

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hull Number</b>
Submersible Research Vessel [Unnamed]	NR 1
<b>Vessel Class</b>	<b>Previous Vessel Designation (if any)</b>
Submersible Research Vessel (Self-Propelled)	
<b>Vessel Location</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton WA	Inactivated

<b>Initial Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Initial Finding</b>
24 August 2015	Eligible
<b>Final Evaluation Date</b>	<b>Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places</b>
3 November 2015	Eligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	No previous U.S. naval vessel has been thus designated
<b>Displacement</b>	Submerged displacement of about 400 tons
<b>Length</b>	Overall length: 137 ft.; pressure hull length 96 ft., 1 inch (diameter: 12 ft. 6 in.)
<b>Beam</b>	3.8 m (12 ft. 6 in.) 4.8 m (15 ft. 9 in.) at stern stabilizers

<b>Draft</b>	4.6 m (15 ft. 1 in.) Box keel depth (below base-line): 3.9 ft.
<b>Speed</b>	Able to stay submerged and move at a maximum speed of approximately 4 knots; typical speed 4.5 knots (8.3 km/h; 5.2 mph) surfaced 3.5 knots (6.5 km/h; 4.0 mph) submerged
<b>Propulsion</b>	2 × external motors 2 × propellers 4 × ducted thrusters (mounted diagonally in two "x-configured" pairs); nuclear fueled; one turbo alternator
<b>Armament</b>	None
<b>Laid Down</b>	10 June 1967
<b>Launched</b>	25 January 1969
<b>Built By</b>	Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, Groton, CT
<b>Sponsor</b>	Mrs. Robert W. Morse
<b>Delivered</b>	27 October 1969
<b>Commissioned</b>	n/a
<b>Inactivated</b>	Inactivation ceremony held on 21 November 2008 (Groton, CT), with defueling conducted at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Transferred to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.
<b>Decommissioned</b>	n/a
<b>Stricken</b>	

## Vessel History

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	<p>Missions: (1) Topographic and geologic surveys of the ocean floor along the continental shelf; (2) searching for and identifying objects lost at sea; (3) recovering objects lost at sea; (4) placement or repair of objects on the ocean floor. NR 1 was involved in long-term, large-area fisheries research; studies of the mid-Atlantic ridge that revealed data on marine biology and plate tectonics. Her investigation of large hydrocarbon seeps in the Gulf of Mexico revealed previously unknown marine species and large areas of aquatic life in regions of mixing seawater and hydrocarbons. Final mission in 2008 was a hunt for the wreck of the BONHOMME RICHARD, the warship that had been commanded by Captain John Paul Jones in the Battle of Flamborough Head. Numerous classified missions.</p> <p>In 2013, it was announced that salvaged pieces of NR 1 would be displayed at the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, CT.</p>
<b>Awards</b>	3 Navy Unit Commendations and 3 Meritorious Unit Commendations; 9 Battle Efficiency “E”s
<b>Noteworthy Events</b>	<p>In 1976, NR 1 was employed in USN operations to recover a Navy F-14 <i>Tomcat</i> fighter and a <i>Phoenix</i> air-to-air missile which were lost from a carrier in the Atlantic Ocean off of the coast of North Carolina. Both the fighter craft and the missile were brought to the surface with salvage lines attached by NR-1 to assist in retrieval. NR1 also used to recover pieces of the Space Shuttle CHALLENGER in 1986. NR 1’s participation in scientific missions contributed to numerous oceanographic research papers including a feature article in the National Geographic (4/85). NR 1 searched for shipwrecks around the world, including a long-lost Israeli submarine that vanished in 1968. She also worked with the Institute for Exploration at the Mystic Aquarium to search for evidence of early Native American settlements now underwater.</p>
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	Yes, not current

\**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

**Criteria Evaluation<sup>1</sup>**

<b>i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?</b>	No
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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<b>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?</b>	No
<b>iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?</b>	No
<b>iv. Was the vessel the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?</b>	Yes. At the time she was placed into service in 1969, NR 1 was the only manned, deep submergence research vehicle with a nuclear reactor. She was the only nuclear manned research submersible capable of operating at a depth of 3,000 ft. Her unique features included extendable bottoming wheels, three viewing ports for visual observation, and a manipulator arm. Very extensive navigation system including an Omega receiver, sonar equipment, Doppler sonar, underwater telephone and radio transceiver, and related computer equipment.
<b>v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?</b>	No
<b>Historic Evaluation Conclusion</b>	Eligible

<b>Sources</b>	“Introduction” (untitled paper in NR-1 Unclassified Archives)
	NNS020804-03. Submarine NR-1 Conducts Operations for Scientific Community, Navy News, 6 August 2002
	Welcome Aboard, Submarine NR-1, ‘The World’s Finest Deep Submersible’
	Change of Command brochure, Submarine NR-1, 30 July 1993
	NNS081126-23, “NR-1 Submarine Dives Into History” 26 November 2008
	Wikipedia, “American Submarine NR-1”
	Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships “NR-1”

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### 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.

<b>Comments Received</b>	<b>Comment Disposition</b>