

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station

TEACHER'S AID

Experience the Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station where the first transcontinental railroad began and ended – along the banks of the Sacramento River. Reconstructed on its original site, the CPRR Passenger Station faithfully depicts Sacramento's passenger depot, as it looked during this country's first centennial year...1876. Under period gaslights, enjoy the sights and sounds of the bustling terminus of the transcontinental railroad. See the passenger waiting room, the ticket office of station master Samuel Robinson, the separate waiting room set aside for ladies and children, baggage master George Schmidt's crowded baggage room, the telegraph office and the Silver Palace Refreshment Stand where you can enjoy "Dog-Breath" Chili or a cold sarsaparilla. Out on the station platform are significant nineteenth-century steam locomotives and passenger cars including the 1875 Virginia & Truckee locomotive No. 21 J. W. Bowker, Pullman-built Denver & Rio Grande combination car No. 550 and Southern Pacific Railroad of California Coach No. 71. The station tracks also contain more than half-a-dozen additional changing locomotives and cars.

Tours through the CPRR Passenger Station are self-guided tours with the use of a sound system that allows you to listen in at specific locations to station employees and travelers of 1876.

Trained museum volunteers, called "Docents," intermittently staff key interpretive areas for closer inspection by visitors to the station:

- The cab of the historic *J. W. Bowker*;
- the D&RG combination car; and
- the inside of the SP No. 71 where railroad movies are sometimes shown.

In the railroad yard to the north is a Union Pacific caboose and Southern Pacific instrument car, which Docents also frequently staff.

Fully costumed 1876 living history days and interpretive handcar rides are also popular seasonal programs.

For schedules and information on special events, call the station at (916) 322-3676;

For school reservations call ReserveAmerica at 1-866-240-4655.

Additional information on the State Railroad Museum, including steam train rides and the Museum Library is available by calling (916) 445-7387.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and the California State Railroad Museum.