



The Third Street Industrial District

Track plan for an HO switching layout

BY BILL BAUMANN

THE THIRD St. Industrial District is a small (2 x 10 feet) HO scale layout designed with two goals in mind: switching operation now, and expansion later.

The "District" was formed by a group of industries that banded together, took over some track, and purchased a secondhand engine to do their switching. Cars bound for District industries are brought in by a transfer run from the downtown yard of the Burlington Northern — *your* favorite railroad would do just as well.

The transfer ties up on the siding along the BN main, and its motive power lays over on the siding in front of the grounded caboose that serves as the District's yard office while the switching road's crew makes the setouts and pickups. Then the transfer returns to its home terminal with outbound cars from the District.

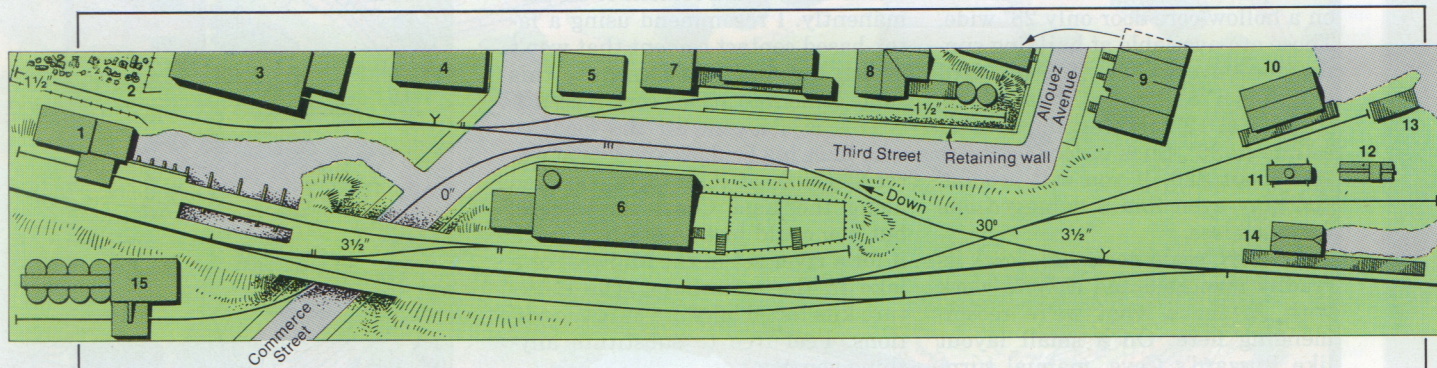
The urban scenery, street trackage, grades, and the BN main line running across the layout all make the District interesting to build and operate. Life can be made more interesting

for the District's switch crew by using a fast clock and scheduling some imaginary BN trains, so the switcher will have to clear the main from time to time.

The industries suggested on the plan are intended to provide destinations for most types of freight cars, but others could be substituted to suit your own tastes. The same is true of other structures on the layout. Putting a small coal dock next to the District's yard office instead of the oil tank would set the railroad in the steam era.

While the grade down Third and Commerce Streets is steep, just over 6 percent, and the S-curve leading to Mildue Malting is sharp (20" radius), a small engine moving a few cars at a time should have no trouble. All sidings where cars will be spotted are level.

The district would be easy to expand. There's room for a turnout under the bridge over Commerce Street. Track could extend from there to reach additional industries, making an L-shaped layout. The main line could be extended in either or both directions to make the Third St. Industrial District part of a larger layout. ♣



Scale of plan: 3/4" = 1'-0"

Main line	—————
Other	—————
No. 4	
No. 5	
No. 6	
Wye	Y

KEY TO STRUCTURES

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|--|--|
| 1 Conglomerate Aggregate (scratchbuilt) — sand, gravel, cement, coal | 9 Victoria St. townhouses (Magnuson, one front and one side wall used across the street) |
| 2 Rust-Bangor scrap yard (scratchbuilt) — enclosed in chain link fence | 10 Freight house (scratchbuilt) |
| 3 Chilsom Refrigerated Warehouse (scratchbuilt) | 11 Fuel oil tank for fueling switch engine |
| 4 The Grain Exchange (Magnuson) | 12 Third St. district yard office (Athearn caboose w/o trucks) |
| 5 Bank of Victoria Falls (Magnuson) | 13 End loading ramp (scratchbuilt) |
| 6 Gristle Packing Co. (Heljan slaughterhouse) | 14 Highlands Station (Magnuson) |
| 7 Phlaud Furniture Co. (scratchbuilt) | 15 Mildue Malting Co. (Suncoast grain elevator) |
| 8 ISP Co. (scratchbuilt) — Industrial Strength Paint | |