

Help From the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Information Center
Information Sheet #42
MARITIME PRESERVATION

The following is a list from the National Trust for Historic Preservation of resources, products and programs for people interested in maritime preservation.

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What Is Maritime Preservation?

Maritime preservation represents an integral part of the history of the United States. Native American settlements developed on lakeshores and natural harbors that existed along the seacoasts and rivers. Maritime endeavors made possible the age of exploration, the exchange of cultures, and the opening of new territories and markets. Vast numbers of immigrants came to these shores by sea, and the produce from farms and factories was shipped along waterways and through seaports. American naval vessels and merchant ships helped establish the United States as a major economic and military power. Maritime preservationists work toward preserving this part of our history.

The United States is risking the loss of much of its maritime heritage. Many of our maritime sites are severely threatened by neglect, deterioration, mismanagement, and lack of funds to properly maintain them. Historic shipwrecks are increasingly endangered by treasure hunters whose activities are made easier by advancing technologies. Historic waterfronts are being lost to opposing threats: abandonment and intensive development.

These are just a few of the problems of maritime resources that are the focus of concern for maritime preservationists. Abandoned lighthouses, maritime culture, and collapsing canals are also part of the maritime heritage of the United States.

There are reminders of our maritime heritage in every region of the country. Historic vessels range from small fishing boats to aircraft carriers. Historic lighthouses dot the nation's shores and waterways. Historic shipwrecks, lying on the floor of nearly every lake, river, bay, and ocean are time capsules offering unique opportunities to gather information about the past. Historic canals crisscross the landscape. Historic waterfronts, including structures associated with once-thriving maritime industries, exist in almost every town or city that has a river or harbor. Scores of museums collect and preserve the artifacts of our maritime tradition.

Maritime Preservation Organizations

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Website: www.PreservationNation.org

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit organization working to protect America's historic resources. The National Trust is working to protect Pearl Harbor from inappropriate development, has

battled in the courts to save historic shipwrecks in California and Illinois from salvage companies, placed the Chesapeake Bay Skipjack Fleet on the National Trust's 2002 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list, and has been involved in numerous other maritime preservation issues. Past 11 Most Endangered lists have included the Monocacy Aqueduct in Maryland, historic lighthouses in Michigan, the Ashley River Historic District in South Carolina, the tugboat *Hoga*, and the *U.S.S. Constellation*. To nominate a site for this list, contact the National Trust's Office of Communications at (202) 588-6141.

To seek the National Trust's aid in preserving a maritime site, contact the National Trust office responsible for field work in your state. Maritime sites are eligible for our Preservation Services Fund and Johanna Favrot Fund; your National Trust regional office can provide you with information on these grants. For the address and phone number of a National Trust regional office, please visit our website using this link: <http://www.preservationnation.org/about-us/regional-offices/>.

The National Trust's Preservation Books program publishes booklets on many aspects of preservation. While we do not have one specifically targeted to maritime preservation, many of our publications will be helpful. Topics include: responding to a preservation emergency, guides to preservation law, teaching with historic places, and preserving historic bridges. For a catalog of National Trust publications, call (202) 588-6296 or visit the National Trust's publications website at www.preservationbooks.org.

You might want to consider joining the Trust at the Forum level. Our Forum membership includes a subscription to the Forum Journal and access to Forum Online, a password controlled site. A forum membership also includes access to Forum-L, a very active listserve geared towards preservation professionals and acts as a discussion site for success stories, new technologies, and helpful hints. To learn more about joining Forum, please visit our website at <http://www.preservationnation.org/forum/>.

The following titles are produced by John Wiley and Sons, Inc., and available through the Trust's Preservation Books program: *Great American Ships*, Delgado; *Great American Lighthouses*, F. Ross Holland; *Great American Bridges and Dams*, Jackson.

National Park Service Maritime Heritage Program

National Park Service (NRHE-2280)
1849 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001
Website: <http://www.nps.gov/maritime/>

Through the National Maritime Heritage Act the National Park Service's Maritime program offers competitive, matching grants supporting the maritime heritage programs and activities of state and local units of government and private nonprofit organizations. These education and preservation grants are designed to preserve historic maritime resources and increase public awareness and appreciation for the nation's maritime heritage.

For further information, including grant availability, guidelines, and applications, visit their website above or call (202) 354-2260. Your State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will also have information on the Initiative grants. To obtain the name, address, and phone number of your SHPO, visit our website at <http://www.preservationnation.org/about-us/regional-offices/> or visit the website of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers at <http://www.ncshpo.org/stateinfolist/> or call them at (202) 624-5465.

The Maritime Initiative is responsible for an inventory of historic light stations, including 613 historic light stations encompassing 633 historic lighthouse towers. All stations included in this inventory are at least 50 years old, and most have been evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. For information on the Initiative's historic light station inventory, visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/maritime/> or call (202) 354-2260.

Listed below are some of the many publications available through the National Park Service. All of these publications are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/maritime/nmipub.htm> (except where noted).

- *Boats: A Manual for Their Documentation*. 1993. Prepared by the Museum of Small Craft Association and the American Association for State and Local History with assistance from the National Maritime Initiative and Other Partners.
- *Federal Register Notice: Final Guidelines for the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 (Public Law 100 - 298)*. 1990. Prepared by the National Maritime Initiative and the National Park Service's Department of Consulting Archaeologist. Available by writing to the Department of Consulting Archaeologist, NPS, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.
- *Guidelines for Recording Historic Ships*. 1988. Prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER).
- *Historic Lighthouse Preservation Handbook*. 1997. Prepared by the National Park Service's Preservation Training Center and the National Maritime Initiative through a cooperate partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Defense's Legacy Resource Management Program, and the U.S. Lighthouse Society.
- *Keeping Lighthouses: A New Breed of Keepers Focus on Preservation*. CRM Vol. 20, #8, July 1997. Available online at <http://crm.cr.nps.gov/issue.cfm?volume=20&number=08>, or call (202) 354-2243.
- *National Register Bulletin #20: Nominating Historic Vessels and Shipwrecks to the National Register of Historic Places*. 1987. Prepared by the National Maritime Initiative and the National Register of Historic Places.
- *National Register Bulletin #34: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Historic Aids to Navigation*. 1990. Prepared by the National Maritime Initiative and the National Register of Historic Places.
- *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Historic Vessel Preservation Projects with Guidelines for Applying the Standards*. 1990. Prepared by the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park and the National Maritime Initiative.

Other Maritime Preservation Organizations

Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology

www.acuaonline.org

A committee of the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Council educates and advises scholars, governments, sport divers and the general public on issues in underwater archaeology.

American Canal Society

<http://www.americancanals.org/>

The Society is dedicated to historic canal research, preservation, restoration and parks. It acts as a national clearing house of canal information and co-operates with local, state, and international canal societies, groups, and individuals to identify historic canal resources, to publicize canal history, activities, activities, and problems, and to take action on threatened canals and sites.

The American Lighthouse Foundation

(207) 646-0245

<http://www.lighthousefoundation.org/>

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of lighthouses, lightship, and lightsaving station artifacts. Supports local lighthouse initiatives through public information and advisory services.

Association for Great Lakes Maritime History

www.aglmh.org

An international organization of museums, historical societies, libraries, archives, and individuals that work together to preserve the maritime history of the Great Lakes region.

The Center for Wooden Boats

206-382-2628

<http://www.cwb.org/>

A hands-on maritime museum which rents boats and also teaches visitors about wooden boats and maritime history.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

St. Michaels, MD

(410) 745-2916

<http://www.cbmm.org>

The museum focuses on the cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay. The museum offers educational programs and a research library containing books, ship plans, manuscripts, and photographs.

Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

(361) 826-4650

<http://www.ccmuseum.com/museum/index.cfm>

The Museum is a public facility concerned with educating the public about issues in underwater archaeology. Permanent exhibits include re-creations of the *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria*, and a 1554 shipwreck off of Padre Island.

Council of American Maritime Museums

<http://www.councilofamericanmaritimemuseums.org/>

CAMM is an organization dedicated to preserving North America's maritime history. Its members include museums, museum professionals and scholars from the United States, Mexico, Bermuda, Australia and Canada; they seek to convey and preserve maritime history through collections, sites, vessels, projects, exhibitions and research.

Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association

(231) 436-5580

<http://www.gllka.com>

GLLKA is a nonprofit organization that preserves lighthouses and documents the history of lighthouse keepers. GLLKA provides educational workshops, an annual meeting on lighthouse preservation, and maintains a collection of oral histories from the lighthouse keepers of the Great Lakes region.

Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum and Historical Society

888-492-3747

<http://www.shipwreckmuseum.com/>

The museum is dedicated to perils of maritime transport on the Great Lakes. The Museum and Historical Society work to collect, preserve, study and interpret the material culture of the Great Lakes with primary

emphasis on maritime history as it relates to the U.S. Lifesaving Service, U.S. Lighthouse Service, U.S. Coast Guard, ships and travelers who fell victim to the perils of maritime transport.

Historic Bridge Foundation

<http://historicbridgefoundation.com/>

The Historic Bridge Foundation is a national advocacy organization for the preservation of historic bridges in the United States. They provide access to information, contact information for consultants, educational program development, and consultation with public officials.

HistoricBridges.org

<http://historicbridges.org/>

HistoricBridges.org offers professional photo-documentation, information, and advocacy for all types of historic bridges except covered bridges. They also advocate for the reform of surface transportation policy and fight to increase awareness of the feasibility of historic bridge preservation.

Historic Lighthouse Preservation: Interiors

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Legacy/Lighthouse/lh13.html> (copy & paste the link into your internet browser)

This webpage is a descriptive summary of the interiors of lighthouses. It includes pictures, examples, and conservation techniques.

Historic Naval Ships Association of North America c/o U.S. Naval Academy Museum

(410) 293-2109

<http://www.hnsa.org/index.htm>

The association provides members with information on museum management and technical assistance including advice on education programs, preservation methods, conservation techniques, insurance, exhibits and fundraising. Its member museums promote the preservation and exhibition of more than 150 Navy, Coast Guard, Army and Merchant Marine ships and craft.

International Yacht Restoration School

401-848-5777

<http://www.iyrs.org/>

IYRS teaches the skills, history and art of restoring, maintaining and building classic boats. The institution's trustees, staff, students, and generous supporters share in the values of preserving our maritime heritage. The school also publishes a *Restoration Quarterly* which includes research and learning materials.

The Lighthouse Preservation Society

1-800-727-BEAM

<http://www.lighthousepreservation.org/>

A nonprofit organization active in the grassroots and financial support of lighthouse preservation. They also provide guides to New England lighthouses.

Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society

(301) 419-8222

<http://www.mahsnet.org/>

This group of historians and archaeologists was organized for the purpose of enhancing public awareness and fostering appreciation for the significance of historic shipwrecks and other submerged cultural resources. Their mission is to preserve our maritime heritage, and members volunteer to participate in underwater archaeology expeditions around the world. They also sponsor classroom training in archival

research, ship construction history, law and ethics, conservation and survey techniques, as well as field schools in underwater archaeological field methods on shipwrecks.

Maritime Research Center

<http://mrc.trans-oceanic.com/>

A membership organization whose mission is to offer a place to share knowledge about world maritime history, learn from one another, preserve the past, and discern the future. The center's research topics include ships, shipping lines, ports, and--most important--the men and women of the world's merchant navies. It also offers seminars and other educational programs on maritime history.

Mystic Seaport

The Museum of America and the Sea

Mystic, CT

(888) 973-2767

www.mysticseaport.org

A museum that creates a broad public understanding of the relationship of America and the sea. Mystic Seaport's archives and collection include historic vessels, ship registers, oral histories, maritime artifacts, photographs, maps, and many other maritime related documents. The Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies sponsors a graduate level field school in maritime preservation at the museum.

National Archives and Records Administration

(866) 272-6272

<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>

National Archives Record Group 26 contains the records from the Bureau of Lighthouses between the years 1789-1939, the U.S. Coast Guard between the years 1828-1947, and cartographic and audio-visual materials from 1855-1963.

National Maritime Alliance

(919) 328-6097

<http://www.hnsa.org/nam.htm>

A membership-based organization that represents maritime museums, historic ships, lighthouses, canals, boat yards, boatbuilding and sailing schools, historic preservation groups, marine unions and businesses, and individuals. It is committed to helping this country's maritime artifacts, projects, and programs, which have traditionally been underfunded.

National Maritime Historical Society

(800) 221-6647

<http://www.seahistory.org/>

A nonprofit organization dedicated to America's seafaring heritage, the Society is involved in historic ship preservation and education projects on maritime heritage issues. They produce the quarterly magazine, *Sea History*.

Nautical Research Centre

(707) 763-8453

http://www.uslhs.org/resources_nrc_library.php

A nonprofit, public reference library that contains information about lighthouses and lifesaving stations; the collections include books, pamphlets, photos, slides, postcards, drawings, plans, audio and audiovisual materials. The Centre produces reproductions of rare, out-of-print books and pamphlets about lighthouses and lifesaving stations.

Naval Historical Foundation

(202) 678-4333

<http://www.navyhistory.org/>

The organization works to preserve and promote the naval history of the United States by supporting official Sea Service programs and institutions, meeting the needs of the public for naval history, and collecting historical items.

San Francisco Maritime National Park Association

(415) 561-6662

<http://www.maritime.org/index.htm>

A nonprofit organization that works to preserve maritime artifacts and to educate the public about our nation's maritime heritage. The Association operates the *U.S.S. Pompanito* historic vessel, a World War II submarine, and assists the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. It also hosts a conference on the technical aspects of the preservation of historic vessels.

The Society for Historical Archaeology

(301) 990-2454

<http://www.sha.org/>

Focuses on many issues in archaeology including maritime preservation concerns. SHA provides general information on underwater archaeology as well as information about maritime preservation careers, contacts, and publications. A conference focusing on historical and underwater archaeology is sponsored each year by SHA. The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, listed above, is a SHA committee.

South Street Seaport Museum, Inc.

(212) 748-8600

<http://www.southstseaport.org/>

Located on the site of an 18th -19th century seaport, the museum traces the history of the port and its impact on New York City and on the nation. Exhibits, galleries, living history demonstrations and a collection of historic vessels help illustrate life at the historic seaport; in addition, a number of educational programs are offered.

U.S. Coast Guard

<http://www.uscg.mil/>

The collection housed at the USCG's Historian's Office in Washington, DC contains over 500,000 images and documents including books, pamphlets, manuals, directives, newsletters and artifacts.

The USCG's website offers information about how to buy a lighthouse and how to become a lighthouse keeper at this link: http://www.uscg.mil/history/faqs/Lighthouse_Keepers.asp. According to the Coast Guard, a lighthouse can be bought through the GSA, the federal government's real estate broker. The GSA usually offers to sell a lighthouse to a non-profit historic preservation organization first, and then can sell it to the highest bidder. Some government agencies may be able to sell properties without going through the GSA. Lighthouse properties may be sold under special conditions. Prospective buyers are strongly urged to research the property before sale. Please visit the GSA website at: <http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/home.do?tabId=0>.

U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association

<http://www.uslife-savingservice.org/>

A nonprofit association that works to preserve the life-saving stations, history, boats, and equipment of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the U.S. Coast Guard.

United States Lighthouse Society

(415) 362-7255

<http://www.uslhs.org/>

A nonprofit historical and educational organization established to educate, inform, and entertain those who are interested in America's lighthouses.

**U.S. Marine Corps
History Division**

http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/HD/Home_Page.htm

Works to preserve the history of the U.S. Marine Corps and offers information and publications about the Marine Corps and amphibious warfare. The History Division has a library housing over 41,000 volumes, microfilm, bound periodicals, videos, and CD-ROMs.

**U.S. Navy
Navy Museum**

Washington Navy Yard

(202) 433-4882

<http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/org8-1.htm>

The museum works to preserve, analyze, and enhance naval history. The Naval Historical Center includes an art gallery, research library, archives, as well as research, writing, and curator programs. There is also an underwater archaeology program designed to assist in submerged naval ship and aircraft wrecks.

The Waterfront Center

(202) 337-0356

<http://www.waterfrontcenter.org/>

A nonprofit education, planning, and design organization that assists communities and businesses in the use of their waterfront resources. The Waterfront Center offers workshops, consultation, and publications about waterfront development. They also sponsor an annual conference and awards program.

Wooden Boat Publications

<http://www.woodenboat.com/>

The publisher offers three magazines on wooden boats including *Wooden Boats Magazine*, *Professional BoatBuilder Magazine*, and *Maritime Life & Traditions Magazine*.

This is one of several information sheets on preservation related topics available from the National Trust's Information Center. For a complete list of information sheets available, please call (202) 588-6164 or send an email to info@nthp.org. Topics include information on historic homes and buildings, sacred sites and burial grounds, and financial assistance for preservation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides this list of resources solely for informational and educational purposes. This is not intended as a specific recommendation or endorsement of any particular organization or entity. Updated May-11.

Join the National Trust!

The National Trust is committed to improving the livability of our communities through historic preservation. With your membership, you're helping demonstrate to all Americans how protecting our past can enhance our quality of life. As a member, you'll enjoy many benefits including our magazine *Preservation*, free or discounted admission at our historic sites and discounts at our Historic Hotels of America member hotels, as well as other special offers we make available to our members throughout the year.

You may also be interested in joining the Trust at the Forum level. Our Forum membership includes, in addition to all the benefits you receive as a regular Trust member, a subscription to the Forum Journal and access to Forum Online, a password controlled site. A forum membership also includes access to Forum-L, a very active listserv geared towards preservation professionals and acts as a discussion site for success stories, new technologies, and helpful hints.

To join, fill out the following form and send it to the Resource Center, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036 or fax it to 202-588-6059. You can also join over the phone by calling 1-800-944-6847 and asking for the Resource Center.

Yes, I want to become a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Please circle the category of membership you are interested in:

- \$20 Individual membership
- \$24 Family membership
- \$50 Contributing membership
- \$100 Sustaining membership
- \$115 Forum membership
- \$____ Other contribution

Method of Payment

Enclosed is my check, payable to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Please charge to the credit card indicated:

MC Visa American Express

Credit Card Number Expiration Date

KBRRCS
membership

Signature

ERCZZR
Forum membership

Full Name

Mailing Address

State Zipcode

Phone Number

Email Address