

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
FINAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
IOWA	BB-61
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
IOWA (BB-61)-class battleship	None
Vessel Location	Current Status
Richmond, CA	Stricken, Donated to Pacific Battleship Center

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
22 July 2011	Eligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
10 November 2011	Eligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	Second ship of the U.S. Navy to be named IOWA (a third IOWA – previously believed to be the first of the lineage – received the name but was never commissioned and thus did not serve under that name)
Displacement	57,271 (full load)
Length	888 feet
Beam	108 feet (waterline)
Draft	37 feet (limiting)
Speed	30 knots (maximum)
Propulsion	Steam turbines, four screws
Armament	Nine 16-inch/50, 20 5-inch/38 dual-purpose, 80 40-millimeter antiaircraft, 47-52 20-millimeter antiaircraft (as commissioned)

Laid Down	27 June 1940
Launched	27 August 1942
Built By	New York (NY) Navy Yard
Sponsor	Mrs. Henry A. Wallace, wife of Vice President Wallace
Commissioned	22 February 1943
Delivered	28 March 1943
Decommissioned	26 October 1990
Stricken	17 March 2006

Vessel History

Deployments	North and Central Atlantic (hosted President Franklin D. Roosevelt) and Pacific Theaters, in World War II, 1943-1945; Pacific and Far East 1945-1952; Far Eastern service during Korean War; transit to Atlantic Fleet 1952; deployed to Northern Europe 1953; Mediterranean and Northern Europe, 1955; Caribbean and Northern Europe 1956; Mediterranean, South America, and Caribbean, 1957; decommissioned 1958; recommissioned 1984, Caribbean and Central America, 1984; Caribbean, Northern Europe and Baltic Sea, 1985; hosted President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, 1986; Caribbean and Northern Europe, 1986; Central America and Caribbean, 1987; Mediterranean and Northern Europe, 1987; North Arabian Sea [Operation <i>Earnest Will</i>] 1987-1988; Turret explosion 19 April 1989, 47 killed; Northern Europe and Mediterranean, 1989; Sixth Fleet Flagship (15 August-17 November 1989); [no command history submitted for 1990], decommissioned 26 October 1990.
Awards	Nine battle stars for World War II service; 2 for Korean War; 2 Meritorious Unit Commendations; 1 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; 3 Navy "E" Ribbons; 2 Secretary of the Navy Letters of Commendation.

Noteworthy Accomplishments	Leader of a class of powerful and heavily armed fast battleships that proved to be the last of their type constructed for the U.S. Navy, the culmination of battleship design in the U.S. Transported President Franklin D. Roosevelt across the Atlantic on the first leg of his journey that culminated in conferring with Allied war leaders at Tehran, Iran (1943); served in fast carrier task forces in World War II in the Pacific (1944-1945), also conducted shore bombardments during World War II (1944-1945) and Korean War (1952), participated in Operation <i>Earnest Will</i> (1987-1988).
DANFS* Entry	Volume of original DANFS series in which IOWA appeared (G-K) was published years before the ship's later periods of active service. History will be updated.

**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 was assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	While a President of the United States was not assigned to IOWA, she did transport President Franklin D. Roosevelt across the Atlantic in December 1943, to Africa and then back after the Tehran conference.
iv. Was the vessel was the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	No, the IOWA-class battleship represented the culmination of design of that type of ship in the USN, literally the end of the line; final two units of the IOWA-class (BB-65 and BB-66) and the follow-on MONTANA (BB-67)-class were never constructed.
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No (but see iii above).
Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association	IOWA had been modernized, most extensively during her last period in commission, with communications, electronic systems, and crew

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.

	facilities upgraded, HARPOON and TOMAHAWK missiles installed, also PHALANX close-in weapons system (CIWS); she has lost the heavy tertiary battery of 40-millimeter and 20-millimeter guns with which she had been commissioned, and two 5-inch mounts. IOWA is in the appearance in which she last saw active service (1984-1990).
Historical Evaluation Conclusion	Eligible.

Sources	IOWA (BB-61) Source Files, Ships History Collection, NHHC; “The Log of the President’s Trips” (unpublished mss in NHHC Ships History Collection); Norman Friedman <i>U.S. Battleships: An Illustrated Design History</i> (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1985); John C. Reilly, Jr. (compiler and editor), <i>Operational Experience of Fast Battleships, World War II, Korea, Vietnam</i> (Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1989).

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.