

Buffalo engine summary

The engine powering the machine tools in the Sovereign Hill mine blacksmith shop is an inverted-vertical 'bottle-frame' engine with a five-inch bore and six-inch stroke and develops around two nominal horsepower. It carries the plate of the Buffalo Machinery Company situated at 24-26 Burwell Place (later renamed Beak Street), Buffalo, New York State, USA. The Buffalo Machinery Company was in existence at this address by 1899, and seems to have survived until after the Second World War.¹ Strangely, the firm receives no mention in the otherwise comprehensive listing of engineering firms in Larned's *History of Buffalo* published in 1911,² so it is possible it from another manufacturer and has been re-badged by the Buffalo Machinery Company acting as a machinery merchant. A company of the same name now operates in Taiwan making CNC machine tools.

The engine may be rare as the Buffalo Machinery Company does not receive mention in Cope's *American Steam Engine Builders*.³ The engine was purchased from the deceased estate of E. M. Baldwin so is without provenance, and is original with the exception of new piston and valve rods. The Pickering governor was fitted at Sovereign Hill.

References

¹ City Directories for Buffalo, New York: 1899 (p.1419); 1900 (p.1430); 1908 (p.1397); US patents 2458622 of 1949 and 2521595 of 1950.

² Larned, J. L. (1911). *A History of Buffalo: Delineating the Evolution of a City*. Volume II, Chapter IV: *Metal Working & Machinery*. Published by The Progress of the Empire State Company, New York.

³ Cope, K. L. (2006). *American Steam Engine Builders*. Astragal Press, pages 46-47.