	tes Department o	f the Interior		
National Pa		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		or NPS use only
	-	of Historic P	laces "	eceived
	ory—Nomina		d	ate entered
	ns in How to Complete A s—complete applicable			
1. Nam	ne			
historic US	S Silversides (SS 2	36)		
and or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	South Side of Na	vy Pier		not for publication
city, town Ch	icago	vicinity of		· ·
state Illinoi:	s cod	e 17 county	Cook	code 031
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public brivate both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	park park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name Gre	eat Lakes Naval and	Maritime Museum		
street & number	P.O. Box A-3785			
city, town Chi	icago	vicinity of	state	Illinois
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descriptio	n	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	epartment of the Nav	у	
street & number	Naval Sea S	ystems Command		
city, town	Washington		state	DC 20363
6. Repi	resentation	in Existing S	Surveys	
title Nationa	al Register Invento	ay Form has this prop	erty been determined (	eligible? _vyesn
	18, 1972	J_LVI.Ш		ate county loca
depository for su		1 Dawk Sourcian		
		al Park Service		DC 20013-7127
city, town Was	hington		state	

War in the Pacific Ship Study Federal Agency Nomination

NPS Form 10-900 (3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

## 7. Description

Condition	deteriorated	Check one	Check one
X excellent		X unaltered	N/A original site
good fair	ruins unexposed	altered	. moyed da

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

USS <u>Silversides</u>, (SS 236), was launched at Mare Island Naval Yard, California, on August 28, 1941. She is a fleet-type submarine (built to maintain fleet speeds averaging 17 knots) of the <u>Gato</u> (<u>Drum</u>) class. USS <u>Silversides</u> has all-welded construction, all-electric drive, all diesel engines, advanced refrigeration systems, air purifiers, fresh water distillers, oceanic cruising range, and optimum crew "habitability" for her time with such conveniences as air conditioning, an ice machine, showers, and entertainment systems.<sup>1</sup>

date

USS <u>Silversides</u> is in excellent condition with most of her mechanical systems still operational. Although used as a museum exhibit under the direction of the Combined Great Lakes Navy Association USS <u>Silversides</u> is now undergoing a check of all systems with the intention of returning her to surface operation on Lake Michigan. Specific ship data concerning USS <u>Silversides</u> is:

Length: 312 feet

Width: 27 feet at the beam

Height: 60 feet keel to top of shears Mean Draft: 16 feet

Displacement: 1,525 tons surface / 2,410 tons submerged

Speed: 21 knots surface / 9 knots submerged

Test Depth: 370 feet

Complement: 72 enlisted, 8 officers

Power: Diesel-electric drive

Four 9-cylinder Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines at 1,600-hp each driving General Electric generators and electric motors for 5,400 shaft hp. 252-cell Gould storage battery.

Fuel Capacity: 116,000 gallons for cruising range of more than 10,000 miles

Armament: Ten 21-inch (diameter) torpedo tubes and stowage for 24 torpedoes (Mark 14 or Mark 18s used)

One 4-inch/.50 open mount deck gun plus various combinations of the following were used during the war: .50 caliber and .30 caliber machine guns, single 20mm gun and one 40mm gun.

Other Features: double hull construction with 19 ballast and fuel tanks located between hulls; 8 watertight compartments inside with separating bulkheads built to withstand the same pressure as the hull Navigation and Fire Control Instruments: SD radar for locating aircraft; SJ "surface search" radar for locating ships; sonar system; two periscopes, one for night attacks and navigation with ranging radar on the end and one smaller daylight attack scope; target bearing transmitter (TBT) binocular system for night surface attacks; torpedo data computer (TDC) fire control system which automatically plots gyro angle in the torpedo from radar information, periscope observation, and sonar information.

## 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration settleme industry invention	law literature X military music	science sculpture social <sup>2</sup> humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1941-1945	Builder Architect	Mare Island	Naval Shipyard

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the conflict against Japan in World War II, the role and importance of the submarine forces of the United States cannot be overestimated. American submarines sank more than 600,000 tons of enemy warships and more than 5,000,000 tons of merchant shipping, thus destroying much of Japan's ocean commerce. This was accomplished by a force that never numbered more than two percent of naval personnel engaged in the war. The American submarine war against Japan created a blockade that denied her the oil, iron ore, food, and other raw materials she needed to continue to fight. By 1945 this submarine war made it impossible for any Japanese ship to sail the ocean. Without this commerce and the raw materials it supplied to her war effort, Japan found it impossible to continue the war outside of the homeland.<sup>2</sup>

USS <u>Silversides</u> represents the U.S. submarine forces that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

- 1. USS <u>Silversides</u> ranks third among U.S. submarines in the war for enemy ships sunk with 23 confirmed sinkings for a total of 90,080 tons. The number one and two subs, <u>Tautog</u> and <u>Tang</u>, no longer exist. <u>Tang</u> was lost in action in the Formosa Straits in October 1944 and <u>Tautog</u> was scrapped in 1960. USS <u>Silversides</u> is thus the top ranked surviving U.S. submarine. No other surviving American submarine from World War II sank more ships.<sup>3</sup>
- 2. USS <u>Silversides</u> was commissioned on December 15, 1941, just 8 days after Pearl Harbor and saw service during the entire period of the War. USS <u>Silver-</u><u>sides</u> made 14 war patrols during this period of time. She was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for 4 patrols, and received 12 battle stars for her World War II service.
- 3. USS <u>Silversides</u> was made famous for an emergency appendectomy operation while submerged in enemy waters. The operation was a success and the sick crewman was back to regular duties six days later. This incident was later described in medical journals and depicted in the TV series, "Silent Service" and in the movie, "Destination Tokyo."
- 4. USS <u>Silversides</u> is in excellent condition, retains her World War II integrity and her mechanical systems are operational.

Continuation sheet

1

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

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



Page

#### FOOTNOTES

Item number

9

1. The descriptive information contained in this section was take from:

The Combined Great Lakes Navy Association, Inc. USS Silversides Information Package (Chicago, Illinois: Combined Great Lakes Navy Association, Inc., no date), pp. 1-2.

 Drew Middleton, <u>Submarine--The Ultimate Navy Weapon-Its Past</u>, Present & <u>Future</u> (Chicago, Illinois: Playboy Press, 1976), pp. 109-112.

Edwin P. Hoyt, Submarines at War--The History of the American Silent Service (New York: Stein and Day, 1983), pp. 297-298.

Richard H. O'Kane, <u>Clear the Bridge</u> (New York: Bantam Books, 1981), pp. 465-467.

3. Clay Blair, Jr, <u>Silent Victory--The U.S. Submarine War Against Japan</u> (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975), Appendix J.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blair, Clay, Jr. <u>Silent Victory-The U.S. Submarine War Against Japan</u>. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975.

Combined Great Lakes Navy Association, Inc. <u>USS Silversides Information</u> <u>Package</u>. Chicago, Illinois: Combined Great Lakes Navy Association, Inc., no date.

Farrar, William G. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory USS <u>Silver</u>sides." Benton, Illinois: Illinois Historic Landmarks Commission, 1972.

Hoyt, Edwin P. <u>Submarines at War--The History of the American Silent Service</u>. New York: Stein and Day, 1983.

Middleton, Drew. <u>Submarine--The Ultimate Naval Weapon-Its Past, Present &</u> <u>Future</u>. Chicago, Illinois: Playboy Press, 1976.

O'Kane, Richard. Clear the Bridge. New York: Bantam Books, 1981.

Roscoe, Theodore. <u>United States Submarine Operations in World War II</u>. Annapolis, Maryland: United States Naval Institute, 1965.

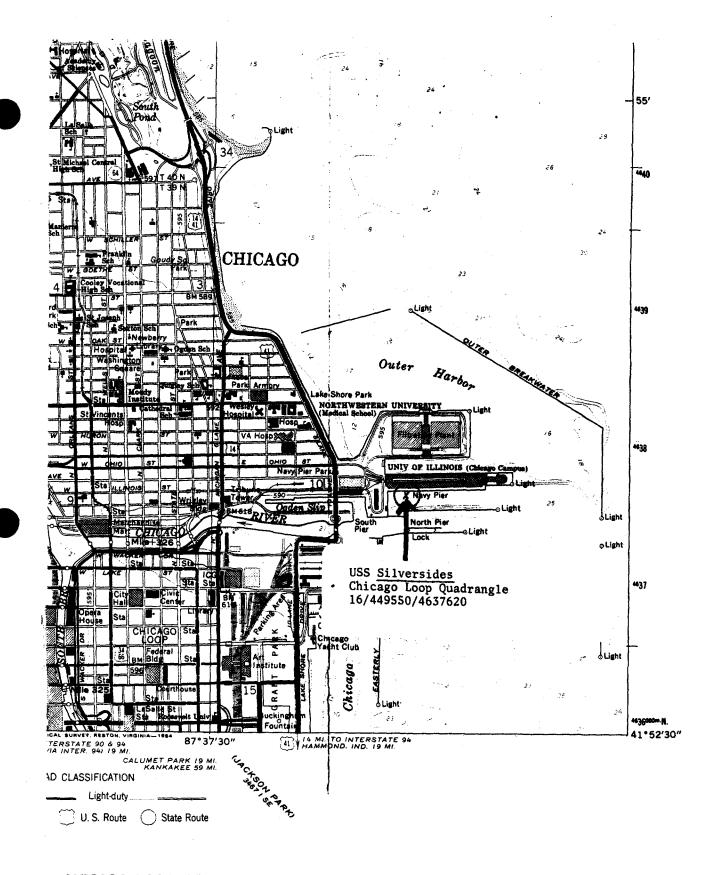
# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

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ame/title	Harry A. Butowsky				
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12. St	tate Historic	; Prese	rvatio	n Office	er Certification
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65), I hereby ccording to t	nated State Historic Preserva nominate this property for the criteria and procedures Preservation Officer signat	inclusion in the set forth by the	National Regis	ster and certify t	tion Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– hat it has been evaluated
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