

WESTERN CAROLINA RAILWAY SERVICE

C O R P O R A T I O N

Post Office Box 1729, Taylors, South Carolina 29687-0036

Press Release

June 1, 2017

Taylors, South Carolina

Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation (WCRS) is pleased to announce that it will soon be calling Greer, South Carolina home. Effective July 1, 2017, the General and Administrative offices for WCRS and its subsidiaries, including Greenville & Western Railway Company, LLC (GRLW) and Aiken Railway Company, LLC (AIKR), will relocate to the Historic Greer Depot on Randall Street.

The Corporation's new address will be:

**300 Randall Street, Suite A
Greer, South Carolina 29651-3410**

Constructed in 1913, Charles Christian Hook of Charlotte, North Carolina, designed the depot as a combination passenger station and freight warehouse for the Piedmont & Northern Railway, later used by the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, Seaboard System Railroad and finally CSX Transportation, before facing potential demolition in 1984. Saved from the wrecking ball by Greenville County Redevelopment Authority, it was finally sold to Station One Partnership in 1987 and redeveloped as retail and office space



Photo by James D. Sheppard, circa 1974

by the Partnership. The depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is certainly a community landmark and historic focal point for the City of Greer worthy of continued preservation.

The upstairs of the two-story end of the historic structure was once used as Greer City Council Chambers, and the Corporation's new offices in Suite A will occupy that notable space. It is the Corporation's hope to preserve the building for generations to come by restoring it (as close as possible) to its original, as-constructed condition, and to make it a landmark that the citizens of Greer will be proud to call a part of their community through the rest of this century and beyond.

"We are excited to become a part of the building's history by returning railroad offices to a building built for that very purpose," stated Corporation President and CEO Steven C. Hawkins. "While it will take time and significant funding to complete the various stages of restoration to the building, we hope to work with various agencies to pursue all available financial options to make that restoration a reality sooner rather than later. Although a sizeable task, it is an exhilarating prospect to have the opportunity to preserve such a significant piece of railroad and community history."

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Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation is a privately held South Carolina corporation organized in 2003 for the purpose of preserving, restoring, and revitalizing rail service in both South and North Carolina. The Corporation is committed to providing freight and transit rail services to the Carolinas through the next century and beyond. To learn more about the services offered by the Corporation through its subsidiaries, please visit wcrscorp.com.