

THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM

INFORMATION SHEET

PERRY 0-6-2T: “FLASH”



Flash on display at The Workshops Rail Museum.

The Perry Engineering Co, Mile End, South Australia built a total of 18 locomotives for the 2'0" gauge tramways used by the sugar industry in Queensland.

The Proserpine Co-operative Sugar Milling Association purchased their first Perry locomotive in 1939 for the Proserpine mill, in northern Queensland.

Their second Perry locomotive was supplied in 1948 and carried the builder's serial number of 6160/48/1. The locomotive was initially numbered 7 at Proserpine mill but was renumbered 5 in 1957 following the scrapping of a number of older steam locomotives.

No.5 worked on the cane tramways around Proserpine until 1964 when it was sold to the Fairymead Sugar Co, owners of the Fairymead mill, near Bundaberg.

At the Fairymead mill, the locomotive became No.21 and was painted in a bright red and yellow colour scheme with black lining considerably different to the dark green it had been painted at Proserpine.

THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM

The locomotive fitters at Fairymead enclosed the rear of the cab, fitted new buffers and couplings and also fitted a straight stack to replace the balloon stack used at Proserpine.

In 1970, No.21 was sold to the Millaquin Sugar Co Ltd, who transferred the locomotive to their Qunaba mill on the southern side of the Burnett River at Bundaberg.

Before entering service at Qunaba the locomotive was again fitted with a balloon stack built in the mill workshops.

The yellow colour scheme made it easier to see the locomotive when crossing one of the numerous road crossings. Patches of luminous paint were applied to make the locomotive more visible at night.

The Perry was named "Flash" at Qunaba mill.

Qunaba mill had a compact cane railway system with only short runs for the locomotives. This meant that their steam locomotives did not need to take water or refuel anywhere outside the mill yard.

The remaining steam locomotives at Qunaba, including "Flash", were retired in 1980 making it the last mill in Queensland to use steam locomotives for the haulage of sugar cane.

"Flash" was donated to the Queensland Museum in 1981 and now resides at The Workshops Rail Museum as a major exhibit.

Specifications (as built)

Builder	Perry Engineering, Mile End, Sth Aust
Serial Number	6160/48/1
Year Built	1948
Wheel Arrangement	0-6-2T
Cylinders (Diameter X Stroke)	10 inches X 18 inches
Boiler Pressure	180 psi
Driving Wheel (Dia.)	28 ½ inches
Weight	16 tons
Coal Capacity	27 cubic feet
Water Capacity	500 gallons

Date Issued/Revised: 24/01/2006

Compiled by D. J. Mewes, Assistant Curator

© The Workshops Rail Museum – a campus of the Queensland Museum