order.

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