

# Town of River Bend

## *Restoration*

### The Red Caboose Restoration



Some projects of have an air of mystery to them, and so it is with the Red Caboose. There is a story to be told here if some enterprising writer or historian will track it down. So here's what we know.

It is thought that the Caboose found its way to River Bend in the 1970s where it was first used as a home. At some point it became a library, known for a few years as the Red Caboose Library. When the library moved out, the Caboose languished until the 1990s when it was moved to its current location in pieces. Wheels and track came separately via Collins Moving Company.

After this move to its current location near Town Hall and the Police Station, it needed restoration and a team of volunteers set to work. The Town of River Bend provided some funds. Volunteers found various parts from across the state and welding students were recruited from Craven Community College to replace the back stairs and platforms. Rodman Williams fabricated new windows that volunteers installed.

After the repairs and restoration were complete it needed to be painted. Research showed it had been a bright orange. That color that it was painted has mellowed over the years to be its own color, "Caboose Red." The nomination notes that this project is an effort of love from the community. For its successful effort to save this mysterious Caboose and restore it with community sweat and love and serve as an inspiration to what a community can do with hands on preservation, we present this medal for restoration to the Town of River Bend and all those whose contributed to the project.

*Presented by the New Bern Preservation Foundation  
At its Annual Meeting and Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony  
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