



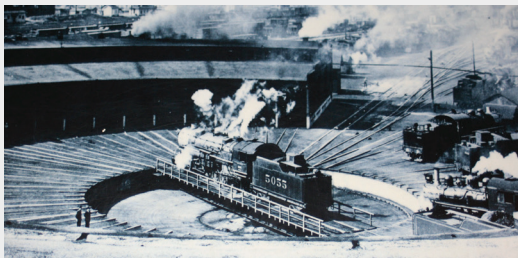
NORTH CAROLINA  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
 M U S E U M

*The museum that moves you!*

The N.C. Transportation Museum is located on the site of what was once Southern Railway's Spencer Shops, the largest steam locomotive repair facility in the southeast. This 60-acre site features an authentic train depot, antique and vintage automobiles, locomotives and railcars from the heyday of railroading, aviation exhibits, and North America's largest remaining roundhouse. The museum offers seasonal train rides, guided tours for scheduled groups, specialty tours offered seasonally, and events throughout the year.



## THE HISTORY OF SPENCER SHOPS



Construction of Spencer Shops began in 1896, and the new facility was named in honor of the first president of Southern Railway, Samuel Spencer.

Southern's fleet of freight, passenger, and switching locomotives were all maintained at Spencer Shops. A large freight car switching yard, a Roundhouse for the daily service of locomotives, Shop for heavy overhauls, a power house to provide electricity and steam for the operation, store houses, administrative offices and a paint shop were all eventually part of the complex.

During its peak, Spencer Shops employed nearly 3,000 people, which directly and indirectly provided most of the jobs for the towns of Spencer, East Spencer and other surrounding Rowan County communities. Not only that, the site was an integral part of the transportation infrastructure for the southeastern United States during the first half of the 20th century.

Spencer Shops, however, was a repair yard for steam locomotives. With the advent of diesel locomotives, which could travel farther with far less maintenance than steam engines, the shops went into decline. The repair facility closed in 1960, but the classification (freight) yard remained open until the late 1970s.

In September 1977, Southern Railway donated four acres of the site, including three buildings, to the state of North Carolina. A second donation in 1979 included several additional historic structures and land, eventually leading to the creation of the N.C. Transportation Museum.

## Black History Month Scavenger Map Questions

- Garrett Morgan's Traffic Signal - How much did General Electric pay for Garrett Morgan's traffic signal?
- Quick Step Hook & Ladder Company truck - What were the three specialties of the Quick Steps?  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
- "Jim Crow" segregated passenger car - What was the name of the Supreme Court decision which established "Separate but Equal" into United States law? What year was it passed?
- Knuckle Coupler - What happened that led Andrew Beard to invent the Jenny Coupler?
- Roundhouse Washroom - What is the name of the town where most of Spencer Shops' black employees lived?
- Lining Bar Gangs - How many men worked on a lining bar gang?
- Piedmont Airlines - Who was the second African American pilot hired by Piedmont Airlines?
- Pullman Porters - True or False: In the 1920s, the Pullman Company was the largest single employer of African American men in the US.
- Hampton & Branchville M-200 - Where in North Carolina was this car built?

- ANSWERS
- \$40,000
  - Rescue, ventilation, and demolishing burning buildings (to remove fuel from the fire)
  - Plessy v. Ferguson, in 1896
  - He lost a leg coupling cars with Link & Pin couplers
  - East Spencer
  - 10-30
  - Bill Wilkerson
  - True
  - Sanford, NC