

SHIPWRECKS OF ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

Isle Royale National Park, Isle Royale

Isle Royale

Keweenaw County

Michigan

HAER MI-51

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WRITTEN DATA PAGE
MEASURED AND INTERPRETIVE DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service

1849 C Street, NW Rm NC300

Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SHIPWRECKS OF ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK
HAER No. MI-51

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Location: Lake Superior near the shores of Isle Royale
Isle Royale Keweenaw County Michigan

Date of
Construction: Shipwrecks dating from 1885 to 1947

Type of
Structure: Shipwrecks of various vessel types

Use: Archeological and Recreational

Designer/
Engineer:

Fabricator/
Builder:

Owner: Federal Government

Significance: The shipwrecks located within the archipelago of Isle Royale represent many types and stages of the development of maritime steam technology. Vessel types include passenger steamers, bulk, and package freighters of both wood and steel hulls. The subarctic environment of Lake Superior has preserved much of the wrecks structure and cargo, which makes for ideal research conditions.

Project Information: Documentation was conducted by the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit (SCRU) of the National Park Service in 1987. This HAER project incorporates the archeological drawings with new interpretive drawings on Mylar in the HAER format. Robbyn L. Jackson served as HAER project leader responsible for the compilation of sheets. See individual sheets for delineators' names.

SHIPWRECKS OF ISLE ROYALE

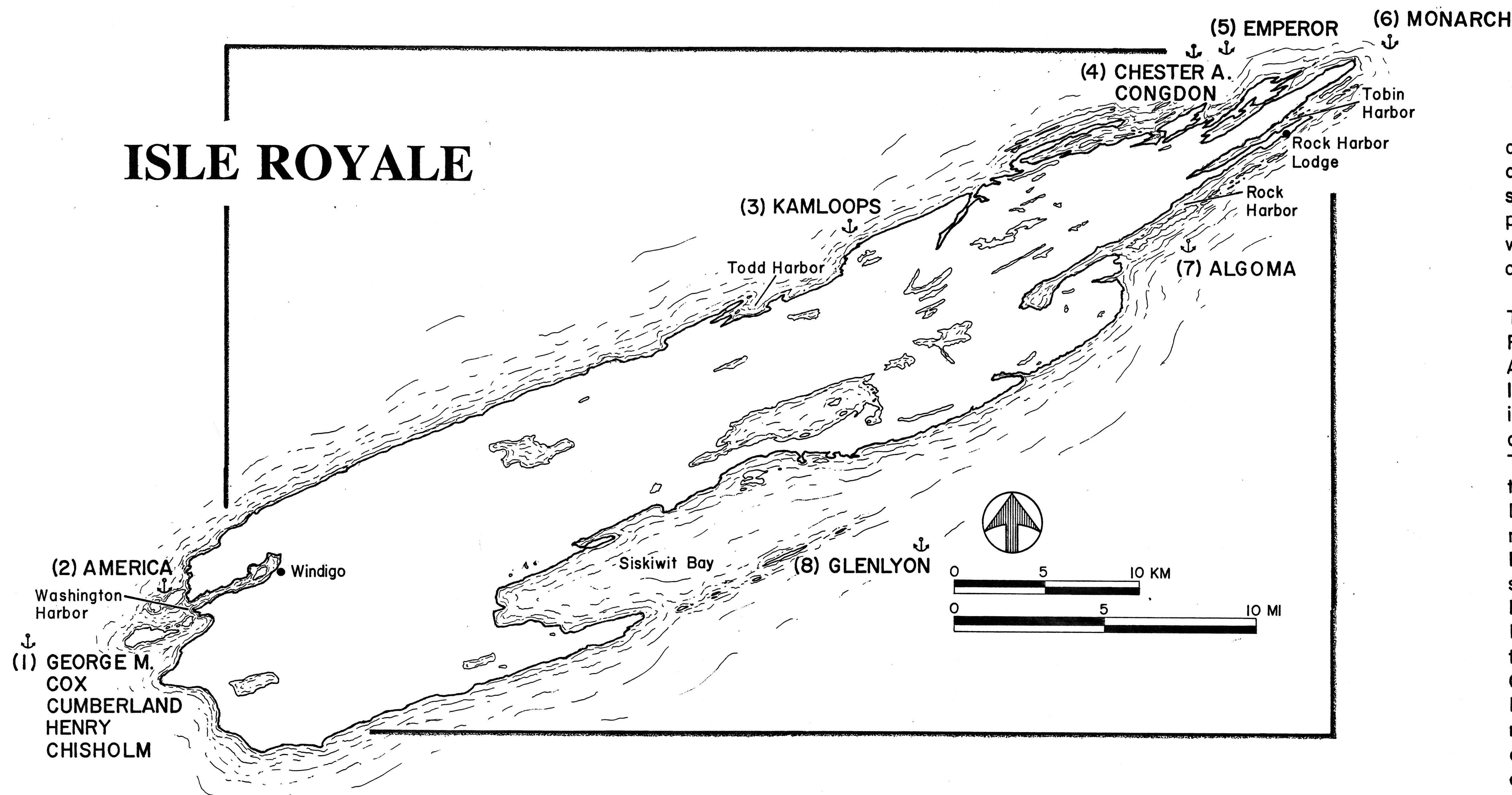
Isle Royale National Park, established in 1940, is located northwest of Michigan's upper peninsula in the cold clear waters of Lake Superior. The park includes the archipelago of Isle Royale and the submerged lands within four and a half miles of their shorelines. Ten known shipwrecks, dating from 1885 to 1947, lie in the park waters, although it is believed that many more have yet to be discovered. The wrecks, passenger steamers, and bulk and package freighters, represent many types and stages of the development of maritime steam technology including side-wheeled and screw propelled vessels, with both wooden and steel hulls. The more modern, intact wrecks remain in such good condition that a diver can swim down companionways, through stateroom doors, and experience a time gone by. The sub-arctic environment of Lake Superior preserves even the organic residues of the past. The ten major shipwrecks were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a thematic group in 1984.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, scuba diving became generally accepted as a recreational activity and submerged cultural resources began to be included in park interpretive programs. Park managers realized that plans needed to be formulated to protect the shipwrecks from inadvertent damage or intentional vandalism, and to provide additional measures of safety to the diving public. The National Park Service formed the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit (SCRU) in 1980 to address these and other issues relating to the management of these fragile resources. Isle Royale, a park with known significant shipwreck sites and established sport diver use patterns, was chosen as the focus of a prototype research program by the SCRU unit to inventory, document and evaluate the maritime archeological sites. The project provided the park with the baseline information needed to formulate effective resource management and interpretive programs. The results of the inventory were published in 1987 as the report: Submerged Cultural Resources Study, ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK, Daniel J. Lenihan, Editor, which not only

documents the significant maritime archeological sites, but also includes a series of recommendations for future protection and interpretation of such sites which have applications in many other areas of the National Park System.

The Submerged Cultural Resources Recording Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long range program to document historically significant engineering, industrial and maritime works in the United States. The HAER Program is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. The Submerged Cultural Resources Recording Project was cosponsored during the summer of 1991 by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) under the general direction of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of HABS/HAER, and Eric N. DeLony, Chief of HAER; and the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit (SCRU) of the National Park Service under the direction of Daniel J. Lenihan, Chief. This project was undertaken for the joint purpose of incorporating existing SCRU documentation drawings into the HAER collection at the Library of Congress and to promote the recording and understanding of this nation's underwater cultural resources. Final inked drawings of the CUMBERLAND/CHISHOLM wreck site were produced in 1987 by Jerry L. Livingston, Scientific Illustrator. Final inked drawings of the GLENLYON wreck site were produced by Jerry L. Livingston and Larry V. Nordby, Chief of the Branch of Cultural Research, National Park Service Southwest Regional Office. For more information on the SCRU documentation project see Submerged Cultural Resources Study, ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK, Daniel J. Lenihan, Editor, Submerged Cultural Resources Center Professional Papers, Number 8, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1987. The work of reproducing the original drawings onto HAER mylar sheets, annotating them and creating a title page was carried out in 1991 by J. Shannon Barras, Architect, under the direction of Robbyn L. Jackson, HAER Staff Architect.

ISLE ROYALE



KEY TO SHIPWRECKS

Location	Classification	Name	Built	Wrecked
1	Passenger steamer	GEORGE M. COX	1901	1933
		ex. PURITAN		
1	Side-wheeler	CUMBERLAND	1871	1877
1	Bulk freighter	HENRY CHISHOLM	1880	1898
2	Passenger/package freighter	AMERICA	1898	1928
3	Package/bulk freighter	KAMLOOPS	1924	1927
4	Bulk freighter	CHESTER A. CONGDON	1907	1918
5	Bulk freighter	EMPEROR	1910	1947
5	Package freighter	DUNHELM	1907	1910
6	Passenger/package freight	MONARCH	1890	1906
7	Passenger steamer	ALGOMA	1883	1885
8	Package freighter	GLENLYON	1893	1924
		ex. WILLIAM H. GRATWICK		

