

TWO-SAIL BATEAU
"SKIPJACK"
1901

KATHRYN is an early example of the two-sail bateau, or "skipjack," an oyster dredging vessel that appeared in numbers on the Chesapeake Bay in the late 1890's. Skipjacks were cheaper and easier to build than the pungies, bugeyes, and sloops that were previously built for dredging oysters on the Chesapeake. In the twentieth century, skipjacks became the dominant vessel type in the Maryland oyster fishery. Maryland law restricted the use of power vessels for oyster dredging, which has kept skipjacks active in the fishery to the present day. The Maryland skipjacks are today the only fleet of commercial fishing vessels still working under sail. The presence of oyster diseases, particularly MSX (Multinucleate Sphere Unknown) and the fungus Dermo, have wiped out many of the once abundant oyster beds on the Chesapeake Bay. These diseases are threatening the entire oyster fishery and may force the few remaining skipjacks out of the industry.

KATHRYN is not typical of the skipjacks in her construction. Most skipjacks were cross-planked and built principally of pine. KATHRYN's bottom is planked fore-and-aft, and most of her original structural members and her bottom planks are oak. This construction technique allowed the builders to round the chine much more than is found on cross-planked skipjacks. KATHRYN is the only skipjack known to have fore-and-aft planking and a rounded chine.

KATHRYN was built in Crisfield, Maryland, in 1901. Her builder is not precisely known but credited to James E. and George L. Dougherty First owned by William E. Dougherty, she was named after his youngest daughter of two years. As a bank officer and owner of a hardware company, William Dougherty sold his small investment in 1907. KATHRYN has since served several different owners, working the waters of Chesapeake Bay in both Virginia and Maryland. From Crisfield, she went to Reedville, Virginia, then to Fairport. By 1921, she was back in Crisfield. Other home ports in Maryland include Cambridge, Baltimore, and Tilghman. In 1954, she was extensively rebuilt in the Krentz shipyard in Harryhogan, Virginia, but maintained her original form and many of her original oak timbers. Since 1981, she has been owned by Herman Russell Dize of Tilghman. KATHRYN continues to dredge the bay during the oyster season. As under former owners, she continues to compete in and often win the annual skipjack races.

MARYLAND Locator Map Kilometers 0 25 50 75 100

In May 1985, KATHRYN was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of a group of 22 dredgeboats. Since then she has also become a National Historic Landmark. She is the oldest of the true "skipjacks," or of the two-sail bateau built expressly for the oyster trade. KATHRYN is the second vessel of this fleet to be completely documented for the Historic American Engineering Record. The first was E. C. COLLIER, a skipjack of more standard construction built in 1910.

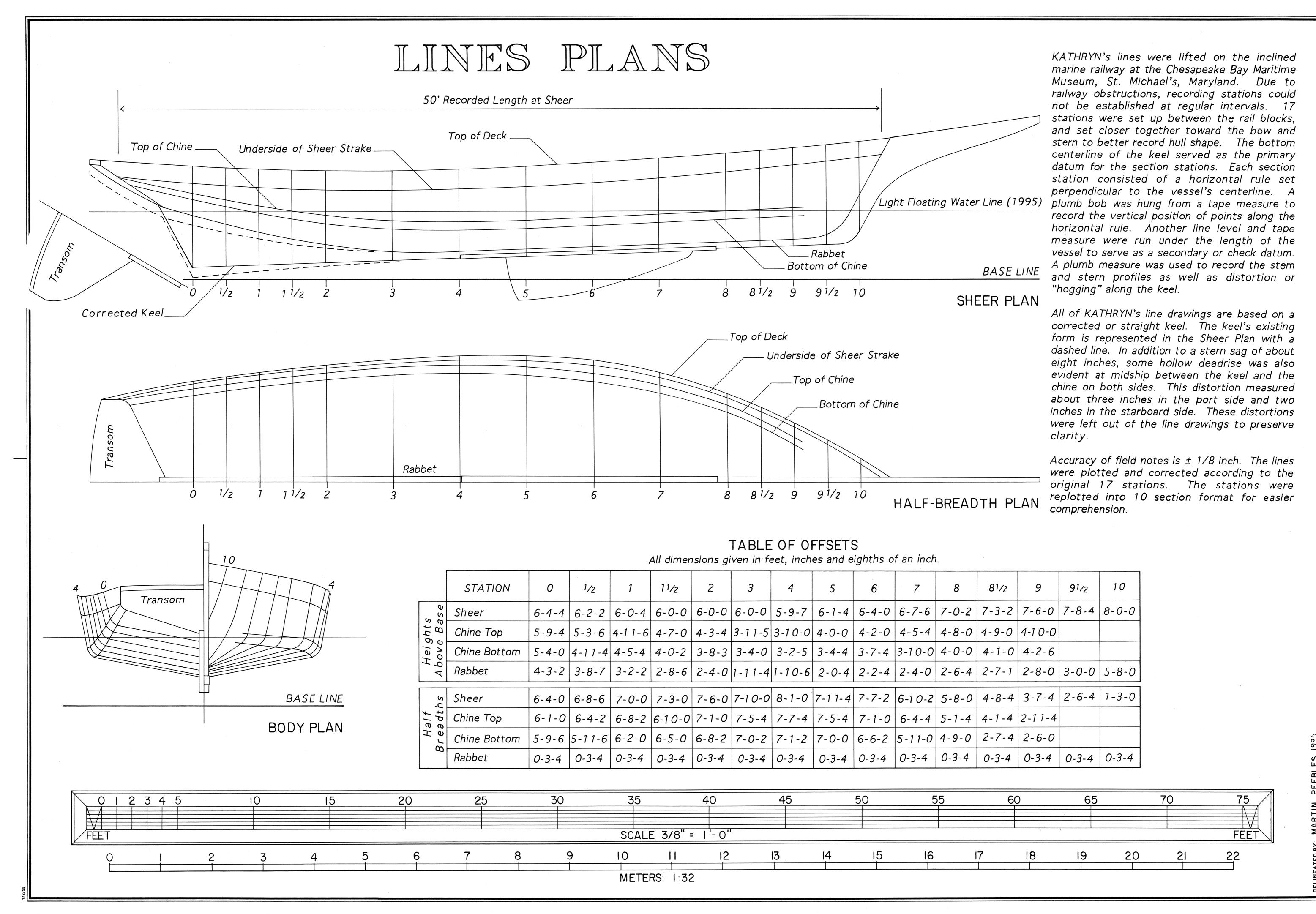
This recording project was undertaken by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), Robert J. Kapsch, Chief. HAER is a division of the National Park Service, which is committed to the documentation of America's engineering, industrial and maritime heritage. The project was co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM), John R. Valliant, Executive Director. Funding was managed by the Maryland Historical Trust and the Council of American Maritime Museums with a non-capital grant from the Sally Kress Tomkins Maritime Internship.

The project leader was Todd Croteau (HAER Maritime Program Coordinator). The field team consisted of Martin Peebles, supervisor (East Carolina University), Shawn Brennan (Norwich University) and Brian Kimura (Miami University). Historic research was prepared by Pete Lesher (CBMM staff writer) and Norman Plummer (volunteer). Invaluable technical assistance and expertise was contributed throughout the project by Tom Howell and Richard Scofield (CBMM Boatshop staff), Josef Leiner (volunteer) and Russell Dize (KATHRYN's owner). Formal photography by Jet Lowe (HAER).

## OFFICIAL DESCRIPTION

Official No.	161189
Built:	Crisfield, Maryland
Length.	50.0
Beam:	16.8
Depth:	4.2'
Gross Tonnage:	.12
Net Tonnage:	12
Rig:	Sloop (Skipjack)

TRIM LINE

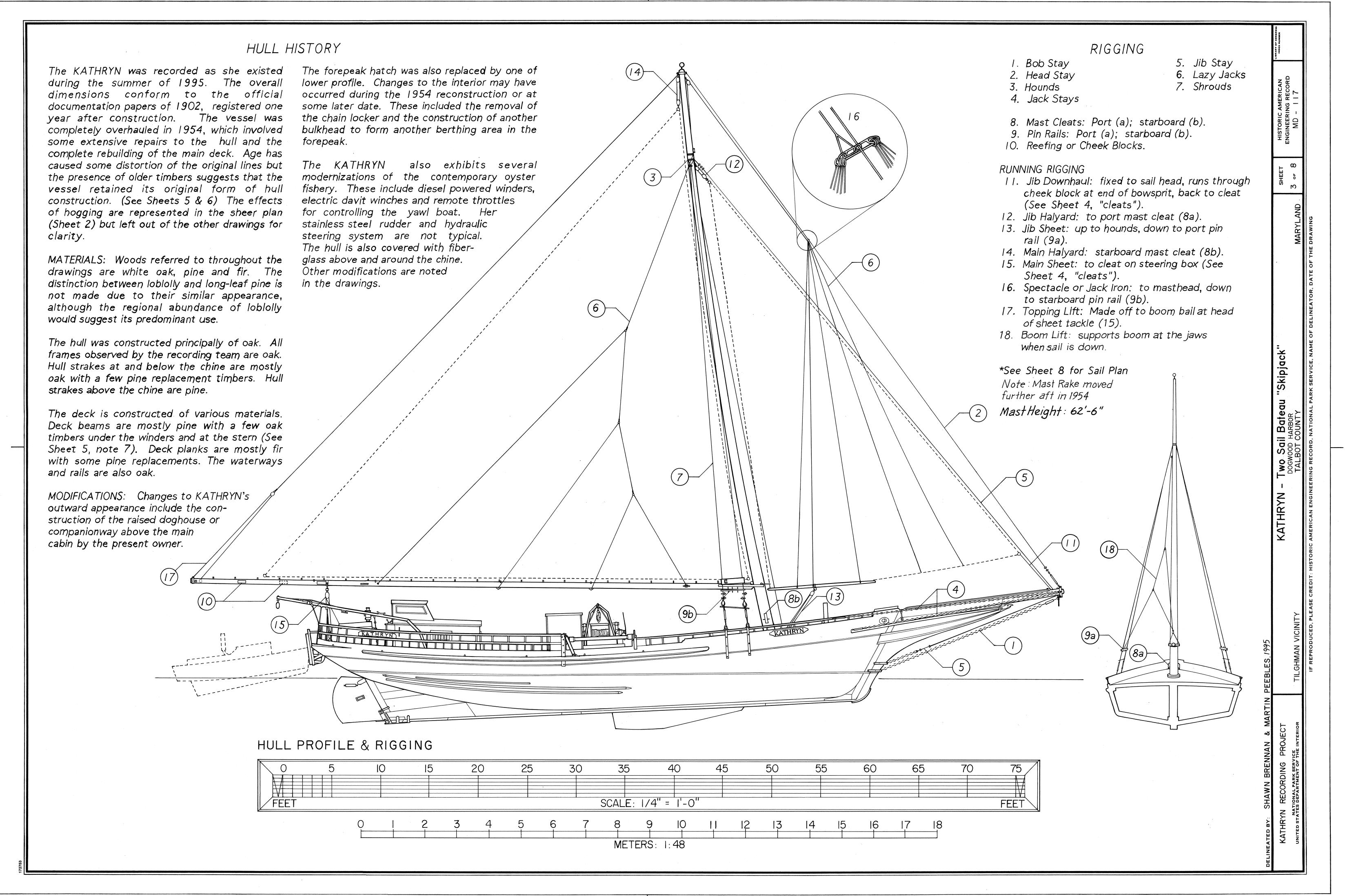


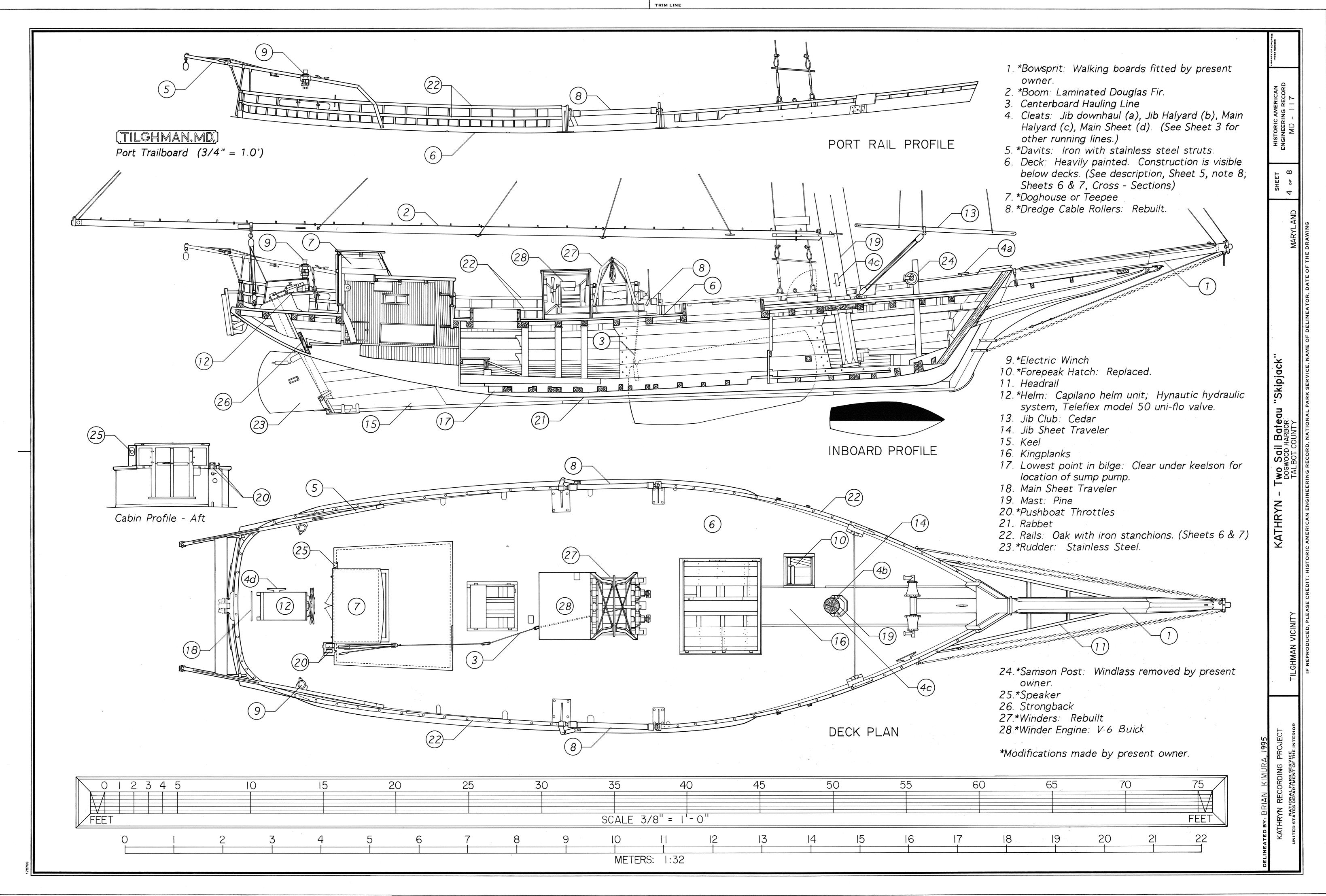
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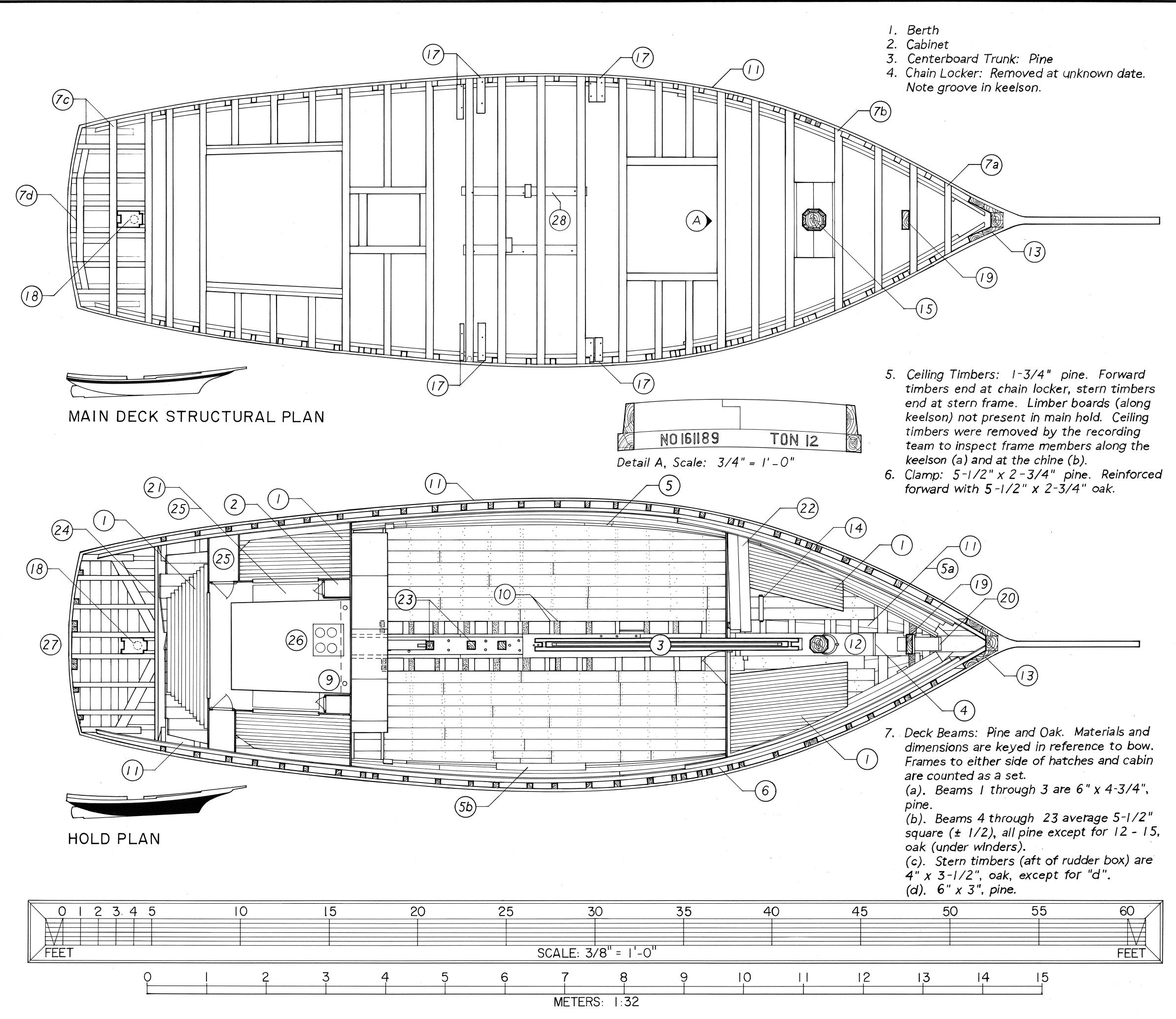
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Two

TRIM LINE







- 8. Deck Planks (not shown): Mostly fir with some pine replacements. Construction is parallel to the centerline, ends tapered to the waterway. Timbers are 1-3/4" thick. Widths average 3-1/2" to 4", with some inboard timbers measuring 5" to 7". (See cross-sections in sheets 6 and 7.)
- 9. Drain.
- 10. Frames: Oak. Dimensions and pairing are highly irregular due to use of new and old timbers (See Sheet 6). 20 sets exposed from bow (inaccessible under main cabin), two more exposed aft of main cabin. First set fitted against stern knee. Sets 2 through 18 mortised into keelson. Sets 19 and 20 pass under keelson. Older timbers are designated (see note 16).
- 11. Hull Strakes: Predominately oak at and below chine. Pine replacement noted under ceiling, aft of main cabin. Strakes above chine are pine.
- 12. Keelson: Oak. (Aft section inaccessible.)
  The keelson forward of the main cabin was formed in two sections, scarfed between frame sets 15 and 20. The aft section was 1'- 2" wide. The forward section is 1'- 4" wide x 10-1/2" at the garboard strake, tapered at the bow.
- 13. Knight Heads: 11" x 4" oak.
- 14. Ladder: Iron.
- 15. Mast: 1'-1-1/2" Pine.
- 16. Older timbers (original?): Only a few timbers could be positively identified as older as determined by their worn appearance and structural characteristics. (See Sheet 6). These include the forward section of the keelson and several frames, mostly below the chine. Designated
- 17. Roll Bar Mounts
- 18. Rudder Box: Interior inaccessible. Composite oak (front) and pine.
- 19. Sampson Post: Oak, I'-2" x 5", tapered to 5" x 5" at foot. Mortised into stem knee. Replaced by current owner, 1995.
- 20. Stem Knee: Oak
- 21. Settee.
- 22. Shelf.
- 23. Stanchions: Oak, 5-1/2" square.
- 24. Strong Back: Pine, composite construction.
  Top piece is 5" square. Bottom piece is
  |'- 3" at center, tapered to sheer and beam.
  (See Sheet 4, Side Section.)
- 25. Storage: Aft of side berths, under settee.
- 26. Stove
- 27. Transom: All timbers are oak. Fore and aft frames average 3-3/4" sided (See Sheet 4, Side Section, for molded). Diagonal braces are 6-3/4" x 2". Side molding is 8" x 6", rounded at chine.
- 28. Winder mount

Woods referred to are white oak, pine and fir. (See Sheet 3, "Hull History" for overview of wood types and reconstruction.) The keel sections are fastened with drift pins. All other hull fastenings observed by the HAER team were nails.

TRIM LINE

KATHRYN RECORDING PROJECT

Skipjack"

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ATHRYN

