

**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 Silversides (SS 236)

and or common

2. Location

street & number South Side of Navy Pier

___ not for publication

city, town Chicago

___ vicinity of

state Illinois

code 17

county Cook

code 031

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Great Lakes Naval and Maritime Museum

street & number P.O. Box A-3785

city, town Chicago

___ vicinity of

state Illinois

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 20363

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title National Register Inventory Form has this property been determined eligible? yes ___ no

date October 18, 1972 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records National Park Service

city, town Washington

state DC 20013-7127

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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	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 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.²

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

1. USS Silversides 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, Tautog and Tang, no longer exist. Tang was lost in action in the Formosa Straits in October 1944 and Tautog was scrapped in 1960. USS Silversides is thus the top ranked surviving U.S. submarine. No other surviving American submarine from World War II sank more ships.³
2. USS Silversides was commissioned on December 15, 1941, just 8 days after Pearl Harbor and saw service during the entire period of the War. USS Silversides 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 Silversides 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 Silversides is in excellent condition, retains her World War II integrity and her mechanical systems are operational.

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FOOTNOTES

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.

2. Drew Middleton, Submarine--The Ultimate Navy Weapon-Its Past, Present & Future (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, Clear the Bridge (New York: Bantam Books, 1981), pp. 465-467.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Blair, Clay, Jr. Silent Victory--The U.S. Submarine War Against Japan. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975.
- Combined Great Lakes Navy Association, Inc. USS Silversides Information Package. Chicago, Illinois: Combined Great Lakes Navy Association, Inc., no date.
- Farrar, William G. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory USS Silversides." Benton, Illinois: Illinois Historic Landmarks Commission, 1972.
- Hoyt, Edwin P. Submarines at War--The History of the American Silent Service. New York: Stein and Day, 1983.
- Middleton, Drew. Submarine--The Ultimate Naval Weapon-Its Past, Present & Future. Chicago, Illinois: Playboy Press, 1976.
- O'Kane, Richard. Clear the Bridge. New York: Bantam Books, 1981.
- Roscoe, Theodore. United States Submarine Operations in World War II. Annapolis, Maryland: United States Naval Institute, 1965.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Chicago Loop

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

116	441951510	41631761210
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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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 _____

state _____ code _____ county _____

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

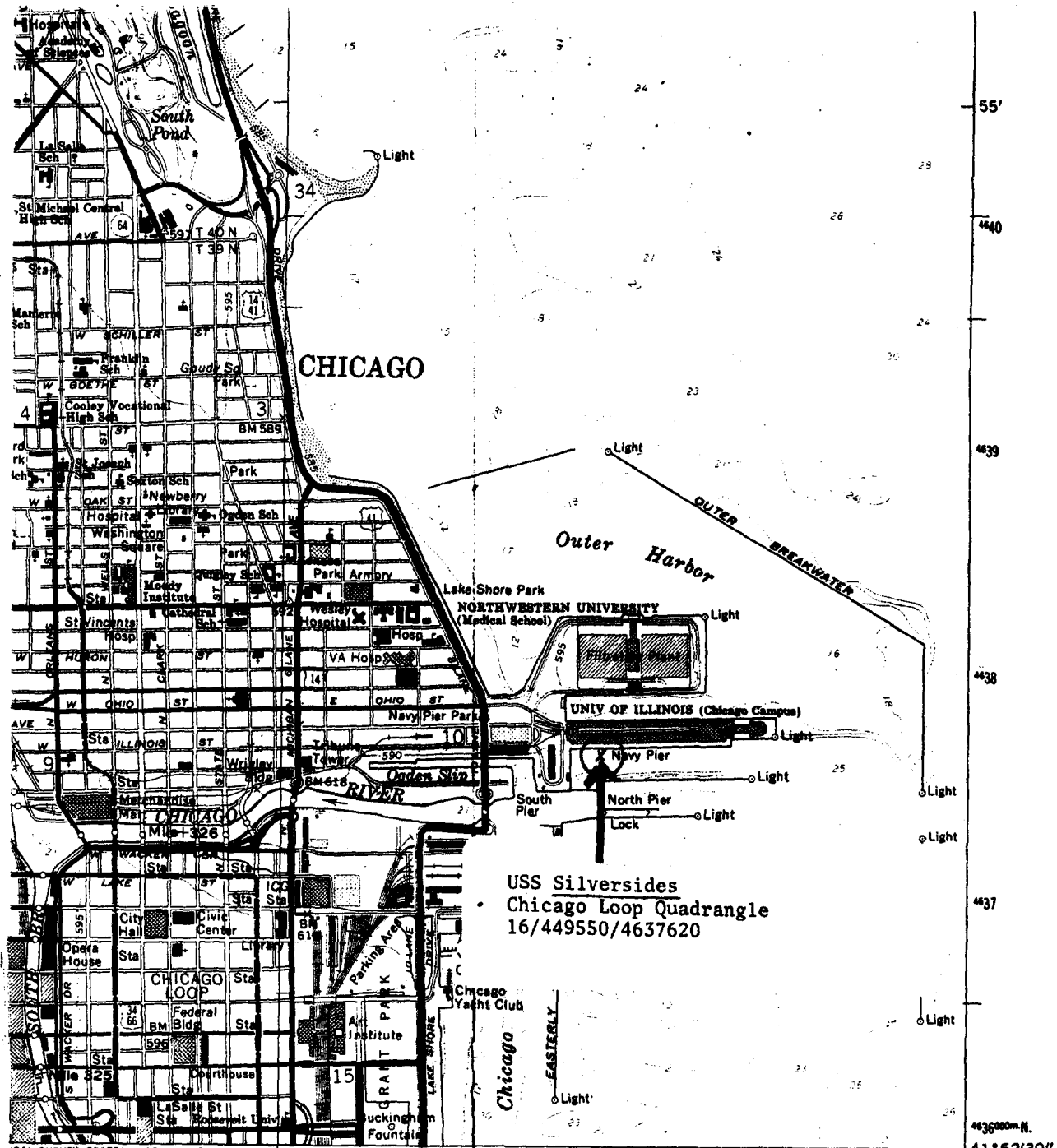
date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration



87° 37' 30" 41 14 MI. TO INTERSTATE 94 HAMMOND, IND. 19 MI. 41° 52' 30" N. 4436000 M.

CALUMET PARK 19 MI. KANKAKEE 59 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Light-duty
 U.S. Route State Route

CHICAGO LOOP, ILL.
 N4152.5—W8737.5/7.5
 PHOTOINSPECTED 1978
 1963
 PHOTOREVISED 1972
 AMS 3467 I NW—SERIES V863