

**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 Inaugural (AM-242)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 300 North Wharf Street not for publication

city, town St. Louis vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county St. Louis City code 510

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name St. Louis Concessions

street & number 400 Mansion House Center, Suite 2510

city, town St. Louis vicinity of state Missouri

**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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	N/A original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date .....
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

USS Inaugural (AM-242) was built by the Winslow Marine Railway & Shipbuilding Co., Winslow, Washington. She was launched on October 1, 1944, and was commissioned on December 30, 1944.

USS Inaugural is a fleet minesweeper of the Admirable class. Admirable class minesweepers were basic minesweepers similar to the British Bangor class designed to meet minimum requirements for size, speed, and endurance. They were fitted for both wire and acoustic sweeping and could also double as anti-submarine warfare and anti-aircraft ships. Admirable class minesweepers formed the majority of American minesweepers built during World War II.

Specific ship data concerning USS Inaugural is:

Length: 185 feet

Displacement: 900 tons (Loaded)

Beam: 33 feet

Draft: 10 feet (Loaded)

Speed: 15 knots

Crew: 104 (wartime)

Armament: One 3"/50 caliber deck gun; one rocket launcher; two depth charge racks; various combinations of anti-aircraft guns.

USS Inaugural is in fair condition. The ship has been neglected for many years and has lost a substantial amount of her World War II integrity. Many parts of the interior of the ship are missing equipment and fittings. The exterior of the ship is in better condition but many of the original guns are in need of restoration. USS Inaugural retains her minesweeping cable.

USS Inaugural is now berthed in the Mississippi river at the North leg of the Gateway Arch. The ship was recently transferred to St. Louis Concessions, St. Louis, Missouri, and is being restored to her World War II condition.

## 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1944-1945

**Builder Architect** Winslow Marine Railway & Shipbuilding Co.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The fleet minesweeper was one of the many support ships designed to service and protect the larger naval vessels in operation against the Japanese in World War II.

Although the Japanese had done little mining in the path of the United States navy they were known to have purchased thousands of British and American mines after World War I. Many of these mines were used in the Philippines and in the waters close to Japan where they caused considerable trouble. The purpose of the fleet minesweeper was to arrive before the fleet and sweep the area for mines. Fleet minesweepers remained with the fleet, during operation, constantly sweeping to insure safe operation for the larger ships of the navy. Fleet minesweepers were the first to arrive in enemy waters and the last to leave. Their job, although not glamorous or well known by the American public, was absolutely essential to the safety and success of American naval operations against Japan in World War II.

USS Inaugural represents fleet minesweepers that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

1. USS Inaugural is an example of an Admirable class fleet minesweeper that fought against Japan in World War II. Admirable class minesweepers formed the largest class of American minesweepers ordered during the war and proved to be one of the most successful classes of minesweepers. They were also employed as patrol and escort vessels.

2. USS Inaugural earned two battle stars for her World War II service.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name Granite City

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	7	4	5	3	0	0	4	2	7	8	7	4	0
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

# 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

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

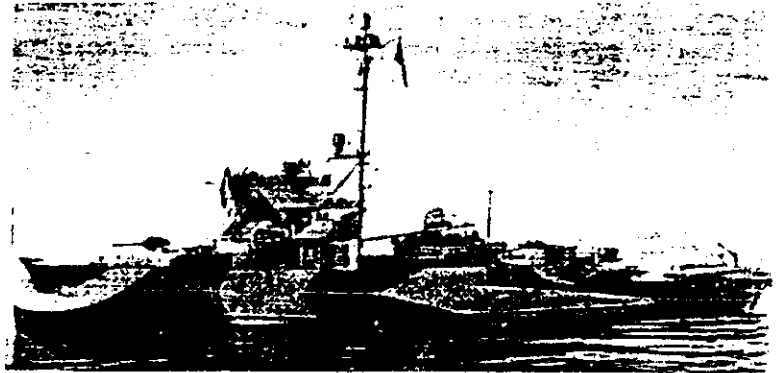
Chesnau, Roger. Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships 1922-1946. New York: Mayflower Books, 1980.

Lenton, H. T. American Gunboats and Minesweepers. New York: Arco Publishing Company, Inc., 1974.

Morrison, Samuel Elliot. United States Naval Operations in World War II. Vol. 14. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1960.

# U.S.S. INAUGURAL

EDUCATIONAL MUSEUM



OFFICIAL WARTIME PHOTOGRAPH

*Veteran Minesweeper from the Battle of Okinawa. Located in the Mississippi River at the North Leg of the Gateway Arch, 300 North Wharf Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63102.*

The *U.S.S. Inaugural* is a World War II Minesweeper, commissioned in 1944 with a crew of one hundred enlisted men and ten officers. The "Augie," as she was affectionately called by her crew, first distinguished herself at the bloody Battle of Okinawa. During the desperate struggle for control of this island, the *Inaugural* acted as a patrol ship, firing at enemy planes as Japanese aircraft made a suicidal effort to stop progress of American ground forces and destroy their support from the sea.

During one of her anti-submarine patrols, the crew was called to general quarters and an engagement with a large Japanese submarine ensued. Following a rocket attack by the "Augie," debris and a large oil slick appeared from the sunken or badly damaged enemy submarine.

With the war ending in 1945, the "Augie" performed her vital function by sweeping the various minefields in the approaches to the Japanese homeland. In all, eighty-two deadly mines were cleared from the seas by this gallant vessel.

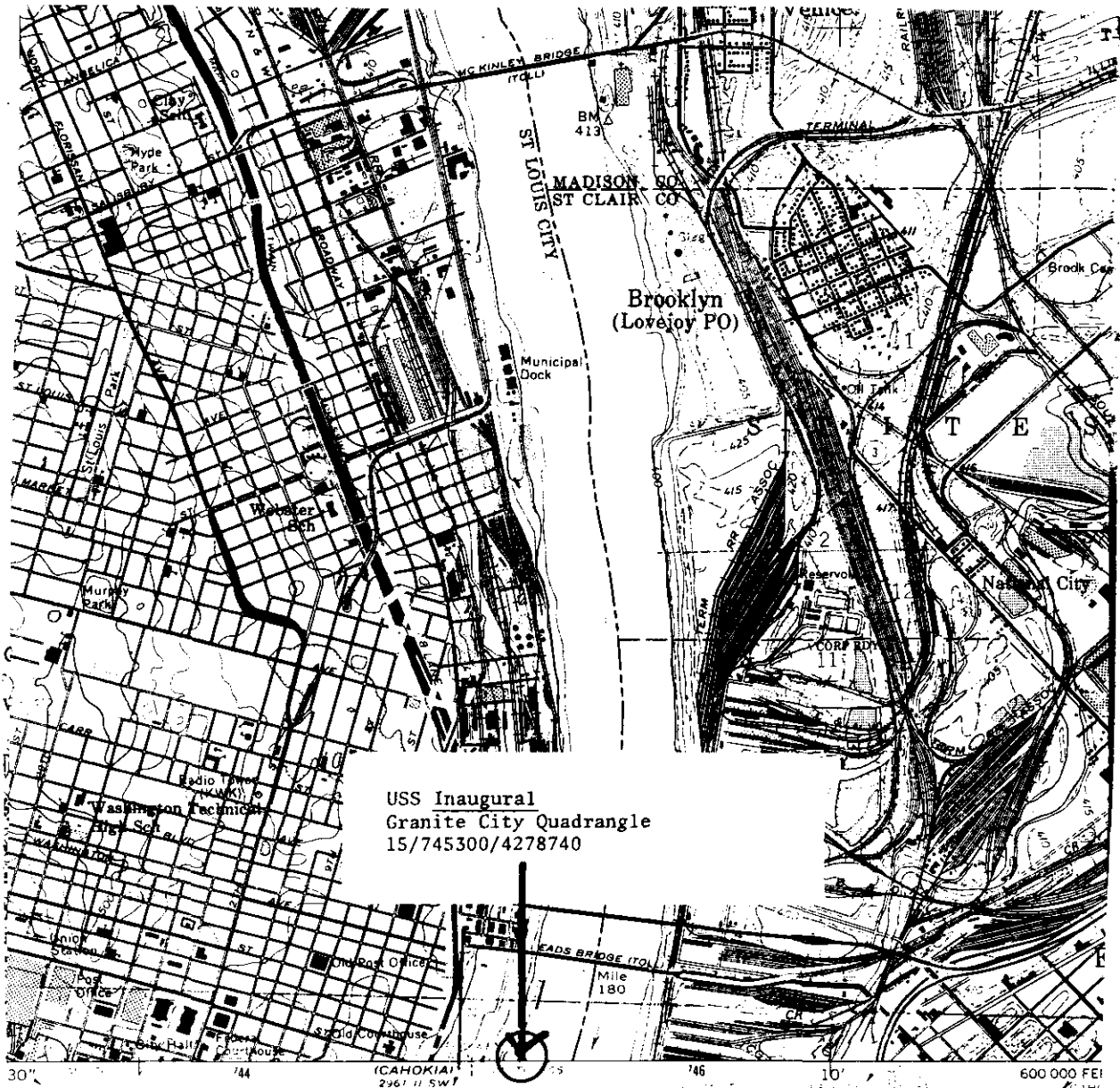
This is but a brief story of the *U.S.S. Inaugural* and the American war effort. We sponsor tours which go into greater detail about the functions and the importance of the *Inaugural* and her crew to the United States war effort in Asia.

We are open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday, from April through October. Our prices are \$1.75 for Adults and \$1.25 for Children under 12 years of age. Group fares are available for 10 persons or more. \$1.00 per person

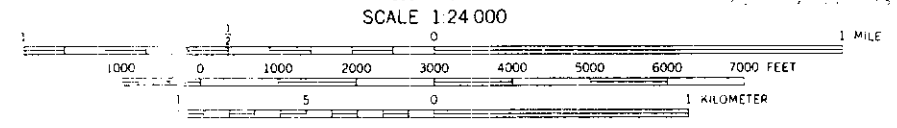
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 314-421-1511

*New fall hours 11 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday  
10 AM to 6 PM Saturday & Sunday*

*Will be able to open earlier or stay later for a tour if plan in advance.*



USS Inaugural  
Granite City Quadrangle  
15/745300/4278740



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801,  
AND THE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

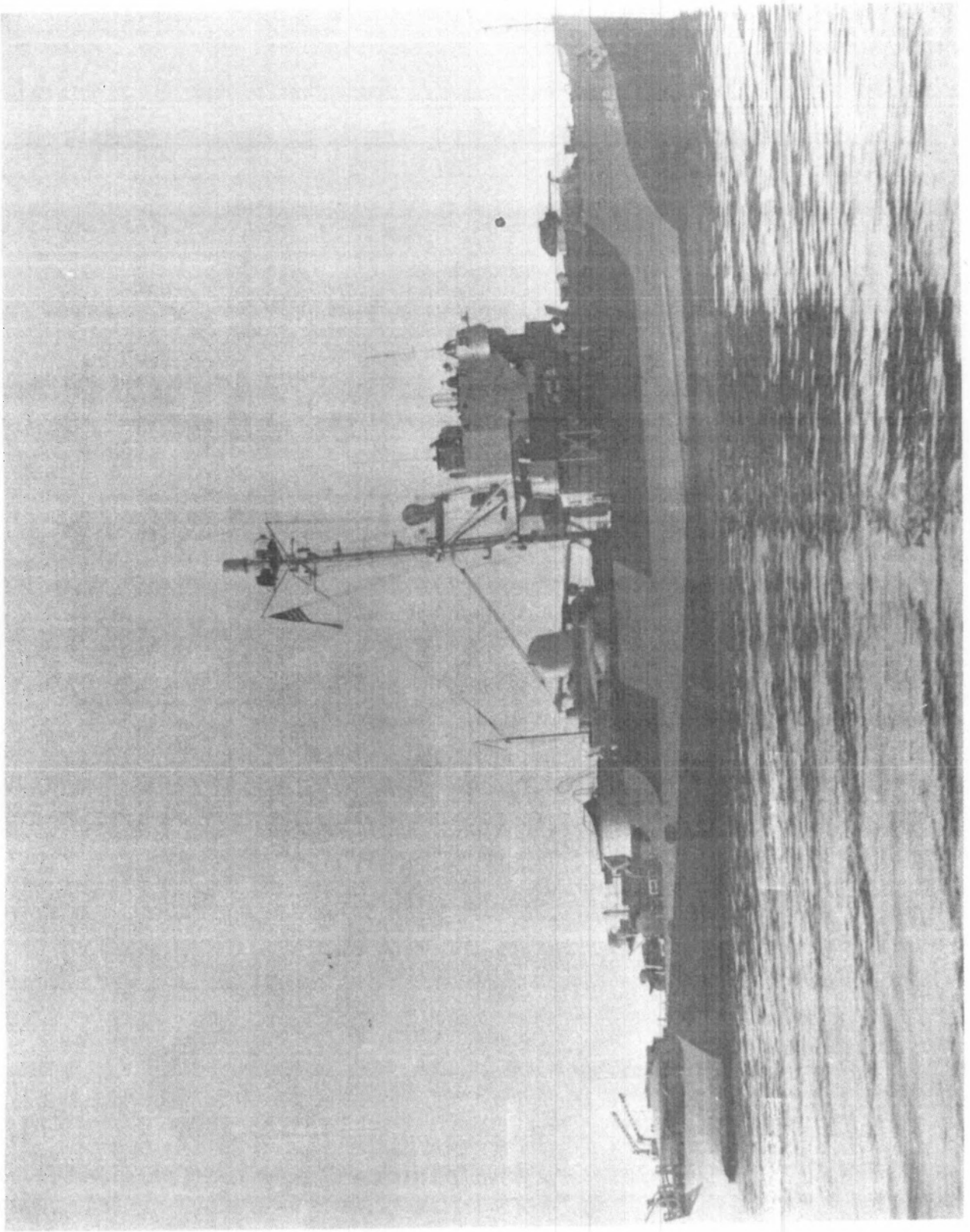


QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geol  
from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other s  
Map edited 1982. This information not field c  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

1. USS Inaugural
2. St. Louis, Missouri
3. US Navy
4. 1945
5. St. Louis Concessions
6. Exterior view of USS Inaugural
7. Photo #1





1. USS Inaugural
2. St. Louis, Missouri
3. St. Louis Concessions
4. 1985
5. St. Louis Concessions
6. Exterior view of USS Inaugural
7. Photo #2

