

GIL SMITH BB CATBOAT LORELEI  
Long Island Maritime Museum  
West Sayville  
Suffolk  
New York

HAER NY-342  
*HAER NY-342*

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

GIL SMITH BB CLASS CATBOAT "LORALEI"

HAER No. NY-342

Location: Long Island Maritime Museum, West Sayville, Suffolk County, New York

Date of Construction: 1915

Rig/Type of Craft: Gaff-rigged Centerboard Catboat

Trade: Sailing Yacht, Racing

Material: Wood

Length: 24 ft. 11-1/2 in. (overall) / 20ft. 3-1/2in. (waterline)

Beam: 6 ft. 9 in. Draft: 1ft. 10-1/2 in. (centerboard up)

Propulsion: Sail

Builder: Gilbert M. (Gil) Smith

Present Owner: Long Island Maritime Museum

Present Use: Museum Artifact

Significance: Gil Smith of Patchogue, NY was one of the most prolific boat designers and builders on Long Island, perhaps crafting more than four hundred small boats from 1876 to 1936. Primarily building shallow draft centerboard catboats, Gil Smith developed designs that were especially well-suited to the Great South Bay. The boats were of light construction, and had elegant shapes with "tumblehome" in the stern. *Loralei* represents one of the finest catboats designed and built by Smith. For more information see the Masters Thesis by Daria Elizabeth Merwin, GILBERT M. SMITH, MASTER BOATBUILDER OF LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, 2000. (Texas A&M Univ. Anthropology)

Historian: The information for this report was compiled by Todd A. Croteau in 2009.

Materials:

The boat was built of wood using the following species:

Keel/Deadwood – long-leaf yellow pine

Frames – white oak

Sheer Plank/Clamps – old growth long-leaf yellow pine

Planking – Port Orford cedar

Ceiling Planks - cedar

Centerboard Trunk/Transom/Posts – black locust

Centerboard – long-leaf yellow pine

Decking – strip-laid Port Orford cedar bounded by covering boards of wild black cherry (King Planks were wild cherry)

Cockpit Framing – old growth long-leaf yellow pine

Interior Trim/Coaming – wild cherry

Spars – Douglas fir (hollow mast)

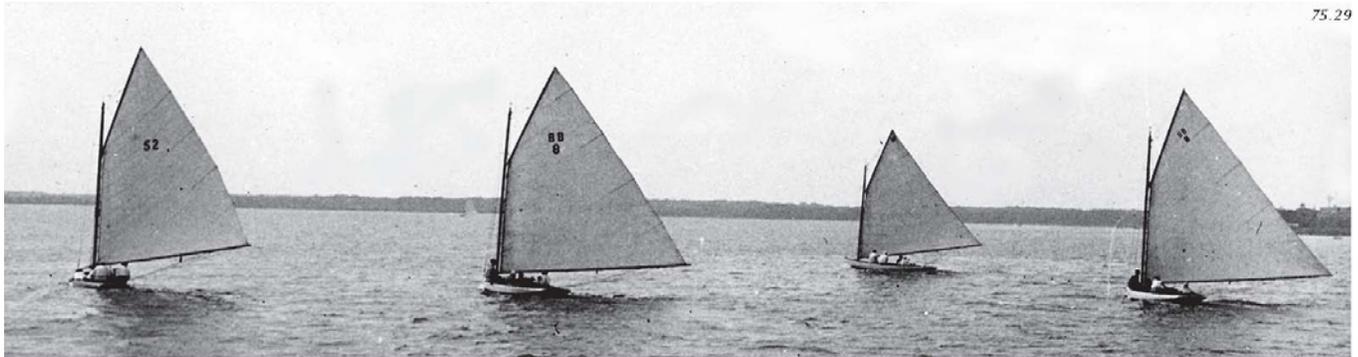


Figure 1: BB Class Catboats under sail. Date and Photographer are unknown. Courtesy of Long Island Maritime Museum.