

GOLDENROD (SHOWBOAT)

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Withdrawal Report

National Historic Landmarks Nomination Form

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION REPORT

***Goldenrod (Showboat)*
National Historic Landmark****Designated:**

December 24, 1967

Location:

Banks of the Illinois River, Kampsville, Illinois

Owner:Pool 24 Tug Service
302 Route 96 West
Kampsville, IL 62053
618-653-4625**SHPO Contact:**Ms. Carol S. Comer, SHPO
State Department of Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102**Significance of the Landmark:**

Built in 1909, the *Goldenrod* Showboat was the largest, most elaborately decorated showboat ever constructed. At the time of National Historic Landmark designation, the *Goldenrod* had been docked at St. Louis since 1937 and operated as a theater specializing in traditional melodrama of the late showboating period. Moved to St. Charles, Missouri, in 1991 the *Goldenrod* continued public performances and operated successfully until safety concerns forced its closure in 2001. It was sold to a preservation non-profit group in 2003, which moved the vessel to the Illinois River outside of Kampsville, Illinois in 2008.

Condition of the Landmark:

Preservation efforts continued until 2015 when the *Goldenrod* sustained hull damage. The following year, effects of flood damage ended all hope of restoration of the vessel. On October 21, 2017, an early morning fire destroyed the *Goldenrod* Showboat. The vessel burned to the hull, which was then sold for scrap. (See below for links to articles.)

[Historic Goldenrod showboat catches fire, determined to be total loss | ksdk.com](#)

<https://www.thetelegraph.com/news/article/They-destroyed-history-Goldenrod-Showboat-12579422.php>

Recommendation:

The property no longer retains its historical integrity and, therefore, National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation should be withdrawn. The Missouri State Historic Preservation Office concurs with the decision to withdraw the NHL designation and is in the process of requesting the property be removed from the National Register of Historic Places.

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Justification for Withdrawing Landmark Designation:

The *Goldenrod* Showboat 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)].