On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 920 WAI 196 *



RGPF POWDER BOAT

Floating in water way near Library, ERDE

1965



WASC 920

Waltham Abbey. Library a Lecture Theatse.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT Hannibal House, Elephant & Castle, S.E.1

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Date taken n.9.6).

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Displayon South Site
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WA 195/4

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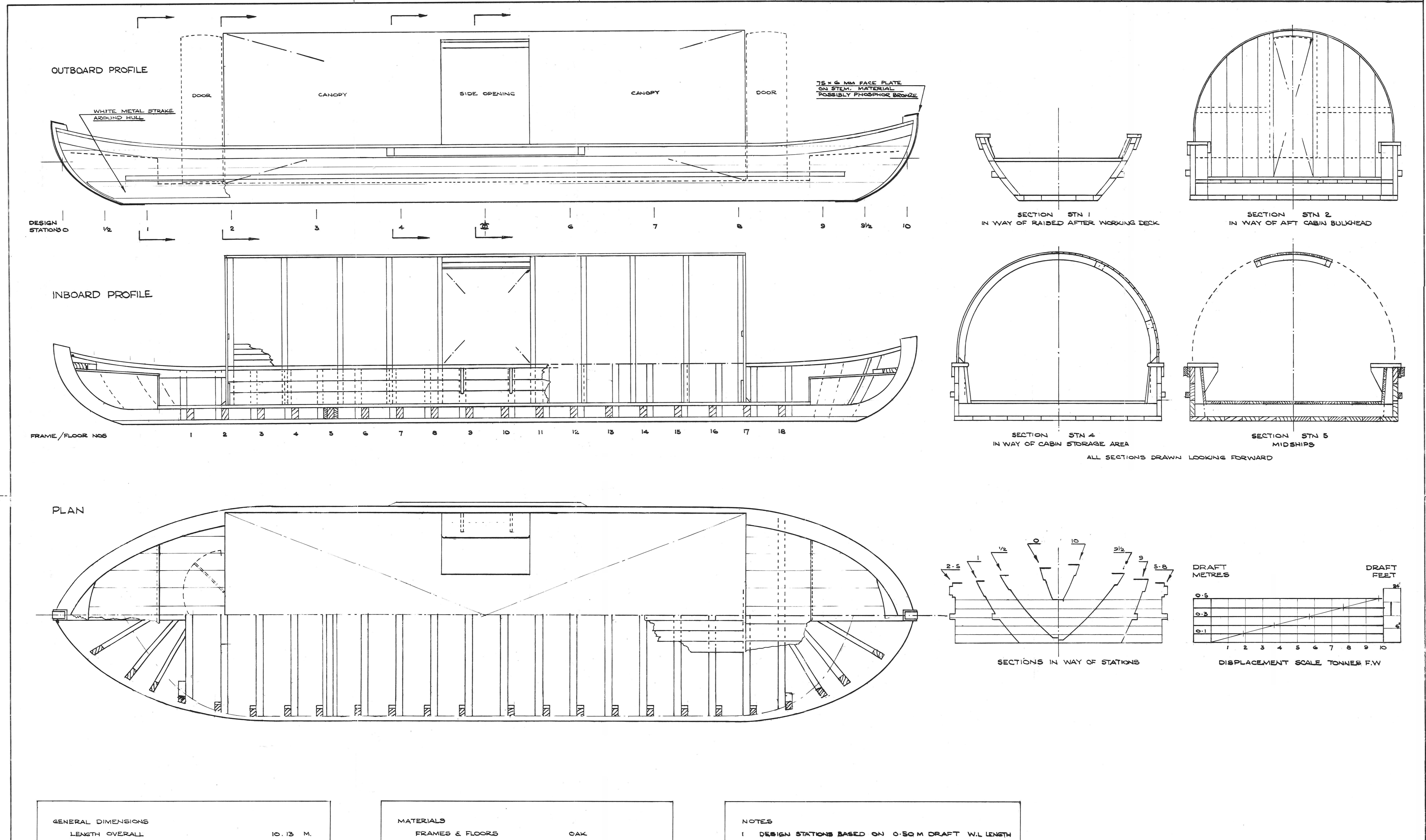
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NEG NO C47/15



ENERAL DIMENSIONS	
LENGTH OVERALL	10.13 M.
BEAM EXTREME	2·54 M.
DEPTH (KEEL TO GUNWALE MIDSHIPS)	0.67 M.
DISPLACEMENT TONNES F.W 0.25 M DRAFT	4.68
0.50M DRAFT	9.73
BLOCK COEFFICIENT CB 0.25 M DRAFT	. 0.74
-"- C8 0.50 M DRAFT	0.77

BOTTOM & SIDE PLANKING OAK WORKING DECKS CANOPY IS LIGHT WOOD, CANVAS COVERED WHITE METAL SHEATHING ROUND PART HULL AT W.L. FASTENINGS TREENAILS, BRONZE/COPPER NAILS, IRON SPIKES

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF LEATHER DECK COVERING

GENERAL: OWING TO DILAPIDATION OF PARTS OF HULL (SAY 35% OVERALL) SOME DIMENSIONS NOT GUARANTEED.

VESSEL DOUBLE ENDED. STATION 10 ASSUMED BOW.

FLOOR NO 5 HAS DOUBLERS FITTED AS SHOWN

4 POSITION OF MOORING CLEATS NOT KNOWN

3 CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SIDE FRAMES AND CANOPY

HOORS IS NOT CLEAR OWING TO CABIN LINING

NO	DATE.	AMENDMENTS		GUNPON M ABBEY	NDER FA	CTORY
			GENERAL ARRANGEMENT OF POWDER BARGE RCHM			
			SCALE 1:20	DRAWN F.M.W	DATE. 10.6.1995	106-00
			FRED.M. WALKER LTD CAK RIDGE OX LANE. NAVAL ARCHITECTS OI580 763800 FAX 762032			

Waltham Abbey Archive Report

Powder Boat RCHME 279

Boat Identification No.: RCHME 279

Archive Report Ref.: WASC 920

Boat Type: Carvel built. Double Ship ended

Use; Gunpowder and explosives movement within

Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills internal canal system

History: Post1944 - Following cessation of production at the Waltham Abbey Mills

abandoned in the Black Ditch, South Site.

1964 Restored and moored in canal at Library Building A203.

Post 1964 Later moved to Fort Halstead Post 1964 Returned to Waltham Abbey

2001 After the opening of the Waltham Abbey Mills as a heritage centre

put on display in the Large Exhibits Building L168.

2008 Partially restored by Mills Friends Association

Documentation:

RCHME Data Sheet

Waltham Abbey Image Collection (WAI)

Image WAI 252 / 01
 Powder Boat RCHME 279 in Black Ditch prior to restoration 1964

 Image WAI 196 / 01
 Powder Boat RCHME 279 in canal by Library Building A203 following Restoration 1965

Drawing

General Arrangement of 10m Powder Barge RCHME 279 Drawn by Frederick M. Walker Ltd., Naval Architects 10 - 6 - 1995

Commentary: Powder Boats

History of the Royal Gunpowder Mills

Waterways:

The Waterways of the Royal Gunpowder Mills Richard Thomas 2009 ISBN 978-1-907452-00-0

Les Tucker

THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY - WALTHAM ABBEY				
NUMI	BER OLD SERIES	RCHME NUMBER 279	N.G.R.	
	FUNCTION	START DATE	END DATE	
NO PHOTOGRAPHY AVAILABLE				
CARTO	OGRAPHIC DEPICTION	DOCUMENTARY REFEREN	ICES	
HISTON WASC WASC photos WASC telephon WASC restors WASC to rest WASC WASC WASC WASC WASC G 1200	916 Powder boat & explosives truck 12.12.1967 919 Powder boat 12.9.1967 1072 Powder boat on north site collection of	PHOTOGRAPHY RCHME		
RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER MONUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH:				
CONDITION GOOD				
DESCRI 1)	CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL Timber			
3)	ROOF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURE Timber POWER SOURCE			
	Muscle		,	
4)5)	DIMENSIONS i) L - ii) W - iii) HT - Double sky ended, This powder barge was restored around 1964 from lecture theatre. It has subsequently been removed covered by tarpaulins and plastic sheets.	which time it was displayed motor to Fort Halstead where it surviv	pored in the canal near the res in the open, but	

h .

WASC 920

Powder boats

The boats used in the Mills varied in size but kept to two basic patterns. The first was pointed or ship—ended at both ends and the other swim or square-ended at both ends so that they did not need to be turned but could be towed or poled from either end by men. There is no evidence that horses were ever used; possibly the thought of a horse bolting with a boat containing sometimes sensitive cargo was not considered good H & S practice!

Both types were carvel-built in timber and most had barrel shaped roofs although some of the swim-ended craft were just hulls. All the craft used within the mills were built using phosphor bronze nails and fittings. The hull and the cabin framing were made of sturdy timbers but the roof cladding was of canvas covered light planking. The canvas was to prevent contamination of the cargo from foreign bodies and the light planking allowed explosive force to dissipate in the event of an accident. There is, however, no record of one of these boats exploding at Waltham Abbey.

Following historical practice, the term "powder boat" is used for the smaller "on-site" craft. "Powder barge" applies to the larger sailing craft used for longer distance transport.

The table below shows the so-far discovered details of the powder boats at Waltham Abbey. The records are held at the National Archives at Kew.

Date	Boat	Notes
24.5.1812		Order for covered boats to be used for Corning House.
25.3.1814		Five Barges, nine Powder Boats, two Ballast Barges, six Punts worth £1140 10s 7¼d shown on abstract of works.
1827		Establishment: 3 boatmen, powder punts. 2 bargemen transporting gunpowder, stores, etc
30.9.1858	Covered Boats	Annual List of Ordnance Boats 30.9.1858
		30' 2" x 5' 10" x 2' 6'
		27' 4" x 5' 10" x 2' 8'
		29' 3" x 8' x2' 1"
		24' 8" x 5' 9" x 2' 2"
		25' x 5' 9" x 2' 2"
		30' 3" x 6' x 3' 1"
		25' 6" x 8' x 2' 1"
		25' 11" x 5' 10" x 2' 3"
		30' 5" x 5' 11" x 2' 1"
		30' 2" x 5' 11" x 2' 1"
		29' 5" x 7' 10" x 2' 1"
		28' 8" x 7' 4" x 3' 2"
	Open Boats	16' 7" x 3' 11' x 1' 5"
		15' 7" x 5' 9" x 1' 5"
		18' 7" x 4' 2" x 1' 7"
		26' 8" x 7' 7" x 1' 10"
		28' 8" x 8' 9" x 2' 6"
		18' 5" x 6' 4" x 2' 3"
		18' 10" x 5' 6" x 1' 11"

	28' 8" x 8' 2" x 2' 6"
	28' 8" x 8' 2" x 2' 6"
	20' x 7' 2" x 2' 5"
1869	There were 15 covered boats varying in size between 21' and 30' in length and 5' 11" and 8' 6" in width for carrying coals, wood, stores as well as acting as ferryboats. (Powderbarge WD)

RICHARD THOMAS