

**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 Pampanito (SS 383)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Fisherman's Warf-Pier 45 not for publication

city, town San Francisco vicinity of

state California code 06 county San Francisco code 075

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name The National Maritime Museum Association

street & number 680 Beach Street

city, town San Francisco vicinity of state California 94109

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	N/A original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Pampanito (SS 383) was built by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and was commissioned on November 6, 1943. She is a fleet type submarine of the Balao class. Her deck is of teakwood and her exterior is painted haze gray and black. She is a pre-snorkle type submarine, operating underwater on batteries, and powered by four engines with a diesel system delivering 6,400 horsepower.

Specific ship data concerning USS Pampanito is:

Length: 312 feet

Beam: 27 feet

Displacement: 1,500 tons

Submerged Displacement: 2,415 tons

Speed: 21 knots surface/10 knots submerged

Armament: Ten 21" torpedo tubes (6 forward, 4 aft), Twenty-four torpedoes (Mark 14 and Mark 18s used), one 4" 50mm deck gun, two 20mm guns

Fuel Capacity: 118,000 gallons

Cruising radius: 22,000 miles

Test Depth: 600 feet

The crew consisted of 75 officers and enlisted men berthed in every available space, including over the torpedo tubes. The submarine escaped the gupping process (the complete exterior and interior alteration that most World War II boats experienced after the war) and retains her original design and fittings. The boat is in excellent condition and is now open to the public as a museum ship at Pier 45 at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.¹

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 Portsmouth 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 almost 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 Pampanito represents U.S. submarine forces that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

1. USS Pampanito made six war patrols and is credited with sinking five enemy ships representing a total of 27,288 tons of shipping. USS Pampanito earned six battle stars for her World War II service.
2. While on one of these patrols, USS Pampanito was called upon to assist in rescuing 73 of the 2,218 Australian and British POWs who were aboard the Japanese vessels Kachidoki Maru and Rakuyo Maru. These vessels were sunk by USS Pampanito and another American submarine, USS Sealion, operating in the same wolf pack as USS Pampanito which was called "Ben's Busters." The Japanese were transporting these POWs to Japan to use as slave labor to further their war effort.³
3. USS Pampanito is now berthed in San Francisco, California, not far from the Mare Island Naval Shipyard where many World War II American submarines were built and serviced during that conflict. USS Pampanito was serviced at Mare Island during the war and was decommissioned there in 1945. As such USS Pampanito is representative of the role of this important facility, near San Francisco, in the support of the American submarine war effort.
4. USS Pampanito is in excellent condition and retains her World War II integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name San Francisco North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	5	1	4	4	0	4	1	8	4	7	4	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

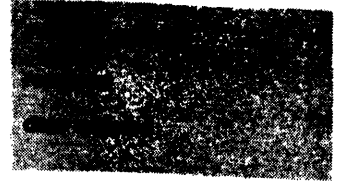
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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FOOTNOTES

1. The National Maritime Museum Association, USS Pampanito (Information Brochure), (San Francisco, California: National Maritime Museum Association, no date), no page number.

2. Drew Middleton, Submarine--The Ultimate Navy Weapon--Its Past, Present and Future (Chicago, Illinois: Playboy Press, 1976), pp. 109-12.

Edwin P. Hoyt, Submarines at War--The History of the American Silent Service (New York: Stein and Day, 1983), pp. 297-98.

Richard H. O'Kane, Clear the Bridge (New York: Bantam Books, 1981), pp. 465-67.

3. The National Maritime Museum Association, USS Pampanito (Information Brochure), no page number.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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 and Future. Chicago, Illinois: Playboy Press, 1976.

National Maritime Museum Association. USS Pampanito (Information Brochure) San Francisco, California: National Maritime Museum Association, no date.

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

Roscoe, Theodore. United States Submarine Operation in World War II. Annapolis, Maryland: United States Naval Institute, 1965.