



## NHL Executive Summary



**Name of Property:** *Deluge* (Firefighting Tug) NHL (withdrawal of designation)

**City, State:** New Orleans, Louisiana

**Period of Significance:** 1923-1969

**NHL Criteria:** 1 and 4

**NHL Theme:** V. Developing the American Economy  
3. transportation and communication

**Previous Recognition:** none known

**National Historic Context:** XII. Business  
L. Shipping and Transportation

### NHL Significance:

- Constructed in 1923, *Deluge* was considered the nation's best-preserved example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century fireboat.
- Work-a-day fireboats like *Deluge* were an indispensable part of port activities, protecting life and property, both on the water and ashore. *Deluge* had a nationally significant role in contributing to the nation's maritime trade and commerce.



**Integrity:**

- In December 2000, the Port of New Orleans sold the *Deluge* Firefighting Tug to Russel M. Nilson. Since then, the location and condition of the vessel is unknown.
- Due to its unknown location and condition for the past twenty-one years, it is likely the property no longer retains its historical integrity.
- The *Deluge* Firefighting Tug has ceased to meet the criteria for designation because the qualities which originally led it to be designated, have been destroyed [36 CFR 65.9 (b)(1)].

**Owner of Property:** Russel M. Nilson (at the time of the sale of the ship in 2000)

**Acreage of Property:** Less than 1 acre

**Origins of Nomination:** The NHL Program in Interior Region 2 (legacy NPS Southeast Regional Office) was made aware of the lack of current confirmed locational and condition information about the *Deluge* Firefighting Tug. After discussions with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office and the Washington NHL Program Office it was determined that an NHL designation withdrawal report should be prepared.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** By withdrawing the NHL designation of this property which no longer meets the criteria for designation, the NPS will be demonstrating its willingness to maintain the integrity of the list of properties of exceptional national significance in the nation's history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Public Comments (received as of August 21, 2023):** None.

**Landmarks Committee Comments:** Committee had no substantial comments.

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the withdrawal of the National Historic Landmark designation for *Deluge* Firefighting Tug in New Orleans, Louisiana, because the property has lost its historical integrity and the qualities which originally led it to be designated as an NHL.

**Advisory Board Recommendation:** The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the withdrawal of the National Historic Landmark designation for *Deluge* Firefighting Tug in New Orleans, Louisiana.