



The Arizona & South Eastern Railroad was built in 1888-1889 by Phelps-Dodge to connect its copper mines at Bisbee, Arizona (in the distant hills), with the national rail network via the AT&SF-controlled New Mexico & Arizona Railroad (1882) at a junction called Fairbank. The A&SE expanded northward in 1894 to bypass the AT&SF/NM&A line and join directly with the SP Sunset Route (1881) at Benson. In early 1901, the A&SE built a branch line from Corta Junction (located 3 miles south of Bisbee) 20 miles east to its new smelter at Douglas. Later in 1901, the A&SE was renamed the El Paso & Southwestern Railroad, which in 1901-1902 built eastward from Douglas to El Paso (this line and the 20 mile A&SE line from Corta Junction to Douglas is labeled EP&SW (1902) on the SWRRH map). In 1904, the EP&SW realigned the former A&SE track southwest of Bisbee to circumvent the Mule Mountains (including this location). All EP&SW trackage came under Southern Pacific control in the 1920's and under San Pedro & Southwestern control in the 1990's before the line was abandoned in the early 2000's.

Northwestward view of the EP&SW (1904) taken from the Arizona Highway 92 overpass, 3 miles west of Palominas. The concrete structures on either side of the railroad grade appear to be the remains of an older overpass.



Southeastward view of the EP&SW (1904) taken from the same location as previous. Note the typical EP&SW black slag ballast.