

PH0056782

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Guam
COUNTY:	N/A
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:	Plaza de Espana
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:				Saylor Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			Agana			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:		
STATE:		CODE:		COUNTY:		CODE:		
Guam		66				100		

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

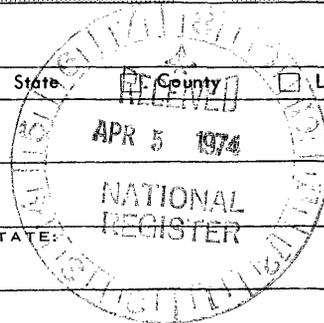
OWNER'S NAME:				Government of Guam					
STREET AND NUMBER:									
CITY OR TOWN:			Agana			STATE:		Guam	
						CODE:		66	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:				Department of Land Management, Government of Guam					
STREET AND NUMBER:				Administration Building					
CITY OR TOWN:			Agana			STATE:		Guam	
						CODE:		66	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:									
DATE OF SURVEY:				<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:									
STREET AND NUMBER:									
CITY OR TOWN:			Agana			STATE:		Guam	
						CODE:			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Plaza de Espana is considered the Governor's Palace, associated buildings and gardens, along with the open plaza immediately in front. The original Plaza de Espana was called the Plaza de Magalhaes and was the site of the Casa Gobierno constructed in 1736 by the Spanish. In addition, the Almacen (arsenal) and garden house were constructed at this time.

In 1885, the Casa Gobierno or Governor's Palace was replaced by a larger palace, but retained the almacen and garden house. The downstairs were used as storerooms while the second floor was the living quarters of the Spanish Governor with the principal rooms being the dining sala in front and Azotea (terrace-porch) in the rear, along with the private quarters of the Governor and his family. Most of the buildings in the Plaza de Espana were constructed in Spanish style either of wood or of manposteria—a combination of rough coral stones set in place and covered with a smooth lime mortar. The Palace was designed with quite thick walls to withstand earthquakes. In addition, local wood, ifil, was used for the ceiling beams. The Governor's Palace was of wood construction. However, the base of the Azotea was of manposteria construction.

During the Spanish rule of Guam, the almacen's first floor was used as an arsenal for the storage of cannon balls, chain shot, and shrapnel with the second floor being used as a barracks and later a hospital. However, the Americans used the first floor for storage of naval stores, the paymaster's office, and a post office with the second floor being used as a hospital, barracks, and the intermediate school.

The earthquake of 1902 caused significant damage to the Palace, so that major renovation was performed by the Americans in 1905. This consisted of laying a cement floor and converting old storerooms into offices on the first floor of the Palace.

In 1930, the almacen was condemned as being unsafe and was dismantled. However, the three connected stone arches in the front called the Arches of the Almacen were preserved and serve as an entranceway to the middle garden which was constructed in 1933 to replace the almacen.

Also, in 1930 the open plaza, 100 yards square in front of the Palace, was landscaped and the small stone Kiosko, or bandstand, was placed in the center. Earlier, the Americans had moved the Kiosko off to one side to allow for a marine baseball field. However, this was discontinued in 1930 with the landscaping of the Plaza de Espana.

(See continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Plaza de Espana has been the center of political power in Guam from 1736 until 1944, when the destruction of most of the Governor's Palace occurred during the bombardment which accompanied the invasion of Guam by American Forces.

The original Governor's Palace, which was the principle structure in the complex of buildings, gardens, and park called the Plaza de Espana, was built in 1736. At that time the Plaza de Espana was named Plaze de Magalhaes and the Governor's Palace was called the Casa Gobierno. In 1855, the original palace was removed and replaced during the rule of Governor Don Enrique Solano. The remains of this newer palace are still standing in the Plaza de Espana.

The garden house of the 1736 palace was retained in 1855 and even survived the bombardment in 1944. This building has seen many uses and currently houses the Guam Museum. It is considered the oldest Spanish building on Guam in use today.

When the Americans replaced the Spanish rulers on Guam, the Palace continued to be the Governor's residence. Several changes occurred to some of the smaller buildings of the Plaza de Espana during the early years of American rule. However, the historical character of the Plaza and Palace was retained. One of these changes was the destruction of the arsenal which was built in 1736, directly east of the Palace. Fortunately, the entrance arches were retained and still stand as the Arches of the Almacen.

Also, the Kiosko, or bandstand, was moved to make way for a baseball diamond in the Plaza de Espana. In addition, the Plaza de Magalhaes was renamed the Plaza de Espana and the name Casa Gobierno was simply dropped in favor of the Governor's Palace.

At the beginning of World War II, the Plaza de Espana was the setting of a drama in the occupancy of Gaum by the Japanese Forces. In the early morning of December 10, 1941, the Japanese Special Naval Landing Force began landing at numerous points on the eastern shore of Guam and began advancing toward Agana.

(See continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beaty, Janice J., Discovering Guam, Faith Book Store, Agana, Guam, 1972.

Carano, Paul and Sanchez, Pedro C., A Complete History of Guam, Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont, 1964.

Guam Recorder, April-September, 1972, "Surrender of Guam" by George J. McMillin, University of Guam.

Guam Recorder, April-September, 1972, "Old Building Demolished", University of Guam.

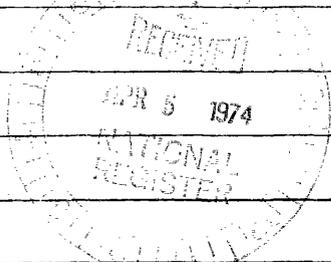
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		13° 28' 21"	144° 44' 58"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: David T. Lotz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Resources DATE: January 8, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 682

CITY OR TOWN: Agana STATE: Guam CODE: 66

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: Director of Commerce

Date: January 24, 1974

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.1.74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description (Continuation)

The July, 1944 naval bombardment of Agana destroyed several structures in the Plaza de Espana, namely, the Kiosko, Chocolate House, and the Palace. However, several walls of the complex, the Arches of the Almacen, the foundation of the Azotea, and the Garden House survived.

After the war, the Kiosko in the center of the Plaza was rebuilt as was the Chocolate House. In the reconstruction of the Chocolate House, two Spanish coat-of-arms found in the ruins of the Palace were placed in the walls of the rebuilt Chocolate House. The Azotea was also roofed over. This was destroyed by Typhoon Karen in 1962 and was replaced in 1970. This newly constructed roof over the Azotea is not a true replica of the roof which covered the structure immediately prior to World War II.

The original garden house became the Guam Museum in 1954. At the same time the interior was extensively modified with a new ceiling, new floor and painting of the interior. In 1965, a new tile roof was installed.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significant (Continuation)

At 4:45 a.m., the Japanese Forces were observed in the San Antonio District, directly to the east of the Plaza de Espana. Then the Guamanians of the Insular Forces Guard along with sailors and marines took up defensive positions in the Plaza de Espana armed with rifles and .30 caliber machine guns. When the Japanese Forces approached the Plaza de Espana, they were forced to halt for a short time due to the defense put up by the Insular Force Guard, marines, and sailors. However, in a short time the resistance appeared hopeless and a cease-fire was called at 5:45 a.m. Subsequently, liaison was established between the two forces, and shortly thereafter, the American Governor, Captain George J. McMillin, USN, surrendered the island to the Japanese in the Plaza de Espana.

During the occupation of Guam by the Japanese, the Palace in the Plaza de Espana became the headquarters of the Japanese occupation forces until the American invasion and bombardment in July, 1944.

After the war the Plaza de Espana became a park upon the repair of the garden house, foundation of the Azotea, Arches of the Almacen, and portions of the walls of the complex. In addition, the Kiosko, Chocolate House, and gardens were reconstructed.

