

# Avalon Deconstruction Report

Gig Harbor BoatShop

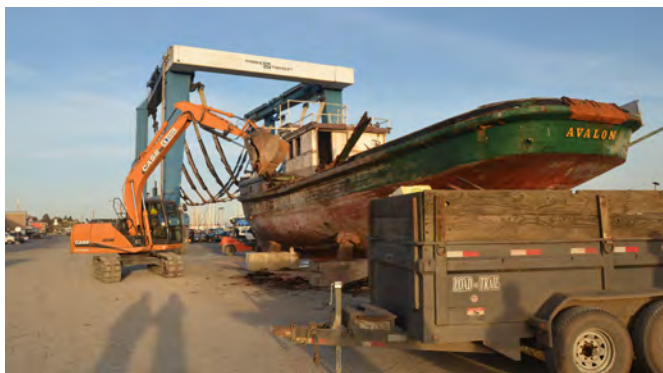
March 15, 2015

## March 3 & 4, 2015

- Members of the Port Townsend Shipwright's Co-op (PTSC) on March 3 and 4 removed *Avalon's*: mast, boom and rigging; the forward face of the wheelhouse, all wheelhouse windows and doors, and misc hardware.
- On the afternoon of March 4, 2015 the Port of Port Townsend moved the *Avalon* from the storage yard to the large-haulout washdown pad and blocked the vessel upright.
- Two tracked excavators were positioned on-site by PTSC in preparation for the March 5 deconstruction.
- Gig Harbor BoatShop (GHB) director Guy Hoppen and BoatShop volunteer David Gaffney were onsite the afternoon of March 4 to assess potential *Avalon* artifacts and to consult with PTSC members Tim Lee and Martin Mills regarding recovery of identified objects and the plan for deconstruction the following day.
- Jack Becker, who GHB contracted with to document *Avalon* shape and construction details, was onsite March 4. Guy Hoppen, Tim Lee and Jack Becker identified vessel construction details, that when exposed by deconstruction, would be collected by Jack for vessel documentation drawings.



Avalon staged for deconstruction 3/4/2015



Avalon deconstruction begins 0700 3/5/2015

## March 5, 2015

- Avalon deconstruction commenced at 0700 March 5, 2015 at Port of Port Townsend on the large-haulout washdown pad.



Avalon on large-washdown pad, Port Townsend, WA. 3/5/2015

- Deconstruction was halted periodically to allow for Jack Becker and Tim Lee to gather construction details, primarily from Avalon's backbone – stem, forefoot, keel, sternpost, horn timber, rim timber, and stern lifts.



Jack Becker retrieving Avalon construction details 3/5/2015

- Throughout the day GHB's Hoppen and Co-op members Lee and Mills identified potential artifacts and placed them aside.



Avalon hardware 3/5/2105



Avalon - afternoon 3/5/2015 Port Townsend, WA



Avalon – backbone, late afternoon 3/5/2015 Port Townsend, WA

- By mid afternoon 3/5/2015 Avalon deconstruction crew is near finished deconstructing vessel hull, deck and deckhouse.
- Final cleanup completed by end of 3/5/2015. Small artifacts moved to secure location. Larger artifacts consolidated in east portion of large vessel storage are.

### **Avalon Condition**

**Deck and House** - Avalon, from the deckline up to the top of the deckhouse and wheelhouse, was in poor condition. A generous amount of wood rot was found in the decking and house. Serious structural damage incurred from the sinking and salvage process to the deckhouse and wheelhouse.

**Hardware, Deck Gear, and Vessel Accoutrements** – Avalon had been stripped of near everything of value, including near all bronze hardware and notably the cast bronze Skansie Ship Building Co. nameplate and ship's wheel. Approximately 30 artifacts were recovered.

**Hull – Topsides, Bottom and Structure, frames, backbone, sister keels, etc.** – Surprisingly the Avalon, from the sheer line down was in remarkably good condition for an 84 year old vessel. Many of the fastenings inspected were near new in appearance, including stern lift drifts, planking boat nails and garboard spikes. The bent oak frames were largely in good condition, the sawn fir frames aft were in good condition and most hull planking was in fair condition. The deck beams were in fair condition. The backbone, including sister keels, engine beds, stem, rim timber, horn timber, sternpost and stern lifts were all in remarkably good condition.

Report drafted by:

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