Missouri-Kansas-Texas, Missouri Pacific, and Southern Pacific Railroads in Downtown Austin.
c. 1981

These are pictures I took of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas, Missouri Pacific, and Southern Pacific railroad tracks in downtown Austin. I believe the majority of these were taken in 1981. I had read in the Austin American-Statesman that the Katy yard was to be abandoned and apartments were to be built on the site.

The photos are high resolution scans from 35mm negatives. This allows zooming in up to 400% with Adobe Reader.

Gary Phelps

Forth Street at IH35 facing east. The crossing signal's upper head flashed and and the lower head displayed "No Right Turn."

Forth Street east of IH35 facing west. The first switch had it's frog located on the bridge over Waller Creek.

Forth Street at Waller Creek bridge facing west-south-west. The building is located on Red River Street.

Forth at Sabine Street facing south-west.

Detail from previous photo. The first switch leads to the MKT yard. The box car is spotted at the Feed Co. siding.

Another view of the Feed Co. siding. Facing south-west. The main track curves on to Third Street.

Third at Neches Street facing west. Tracks curve on to Third Street heading west across downtown to connect with the MP.

Third at Neches Street facing north-east. The MKT train about to enter the Third Street trackage heading west. At the time of the photo the train was parked. Maybe the crew had gone for "beans." Note the caboose immediately behind the engine.

Third Street near San Jacinto Street facing east. The siding served the building on the right which was Wholesale Hardware. Both that building and the white building on the left still exist as of 2017. I saw the MKT attempt to spot a box car on the siding one weekday afternoon. (It may have been the train in the previous photo, but I don't remember for sure). There was an parked car fouling the track and the engine crew had to call the police.

Third Street tracks crossing Congress Avenue. Facing east-north-east. The parking lot across Congress Avenue was the site of the HB&T/MKT passenger station.

Third Street near Colorado Street facing west.

Third at Lavaca Street facing west. Missouri Pacific Freight Station.

Missouri Pacific Freight Station

Third at Nueces Street facing west. The Shoal Creek bridge is up ahead. There is a hopper car on the tracks that come over from Forth Street which also had a bridge crossing Shoal Creek. It joins the Third Street tracks in the Town Lake Wye yard.

Forth at Nueces Street facing east. This is Missouri Pacific trackage and at the time of the photo it only ran about two blocks east. The "main" track curved off Forth Street to the right heading south-west. The tracks crossed Shoal Creek on a bridge next to the Third Street track bridge and then connected to yard at the Town Lake wye.

This is the Town Lake yard looking east from the west end. This was taken in 1978. It shows the yard as being quite active at the time. The “Katy leg” of the wye on the east side of the yard was still in use. Zoom in at 400% and you can see a lot of detail including the switcher that was stationed there. The switches are line for the through route that leads to the Third Street tracks.

Tracks entering MKT freight yard facing west. Red River Street is behind the camera and Neches Street is visible near center of picture.

MKT freight yard at Neches Street facing west.

MKT freight yard at San Jacinto Street facing east.

The MKT Freight Station still in use, facing north east. The station was located on 4th Street between Brazos and San Jacinto Streets.

The MKT Station, now abandoned, year or more after the previous photo. Note the MKT sign has been removed. The A/C window unit is gone, and although the housing is still there, the electric meter on the utility pole has been removed. Also, the rails next to the station have been pulled up.

c. 1981

March 6, 2017