NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION REPORT

***Deluge* (Firefighting Tug)**
National Historic Landmark

National Historic Landmark designation withdrawn by the Secretary of the Interior, December 11, 2023.

Designated:
June 30, 1989

Location:
Mississippi River, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Owner:
Russell M. Nilson
Address Unknown

SHPO Contact:
Nicole Hobson-Morris, Deputy SHPO
Office of Cultural Development
Division of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Significance of the Landmark:
Put into service in 1923, the *Deluge*, also known as the Firefighting Tug *Deluge*, was one of the few remaining fireboats over 50 years old at the time of her designation as a National Historic Landmark and was considered the nation's best-preserved example of an early-20th-century fireboat. *Deluge* was also the oldest surviving fireboat associated with the Port of New Orleans. These fireboats, also known as work-a-day fireboats, were used in ports for protecting life and property, both in water and on shore. The *Deluge*'s purpose and use were nationally significant to the nation's maritime trade and commerce. The tug was retired from service in 1992.

Condition of the Landmark:
In December 2000, the Port of New Orleans sold the *Deluge* Fire Fighting Tug to Russell M. Nilson. Since then, the location and condition of the vessel is unknown. Mr. Nilson's contact information is also unknown.

Recommendation:
Due to its unknown location and condition for the past twenty-one years, it is likely the property no longer retains its historical integrity. Therefore, National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation should be withdrawn.

Justification for Withdrawing Landmark Designation:
The *Deluge* Fire Fighting Tug has ceased to meet the criteria for designation because the qualities which originally led it to be designated, have been destroyed [36 CFR 65.9 (b)(1)].



Deluge (Firefighting Tug)
Last known image
Mississippi River, New Orleans, Louisiana
Photo by Mark Anderson, 3/17/2008