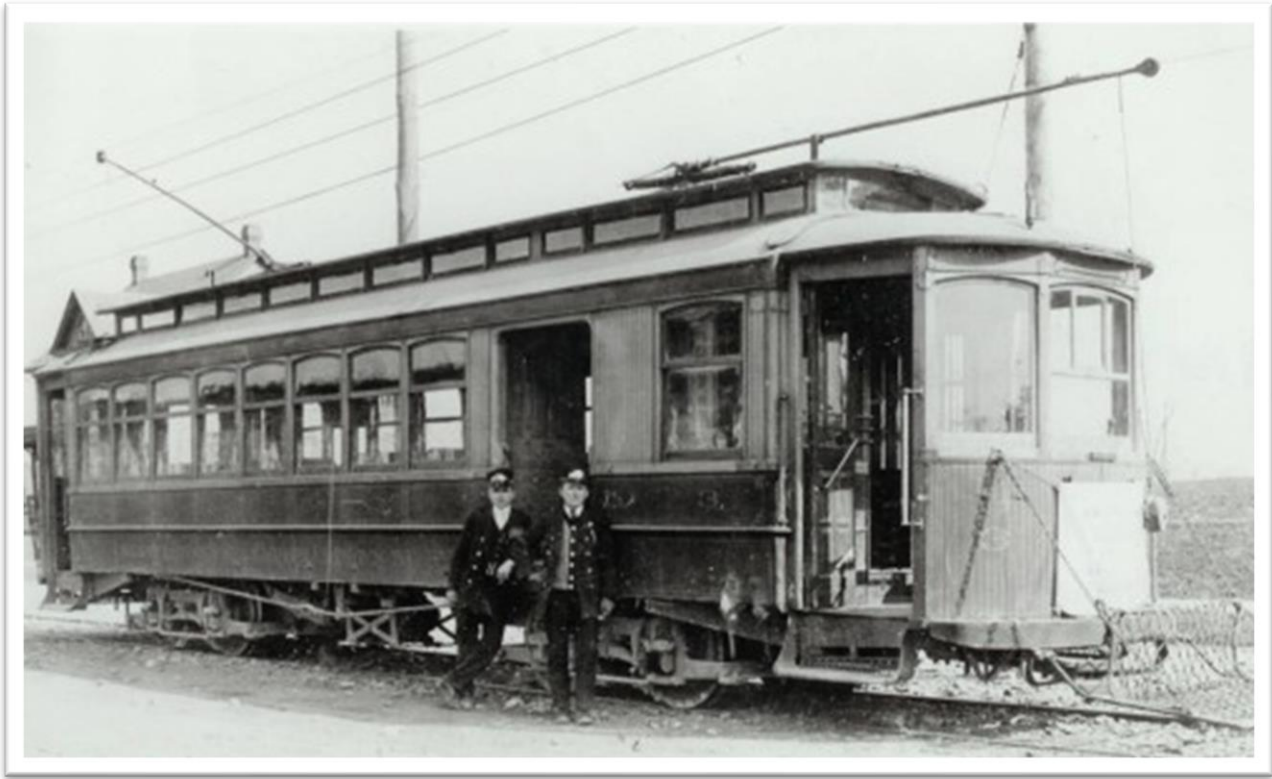


HERSHEY TRANSIT NO. 3



No. 3 spanned the entire duration of trolley service in Hershey.

Built by the J.G. Brill Company, and one of the first three cars ordered, No. 3 was one of two combination cars, carrying passengers and freight. No. 2 and No. 3 were sister cars, identical, double trucked, and equipped with the same motors and controllers as No. 1, an all-passenger car. During the mid-1920's, the car was converted to an all-passenger car, and little is known (no pictures identified) about the car in this configuration.

In 1928, No. 3 was transformed into the "Construction Car", carrying maintenance men and tools, servicing the other trolleys and miles of rail. After trolley service ended in 1946, No. 3 remained running until 1948 to perform the sad task of removing the overhead wires and pulling up the steel rails.



With No. 3's work completed, the trolley was sold to Wolf's salvage yard in Hummelstown (as were many of the other trolleys), where it was stripped of most its metal parts, including trucks, controls, air brakes and poles. The body deteriorated in the salvage yard until 1967, when it was bought by Mr. Joseph Alfonsi for \$250 and transported to the Trolley Valhalla Museum at Jobstown/Tansboro, NJ.

The Trolley Valhalla Museum was established around 1957 as the original trolley museum in the Philadelphia area. Many of the cars from Valhalla were moved to Buckingham, PA and became the core of the Buckingham Valley Trolley Association (BVTA) collection that started up in 1975. In 1982, BVTA started operating a non-profit organization under the name Penn's Landing Trolley. Penn's Landing operated trolleys along the Delaware riverfront in Philadelphia. No. 3 moved from Trolley Valhalla to Pier 5 at Penn's Landing on August 31, 1983.

In 1995, “Friends of the Hershey Trolley” (FOHT), under the auspices of Hershey History Center and the leadership of Brad and Lisa Ginder, started meeting with a group of local volunteers. Between 1995 and 2000, FOHT identified the location of six of the original 30 trolleys. In 1996, the Hershey History Center tried to acquire No. 3 from the Buckingham Valley Trolley Association (BVTA), but at that time the BVTA felt that FOHT didn’t have enough experience with trolley restoration and was unwilling to relinquish the car. was moved to the Germantown depot and in February 2000, FOHT disbanded.

In October 1999, the Electric City Trolley Museum Association, Scranton, PA, opened. Electric City is an outgrowth from the now disbanded BVTA and East Penn Valley Traction, which conveyed to the museum most of the trolleys and artifacts in its historic collection. On June 30th, 2005, Electric City transferred ownership of Hershey No. 3 to Railways, Inc., operators of the Rockhill Trolley Museum. On April 22, 2006, Rockhill transferred ownership of Hershey No. 3 to the Hershey History Center.



Into the West Car Barn, Hershey (right to left, Brad Ginder & Pete Davis)

On June 7th, 2006, Hershey Transit No. 3 came home. Volunteers, society members and well-wishers watched on as No. 3 was picked up by crane and placed into the West Car Barn in Hershey.

Sources:

- Hershey Transit by Benson W. Rohrbeck, 1980
- Chocolate Town Trolleys – by Richard Steinmetz, 1967
- Car 3, The 13th of a Series, BVTA Newsletter, Sept. 1985
- Brad & Lisa Ginder, notes, 1995 to 2000
- “Gone With the Five-Cent Hershey Bar” – by Stephen D. Maguire, Railroad Magazine, Aug. 1947
- “News Bulletin, Buckingham Valley Trolley Association”, The Transfer Table, Wilmington Chapter NRHS Newsletter, Vol. 19, No. 3, March 1997.

