



## *Iris*, 1899

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A plant of the genus *Iris*, with sword-shaped leaves and variously colored flowers.

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Builder: Neafie & Levy, Philadelphia

Length: 153'

Beam: 30' 1"

Draft: 13' 4"

Displacement: 606 tons

Cost: \$84,406.76

Commissioned: 18 December 1899

Decommissioned: 21 June 1934

Disposition: Sold

Machinery: Steam engine; coal-fired boiler; single propeller; 800 IHP

Performance & Endurance:

Max:

Cruising:

Deck Gear:

Complement: 21 (1907)

Armament: None

Electronics: None

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### **History:**

*Iris* was originally built as the private steamer SS Plymouth in 1897. She was purchased by the Lighthouse Service for use as an engineering tender in the 4th Lighthouse District. She was based out of Philadelphia. She was decommissioned and sold on 21 June 1934. Her new owners renamed her *Big Chief*. She saw service with both the Army and Navy during World War II. After the war she was given a diesel engine and was renamed once again, this time to *B. O. Colonna*. She operated as a fishing vessel until she was scrapped in 1973.

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### **Sources:**

Douglas Peterson. *United States Lighthouse Service Tenders, 1840-1939*. Annapolis: Eastwind Publishing, 2000.

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