

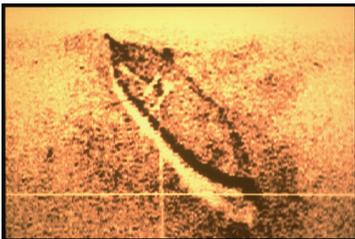
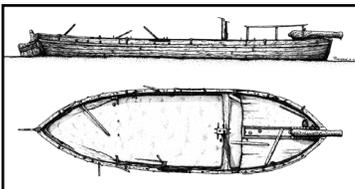


SEVEN TO SAVE

RAISING THE VISIBILITY OF LOCAL PRESERVATION CHALLENGES



Painting by Ernie Haas



In 2009, the Preservation League of New York State is using its annual listing of endangered places, Seven to Save, to support and enhance the year-long commemoration of the voyages of Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton and Samuel de Champlain.

The 2009 Seven to Save List gives voice to seven disparate sites which illustrate the heroic saga of the exploration and settlement of the Hudson and Champlain valleys.

Gunboat *Spitfire*

LOCATION:

Lake Champlain,
Clinton and Essex
Counties

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:

1776

LANDMARK STATUS:

National Register

THREAT:

Natural and human forces, including non-native aquatic species and vandalism, threaten the structural stability and archeological integrity of this site. By necessity, its location in Lake Champlain is not publicized.

HISTORY AND QUADRICENTENNIAL CONNECTION:

The *Spitfire* is more than just the most significant underwater archeological site on the bottom of Lake Champlain; it exemplifies the interconnected history of the Hudson and Champlain valleys. This vessel was part of the American fleet that held the British at bay for a year and contributed to the American victory at Saratoga in 1777. Extensive underwater video recorded by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum shows that the *Spitfire* site is entirely intact.

HOW THE LEAGUE IS HELPING:

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum believes that recovering, conserving and interpreting this vessel is the best way to preserve it. The Maritime Museum is working to finalize the management strategy for this vessel, seeking permits from the United States Navy, Naval Historical Center, as owner of the *Spitfire*.

A concern is that side-scan sonar now widely available could lead to the location of this resource by those who wish to exploit its artifacts.

The Preservation League will bring attention to the site's significance through this Seven to Save listing, highlight the historic value of the *Spitfire*, and help generate public support for its preservation and associated fundraising efforts.

The Preservation League is a statewide not-for-profit organization based in Albany.
For more information, please visit www.preservenys.org