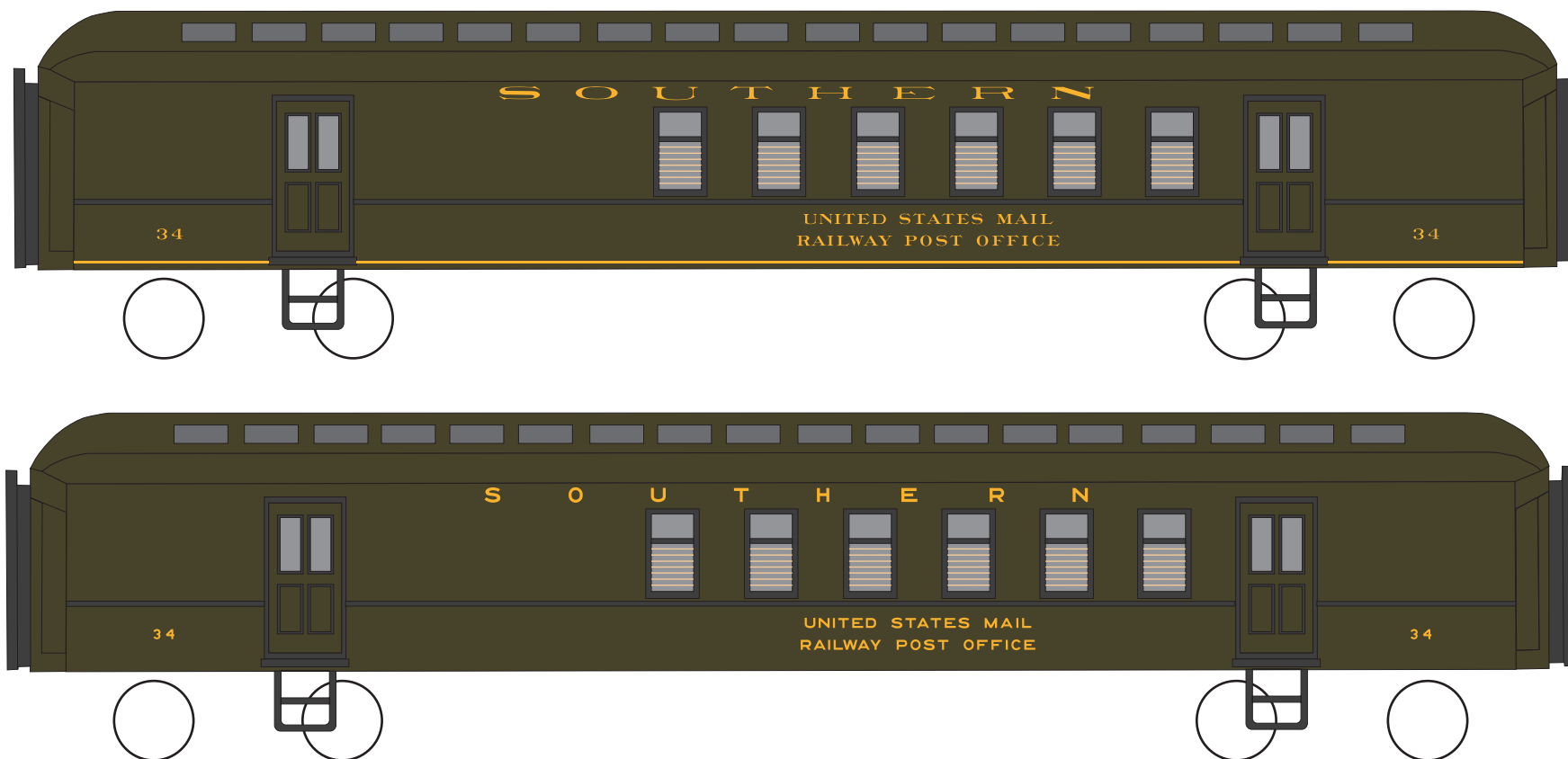


# SOUTHERN RAILWAY

## RAILWAY POST OFFICE

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03/2010



SR RPOs were lettered with Roman Style lettering until the late 1940s, at which time SR began repainting passenger cars using the Gothic (Block) Style Lettering. Not all were repainted immediately and there are photos that suggest Roman lettering may have survived as late as the middle 1950s. Roman **SOUTHERN** was 6 inches tall and the Gothic **SOUTHERN** was 7 inches tall. The numbers and US Mail were 5 inches tall. The car numbers were usually spaced equally between the end of the car and the door on each end about 12 inches from the sill. The lettering for US Mail was centered between the 6 windows about 30 inches from sill to top of letters. The sill stripe was 3/4 inches and was used until about 1935 at which time it was discontinued. The sill stripe reappears again in the late 1940s on SR coaches, diners and sleepers, but I don't believe the RPOs and Baggage Cars got the stripes at that time. However, photos are your best evidence. Jack Wyatt's Notes, listed in the passenger car files has more information on the time frame for lettering. It was also around 1935 that SR discontinued the Gold Leaf Lettering in favor of Imitation Gold Paint, referred to as "Dulux Yellow" by many railroaders. The overall body color is Pullman Standard Green. There is debate as to whether the trucks and battery boxes were also painted Pullman Green. SR Memo dated 1946 states Pullman Green for the entire car. There are photos, which seem to show the roof as black. But, that could be from soot and dirt. Again the SR Memo of 1946 says Pullman Green overall. It was, however, standard practice that Pullman Owned Sleepers did in fact have black roofs. So, it is possible that SR also painted some of their passenger roofs black.