

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

PH006585P

STATE: California	
COUNTY: San Francisco	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1973

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: <u>The EUREKA</u>	
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>Eureka (Ukiah)</u>	

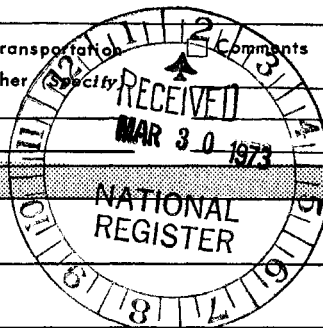
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>2905 Hyde Street - San Francisco Maritime State Historic Park</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>San Francisco</u>			
STATE <u>California</u>	CODE <u>06</u>	COUNTY: <u>San Francisco</u>	CODE <u>075</u>

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>		
OWNER'S NAME: <u>Department of Parks and Recreation</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>1416 - 9th Street</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Sacramento</u>	STATE: <u>California</u>	CODE <u>06</u>

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <u>Department of Parks and Recreation</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>1416 - 9th Street</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Sacramento</u>	STATE: <u>California</u>	CODE <u>06</u>

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>		
TITLE OF SURVEY: <u>National Historical Landmarks</u>		
DATE OF SURVEY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <u>U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>18th and C Street, Northwest</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Washington</u>	STATE: <u>D. C.</u>	CODE <u>11</u>



STATE: California	COUNTY: San Francisco
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

EUREKA

The Eureka is of double-ended wood construction with copper sheathed bottom. Length 277 feet; beam 42.7 feet; depth 15.7 feet. Date of construction: original 1890; converted 1922. Engine: built by Fulton Iron Works in San Francisco. Single cylinder vertical beam engine, 65 inch bore by 144 inch stroke. Horsepower 1500; speed 18 knots maximum; paddle wheels (2) 27 feet in diameter, these are side wheelers. Engines and boilers are intact and in fair condition. The ship is completely equipped. The hull is believed in fair to good condition. The vessel enjoys constant maintenance by qualified shipwrights, deck hands, interpretive and administrative personnel. The ship in its overall appearance is a very attractive vessel of its kind; the lower portion of the ship being a dark color, the upper portion being painted white, with the word Eureka printed on its side. The two side paddle wheels are mid-ship. The ship contains two pilot houses on the top of the super structure; one in the stern and one in the bow. The lower portion of the vessel is equipped with original benches and a typical news-shop, lunchroom, once a part of its normal equipment-furnishings. The interior of the passenger area is nicely panelled with carved decor, and possesses turned stanchions, forming part of the attractive interior design.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

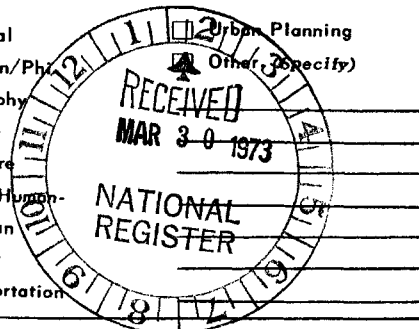
## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORY - INTRODUCTION

The history of much of California is intimately associated with that of the sea. In this pagentry, San Francisco Bay has played a major role from early Spanish times to the present. In recognition of this important historical and economic impact, the State of California has acquired a number of ships and has placed them on display at the San Francisco Maritime State Historic Park.

One, the C. A. Thayer, has to date been accorded national recognition, yet all are important examples of ship types developed, built and/or operated on the Pacific Coast. Besides the Thayer, these are the Wapama, a steam schooner typical of those which, to almost mid 20th century, carried lumber and passengers between California ports and the Pacific northwest; the Alma, a heavy, flat-bottomed scow schooner used for local transport of heavy cargo within the bay; the Eureka, last of the Walking Beam ferries used in commuter service on the bay; and the Hercules, last remaining steam tug of her type on the Pacific Coast. In addition to the ships, the San Francisco Maritime State Historic Park exhibits on the Hyde Street Pier in San Francisco several buildings going back in time to beyond the turn of the century and a miscellanea of historical maritime items and objects worthy of state and national interest and note.

Each of the objects located here is diagnostic of the history of San Francisco maritime activities. Each vessel possesses a preponderance of historical and structural integrity. There are none available in their class in California which are better suited to dwell on/or describe the maritime impact made upon our economy, our people and our state. Each vessel has historical value warranting preservation. As time continues, more ships will be added to the San Francisco Maritime State Historic Park. Each will be chosen for its unique and distinct quality so that people living here, or those who visit, may enjoy an experience both satisfying and educational.

EUREKA - HISTORY

✓ The Eureka is the finest example extant of the fleet of ferry boats which once plied the Bay of San Francisco. ✓ The first regular ferry

(Continued)

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Notes in the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library.  
Personal reference through Harry Dring, Glenn Burch, Maritime engineers and authorities.

National Park Service Historical Inventory.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 48' 41"	122° 25' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37 48 42	122 25 10	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		37 48 28	122 25 08	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		37 48 27	122 25 19	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Ship size plus 6.13 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Allen W. Welts, Historian

ORGANIZATION  
Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1416 - 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sacramento

STATE  
California

DATE  
2/28/73

CODE  
06

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date MAR 27 1973

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/24/73

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date 4/13/73

UTM  
10/55094  
4184611  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY San Francisco	
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(Number all entries)

**8. Significance**

business in the Bay originated in 1850 when the steamer Kangaroo went into operation. Then, the peninsular isolation of San Francisco from the interior of California made development of this form of ship a popular as well as necessary feature of the Bay area commuter and transportation system. While most of this activity dwindled to a stop in the late 30's and early 40's due to completion of the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges, the Eureka continued in operation until early 1957 when a sheared crank pin put an end to her days. When retired, she was among the last Walking Beam sidewheelers operating on the Pacific Coast.

The Walking Beam was a colorful and unique propulsion feature. It first appeared in California waters during the Gold Rush, and soon flourished on many of the river steamers built by John North, then on the first Pacific mail ships, early trans-Pacific lines, and on a miscellanea of Bay ferries. Its powerful, rhythmic strokes were a marvel of marine engineering.

The Eureka, whose name still conjures up pleasant memories for Sausalito and Oakland commuters, was originally named the Ukiah. It was built in Tiburon in 1890 by John Dickie for the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad Company. For some years it shuttled railroad cars across the bay; later being converted to passenger and automobile transport.

In 1922, it was overhauled, the hull was lengthened and widened by its owners, the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, and its name changed to the Eureka. The change in name was inspired by that company's extension of its railroad line from Ukiah to Eureka. As a passenger ferry, she could carry 2,300 passengers and 120 automobiles. At that time, she was the biggest and the fastest double-ended passenger ferryboat in the world.

Until 1941 she was a member of the Northwestern Pacific fleet of ferryboats. From 1941 to 1957 she ran between the Southern Pacific Railroad's terminus at the Oakland Mole and San Francisco. In 1958, she was acquired by the State of California through successful negotiation and brought to the Hyde Street Pier in San Francisco in 1962 for inclusion in the State Maritime Historic Park.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Ferryboat Eureka (formerly Ukiah)

AND/OR COMMON

Eureka**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Historic Ships Unit, Hyde Street Pier, National Maritime Museum

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

San Francisco

CODE

075**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☒ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☒ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable) National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94102**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Building 201, Fort Mason

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco, California

STATE

94123**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE National Register of Historic Places

DATE

February 28, 1973

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The historic ferry Eureka (formerly known as Ukiah) is moored in an early 20th Century ferry slip at Hyde Street Pier, a unit of the National Maritime Museum, San Francisco. As she exists today Eureka represents a now vanished class of wooden-hulled ferryboats and incorporates design elements from her original construction in 1890 and alterations in 1922.

### UKIAH

Built in 1890 the ferry steamer Ukiah had the following dimensions: 291' length (overall), beam 42' (at waterline) and 78' (at guardrails). With a 14' 2" depth of hold, she drew 6' 6" of water. Her displacement was 2564 gross tons or 2019 net tons. She was propelled by two side paddlewheels located amidships. These radial paddlewheels, still mounted, are 27' in diameter with 24 buckets that are 22" wide x 12'-9" long. The wheels were covered by a housing that arched above the level of the top (hurricane) deck. Built to carry 10 railroad freight cars and 500 passengers, Ukiah had two sets of standard gauge tracks that ran the length of the main deck, which were set flush with the deck level. Passenger accommodations were on the upper deck, of which the layout and design features are not documented.

Ukiah was fitted with a walking beam engine manufactured by Fulton Iron Works at San Francisco--an engine which remains unaltered to this day with the exception of a life-time of in-kind repairs. The particulars of the engine are: cylinder bore, 65"; piston stroke, 12'; horsepower, 2200; revolutions per minute, 24. This type of engine dates to early 19th Century. The crosshead from the cylinder and the connecting rod to the paddle crank are linked by a cast iron walking beam of a flat diamond-shape with a wrought iron strap shrunk over it for strength. As the steam from boilers entered the cylinder it drove the piston vertically up and down. The walking beam transferred this motion to the connecting rod, which drove a crank around in a circle. This crank was directly linked to the paddlewheel shaft, and thus supplied the propulsion for the vessel. The walking beam was visible above the top deck of the vessel, supported at the top of a large two-sided A-frame, made of oak tensioned with turnbuckles and fastened to the keelsons of the vessel. Steam was originally supplied by four direct flue return tube boilers burning coal. Due to the cost of maintenance they were replaced in 1914 by Freeman Dryback Boilers. In these boilers an oil flame was forced through a burner into the combustion chamber. Brickwork protected the chamber and rear of the boiler from the resulting hot gasses. These gasses reached their maximum temperature at the rear of the boiler, and passed through fire tubes in the water reservoir. The intense heat in these tubes acted on the surrounding water to create steam. This steam was piped through a superheater and to the engine at a pressure of 30 lbs per sq. in. Because of the change in boilers the original jet condenser was replaced by a surface condenser.

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EUREKA

During the First World War, Ukiah was used to ferry heavy loads of railroad cars across the bay for the United States Railroad Administration. The strain was too much for the old boat, and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad obtained federal funds to renovate the sagging hull. Ukiah was rebuilt at the Southern Pacific yards in Oakland between 1920-1922, and emerged as the auto/passenger ferry Eureka.

Eureka was 97% new, as Ukiah was completely rebuilt from the waterline up of indigenous woods. Douglas Fir was used for the hull repairs and cedar was used in the superstructure. Her original engine remained intact and unaltered with the exception of the wooden A-frame, which was replaced by one of riveted steel to better withstand engine vibration. The main deck was lengthened from 291' to 299'-6" to accommodate up to 120 automobiles. The second (passenger) deck was greatly expanded to accommodate 2300 passengers. Seating was of the double bench variety, and most of the original steam-bent plywood seats are still extant. Underneath each bench is a storage area covered by a leather flap for life preservers. The quality of all joiner work is evident with cedar tongue-and-groove ceiling, wooden columns with corbelled caps, carved corner brackets with fan designs, decorative mouldings, etched glass windows, and fluted bell-shaped milk-glass and brass electric light fixtures. Eureka is equipped with a magazine/smoke stand on the passenger deck aft. Forward was a galley/restaurant area where passengers were fed quick meals. The passenger deck arrangement remains exactly as it was during Eureka's years of service, with the exception of the replacement of the restaurant lunch counter with a wooden partition enclosing period (but not original) nickelodions. The restaurant galley area is now used as a storeroom. Restroom facilities were supplied on the passenger deck for male and female passengers. These rooms remain essentially unaltered from her service years with the plumbing fixtures, wooden stalls, and a partially tiled deck.

The enclosed passenger compartment is entered by pairs of double doors set approximately 30 feet back from either end of the second deck. This open boat deck carries two steel lifeboats at either end, with exterior stairs leading below to provide access to the car deck.

Built as a double-ender, Eureka is identical at either end above the passenger deck level, with a square wooden wheelhouse backed by two separate cabins for officers and crew bunks. Originally Eureka was steered by wheel. A later overhaul added a steam-piston driven steering gear which was controlled by a tiller in the wheelhouse. Later museum restoration has replaced the tiller in one wheelhouse with a wheel more like the original, while the other wheelhouse was stripped and converted to a museum office.



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Eureka's auto deck remains as it was during her working career with the exception of a wooden railing added to protect a collection of period automobiles which recreate the flavor of her years of service.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT P. Tiernan

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eureka is of National significance both because of the type of vessel she is, and because of her association with an extremely wide range of transportation systems as they developed across the United States during the span of a century from the early 1800's to the mid-1950's.

"The paddlewheel steamboat powered by a walking beam engine was a distinctly American development...it was a practical answer to the shipbuilding and navigation conditions that existed in the nineteenth century."<sup>1</sup> Eureka is the last intact wooden hulled side-wheel steamer afloat in the continental United States, and is thus nationally significant as an example of the type of wooden paddle steamers that led this country's inland waterborne commerce into the industrial era.<sup>2</sup>

Eureka's walking beam engine remains intact and basically unaltered since its manufacture in 1890 and is thus of National significance in the field of Industry, Technology and Engineering, as it is the only example of such a marine engine left operable and afloat in North America.<sup>3</sup>

The Eureka is also Nationally significant in the field of Transportation since during her lifetime she was associated with a range of travel from horses, steam trains, interurban electric railways and automobiles. As Ukiah, she carried railroad cars across San Francisco Bay for SF&NPRR, a steam railroad. She later was converted to connect with passengers from the NWPRR's interurban electric commuter railway. "This railway was a pioneer in the advancement of railway technology, making modern subways and electrical commuter railways possible. Some historians correctly see electric railways as the major factor in shaping urbanized areas early in the twentieth century."<sup>4</sup> Eureka is representative of a fleet of vessels which completed the crucial trans-bay link of this important transportation system; and thus significantly altered the Bay Area's demography. These changes in the San Francisco Bay Area were mirrored in the similar growth and effects of urban mass transit systems across the nation.

As times changed so did the ferry. Rebuilt as Eureka after 1922 she catered to the increased automobile traffic that drastically altered transportation economics across the country. Those economics found their local expression in the building of the Golden Gate Bridge, which forced Marin County

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ferryboat service out of existence in 1941. The last chapter of Eureka's life was to connect with Southern Pacific's transcontinental railroad trains at the Oakland Station, and take passengers and baggage to San Francisco--an association with the end of a transportation era which began with the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869.

This statement of significance is based on a more detailed history, which follows.

The story of steamboats on San Francisco Bay predates the gold rush. In 1847 Alexander Leidsdorff, a prominent local businessman, brought a tiny steamboat to San Francisco on the deck of a Russian cargo ship. She was called Sitka (for her building place) and went into ludicrously slow service across the bay and upriver to Sacramento. It was said that one disgusted passenger left the vessel and beat it on foot to its destination!

The dynamics of an increased population brought by the Gold Rush increased the need for reliable trans-bay service. The first steamboat to make regular crossings of San Francisco bay was Kangaroo which began to run from San Antonio Creek (now Oakland Estuary) to San Francisco in 1850. By 1863 there were four steam ferries and two fiercely competing companies serving a local railroad on this route.<sup>1</sup> An event of national significance occurred when the first transcontinental railroad train to reach the west coast arrived at Alameda on September 6, 1869, and was met by the ferry steamer Alameda.

On the north part of San Francisco bay regular ferry service was established in 1868, running the ferry Princess from Sausalito to Melggs Wharf in San Francisco, which was located near the present mooring of Eureka at the National Maritime Museum, San Francisco. Service quickly became an adjunct of the railways operating in the area--the North Pacific Coast Railroad, the Southern and Northern Pacific, and the North Shore Railroad.

The San Francisco and North Pacific Coast Railroad was acquired in 1869 by a colorful man named Peter Donohue--well known for founding Union Iron Works and the San Francisco Gas Works. It was this railroad which had Mr. P. Tiernan design and supervise construction of the Ukiah, built in 1890 to connect with its lines running from Tiburon thru San Rafael and north through the Redwood Empire to Cloverdale, Ukiah, and (eventually) Eureka. Ukiah was laid down in the SF&NPRR's yards at Tiburon, California. "The new freight and passenger ferryboat Ukiah is lying at Tiburon and is receiving the finishing touches in the way of adornment. She will go on duty in a couple of weeks and will make quick time between Tiburon and San Francisco."<sup>2</sup> Around December 4, 1890, Ukiah began her career,

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ferrying railroad cars and passengers from Tiburon to San Francisco. "The Ukiah is serving on the Tiburon ferry run. She is not a passenger boat,<sup>3</sup> but some patrons find her very pleasant, while others find objections."

Objections arose since Ukiah did not have a fully enclosed deck for passengers. However, on beautiful days, Ukiah would be rented to carry parties of picnickers to the excursion spots at Paradise Cove and El Campo. So popular were these excursions that one deckhand recorded that after casting off the bowlines in San Francisco, it was everything he could do to shoulder his way through the dense crowd and get to the other end of the vessel in time to receive the mooring lines.<sup>4</sup>

In 1907 the San Francisco and Northern Pacific Railroad, by then reorganized as the California Northwestern Railway, was taken over and merged with the North Shore Railway to become the Northwestern Pacific Railroad. The new company soon consolidated its services so that interurban trains operated only from Sausalito. By April 1, 1909 the direct ferry line from Tiburon to San Francisco was eliminated and Ukiah began to run from Sausalito.<sup>5</sup>

Ukiah was kept busy: "This vessel is in continuous service, making about 4,000 miles a month. She handles about 18,000 freight cars and 96,000 automobiles per year, besides many tons of express."<sup>6</sup> During the First World War, the United States Railroad Administration operated the line to such great capacity that Ukiah was seriously damaged. The railroad administration therefore provided funds after the war to rebuild the ferry.

Ukiah was taken to the Southern Pacific yards in Oakland where she would remain for almost two years while her entire structure above the waterline was removed with the exception of the towering walking beam engine. Even the wooden A-frame for the engine was rebuilt. In 1922 Ukiah emerged 97% new as Eureka, named after the northern terminus of the railroad line. "But the Ukiah's soul remained alive, because as is often the case with such major reconstruction, the Eureka carried the Ukiah's official number on U.S. Department of Commerce records."<sup>7</sup>

Eureka had been built to carry 120 automobiles and 2300 passengers with a spacious enclosed second deck. Placed in service between the Ferry Building in San Francisco and the Northwestern Pacific railroad station in Sausalito Eureka became an integral link in a modern transportation network. Passengers transferred to electric interurban trams which whisked them quickly to their destinations in the Marin County suburbs of San Rafael, San Anselmo, and Fairfax. The upstart automobile was not encouraged at first on NWP ferries.

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In contrast to the rapidly encroaching manifestation of modernity, the story is told how not long after Eureka was put in service, "a load of cattle was driven on board in Sausalito, destined for the stockyards of San Francisco. The deck crew had forgotten the precautions required to sustain the bovine passengers and the single rope intended for this purpose was no match for the animals. When the boat got out into the middle of the bay, the cattle got loose, ventured on the upper deck where they scattered the female passengers, stylishly dressed for San Francisco shopping and theatre going. There were many anxious moments before the cattle drovers and the cowpunchers, dressed in mariners blue, restored the beasts to order."<sup>8</sup>

Most of the stampede during those years were from human passengers as 40 million people crossed the bay on various ferry lines, with the Ferry Building said to be second only to London's Charing Cross Station as the busiest passenger terminal in the world. However, the increasing demand for passenger service and the explosive popularity of the automobile combined to create the demand that culminated in the construction of the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges in the late 1930's. Ironically, "the ferries wrote [their] own finis--they built commuter communities large enough to support bridges."<sup>9</sup>

By 1940, curtailed schedules had failed to save the Marin ferries. The last day of Marin County ferry service was Feb. 28, 1941, and Eureka had the distinction of making the very last run. What a run it was!

"The Eureka left the city at 11:30 PM on her last trip to Sausalito. A singing, laughing, jostling crowd of a thousand or more were aboard. The crowd consisted mostly of young people who had come aboard with loaded glasses. Some braved the wind and the rain and stood on the open deck. They watched the harbor lights slide by. Others, inside, drank innumerable toasts to the Eureka and her skipper, the other ferries and the other skippers and to a whole lot of other things. Generally, they raised hell. They drank, sang and milled around or unscrewed a good number of metal plates and signs commuters had missed on previous runs. There was a four piece orchestra aboard. Few heard it over the noise. Then, in mid-Bay, a celebrant pulled the emergency cord. The Eureka stopped. After the master was assured that all was well, the voyage continued. Finally, Capt. Victor L. Verdellet jangled the engine room telegraph to a stop and eased the paddlewheeler into the Sausalito slip. The ferry was 30 minutes late. On the dock stood the local [Southern Pacific] police, who relieved the passengers of souvenirs. The Sausalito Lions Club had planned a dinner-dance aboard after the ferry had tied-up, but it was cancelled, so heavy was the damage."<sup>10</sup>

These were years of turmoil for the commuter transportation industry in the San Francisco Bay Area. Marin County ferry and commuter railroad service

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had ended. The Southern Pacific interurban electric railways went over the Bay Bridge as of Jan. 14, 1939, and connected to the new Trans-Bay Passenger Terminal. The Ferry Building began a slow decline which was offset temporarily by the business of taking passengers to see the Golden Gate International Exposition on man-made Treasure Island.

Eureka was then repainted and taken over by NWP's parent company Southern Pacific Co., which continued to operate her between the Ferry Building and the Oakland Mole where she connected with mainline railroad trains. Passengers and baggage were taken on board Eureka for the final leg to San Francisco. "With only the mainline trains to meet, and with American railroads steadily losing ground to the airlines, the business of these ferries was not overwhelming. Tourists, sightseers and nostalgic Bay Area residents sometimes went on the boats just for the ride....Use of the remaining ferryboats declined as rapidly as did the use of railroads for mass transportation."<sup>11</sup> Therefore, when Eureka's crankpin snapped on Feb. 10, 1957, she was towed to dock and not put back into service. The ferry San Leandro brought an era to a close when she made the final trans-bay ferry run on July 10, 1958.

Eureka's story did not end, however, for even as ferry service ended, "the tradition will survive. Southern Pacific has given its side-wheel walking-beam boat Eureka to the San Francisco Maritime Museum, and the one-time queen of the bay ferryboats will take her place beside the windjammers in the Museum's planned Aquatic Park display, a piece of living history preserved for our grandchildren's children."<sup>12</sup>

After a three-year restoration Eureka was deeded to the California State Park system which opened her for display in 1963 as part of the San Francisco Maritime State Historic Park. A collection of antique automobiles from her years of service graced her lower deck. Visitors could walk her decks, visit her engine room, and see her in the millieu of a ferry pier, for she was moored with a collection of historic vessels as a pier that was once operated as a Sausalito ferry terminal by Golden Gate Ferries, Ltd.

In 1977 Eureka and the rest of the historic ships were transferred to the National Park Service, where they remain on display as part of the important resources of ships, artifacts, and library collections known as the National Maritime Museum, San Francisco.

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**FOOTNOTES**

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1. Bob Whittier, Paddle Wheel Steamers and their Giant Engines. (Duxbury, Massachusetts: Seamaster Boats, Inc. 1983) p. 3
2. Conversation with Norman R. Brouwer, Historian, South Street Seaport, New York, New York. August 9 1984.
3. Conversation with Robert M. Vogel, Head, Engineering and Technology, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. January 3, 1984
4. Harre W. Demoro, Electric Railway Pioneer: Commuting on the North-western Pacific, 1903-1941. (Glendale, California: Interurban Press, 1983) p. 1

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1. Southern Pacific Railroad Bulletin, November, 1908.
2. Marin Journal, November 28, 1890.
3. Marin Journal, January 15, 1891.
4. George H. Harlan, San Francisco Bay Ferryboats. (Berkeley, California: Howell-North Books, 1967) p. 137
5. Northwestern Pacific Railroad Headlight, July, 1920, p. 8
6. Demoro, p. 53
7. Harlan p. 49
8. San Rafael Independent Journal, n.d. [clipping in the files of the National Maritime Museum, San Francisco]
9. Demoro p. 63
11. Harlan p. 119

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12. Southern Pacific Railroad Bulletin November, 1908



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## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 0 5 5 0 9 4 0 4 1 8 4 6 1 0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the on-shore end of the vessel and thence extending entirely around Eureka at her water-line, encompassing all of the ship outlined by her maximum or extreme beam and depth of hold.

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

Stephen Haller, Park Ranger

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

June 10, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-6435

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California 94102

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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