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Missouri Pacific Brownsville Depot Writings - Roof tile usage

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Mena KCS Depot/Entryway Building/MP Brownsville Depot Roof Tile Usage
Notes by David N. Currey
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This document contains information gleaned from observing several other buildings (the Mena, AR KCS depot, and a subdivision entryway building near The Woodlands, TX) with Spanish tile roofs.

After studying the subdivision entryway sentry building, and remembering things about the Mena station, I think the following items are relevant:

- There were the usual tiles on the Mena depot, but along the roof peak were special tiles that were molded differently so they would fit snugly over the other tiles that sat 90 degrees from the way they were laid. I'm not sure if the MP station had this kind of tile or not. The one photo I have where you can see a tile on the roof peak seems to show a regular tile. The entryway sentry building just used regular tiles.
- The Mena station had pointed tiles where the hip was. The Brownsville MP station doesn't have a hip in the tile roof, so doesn't need that sort of tile. Neither did the entryway building.
- Then there was another special rounded-end tile at each corner on the Mena station. The MP depot could have used this sort of end corner tile, but I don't think it does. The entryway sentry building, instead of using the special corner tile, just had a stack of about 6 or 7 tiles at the very corner. I don't think the MP depot has that either. The MP depot is either just open at the corner, or has it caulked with mortar. You would think the latter, but photos seem to show the former.
- Some photos of the MP depot seem to show some tiles on the very end of the side sort of hanging down on the side of the building. The entryway sentry building has the same exact thing. The Mena station did not need this sort of tile.

In conclusion, I believe that the Brownsville Missouri Pacific passenger station used a roof tile construction that employed only one shape of tile. I have found a further example of such construction on a small building that serves as an entrance to a housing subdivision. It has a multi faceted tile roof (very small, I might add), but employs the use of only one shape of roof tile. I think the reason the roof tile is so prevalent around the world is due to its versatility in this manner. Robert Kelly probably had the choice of using a variety of roof tile shapes, but he chose to make the roof either more historically accurate or more simple in construction or both.