

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic USS The Sullivans (DD-537)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1 Naval Cove Park _____ not for publication

city, town Buffalo _____ vicinity of

state New York code 36 county Erie code 029

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Servicemen's Park

street & number 1 Naval Cove Park

city, town Buffalo _____ vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of the Navy

street & number Naval Sea Systems Command

city, town Washington state DC 20362

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

USS The Sullivans (DD-537) is a World War II Fletcher class destroyer. She was built by the Bethlehem Steel Company in San Francisco, California. She was launched April 4, 1943, and was commissioned September 30, 1943.

As the United States in World War II built more Fletcher class destroyers than any other, this class is particularly significant and played a major role in our nation's victory at sea. This class was the first to break with design practices that had developed as a result of the London Treaty of 1930. Fletcher class destroyers were flush deckers with two funnels and five 5-inch guns. They were larger in size than any previous class of destroyers and when fully loaded carried the fuel, ammunition, and stores needed for extensive sea duty in the Pacific. Their larger size enabled them to employ their 5-inch guns in enclosed mounts. They had 10 torpedo tubes in two quintuple banks, depth charges, and large batteries of antiaircraft guns.

Specific ship data concerning USS The Sullivans is:

Length Overall: 376 feet

Beam: 40 feet

Design Displacement: 2,325 tons

Full Load Displacement: 2,924 tons

Boilers: 4-Babcock & Wilcox

Turbines: 2-shaft General Electric

Fuel Oil capacity: 492 tons

Maximum Speed: 35 knots

Armament: Five 5-inch/35 caliber guns, 10 torpedo tubes, depth charges, and various combinations of antiaircraft guns.

Crew: 273 wartime

USS The Sullivans was modernized in the 1950s to meet the changing conditions of naval warfare. One 5-inch gun and both quintuple banks of torpedo tubes were removed. Six deck-mounted torpedo tubes, loaded with modern Mark 44 torpedoes were installed. USS The Sullivans is in good condition and retains much of her World War II integrity. The interior spaces of USS The Sullivans are not open to the public, at this time, because of the presence of asbestos fibers. As soon as the asbestos fibers are removed the interior of the ship will be restored and opened to the public.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| prehistoric | archeology-prehistoric | community planning | landscape architecture | religion |
| 1400-1499 | archeology-historic | conservation | law | science |
| 1500-1599 | agriculture | economics | literature | sculpture |
| 1600-1699 | architecture | education | X military | social |
| 1700-1799 | art | engineering | music | humanitarian |
| 1800-1899 | commerce | exploration settlement | philosophy | theater |
| X 1900- | communications | industry | politics government | transportation |
| | | invention | | other (specify) |

Specific dates 1943-1945

Builder/Architect Bethlehem Steel Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

General Statement: The role of the Destroyer in World War II

The destroyer had its origin in the late-19th century with the development of the first self-propelled torpedo. Navies quickly developed small fast torpedo boats designed to attack and sink larger battleships and cruisers. As a counter against torpedo boats, navies built a slightly larger ship, armed with torpedoes and heavier guns. These 900-ton ships were known as torpedo boat destroyers. World War I showed these ships suited to protecting larger ships against surface, submarine, and air attack. Also, they proved more effective offensively than torpedo boats, and assumed the attack role. By the end of World War I, they were simply known as "destroyers."¹

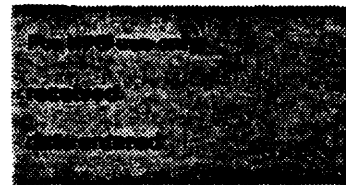
The destroyer during World War II continued in this role as an all-purpose ship ready to fight off attacks from the air, on the surface, or from below the sea. They could be called upon to give fire support to troops, deliver mail and people to other ships, rescue pilots who had been forced down at sea, and to serve as the distant early warning eyes of the fleet in hostile waters.² Destroyers did not have the glamour of a battleship or an aircraft carrier but without them the aircraft carrier and battleship would be helpless against enemy submarines. They were all-purpose ships whose support of general fleet operations was vital. No aircraft carrier or battleship ever proceeded into enemy waters without an escort of destroyers.

USS The Sullivans represents American destroyers that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

1. USS The Sullivans is a World War II Fletcher class destroyer. The Fletcher class was the largest and most important class of U.S. destroyers to serve in the war. The Fletcher class formed the backbone of U.S. destroyer forces in World War II.
2. USS The Sullivans was named after the five Sullivan brothers who were killed when USS Juneau was lost in action in mid-November 1942.
3. USS The Sullivans served with distinction in World War II. From 1943 until 1945 USS The Sullivans took part in some of the most intense combat in the Pacific. USS The Sullivans earned 9 battle stars for her World War II service.
4. USS The Sullivans is in good condition and retains much of her World War II integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

1

FOOTNOTES

1. No author. USS Kidd (Information Brochure) March 1984.
2. Judd Scott Harmon, The USS Cassin Young (DD-793) (Missoula, Montana: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1985), p. 8.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chesnau, Roger. Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships 1922-1946. New York: Mayflower Books, 1980.

Harmon, Judd Scott. The USS Cassin Young (DD-793). Missoula, Montana: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1985.

No author, USS Kidd (Information Brochure) March 1984.

Preston, Anthony. Destroyers. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1977.

Schofield, William G. Destroyers--60 Years. New York: Randy McNally & Company, 1962.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Buffalo SE

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 17 6732810 474881610
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harry A. Butowsky

organization National Park Service

date May 1985

street & number Division of History

telephone (202) 343-8168

city or town Washington

state DC 20013-7127

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration