

MAP OF THE MONTH

Baltimore and Ohio, circa 1950

The divisions and facilities of America's first railroad as it transitioned from steam to diesel

- Double track
- Single track
- Branch line
- B&O trackage rights
- B&O part owner
- Electrified track
- Roundhouse and turntable
- Turntable
- Coaling facility
- Water facility
- Enginehouse
- Diesel service facility
- Locomotive repair shop
- Fuel oil
- Freight car repair shop
- Passenger car repair shop
- Freight classification yard
- Wye
- Dispatching office
- Major passenger station

On July 4, 1828, the first stone was laid for the Baltimore & Ohio in the time-honored Masonic tradition. After the stone was declared foursquare, there was a great parade for which almost all the citizens of Baltimore turned out to either participate in or watch. Probably less than a dozen people in the whole city could say with absolute certainty what a railroad was, making building one 300 miles west to the Ohio River all the more audacious. As the first railroad of any length in the United States, the B&O had to invent itself and American railroading as it went along. Standards for track, clearances, curves, bridges, equipment, and motive power all had to be determined and often redone. Nevertheless, they persisted and reached Cumberland in 1841, then Wheeling in 1852. They kept expanding west, arriving in Chicago in 1874 and into St. Louis through merger in 1893. This map shows the B&O as it was circa 1950 at the leading edge of total dieselization when the vast majority of steam-related facilities shown here will lose their reason for being and disappear.

- In 1950, the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis was owned by these member railroads. Twelve other non-member railroads used the passenger and freight facilities.
- Baltimore & Ohio
 - Chicago, Burlington & Quincy
 - Chicago & Eastern Illinois
 - Gulf, Mobile & Ohio
 - Illinois Central
 - Louisville & Nashville
 - Missouri-Kansas-Texas
 - Missouri Pacific
 - New York Central
 - Pennsylvania
 - Rock Island
 - Southern
 - St. Louis-San Francisco
 - St. Louis Southwestern
 - Wabash

