

MERACO SPEEDSTER SQUARE STERN CANOE  
(Arrowhead Canoe)  
Michigan Maritime Museum  
South Haven  
Van Buren County  
Michigan

HAER MI-408  
*MI-408*

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

MERACO SPEEDSTER SQUARE STERN CANOE  
(ARROWHEAD CANOE)

HAER No. MI-408

Location: Michigan Maritime Museum Collections, South Haven, Michigan

Date of Construction: 1927

Rig/Type of Craft: Recreational Motor Canoe

Length: 16 ft. 11 in.

Beam: 3 ft. 5 in.

Material: Canvas covered wood plank and frame

Propulsion: Gasoline outboard motor or paddle

Builder: St. Louis Meamec Canoe Co.

Present Owner: Michigan Maritime Museum

Present Use: Museum Artifact

Significance: This St. Louis Arrowhead Canoe has a square stern for outboard motor use and it embodies characteristics of both powered runabout and canoe. Compared to a canoe, the increased beam, stability and option to motor or paddle made this a popular boat for back country camp supply. The sides of the canoe have built-out sponsons (balsa wood flotation strips) molded into the design and covered with canvas decking. The center thwart and two seat supports were added later. The original owner, John Frost and family, used the canoe in Burt and Mullet Lakes from 1927 – 1998. The next owner, Skip Gibson, restored the vessel.

Historian: Michigan Maritime Museum

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This Arrowhead canoe is constructed of cedar planking over bent oak frames. The frames are spaced 4 in. on center and consist of flat strips of 2-1/4 in. x 5/16 in. Half ribs are also located 4 in. on center and are 7/8 in. x 5/16 in. flat strips. Planking is 3-3/4 in. x 5/32 in. The inside thwart dimension is 35-1/8 in. with a maximum exterior beam of 41 in. The sponson wood makes up the difference. The transom is 1 in. thick. The bow is decked and is adorned with a small oak coaming. There are three thwart beams and two caned seats. The center thwart and seats were later additions. The boat has a two-toned paint scheme of blue and buff.