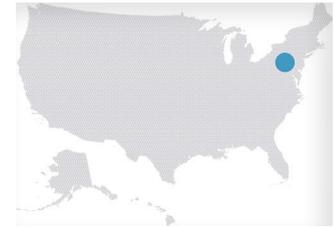






The Budd BB-1 Pioneer



Location Philadelphia, USA

Environment Outdoor

Source of information Joseph May: Travel for Aircraft

Leonardo Da Vinci made very convincing early drawings of prototype flying machines. Man's fascination with the idea of machines which would enable him to fly like a bird continued in various forms until the Wright Brothers became the first to complete a powered flight, at Kittyhawk, in 1903. But the fascination did not stop there – in fact it was only the beginning of an incredible journey which took man from a landmark first flight of 37 meters at a speed of 10.9 km/hr in 1903 to the supersonic Concorde, which flew for the first time in March 1969 and was capable of flying from London To New York at Mach 2.04 (twice the speed of sound, or 2180 km/hr). Anyone visiting the Aerospace Museum at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington will be well rewarded by an extensive exhibition depicting the history of flight. But there are examples everywhere of models and art-work devoted to the history of this incredible achievement. At the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia there is a rare Budd BB-1 Pioneer sea-plane on display in the front grounds. The Budd Company's unique characteristic is a construction design which used stainless steel. As an amphibious seaplane it was important to the designers to use a highly corrosion resistant material, noting that the aircraft would be operating from a sea-base. The design is inspired by Savoia-Marchetti as well as Sikorsky seaplanes. Power was provided by a 210 horsepower, 5-cylinder, Kinner C-5 radial reciprocating engine, mounted on the top wing. The Pioneer first flew in 1931 and was relegated to display status in 1934 at the Franklin Institute which is also in the Budd Company's home town of Philadelphia PA.

Pictures courtesy of Joseph May: Travel for Aircraft. <https://travelforaircraft.wordpress.com>