

Types of Ships built in Summerside

The ships built on Prince Edward Island were designed according to their proposed use. Most ships served in coastal trading, fisheries, seal hunt, and for trade around the world.

Each ship is given a descriptive label according to its rigging, instead of the body shape or design. Rigging comprised of two types, Schooner Rig (or Fore & Aft) meaning the sails run lengthwise from the front to the back of the ship, or a Square Rig, where the sails run across the width of the ship.

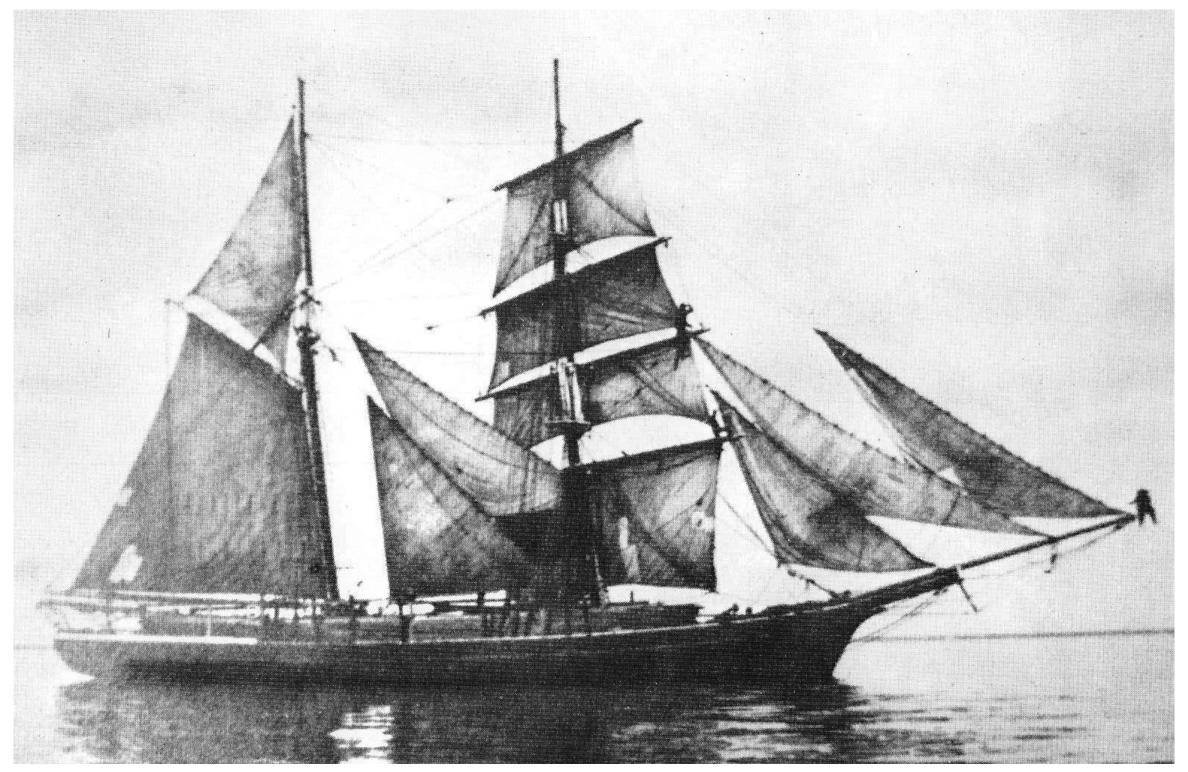
The ABCs of Ships

Barque: A ship with three or more masts with fore and aft sails on the after mast and square sails on all other masts. This term is not limited to a vessel of specific weight and size.

Barquentine: A vessel with three or more masts with square sails on the foremast, and fore and aft sails on the main and after masts. The tonnage usually ranges between 250 and 500 tons.

Brig: A vessel with two masts with square sails on each.

Brigantine: Is a two-masted vessel with square sails on the fore mast and fore and aft sails on the main mast. The term is not limited to a vessel of specific construction or size, however tonnage usually ranges from 100 to 250 tons.



Alfred Brigantine

Schooner: A sailing ship that uses fore and aft sails on two or more masts. Some schooners could have six or seven masts depending on the size of the ship and the volume of cargo. The three-masted schooner was the most popular design in the Maritimes.

Ship: Is the largest sailing vessel with three or more masts with square sails on each. A ship usually is over 500 tons.

Sloop: A vessel with a single mast, fore and aft rigged and under twenty-five tons.



Shipbuilding factors

The quality of a ship depended on three factors - the designs or model, the skill of the master shipwright and the workmen, and the materials used in its construction.