F.H. PRINCE Site Plan

- Metal coil piles
- Keel & keelsons
- Starboard hogging strap
- Metal strapping (only the largest straps are plotted)
- Port hogging strap
- Part of pin rail
- Futtocks (ribs)
- Upper deck planking
- Bilge keelsons
- Boiler supports
- Boiler saddles
- Bilge ceiling
- Shaft log
- Rudder shoe
- Connecting rod
- Cylinder
- Crank shaft
- ENGINE WORKS
- Upper deck planking

Guides to Lake Erie's Historic Shipwrecks OHSU-GS-020
F.H. Prince

Propeller steamer; used as a package freighter (1890-1910) converted to a sand dredge (1910-1911)
Official Vessel No. 120797

Sank: August 8, 1911
Depth: 5 to 18 feet
Location: 41°36.240'N, 82°40.520'W (DGPS)
East side of Kelleys Island, Ohio in Lake Erie
(0.5 mile offshore from Municipal Airport)
State of Ohio Archaeological Site: No. 33ER496

BUILT: Wyandotte, Michigan in 1890 by Detroit Dry Dock Company (Wyandotte hull no. 102) for Rutland Transit Company; rebuilt as sand dredge in 1910.

SPECIFICATIONS: 240' length x 42' breadth of beam x 23' depth of hold; 2,047 gross and 1,548 net tons; wood hull; fore and aft compound engine. Metal straps were used to reinforce the interior of the hull.

CARGO: Sand and gravel.

CAUSE OF WRECK: Ruptured engine room machinery caught fire during routine sand dredge operation; captain intentionally ran vessel aground east of Kelleys Island; high winds continued as ship burned. Steamer sand suckers Albert Y. Gowen, Clinton, Mary H., and Protector attempted to save the F.H. Prince by pumping water on her; the heavily damaged bow prevented the vessel from being moved. On August 14 fire again swept across her destroying what remained above the waterline.

LOSS: Vessel and cargo valued at $50,000; crew salvaged some materials, other items lost to theft; insurance abandoned to underwriters. No lives lost.

SITE: Rocky bottom, depth 5' to 18'; framing and planking timbers; metal straps used to reinforce interior of hull; machinery at stern. Engine and boilers removed in 1914; propeller and shaft recovered by salvage company and now on display at Neil Shrock Towing & Salvage, Inc., Marblehead, Ohio.