

METAL FANTAIL LAUNCH  
Michigan Maritime Museum  
South Haven  
Van Buren County  
Michigan

HAER MI-407  
*MI-407*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## METAL FANTAIL LAUNCH

HAER No. MI-407

Location: Michigan Maritime Museum Collections, South Haven, Michigan

Date of Construction: Circa 1905

Rig/Type of Craft: Recreational Motor Launch

Material: Metal seamed planking with wood frames and trim

Length: 17 ft. 9-1/2 in.

Beam: 4 ft. 7-5/16 in.

Propulsion: Single-cylinder Palmer inboard gasoline engine

Builder: Unknown, described as a "Detroitist"

Present Owner: Michigan Maritime Museum

Present Use: Museum Artifact

Significance: Typical of launch designs in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, this boat is unique in its construction technique using metal seamed planking over oak ribs and keel. The individual stamped planks are crimped over each other to form a watertight seal. This Fantail steel launch with mahogany trim was built c. 1905 and was described on its watercraft registration as a 'Detroitist'. It was powered by a 1 cylinder Palmer inboard engine. The boat was used on Reed's Lake and in the Grand Rapids, MI area. The boat was *Donated by Meredith Dawson Arguopoulos in memory of Robert Dawson.*

Historian: Michigan Maritime Museum