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Skanska USA Reveals Details of Shipwreck Discovery at its 121 Seaport Project Site
Developer Unlocks a Piece of Boston's History at Construction Site for New 17-story Office Tower

BOSTON – Development and construction firm [Skanska USA](#) and the City of Boston announced the conclusion of an archeological investigation into the remains of a shipwrecked vessel discovered during excavation at the site of Skanska's 121 Seaport development, a 17-story, 400,000-square-foot Class-A office building with two floors of retail currently under construction in Boston's Seaport District.

During normal excavation operations at the site, a Skanska employee noticed an unexpected structure believed to be the outline of a boat hull. Recognizing its potential significance, the company halted construction and contacted the City of Boston archaeologist, Joe Bagley, the Massachusetts Historic Commission and The Public Archaeology Laboratory to conduct an investigation of the ship's potential historic significance.

A team of seven archaeologists including the Public Archaeology Laboratory, City Archaeology Program, nautical archaeologists, and archaeologists with the State of Massachusetts convened at the site to document the shipwreck. The team found:

- The 121 Seaport ship was wooden, about 50 feet long, and built sometime between the late 18th and mid-19th century. It had at least two masts.
- It held a large cargo of wooden barrels that contained lime, possibly from the Rockland area of Maine. The team found several dozen barrels of lime, suggesting the entire bottom of the ship was covered with lime barrels.
- The ship contained two knives, two forks, and a stack of burned plates in the rear of the ship.
- The ship sunk sometime between 1850 and 1880. The ship itself is likely older than the date it went down. It could have been made in the late 1700s or early 1800s.
- Most of the wood is charred, suggesting that the ship burned because when lime gets wet it reacts to produce heat, which can cause fires. The team was unable to determine if the 121 Seaport ship burned causing it to sink, if it was deliberately scuttled in the low-lying mudflats when the fire started, or if it ran aground and then burned.
- Due to age and severe deterioration of the wood due to the fire, removing the remains of the ship from the site in one piece is highly unlikely.

“We are so thankful to Skanska for voluntarily stopping construction to investigate this amazing find. We truly appreciate the opportunity to study the ship’s historical significance,” said Joe Bagley, the City of Boston archaeologist. “We almost never get this kind of opportunity.”

“We’ve enjoyed working closely with the talented team of archaeologists in their search for more information about the ship. Skanska strives to be open and transparent, and we want to respect the communities where we develop and build. That means respecting their history,” said Shawn Hurley, president and CEO of Skanska USA Commercial Development. “We are highly invested in Boston and believe its history is part of what makes it so special. It is fascinating to unlock some of that history while building the city’s future.”

With the completion of the archaeological investigation and excavation, Skanska will resume construction activities. The company is committed to preserving as much of the deteriorated ship in its ongoing construction excavation process. The company hired an independent consultant, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, which will continue to work with the city to conduct additional research on the ship and compile a report expected later this summer.

121 Seaport joins Skanska’s two additional Seaport developments - [101 Seaport](#), a 17-story, 440,000-square-foot office tower with 20,000-square-feet of ground floor retail which is home to PwC’s new headquarters, and [Watermark Seaport](#), a 300,000-square-foot residential building with ground floor retail that opened in early 2016 and is currently leasing. The three towers make up Boston’s most sustainable block and will connect Boston’s historic Fort Point neighborhood to its contemporary Seaport District with a specific design and vision which will bring convenient amenities to the neighborhood and exciting activity for the area’s residents, workers and visitors to enjoy when completed.

Skanska USA Commercial Development invests in and develops customer-focused, highly sustainable office and multi-family properties in Boston, Houston, Seattle and Washington, D.C. Since 2009, Skanska has invested approximately \$1.5 billion in nearly a dozen projects in its select markets. Skanska self-finances the majority of its projects and serves as the construction manager. The group has developed projects for clients such as Brooks Sports, PwC and Tommy Bahama. Each Skanska USA Commercial Development project aims to achieve a minimum LEED® Gold certification.

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This and previous releases can also be found at www.usa.skanska.com.

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water/wastewater, healthcare, education, sports, data centers, life sciences, aviation and commercial. Headquartered in New York with offices in 31 metro areas, we have nearly 11,000 employees committed to being leaders in safety, project execution, sustainability, ethics and people development. In 2015, our work in building construction, civil and power/industrial construction, commercial development and infrastructure development (public-private partnerships) generated \$7.1 billion in revenue. Global revenue of parent company Skanska AB, headquartered in Stockholm and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, totaled \$18.4 billion in 2015. Skanska shares are publicly traded in the U.S. on the OTC market under the symbol SKBSY through a Level I American Depository Receipt program.

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121 Seaport Facts

Ideally located at the corner of Seaport Boulevard and East Service Road, 121 Seaport's unique design is carefully choreographed to promote innovation and collaboration, and increase employee productivity in the workplace. This new highly sustainable building, which is targeting LEED® Platinum certification, will feature a number of amenities and open spaces that will further transform the neighborhood into a 24/7 live, work, play destination.

The highly sustainable building will employ a 40,000-gallon tank rainwater reuse system, reducing its water use by approximately 30 percent. The building will also include a highly-efficient chilled-beam mechanical system, which was first pioneered in Boston at Skanska's 101 Seaport. The system circulates water rather than air for building cooling, significantly reducing energy usage.

121 Seaport's floor plates will be virtually column-free, creating more flexible workspaces that offer tenants the ability to customize their space to accommodate business growth over time and meet the specific needs of employees wanting private or open collaborative spaces. Elevated 10-foot ceiling heights coupled with high-performance vision glass will provide plenty of natural daylight deep into the building's office spaces while simultaneously offering views of Boston Harbor and the Financial District. Additional amenities include outdoor terraces on the third floor rooftops as well as a private, tenant-only fitness center that provides employees the opportunity to conveniently exercise before, during or after work.

The three-story lobby, with its ultra-clear vision glass, will face Seaport Square Green and Boston Harbor while the entrance will open to Harbor Way, an expansive 70-foot-wide pedestrian retail promenade with approximately 15,000-square feet of tree-lined open space at the building's base.

The building's location is immediately adjacent to the MBTA's Silver Line and within short walking distance to South Station. It also offers 230 bike parking spaces and 270 underground parking spaces with close proximity to I-93 and I-90.