

NHC Copy

NHL 1-14-86

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 Drum (SS-228)

and or common

2. Location

street & number Battleship Parkway not for publication

city, town Mobile vicinity of

state Alabama code 01 county Mobile County code 097

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name USS Alabama Battleship Commission

street & number Battleship Parkway

city, town Mobile vicinity of state

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 Drum (SS-228) was built by the U.S Navy Yard at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She was launched on May 12, 1941, and was commissioned on November 1, 1941.

USS Drum is a fleet-type submarine (built to maintain speeds averaging 17 knots) of the Gato class. The deck is teakwood, and the submarine's exterior is painted black and haze grey. USS Drum is a pre-snorkle submarine, operating underwater on batteries, and powered by a diesel electric system.

Specific ship data concerning USS Drum is:

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

Beam: 27 feet Draft: 15 feet

Speed: 20 knots surface/9 knots submerged

Design Depth: 300 feet Crew: 7 Officers and 72 Enlisted

Armament: Ten Torpedo Tubes, 6 forward and 4 aft, with 14 reloads, total 24 torpedoes; 1 5"/25 caliber gun; 1-40mm gun; 1-20mm gun.

USS Drum is now moored with the Battleship USS Alabama at Battleship Alabama Memorial park in Mobile, Alabama. USS Drum 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 1941-1945 **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 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.¹

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

1. USS Drum was the first of the Gato class of submarines to be completed by the United States before World War II. The Gato class was the standard design for American fleet submarines at the beginning of the war. The Gato class and its successor, the Balao class, bore the brunt of the fighting against Japan during the war. Gato class submarines were successful boats that proved to be fast, strong, well armed, and suited to the long range patrols necessary to fight in the Pacific.
2. USS Drum conducted 13 War Patrols and sank 15 Japanese ships totaling more than 80,000 tons. USS Drum was awarded 12 battle stars for her World War II service.
3. USS Drum is in excellent 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 Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	4	0	2	7	0	0	3	3	9	4	6	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A

List all states and counties for properties overliapping 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
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Continuation sheet

Item number

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FOOTNOTES

¹Drew 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 US Navy--A Design and Construction History. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1979.

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

Hoyt, Edwin P. Submarine 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.

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.