

**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 Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. (DD-850)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Battleship Cove ___ not for publication

city, town Fall River ___ vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name USS Massachusetts Memorial Committee, Inc.

street & number Battleship Cove

city, town Fall River ___ vicinity of state Massachusetts 02721

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number 441 North Main Street

city, town Fall River state Massachusetts 02721

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1976 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division

city, town Washington state DC 20013-7127

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7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. (DD-850) is a World War II Gearing class destroyer. She was built by the Bethlehem Steel Company at Quincy, Massachusetts. She was launched on July 26, 1945, and commissioned on December 15, 1945.

The Gearing class destroyers represented the ultimate development in wartime US destroyer design. They were Sumners lengthened by 14 feet to increase fuel capacity and, at the same time, reduce wavemaking resistance and so restore some speed. They were sometimes referred to as "long hulled Sumners."¹ Otherwise they were similiar to the previously designed Allen M. Sumner class of destroyers.

Specific ship data concerning USS Joseph P. Kennedy is:

Length:	391 feet
Beam:	41 feet
Design Displacement:	2616 tons
Full Load Displacement:	3460 tons
Boilers:	4-Babcock & Wilcox
Turbines:	2-shaft General Electric
Fuel Oil Capacity:	740 tons
Maximum Speed:	37 knots
Armament:	Six 5-inch/38 caliber guns (3 x 2), Ten 21-inch Torpedo Tubes, depth charges and various combinations of antiaircraft guns.
Crew:	336 wartime

In 1961 USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. was extensively modernized into an ASW (anti-submarine warfare) destroyer. The torpedoes were replaced by guided missile equipment (ASROC launchers) and a remote control Dash Helicopter (no longer extant) was installed on the after deck.²

USS Joesph P. Kennedy, Jr. is in good condition and, although modified, retains much of her World War II integrity.

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8. Significance

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

Specific dates 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."³

The destroyer during World War II continued in this role as an all-purpose ship ready to fight off attack 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.⁴ 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 or battleship ever proceeded into enemy waters without an escort of destroyers.

USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. represents American destroyers that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

1. USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. is a World War II Gearing class destroyer. Although none of the Gearing class was built in time to see much World War II service the class represented the ultimate stage in World War II destroyer design. Knowledge gained from the construction of the previous Fletcher and Allen M. Sumner classes was incorporated into the Gearing class. All of the Gearing class destroyers remained in service after the war. In later years many of them were converted into specialized ASW ships. All of the Gearings were eventually subject to FRAM reconstruction and modernization. USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. is the sole example of this class that is preserved today. A few of the class remain extant in foreign navies and in USN reserve fleets.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Fall River

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	2	10	10	12	10	4	16	1	19	1	17	10
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

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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2. USS Joseph P. Kennedy was named for the eldest son of former Ambassador and Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. was a Navy aviator who was killed off the coast of Normandy on a secret bombing mission. Joseph Kennedy's brother, Robert F. Kennedy served on the ship as a radarman, and President John F. Kennedy watched the America Cup races in 1962 from the second deck of the ship.⁵

3. USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. served with distinction during the Korean conflict and during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. She earned two battle stars for her service in Korea.

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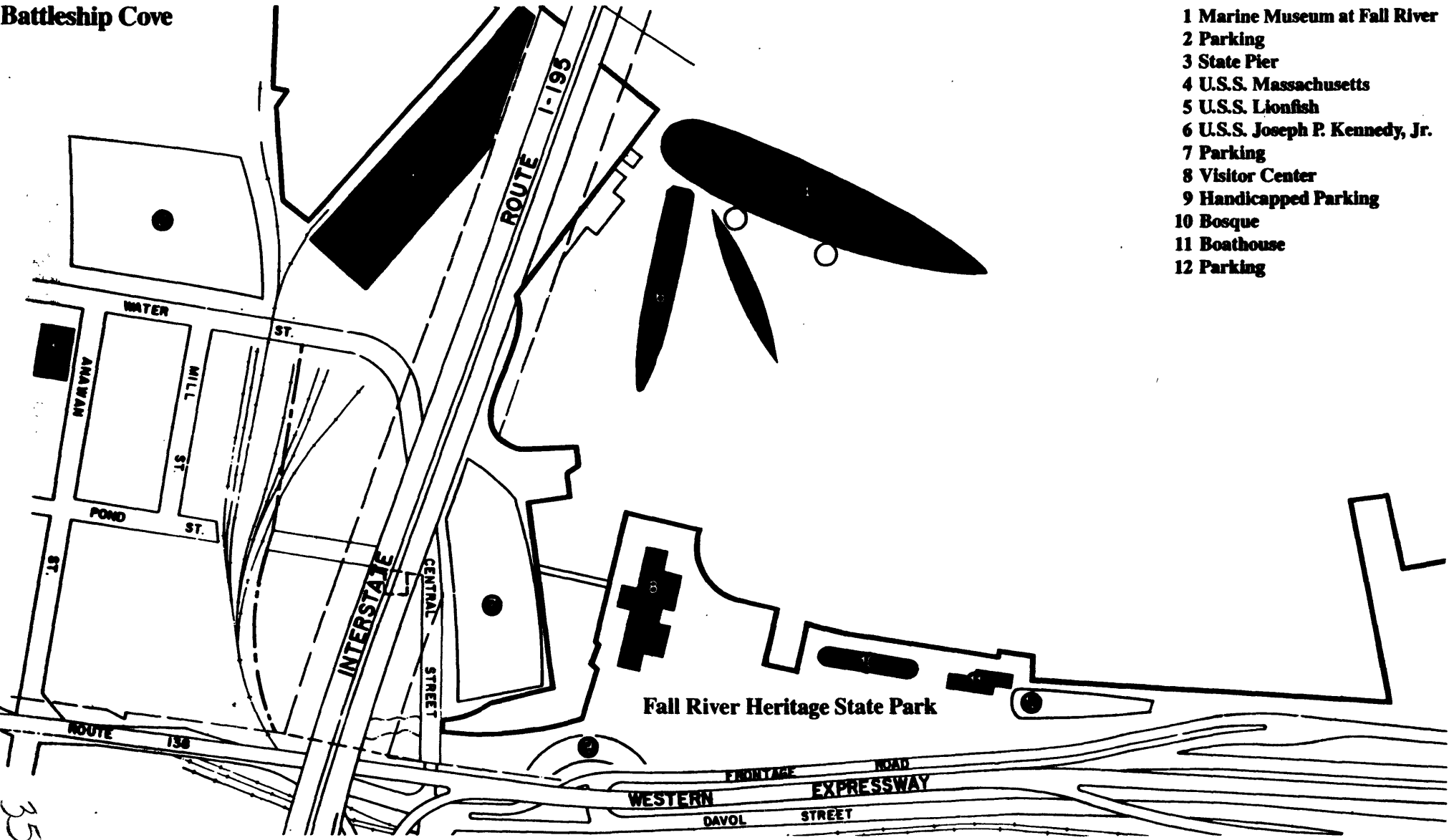
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Battleship Cove

- 1 Marine Museum at Fall River
- 2 Parking
- 3 State Pier
- 4 U.S.S. Massachusetts
- 5 U.S.S. Lionfish
- 6 U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.
- 7 Parking
- 8 Visitor Center
- 9 Handicapped Parking
- 10 Bosque
- 11 Boathouse
- 12 Parking



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management
 100 Cambridge Street
 Boston MA 02202

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Michael S. Dukakis
 Governor