

VIEWS ALONG The OR&W – the Unique Station at Crabapple

by Bill Logan 02-01-2006



Crabapple Station, OR&W Railway 1915-1916

Crabapple Station (MP 24.8 between Alledonia Station and Moores Station) was named for the community of Crabapple the small farm community along Crabapple Creek (population 50 in 1917) in this area. Crabapple Station was located 360 feet due east of OR&W Bridge #211 that crossed over Crabapple Creek. The station is noted on most timetables from 1879 thru 1929 as a regular stop. Today this location is noted by the still existing Bridge #211 with TWP Road 103 (Crabapple Lane) passing over and TWP Road 105 from the south hillside merging just east of the bridge. Crabapple Station was located on the west side of the mainline with a 391 foot single ended siding facing northeast from bridge #211. This location can also be identified today as the western most lane crossing of Crabapple Creek (three total) between Moores and Alledonia.

Crabapple Station is one of a handful of railroad built (Bellaire and Southwestern pre-OR&W) stations along the original portion of the line from Bellaire to Woodsfield. This story and a half building is simple yet elegant. Rough-cut board and batten vertical siding exterior is classic OR&W. But the tin metal lap-seam high pitched roof with overhang is unusual. The storm shutters over the front windows are unique also for a station – usually horizontal iron bars prevented unwanted entry. You can bet that the central brick chimney serviced a pot belly coal stove on the floor. Odds are the interior is constructed with exposed wood corner posts and beams; a rough finished board floor; and vertical board only walls. The front door is a four panel finished type. Two double hung four pane glass windows circulate light and air as does the two six pane wall peak windows. When this photo was taken paint either was long gone or never existed. The pole retains the telegraph line for railroad communications. Originally this station had an agent and telegraph key. Note the Soda sign advertisement nailed to the wall, normal accumulation of junk, tall grass, and cinder only ballast.

The photo shows the dapper Mr. Walter Jones waiting for an eastbound OR&W train before the great war. Mr. Jones was a drummer (salesman) who lived at Crabapple and traveled to Bellaire during the week to work. Note his samples suitcase sitting on the platform and the

classic banded drummer straw hat. He appears a bit impatient standing on the narrow gauge tracks looking west, no doubt trying to spy the first glimpse of a late OR&W passenger train down the long straight track from Moores. The photo was taken from the southeast single ended siding looking north across the mainline to the Station Building. Would not this make a great station scene to model!

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