

UNIT NUMBER: 78005 or 78007

**NORTH WEST**  
*NORTH-WEST, NORTHWEST*

**AREA OF SERVICE:** SASKATCHEWAN RIVER (1882-1897)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Stern wheeler, two decks, square stern, carval build (F.41/2 fo. 82)

Designer and builder: John Irish, Moorhead, for Peter McArthur, Spring 1881, for \$27,000.00

Dimensions: Length - 200'; width - 33'; hold - 4.5'

Draft:

Number of passengers: 80 berths      Number of crew:

Plans:

Power: two horizontal non-condensing engines, Pioneer Iron Works, LaCrosse, WI (F.41/2 fo. 82)

Registered:

Tonnage: 305 Tons

**HISTORY:**

- 1881 Built for Peter McArthur, eight trips (McCarthy; F.41/7 fos. 7-9)
- 1882, 15 March Sold to North-West Navigation Company, towed by *Princess* to Grand Rapids (*ibid.*)
- 1882 season Repaired, owned by Winnipeg & North Western Transportation Company, made three trips for HBC before winter (*ibid.*; F.41/2 fo. 74b-80)
- 1883 Had an accident at Victoria Rapids, repaired at Grand Rapids, beached at Cumberland House (*ibid.*)
- 1884, 16 April Bought by Winnipeg & Western Transportation Co. (F.41/2 fo. 82)
- 1884, July Certificates of Safety issued at Grand Rapids (F.41/2 fo. 90, 91)
- 1885 season Served in Riel Rebellion, damaged on shoal, repaired at Prince Albert (McCarthy)
- 1886 season Made three trips between The Pas, Prince Albert, Victoria, Grand Rapids (F.40/5, 6; F.41/2 fo. 92)
- 1887 season Made four trips between Prince Albert, Grand Rapids, Edmonton and Victoria (F.40/2a Vol. 1, F.40/4 fos. 1-42; F.40/5, 6; SF: "Ships - "North West")
- 1888 season Made four trips between Grand Rapids, Prince Albert, Edmonton and Victoria (F.40/2a Vol. 2, F.40/4 fos. 43-63; F.40/5, 6; SF: "Ships - "North West")
- 1889 season Made one trip between Cumberland, Grand Rapids, freight by York Boat to Prince Albert (F.40/4 fos. 64-66; F.40/5)
- 1890 season Made two trips between Cumberland, Grand Rapids, Edmonton (F.40/2b; F.40/5; F.40/4 fos. 64-77; F.40/6)
- 1892 season Made two trips between Prince Albert and Grand Rapids (F.40/3 pp. 10-13; F.40/4 fos. 78-95; F.40/5, 6; F.41/2 fos. 95-97 inventory)
- 1893 season Made four trips stopping Fort Pitt, The Pas, Grand Rapids, Prince Albert etc. (F.40/1 pp. 23-61; F.40/3 pp. 16-17; F.40/4 fos. 96-122; F.40/5, 6)
- 1894 season Made three trips stopping Fort Pitt, The Pas, Grand Rapids, Prince Albert etc. (F.40/1 pp. 62-104; F.40/3 pp. 18-23; F.40/4 fos. 123-148; F.40/5, 6)
- 1895 season Laid up (F.36/1 fo. 251)
- 1896 season Repaired, made two trips between Prince Albert & Edmonton (F.36/1 fo. 251; F.40/7-9)
- 1897 season Made three trips between Prince Albert, Edmonton, Victoria, then laid up (F.36/1 fo. 255; F.40/7-14)
- 1898 Advertised for sale (F.41/10 fo. 384)
- 1899 Completely destroyed by Edmonton flood, flotsam seen at Saddle Lake (Wickenden; Corr. R.W. Hendriks, 1998)
- 1900 Attempts to salvage and sell parts of "wreck" (F.41/10 fo. 403); boilers lifted from the North Saskatchewan at Edmonton, hauled by wagon to Victoria Settlement near Smoky Lake (AB) to power a saw-mill, then used to heat the new Smoky Lake Hospital (Corr. R.W. Hendriks, 1998)

**MASTERS:** See Reverse Side

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** See Reverse Side

**PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART:** See Reverse Side

**REFERENCES:**

- F.40/1-14 Books and Logs, 1882-1897
- F.41/2 fos. 73-97 Shipping Papers, 1882-1892
- F.41/7 fos.7-9 Memos, Earnings of Steamer, 1881

**MICROFILM REELS:**



**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Archie Ballantine, *Saskatchewan History*, Vol. VIII No. 3 (Autumn 1965), Memoirs on his Service with the Prince Albert Volunteers and as a Watchman on the *North West*);  
Martha McCarthy, "Steamboats in Manitoba, 1859-96", unpublished manuscript, Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Recreation, Historic Resources Branch (Winnipeg, 1986);  
Bruce Peel, "First Steamboats on the Saskatchewan", *The Beaver*, Autumn, 1964, pp. 16-21;  
Bruce Peel, *Steamboats on the Saskatchewan*, Saskatoon: Prairie Books, 1972;  
Nick Wickenden, "North West and Minnow, Two Steamboats on the Saskatchewan", *Alberta Historical Review* (Winter 1957)

**PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART:**

1987/363-N-19/1-4 (1881-1884) and others

**MASTERS:**

1882	H. Cup. Colk (?), Master	(F.41/2 fo. 78)
1883-1888	James Sheets, Master	(F.40/4 fos. 1-63; F.41/2 fo. 86, 91, 94d)
1889, 1890	John Mackenzie Smith, Master	(F.40/4 fos. 64-77)
1892-1894	Julius Dougal, Master	(F.40/4 fos. 78-148)
1897	Peter Smith, Captain	(F.40/11 p. 45)

**CLERKS:**

1886	C.M. Clarke, Clerk	(F.40/5)
1887	W.R. Talbot, Clerk	(F.40/4 fo. 1)
1888-1897	Richard S. McGinn, Clerk	(F.40/4 fo. 43; F.40/6)
1897	Richard S. McGinn, Manager	(Corresp. Hendricks, 1996/06)



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