

Schooner Western Union Timeline

1939 April 7	Schooner Western Union launched off Simonton Beach Worked maintaining cables for the Western Union Company
1973	Left cable service to become an excursion vessel in Florida, the Eastern Seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico
1976 July 4	Participated in New York Bicentennial OPSAIL
1980 April	Participated in the Mariel Boat Lift
1984 May 16	WU added to the US National Register of Historic Places Served as a training vessel for troubled youths in the Vision Quest National Ltd. from Philadelphia program and was renamed the New Way
1986 September 23	USCG Stability Letter issued
1997	HTA purchased the vessel and renamed it the Western Union
1997 August 5	SWU designated as the Flagship of the City of Key West
2003	HTA operated SWU as a passenger carrying vessel
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2006 November 27	SWUPS was established as a 501(c)(3) corporation
2007	HTA operated SWU as a passenger carrying vessel
2007 October 22	SWU donated to SWUPS by HTA
2007 November 13	SWU Survey by Florida Keys Marine Surveyors David Ghidoni
2007 December	USCG Certification expired
2007 December	SWU halts sailing operations
2007 March	Loan for \$200,000 was taken out from First State Bank to begin the restoration
2008	Marine Surveyor report
2008 June	\$300,000 of repairs completed at Merrill Stevens Boatyard Miami
2008 July 3	USCG Certificate of Inspection issued for 1 year of sailing
2008 July 4	SWU restarts sailing operations
2008 September	Grant Award of \$405,000 from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council (TDC)
2008 September 17	City Commission Resolution approving haul out at Truman Annex
2009 February 2	Phase 1 restoration work schedule established
2009 April 15	SWU hauled out and placed on the Truman Annex seawall
2009 April 2	Ship Mortgage for \$300,000 from the Historic Florida Keys Foundation (HFKF)
2009 December 15	SWU scheduled to be off the Truman Annex sea wall

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2010	An additional loan for \$230,000 from First State bank was taken out to complete the work
2010 June 30	SWU in the water and off the seawall at Truman Annex after 14 months
2010 October 15	USCG Hull Exam approved
2010 December 14	SWU Rigging Inspection by Mark Perkins Marine Surveyor
2011 February 28	USCG approved SWU to resume passenger sailings.
2011 April 9	Official SWU Restoration Launch Day in Key West
2011 April	SWU begins carrying passengers again
2012 January 17	SWUPS 501(c)(3) reinstated
2012 January 29	SWUPS assumed all vessel operations of the schooner from HTA
2012 February 8	SWUPS transitioned sales and marketing from HTA to Momentum
2012 July	Gov. Scott signs the legislation designating the WU as the State Flagship SWUPS operated SWU as a passenger carrying vessel
2013 July 30	Final sailing day due to USCG haulout and inspection requirements
2013 January	After reducing the principal from \$430,000 to \$249,000 the First State Bank loans were refinanced by HTA at more favorable interest rates and terms