

U.S. Brig *Niagara* Specifications

Niagara is a squared-rigged, two-masted warship originally armed with eighteen carronades and two long guns. On the berthing deck were sleeping quarters for the officers and crew, storerooms, sail bin, and a wood stove. Magazines for shot and gunpowder were stored in the hold below deck.

Sparred Length - 198 feet

Hull Length (along rail cap) - 123 feet

Hull Length (at load water line - 110 feet, 8 inches

Molded Beam - 32 feet

Draft at Sternpost - 10 feet, 6 inches

Displacement - 297 long tons

Tons Burthen (old measure) - 492 60/95 tons

Mast Heights (above water line)

Foremast - 113 feet, 4 inches

Mainmast - 118 feet, 4 inches

Armament (1813)

18 /32 Pound Carronades

2 /12 Pound Long Guns

Armament (1998)

4 /32 Pound Carronades

Crew (1813)

155 Officers and Men

Crew (1998)

40 Officers and Sailors

20 Professional 20 Volunteers

Boats

2 Cutters, 1 Yawl Boat

After the War of 1812, *Niagara* was scuttled in Misery Bay within Erie Harbor. In 1913, the wreck of *Niagara* was brought up, and a ship was reconstructed upon her keel and a few other salvageable timbers.

Between 1933 and 1943, another complete reconstruction took place with the ship being placed on a permanent cradle out of the water. Masts and rigging were installed in 1963. By the mid 1980's, time had again taken its toll against the ship. The *Niagara* was closed to the public due to severe deterioration. In 1988, ship builder Melbourne Smith built a fourth *Niagara*. The present *Niagara* incorporates some original timber in non-structural areas.

The *Niagara* incorporates a few original 1813 timbers that restorers were able to recover from the 1913 and 1933 restorations. The present reconstructions primarily treated pine framing and Douglas fir planking. A partial list of materials used in this restoration includes:

- Keel, Keelson, and Frames - Laminated yellow pine
- Hull Planking - Douglas fir and Southern yellow pine
- Deck Planking - Douglas fir
- Masts and Yards - Douglas fir and Southern yellow pine
- Sails - 'Duradon' synthetic fiber resembling canvas
- Rigging - (standing) Steel wire (running) Manila, dacron and polyester