



Front - Title/Description

Sport

The tug Sport, one of the nation's earliest steel-hulled vessels, was built for lumber and steel entrepreneur Eber Brock Ward in 1873 by the Wyandotte Iron Ship Building Works in Wyandotte, Michigan. For forty-seven years the tug towed, salvaged, and aided vessels in distress. Frank E. Kirby designed the tug and later became a nationally known naval architect recognized for designing large, elegant sidewheel passenger steamers and ice-breaking car ferries, such as Chief Wawatam. In 1913 Sport was purchased by Captain Robert Thompson of Port Huron.

Back - Title/Description

Sport

Sport's final voyage began on the afternoon of December 13, 1920, when it departed Port Huron bound for Harbor Beach. The tug fought heavy seas and by 6:00 p.m. was taking on more water than the pumps could handle. Near Lexington, the seasick fire-tender crawled to his bunk. The unattended fire died, the boat lost steam, and the pumps quit. The six-man crew abandoned ship in a lifeboat around 11:00 p.m. when waves crashed over the deck. The crew washed ashore near Lexington, cold and exhausted but alive. Sport sank and was not discovered until 1987.

Significant Date:

Two World Wars and the Depression (1915-1945)

Registry Year: 1992 **Erected Date:** 1992

Marker Location

Address: 3 Miles offshore of Lexington in Lake Huron

City: Lexington

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Sanilac

Township: Lexington

Lat: 43.27214300 / **Long:** -82.52127100

Web URL: