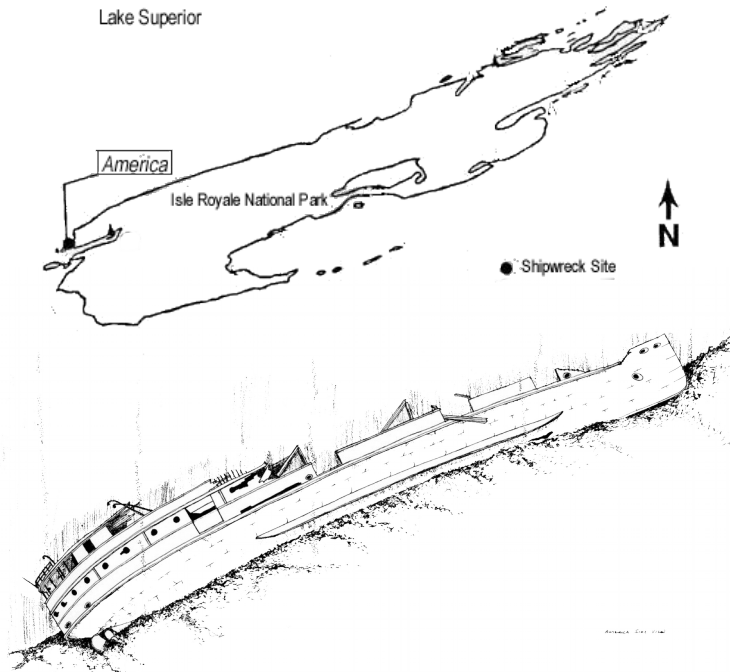


America

Passenger/Package Freighter

Learn More About Diving at Isle Royale: <http://www.nps.gov/isro/planyourvisit/scuba-diving.htm>



Vessel History

Launched: April 2, 1898 at Detroit Dry Dock Company

Dimensions: Originally 164.6 feet long, later lengthened to 182.6 feet (1910-11), 31 feet in breadth, and 11 feet in depth

Livelihood: *America* was built to act as an excursion vessel between Michigan ports and Chicago. During this time, as many as 1,200 excursionists would be aboard. In 1902, *America* was purchased by the Booth Company and was moved to Lake Superior. The vessel now moved from Duluth, Minnesota, Isle Royale, to Thunder Bay, Ontario. The vessel was known for its friendly captains and prowess in the fog.

Loss: June 7, 1928, *America* had dropped off passengers at Washington Harbor, on the southwest side of Isle Royale. Captain Edward Smith turned the wheel over to first mate John Wick, who was new to *America's* crew and Isle Royale. Heading outbound of Washington Harbor, Wick clipped the vessel on a reef; luckily the engineer was able to ground the vessel in the North Gap. Captain Smith had five lifeboats launched and everyone, save one pet dog, was able to get off *America* before it sank.

Fate: The vessel was not fully salvaged due to the oncoming Depression years. There had been multiple attempts to salvage, and eventually raise *America*, however none of these were successful. This is the most popular dive site at Isle Royale. It is possible to see the affects of natural site transformation processes. Ice shove affects shallower parts of the vessel.



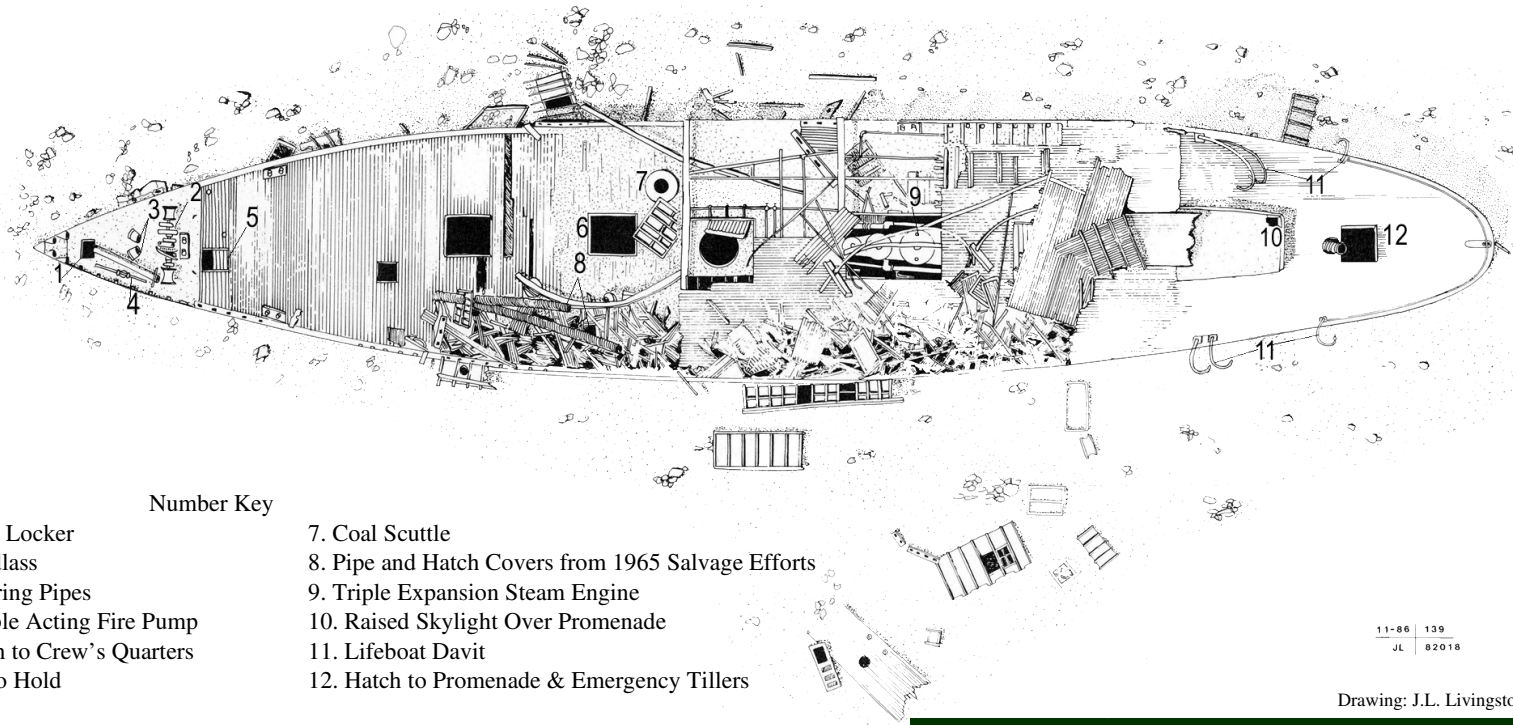
GPS Coordinates: 47°53'39"N and 89°13'15"W

Depth: 2-80+ feet

Skill level: Beginner—Advanced

America

Archaeological Site Plan



Number Key

- 1.Chain Locker
- 2. Windlass
- 3. Mooring Pipes
- 4. Double Acting Fire Pump
- 5. Hatch to Crew's Quarters
- 6. Cargo Hold
- 7. Coal Scuttle
- 8. Pipe and Hatch Covers from 1965 Salvage Efforts
- 9. Triple Expansion Steam Engine
- 10. Raised Skylight Over Promenade
- 11. Lifeboat Davit
- 12. Hatch to Promenade & Emergency Tillers

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Drawing: J.L. Livingston

Take Only Pictures — Leave Only Bubbles