

CT-797

Schooner yawl boat  
Solomons, Maryland

This vessel is a 17'3" long, round-bottomed, plank-on-frame power yawl boat of the type once used throught the Chesapeake to maneuver large sailing vessels. Built in Deltaville, Virginia around 1908, the vessel is strongly built of wood with a curved stem, an almost plumb transom stern with a rounded top, a beam of 7'3" and a depth of 2'8". It is on display at the Calvert Marine Museum. The Schooner yawl boat is significant as being a rare survival of a once ubiquitous type of workboat in the Chesapeake region. At a time when most freight was moved by water, the maneuvering of large sailing vessels in and out of harbors and docks was accomplished by using these yawl boats, which were usually carried at the stern on davits.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-797

Magi No. 0507975733

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Schooner yawl boat CMM 76-383

## 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Solomons \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Calvert

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input 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 Calvert Marine Museum

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.: 326-3719

city, town Solomons \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code Maryland 20688

## 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

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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.

This is a round-bottomed, plank-on-frame power yawl boat of the type once used throughout the Chesapeake to maneuver large sailing vessels, particularly skipjacks. The boat measures 17'3" long, with a beam of 7'3" and a depth of 2'8". Built in Deltaville, Virginia around 1908 the boat is strongly built of wood, with a curved stem and an almost plumb transom stern with a rounded top. The boat is painted gray and is on display at the Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons.

The boat has strong construction in order to perform its work as a push- or tow-boat for much larger vessels. There is a full-length plank keel, deepening into a skeg aft, with a cut made for the propellor. The plank-on-frame, open hull is reinforced with an apron piece at the bow and braces between the transom and sides, and is tied with stringers along the turn of the bilge. There are two thwarts in addition to stern sheets--a seating platform built along the inside of the transom.

The boat is powered by a single-cylinder Palmer inboard engine, with a refitted three-blade propellor. The rudder is hung outboard on a small post on the transom, and is mounted on pintles.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
c. 1908	Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

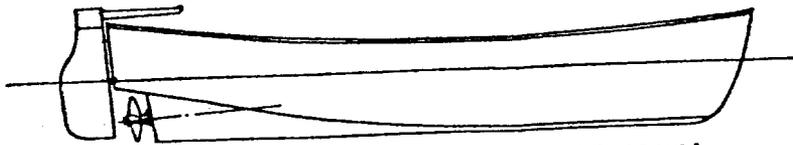
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This yawl boat represents a rare survival of a once ubiquitous workboat in the Chesapeake region. At a time when most freight was moved by water, the maneuvering of large sailing vessels in and out of harbors and docks was accomplished using these yawl boats, powered by oars or, later, by engines. Each schooner or other large vessel carried her own yawl boat(s). A related example--the yawl boat from the schooner STANTON--is also in the collection of the Calvert Marine Museum, but is in very poor condition.

This yawl boat is significant because so few of the various kinds of yawl boats have survived the passing of the age of sail. The few schooners that survive have long since been converted to power and no longer need yawl boats. The tradition is carried on today by the skipjacks of the Maryland oyster dredging fleet which are prohibited by law from installing inboard engines. Instead, they carry pushboats, or yawl boats, for powering the vessel to and from the oyster beds each day, and for providing dredging power on the two days allowed each week for dredging under power. Traditionally yawl boats were carried suspended over the stern on davits, as the skipjack's pushboats are carried today. They were used by either pushing the vessel or towing it into position.

This particular yawl boat was built c. 1908 in Deltaville, Virginia, probably for use aboard a Bay schooner, as it shows a plank-on-frame, round-bottomed, schooner-like construction. It was powered by an inboard, one-cylinder engine. The vessel represents the continuation of a long-standing tradition, having been built at a time when schooners still carried freight all over the Bay, but when the age of sail was well into its declining years.





17' YAWL BOAT (CIRCA 1908)

• ALAN CHESLEY  
1980



CT-797

CT-797

Schooner Yawl boat  
Solomons, Md

bow

M. C. Wootton

4/84



**HYDRAULIC OYSTER TONGS**  
Invented in 1898 by J. B. ...

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CT-797

Schooner Yawl boat  
Solomons, Md

interior hull - stern  
M. C. Wootton

4/84