



Name of Property: *Wapama* (Steam Schooner) (withdrawal of designation)
City, State: San Francisco, California
Period of Significance: 1915-1947
NHL Criteria: 1 and 4
NHL Theme: V. Developing the American Economy
3. Transportation and communication
6. Exchange and trade
Previous Recognition: 1973 National Register of Historic Places
1988, 1998, 2010 Historic American Engineering Record,
HAER# CAL,21-SAUS,1
National Historic Context: XII. Business
L. Shipping and Transportation
XIV. Transportation
B. Ships, Boats, Lighthouses, and Other Structures
VII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
B. Transportation

NHL Significance:

- Launched in 1915, the wooden-hulled *Wapama* was the last survivor of the approximately 235 steam schooners that served the Pacific Coast lumber trade in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These vessels formed the backbone of maritime trade and coastal commerce ferrying lumber, general cargo, and passengers.
- The masts and spars of *Wapama* supported booms for loading and off-loading cargo. The



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.

Integrity:

- At the end of her active career, *Wapama* was displayed in the water at the San Francisco Maritime State Park, the National Maritime Museum of San Francisco, and finally, as part of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.
- In 1980, her wooden hull had become so badly deteriorated that she was removed from the water and placed on a barge. Ultimately, she was towed to a berth in Richmond, California.
- After a series of condition assessments and stabilization measures, the National Park Service concluded that due to *Wapama*'s extremely poor condition, the dismantling of the ship, as outlined in the 1997 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the San Francisco Maritime NHP, should occur.
- The dismantling process removed and encapsulated hazardous material, removed the pilothouse and transferred it to a storage facility, and removed the 30-ton engine which was then transported to Hyde Street Pier in San Francisco for display. Other significant elements, artifacts, and machinery have been saved and will be used to help create a permanent interpretive exhibit at the San Francisco Maritime NHP. The dismantling process was completed in August 2013.

Owner of Property: National Park Service

Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre



Origins of Report: An intern with the National Historic Landmarks Program assessed the current location of all vessels designated as NHLs since they often change home ports. In updating the NHL list, it was discovered that *Wapama* had been dismantled. Subsequently, San Francisco Maritime NHP, staff at the NPS Pacific West Regional Office and the WASO NHL Program determined that, due to the dismantling of the ship, the resource no longer possessed historic integrity and withdrawal of its NHL designation should be pursued.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: Withdrawal of the NHL designation for the Steam Schooner *Wapama* would demonstrate that the NHL Program continually monitors the condition of National Historic Landmarks and that the Secretary of the Interior is willing to remove those that no longer meet the program's criteria.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Withdrawal of designation. Dr. Allan moved, Dr. Stevens seconded; unanimous approval.



Public Comments Favoring Withdrawal of Designation(received as of):

Advisory Board Recommendation: