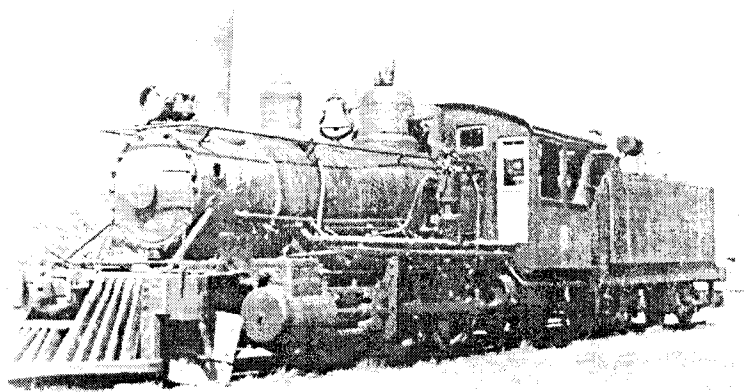


Nahma Northern Railroad ~Locomotive No. 5

No. 5 locomotive is the last local standing testament to the Nahma Northern Railroad's contribution to the rich logging history of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Now on the Historical Register, Locomotive #5 is recognized nationally as among the nation's historic resources worthy of being preserved.



Nahma and Northern Railway Locomotive No. 5 is a small driver 2-6-2 prairie type steam locomotive. These small drivers were necessary to handle the steep grade found on logger's tracks. The rod type 2-6-2 also had a much greater speed which enabled it to pick up the log loads that the geared power had brought in from the steep twisting track at the cutting site increasing the productivity of the mill. Its build date is December 19, 1912, and was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, PA. The locomotive's construction number is 38846. It weighs 78,000 tons with 57,000 tons of weight on the drivers. Its 42" drivers gave it good traction on the grades but also allowed it to operate at higher speeds than its predecessors. Its cylinders measure 13" x 22". It operated on soft coal and had a boiler pressure of 200 lbs. Its tractive effort was 15,048 lb.

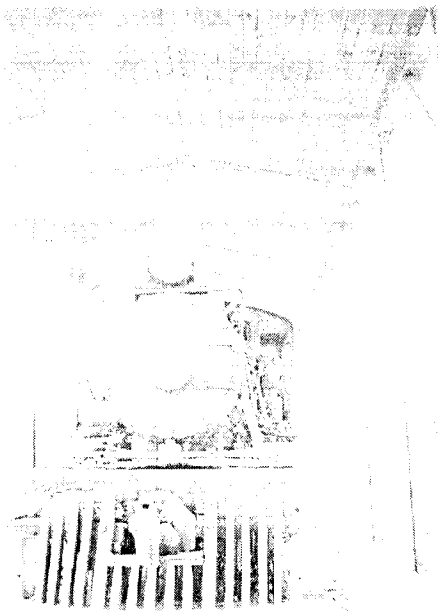
The Nahma and Northern Railroad, also sometimes known as the Whiskey and Northern Railroad, was built in 1902 and continued to expand with the assistance of the Soo Line Railroad until it totaled 75 miles of track servicing 15 logging camps. In 1921, to accommodate the expanding camp system, Bay de Noquet Lumber Company purchased Locomotive No. 5. It operated from 1922 until 1948. As the operation depleted the lumber source, the company began closing camps finally ceasing all logging operations. The saw mill fell silent in July of 1951 with the cutting of the last logs. The town became the subject of nationwide publicity



when Bay de Noquet Lumber Company put all its holding, including the railroad up for sale. In September of 1951 sale was made to the American Playground Device Company of Anderson, IN.

When the company sold its holdings all that remained of the Nahma and Northern Railway was eleven miles of track, two locomotives, including No. 5, and 100 log cars. Over time, American Playground sold the rails to a salvage company and began active sale of the rolling railroad stock.

In April 1989, the Nahma Historical Society began a journey to preserve the town's logging heritage. With a state grant and the help of local residents, they purchased the No. 5 locomotive from American Playground. The Historical Society hoped to recapture Nahma's "Golden Age" of logging by establishing a logging museum in Nahma. Although the logging museum never materialized, No. 5 locomotive was moved to its new location and now stands proudly in the town square. Locomotive No. 5 is now the last tangible historical survivor of the Nahma and Northern Railroad.



In the fall of 2007 with assistance from a grant from the Hannahville Indian Community, local donations, township Labor Day funds, money raising efforts by the historical society and many volunteers the pavilion over No. 5 was begun. In the spring of 2008 the Pavilion was completed and repairs to the train itself begun. The work as the historic society planned was completed just prior to the 2009 Nahma Labor Day Celebration.

The Nahma Township Historic Society building is location on Main Street in Nahma in the Little Brown Church. Please visit us for more information about Nahma Township, items for sale and find out about Nahma's History as one of the largest logging community's in Michigan employing at one time as many as 1200 persons to run the *Bay de Noquet Company!*

To learn more about the Nahma Township Historical Society stop by the Museum or contact our Secretary Tee Lynt at 906-644-2758.