

**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 Cassin Young (DD-793)

and or common

2. Location

street & number Charlestown Navy Yard not for publication

city, town Boston vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

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

4. Owner of Property

name United States Navy

street & number

city, town Washington vicinity of state DC

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	N/A 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 Cassin Young (DD-793) is a World War II Fletcher class destroyer. She was built by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in San Pedro, California. USS Cassin Young was launched on September 12, 1943, and was commissioned on December 31, 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 smokestacks and five 5-inch guns. They were larger in size than any previous class of destroyers and when fully loaded carried sufficient fuel, ammunition, and stores needed for extensive sea duty in the Pacific. Their large size enabled them to carry their 5-inch guns in enclosed mounts, 10 torpedo tubes in two quintuple banks, depth charges, and large batteries of anti-aircraft guns.

Specific ship data concerning USS Cassin Young 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 anti-aircraft guns.

Crew: 273 wartime

USS Cassin Young was modernized in 1953 to meet the changing conditions of naval warfare. This work included upgrading her anti-aircraft guns, removal of one bank of torpedo tubes, and the addition of hedgehog depth bombs for submarine defense. USS Cassin Young is in good condition and retains much of her World War II integrity.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	social/	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates 1943-1945 Builder Architect Bethlehem Steel Corporation

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. It 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 Cassin Young represents American destroyers that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons.

1. USS Cassin Young is a World War II Fletcher Class destroyer. She is representative of the many Fletcher class destroyers built by the Boston Navy Yard immediately before and during World War II and is an example of the intense military-industrial effort on the home front that was a major reason for the American victory over Japan in World War II.
2. USS Cassin Young is named after Captain Cassin Young who was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Captain Young was killed in action in the Battle of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942, while commanding USS San Francisco.

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3. USS Cassin Young served with distinction in the Pacific during the war and earned four battle stars and a Navy Unit Commendation for her World War II service. USS Cassin Young participated extensively in the Okinawa campaign, where she was struck twice by Kamikaze attacks, including the last Kamikaze hit of World War II.
4. USS Cassin Young is in good condition and retains much of her World War II integrity.

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FOOTNOTES

1. No author. USS Kidd (Information Brochure) March 1984.
2. Scott Judd Harmon, The USS Cassin Young (DD-793) (Unpublished Manuscript, Boston National Historical Park, 1984), p. 5.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Harmon, Scott Judd. The USS Cassin Young (DD-793). Unpublished Manuscript: Boston National Historical Park, 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 Boston South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

LITM References

A

1	9	3	3	0	8	0	0	4	6	9	2	8	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A

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

state code county code

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

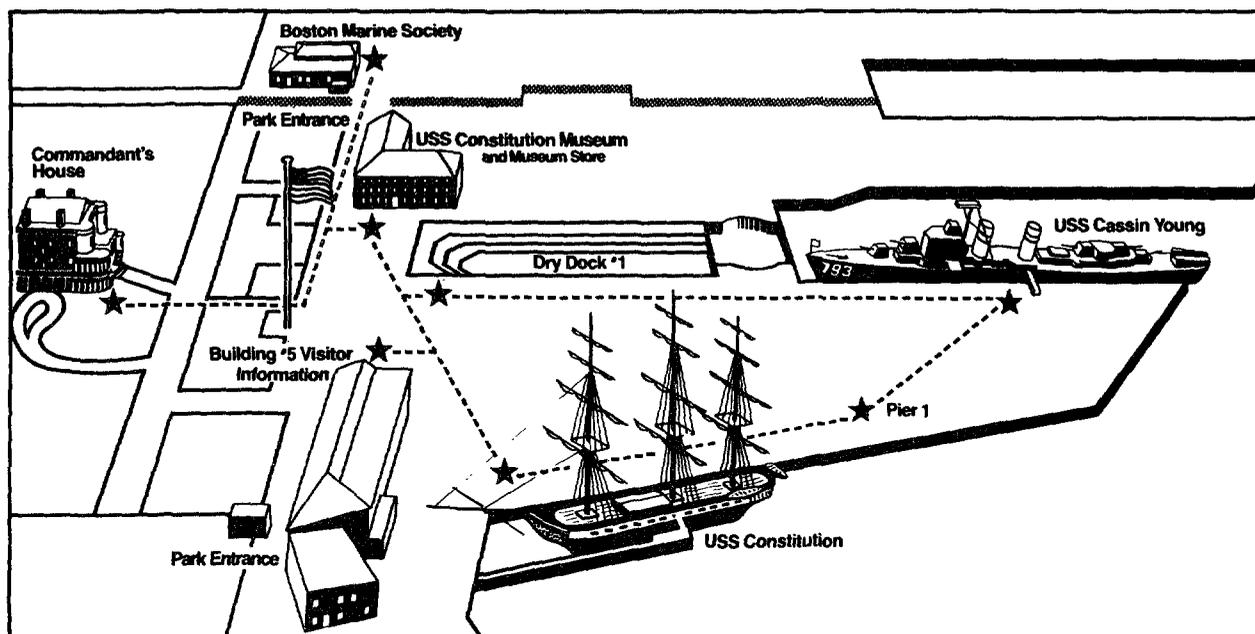
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Charlestown Navy Yard Walking Tour



To tour the Charlestown Navy Yard is to embark on a trip spanning several hundred years. Many sites and activities are available. The best place to begin this learning experience is Building #5, the Visitor Information Center.

Building #5 - Visitor Information Center

National Park Service Rangers greet you with information about the Navy Yard and other visitor activities. A ten minute introductory slide show is offered free. It's a great place to plan your tour of the Navy Yard, and it's open daily from 9-5, free.

USS Constitution

Board "Old Ironsides" and suddenly you've gone back in time to 1812, the year this indomitable warship earned her nickname. Tour the ship with her current crew and learn why this gallant ship never lost a battle. Open daily 9:30-3:50, free.

USS Constitution Museum

The ship is only half the story! Just across the pier from CONSTITUTION, this former pump-house presents the history of this famous fighting ship, with "Please Touch" exhibits and a computer-simulated 1803 ocean crossing, among others. A new exhibit "Isaac Hull: A Forgotten American Hero" offers a magnificent look at this 1812 Naval hero's glittering treasures. Open daily, admission charged. Admission to the Museum store is free.

Pier 1

Established in 1800, the Yard grew to cover 130 acres in Charlestown before it closed in 1974. Pier 1 was built in 1813 and is one of eleven such wharves in the Yard. These piers were usually busy with workers and equipment—building, repairing, and supplying ships. "Serving the Fleet" was always the goal in the Navy Yard.

USS Cassin Young

Launched in San Pedro, California in 1943, this destroyer saw plenty of action in World War II and is typical of ships built and repaired in the Navy Yard. Main deck open 9:30 - 5:00 daily (weather permitting). Ask at Building #5 about tours below deck. Free.

Dry Dock #1

One of the first dry docks in the United States, this ingenious construction has been used to repair ships since 1833. Extended twice since then to accommodate new ship types, it was used to restore both USS CASSIN YOUNG and USS CONSTITUTION.

Boston Marine Society

Founded in 1742 to provide relief for distressed mariners and their families, the Society continues this work today. In addition, the Society exhibits their collection of model ships, scrimshaw, and art objects from the four corners of the world. Located in Building 32, it's open weekdays. Admission charged.

Commandant's House

This still elegant mansion was home to Navy Commandants and their families from 1805 until 1974. The Commandants directed the work of the Navy Yard and were prominent Naval leaders. Several were Commanding Officers of USS CONSTITUTION. Inquire at Building #5 for tour information. Free.

Be Careful

Watch for uneven paving, vehicle traffic, and heavy equipment. Obey all signs. After all, they're designed with your well-being in mind.



This brochure is a cooperative effort of the USS CONSTITUTION Museum and Boston National Historical Park, National Park Service.