

# Walking Tour of Wabeno's Historic Logging Community and Parks

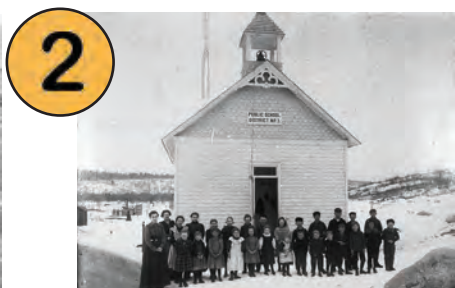
The Town of Wabeno maintains historic buildings and artifacts from its logging era, as well as 2 parks. The American Legion Park offers a basketball court, tennis courts, picnic pavillions, playground, and a barrier-free boardwalk and trail. The trail includes a second section located in the Firefighters' Grounds, near Range Line Creek. The Firefighters' Grounds hosts community events and is available for rental.





## Wabeno Library

The landmark Wabeno Public Library is housed in one of the first buildings in the town. The town purchased it in 1923 to use as a public library. It is both charming and quaint and remains a popular spot for residents and visitors. It was built by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company for use as a land office in 1897. The Wabeno Library was placed on the National and State Registries of Historic Places in 1993.



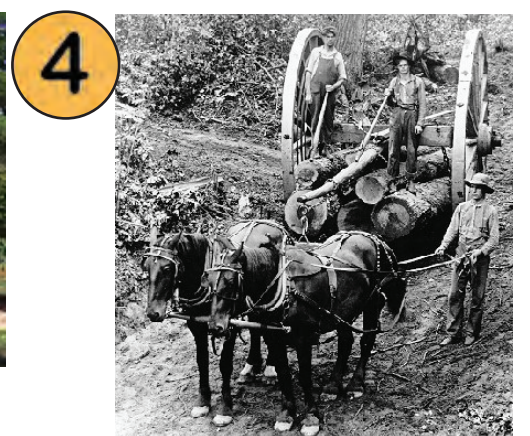
## Schoolhouse

The first schoolhouse was built in 1897. It was a one room building which began instruction in 1898 when, abiding by state law, there were 4 pupils in attendance. When the new schools were built, JW Norris bought the schoolhouse and ran a newspaper, *The Advertiser*, until 1943, and a printing office into the 1980s. In 1997, the town people moved the schoolhouse next to the public library and restored it to mirror the earlier days it served the community. The schoolhouse is open in the summer.



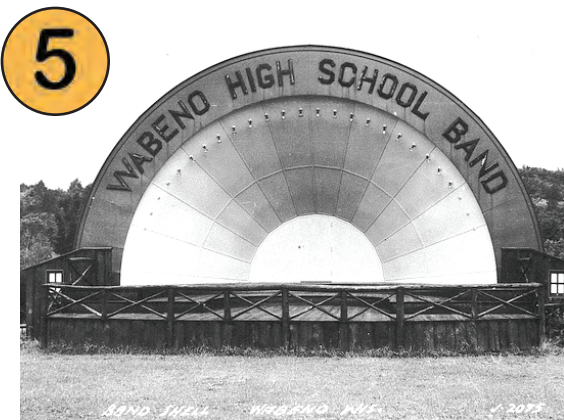
## Douglas Fir Log

This is a typical pine log cut in Forest County in the early 1920s. This tree originally grew three miles southwest of Laona and measured 10,000 board feet; 7'2" at the butt and tapered to 15" inches at the top. In 1925, it was donated to the town by the C.W. Jones Lumber Co. This log was placed on the National and State Registries of Historic Places in 1993.



## Big Wheels (or "Katydids")

The logging wheels were a specially designed large set of wooden wagon wheels that could carry logs that were up to 100 feet in length, several at a time. They extended the logging season because they removed the need for icy ground to travel over.



## Band Shell

The original Wabeno Band Shell was designed, constructed and supervised in 1941 by Lewis P. Mallow. On May 20, 2012 a high wind came through town and blew the band shell over. The community held fundraisers to rebuild. Work, led by Ray Ehlinger, began immediately to replace this town icon to the current Band Shell.



## Larry the Logroller

Larry the Logroller was the symbol of our school sports teams, the Logrollers, echoing the town's logging history. The Wabeno Chamber of Commerce donated Larry to our town. On January 3, 2013 a tree toppled him causing major damage. He was in intensive care while a good hearted citizen repaired him. Larry is 22 feet tall.



## Skidding Snout

"Pig Snout"

Lost for years, it was discovered south of Otter Lake. Its purpose was a mystery until an old employee of the Menominee Bay Shore company immediately recognized it and told of its purpose--to prevent excessive breakage of skidding cables. The cable was passed through the hole in the small end and attached to the log. The smooth cone of the snout protected the butt end of the log from catching on stones and rocks as the log was pulled, skidding across the ground.



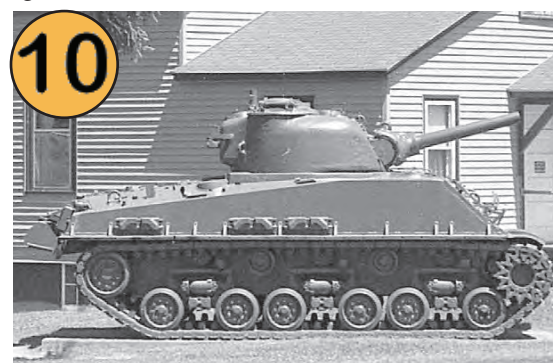
## Phoenix Log Hauler

Wabeno has one of the few remaining steam powered logging haulers still operational in the nation. It is one of 200 such machines built in the early 1900s by Phoenix Manufacturing Company. It was owned by the C.W. Jones Lumber Company and used at their mill from 1909 until 1935. It was bought by the town in 1944 and restored to life in 1965. The Phoenix is operated annually during the Wabeno Steam-Up Days.



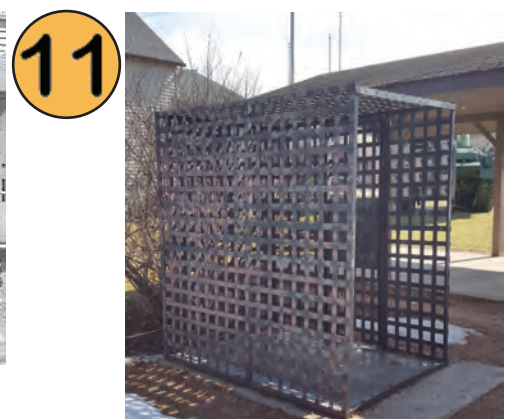
## Logging Museum

Wabeno Lions Club built the logging museum in 1940, which is a replica of logging camps that dotted Forest County. When it opened, an **attendant**,\* Adolph Rogge, lived in one side of the building and ran the museum on the other side. The building is a genuine notched log structure and contains almost everything that is needed for hardwood logging. In 1990 it received an award from the Forest History Association of Wisconsin for showing exemplary contributions to the promotion and preservation of forest history. Through many fundraisers, the addition you see today was added in 1994.



## Sherman Tank

The M4 Sherman tank stands near the Wabeno American Legion Hall. It was secured by Wabeno Veterans of WWII as a memorial to Wabeno soldiers who died during the war. The tank was driven from the National Guard tank battalion in Merrill to Wabeno, a trip of 61 miles, on January 25, 1958. The trip took 3 and 3/4 hours, used 135 gallons of gas with a top speed of 35 mph.



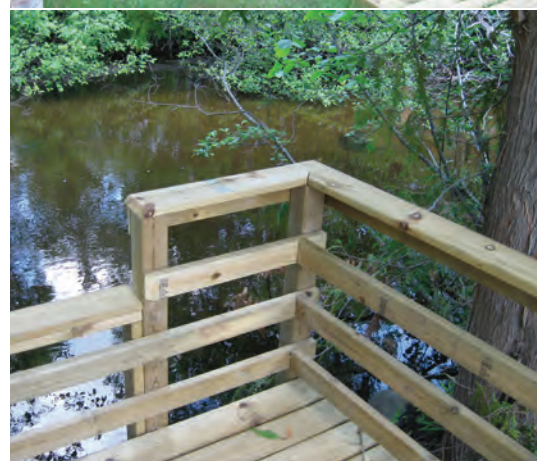
## Jail Cage

The jail cell was from the original town hall, and despite its flimsy appearance, held all prisoners. A law passed demanding an attendant on duty at all times so the cell was removed, adding to our collection of by-gone days.



## Totem Pole

This totem pole originally stood next to the Schlafke Bakery. It was built by George Nemitz. When the bakery closed, Ted Schlafke donated it to the Wabeno Park Commission.



## Wabeno Barrier-free Boardwalk and Trail in American Legion Park and in Firefighter's Grounds

