# T-522 Skipjack ROSIE PARKS

#### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reversechronological (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

T-522 ROSIE PARKS (skipjack) St. Michaels, Maryland

This vessel is a 46.2' long two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as skipjack. Built in 1955 in Wingate, Maryland by the noted boatbuilder Bronza Parks, the vessel was given to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in 1975 by her late captain and owner, Orville Parks. She is now a floating exhibit, in sailing condition, but no longer dredges for oysters. The vessel has a beam of 16'7", a depth of 3'3" and a net register tonnage of 8. ROSIE PARKS is significant as being one of the 35 surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and for having been built by one of the best known boatbuilders in recent years, Bronza Parks. The vessel is also important as having been one of the most successful skipjacks in the annual workboat races held off of Deal Island and at Sandy Point State park. Her present use as a restored Museum educational vessel adds to her importance.

T-522 Survey No. 2105225833 Magi No. **Maryland Historical Trust** State Historic Sites Inventory Form DOE yes no Name (indicate preferred name) ROSIE PARKS historic CBMM 75-53-1 Skipjack and/or common Location not for publication street & number Mill Street St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district city, town Talbot Maryland state county Classification 3. **Present Use** Ownership Status Category public X occupied district agriculture museum x private unoccupied commercial building(s) park X educational structure both work in progress private residence site **Public Acquisition** Accessible entertainment religious yes: restricted in process scientific object government being considered X\_transportation X yes: unrestricted industrial xnot applicable military other: no **Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners) Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum name 745-2916 telephone no .: street & number state and zip code Maryland 21663 St. Michaels city, town Location of Legal Description 5 courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber street & number folio city, town state **Representation in Existing** 6. Historical Surveys title date federal state county local pository for survey records city, town state

#### 7. Description

Survey No. T-522

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

This vessel is a 46.2'-long, two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. Built in Wingate, Maryland in 1955 by the noted boatbuilder Bronza Parks, she was given to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in 1975 by her late captain and owner, Orville Parks. She is now a floating exhibit, in sailing condition, but no longers dredges for oysters. Like her sister ships LADY KATIE and MARTHA LEWIS, ROSIE PARKS was built in typical Bay fashion using cross-planked construction methods, along traditional lines. She has a beam of 16'7", a depth of 3'3", and a net register tonnage of 8. The vessel has a longhead or clipper bow and a square, or transom, stern. The wooden hull is painted the traditional white.

In shape, the vessel exhibits a generous deadrise. Her bow is sharp but with little rake to the stem and there is an added longhead. The stern is square, with the rudder mounted outboard on pintles. The vessel has a hard chine, heavily rolled throughout, particularly around the transom where beading surrounds the rounded edges. There is a chock for the pushboat on the transom and davits extending over the stern.

ROSIE PARKS was built in Bay fashion using cross-planked construction. The transverse planking is stepped to the staving and transom with no feather edges. The bow is fully staved with no log or chunk filler. The vessel is mostly yellow pine planking on oak frames with some fir also used in the construction. Structural members--known chine liner, centerboard trunk--are massive. The vessel is fastened with galvanized iron spikes and riveted rods.

There is a single mast of western fir set with about a 15° rake aft. The mast is rigged with double shrouds and a forestay and jibstay leading to the end of the bowsprit. The square bowsprit, which tapers to round at the end, is set up with two chain-and-cable bobstays and chain bowsprit shrouds. The sail rig consists of a jibheaded mainsail and a large jib. The main is laced to the boom and carried on wood hoops at the mast. It is furled by means of lazyjacks, as is the club-footed, self-tending jib. Sails are dacron and are stored ashore. In addition to the sail rig the boat can be propelled by pushboat which is carried suspended from davits over the stern.

The vessel is flush-decked, surrounded by a low, solid lograil forward and a pinrail aft, but open where the dredges are rolled aboard amidships. There are several deck structures, including: a wheelbox with a 35" wheel mounted on it; a 7'10" long by 8'6" wide cabin; a midships hatch; and a large, two-sectioned main deck hatch forward. The cabin trunk is a replacement, built after the boat was donated to the museum. Some of the decking is new as well. There is a flat sampson post on the foredeck.

The vessel is painted white with brightwork trim on the cabin and at the end of the bowsprit. The spars are also left bright. Trailboards mounted on the longhead are carved and painted with the name ROSIE PARKS in gold on a green backgroun. Trailboard decorations include the motifs of an eagle and arrows, stars and stripes, and vines and leaves. Colors are red, white, blue, gold, and black. There are also black nameboards with the name ROSIE PARKS in gold with a flower or pinwheel motif, mounted on the just aft of the chain bowsprit shroud.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. T-522

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–		Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications		oric - -	Check and justify below community planning conservation economics x education engineering exploration/settleme industry invention			ng landscape architectur law literature military music		rature tary sic osophy	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
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Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This vessel is significant as being one of the 36surviving traditional Chesapeake Bay skipjacks and a recent 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 1890s 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 bibbing skiff, and giving it a deadrise bottom, a deck, a cabin, and a 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 freeboard lending stability and providing a large working space on deck. The single masted rig, with sharpheaded 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 behin, the nose of the pushboat resting agains a "jig" on the stern of the skipjack. The pushboat can also legally be used to get 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.

ROSIE PARKS is especially significant as having been built by noted boatbuilder Bronza Parks of Wingate, Maryland, and for having enjoyed a particularly successful career in the annual Chesapeake Bay workboat races under her well-known captain, Orville Parks, brother of the boatbuilder. The son and grandson of watermen, Bronza Parks began his career as an oyster dredger, but switched to boatbuilding after constructing a crab skiff for his own use. Specializing in skiffs and power boats for both pleasure and commercial use, Parks prided himself on building no two boats alike--he tried something new and different on each. Hoping to improve on old designs, in 1955 Parks undertook the construction of three skipjacks, the last to be built on the Bay until 1979. The three vessels we the ROSIE PARKS, LADY KATIE, and MARTHA LEWIS and Parks' claim to have created a

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-522

Howard I. Chapelle, <u>Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks</u> (St. Michaels, Md: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, n.d.)

## 10. Geographical Data

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ity or town	Baltimor	e		state Ma	ryland	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.

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

superior design proved accurate, as the ROSIE PARKS became a champion in the annual workboat races. Captain Orville Parks, brother of the boatbuilder, dredged the ROSIE PARKS for 20 years and raced her up until a year before his death at age 80. Called "Captain Marvel" by his friends, Parks won most of the Deal Island workboat races and 9 out of the first 10 Chesapeake Appreciation Days skipjack races. He continued to race the boat even after he had donated her to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Bronza Parks was less fortunate in his career. He was fatally shot at his boatyard in 1958 during an argument with a client.

ROSIE PARKS is also of interest as having been built during the post World War II revival of skipjack building for the working oyster fleet. Although Parks made "improvements" in her design, she essentially followed traditional Bay design and construction methods. The vessel was one of ten skipjacks built after World War II during a boom in the oyster business, all of which are still active except the ROSIE. It is of great interest that even though these vessels were built over 50 years after the peak skipjack-building years, their design and construction methods closely followed turn-of-the-century prototypes.

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Survey No.

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	Survey	No. T-522
Maryland Historical Trust	Magi 1	ю. 2105225833
State Historic Sites Inventory Form	DOE	yes x no
CHESAPEAKE BAY SKIPJACK FLEET THEMATIC GROUP		
1. Name (indicate preferred name)		
historic ROSIE PARKS		
and/or common Skipjack CBMM 75-53-1		
2. Location		-
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum street & number Mill Street	n/-	not for publication
city, town St. Michaels $n/a$ vicinity of congres	ssional district	First
state Maryland 024 county Talbo		
3. Classification		
	ent Use griculture ommercial ducational ntertainment overnment ndustrial nilitary	museum park private residenc religious scientific _X_ transportation other:
4. Owner of Property (give names and mail:	ing addresse:	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum		
street & number	telephone no	745-2916
city, town St. Michaels state and zip	code Maryl	and 21663
5. Location of Legal Description		
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. n/a		liber
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6. Representation in Existing Histo	rical Surv	eys
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### 7. Description

Survey No. T-522

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8. Si	gnificance	Survey No. T-522				
1400-1 1500-1 1600-1 1700-1	1599 agriculture 1699 architecture 1799 art 1899 commerce	Check and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen industry invention	law literature military music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify		
Specific d	lates 1955	Builder/Architect Br	ronza Parks			
	Applicable Criteria: X A and/or Applicable Exception: Level of Significance: X	A _B _C _D				

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(continued overleaf)

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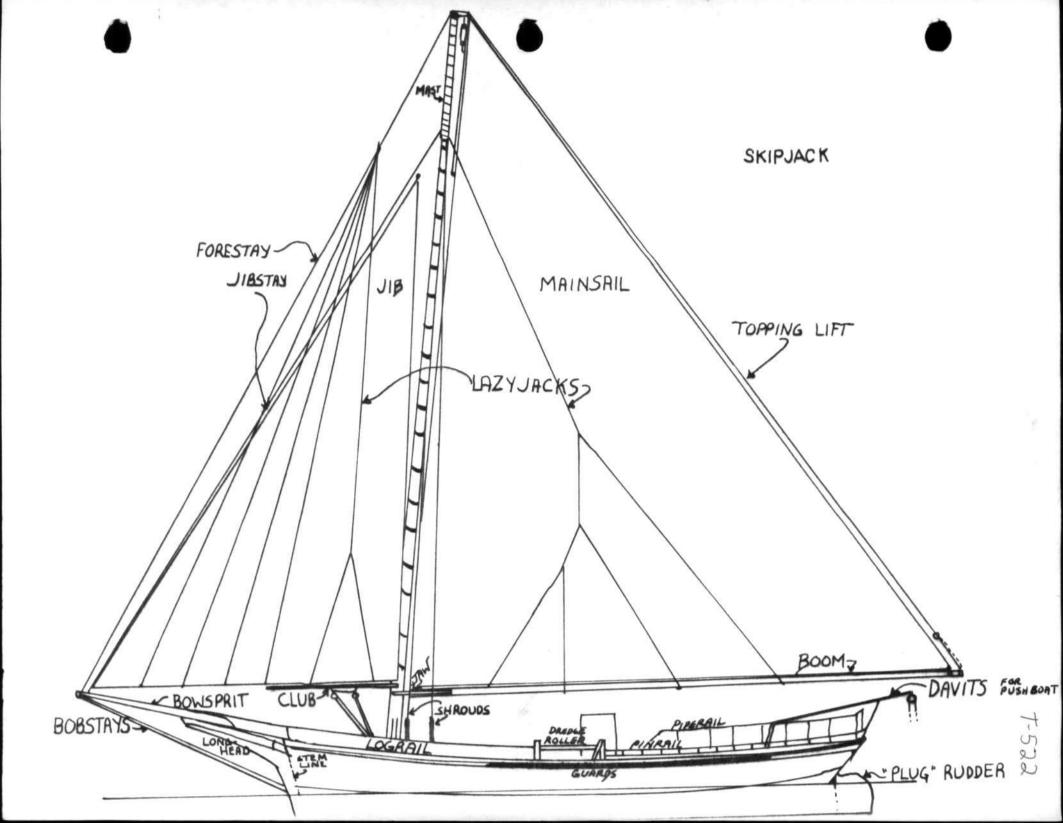
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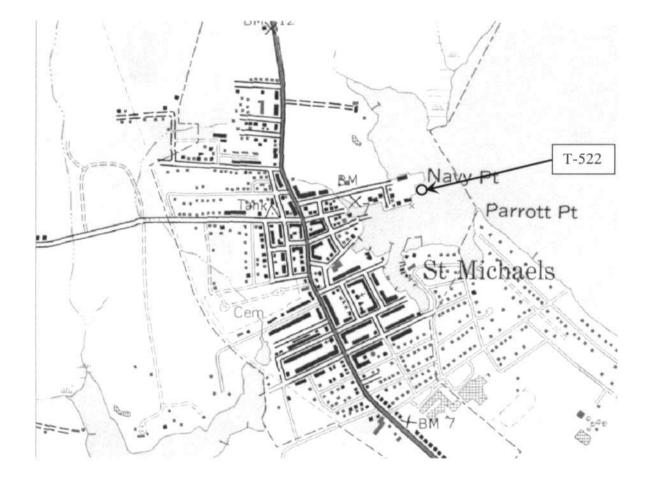
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T-522 Skipjack ROSIE PARKS Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Mill St. St. Michaels Saint Michaels Quad. Talbot Co.





367-42

#### T-522

ROSIE PARKS St. Michaels, Md

Bow M.C. Wootton 5/84



259-16

T-522

ROSIE PARKS St. Michaels, Md

port side M. C. Wootton 10/83

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260-12

T-522

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ROSIE PARKS St. Michaels, Md

starboard side M. C. Wootton 10/83

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