

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
N/A original site
 moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

USS Cobia (SS-245) was launched on November 28, 1943, by the Electric Boat Company of Groton, Connecticut. She is a fleet-type submarine (built to maintain speeds averaging 17 knots) of the Gato class. USS Cobia is one of the last thin-skin Gato type submarines to be built in the war. Soon after the completion of USS Cobia the Navy switched from the Gato design with its test depth of 300 feet to the newer improved Balao design with a test depth of 400 feet.

USS Cobia is in excellent condition and is now maintained as a submarine memorial by Manitowoc Maritime Museum. Specific ship data concerning USS Cobia is:

Length: 312 feet Displacement: 1526 tons surface / 2424 tons submerged

Speed: 20 knots surface / 9 knots submerged

Beam: 27 feet Draft: 15 feet

Designed Depth: 300 feet Crew: 8 Officers 72 Enlisted

Armament: Ten torpedo tubes; one 3"/50 caliber deck gun; one single 20mm gun; one single 40mm gun; two 50 caliber machine guns; two 30 caliber machine guns; 24 torpedoes (Mark 14 or Mark 18s used).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	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 Electric Boat Company

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

1. During six war patrols USS Cobia sank 13 Japanese ships to account for more than 18,000 tons of Japanese shipping. USS Cobia made 6 war patrols and earned 4 battle stars.
2. USS Cobia, although not built by the Manitowoc Shipyards, is representative of the Gato class of submarines that were constructed here during the war. The building of submarines by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company was one of the great industrial achievements of World War II. Twenty-five Manitowoc submarines saw action against the Japanese in World War II and sank 132 ships with a total of 488,918 tons destroyed. No Manitowoc-built submarine has survived unaltered; thus, USS Cobia best represents this effort by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company and the people of Wisconsin to win the war against Japan in World War II.
3. USS Cobia was dedicated by the people of Wisconsin as an International Memorial to submariners throughout the world on August 23, 1970. Countries participating in this memorial include the following: United States, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
4. USS Cobia is in excellent physical condition and retains her World War II integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Manitowoc

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

116	44731210	4881201710
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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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

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

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FOOTNOTES

1. The Manitowoc Maritime Museum, The Submariner's Memorial (Manitowoc, Wisconsin: The Manitowoc Maritime Museum, 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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alden, John A. The Fleet Submarine in the U.S. Navy--A Design and Construction History. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1979.

Galli, Fred A. et al., Manitowoc Submarines. Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Manitowoc County Historical Society, 1968.

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

Manitowoc Maritime Museum. The Submariner's Memorial. Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Manitowoc Maritime Museum, no date.

Middleton, Drew. Submarine--The Ultimate Naval Weapon-Its Past, Present and 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.