**Showcasing the DNR: Rare locomotive loaded for restoration trip to Pennsylvania**

*Yankee headed east from Marquette County for $200,000 rehabilitation*

Crewmen readied precious cargo today at the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee for a 900-mile trip southeast to Pennsylvania.

The historical relic loaded onto a transport truck for the trip was a historic steam locomotive called the Yankee, a vertical boiler model manufactured by Alexander Chaplin and Co. of Glasgow, Scotland, between 1862 and 1868.

At 150 years old, the Yankee is thought to be one of only three surviving Chaplin locomotives in the world.

“With the help of generous grant funding, we’re sending the Yankee to Pennsylvania for restoration work,” said Barry James, historian with the museum. “Once the rehabilitation is complete, the locomotive will be brought back here to Marquette County to remain on permanent display at our museum.”

The restoration project – which is expected to take about a year to complete – will cost $200,000, with funding provided from a [Institute of Museum and Library Services](https://www.imls.gov/) grant and matching money from the Friends of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum.

According to B.R. Howard Conservation – the Pennsylvania company doing the rehabilitation work – the project will be combining the practices of conservation and selective restoration and replications to return the locomotive to an appearance where visitors can appreciate the construction technologies used in its fabrication.

The Yankee is red in color, made from cast and wrought iron, steel and a mix of soft and hardwoods. It is just over 12 feet long, about 9 feet high, weighing an estimated 8,000 pounds.

With its steel rail supports it was sitting on, the total weight of the locomotive, when lifted by a crane onto a flatbed truck was just over 11,000 pounds.

The transfer from its display spot, under some white pines on the museum grounds, to the truck was flawless and took only a few minutes. Several media outlets were on hand to capture the event.

“The ‘Yankee’ steam locomotive is in poor and unstable condition having actively corroding iron, fungal decay of all wooden components, and actively flaking paint in areas which still retain paint,” according to a B.R. Howard Conservation report on the rare relic.

The locomotive had been amateurly restored in the late 1930s by employees of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company and exhibited outdoors, near the company offices, until being donated to the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in 1986.

“Until recently, the museum did not have climate-controlled exhibit space for the ‘Yankee’ which necessitated exhibition in an unprotected outdoor venue causing continued deterioration of the 1930s restoration and all remaining original components,” the report states.

James said the relatively small size of the locomotive belies its huge importance for the country.

“The Yankee is one of the oldest surviving steam locomotives in the United States, one of two industrial-geared vertical boiler locomotives in America, and one of three surviving Chaplin locomotives in the world,” James said. “It is substantially complete despite its severe condition challenges.”

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| The Yankee and its twin, the John Bull, signaled the first major technological change for the Upper Peninsula iron mines – the coming of steam. Until the locomotives began hauling ore at the Jackson Mine in Negaunee around 1868, all the work was done by human or animal power. The locomotives made removing the ore more efficient.The Yankee hauled six to 10 small, four-wheel ore cars, each capable of carrying 5 or 6 tons of ore, with a maximum speed of 10 miles an hour. The locomotive signified the coming of the industrial revolution to the Lake Superior iron mines that led the nation in production from the 1850s into the 1890s.After being decommissioned, the Yankee resided outside of Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company offices in Ishpeming for decades. |

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| Today, the Yankee is about 70% intact, and almost 60% of its parts are original. A recent historical report complete with conservation recommendations will guide restoration efforts. “The Yankee is a rare artifact and is an integral part of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum’s collections, and its preservation has been on our project list for some time,” James said.The [Michigan Iron Industry Museum](https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0%2C9075%2C7-361-85147_85851---%2C00.html) is part of the [Michigan History Center](https://www.michigan.gov/mhc), an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.Check out previous Showcasing the DNR stories in our archive at [Michigan.gov/DNRStories](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0%2C4570%2C7-350-79137_79770_79873_80003---%2C00.html). To subscribe to upcoming Showcasing articles, sign up for free email delivery at [Michigan.gov/DNR](http://www.Michigan.gov/DNR). |

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