

Transportation of the Iron Ore



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Photo: Marquette Regional History Center

The Samuel P. Ely Engine, with a wood-fired boiler was built by the New Jersey Locomotive & Machine Shop in 1862.

This locomotive was one of the first to arrive by boat after the opening of the Soo Locks.

WE WANT A PLANK ROAD

At first, iron ore laden wagons and sleighs slogged through mud and snow down the treacherous 12-mile wagon trail to the lakeshore. In 1852, local agent, Tower Jackson wrote "We want a plank road!" to his superiors at the Cleveland Iron Mining Company. From that day onward, iron ore transportation changed.

Heman Ely proposed, financed, and built the first steam railroad in the Upper Peninsula. His *Iron Mountain Railroad* opened in 1857, and carried ore from Negaunee and Ishpeming to Marquette's harbor. The railroad eventually became the *Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railroad (DSS&A)*.

Competition for ore transportation increased as mining increased. Railroads soon crisscrossed the area. There was the *Chicago and Northwestern Railroad* in 1867, the *Marquette & Western Railroad* in 1884, and the *Lake Superior and Ishpeming (LS&I)* in 1896. As a late comer, the LS&I was required to construct numerous trestles to cross over the many preceding railroad lines.

Railroads not only carried iron ore, but freight, food, timber, domestic animals, coal and passengers. The mournful train whistle and the squeal of train wheels still echo through the hills of the Marquette Iron Range carrying their loads of iron ore pellets.

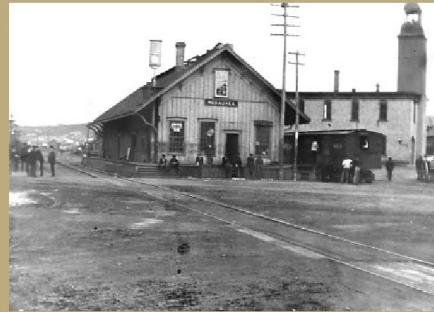


Photo: Superior View

L.S.&I Depot in Negaunee - Constructed in 1881

Jackson Mine Ore Car Loading Facility - Cornishtown, Negaunee

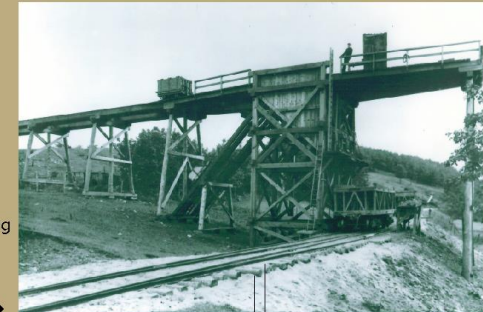
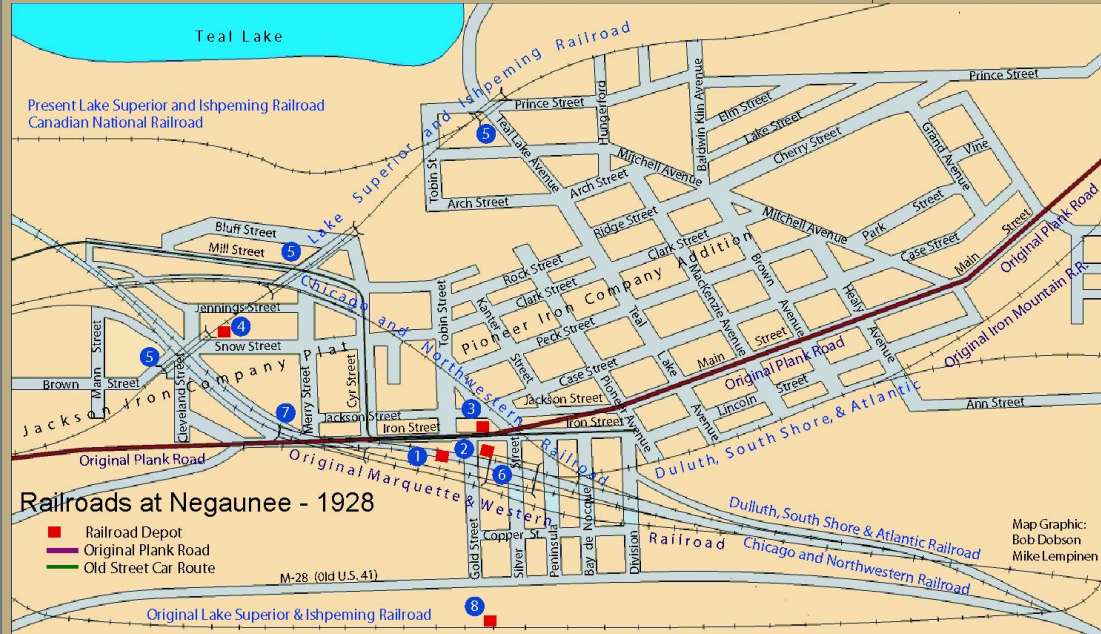


Photo: Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company



- 1 Union Railroad Depot
- 2 Lake Superior & Ishpeming R.R. Depot
- 3 Chicago and Northwestern R.R. Depot (Demolished)
- 4 Lake Superior & Ishpeming R.R. Depot (Demolished)
- 5 Lake Superior & Ishpeming R.R. Trestle (Demolished)
- 6 Silver Street Viaduct
- 7 Marquette & Western R.R. Trestle (Demolished)
- 8 Original LS&I Railroad Depot (Demolished)

Map Graphic: Bob Dobson Mike Lempinen