NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

War in the Pacific Ship Study
Federal Agency Nomination

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic USS Yorktown (CV-10)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Charleston Harbor ___ not for publication

city, town Mt. Pleasant ___ vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Charleston code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	X 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	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Patriots Point Development Authority, State of South Carolina

street & number P.O. Box 986

city, town Mt. Pleasant ___ vicinity of state South Carolina 29464

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charleston County Courthouse

street & number 2 Courthouse Square

city, town Charleston state South Carolina 29401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 ___ federal X 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
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	N/A original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	N/A moved date
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

USS Yorktown (CV-10) was laid down at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company on December 1, 1941. After the outbreak of the war, work on USS Yorktown was accelerated and she was launched on January 21, 1943 and was commissioned on April 15, 1943. USS Yorktown was to have been named USS Bon Homme Richard but soon after the Battle of Midway, in which the old USS Yorktown (CV-5) was sunk, the navy announced that CV-10 would be renamed USS Yorktown. Another Essex class carrier (CV-31) was later named USS Bon Homme Richard.

USS Yorktown was the second Essex class carrier to be laid down by the United States. The Essex class 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.[1] The Essex class was essentially an enlarged improved version of the previous Yorktown class featuring added antiaircraft armament, new high pressure boilers, new en échelon machinery arrangement, better underwater protection, more powerful catapults, and a second armoured deck on the hanger level.[2]

Specific ship data concerning USS Yorktown 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

During the Korean War USS Yorktown had all guns, except four-5 inch guns, removed; updated electronics installed; and steam catapults and stronger arresting cables, capable of handling jets, installed. USS Yorktown was extensively modernized by the Navy in 1955-58 and was converted from an attack (CVA) carrier to an antisubmarine (CVS) carrier. During this modernization a new angled flight deck, hurricane bow and escalators were added. USS Yorktown has remained in this configuration since 1958 with ultimate tonnage rising to 45,000 tons.[3]

USS Yorktown is in good condition and although extensively modernized since the war she retains much of her World War II integrity. Her basic hull design, machinery, operational equipment and hundreds of compartments remain intact. USS Yorktown is now operated as a memorial and museum ship in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina by the Partiots Point Naval and Maritime Museum.

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/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

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 preview to the surrender of Japan in 1945.

Significance

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

1. USS Yorktown 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 Yorktown was the second Essex Class carrier built by the United States. She was commissioned in April 1943 and fought against Japan for more than two years. Her planes inflicted heavy damage on the Japanese at Truk and the Marianas, and she supported American ground troops in the Philippines, at Iwo Jima, and at Okinawa. She received eleven battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation for her World War II service.

3. USS Yorktown is in good condition and although extensively modernized her basic hull design, operational machinery, engines and hundreds of compartments remain intact from World War II. No World War II Essex class carrier has survived intact. USS Intrepid, the only other World War II Essex class carrier preserved as a memorial ship, has also been modernized.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Charleston, South Carolina

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	602200	3618410
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

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

GPO 894-788