

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Kara O'Keeffe  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
E-Mail: kara.okeeffe@wisconsinhistory.org

**Thursday, August 10, 2017**

# **LOOKOUT SHIPWRECK IN MANITOWOC COUNTY LISTED IN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Two Rivers, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Historical Society has announced the listing of the *Lookout* Shipwreck in the vicinity of Two Rivers, Manitowoc County, in the National Register of Historic Places. National Register designation provides access to certain benefits, including qualification for grants and for rehabilitation income tax credits, while it does not restrict private property owners in the use of their property.

The *Lookout* is a rare example of a vessel type that was vital to Wisconsin's economy, the economy of the Midwest, and transportation infrastructure prior to the development of road and rail networks. The schooner *Lookout* was constructed in 1855, was used in the Great Lakes coal, lumber, and grain trades, and lost in 1897. Nineteenth-century wooden vessels were rarely built to drawn plans. Today, little documentation exists that illustrates how these vessels were constructed, the nuances of differing hull lines, construction techniques, and adaptations to bulk cargo needs between sailing vessel types. As one of the few remaining pre-Civil War built schooners in Wisconsin waters, data gathered on *Lookout* has significantly added to the understanding of Great Lakes schooner construction. Most of the *Lookout's* hull components are present within the wreck site, and the site retains excellent archaeological integrity. Sites such as *Lookout* present a rare opportunity to study and learn about historic wooden vessel construction, and the ways these ships were used in the grain, coal, and lumber trades. Her wreck site was forgotten after a brief salvage in 1897 and covered by sand in Lake Michigan. Only recently uncovered from the sand in the summer of 2015, she remains lightly visited.

The *Lookout* is an example of a vessel type that was vital to Wisconsin's economy and the economy of the Midwest through maritime bulk cargo transportation, an infrastructure prior to the development of road and rail networks. Before rail lines were constructed, vessels like the *Lookout* moved the vast majority of Midwestern corn and grain to ports on Lake Erie. On her return trip, the *Lookout* mainly carried coal cargoes that supplied the Upper Midwest with fuel for heating and industry. This trade fueled the expansion of the Grain Belt and the construction of large elevators on western Lake Michigan, some of which are still in operation today.

The register is the official national list of historic properties in America deemed worthy of preservation and is maintained by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Wisconsin Historical Society administers the program within Wisconsin. It includes sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts that are significant in national, state or local history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture.

State and federal laws protect this shipwreck. Divers may not remove artifacts or structure when visiting this shipwreck site. Removing, defacing, displacing or destroying artifacts or sites is a crime. More information on Wisconsin's historic shipwrecks may be found by visiting [www.wisconsinshipwrecks.org](http://www.wisconsinshipwrecks.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 Wisconsin Historical 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).

###