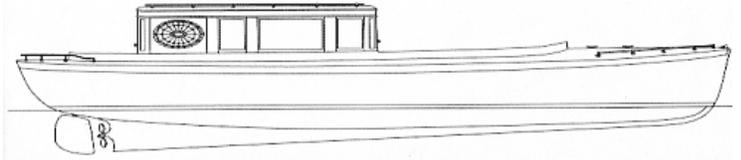


A **Ferncliff** boat, now found in Newport, Rhode Island:



Fawan

was built for **John Jacob Astor IV** for use at his Ferncliff estate on the Hudson River. She is a unique and extremely rare 40' canoe stern aft cabin launch built in 1911 (launched July 14, 1911). Her beauty and period details exude the character and charm of the "Golden Age." Her house and interior are Honduras mahogany with ebony and holly inlays and is adorned with beveled glass windows and three remarkable leaded glass spider web design windows. The cabin features a leaded glass breakfront with icebox below. Her purpose was for excursions up and down the Hudson, visiting the many neighboring estates and to ferry the owners to their steam yachts.

In September of 1911, the recently divorced John Jacob "Jack" Astor IV, wed Madeleine Talmadge Force. After their wedding at Beechwood in Newport, RI, the newlyweds departed for Ferncliff aboard their 262 foot steam yacht, *Noma* (right, built in 1902). Presumably, the *Fawan* would have brought them ashore from the anchorage out in the Hudson. Sadly, one of their next trips at sea, did not have such a happy ending... as on their return from a trip to Europe and Egypt in April 1912, Jack and Madeleine were sailing on the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*. Jack was lost, however Madeleine and their future son, John Jacob Astor VI survived. Ferncliff and the *Fawan* were inherited by Astor's first born son, Vincent.



In 1928, *Fawan* was discovered in a boathouse on Sebago Lake, Maine on the estate of Thomas A. Lamb. She was purchased by Mr. Clarence O. Case and kept on Sebago Lake until 1944 when it is believed a member of the Thurston family took her to Portland, Maine. From the late 1950s through 1990, *Fawan* was enjoyed by the family of Robert Roode in Newburyport, Massachusetts. For the last decade, she was owned by two couples on Seneca Lake in New York's Finger Lakes. *Fawan* was purchased in 2003 by Bob and Elizabeth Tiedemann and brought to Newport, RI, where she has undergone a major structural restoration. Today the *Fawan* is part of the Tiedemann Collection of Historic, Antique and Classic Yachts available for charter. *Some information and wording contained here is from the Seascopes Yacht Charter web site.* Contact: Seascopes Yacht Charters | www.seascopenewport.com

The *Fawan*, and the larger touring boat *Utopian*, used to be housed in a lovely wooden boathouse built down the hill from Astor Courts. It was designed by McKim, Mead and White and constructed in the late 19th Century for John Jacob Astor IV who had inherited the property in 1892 on the death of his father, William Backhouse Astor, Jr.

Drawing and plans of this boathouse building exist, plus one known photo showing both boats. This photo is in the collection of the late Brooke Astor at her Holly Hill home in Braircliff Manor, New York, where it still hangs today. All that remains on the Hudson are projections out from the shoreline, see GoogleEarth photo.

