The Norfolk and Western Caboose #562851 is located just outside of California University of Pennsylvania’s campus, nestled beside the railroad tracks and the public library. It was donated to the Library Board by a local family and painted red and black. Pennsylvania Environmental Council’s River Town Program staff consulted with the Trolley Museum to determine the historically accurate colors, and determined it was from the Wabash Railroad line. Two days of prep, scraping and sanding, and three days of painting restored the Caboose to its original style and colors of red and white.

This project has had a significant impact on the community by helping them see the Caboose as an amenity. Community members found it exciting to find their specific caboose in a history book and to realize that railroad enthusiasts thought it was special. Further restoration is planned to fix the roof and clean out the interior. Children’s activities such as story time are planned. This project is part of a larger town-wide revitalization project. California is working with the River Town Program, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to bring business to former industrial towns along the Monongahela River.

“Those who worked on the caboose after completion of painting described it as fresh, renewed, and a lovely place to have a picnic. I am glad to have assisted in brightening my town and look forward to future projects.”

Kelsey Rufft
Senior, California University
AmeriCorps Scholar in Service

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BEHR

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