

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 24 1984
date entered 10/30/84

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Campaneyan Kristo Rai

and/or common Catholic Belltower

2. Location

street & number Beach Road

not for publication

city, town Garapan Village vicinity of

Northern Mariana Islands

state Saipan code county CNMI code 96950

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: not in use

4. Owner of Property

name Northern Mariana Islands Catholic Mission

street & number

city, town Saipan vicinity of state CNMI 96950

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. same as 4 above

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title CNMI Property Register Form has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records CNMI Historic Preservation Office

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Campaneyan Kristo Rai is a square tower built atop a coral limestone outcropping in Garapan Village, Saipan. It is three meters by three meters at its base and ten meters in height. The tower is composed of four poured concrete columns measuring 70 centimeters square which form the corners of the belltower. On the bottom half of the structure, the open areas between the columns are filled in with walls constructed of small limestone coral cobbles set in a matrix of cement plaster. The exterior of the bottom half of the tower is covered with a thick stucco-like plaster which is pockmarked with several small shell holes dating from World War II. The entranceway, a doorless opening measuring 2.3 meters tall by 1.9 meters wide, is the only access. The upper one half of the tower has no walls; the space between the columns is filled with cast concrete decorations. The roof of the tower is poured concrete and, presumably, serves to structurally tie the four columns together. Originally, seven concrete steps led up to the entrance of the tower. However, landfilling undertaken during World War II has buried all but the top three steps. The interior of the tower is empty; the original bell and its wooden supports were removed several years ago. The tower is not in use at the present time.

The tower is the last structural element associated with the Kristo Rai Church which stood on the site of the modern Catholic Church in Garapan Village. The original church was constructed in the 1860s and was in continuous use until it was destroyed by naval gunfire during World War II. Campaneyan Kristo Rai was constructed in 1932 under the supervision of Spanish Jesuit priests who were recruited by the Japanese administration to tend to the spiritual needs of the island's faithful. Although the Japanese were primarily Buddhist, they encouraged the practice of Catholicism among the island's local residents. The concrete and stone belltower replaced an older wooden tower which had been used previously.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1932	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1932 **Builder/Architect** Spanish Jesuit Order

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Campaneyan Kristo Rai is significant because it is the sole surviving structural element of the Kristo Rai Church, the oldest and most important church on the island of Saipan. For over 80 years, the Kristo Rai Church served as the focal point of island social life. The tower serves as a physical reminder of life in prewar Saipan.

Additionally, significance is derived from the combination of construction materials and techniques used in the tower. The blend of modern poured concrete structural elements with the older mamposteria-like walls, is unique to Saipan.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Russell, Scott

1984 From Arabwal to Ashes: A Brief History of Garapan Village 1818 to 1845.
Micronesian Archaeological Survey Report Series, No. 19
Saipan

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

5	5	3	6	2	0	6	0	1	6	8	0	9	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the property is a line running around the four sides of the tower one meter from the exterior walls. This allows for the entire tower to be encompassed.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Scott Russell, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer

organization CNMI Historic Preservation Office

date 9 August 1984

street & number Lower Base

telephone 9722

city or town Saipan

state CNMI 96950

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Jesse B. Pangalanan

title Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/24/84

For NPS use only

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

Patricia Andum

date 10/30/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration