

Information Sheet

R **St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company.**
362 **Historical records, 1859-1980.**
 635 items in 56 cartons.

THIS COLLECTION IS IN OFF-SITE STORAGE. AT LEAST TWO DAYS' ADVANCE NOTICE IS REQUIRED FOR RESEARCH USE.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at research@shsmo.org.

These are corporate minutes and financial account books, and other records of the St. Louis-San Francisco ("Frisco") Railway Company (1916-1980) and predecessor, subsidiary, and constituent companies, most notably the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway (1876-1896) and the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad (1896-1916). The "Frisco" operated in Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. It became part of the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1980. Also of note are four architectural drawing boxes that include the blueprints for structures along the St. Louis-San Francisco Line. A detailed inventory of the drawings is included in each of the four boxes.

The "Frisco" had its origin as the South West Branch of the Pacific Railroad, building southwest from St. Louis in the 1850s. War and financial difficulties plagued the road in its several early incarnations, including John C. Frémont's South West Pacific (1866-1868), the South Pacific (1868-1870), and as part of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad (1870-1876).

The modern history of the "Frisco" can be dated from the organization of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company in 1876. This road fell into receivership in 1893, emerging in 1896 as the new St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company. This firm likewise failed, in 1913, being reorganized in 1916 as the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company. This corporate identification was retained, despite further financial difficulties, until it was absorbed by the Burlington Northern in 1980.

Headquartered in St. Louis, the "Frisco" served a wide area, with terminals in St. Louis, Kansas City (Mo.), Dallas, Memphis, Birmingham, Mobile, and Pensacola (Fla.). The "X-shaped" system maintained a primary junction at Springfield (Mo.). At its peak, in the 1930s, the road operated on over 5,000 miles of track.

This collection includes records from 183 railroad corporations, construction firms, and development companies which were part of, or contributed to, the Frisco system. Most of the 635 items are corporate minute books and financial account volumes, but various other materials, such as photographs, scrapbooks, and clippings, are also included.

For detailed descriptions of the items, see *Guide to the Historical Records of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company and Its Predecessor, Subsidiary and Constituent Companies* (1989).

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17 April 1987

Burlington Northern Railroad

Contract

[See [separate guide](#).]