Memo to file

March 16, 2023

From: Mary Kate Mansius

Architectural Inventory Registrar

Re: D-649 / AA-2584

Skipjack WILMA LEE

The Wilma Lee was formerly located off Wingate Bishops Head Road, Wingate, MD. In 2012, it was moved to North Carolina. Then, circa 2018, the Wilma Lee was moved to Annapolis where it currently docks at the Annapolis Maritime Museum located at 723 Second Street, Annapolis, MD 21403.

Per conversation with Heather Barrett (Administrator of Architectural Research), it was determined that a new county specific MIHP number should be assigned to the Skipjack Wilma Lee. AA-2584 was assigned to the Skipjack Wilma Lee on 3/16/2023.

The Medusa record for D-649 and all related survey forms were retained. The GIS was updated to show the change of location (the polygon for D-649 was deleted and a new polygon was created for AA-2584, showing the updated location).

The D-649 survey forms were copied and added to the AA-2584 survey file. New maps were created to show the former and current location of the Wilma Lee.

D-649 / AA-2584 WILMA LEE (skipjack) Wingate, Maryland

WILMA LEE is a 46.8' long two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. She has a beam of 16.2', a depth of 4.5', and a gross registered tonnage of 20. She carries a typical skipjack rig of jib-headed mainsail and a single large jib with a club on its foot. Built in 1940 in Wingate, Maryland following traditional Bay design and construction methods, WILMA LEE 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. WILMA LEE is of special interest as being one of only two of the surviving skipjacks to have been built between the two World Wars.

Survey No. D-649 / AA-2584

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 1006495833

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

1. Nam	(indicate pre	eferred name)	<del></del>		······	
	WILMA LEE		<u></u>	<del></del> -		_
historic	HERN THE	<u> </u>				
and/or common				···-		
2. Loca	ation					<del></del>
street & number					not for publicat	ion
city, town	Wingate	vicinity of	congressional d	istrict		
state	Maryland	county	Dorchester			
3. Clas	sification					
Category  district building(s) structure site x_ object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not_applicable	Status xoccupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _x yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commerci education entertainn governme industrial military	al al nent int	museum park private resi religious scientific x transportati	
4. Own	er of Prope	<b>'ty</b> (give names a	nd mailing add	lresses	of <u>all</u> owner	:s)
name Cap	otain Ralph L. Ruark	ι				
street & number			teleph	one no.	:	
city, town Wi	ingate	state	and zip code	Mary1a	and 21675	
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Description	on			
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.				liber	
street & number					folio	
city, town				state		
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical	Surve	ys	
title						
date			federal	state	county _	loca
pository for su	urvey records					
city, town				state		

## 7. Description

Survey No. D-649 / AA-2584

Condition         deteriorated           good         ruins           fair         unexposed	Check one unaltered altered	Check one original site moved date of move	
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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 46.8' long two-sail bateau, or V-bottom deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. Built in 1940 in Wingate, Maryland, she is one of the working fleet of sailing oyster dredgeboats. She shows traditional cross-planked construction methods, had a beam of 16.2', a depth of 4.5', and a gross tonnage of 20. She carries a typical skipjack rig consisting of jib-headed mainsail and a large jib, and has a modified longhead bow and a square, or transom, stern. The wooden hull is painted the traditional white.

WILMA LEE has a neat, yachtlike appearance. Her bow has a straight, slightly raking stem, with a modified, rounded longhead beneath the bowsprit. Her transom stern is slightly raking, with a rounded tuck where the chine meets the transom below the waterline. A chock for the pushboat is mounted in the middle of the transom. There are full-length guards amounted on the hull at the sheer, as well as short guards mounted at the chine amidships; both sets protect the hull from the bumping of the dredges.

The single mast is set raked about 15° aft, and is set up with double shrouds adjustable by turnbuckles. There are a forestay, jibstay, and topping lift, the last of which leads to the end of the boom, which is jawed to the mast. A jib-headed mainsail is laced to the boom and carried on white-painted wood hoops at the mast. The large jib has a club along its foot. The bowsprit, braced with headrails leading back to the hull, is painted white but left bright at the end. It is rigged with double chain bobstays and chain bowsprit shrouds. In addition to the sail rig, the vessel carries a motorized pushboat suspended on davits at the stern.

The skipjack is flush-decked with several deck structures. These include: a wheelbox, with a white-painted wheel mounted on it; a cabin trunk with a slide atop a built-on door; a deck hatch; and a cuddy abaft the mast. The deck is surrounded by a pinrail, with a higher pipe safety rail aft, and a high, solid lograil forward. The vessel carries dredging gear in season.

Painted white, the skipjack is decorated with a red stripe beneath the guards at the sheer, red stripes on the longhead, brown trim on the top of the pinrail, and brightwork trim on the cabin roof, window frames, and wheelbox. Her name is painted on the bows in black letters, as well as on the transom.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. D-649/AA-2584

Period prehi 1400-1500-1600-1700-1800-X 1900-	-1499       archeology-historic         -1599       agriculture         -1699       architecture         -1799       art         -1899       commerce	Check and justify below c community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settleme industry invention	J landscape architectur law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific	<b>dates</b> 1940	Builder/Architect	Unknown	
check:	Applicable Criteria: and/or Applicable Exception:	A _B _C _D  A _B _C _D	_EFG	
	Level of Significance:	nationalstate	local	
Prepare	both a summary paragraph	of significance and	a general statement	of higtory and

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 period was devised by enlarging (to 25 to 60 feet) the hull of the ordinary, unframed, hare-sterned Bay crabbing 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 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 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.

WILMA LEE is of interest as being one of only two of the surviving skipjacks to have been built between the two World Wars. She was built in 1940 in Wingate, Md., following traditional Bay-area design and construction methods. She has worked in the oyster-dredging fleet since her building and is presently based at Cambridge, Md.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. D-649/AA-2584 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 Quadrangle scale

Verbal boundary description and justification

do NOT complete UTM references

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

code

**UTM References** 

Zone

state

state	code	county	code
11. For	m Prepared By		
name/title	Anne Witty/ M.E. Hayward		
organization	Maryland Historical Society	<b>date</b> 5/84	
street & number	201 W. Monument St.	telephone 685-3750	
city or town	Baltimore	state Maryland 212	01

county

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

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

code

Magi No.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE \_\_yes x no

CHESAPEAKE BAY SKIPJACK FLEET THEMATIC GROUP

1. Nam	1 <b>e</b> (indicate p	oreferred name)		
histori <b>c</b>	WILMA LEE			
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Bishops Head F	Road, Hearns Creek	n/a	not for publication
city, town	Wingate	n/a_vicinity of	congressional district	First
state	Maryland 024		Dorchester 03	19
3. Clas	sification			
Category  district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered X not applicable	Status xoccupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _x yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agricultureX commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
4. Owr	er of Prop	erty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
	ptain Ralph L. Rua			
street & number			telephone no	o.:
city, town W:	ingate	state	and zip code Mary	land 21675
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Descripti	on	
courthouse, reg	istry of deeds, etc.	ı/a		liber
street & number	•			folio
city, town			state	
6. Rep	resentatio	n in Existing	Historical Surv	eys
title Surv	ey of Surviving Tr	aditional Chesapeake	Bay Craft	
date 198	3-1984		federalX_ stat	e county local
depository for s	urvey records Ma	aryland Historical Tr	ust, 21 State Circle	e
city, town	Annapolis,		state	Maryland 21401

#### 7. Description

Survey No. D-649 / AA-2584

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છે. છાયુમ	ificance		Survey No. D-6	649 / AA-2584
	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning	law literature military music nt philosophy	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1940	Builder/Architect	Unknown	
check: Appl a Appl	icable Criteria: X A nd/or icable Exception:  l of Significance: X	A _B _C _D _		
Dronare both	a cummary paragraph	of significance and	a general statement	of history and

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# Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. D-649

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

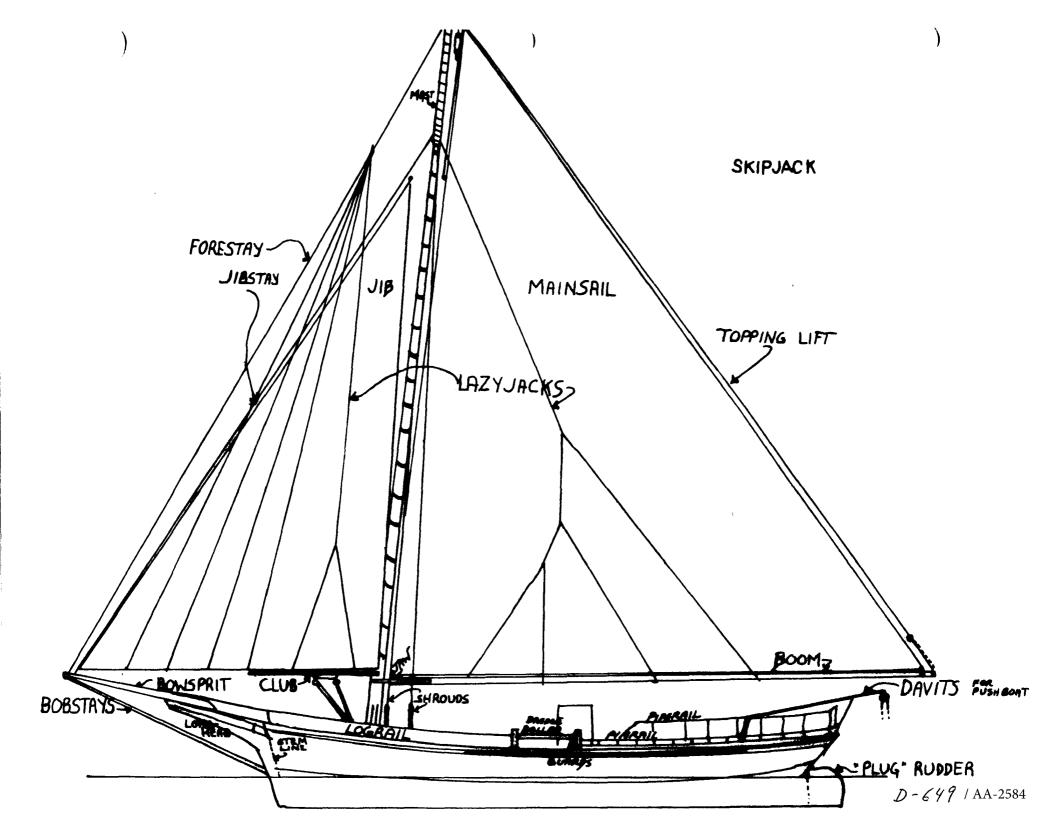
Quadrangle scale 1:24000
Zone Easting Northing
D
ked at the location indicated in coterminous with the hull.
state or county boundaries
nty code
nty code
date May, 1984
telephone (301) 685-3750
state Maryland 21201

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

(30. 269-2438





WILMA LEE Cambridge, Md

stern M. C. Wootton 10/83



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D-649 / AA-2584

WILMA LEE Cambridge, Md

starboard side M. C. Wootton

10/83







D-649 / AA-2584

WILMA LEE Cambridge, Md

port side under sail M. C. Wootton 11/83

8720



D-649 / AA-2584

WILMA LEE Cambridge, Md

bow M. C. Wootton

10/83



