



# THE ARK BOAT

Chesapeake Fishing Shanty Conservancy

*Promoting Education & Cultural  
Awareness through Preservation*

visit us:

[www.fishingshanty.org](http://www.fishingshanty.org)

Our shanty boat is undergoing restoration for the purpose of preservation.

Also known as 'ark' boats, they were towed by skipjacks, which were used for oyster dredging. The shanties were towed out to the shallow shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay and served as overnight housing sometimes staying out for weeks during the different fishing seasons. From the late 1800's to around the mid 1950's the skipjacks and shanty boats were ever present on the Bay, tributaries and shorelines. Both the skipjack and the shanty boats fell out of favor as the fishing workboats were outfitted with engines which enabled watermen to return to port each night with their daily catch.

This shanty boat was discovered in 1988 in a thicket of tall reeds on the harbor by the new owner of what was once Captain Carter's property. His house is now the Black Duck Inn. The estimated build age of the shanty is early 1900's.

In 2021 a 501 (c) (3) was formed to restore and preserve the shanty boat to ultimately promote cultural awareness and maintain a tangible part of Rock Hall's heritage for future generations. The plan is to make the shanty boat mobile via a trailer for transport throughout the region to various venues for educational purposes.

Volunteers are welcomed - visit [fishingshanty.org](http://fishingshanty.org).

*All donations are greatly  
appreciated.*

