
Processed by: Maritime Research Center, Historic Documents Department (Bailey), Apr 2016.
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Building E, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
Phone: 415-561-7030
Fax: 415-556-3540
SAFR_Historic_Documents@nps.gov
URL: http://www.nps.gov/safr
2016
A Guide to the Stephens Marine, Inc. product information

HDC1747

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

2016, National Park Service

Title: Stephens Marine, Inc. product information
Date: 1958, 1960, 1964
Identifier/Call Number: HDC1747 (SAFR 24683)
Creator: Stephens Brothers Boat Builders and Designers (Stockton, CA)
Physical Description: 10 items.
Repository: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Historic Documents Department
Building E, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
Abstract: Stephens Marine, Inc. product information (HDC1747 SAFR24683) consists of items that advertise the various craft designed and built primarily by the Stephens family including the 38’ Farallone Clipper (1958), the 36’ Flush Deck (1960) and the Figure Five II (1964). There is also a photograph of an unidentified yacht underway. The collection is available for research use.
Physical Location: San Francisco Maritime NHP, Historic Documents Department
Language(s): In English
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Item description], [Location within collection organization identified by Collection Number/Series Number/File Unit Number/Item Number], HDC1747 (SAFR 24683), Stephens Marine, Inc. product information, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Acquisition Information
SAFR-02364
The collection was found in the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park’s library and accessioned into the archival collection in 2015.
Historical or Biographical Note
Stephens Brothers Boat Builders and Designers Company (Stephens Bros.) was an American family-run boat yard. Their boat building firm in Stockton, California operated from 1902 to 1987. It began in the backyard of brothers Theodore (Thod, 1882-1933) and Robert (Roy, 1884-1953) Stephens. Over the years, the company became famous for its elegantly designed pleasure craft, including sailboats, speedboats, cruisers and private yachts. Roy Stephens took over after Theodore died. Before and during World War II, the yard built boats for the military. At the end of World War II, Roy retired and turned the company over to his nephews, Theo, Barre and Dick Stephens. The yard again contracted with the military during the Korean War and the beginning of Cold War hostilities in 1953. In 1960, the brothers sold the company to the Wrather Corporation, headed by entertainment industry mogul and Stephens Bros. boat collector, Jack Wrather, and the company name was changed to Stephens Marine, Inc. This proved to be a short-lived transaction so the brothers bought
the company back just three years later. Through the mid-1960s, the company continued to gain popularity, with more orders flowing in from the east coast. Late into the 1960s, the boat building market underwent a transformation. New materials like aluminum and fiberglass were proving to be more durable and affordable. The demand shifted from wood to these materials; Stephens Bros. launched its last wooden boat in 1974. Over time, expenses rose and the market slowed. Stephens Bros. was no longer financially viable, and closed down in the spring of 1987.


Collection Scope and Content
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Collection Arrangement
10 items in one folder.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Small craft
Stephens Bros. Boats (Stockton, Calif.)
Brochures
Promotional materials
Boatbuilding
Design and construction