

**WAPAMA (STEAM SCHOONER)**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Withdrawal Report**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DE-DESIGNATION REPORT**

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**WAPAMA (Steam Schooner)**

**Designated:** April 20, 1984

**Location:** Pieces of the ship are preserved and interpreted at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (NHP) in San Francisco, California.

**Owner:** Craig Kenkel (415) 561-7006  
San Francisco Maritime NHP  
Fort Mason Center, Building E  
San Francisco, CA 94123

**SHPO Contact:** Carol Roland-Nawi (916) 445-7053  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Justification for Withdrawing Landmark Designation:**

The *Wapama* has ceased to meet the criteria for designation because the qualities which originally led it to be designated have been destroyed [36 CFR 65.9 (b)(1)].

**Significance of the Landmark:**

Launched in 1915, the wooden-hulled *Wapama* is the last survivor of the approximately 235 steam schooners that served the Pacific Coast lumber trade in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These vessels formed the backbone of maritime trade and coastal commerce, ferrying lumber, general cargo, and passengers.

A high superstructure on the stern and a high forecastle on the bow are distinctive features of *Wapama*. The masts and spars support booms for loading and off-loading cargo. Its powerful winches were designed to allow *Wapama* to load and off-load by herself without the use of shore cranes. The ability to do this was an asset in the lumber trade, where ports were primitive and lacked shore facilities for cargo loading.

**Condition of Landmark:**

In 1947 *Wapama* ended her active career as part of the Alaska Transportation Company. The State of California acquired the vessel in 1958 and displayed her at the San Francisco Maritime State Park at Hyde Street Pier. In 1977 *Wapama* was transferred to the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area to become part of the National Maritime Museum of San Francisco. She became part of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in 1988.

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*Wapama* was displayed afloat at the Hyde Street Pier until 1980, when her wooden hull was so badly deteriorated that she was removed from the water and placed on a barge. In 1986 she was moved to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility in Sausalito, California where she remained until 2000, when she was towed to her current Richmond, California berth.

After a series of condition assessments and stabilization measures, including removal of heavy deck machinery and bracing the hull, the NPS concluded that, due to her extremely poor condition, the dismantling of the *Wapama*, as outlined in the 1997 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, must begin.

The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documented the vessel with drawings and photographs, and continued to document and capture important construction details throughout the dismantling process.

The dismantling process began with the removal and encapsulation of hazardous material, then the pilothouse was detached, lifted off the vessel, and transferred to a storage facility. The 30-ton engine was picked out of the vessel with a shoreside crane and has been transported to Hyde Street Pier where it will be displayed. Other significant elements, artifacts, and pieces of machinery have also been saved and, combined with material from the park's museum collections, will be used to create a permanent interpretive exhibit which will tell her story, and preserve her place in history.

The dismantling was completed in August, 2013.

**Recommendation:**

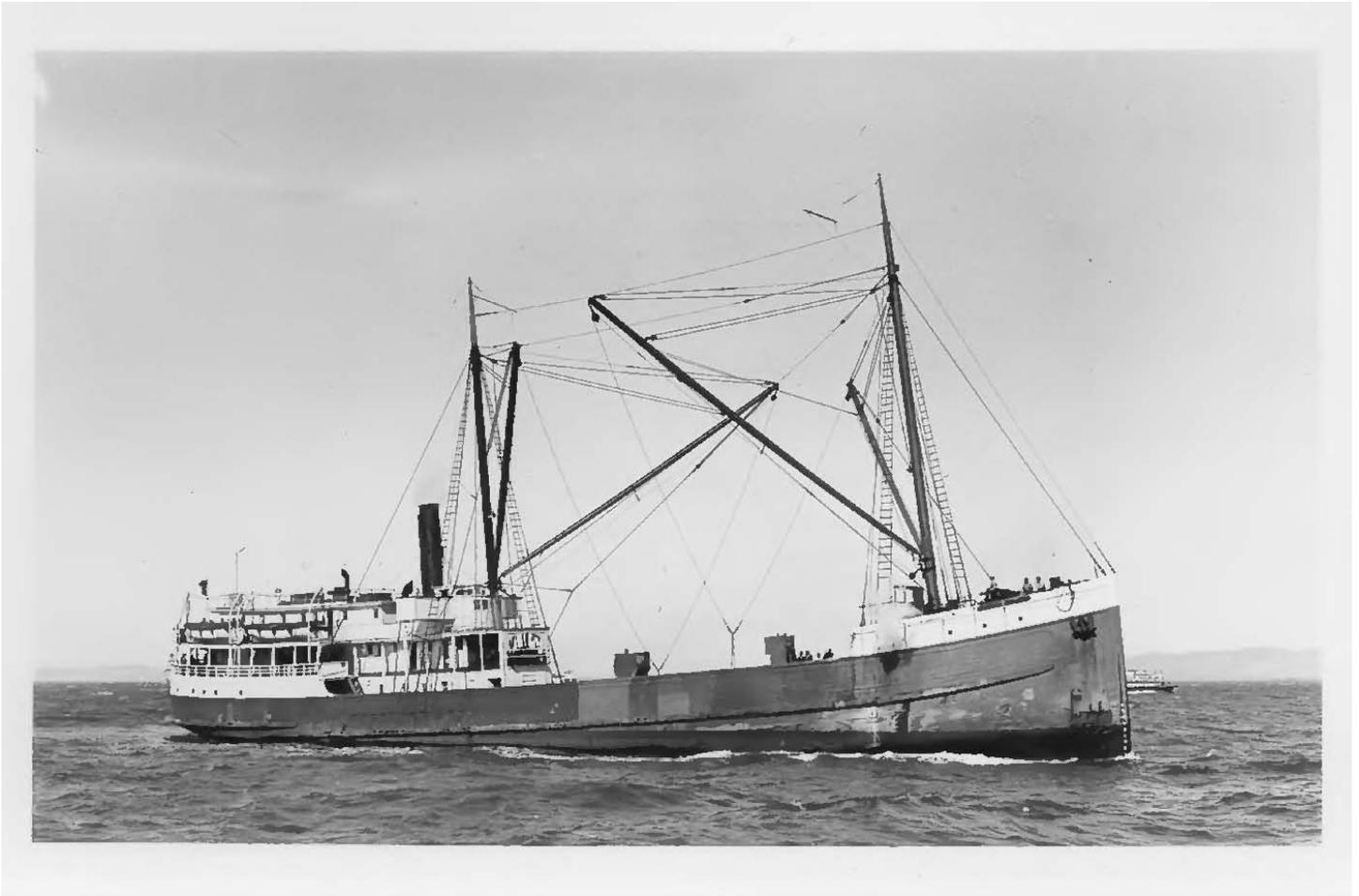
The property no longer retains its historical integrity and, therefore, National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation should be withdrawn. The California State Historic Preservation Office concurs with this decision to de-designate the *Wapama* and also in removing the property from the National Register of Historic Places.

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**NHL Photos**

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Steam Schooner *Wapama* (Tongass), National Maritime Museum, Golden Gate Recreation Area.  
S.S. *Wapama* on San Francisco Bay ca. 1935. Photograph by John W. Proctor.

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San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Photograph by Tim Campbell, March 14, 2000.

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**WAPAMA (Steam Schooner), San Francisco, California**

After serving the deck beams underneath, *Wapama's* 30 x 10 foot pilothouse was lifted onto a flatbed truck by a long reach, shoreside crane on May 20-24, 2013.

Photo courtesy of NPS

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*WAPAMA* (Steam Schooner), San Francisco, California  
The pilothouse was transported to a warehouse for storage July 2013  
Photo courtesy of NPS

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WAPAMA (Steam Schooner), San Francisco, California  
Crane lifting *Wapama's* engine out of ship  
July 2013  
Photo courtesy of NPS

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*WAPAMA* (Steam Schooner), San Francisco, California  
Canopy at bow being removed  
April 2013  
Photo courtesy of NPS

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*WAPAMA* (Steam Schooner), San Francisco, California

*WAPAMA*'S bow, surrounding by sheeting, being painted white to encapsulate hazardous material, 2013.

Photo courtesy of NPS