

**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 Intrepid (CV-11)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Intrepid Square

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town New York

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state New York

code

county

code

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum

street & number Intrepid Square

city, town New York

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state New York 10036

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Parks and Terminals

street & number One Battery Park

city, town New York

state New York 10004

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A

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 type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | N/A original site |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | N/A moved         | date |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |                   |      |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

USS Intrepid (CV-11) was laid down at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., on December 1, 1941. After the outbreak of the war, work on USS Intrepid was accelerated and she was launched April 26, 1943, and commissioned on August 16, 1943.

USS Intrepid was the third Essex class carrier to be laid down by the United States. The Essex class of carriers was a half-way design. Carriers of that class were developed after the end of the Washington Naval Treaty and were thus considerably larger than comparable ships designed earlier. However, the outbreak of the war and the need to rush ships into action meant that they would be developed from earlier treaty-bound designs.<sup>1</sup> The Essex class was essentially an enlarged improved version of the previous Yorktown class featuring added antiaircraft armament, new high pressure boilers, new en echelon machinery arrangement, better underwater protection, more powerful catapults, and a second armoured deck on the hanger level.<sup>2</sup>

Specific ship data concerning USS Intrepid is:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Displacement: | 27,000 tons standard / 36,000 tons full load   |
| Length:       | 872 feet   |
| Width:        | 148 feet   |
| Draft:        | 28 feet full load  |
| Machinery:    | 4-Shaft Westinghouse Turbines, 8 Babcock & Wilcox Boilers                                |
| Range:        | 15,000 miles at 15 knots   |
| Armour:       | Belt 4-2.5 inches, hanger deck 2.5 inches, armour deck over belt 1.5 inches              |
| Armament:     | 90 plus aircraft, 12-5 inch / 38 caliber guns, various combinations of antiaircraft guns |
| Crew:         | 3,400 wartime  |

USS Intrepid was extensively modernized by the Navy in 1954 to convert her to a modern attack carrier capable of handling jets. All heavy guns were removed, the centerline elevator was sealed, and a new heavy duty starboard side elevator was installed. In a later refit an angled flight deck was added to the port side of the ship.

## 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 1941-1943 Builder/Architect Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Role of the Aircraft Carrier in World War II

In the years after World War I the nature and conception of naval power was changed by the perfection of the airplane and the rise of the aircraft carrier. Supporters of airpower argued that the battleship as the principal capital ship of the navy was obsolete because of the long reach of naval aircraft. This view was strengthened early in World War II when the British carried out a carrier strike on the Italian battlefleet at Taranto on November 11, 1940. Subsequent Japanese carrier strikes on the American battlefleet at Pearl Harbor and on the British ships HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse confirmed the new order of naval strategy. The Pacific war of 1941-1945 against Japan was fought over vast stretches of ocean employing aircraft carriers as highly mobile weapons capable of destroying enemy ships and bases at great distances. The success of the Japanese in the early phases of the war and the Americans in the later stages of the war was attributed to a large extent to the successes of the carrier battlegroups deployed by each side. The defeat of the Japanese aircraft carriers by 1944 was a preview to the surrender of Japan in 1945.

#### Significance

USS Intrepid represents American aircraft carriers that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

1. USS Intrepid is a representative of the Essex class aircraft carriers. These ships were first ordered in 1940 and were ready for action by 1943. The Essex class aircraft carriers formed the core of the fast carrier task forces that won the war in the Pacific. After 1945 the Essex class formed the core of the postwar carrier fleet of the United States.
2. USS Intrepid was the third Essex class carrier built by the United States. She was commissioned in August 1943 and fought against Japan for two years. USS Intrepid was hit by enemy action on five occasions and fought in the largest naval battle in history at the Battle of Leyte Gulf in 1944. USS Intrepid helped to sink both of Japan's superbattleships, Yamato and Musashi. She received five battlestars for her World War II service.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Central Park

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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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

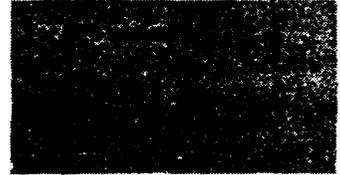
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Item number

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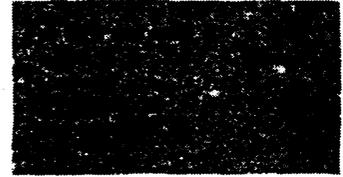
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USS Intrepid is in good condition and, although extensively modernized since World War II, she retains much of her wartime integrity. Her basic hull design, engines, machinery, operational equipment and hundreds of individual compartments remain intact from World War II. USS Intrepid is now operated as a memorial and museum ship in New York City by the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space-Museum.

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3. USS Intrepid is in good condition and although extensively modernized in the years since 1945 retains much of her wartime integrity. Her basic hull design, machinery, engines, and operational equipment and hundreds of compartments still date from World War II.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Norman Friedman, US Aircraft Carriers -- An Illustrated Design History (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1983), p. 133.
2. Roger Chesnau, ed., Conway's All The World's Fighting Ships 1922-1946 (New York: Mayflower Books, 1980), p. 104.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

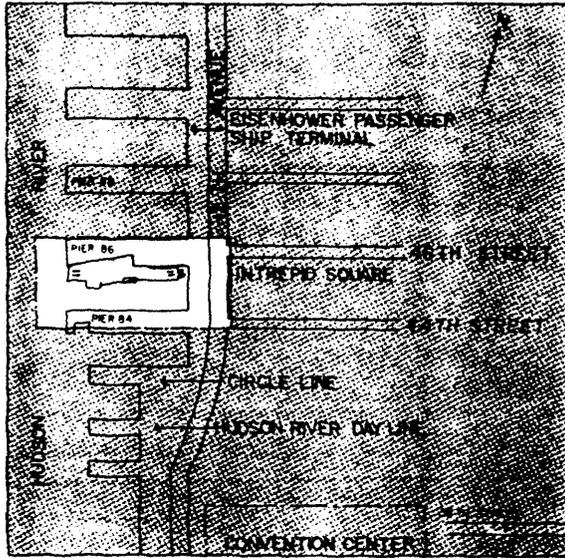
Belote, James H. and Belote, William M. Titans of the Sea. New York: Harper & Row, 1975.

Chesnau, Roger, ed. Conway's All The World's Fighting Ships 1922-1946. New York: Mayflower Books, 1980.

Friedman, Norman. US Aircraft Carriers -- An Illustrated Design History. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1983.

Sowinski, Larry. USS Intrepid Album. Levittown, New York: Gerard Graphics, 1976.

# LOCATION



*Intrepid Square—a new address in midtown Manhattan.*

The Intrepid is permanently berthed at Pier 86, at the west end of Forty Sixth Street in the Hudson River. Mayor Ed Koch, foreseeing the museum as a centerpiece in the City's planned West Side redevelopment, christened the surrounding area Intrepid Square in honor of the ship. Just blocks away from New York's spectacular new Convention Center, Intrepid Square is flanked by the Hudson River Day Line and Circle Line piers to the south and the Eisenhower passenger ship terminal to the north. Pier 86 is within easy access of nearly all of Manhattan's best known tourist attractions, and is serviced by public transportation, with parking nearby.

A perfect location—for one of New York City's most frequently visited addresses.

