

DELUGE (Firefighting Tug)

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Withdrawal Report

National Historic Landmarks Nomination Form

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION REPORT

Deluge (Firefighting Tug)
National Historic Landmark**Designated:**

June 30, 1989

Location:

Mississippi River, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Owner:

Russell M. Nilson

Address Unknown

SHPO Contact:

Nicole Hobson-Morris, Deputy SHPO

Office of Cultural Development

Division of Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 44247

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Significance of the Landmark:

Put into service in 1923, the *Deluge*, also known as the Firefighting Tug *Deluge*, was one of the few remaining fireboats over 50 years old at the time of her designation as a National Historic Landmark and was considered the nation's best-preserved example of an early-20th-century fireboat. *Deluge* was also the oldest surviving fireboat associated with the Port of New Orleans. These fireboats, also known as work-a-day fireboats, were used in ports for protecting life and property, both in water and on shore. The *Deluge*'s purpose and use were nationally significant to the nation's maritime trade and commerce. The tug was retired from service in 1992.

Condition of the Landmark:

In December 2000, the Port of New Orleans sold the *Deluge* Firefighting Tug to Russel M. Nilson. Since then, the location and condition of the vessel is unknown. Mr. Nilson's contact information is also unknown.

Recommendation:

Due to its unknown location and condition for the past twenty-one years, it is likely the property no longer retains its historical integrity. Therefore, National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation should be withdrawn.

Justification for Withdrawing Landmark Designation:

The *Deluge* Firefighting Tug 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)].

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Last known image
Mississippi River, New Orleans, Louisiana
Photo by Mark Anderson, 3/17/2008