



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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White Oak Lumber Needed to Bring *Mayflower II* Home to Plymouth Waterfront

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Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts—Plimoth Plantation announced today an appeal for white oak lumber to help repair *Mayflower II*, the full-scale reproduction of the *Mayflower* that sailed to Plymouth in 1620. The Museum

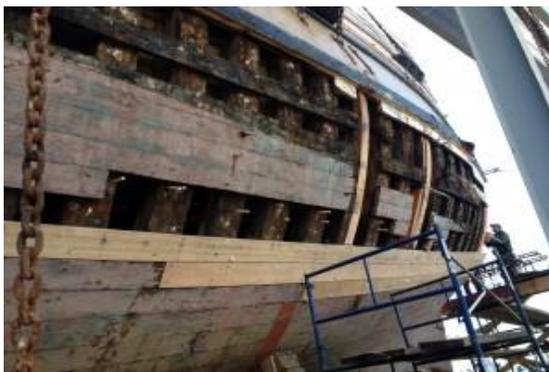


hopes to promote an awareness of this need and to receive help in locating sources for these materials. *Mayflower II* is currently undergoing extensive repairs at dry dock in Fairhaven, Massachusetts at the Fairhaven Shipyard, and needs frames and planks replaced to make her seaworthy. These repairs are critical to the iconic ship's

return to her berth on the Plymouth, MA waterfront where she is a popular living history exhibit of Plimoth Plantation.

The 56 year-old wooden sailing ship requires very specific and often difficult to find wood to complete her repairs. The oak trees being sought are around 100 feet tall, over 4 feet in diameter and clear of any knots. "This wood doesn't come from typical commercial sources," said Peter Arenstam, the ship's captain and manager of Plimoth Plantation's Maritime Artisans program. "We are looking for very specific trees that need to be the right age, size and even have the proper bend."

The white oak is being sought to replace *Mayflower II*'s planks and frames. The final lumber for the planks will measure 24 inches by 30 feet and be 3.5 inches thick. The frame stock will measure 24 inches by 10 feet and be 8 inches



Wampanoag Homesite



Mayflower II



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thick. “These pieces are very long and must have no defects, making them not only extremely heavy, but very difficult to find,” according to Arenstam.

The Museum emphasizes that the sourcing of wood materials for *Mayflower II* must be carried out in a selective, environmentally-responsible way. All leads will be carefully considered to meet very specific requirements that will ensure the most effective use of resources. Reusing white oak trees that fell as a result of this past winter's storms would be ideal for this project. The Museum plans to implement a tree planting program to replace any trees which may be taken down to complete the ship's repairs.

Plimoth Plantation is making an appeal for white oak lumber or trees that would meet the specific requirements for creating frames and planks for *Mayflower II*.



The Museum is asking to be contacted at whiteoak@plimoth.org or by calling Sarah Macdonald at 508-746-1622, Ext. 8206.

This current work is part of a seven-year \$2 million restoration project for the historic vessel. A dedicated Web page has been set up, providing updates on the restoration effort and information on how to offer support—the “Save Our Ship” page is www.plimoth.org/SOS.

“*Mayflower II* has such a vital role in history, in education and in Massachusetts’ tourism economy. She is relevant in many ways to millions of people and she needs our collective support now,” said Ellie Donovan, Executive Director of Plimoth Plantation. “The public has shown

enormous interest in the progress being made with repairing the ship and they’re eager for her to come back. In that spirit, we are reaching out for help in locating the materials needed to ensure her timely return.”

To view a video highlighting the *Mayflower II* restoration, visit: <http://boatinglocal.com/news/repairing-the-mayflower-ii.html>

About Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and a 17th-century living history museum dedicated to telling the history of Plymouth Colony from the perspective of both the Pilgrims and the Native Wampanoag. Located less than an hour’s drive south of Boston in Plymouth, Massachusetts (Exit 4, Route 3

south) and 15 minutes north of Cape Cod, the Museum is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm, 7 days a week, from March 16 through December 1, 2013. Plimoth Plantation is a private, not-for-profit educational institution supported by admission fees, contributions, memberships and revenue from a variety of educational programs/dining/special events and Museum Shops. Plimoth Plantation is a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate and receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, private foundations, corporations and local businesses. For more information visit www.plimoth.org