

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