



In the middle 1920's, the SP built two new lines to replace the Maricopa & Phoenix Railroad (1887), which was a branch off the SP's Sunset Route (1881) and SP's only access to Phoenix. One of the SP's new lines was a connection completed in 1924 east of Phoenix. The other new line was a connection completed in 1926 west of Phoenix, from the SP mainline at Wellton, Arizona, to the Arizona Eastern (1910) end of track at Hassayampa (5 miles west of this location) to complete the line to Phoenix using the AE trackage. The two new SP lines built in the middle 1920's constitute a second mainline parallel to the Sunset Route and goes through Phoenix.

Northward view of the AE (1910), 5 miles east of the connection with the SP (1926) cutoff to Phoenix. Note the irrigated fields on the floodplain of the Gila River.