Hon. Carlton Skinner  
Governor of Guam  
Agana, Guam  

My dear Governor Skinner:

In accordance with your request, there is transmitted herewith a "General Report on Archeology and History of Guam". This study was prepared by the National Park Service under authority of the Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Act and pursuant to the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666) which makes the Department of the Interior, through this Service, responsible for a nationwide program for the preservation of the irreplaceable historical and archeological resources of the United States and its territorial possessions.

The report is the result of a thirty-day field study in Guam with brief visits to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by Dr. Erik K. Reed, Regional Archeologist, Region Three Office of the National Park Service in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On the basis of a comprehensive review of the ecology, cultural history of the Marianas, and historical and archeological data relating to Guam, derived from reconnaissance and previous studies, recommendations are made regarding conservation and interpretation of sites.

The cooperation of the various branches of the Government of Guam in assisting with transportation and information for the preparation of this report is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Director

Enclosure
is agriculture still carried on. The privately-owned beaches about
the northwestern and northern end are unoccupied; clear evidences
of old farms (coconut plantations, etc.) and house-sites may be
occasionally seen. The one tract of private property within the
public domain along the east coast in the north is utilized but not
regularly inhabited (the area served as a refuge for a group of
Guamanians who supported themselves there during the 2½-year
Japanese occupation). The entire northern plateau, in fact, is
virtually unpopulated north of Dededo except by the Air Force; there
is only one struggling little village — Yigo — with an even
smaller concentration close by at Santa Rosa, with a number of farms
in this vicinity and atop Mt. Santa Rosa. There seem to be only a
few other small scattered farms, in the Hilaan vicinity. There is
only one seasonally- or temporarily-occupied house on the northern
beaches, Juan Castro's place near Ritidian Point. Settlement is
almost continuous in the western part of the mid-section of the island,
from Asan and Agana (the capital, which was completely destroyed in
1944), and Tumonong through Sinajana and smaller villages to
Barrigada and vicinity. On the east, however, the Pago Bay area is
unoccupied; the former village of Pago was moved (by the Japanese,
I believe) to Sumay, on Orote Peninsula, whence the people were
cleared out, to establish Santa Rita, I understand. Around the
southern coast is a series of small towns comparatively undisturbed
by the war and the post-war period; from northeast to Southwest
these are Yona, Talofofo, Inarajan, Merizo, Umatac. Farms and
houses are scattered between these to some degree, and extend inland
from them up the valleys; much of the interior, however, is not occu-

The total population (including the military) of Guam in
1950 was 58,754, including about 28,600 Guamanians. Of the total,
20,700 were concentrated in the municipalities of Sinajana and
Barragada, the former including the Agana vicinity. About half of
the total is made up by United States military personnel, who would
be largely in the municipalities (districts) of Yigo, Dededo, Asan,
Piti, Sumay, and Agat.

Agriculture is generally small-scale and practically on a
family subsistence basis. Farm products are not exported or even
marketed locally to any extent. Livestock raising is not well
developed at all, and grazing lands are in generally poor condition.
Livestock, poultry, fruit trees, and farming equipment were exten-
sively lost in the war and in the 1949 typhoon. The forests have
been removed and destroyed pretty completely. Fishing is almost
entirely neglected, surprisingly. In short, the natural resources
of Guam have been seriously depleted and yet are not being fully
exploited at present or systematically rebuilt.

A considerable percentage of Guamanian citizens are
working, directly or indirectly, for the military (even so, the
Navy or their contractors have found it advisable to import several
thousand Filipino laborers). A very high percentage, probably the
majority of Guamanians, have changed over completely from a self-
supporting basis or subsistence economy to a dollar economy,
dependence on cash received by sale of goods or services to, prima-
ry, the military. Actually, the trend to a cash economy, instead
of a subsistence basis, began early in the American period, between
1900 and 1911. The traditional attitude toward land ownership and
alienation has persisted, however, and Guamanians do not generally
sell their lands readily. Toward cash money and other possessions,
except land, many or most Guamanians have an understandably careless
attitude, after undergoing typhoons, earthquakes, the Japanese
occupation, the American reconquest, and finally the less abrupt but
heavily impacted post-war military activities and planned
reconstruction.

Many complex problems, even further beyond the scope of
this report than are topics already discussed, are created by these
factors and various others. An important opportunity is offered for
a historical and practical study by a social anthropologist interested
in culture-change and applied anthropology, to compare and trace
developments through (1) the aboriginal culture, as reconstructed
from early historical sources and archeological materials, partly
done by Laura Thompson in The Native Culture of the Marianas
Islands, R. P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 185, 1945; (2) the modified
culture of 1700-1870, from travelers' descriptions and sources such
as the memoirs of Governor de la Corte; (3) the people of Guam in
the early twentieth century, drawing mainly on Safford, 1906; (4) the
situation just before World War II, as discussed in the original
19th edition of Mrs. Thompson's book Guam and Its People, and other
sources; and (5) post-war and present-day Guam and its problems.
Studies are needed for Guam such as the paper by Alexander Spoehr,
"The Tinian Chamorros," Human Organization 10:16-20, No. 1, Winter
1951, and the book by Alice Joseph and V. Murray, Chamorros and
Carolinians of Saipan, 1951.
Chandiya (Osborne, m.s.) -- an important site, largely de-
stroyed by a NAD road.

Bona (Osborne, m.s.) -- a small site, evidently has disappeared,
except for the stones which have been set up near the NAD entrance.

San Isidro (Osborne, m.s.) -- could not be located, and may
have been removed in the course of NAD construction.

Other sites have been reported to exist in the basin, and
those downstream from Fena toward Talafofo presumably survive. Very
possibly there are important sites to be found along the Uguas River,
possibly there are important sites to be found along the Uguas River,
major tributary from the south. There seems to be none on the grassy
uplands on the north of the Fena basin crossed by the Santa Rita-
Talafofo road.

3. RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES AND ACTION PROGRAM

I. Basic legislation and general protection

General protection by law of surviving historic structures and
archaeological sites from destruction or vandalism is the first and funda-
mental need, especially with the recent transfer of the public domain on
the island to the Government of Guam, until which these lands were tree-
of 1906. A territorial law, similar to the various state laws protect-
ing historic and archaeological remains, should be promptly enacted, stat-
ing the general policy of conservation of historical resources in line
with the historic sites Act of 1935, and specifically prohibiting any
disturbance of historic and archaeological sites on all government lands,
providing for the authorization of excavations or collecting on the is-
land by qualified representatives of reputable institutions, by issuance
of permits on the favorable recommendation of the Conservation Committee
for Micronesia of the Pacific Science Board (National Research Council),
or of the Subcommittee for Pacific Archeology of the same organization.

In any other measures looking toward general protection of historic
archaeological remains which I can suggest are educational -- involv-
ing a degree of care in arousing local interest -- and discussed in sec-
tion three below.

II. Areas to be reserved or developed

1. Adelup. The plaza and the adjoining "azotea" or governor's gar-
teen should be kept, and kept up, much as they are now, with perhaps the
- A typical house, at Talafoto, of modern materials on the Micronesian plan

lla – The detached tasa of the As Nieves group, island of Rota