



#### USS CONSTITUTION

The USS Constitution is located at the old Boston Navy Yard. I visited this beautiful ship in 2002 while attending a Conference near Boston. I took all of these photos paying particular attention to the rigging, the deck arrangements, guns and the lower decks, knowing that some time in the future I would be building one of Revell's 1/96 scale models of the Constitution. I was spellbound by the size of the ship, its design and construction and the size and thickness of the standing rigging needed to maintain the masts in place. The cannons and their associated block and tackle shock rigging was also impressive. I also tried to get a picture of the diagonal riders that had recently been installed during her last drydocking for much needed repairs and refurbishment. These riders were part of Mr. Joshua Humphrey's original design of the ship and were meant to provide hull stiffening and reduced hogging of the keel. These diagonal riders also allowed the Constitution to carry more guns than any frigate of her day. Somewhere along the Constitution's long history, these riders were taken out resulting in severe hull sagging and keel hogging. Also included are some photos of the old navy drydock and the collection of oak trees and timbers that were collected and stored for the Constitution's repairs.

After visiting the USS Constitution I now know what the phrase "wooden ships and iron men" really means.

























