



Ash Fork, Arizona, is "The Flagstone Capital of the World" due to the stone quarries and yards in and around the town. In October 1882, the community was established as a siding of the AT&SF-controlled Atlantic & Pacific Railroad. In 1895, the AT&SF-controlled Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix Railroad was completed from a junction with the A&P at Ash Fork to Phoenix, establishing Ash fork as an important railroad juncture. Ash Fork's service on the main line lasted until 1960, when the AT&SF completed a bypass around Ash Fork to avoid the steep Johnson Canyon east of Ash Fork, and abandoned 16 miles of the A&P main line west of Ash Fork. The junction point with the SFP&P thus shifted east to Williams and Ash Fork became just a stop on the SFP&P. Regular passenger service to Ash Fork ended in April 1969, when the Hassayampa Flyer was discontinued.

Westward view of the station and yard at Ash Fork.



Westward view of the 1882 A&P main line one mile west of the depot (previous photo) at the former (pre-1960) junction with the 1895 SFP&P. The original A&P is represented by the track in the foreground, which before 1960 continued on the abandoned grade that heads straight, just right of center. The curve to the left is the SFP&P.





Abandoned bridge abutments on the abandoned A&P grade 5 miles west of Ash Fork. Note the red Coconino Sandstone, possibly original 1882 construction, and later concrete work, which pre-dates the 1960 abandonment of the line.