

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

124-0029

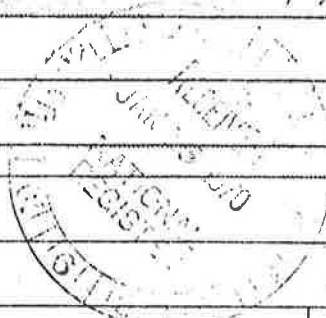
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Portsmouth (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.245.0020	DATE 2/24/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Naval Shipyard

CITY OR TOWN:
Portsmouth

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45	COUNTY: (in cit.)	CODE: 740
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U. S. Department of the Navy

STREET AND NUMBER:
Naval Shipyard

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
U.S. Department of the Navy

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 08
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #124-29

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45
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STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Portsmouth (in cit.)
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(26)

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Drydock Number One is constructed of large blocks of Massachusetts granite. The sides are built up in a series of stepped tiers with two flights of stairs at the land end. The overall length of the drydock is 319½ feet. It survives as originally built except for the replacement of the original caisson.) Drydock Number One is still in daily use.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, established in 1767, is the oldest naval shipyard in the United States. In 1827, in response to "An Act for the Gradual Improvement of the Navy of the United States" passed by Congress, work was begun on Drydock Number One, one of the first two built in the United States. The dock was built of Massachusetts granite at the high cost of \$974,365.65 and was completed in 1834. On 17 June 1833, before its completion, it was opened and the Delaware became the first vessel to be drydocked in the United States. Since that time, it has had a long and illustrious history and is still in use. During the War Between the States, the world's first battle-tested ironclad ship, the Virginia, was rebuilt in this dock by the Confederate government from the Union steam frigate, the Merrimac. In 1862 the refurbished Virginia attacked the Union fleet with great success until her triumphs were brought to a standstill by the appearance of the Union Monitor, another ironclad.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Drydock Number One,
Norfolk Naval
Shipyard

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Portsmouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

In the early 19th century the professional separation between architecture and engineering was much less marked. Architects such as Benjamin H. Latrobe and Robert Mills were involved in the designs of canals, shipyards, and railroads as well as buildings. In 1827 work was begun on the first drydock in the United States. Drydock Number One at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Norfolk, Virginia, was completed in 1834. It is constructed of slabs of granite quarried in Massachusetts. A living testimonial to the excellence of its design is the fact that it has been in continuous use to this day. Because of the utilitarian nature of these specialized type of structures it is easy for them to be overlooked by the general public and by the usual historical survey. However, with reflection, it can be appreciated that structures such as the Drydock Number One formed the base upon which this country was built.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butt, Marshall W., Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia, A Brief History. Portsmouth, Va.: Public Information Office, 1960 (revised edition).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36°	49'	14"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	76°	17'	35"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director
 ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: November 18, 1969
 STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Dr. P. Alexander G. Jones

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date December 2, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Allen Connerly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 26 1970

ATTEST: William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 1 1970

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

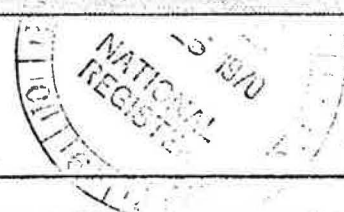
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Portsmouth (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-245-0020	2/26/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Naval Shipyard			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Portsmouth			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	(in cit.)	740
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. map 7.5', quadrangle Norfolk South, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1955			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



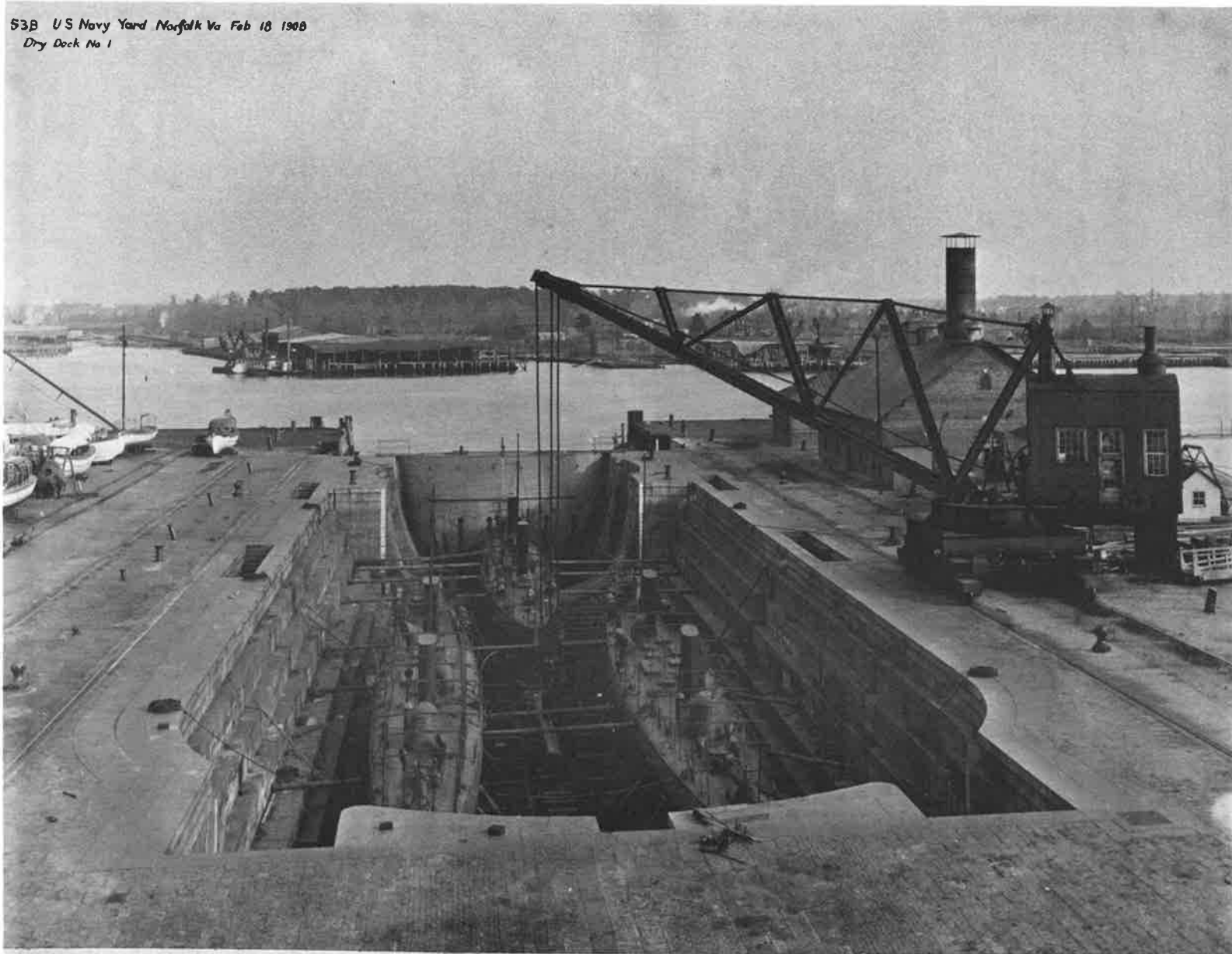


U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:1:24000)
Norfolk South, Va. (1955)

Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard

Latitude 36° 49' 14"
Longitude 76° 17' 35"

53B US Navy Yard Norfolk Va Feb 18 1908
Dry Dock No 1



Drydock Number One, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Virginia

U.S. Navy Dept. Photo 1908