

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received SEP 16 1980

date entered APR 16 1981

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic

and/or common Rectory

**2. Location**

street & number

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district

Commonwealth of the  
state Northern Mariana Is.

code

county Rota

code

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                  | Status  | Present Use  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied                     | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process        | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> complex     | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military                    |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                      |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                        |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence           |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                   |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                  |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation              |
|   |  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: abandoned |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Government of the Northern Mariana Islands

street & number

city, town Saipan

\_\_\_ vicinity of

Commonwealth of the  
state Northern Mariana Is.

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Land Management

street & number

city, town Saipan

Commonwealth of the  
state Northern Mariana Is.

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N.A.

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

|                                    |   |   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                   |   | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered              | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed        |   |   |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The rectory is a two story concrete "L" shaped structure measuring 13.7m x 19.8m; the east wing is 6.6 m wide; the south wing is 6.2m wide. The main entrance is on the north consisting of concrete stairs 1.9 m wide leading up to a concrete porch on the second level. Most of the second level was wood framed and both floor and framing have been destroyed. Precast concrete foundation blocks remain. Impressions from wood joists remain in the walls. The roof was also wood framed and has been destroyed. A cylindrical concrete water catchment tank 3.0 m in diameter is adjacent to the south-east.

The original concrete finish was left natural and never having been painted, closely resembles its original condition. The character of the building is similar to Spanish era structures with the massive steps, regularly spaced windows and relatively short spans. The detail used for the openings, the porch columns, foundation blocks and several other parts of the building are similar to construction during the Japanese Administration. There are green ceramic toilet fixture elements remaining. The quality is equal to or exceeds current materials.

Immediately adjacent to the west is the ruins of the Church. This structure was heavily damaged during the war and is overgrown with vegetation. The nave walls to the north have almost been destroyed, while part of the chancel and alter area remains. A concrete raised pulpit remains intact along with several significant elements including a cross in relief on one of the fallen sections of the wall.

## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention               |   |   |  |

**Specific dates** circa 1930

**Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The complex is unique to the region. It is significant as the only remaining Church structure built in the Commonwealth of the Marianas during the Japanese Administration. Architecturally it is a major transitional structure for it has major building elements from the Spanish era, but material and details from the Japanese Administration period. It is one of the very few structures to show mixtures of the two influences. The rectory is a very pleasant space and could be a very handsome structure.

Settlements by Japanese, circa 1930, displaced Chamorro settlements, particularly in the area of the sugar mills and Songsong Village. The Chamorros relocated to other areas including the vicinity of the rectory and church. In 1936 there were 787 Chamorros remaining on Rota, representing 14% of the island's population.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Paul B. Souder, Island of Rota; late 1940's; Micronesian Area Research Center. Album of the South Sea Islands; the South Sea Islands Assn; Japan, circa 1940; Photographic Essay.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

### UMT References

A 

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| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

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Verbal boundary description and justification From roadway to 10m beyond edge of rectory and Church.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state                          | code | county | code      |
|--------------------------------|------|--------|-----------|
| Commonwealth of the            |      |        |           |
| state Northern Mariana Islands | code | county | code Rota |

## 11. Form Prepared By

|                 |                            |                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| name/title      | Jack B. Jones              | Project Evaluator  |
| organization    | J.B. Jones, Architect, AIA | date April, 1980   |
| street & number | P.O. Box 6277              | telephone 646-1101 |
| city or town    | Tamuning,                  | state Guam 96911   |

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Jesus B. Pangulanan*

title Chief, Division of Historic Preservation

date 9/12/80

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Patricia Ann Dangel*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/16/81

Attest: *Patrick Andrus*  
Chief of Registration

date 4/14/81

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Rectory Item number Page

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7. Description:

The nomination includes the remains of the nearby Church. The church was built at approximately the same time as the rectory. The immediate jungle growth is so dense as to preclude exact measurement of the structure. The church was constructed from similar materials. The concrete pulpit is a significant remaining feature.

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APR 16 1981

Continuation sheet Rectory

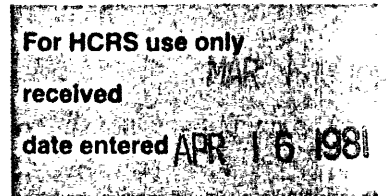
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Page

8. Significance:

The church is a catholic church erected for the Chamorro natives who were displaced from Song Song Village at the south end of the island (where concentrated Japanese settlements were developed). After the war the islanders were allowed to return to Song Song Village and worship at a post war church constructed there. The church was destroyed and the rectory damaged from the U.S. invasion of the island during World War II.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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Continuation sheet

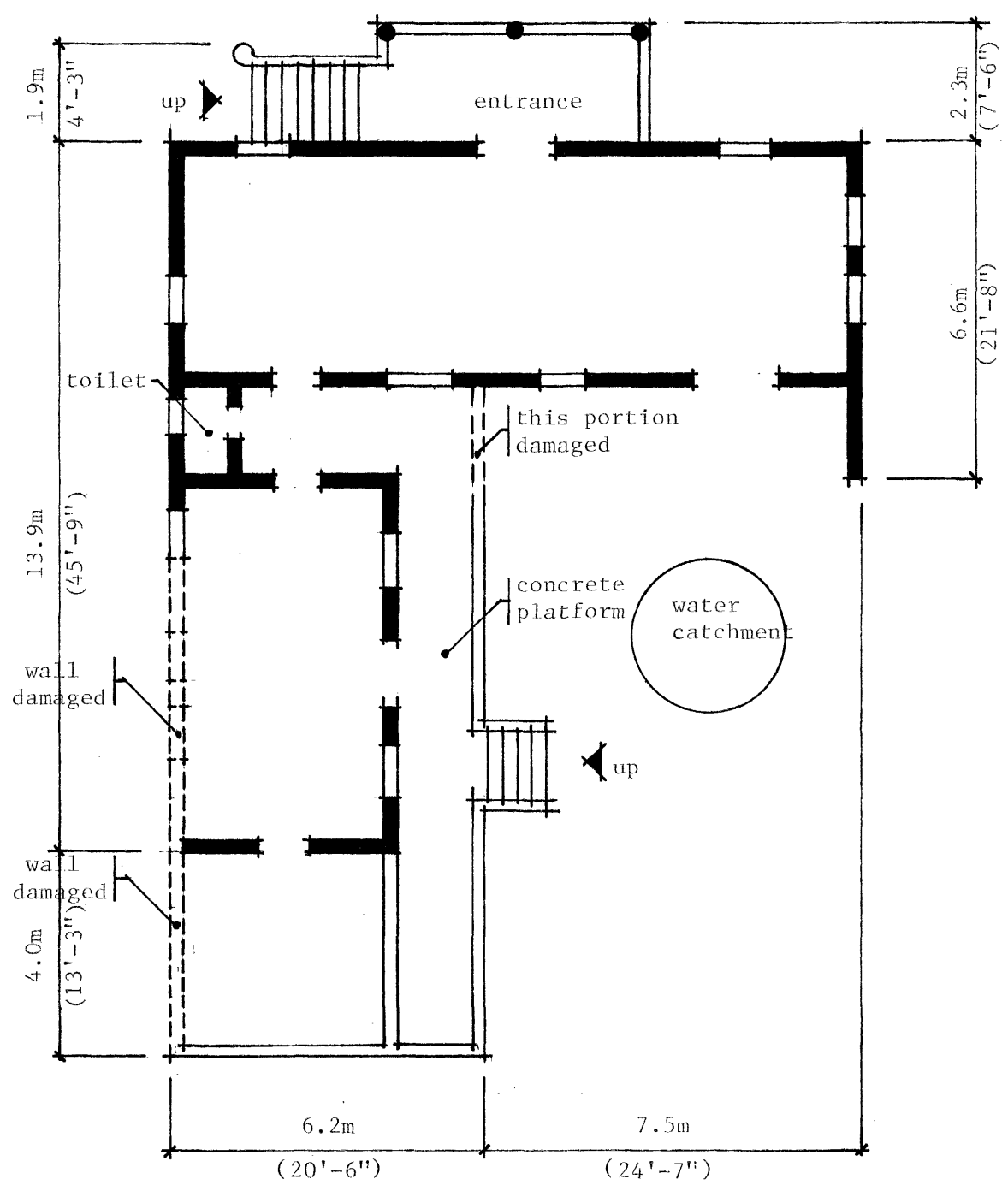
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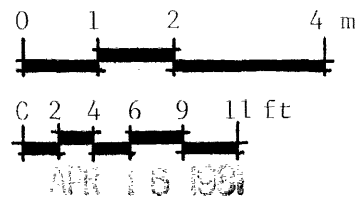
## 8. Significance:

1. Japan seized the Marianas, except for Guam, along with the other German South Sea Islands in October, 1915 and retained them under the Mandates commission of the League of Nations following the Versailles Peace Treaty. During the period from 1922 to 1943 the Japanese South Seas Government maintained a Branch Government in Saipan. In the mid to late 1920's the NKK became very active in Saipan, with some of the major construction in Chalan Kanoa dating from 1928. Major settlements in Rota dated from 1930. Tinian construction was similar to Saipan and Rota.
2. The economic organization in the Marianas as in all of the Japanese Mandates were dominated by three large civilian Japanese Corporations: Nanyo Bocki Kaisha, South Seas Trading Company; Nanyo Takushoku Kabushiki Kaisha and Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha, NKK.
3. The NKK was the largest and most influential corporation in the Marianas because it was the most important economic organization in the islands. It operated a system of tenant farming on sugar plantations covering 28, 687 acres. Part of the land was owned by the NKK and part was leased from the native Chamorros. The NKK owned and operated 2 sugar mills on Saipan, 1 mill on Tinian and 2 on Rota. The Chalan Kanoa area of Saipan was the support base for the major mill on Saipan. Singsong village was the support base for the major mill on Rota. Tinian Village was the support base for the mill on Tinian. The mill capacity for just the two Rota mills was 1,000 tons of sugar cane per day.
4. The vast majority of the NKK physical plant was destroyed during World War II. Only some of the residential and administrative structures are in use today and these are not being used in support of sugar cane or other original NKK enterprises.

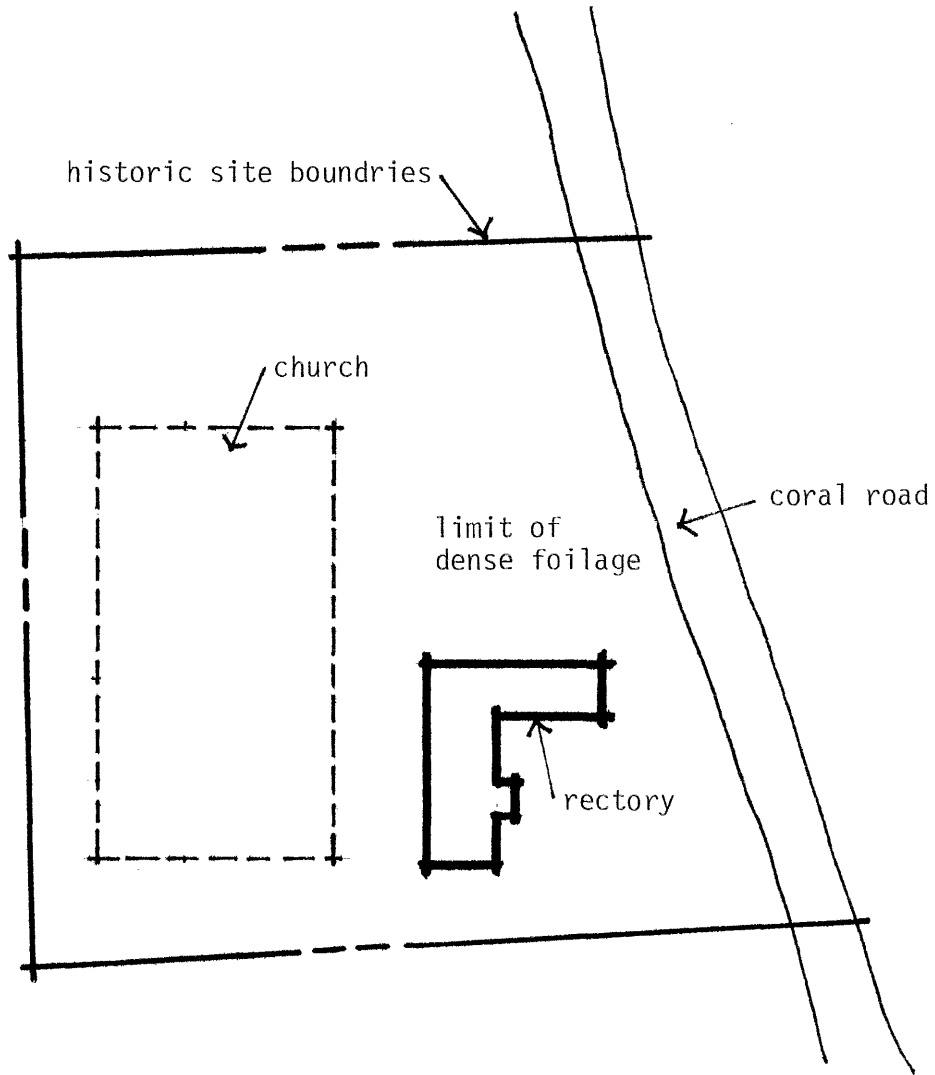
The remaining buildings have all suffered some war damage resulting from the Invasion of U.S. Forces in spring of 1944.



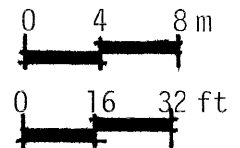
floor plan  
map no. 3.  
rectory







Site Plan  
Map No. 4.  
Rectory



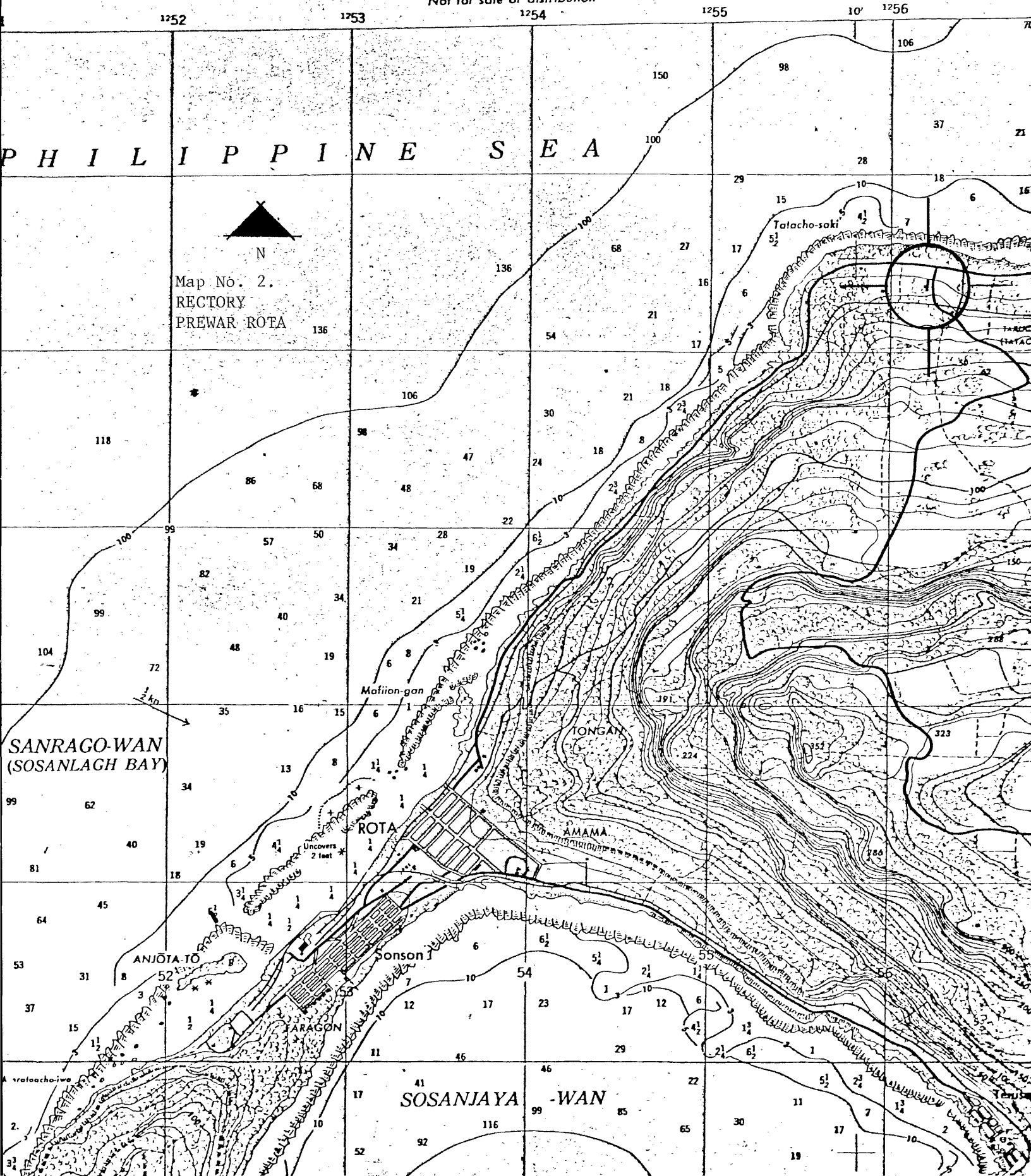
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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS 1:25,000

For use by  
War and Navy Department Agencies only  
Not for sale or distribution

ROTA SW

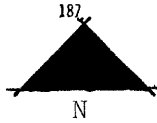


Map No. 2.  
RECTORY  
PREWAR ROTA

SANRIGO-WAN  
(SOSANLAGH BAY)

SOSANJAYA -WAN

# PACIFIC OCEAN



Map No. 1.

RECTORY

UTM REFERENCE

55/302130/1566900

