

RAILWAY STATION

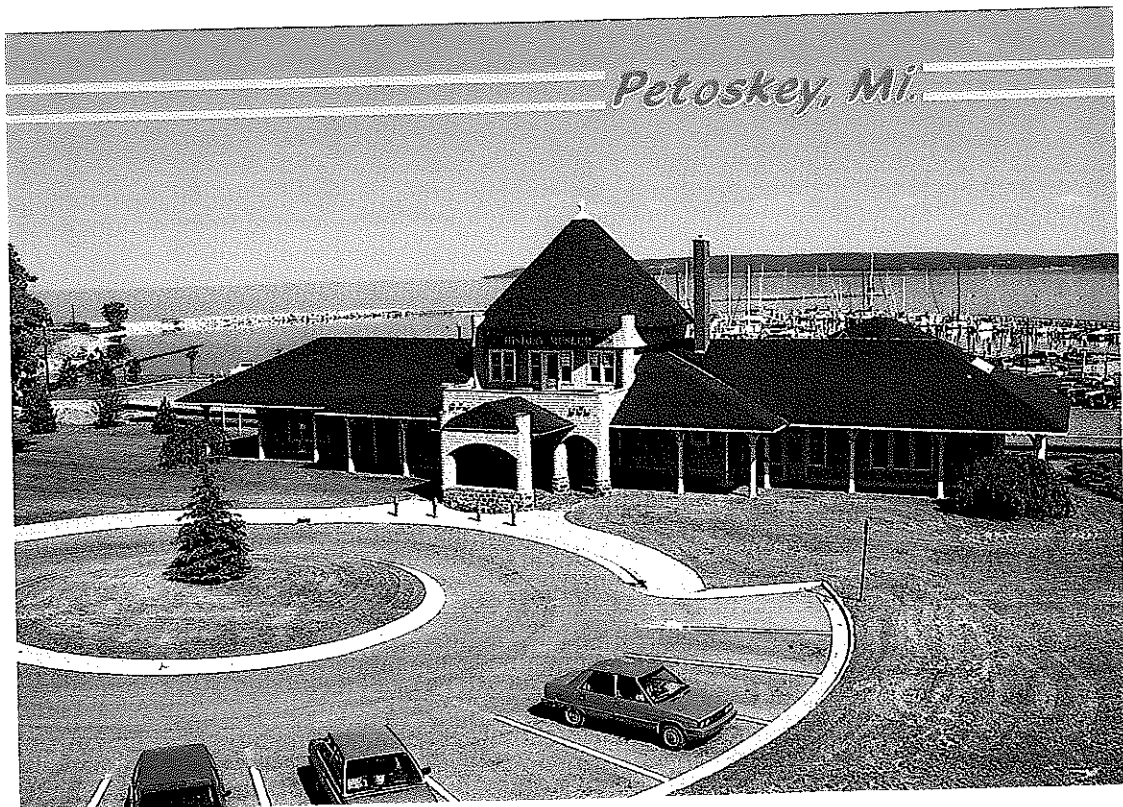
PIONEER PARK, WEST LAKE STREET

PETOSKEY, EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HISTORY MUSEUM



Built in 1892 this railroad station served the Petoskey, Michigan Area during the early days of development now houses the History Museum of the Little Traverse Historical Society. Many artifacts and displays depict the lumbering era. Great Lakes transportation and early tourism of this region.
(Photo by John Penrod) Circa 1997



The C&WM which had been acquired by the Pere Marquette and later by the C&O made a valiant effort to compete. Mr. Young, president of the latter road established the "Resort Special" as a sleeper service during the summer. Sections left Detroit and Chicago Friday nights, arriving at northern stations in this vicinity early Saturday morning. Return service left Petoskey at 7 p.m. Sunday nights, delivering its load of commuting family heads in time for work Monday morning in the big cities. This was a great success but could not, alone, support the railroad.

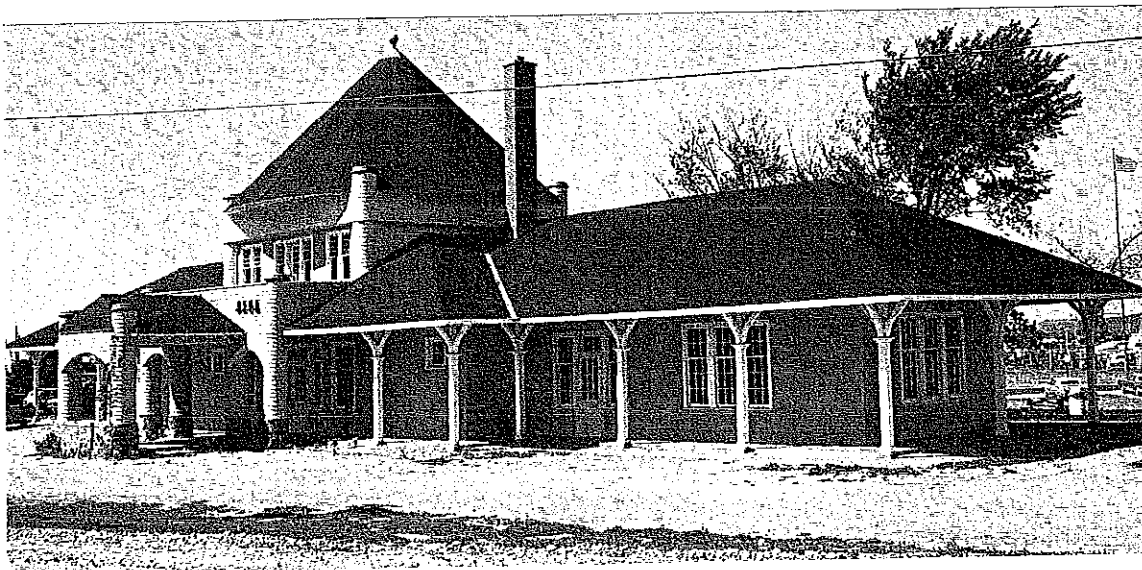
Its competitor, the Pennsylvania, successor to the GR&I, said, in a story in the Petoskey News-Review, April 20, 1950:

"Improved passenger equipment, including a wide range of Pullman accommodations, will feature this years' Northern Arrow"...it will serve north Michigan for more than four months during the coming summer season...diesel powered, as it was last year, the Arrow will present for the first time a dining car especially for the north Michigan service, decorated with photo murals of that resort area..."

Alas, in September, a little over four months later, the Northern Arrow pulled out of Petoskey for the last time...a sort of last gasp for passenger railroading.

The old spirit of enterprise and innovation, which had included such elaborate ventures as the annual staging of a Hiawatha Pageant on little Round Lake, north of Petoskey, and combination rail/boat round trips from Chicago and Detroit to Petoskey and Charlevoix could no longer be profitable. The railroads simply quit trying.

Extracted from People, Places, Happenings in Northern Michigan By William H. Ohle. Pages 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, & 67.
This is a collection of articles that have appeared over the past two decades in "THE GRAPHIC," A tabloid published by the Petoskey News-Review for the enjoyment of vacationers.



PETOSKEY RAILWAY STATION

Pioneer Park, West Lake Street, Petoskey, Emmet County

Before the 1870s Petoskey was a very small settlement in a region populated by Indians. In 1874, however, railroad service to the area began, and soon the town was transformed into a picturesque summer resort. A Methodist campground in nearby Bay View became the site of a Chautauqua program which attracted thousands of tourists each summer to its lectures and musical events. To accommodate the summer influx, the Chicago and West Michigan Railway built this depot in 1892.

A central two-story tower, faced in the shingle style, dominates the building. It has an unusual conical-shaped roof and a porte-cochere on the street entrance. The station, circled by a veranda, is built of white glazed brick with wooden trim.

The depot became part of the Pere Marquette Railroad in 1899 and part of the Chesapeake and Ohio line in 1947. Abandoned in the 1950s, the building fell into disrepair until the Little Traverse Bay Historical Society acquired it in 1970. The society has restored the station for use as a museum.

Michigan History Division
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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