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# **Grace Channon Shipwreck in the Vicinity of Oak Creek, Milwaukee County Placed on the State Register of Historic Places**

**Oak Creek, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Historical Society placed the *Grace Channon* Shipwreck (Vicinity of Oak Creek, Milwaukee County) on the State Register of Historic Places on May 19, 2017.

The *Grace Channon*, a canaller, was originally constructed in 1873. Canallers were a unique vessel type developed on the Great Lakes, designed to transit the Welland Canal locks while carrying the largest possible amount of cargo. These ships traveled the longest routes of any of the trades carrying grain grown in the heartlands to the eastern cities and returning with coal to fuel the development of the Midwest. Little historical documentation exists on canaller construction and operation. Much of our understanding of this type of vessel lays on the lakebed and comes from archaeological data recovered from wreck sites similar to the *Grace Channon*.

State laws protect this shipwreck. Divers may not remove artifacts or structure when visiting this site. Removing, defacing, displacing, or destroying artifacts or sites, is a crime. More information on Wisconsin's historic shipwrecks may be found by visiting Wisconsin's Great Lakes Shipwrecks website.

The State Register is Wisconsin's official list of state properties determined to be significant to Wisconsin's heritage. The State Historic Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society administers both the State Register and National Register in Wisconsin.

To learn more about the State and National Register programs in Wisconsin, visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org).

## **About Wisconsin Historical Society**

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active, and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving, and sharing stories. The Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs, and services. For more information, visit [wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org).

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