

Survey No. T-541

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

CHESAPEAKE BAY SKIPJACK FLEET THEMATIC GROUP

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic RUBY G. FORD

and/or common skipjack

## 2. Location

street & number GIBSONTOWN ROAD n/a not for publication

city, town Tilghman n/a vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland 024 county Talbot 041

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Buck Garvin

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Tilghman state and zip code Maryland 21671

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. n/a liber

street & number folio

city, town state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Survey of Surviving Traditional Chesapeake Bay Craft

date 1983-1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

## 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 checked="" 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			<u>      n/a      </u>

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This vessel is a 45' long, two-sail bateau, or V-bottomed deadrise type of centerboard sloop, commonly referred to as a skipjack. She is built in Bay fashion using cross-planked construction, has a beam of 15.6', a depth of 2.6', and a net tonnage of 5 register tons. She was built in 1891 in Fairmount, Maryland, making her among the oldest vessels in the oyster dredging fleet. She has oak frames and local pine planking. She carries a typical skipjack rig-- a jib-headed mainsail laced to the boom and carried on wooden hoops at the mast, and a single large jib with a short club on its foot. The vessel is painted white.

In shape, the vessel has a longhead bow and a square, or transom, stern. She has little freeboard, riding low in the water; her low sides permit easier handling of the dredges. The longhead bow has a sharp, raking, clipper-like stem and a hexagonal bowsprit, which does not follow the upturn of the sheer but is led out parallel to the waterline. The transom stern is relatively flat, showing little rake, and is well "tucked," or lifted out of the water at the corners of the chine. The rudder is carried outboard, on pintles mounted on the transom and skeg.

The vessel is flush-decked. From the stern forward deck structures include: a box over the steering gear aft, on which the white-painted wheel is mounted; a cabin trunk with a sliding hatch cover, or slide, providing access to the main cabin below; a small hatch; a box built over the winders; and a main deck hatch just abaft the mast. She is fitted out for oystering with rollers mounted on either rail at the main deck work area, winders, dredges, and a motorized pushboat mounted on davits at the stern.

The mast shows a rake of about 15° to 20° aft. It is set up with double shrouds and deadeyes, with other standing rigging including a forestay, jibstay, and topping lift. The long boom is jawed to the mast and carried very low; it bows up at the after-end. The bowsprit is set up with two bowsprit shrouds and two bobstays of chain and cable. The jib is self-tending, with a galvanized iron horse set across the foredeck to control it as the boat tacks. Both mainsail and jib are fitted with lazyjacks for easier furling.

Decoration includes trailboards mounted on the longhead with the name RUBY G. FORD incised within a red lozenge on a blue background decorated with vines and leaves in darker red and green, and flags and a shield painted in red, white, and blue.



See Thematic Group nomination cover form, Continuation Sheets No. 8-13.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre  
 Quadrangle name Tilghman, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	18	384240	4286550	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

This working vessel is usually docked at the location indicated in Item 2. Historic boundaries are coterminous with the hull.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Witty/ M. E. Hayward		
organization	Radcliffe Maritime Museum	date	May, 1984
	Maryland Historical Society		
street & number	201 West Monument Street	telephone	(301) 685-3750
city or town	Baltimore	state	Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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