



# MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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The ironclad USS *Monitor* has been called the most famous ship in American history. The concept was developed by Swedish inventor John Ericsson in 1854, but it wasn't until the outbreak of the American Civil War that he had the opportunity to build this unique warship. The keel was laid on October 25, 1861, at the Continental Iron Works in Greenpoint, N.Y., and the completed vessel was launched 98 days later on January 30, 1862. The *Monitor* was lost on December 31, 1862 in a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C.



"General Plan" of the USS *Monitor* ca. February 1862, drawn on linen in four colors  
Photo courtesy of The Mariners' Museum

[HTTP://MONITOR.NOAA.GOV](http://monitor.noaa.gov)