

# Machias Trailhead Historic Photos

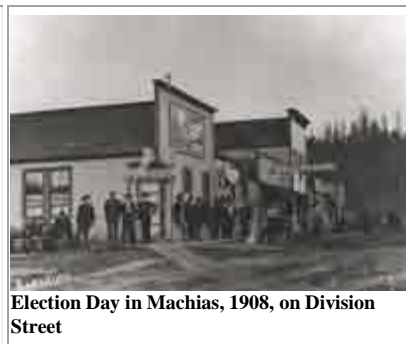
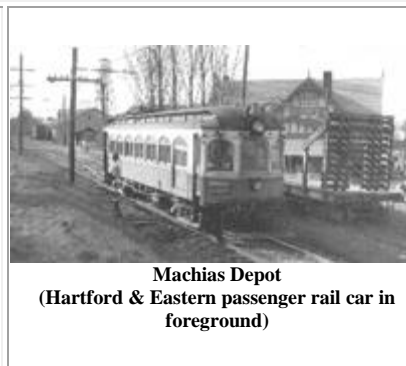
Machias at the turn of the century was a bustling community with a railroad depot, many stores, a school, a church and a post office where the trailhead is now located. The trailhead building is a replica of the original depot. The concrete slab across the trail from the building is the original slab where the water tower once stood. (Note the square marks at each corner where the legs of the water tower were fastened.)

Charles Niemeyer, Sr., from Machias, Maine, secured title to the land from the US government. Mr. Niemeyer and neighbors Horace Andrus and W. A. Clark cut down trees and built a road so they could move their families, furniture and animals in sleighs drawn by oxen to the valley. On October 4, 1888, Mr. Niemeyer granted a right-of-way to the railroad. In 1890 L. W. Getchell and others bought 80 acres from Mr. Neimeyer to begin the town.

Before the town was officially started, a post office and a small store named Rudd existed. A grocery and supply store owned and operated by A. Sapp was the first business. A saloon and blacksmith shop, two more mercantile stores, a small candy store, two hotels, a hardware store, restaurant, meat market and athletic hall followed. In 1903 residents built a two-room school and the Congregational church patterned after a church in Machias, Maine.

The main industry was lumber. Several lumber and shingle mills operated within a few miles of the town and shipped their product by rail from the depot. Most of the town was destroyed by fire in 1914.

The following photographs are courtesy of Ruby Elders, Machias Historical Society:



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Main Street (Division St.)



Carpenter's Meat Market



Brown's Blacksmith Shop



Sapp's Grocery Store



Grocery store, gas station, tavern, dance hall, c1930

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