

Statements of Significance



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The Saturn Project.

NATIONAL HISTORIC SHIPS UK



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STATEMENTS *of* SIGNIFICANCE

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“ *Understanding the various ways in which a boat or ship matters to people is the touchstone for making all decisions, large and small, about how she should be conserved.*

This is the difference between conservation, where the owner makes the significance of the boat or ship a deciding factor in what is done, and a project where the owner rebuilds or adapts an historic vessel simply to please him or herself. ”

CONSERVING HISTORIC VESSELS – National Historic Ships, 2010

National Historic Ships UK is committed to developing statements of significance over time for all craft on the National Register of Historic Vessels. However, to do this, we need the help of owners to provide key information about their vessel and to produce a first draft statement.

Statements are valuable data sources which help custodians understand their craft better, assist in assessing the vessel in relation to other similar craft, are used by funders to determine priorities for grant aid and provide the basis for planning a sustainable future for the vessel.

TEMPLATE FOR DRAFTING A STATEMENT *of* SIGNIFICANCE

VESSEL NAME

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1. WHAT IS THE VESSEL'S ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE HISTORY IN HER PHYSICAL FABRIC?

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- Evidence for designs, functions, techniques, processes, styles, customs and habits or uses and associations in relation to events and people. How early, intact, representative of a class or style of vessel, or rare these features are may impact on significance.

- Were there any key design innovations in this vessel's build? If so, have these features survived and can they still be seen? Was she a prototype design? If so, was the prototype design taken forward into general production?

- What is the level of originality? How much of the original or early hull fabric, internal / deck fittings and rig survive?

- Is the hull form as at build or have there been any changes to shape? If so, at what point were these made and why?

- Have there been any adaptations to the vessel's fabric to meet operational, display or health & safety requirements?

- What does the fabric of the vessel tell us about her history? Is there evidence of wear and tear caused by operational use? Can you see different phases of a vessel's life? Has there been any use of unusual/

unexpected materials – possibly regional variations/limited availability of what might normally be used?

- Has any conservation work been carried out and if so, to what level? Has it been done sympathetically using like for like materials and appropriate construction techniques?

2. WHAT ARE THE VESSEL'S ASSOCIATIONAL LINKS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE?

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- Associations with people or places. Off-ship research.

- Are there any interesting associations between the vessel and particular communities, families, famous people, key events etc? Who was/is this vessel important to and why?

- Does the vessel have links to a particular place, area or event? Would you classify these as being of local, regional, national or international significance?

- What is this vessel's role in contributing to British maritime history? Does she tell the story of a particular way of life, represent a change in technology or a known era?

- Did she win any awards or medals (if relevant)? Does she have any significant service history?

- Has the vessel featured in any published works or films?
- Consider the rarity of the vessel – what other known survivors are there of a similar type and how does this craft compare?
- What information has survived to document this vessel? E.g. Log books, crew lists, newspaper articles, registration documents, photographs etc.
- When was the vessel recorded on the National Register of Historic Vessels and what is her status?

N.B. Be careful not to simply write a history of the vessel in this section, but to consider before including them which elements of her history are of particular significance and why.

3. HOW DOES THE VESSEL'S SHAPE OR FORM COMBINE AND CONTRIBUTE TO HER FUNCTION?

Overall aesthetic impact of the vessel, her lines, material she was built from and her setting. Does she remain in her working environment?

- What was the vessel's primary function? Did that change over time and if so were any changes reflected in physical adaptations to the vessel to enable it to continue fulfilling its function?
- Is the vessel aesthetically pleasing? If considered so, explain the basis for this judgement.
- Was she built with particular materials to set lines, dimensions or shape to make her fit for purpose? If so, does she retain these elements today?
- Where is the vessel now? Is she still operational? Does she remain in the geographical area in which she operated? If on display, is it in an appropriate setting?

SOURCES:

.....
 List the sources used in compiling this statement.

AUTHOR:

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 Sign and date the statement.

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 Further information on Statements of Significance can be found in the **National Historic Ships UK** guidance manual **Conserving Historic Vessels**, available for sale via www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk. Draft statements based on this template should be sent to info@nationalhistoricships.org.uk. All statements, once completed and approved, will be published online as part of the vessel entries on the **National Register of Historic Vessels**.