

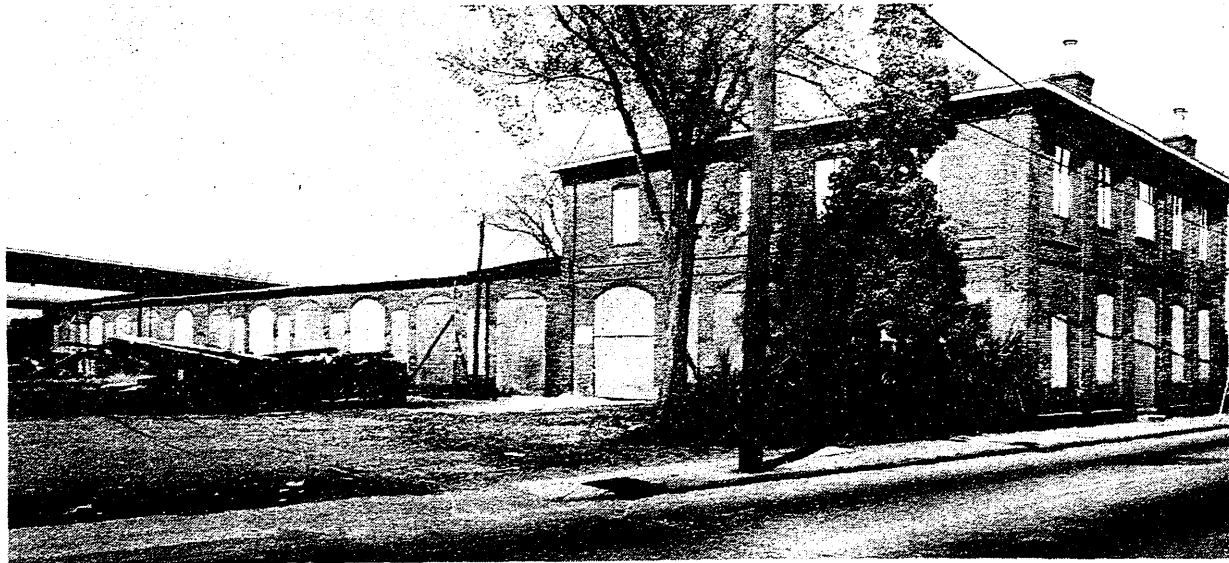
Restoration Of Railway Shops Near Completion

Restoration of the former Southern Railway shops on Line Street by Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina should mean a positive improvement in the upgrading of Charleston's core city.

The restoration, now nearing completion, means the preservation of some of the oldest railroad buildings still standing in America. The buildings were constructed in the 1850s as service shops for the railway which began in 1830 and is the oldest railroad system in the world.

The massive two-story buildings, constructed of "Old Charleston" brick, are the last remaining components of what once was a railyard complex that stretched southward to John Street. They parallel the original track that was used by the "Best Friend of Charleston" when that

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(Staff Photo by Jordan)

Former railroad shops on Line Street are being restored by Goodwill Industries

RAILWAY

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rather primitive steam engine initiated freight and passenger service between Charleston and Hamburg, Ga., near Augusta, 150 years ago.

Goodwill Industries hires handicapped persons for repair work on appliances and other items. These then are put on sale in the 150 Goodwill Thrift Shops in America, two of which are in the Charleston area.

Merrill Kinder took charge of Goodwill Industries office here March 2. The Goodwill board will meet shortly to consider what use will be made of the buildings. Tentative plans call for leasing at least part of the space to businesses.

The restoration work included placing new roofs on the main building and a connecting one-story unit. Other portions of the structures have been made weatherproof. The buildings are registered as a National Historic Landmark.

Funding for the work includes \$365,000 from the City of Charleston and about \$65,000 from the S.C. Archives and History Commission. Total restoration is expected to require more money.

The buildings were constructed by the South Carolina Railway, forerunner of the Southern, and were maintenance extensions of the original freight warehouse that still stands in the John-Ann Street area several blocks to the south.

There was a machine shop on Spring Street at Meeting and a "round house" at Columbus and Meeting. The latter was demolished in 1958 to make way for the Meeting Street Piggly Wiggly.

In 1955, the railroad bell that hung in a cupola atop the round house for more than a century, was removed from the cupola after vandals and fire had seriously damaged the building.

In 1946, while Southern was in the process of shifting from coal-burning steam engines to diesel types, residents of the area complained at a public hearing about the soot generated by the engines.

Shortly afterward, the shops were closed down and the buildings gradually fell into disrepair. A number of businesses considered putting the Line Street buildings to use but nothing happened until Goodwill Industries entered the picture. The

railroad company donated the property to them last year.

The buildings and other facilities were an important part of the Charleston economy for many years. In the 1930s, Southern began transferring most of its heavy engine and boxcar work to Spencer, N.C., where modern machinery had been installed. At that time a group of Charleston merchants protested the move on the grounds that it would cause economic hardship in Charleston through loss of jobs.

At one time the Line Street building contained a passenger "waiting room" on the Meeting Street side and a passenger station immediately alongside the main tracks.

Early photographs show a cupola atop the Line Street building similar to that on the round house. However, that ornamental device apparently was removed about 40 years ago.

ENERGY

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developing an adequate coal exporting structure)."

The two countries will not be in competition, Sir Robert said, but will be partners in meeting the great demand for coal worldwide. Both will be producing coal in excess of their own needs. Sir Robert said he expects Australia could become the number one exporter of coal in the future because the much more populous United States will consume more of its coal.

FOREST

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A total of 232 fires Saturday scorched 5,200 acres, Peach said.

A fire in Fairfield, Kershaw, and Richland counties north of Camden burned 1,024 acres.

He said that Kershaw County Fire Warden Jerry Brown suffered second-degree burns of the arm and shoulder and was treated and released while fighting that blaze.

Also Saturday, 29-year-old Roger Casselman of Andrews died while fighting a fire in rural Georgetown County.

He was the first person killed as a direct result of a forest fire in South Carolina since 1945.

1,100 Georgia Inmates Are Being Released

ATLANTA (AP) — Although prison officials say they do not meet the standards for parole, 1,100 Georgia inmates are being released beginning today to ease overcrowding in the prison system.

The inmates were serving time for nonviolent crimes, said Parole Board Chairman James T. Morris.

MAYORS

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offered him the position of magistrate for the entire East Cooper Area, excluding McClellanville and Awendaw. Both times Stith informed Wise that he didn't want the job and couldn't take it because of his full-time employment with Exxon.

Harry O. Shaw has been appointed by the delegation to fill the Mount Pleasant seat.