

Warrenton Railroad

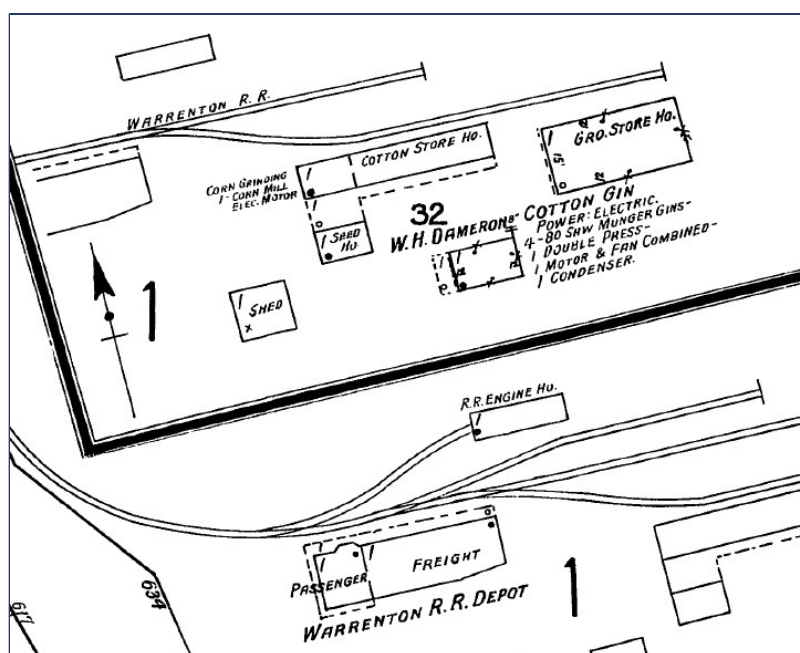
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Ever heard of the Warrenton Railroad? 'Twas a three-mile line that connected the town to the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, and later the Seaboard Coast Line at Warren Plains, NC. It was organized and opened in 1884, with the first locomotive squired from Richmond & Petersburg Railroad. The second as built new in 1887, a third delivered in 1906, and a fourth in 1922. The line operated until August 1985, and had two diesel-electric locomotives by that time. The tracks were later taken up.

Why did the town built their own line? The Raleigh & Gaston Railroad wanted to run through the town, but the city fathers said no. Instead, they constructed their own spur service. The Warrenton Railroad shut down after Seaboard stopped service to Warrent Plains. Below is a postcard view of Number 1876, a 1943 General Electric 45-ton locomotive. Click to slightly enlarge:



And here's a Sanborn Map from 1918 showing the Warrenton depot, the engine house, and the tracks. Click to slightly enlarge:



Sources:

- [Google Maps, still showing the tracks](#)
- [List of Very Short North American Railroads](#)
- [Railroads of North Carolina by Alan Coleman via Google Books search](#)
- [Warrenton Railroad Company Photographic Roster](#)

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