Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Fagalele Boys School: Thus U-shaped building sits within a rectangle approximately 80 feet by 60 feet. Its walls are approximately 2 feet thick, and may be either of mortared rocks with cement-plaster exterior or of reinforced concrete. It was built in the last half of the 19th century, perhaps as early as 1850-1856 by the London Missionary Society and was the first secondary school for Eastern (now American) Samoa. It enrolled only boys.

Its original roof was probably thatch, changing to corrugated iron by 1900. Wooden floors, beams, door and window frames, and rafters have been replaced as they rotted. In it were classrooms and probably the residence of the teacher-pastor and his family. Thick partitions divide the interior into rooms.

In 1970, the exterior porch, wooden roof frame and corrugated iron roof are attached to and rest on the original walls. Its 1970 use is as a residence for a missionary for the National Council of Churches, U.S.A., whose work is primarily with the non-Samoan residents of Tutuila Island. Part of the building contains an apartment for visiting church officials.

Fagalele is located near the village of Leone, and is owned by the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Apia, Western Samoa, an independent nation.

When used as a school for pre-ministerial students, the youths probably lived in Samoan thatched houses adjacent to the building. Cooking was done under thatched roofs. Adjacent or detached farm lands, worked by the students, provided food.



S	IGNIFICANCE				
٦	PERIOD (Check One or More as Ap	ppropriate)			
	Pre-Columbian	16th Century		☐ 18th Century	🔀 20th Century
	15th Century	17th Century		🔀 19th Century	
	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known)			
	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check	one or More as Appropriate)		
	Abor iginal	X Education	X	Political	Urban Planning
	Prehistoric	X Engineering	X	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Short Statement: The first secondary school in what is now American Samoa started at Fagalele about 1855. This quarters-classroom building was built sometime after 1855 and before 1900. The school trained boys from Eastern Samoa for entry into the London Missionary Society seminary at Malua, Western Samoa. The building may be the oldest standing structure on Tutuila Island.

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Samoan culture was transmitted generation to generation as learned and acceptable behavior when youths associated with adults of the same sex in the daily and seasonal rounds of family and village affairs. The process continues into the 1970's.

Christianity was absorbed into the Samoan culture starting in the 1830's and introduced a measure of formal education for a limited number of selected boys and girls. Unitl after 1900 and public schools made a small start in a few localities, village parochial schools provided the only education available in addition to the traditional informal Samoan system.

Village pastors, with few exceptions, were Polynesians. The first few were from other island groups, but after the London Missionary Society seminary at Malua, Upolo Island, Western Samoa started in 1844, Samoan pastors prevailed. The goal, never quite met, was a London Missionary Society pastor in each village.

Each village pastor conducted a formal elementary school for boys; many of the pastors' wives conducted elementary schools for girls. In the stratified Samoan class system, usually the boys and girls selected for the schools were children of the higher chiefs. There were no public schools in what is now American Samoa until after 1900. A few public schools were started, with help from the religious schools, in the first years of Naval administration. The number and location of public schools were limited until well into the 20th century. Parochial schools continue in Samoa today under several religious bodies as parallel educational systems to the public schools.

Until recently, Samoan parochial schools were oriented toward providing a supply of pastors and/or pastors' wives. Schools were conducted in the Samoan language and stressed religion, but some secular subjects were included. Boys also learned some Western manual arts, (con't. on 10-300a)

9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RI	EFERENCES										
Gray	n, Henry F. "Am r, J.A.C., Amerik ack, C.C., Samoa	a Samoa, Ani	napoli	S.	Md.	ory), 1960.	Oct. 1	, 1926.				
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Form 1,0-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance

and girls also studied Western hygiene and domestic arts.

The London Missionary Society, most frequently called LMS, was first into Samoa and had a system of village schools, secondary schools, and a seminary established by 1844. Other organized religious groups which followed into Samoa never reached the coverage in adherents or schools achieved by the LMS. Tutuila, the main island of what is now American Samoa, had resident Roman Catholic priests in 1867. Missionaries of the Latter Day Saints came in 1888 and Wesleyan in 1901.

In the dominate LMS system, before 1855 for boys, and 1900 for girls, graduates of village elementary schools chosen for higher education usually as pastors or pastors' wives left their home villages or islands for secondary and/or seminary training at LMS schools on Upolu Island, Western Samoa. Disruption of close Samoan family ties during the absence of students was a factor in opening secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, on Tutuila Island.

Fagalele Boys School was the Eastern Samoa district secondary school of the IMS, the first (1855) in Eastern Samoa and the only one until 1900. It served selected graduates of village schools from the island of Tutuila and the islands of Manua, now part of American Samoa.

Preministerial in orientation, boys attended for two or three years before being admitted to the seminary at Malua. In 1926, the subjects taught included Religion (Church History, Scripture History, the Disciples and "International Lessons"); English (taught only at Fagalele--the other LMS district secondary schools did not include this language); Geography, Arithmetic, Samoan Grammar and Composition. The boys also ran the associated farm lands.

Fagalele Boys School was closed during the 1926 census conducted by the Navy. The schoolmaster in residence then was Fa'amasani. The fact that boys were not in residence at the time of the census (nor were girls at Atauloma) was believed responsible for the decrease in population in the Western District of Tutuila Island. Other districts of American Samoa recorded increases. It is believed the school reopened, or classes were resumed, later. Final closing date of the school is unknown.

Detailed information on Fagalele is believed to be in the files of Malua College, Upolu, Western Samoa. A document search there by a historian proficient in the Samoan language is needed.

