

*Boston & Maine Railroad  
Historical Society Incorporated*

File 15

Railroad Signs

Hardware Collection



# Boston & Maine Railroad

Wooden 36" x 16" Division Limits Sign

Fitchburg Division / New Hampshire Division

The sign represent the Trackage area under the jurisdiction of Railway Superintendent





Division Portland Terminal, Maine Central Railroad

Wooden Sign

Donation by; Robert Grodzicki





Boston & Maine Railroad

Wooden 42" x 18" x 1" Sign

This Bridge Unsafe For Gross Weights Of More Than 11 Tons

**THIS BRIDGE UNSAFE  
FOR GROSS WEIGHTS  
OF MORE THAN 11 TONS  
THOSE USING IT FOR HEAVIER LOADS  
DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK**

**BOSTON AND MAINE RAILROAD**



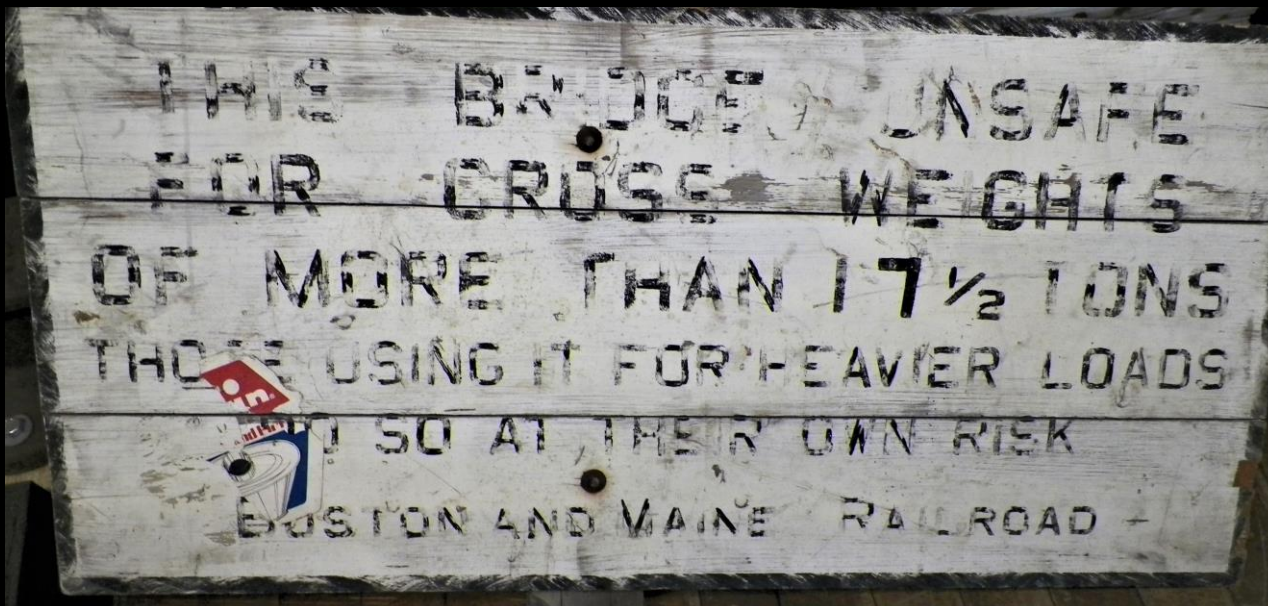
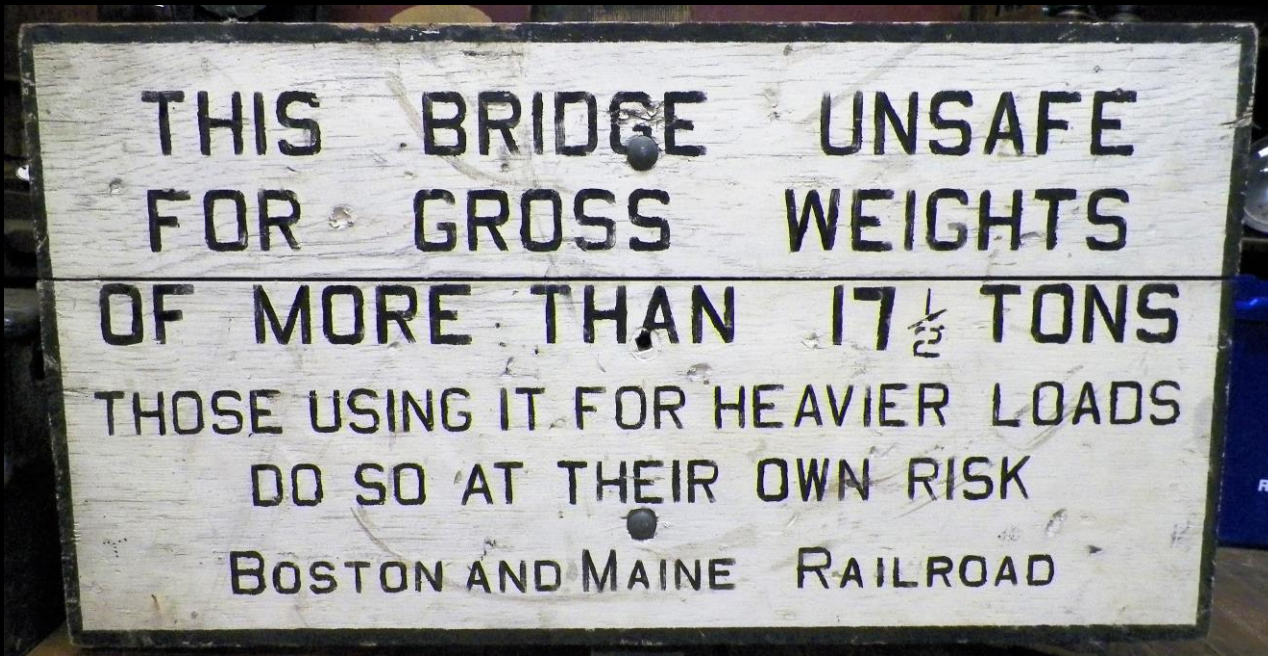
# Maine Central Railroad

Wooden 36" xx 20"

Load Limit On This Bridge 8 Tons







## Boston & Maine Railroad

20"x 42" Wooden Signs

This Bridge Unsafe For Gross Weights  
of More Than 17 1/2 Tons

The two Wooden Signs are from  
Lowell Street, Lawrence, Mass

Donation by; Raymond Lagace



# Wooden 28" x 8" x 1" Sign from Lowell, MA

Use Air Brakes Switching This Track - Boston & Maine Railroad

Donation by; Lowell National Park Service





## Wooden Reproduction B&MRR Sign

Use Air Brakes Switching This Track Boston and Maine Railroad

Donation by; Robert Grodzicki





## Locomotive Rewire Area

27" x 18" Metal Sign

Before a Locomotive or Locomotive Crane is moved, a warning shall be given to device until such time as the conveyor or its control system is rebuilt or rewired.

These warning signs shall be provided along the conveyor at areas not guarded by position or location.





## Signal Territory Starts Triangular Sign

### Signal Territory Starts

33"x 29" Fiberglass Sign Circa 1960's

The sign would have been posted where an un-signalized Branch Line connected with a signaled Main Line.

There would have been a similar sign saying "Leaving Signal Territory" facing the other way.

Example:

The sign would have been posted on the Greenville Branch, N.H. coming off onto the Fitchburg, at Ayer Tower.

Information by; Carl Byron member B&MRRHS.





# Centralized Traffic Control System

18"x 17" Metal Signs





## Yard Limit Sign

16" x 14" Metal Sign

Yard Limits are designated by Timetable and indicated by Yard Limit Signs.

Within Yard Limits, movements may be made on a Main Track by verbal permission of the Dispatcher (or operator when authorized by the Dispatcher).





## Slow Sign

Yellow 12" x 12" Metal Sign

Slow Signs are used temporarily by Trackmen when doing any work which seriously disturbs the surface or stability of the track.

Donation by; Charles Lamie





# Resume Speed

12" x 12" Metal Sign

## Resume Speed Signs:

Are placed at the point where speed may be resumed, or at the other end of the restricted territory.



Donation by; Charles Lamie



## EXEMPT Highway Rail Grade Crossing Signs

24" x 12" Metal Sign

When authorized by law or regulation, a supplement sign (WR15-3) with a white background bearing the word EXEMPT may be used below the Crossbuck sign or Number of Tracks sign, if present, at the highway-rail grade crossing, and a supplement sign (W10-1a) with a yellow background bearing the word EXEMPT may be used below the Highway-Rail advance Warning sign.

These supplement signs inform drivers of vehicles carrying passengers for hire, school buses carrying students, or vehicles carrying hazardous materials that a stop is not required at certain designated highway-rail crossing, except when a train, locomotive, or other railroad equipment is approaching or occupying the highway-rail grade crossing, or the driver's view is blocked.





# Metal Warning Sign

## Warning Sign

Metal 8 ¼" x 3.5" Sign

Keep off Tops of  
Engines, Tenders and Cars.  
While in Electric Zone.

Except Where Permitted.

Donation by; Preston S. Johnson

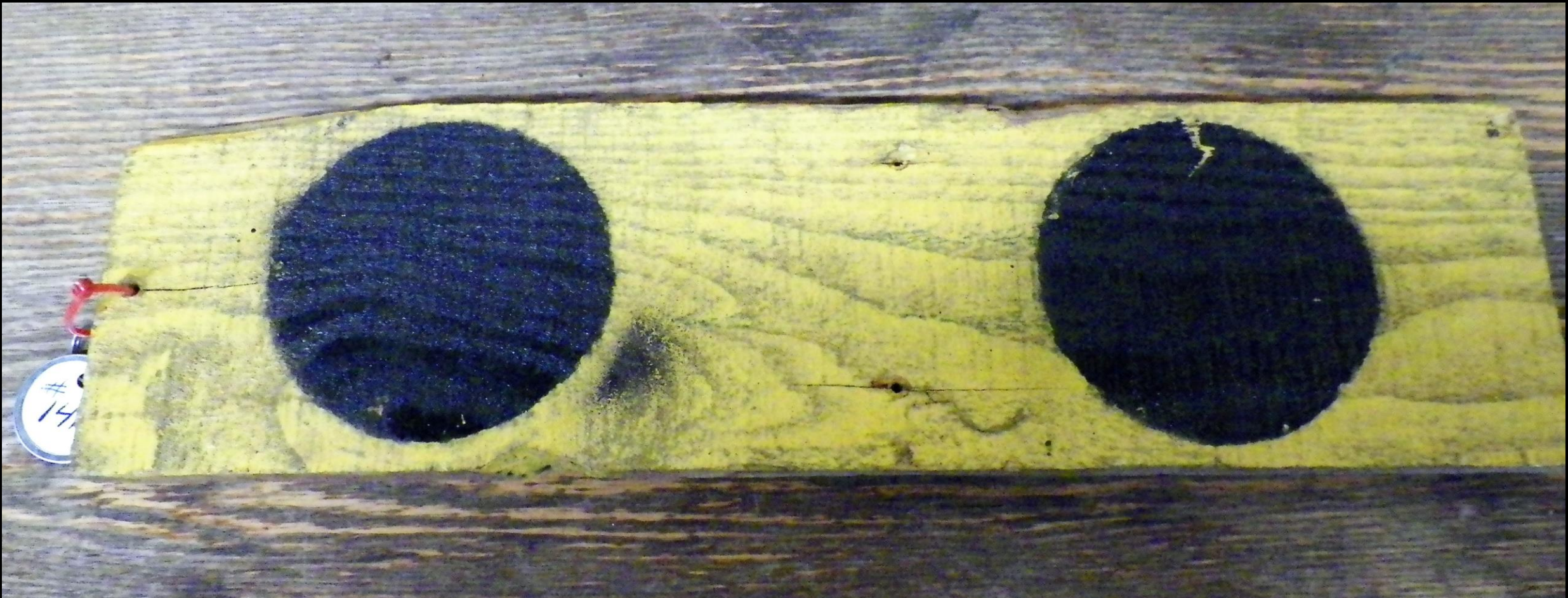




## St. Johnsbury & Lamoille County Railroad

### Snow Plow and Flanger Post Sign

This type of sign is to indicate that wings, plow points or flange blades have to be brought to clear. The old wooden type of snow plow sign is consisted of a 4' x 4" post with a 1" x 16.5" x 4.5" board on top. The board was painted yellow and black discs with a white post. The discs are painted on both sides





## Snow Plow Flange Post Signs

Two Boston & Maine Railroad  
Snow Flange Post Signs.

Snow Plow Crews to raise Flange Blades in  
advance of crossings, switches and other  
between the rail obstructions.

Advice crews to retract plow wings in  
advance of clearing restrictions.





# American Express Company

Rare 13"x 9" Tin Sign

## Loss of railroad express business:

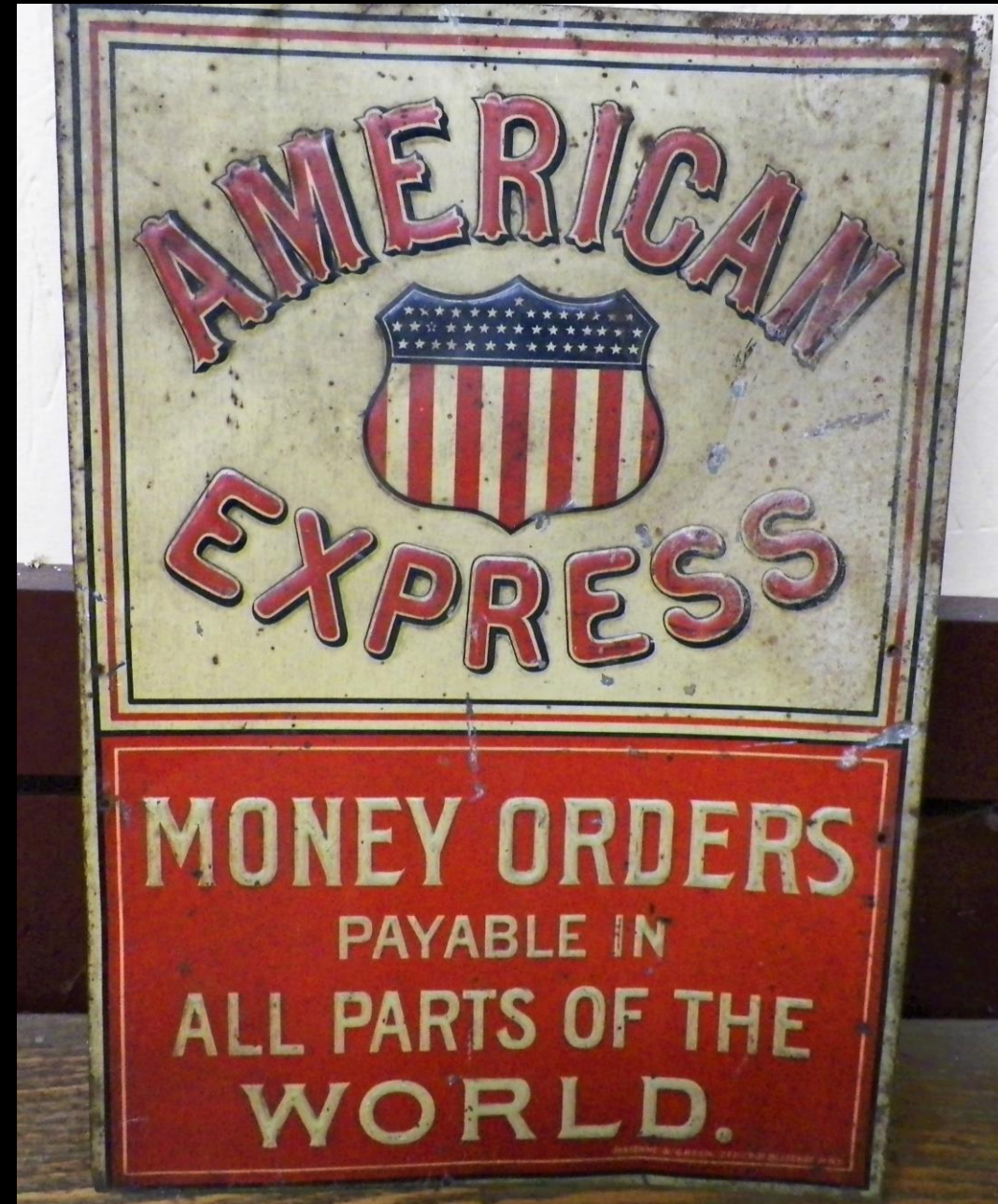
American Express became one of the monopolies that President Theodore Roosevelt had the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) investigate during his administration. The interest of the ICC was drawn to its strict control of railroad express business. However, the solution did not come immediately to hand. The solution to his problem came as a coincidence to other problems during World War I.

During the winter of 1917, the United States suffered a severe coal shortage and on December 26 President Woodrow Wilson commandeered the railroads on behalf of the United States government to move federal troops, their supplies, and coal.

Treasury Secretary William Gibbs McAdoo was assigned the task of consolidating the railway lines for the war effort. All contracts between express companies and railroads were nullified and McAdoo proposed that all existing express companies be consolidated into a single company to serve the country's needs.

This ended American Express's express business, and removed them from the ICC's interest. The result was that a new company called the American Railway Express Agency formed in July 1918.

The new entity took custody of all the pooled equipment and property of existing express companies (the largest share of which, 40%, came from American Express, who had owned the rights to express business over 71,280 miles of railroad lines, and had 10,000 offices, with over 30,000 employees).





# American Express Company

Rare 13"x 9" Tin Signs





# Railway Express Agency

72"x 6" Porcelain Sign

The Railway Express Agency (REA) was a national monopoly set up by the United States Federal Government in 1917.

Railway Express services provided small package and parcel transportation using the extent Railroad infrastructure much as UPS functions today using the road system

REA ceased operations in 1975, when its business model ceased to be viable.





## Railway Express Agency Signs

Railway Express Agency  
Cardboard /w Metal Rim 19" x 19" Sign  
Donation by: Mr. Janatas.



Railway Express Agency  
Red Diamond 12" x 12" Porcelain Sign

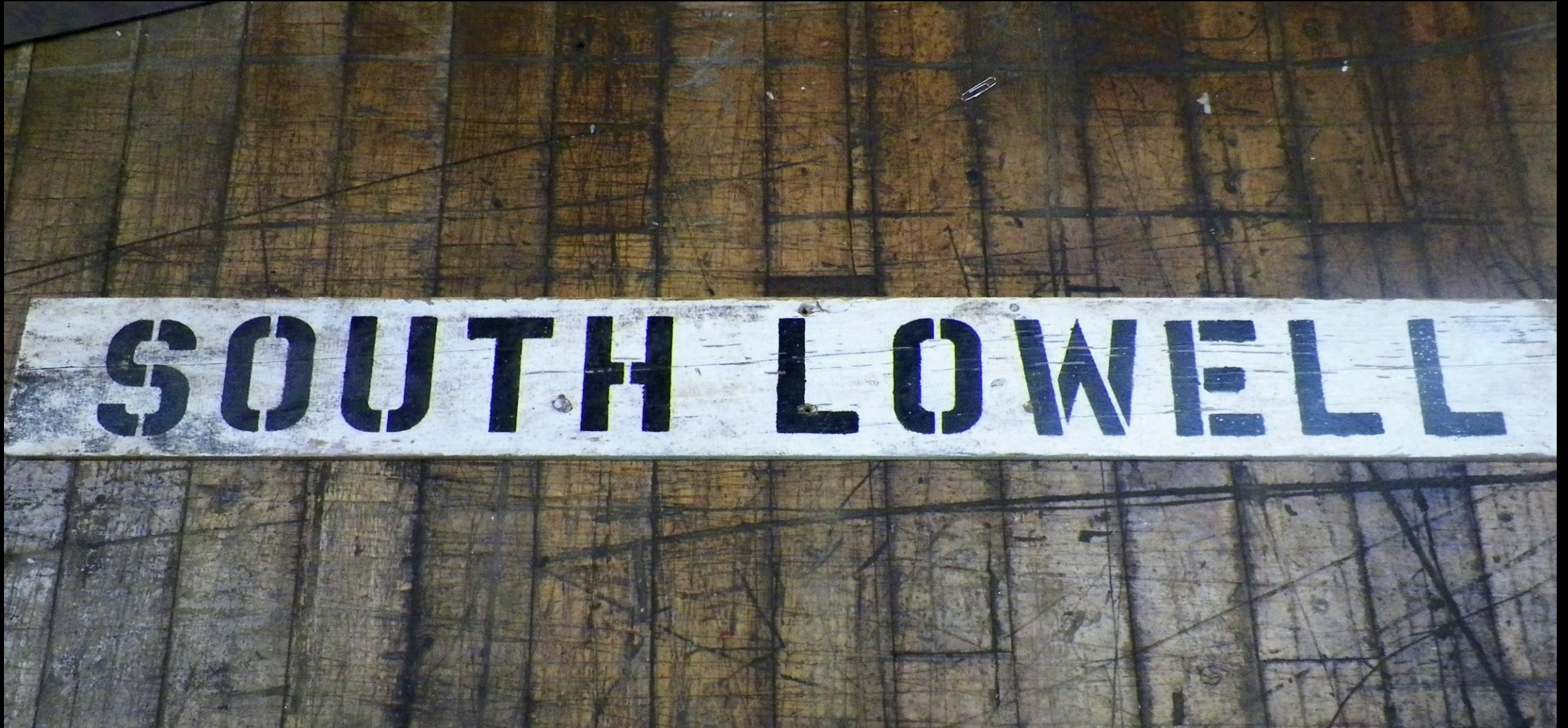




## South Lowell Station Sign

Wooden Sign 44.5" x 5.5" White /w Black letters.

Donation by; Paul T. Kosciolek





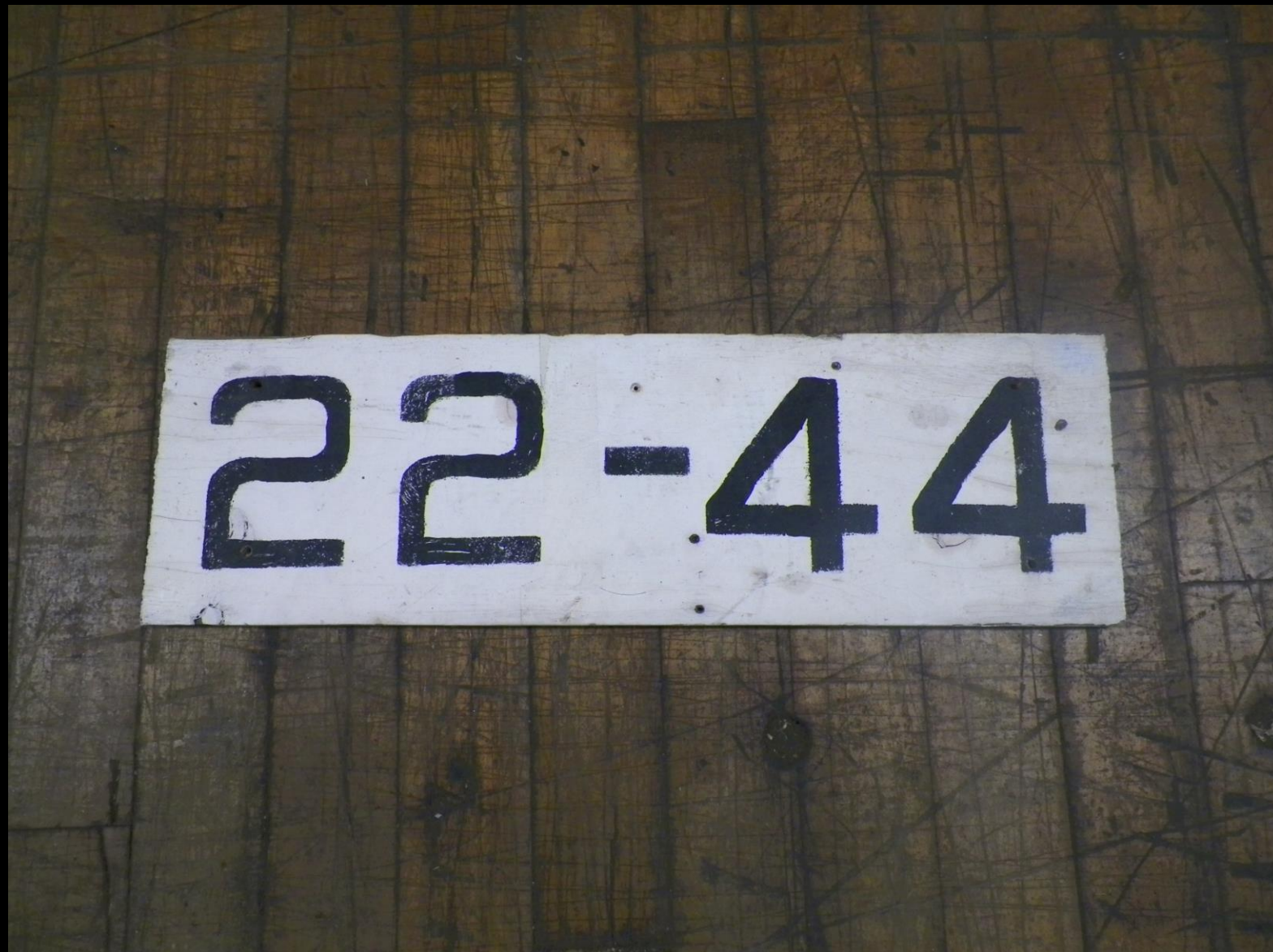
## South Lowell Mile Marker

South Lowell Mile Marker

Wooden 13" x 8.5"

White /w Black letters.

Donation by; Paul T. Kosciolek





# Maine Central Railroad Sign

Wooden Sign 59" x 4" White /w Black letters





**Boston & Maine Railroad**

32" x 11" Wooden Sign





**Cardboard  
Smoking Car 14" x 11" Sign**

Smoking Car For:

Lowell

Nashua

Union Station

Manchester, New Hampshire

Concord, New Hampshire

The Smoking Car was a combination of improvised Theater and voyeuristic give and take. People seemed to gravitate to them less from boredom than emotional need.

Amtrak banned Smoking on most trains in 1994 and in all trains in 2004.





## Metal Sign

Passengers Are Not-Allowed To Stand On The Paltform





**Metal Sign:**

Passengers Are Not Allowed To Stand On The Platform





## Metal Sign

Passengers Not Allowed To Stand On The Platform





**METAL SIGN  
NOTICE:**

Passengers Must Keep Off The Platforms And Steps Off All Cars Until The Train Stops  
Metal 12" x 3" Sign from B&MRR Budd Car #2547

Donation by; Leroy Hutchinson





## Eastern Standard Time Sign

Metal Sign 18 3/8" x 8.5" Green /w White letters.

The Eastern Standard Time sign hung under station clock until 1966.

Donation by; Preston S. Johnson





# Railroad Advanced Warning Crossing Sign

Metal Railroad Advancing Warning  
Crossing Sign 36" Diameter  
Yellow /w Black letters.  
From Durango Colorado





## Highway Railroad Advance Warning Signs

24"x 24" Metal Advance Warning Sign



36"x 36 Metal Advance Warning Sign /w Reflectors

Donation by; Robert Grodzicki





# Stop On Red Signal

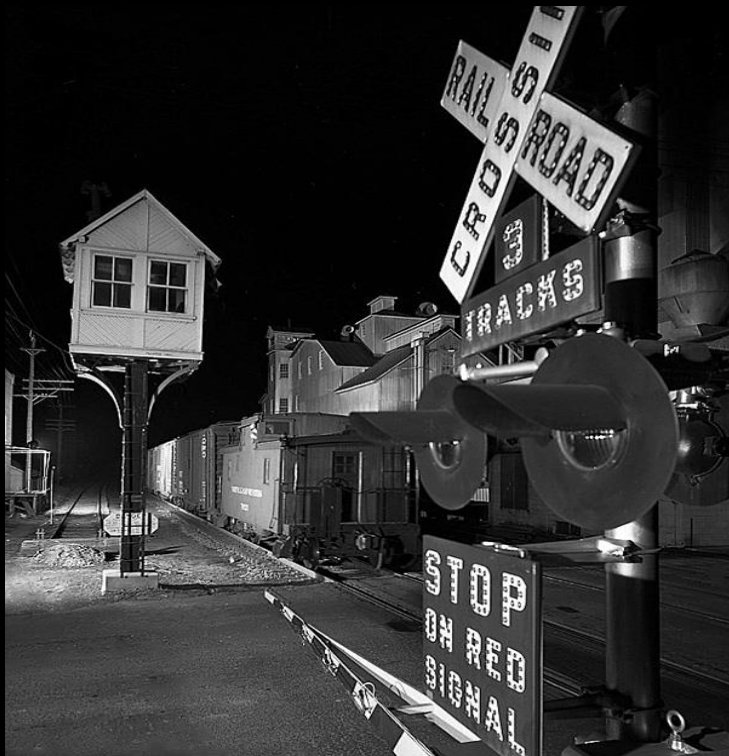
with Reflectors

36"x 23" Cast Steel Sign

## Highway Grade Crossing Sign

Single Sided Die Cast Steel

Stop On Red Signal, Caution Sign





## Hand Held Stop Sign

### Metal Hand Held Stop Sign:

On display B&MRR Combine Coach & Baggage car.  
Dutton Street, Lowell, Mass.

Donation by; Donald S. Robinson



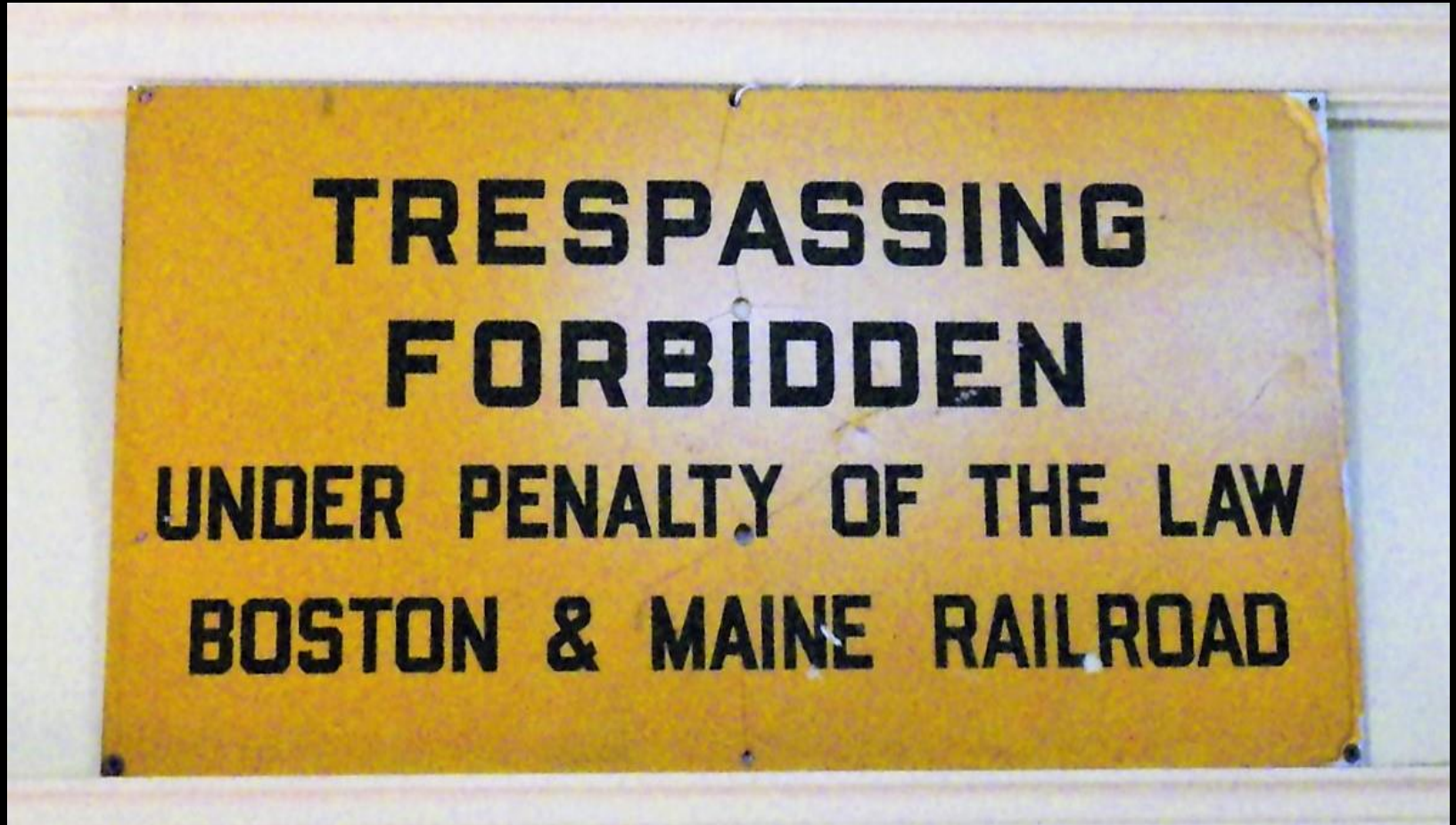


## Trespassing Forbidden Metal Sign

Trespassing Forbidden  
Under Penalty of The Law  
Boston & Maine Railroad

On display in the B&MRR Combine  
Coach & Baggage car. On Dutton  
Street Lowell Ma.

Donation by; Paul T. Kosciolk

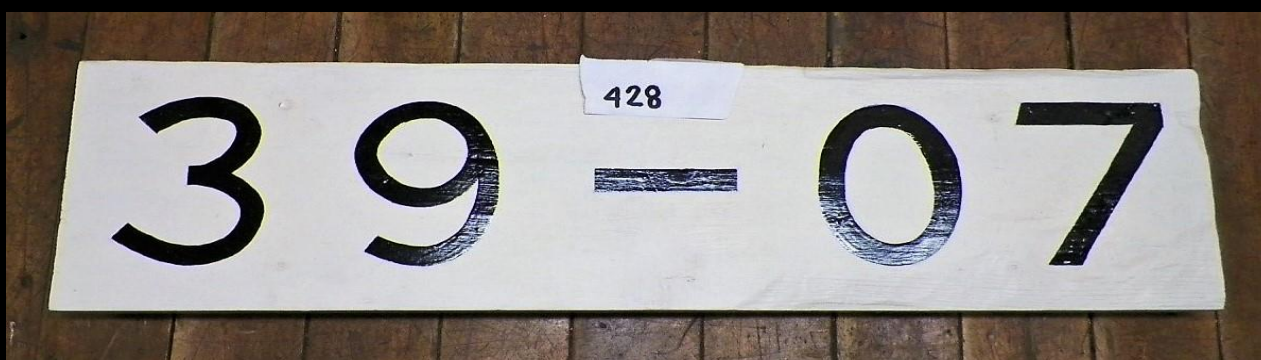




Mudnock Road Bridge  
Boston & Maine Railroad - View North  
Abandoned, Eastern Mainline, Salisbury Mass

Donation by; Robert Grodzicki

Bridge removed 1983





# New England Tel & Tel Co.

Porcelain 18"x 18" Sign – From B&MRR Station, North Berwick, ME

Donation by; Samuel Vaughan



Wall Phone – Donation by; Richard K. Hurst





## Boston & Maine Railroad “Combine” Car

Plaque: Lowell Heritage State Park  
Lowell Historic Preservation Commission

Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society  
Photo taken during: Lowell Folk Festival 2016

### **Boston and Maine “Combine” Car**

This car is a combination baggage and passenger car called a “Combine.” It was built by the B&M in Concord, New Hampshire, in 1905, and was in regular service as a smoking car on the system until 1949.

The car contains an exhibit about Lowell and the early railroad which began in 1835 to provide transportation between the Lowell mills and Boston.

LOWELL HERITAGE STATE PARK  
LOWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION





# Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society Inc.

New Boston & Maine Railroad  
“New Railroad Exhibit Sign”

B&MRR 410 0-6-0 Locomotive

B&MRR Combine Baggage & Coach

Displayed On Dutton Street, Lowell, MA.





# Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society

## Acknowledgement

- The following donations have made it possible to preserve the B&MRR and our new England Railroad History.
  - Anonymous Donors:
  - Donors: Robert Grodzicki, Richard K. Hurst, Leroy Hutchinson, Mr. Janatas, Preston S. Johnson, Paul T. Kosciolek, Raymond Lagace, Charles Lamie, Donald S. Robinson, Samuel Vaughan.
  - The Lowell Historic Preservation Commission.
- 
- Submitted by;  
The Hardware Committee  
The Boston & Maine Historical Society