

**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 Kidd (DD-661)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Adjacent to Mississippi River levee near Old State Capitol
and at the turning corner of Government Street and — not for publication

River Road
city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of

state Louisiana code 22 county East Baton Rouge code 033

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

4. Owner of Property

name State of Louisiana, Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission
Commander Vernon W. Condon, Executive Director

street & number P.O. Box 44242

city, town Baton Rouge — vicinity of state Louisiana 70804

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

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division

city, town Washington state DC 20013-7127

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 Kidd (DD-661) is a World War II Fletcher class destroyer. She was built by the Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Kearny, New Jersey. She was launched February 28, 1943, and was commissioned April 23, 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 funnels and five 5-inch guns. They were larger in size than any previous class of destroyers and when fully loaded carried the 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 antiaircraft guns.

Specific ship data concerning USS Kidd 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 antiaircraft guns.

Crew: 273 wartime

USS Kidd is the only surviving Fletcher class destroyer not modernized by the U.S. Navy. Before the end of the war, one bank of five torpedo tubes was removed and additional 40mm antiaircraft guns were added. USS Kidd is in excellent condition and retains 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	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** Federal Shipbuilding and Drydock Co.

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 destroyers 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. They 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 Kidd represents American destroyers that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

1. USS Kidd is a Fletcher class destroyer and is representative of the 175 of her class built during the war. Fletcher class destroyers were equipped to attack surface vessels of all sizes, as well as submarines and aircraft. The Fletcher class formed the backbone of U.S. destroyer forces in World War II.
2. USS Kidd was named for Rear Admiral Issac C. Kidd Sr. who was killed aboard his flagship, USS Arizona, during the surprise attack on Pear Harbor. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery.
3. USS Kidd served with distinction during the war and saw action in some of the heaviest battles with the Japanese from 1943 to 1945. On April 11, 1945, during the invasion of Okinawa, USS Kidd was struck by a Japanese kamikaze and lost 38 dead and 55 wounded. USS Kidd received four battle stars for her World War II service.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

4. USS Kidd is in excellent condition and retains the best integrity of any surviving World War II destroyer. USS Kidd is the only surviving World War II destroyer that was not modernized during the post war period.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

1

FOOTNOTES

¹No author. USS Kidd (Information Brochure) March 1984.

²Scott 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.

National Register Staff. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory USS Kidd." Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Division of Historic Preservation, State of Louisiana, 1983.

No Author. USS Kidd (Information Brochure) March 1984.

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

Acres of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Baton Rouge West, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	7	13	6	14	10	3	13	6	19	2	10	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

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 69-665), 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