

K-541

MYSTERY (log canoe)
Chestertown, Maryland

MYSTERY is a 34'7" sailing log canoe in the racing fleet. She is log-built of five logs with carvel-fitted rising planks, a longhead bow, sharp stern, and a beam of 8'8-1/2". Her sailing rig consists of two masts with adjustable rake that carry a foresail, mainsail, and large jib. Built in 1932 in Oxford, Maryland by Harry Sinclair, MYSTERY gains her significance for being one of the last 22 surviving Chesapeake Bay racing log canoes that carry on a tradition of racing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that has existed since the 1840's. MYSTERY is of special interest for having been built during the revival of interest in log canoe racing in the early 1930's and for the fact that her foremast (said to be over 70' long) is the largest ever used in a canoe of 35' long or less.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MYSTERY

and/or common log canoe

2. Location

street & number Round Top Road JIA 2/7/93 not for publicationcity, town Chestertown (Kingstown) vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Francis E. Schauber

street & number RFD 1, Box 560 telephone no.: 778-2815

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-541

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

MYSTERY is a 34'7" long sailing log canoe carrying two masts and a racing rig. She is double-ended, with a straight stem with little rake and a longhead bow, and a straight, sharp stern. Log-built with carvel-fitted rising planks, the boat was built by Harry Sinclair in Oxford, Maryland in 1932. She has a beam of 8' 8-1/2" and has a centerboard. Originally sailed with a skipjack rig, the canoe now has a Tilghman racing rig and is noted for her very tall masts. The canoe is privately owned and races under No. 8. The hull is painted white and has been reinforced using the WEST epoxy system.

MYSTERY is built of five logs and received her name because of the secrecy of her building. She has a longhead, a straight stem with little rake, and a straight, sharp stern on which a rudder is hung on pintles. The boat was built in the Tilghman fashion with carvel-fitted rising planks and wide washboards forming a half-deck. Her stern is overhung with an outrigger, or bumpkin. She carries a long bowsprit with heavy standing rigging.

Her foremast is stayed with two shrouds and spreaders. Foresail and mainsail have clubs at the clew, and sprits. There is a large jib and, with the kite and squaresail, the boat carries almost 2000 square feet of sail. Her new foremast is said to be more than 70' long, but it is a "mystery." The mainmast is shorter, and unstayed. The foremast is the largest ever used in a canoe of 35 feet long or less.

Without auxiliary power, the canoe is towed or sails to and from races. Racing gear includes springboards and extra sails. The canoe is dismantled after racing. MYSTERY's log hull has been reinforced with epoxy using the WEST system. It is painted white, with varnished washboards and spars and some brightwork trim.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 1001

Marion V. Brewington, Chesapeake Bay Log Canoes and Bugeyes (Cambridge, Md: Cornell Maritime Press, 1963)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Witty/ M.E. Hayward

organization Maryland Historical Society date 5/84

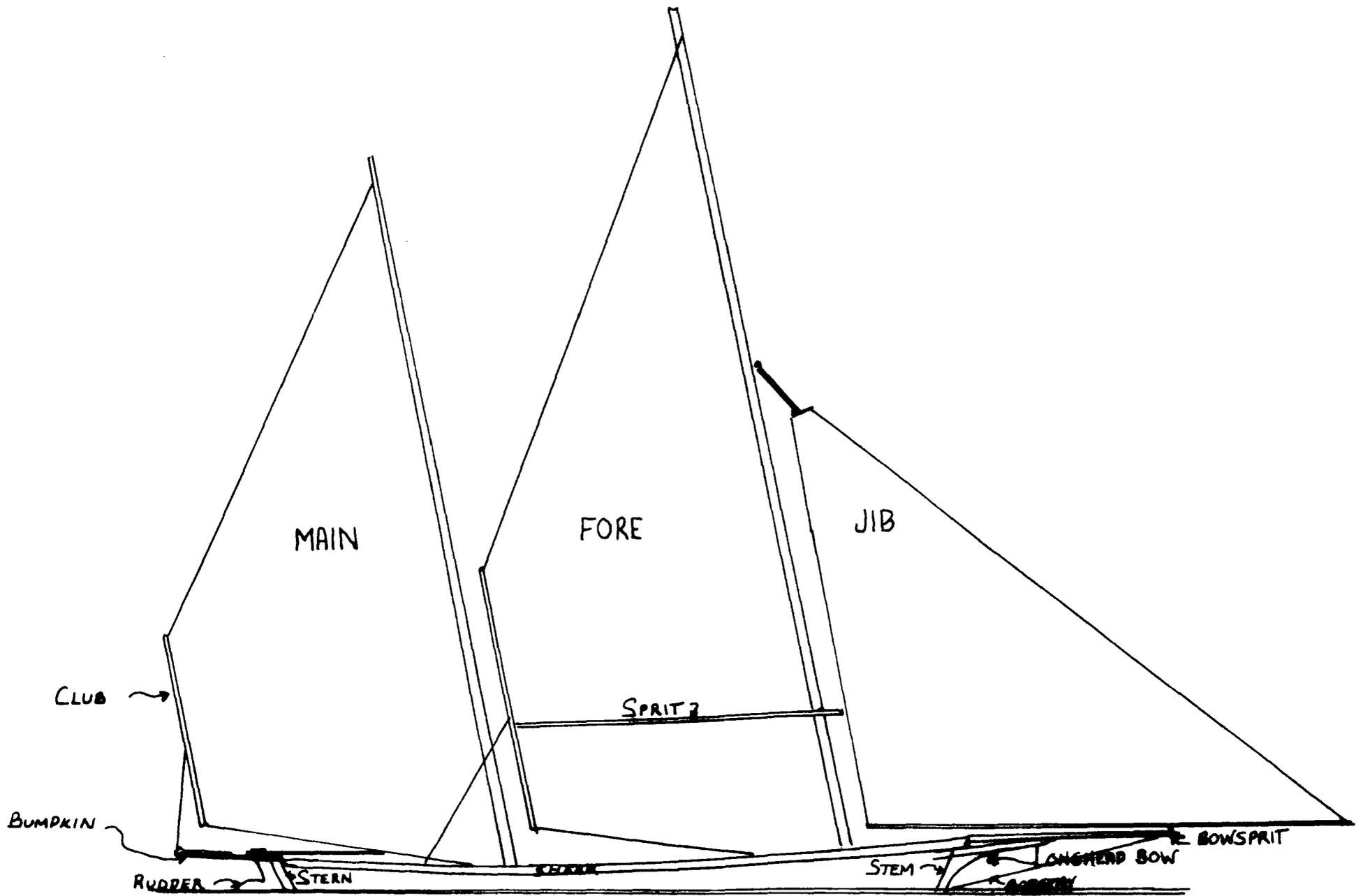
street & number 201 W. Monument St. telephone 685-3750

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
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



SAIL PLAN OF TILGHMAN ISLAND CANOE after drawing by J.G. Earle

K-641



K-541

MYSTERY

Chestertown, Md.

port side - under sail

M.C. Wootton 7/83