ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY
OF GUAM

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1952
In reply refer to:
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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]

Donard L. Wirth
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 Tamuning 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 again
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, Talasofa, Sinajana, 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
Barrigada, 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
totally neglected, surprisingly. In fine, 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 subsistence economy to a cash economy, supporting basis or subsistence economy to a cash economy, depending on cash received by sale of goods or services to, primarily, 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 heavy impact of 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, B. 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 1941 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. 4, Winter 1951, and the book by Alice Joseph and V. Murray, Chamorros and Carolinians of Saipan, 1951.
Chandija (Osborne, ms.) -- an important site, largely destroyed by a NAD road.

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

San Isidro (Osborne, ms.) -- 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 Ugu River, possibly there are important sites to be found along the Ugu 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.

D. RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES AND ACTION PROGRAM

1. Basic legislation and general protection

General protection by law of surviving historic structures and archeological sites from destruction or vandalism is the first and fundamental need, especially with the recent transfer of the public domain on the island to the Government of Guam, until which these lands were treaty of 1906. A territorial law, similar to the various state laws protecting historic and archeological remains, should be promptly enacted, statuting 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 archeological sites on all government lands, providing for the authorization of excavations or collecting on the island 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 archeological remains which I can suggest are educational -- involving a degree of care in arousing local interest -- and discussed in section 8 below.

2. Areas to be reserved or developed

(i) Attend. The piasa and the adjoining "azotea" or governor's gar- den should be kept, and kept up, much as they are now, with perhaps the
11a - The detached tara of the As Nieves group, island of Rota

A typical house, at Talafoto, of modern materials on the Micronesian plan