

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
GRAND RAPIDS	PG 98
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
ASHEVILLE (PG 84) – class gunboat	None
Vessel Location	Current Status
Naval Surface Warfare Center, Coastal Systems Station, Dahlgren Division, Panama City, FL	Decommissioned and re-designated a boat

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
6 October 2014	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
8 January 2015	Ineligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Second U.S. Navy ship to be named for the city in Michigan. The first was a Coast Guard-manned frigate (PF 31) commissioned in 1944 and stricken in 1946.
Displacement	235 tons (full load)
Length	164 feet, 6 inches
Beam	23 feet, 10 inches
Draft	9 feet, 6 inches (navigational)

Speed	35+ knots
Propulsion	Two 725-hp Cummins V-12 Diesels; one 14,000 hp GE LM 1500 gas turbine; two variable-pitch propellers
Armament	One 3-inch/50 caliber rapid-fire enclosed mount; one 40-mm open single mount; two twin .50 caliber machine guns
Laid Down	13 June 1968 but damaged by fire on 1 August 1968; laid down a second time on 20 May 1969
Launched	4 April 1970
Built By	Tacoma Boatbuilding Company, Inc., Tacoma WA
Sponsor	Ms. Susan Ford, 12-yr. old daughter of then-Congressman Gerald R. Ford, who was the House Minority Leader at the time.
Commissioned	5 September 1970
Decommissioned	1 October 1977 and re-designated a boat
Stricken	N/A

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>Ship received a surface to surface missile capability, at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, during late 1972 and early 1973 the ARM version of the <i>Standard</i> Missile was installed. Homeport changed from San Diego, CA to Naples, Italy, effective 7 May 1973 and completed on 13 August 1973. Operated in the Eastern Mediterranean in support of COMSIXTHFLT during the 1973 Mideast War.</p> <p>On 2 August 1975, during a visit to Casablanca, Morocco, the Naval Attaché hosted a reception for the ships and numerous military and civilian dignitaries. On 16 August 1975, in Bayonne, France, GRAND RAPIDS</p>
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	<p>hosted a reception on board for local dignitaries and German and French military people who were in Bayonne for the <i>Fete de la Bayonne</i>.</p> <p>On 1 October 1977, GRAND RAPIDS was decommissioned and re-designated as a boat. Custody of the hull of ex-GRAND RAPIDS was transferred to the Carderock Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, US Navy at Panama City Beach FL.</p>
Awards	Three Battle Efficiency “E” Awards
Noteworthy Events	<p>On the evening of 25 October 1973, GRAND RAPIDS collided with ANTELOPE (PG 86) during a night highline transfer. There was moderate damage done to the starboard missile magazine; however, there were no casualties.</p> <p>On 22 April 1977, the vessel and READY (PG 87) moored at the Israeli Defense Forces Patrol Boat base in Haifa, Israel. This was the first time U.S. naval ships had ever moored at that base. During the visit, the ship’s company toured the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Nazareth. Also, reciprocal tours by crews of the U.S. Patrol Combatants and the Israeli SAAR Patrol Craft were arranged.</p>
DANFS* Entry	Lineage update in progress.

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?	No
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?	No
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No
iv. Was the vessel was the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that	No

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No.
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Ineligible
Sources	- Naval History and Heritage Command Archives
	- "Welcome Aboard" pamphlet for GRAND RAPIDS PG 98 (4 April 1970)
	- "History of Ships Named GRAND RAPIDS"
	- Patrol Gunboat Reunion Association
	- <i>Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships</i>

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received no written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition