

THE 806 FEC CABOOSE

“ The Blue Caboose”

The 806 “Blue Caboose” was the last one to be used on the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC). It started life as a ventilated fast freight box car. The boxcar was part of the series 601-650 and was numbered 647. These cars were built by the Mangor Car Company in 1945. They had longer trucks with both coil and leaf springs for a smoother ride.

Between 1965 and 1967, sixteen of the boxcars were converted into bay window cabooses. The Caboose was part of the series 800-815. The conversions were done by Southern Iron and Iron Company. Later, two additional cabooses, 816 and 817, were produced. They had a round window on each end door as opposed to the square windows that were found on the earlier models. While the 806 was never painted in Maintenance of Way (MOW) colors. It did have a small stencil indicating it was used for MOW. This type of caboose was often attached to the wreck train. Railway police would ride in the caboose to keeping anyone from interfering with the train. For many years, the 806 was located at Bowden Yard in Jacksonville. It was sold by the FEC sometime between 1998 and 2000. The 806 is the only surviving metal FEC Caboose.

Today the 806 is awaiting a move to Port Orange where it will become part of the Port Orange Railway Experience.