#### S-230

### Skipjack CALEB W. JONES

#### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 03-21-2013

S-230 CALEB W. JONES (skipjack) Wenona, Maryland

CALEB W. JONES is a 44.1' long two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. She has a beam of 16.5', a depth of 1.5', and a net registered tonnage of 10. She carries a typical skipjack rig of jib-headed mainsail and a single large jib with a club on its foot. Built in 1953 in Reedville, Virginia following traditional Bay design and construction methods, CALEB W. JONES is significant as being one of the 35 surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and a member of the last commercial sailing fleet in the United States. CALEB W. JONES is of special interest for having been built during the post World War II revival of skipjack building for the working oyster fleet.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE \_\_yes \_x\_no

CHESAPEAKE BAY SKIPJACK FLEET THEMATIC GROUP

1. Name (indicate pre	eferred name)	
historic CALEB W. JONES		
and/or common		
2. Location	5. 6. 2/9	
street & number Lower Th	norofare	n/a not for publication
city, town Wenona	n/a_ vicinity of	congressional district First
state Maryland 024	county	Somerset 039
3. Classification		2
Category Ownership district publicbuilding(s)x private structure both site Public Acquisition in process being considered not_applicable	Status  occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use  agriculture museum  X
4. Owner of Proper	'ty (give names an	nd mailing addresses of <u>all</u> owners)
name Clifton Webs	ter	
street & number		784-2632 telephone no.:
city, town Wenona	state	and zip code Maryland 21870
5. Location of Lega	al Description	on
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	n/a	liber
street & number		folio
city, town		state
6. Representation	in Existing	Historical Surveys
	ing Traditional Che	sapeake Bay Craft
1983-1984		federal X statecountyloc
depository for survey records	Maryland Histor	ical Trust, 21 State Circle
Annapolis		MD 21401

## 7. Description

Survey No.

S - 230

Co	ndition
<b>-</b>	_ excellent
_ X	_ good
	fair

\_ deteriorated \_ ruins

unexposed

Check one
unaltered
x altered

Check one

n/a original site

moved date of

date of move

n/a

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The vessel is a 44.1'-long two sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard - sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. Built in Reedvile, Virginia in 1953 in typical Bay fashion using cross-planked construction methods, the vessel has always been a working member of the Maryland skipjack fleet. The vessel has a beam of 16.5' and a depth of 1.5', with a net registered tonnage of 10. She carries a typical skipjack rig-a jib-headed mainsail laced to the boom and carried on wood hoops at the mast, and a single large jib with a club on its foot. The vessel has a longhead (clipper) bow and a square stern. The wooden hull is painted white and has metal ice sheathing at the waterling.

CALEB W. JONES has a straight stem with little rake and a longhead, braced with wooden flying braces, beneath the bowsprit. The transom stern is shallow, with little rake and large "tucks" where it meets the chine. The rudder is formed of vertically-laid planks and a mounted outboard on pintles. The transom also carries a jig for the pushboat, located to starboard of the rudder. In shape the hull is straight-sided, almost square, and had little freeboard.

The single mast, raked well aft, is set up with double shrouds, adjustable by mean of turnbuckles, a forestay, jibstay, and topping lift. The boom is jawed to the mast. The bowsprit is set up with double chain bobstays and chain bowsprit shrouds, with wooden braces from the tip of the longhead back to the hull. The bowsprit is somewhat bowed up from the sweep of the sheer. The sails—mainsail and jib—have lazyjacks for ease in furling. In addition to the sail rig the skipjack carries a motorized pushboat suspended from davits at the stern.

The vessel is flush decked. Deck structures include: a wheelbox aft; a cabin with a slide providing access to the main cabin below; a large box over the winder engines; and a sampson post on the foredeck. There is a pinrail around the stern and a log rail forward. Fitted out for oystering, the vessel is open admidships where rollers are fitted for bringing up the dredges. There are metal-shod guards on the hull to prevent dredges from bumping and damaging the wooden hull.

The vessel is painted the traditional white with a red stripe on the hull parallel to the sheer and two parallel strips carried out onto the longhead. The sheer rail is painted tan. The CALEB W. JONES is carried on the bows and transom in applied black letters with the home port, Wenona, also on the transom. Trailboards are traditional in design, incorporating the motifs of eagle, shields, arrows, and flag in red, white, blue and gold.

8. Significance	8.	Sig	ni	fic	ca	no	e
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Survey No. S-230

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	agriculture architecture art	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature military music philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/
Specific dates	1953	Builder/Architect	Unknown	_
Appl	icable Criteria: X_A nd/or icable Exception:/ l of Significance:	A _B _C _D _I		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This vessel is significant as being one of the 36 surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and a member of the last commercial sailing fleet in the United States. Out of a fleet of hundreds of skipjacks that worked Bay waters in the early years of this century, today only this small number remain to carry on the tradition of working sail.

The skipjack evolved as a distinct type of Bay vessel in the 1890's as a cheaper-to-construct alternative to the earlier bugeyes and other traditional framed craft, in a period when shipbuilding costs were rising and the oyster catch was diminishing. The type was devised by enlarging (to 25 to 60 feet) the hull of the ordinary, unframed, square-sterned Bay crabbing skiff, and giving it a deadrise bottom, a-deck, a cabin, and sloop rig. The result--with its unframed, hard chine, cross-planked, V-bottom--proved inexpensive to build, easy to repair, and could be constructed by a competent house carpenter. Skipjacks were specifically designed as oyster dredge boats, with wide beams and low freeboards lending stability and providing a large working space on deck. The single masted rig, with sharp-headed mainsail and large jib, was easy to handle, powerful in light winds, and handy in coming about quickly for another pass over the oyster beds.

The Maryland oyster season begins November 1 and ends March 15. Skipjacks must dredge under sail on all days except Mondays and Tuesdays, when they are allowed to use their motorized pushboat for dredging. The pushboat, normally carried on davits at the stern, is lowered into the water and literally "pushes" the skipjack along from behind, the nose of the pushboat resting against a "jig" on the stern of the skipjack. The pushboat can also legally be used toget the skipjack to and from the oyster beds each day. Each skipjack's crew is made up of the captain, who is often also the owner, and five crew members.

CALEB W. JONES is of interest as having been built during the post World War II revival of skipjack building for the working oyster fleet. She was built in 1953 in Reedville, Virginia following traditional Bay design and construction methods. She has worked in the oyster-dredging fleet since her building and is presently based in Deal Island. The vessel was one of ten skipjacks builtrafter World War II during a boom in the oyster business, all of which are still active except for the ROSIE PARKS (now at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum). It is of great interest that even though these vessels were built over fifty years after the peak skipjack-building years their design and construction methods closely followed turn-of-the-century prototypes.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-230

See Thematic Group nomination cover form, Continuation Sheets No. 8-13.

10. G	eographical Data		
Quadrangle r UTM Reference	ominated property less than one name Deal Island, MD.  ces do NOT complete UTM refere	В	Quadrangle scale 1:24000
C		D	
This	working vessel is usually 2. Historic boundaries	y docked are cote:	at the location indicated in rminous with the hull.
List all state	es and counties for properties overla	pping state	or county boundaries
state n/a	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Fo	orm Prepared By		
name/title	Anne Witty/ M. E. Haywar	đ	
	Radcliffe Maritime Museu		
organization	Maryland Historical Soci	ety	date May, 1984
street & numb	er 201 West Monument Stree	t	telephone (301) 685-3750
city or town	Baltimore		state Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Anneralis, Maryland 21401

(30. 269-2438

#### Survey No. S-230

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 2002305833

1. Name	(indicate pre	eferred name)		
historic CA1	LEB W. JONES			
and/or common				
2. Locat	tion			
street & number				not for publication
city, town Wes	nona	vicinity of	congressional distri	ict
state Mary	land	county	Somerset	
3. Class	ification			
district building(s) structure	Dwnership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered x not applicable	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress AccessibleXyes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence treligious scientific transportation other:
4. Owne	er of Prope	'ty (give names an	nd mailing addre	sses of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Clifton Webs	ter		* 0
street & number			telephone	784-2632
city, town	Wenona	state	and zip code Ma	aryland 21870
5. Locat	tion of Lega	al Description	on	
courthouse, registr	y of deeds, etc.			liber
street & number				folio
city, town			sta	ate
	esentation	in Existing	Historical Su	urveys
title				
date			federal	state county local
pository for surv	ey records			•
	10 M (100 TO	*		

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-230

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	original site	
good fair	ruins unexposed	_x_ altered	moved date of move	

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Period — prehistoric — 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 — 1700–1799 — 1800–1899 — 1900–	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric  archeology-historic  agriculture  architecture  art  commerce  communications	[18] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2] [2	Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater x transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1953	Builder/Architect	Unknown	
Appl	icable Criteria:A nd/or icable Exception:A  1 of Significance:	B C D  A B C D E  national state	F _G	

C ..... No

C-230

Significance

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-230

Howard I. Chapelle, American Small Sailing Craft (New York: W.W. Norton, 1951)

H.I. Chapelle, Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks (St. Michaels, Md: CBMM, n.d.)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  Quadrangle name Deal Tsland		Quadrangl	e scale
UTM References do NOT complete UTM references		8425. 5	
Zone Easting Northing	B Zone	Easting	Northing
c	D		
E	F L		
$G \square \square \square \square \square \square$	н 🔟		لتبابلنا

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries				
state	code	county	code	
state	code	county	code	

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Witty/ M.E. Haywardo	
organization Maryland Historical Society	date 5/84
street & number 201 W. Monument St.	telephone 685-3750
city or town Baltimore	state Maryland 21201

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return to:

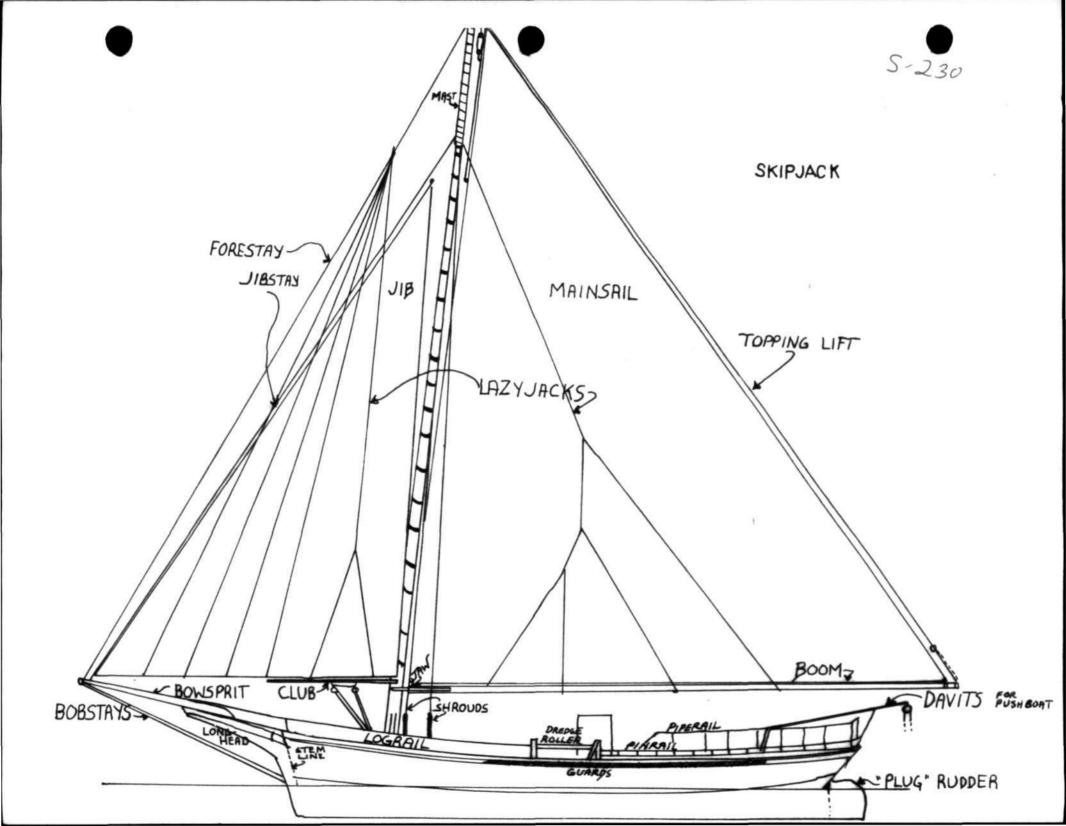
Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

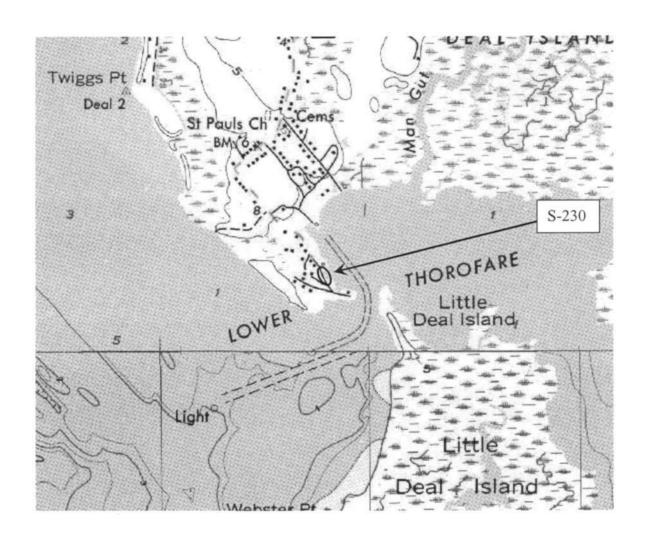
21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438



S-230 Caleb W. Jones (skipjack) Wenona Deal Island Quad. Somerset County







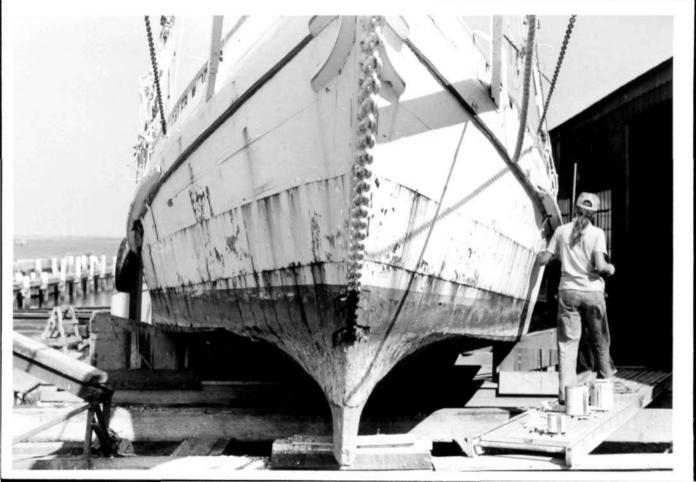
starboard side under sail M.E. Wootton 11/83



S-230

CALEB W. JONES Wenona, Md

stern M. C. Wootton 10/83



CALEB W. JONES

Wenona, Md

bow

M.C. Wootton

10/83

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Janel.

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