

NS Savannah: First Nuclear-Powered Cargo / Passenger Ship

Hugh MacDonald

NS Savannah, the world's first nuclear-powered cargo-passenger ship, was launched on July 21, 1959, at the height of the Cold War. She was commissioned by the U.S. government as part of President Eisenhower's *Atoms for Peace* program to demonstrate the safe and peaceful use of nuclear power and its potential for commercial shipping.

Equipped with a compact nuclear reactor that powered the propulsion system, the ship was also equipped with a range of features technologically advanced for its time – including air conditioning, refrigeration, and a desalination plant.

Despite making a powerful impression on the public, NS Savannah had a short operational life. Nuclear powered commercial ships did not displace conventional vessels.

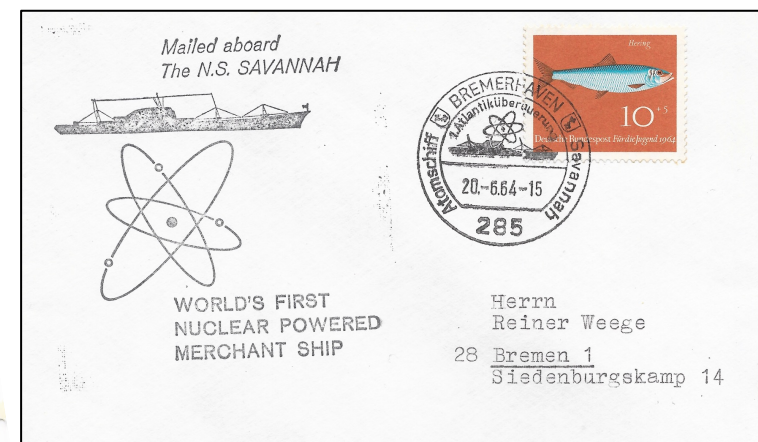
The high cost of fuel and the complex regulations, training and staffing involved in the the operation of marine nuclear power could not compete with the economics of oil-fired steam plants – especially in the 1960s.

NS Savannah was retired from service in 1970 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

For more information visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NS_Savannah



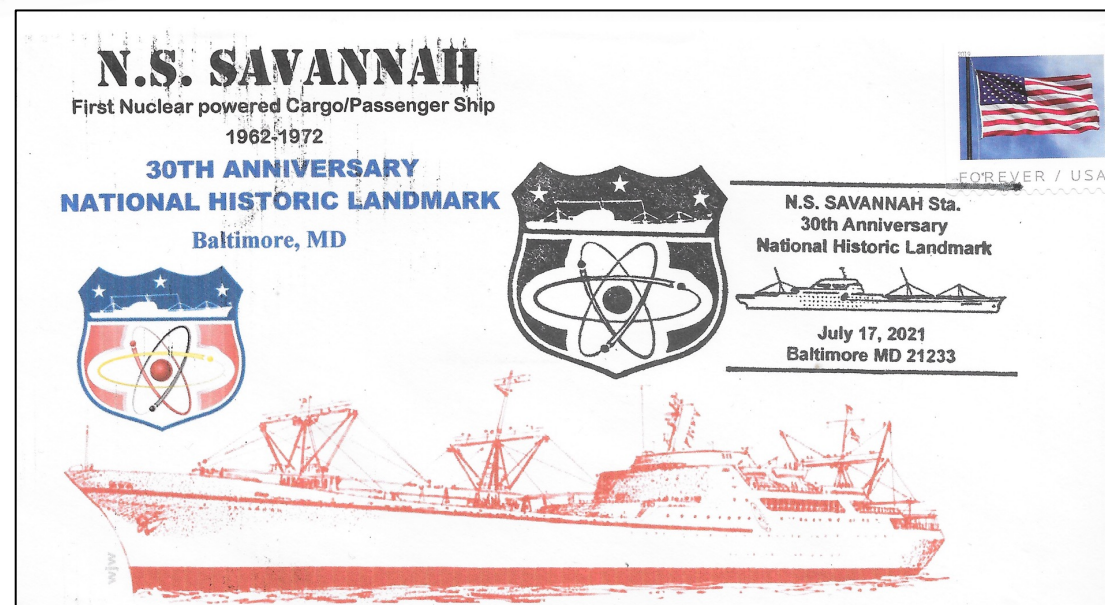
N. S. Savannah, in the Savannah River



Top l-r: FDC commemorating the launch of NS Savannah. (Shown at 85%); Chrome Postcard NS Savannah. (Shown at 80%)

Middle Row l-r: Panama Scott 890 - May 12, 1965, NS Savannah. (Shown at 180%); Ship cancel from NS Savannah docked at Bremerhaven on June 20, 1964, West Germany Scott 302. (Shown at 60%); Last Day in Office Cover / Dwight Eisenhower. (Shown at 80%) Atoms for Peace and NS Savannah are included in the cachet among his accomplishments.

Left: FDC commemorating the 30th anniversary of NS Savannah's designation as a National Historic Landmark. (Shown at 85%)



Exhibitor contact: hugh.macd@me.com