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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

other names/site number Fale Laumei / AS-25-43

2. Location

street & number Rte. 1, William McKinley Memorial Highway

N/A	not for
	publication
	vicinity

city or town Utulei

state Tutuila Island, 96799

American Samoa Code AS county Western code 001 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national X statewide ___ local

David F. Herdlich 9/21/10
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES-CONTINUATION SHEET
Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium, Tutuila Island, Western, American Samoa

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: Concrete, glass, stone facing

roof: Compound wood beams, wood shakes

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium was constructed in 1962 by the Government of American Samoa (GAS) with funding through the U.S. Department of Interior. It was an initial project in an extensive upgrade of public facilities in the Territory. Its original architect(s) and engineer(s) are unknown, although they were likely attached to the Fourteenth Naval District Construction Battalion from Pearl Harbor, who were on loan to GAS to assist with the construction programs. The building is centrally located in the village of Utulei on the major island of Tutuila. It is an ovoid domed structure, 145' x 120', with a compound, self-bracing, arched roof, reminiscent of traditional Samoan *fale* roof design. Exterior walls are primarily windows on the long sides, with stone-faced concrete ends. The fairly large interior space (6323 sq. ft., with an additional 1216 sq. ft. stage) was designed to seat 800. An ovoid concrete-block building (1200 sq. ft.) with a traditional Samoan *fale* roof design was attached by a walkway to the north end of the main structure. (See site plans, Continuation pages 5 and 6.) An extensive \$3.2 million renovation was undertaken in 2006-2007, with great care being taken to preserve the original exterior design.

Narrative Description

The Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium is located in the village of Utulei on the island of Tutuila, the main island of American Samoa. Utulei is a major village on the shore of Pago Pago Bay and was for 51 years (1900-1951) along with its neighbor village Fagatogo partly occupied by the 216-acre U.S. Naval Station Tutuila. The village is the civic center of the Territory. Within short walking distance of Lee Auditorium are the Governor's mansion (NHL Government House), the Lt. Governor's house (NRHP), the territorial Executive Office Building housing the Governor's House and most of the government offices, the Feleti Barstow Public Library, Samoana High School, the central Bank of Hawaii, and the Michael J. Kirwan Educational Television Center (NRHP). Lee Auditorium is central to all this, facing across the island's main road Utulei Beach Park and the panorama of Pago Pago Bay and Rainmaker Mountain.

The original design of the building strove to incorporate elements of traditional Samoan architecture—the high domed ovoid roof and low eaves—but this seeming homage also made engineering sense. Enclosing a fairly large open space with the local structural issues posed by frequent hurricane-strength winds might logically have led the designer to the compound, self-bracing arched design. The prevalent use of wood shakes somewhat

resembling traditional thatch roofing would also have worked well on these shapes, and of course the architect's own creative interpretation of what the building should look like.

In March 2006 a major, \$3.2 million renovation of the building was begun, completed in July 2007. Joe N. Weilenman, AIA, was the architect for the reconstruction:

The criteria for the reconstruction were:

1. Repair and make the building structurally sound;
2. Replace all utilities such as electrical wiring and plumbing, all of which was either in poor condition or in dangerous condition;
3. Upgrade the interior space for air conditioned comfort, flexibility for use as a multi-purpose meeting and performance facility and to bring the facility into ADA and energy conservation compliance;
4. Provide security for the entire site and develop parking coordinated with various parking areas around Samoana High School;
5. Construct additional meeting rooms, entrance portico and related items.

The last items above posed a design challenge since I did not want to modify the appearance of the original building, only upgrade it. Based upon this I decided to add the additional facilities as obvious add-ons without actually touching the original building. The additional meeting and catering rooms at the rear and the entrance canopy are complimentary with the existing building but do not actually "bump" it. These two additions constitute the two noncontributing buildings within the property.

The building areas are:

1. Main floor seating 6,400sf
2. Main floor toilets 800sf
3. Balcony seating 800sf
4. Stage 1,224sf
5. Back-stage dressing, etc. 1,500sf
6. North Wing Meeting Room 1,200sf
7. Rear meeting and catering rooms 1,500sf

The restored building retains the original shape consisting of a large central unit with a compound curved roof with a shake roofing product, and with curved, lower roofed elements at either end, reminiscent of "apses." There is also a traditionally shaped "fale" at the right end of the building. This was formerly connected to the main building by a covered walkway. At some time during the 1990's this link between the main building and the fale was enclosed to be used as dressing rooms. The intersections of the gable roof over this area and the curved roofs of the main building the fale is aesthetically unfortunate, and is problematic given the amount of rainfall in American Samoa. During the most recent renovation all of these areas were upgraded as previously described plus the "fale" has been converted into a conference/meeting/art gallery use facility. The additions of the entrance canopy at the center of the main building is in harmony with, but not attached to, the main building. It looks like an addition that should have been there from the beginning but is stated as an addition. A similar but smaller entrance has been added to the "fale" and is treated in the same manner architecturally. Other upgrades include modern electrical system, energy efficient air conditioning and lighting, acoustical treatment, modern sanitation facilities, ADA compliance, parking and landscaping including landscape lighting.

The reconstruction was completed in time for the building to host the 2007 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES-CONTINUATION SHEET
Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium, Tutuila Island, Western, American Samoa

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Ethnic Heritage – Pacific Islander
- Politics/Government
- Performing Arts
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1962-present

Significant Dates

1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Hyrum Rex Lee

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

1962 is the year in which the U.S. government drastically altered its policies toward and investment in the Territory of American Samoa, as signified by and embodied in the construction of Lee Auditorium.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The site is just two years shy of its 50th year in 2012. We would like to have its NRHP recognition in place for its 50th-year anniversary.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium has been for forty-eight years the central venue for civic, artistic, governmental, and inter-governmental events in American Samoa. Its construction was a centerpiece of the U.S. Government's new-found commitment to its only Southern Hemisphere possession in the 1960s and it has since served multiple essential purposes in both local and international affairs. Architecturally, its imaginative utilitarian adoption of traditional Samoan *fale* house design elements into a building constructed with non-native materials and a demonstrably western influence was metaphoric of the attempt to wed these two disparate cultures. For American Samoans the building has achieved landmark status. Governor H. Rex Lee, after whom the building was subsequently named, was responsible for its construction, along with many other significant developments in the modernization of American Samoa beginning with his appointment as governor in 1961.

Criteria A: Significant Events

The Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium is located in the village of Utulei on the island of Tutuila, the main island of American Samoa. Utulei is a major village on the shore of Pago Pago Bay and was for 51 years (1900-1951) along with its neighbor village Fagatogo partly occupied by the 216-acre U.S. Naval Station Tutuila. The village is the civic center of the Territory. Within short walking distance of Lee Auditorium are the Governor's mansion (NHL Government House), the Lt. Governor's house, the territorial Executive Office Building housing the Governor's House and most of the government offices, the Feleti Barstow Public Library, Samoana High School, the central Bank of Hawaii, and the government-run TV broadcasting facilities the Michael J. Kirwan Educational Television Center. Lee Auditorium is central to all this, facing across the island's main road Utulei Beach Park and the panorama of Pago Pago Bay and Rainmaker Mountain. The building itself is a physical emblem of the relationship between America and its sole South Seas possession, and its construction in 1962 marked an important moment in time for that relationship.

In April 1900 twenty of the highest titled leaders of the Samoan islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u ceded their islands to the President of the United States, William McKinley, through his representative, Commander Benjamin F. Tilley, captain of the solitary, superannuated collier USS Abarenda anchored in Pago Pago Bay. Months earlier representatives of England, Germany, and the U.S.A. had already predetermined at a meeting in Washington, D.C., that the eastern islands of the Samoa Archipelago—Tutuila, Aunu'u, and the Manu'a group—would become a U.S. possession, while Germany claimed sovereignty over all the islands to the west. For the next 51 years the islands of Eastern or American Samoa were under the stratocracy of the U.S. Navy and lingered in a state of generally benign neglect until the onset of WW II, when they were fortified against an anticipated but averted Japanese invasion.

In 1951 U.S. oversight of the still "unorganized, unincorporated" possession was transferred by the President to the Dept. of Interior. For ten years nothing much changed. Naval officers appointed as interim "Governors" (36 in 51 years) gave way to mainland political appointees (7 in 10 years). Then, in July 1961 an author named Clarence W. Hall published an article in the *Readers Digest*, at the time the best-selling magazine in the U.S. and with world-wide distribution, entitled "Samoa: America's Shame in the South Seas." "While we have been doling out billions to underdeveloped nations, we have let our only South Pacific possession sink to the level of a slum." (Hall 1961:111) Two months earlier the recently inaugurated President John F. Kennedy had appointed H. Rex Lee as the next governor of American Samoa. The new Democratic administration and Governor Lee set out to reverse the decades of neglect and absolve the shame.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES-CONTINUATION SHEET
Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium, Tutuila Island, Western, American Samoa

Hyrum Rex Lee was not just another political appointee who had been voted out of office back home. He was a 25-year Department of Interior veteran career specialist on American Indian and dependent peoples. By October of 1961 over \$10 million was allocated for improvements in American Samoa's infrastructure and education system. A deadline was also imposed. In July 1962 for the first time the tri-annual South Pacific Conference would be held on American soil in American Samoa. The 200 delegates and attendant media would be focusing international attention on Tutuila. "By March 1962 virtually every able-bodied man in Samoa was working 10n hour days, 6 days a week to insure completion of the most needed projects by July 1." (Lee 1962: 2) The projects included the completion of a 9,000 foot jet runway, a new power plant, new high school and housing buildings, paved highways to the airport, and "a striking Polynesian style civic auditorium that seats 800 people" (Lee 1962: 2)—the to-be-later-named Lee Auditorium. The South Pacific Conference would successfully take place there.

Islands residents immediately took pride and possession of the building and renamed it in Samoan *Fale Laumei*, the turtle building, after the seeming resemblance of its shape to a sea turtle. It also became a potent symbol of the emerging centralized island self-government—a *maota*, a neutral, unclaimed meeting place, not aligned with any one village or chiefly title.

Four years later, in 1965, Clarence W. Hall would publish a follow-up article in the *Readers Digest*—"Samoa: America's Showplace of the South Seas." "From a Pacific slum to a Polynesian paradise in four years. The dramatic story of a man who helped an island people to help themselves." (Hall 1965: 157)

The significance of this building, from an island community perspective, is that it has, and continues to serve as the venue of social, cultural, political and educational events. Originally there were similar events plus indoor sports activities. It has been used for stage productions, children's theater, Chinese acrobatic displays, "Bruno's Magic Circus" and even once for a professional wrestling match. The building was used for many actives even though it was not necessarily suited to some. But it was the only large indoor venue.

Since the recent renovation it has been made more suitable for many activities even while remaining a multi-purpose venue. It has been fully enclosed and air conditioned, accessible public toilets were added, the stage was upgraded to a proper stage with proscenium, function service facilities were added such as conference rooms and a food catering set-up area, and professional grade computer controlled sound and stage lighting systems have been added. This upgrade in the facility has resulted in record size crowds attending such as the operettas performed by students of the American Samoa Community College. In July 2010 it housed the Territorial Constitutional Convention

For forty-eight years Lee Auditorium has been host to every important conference, convention, fashion show, educational and entertainment event in the Territory. It has served just about every function imaginable for a public building, from circus to science fair, boxing matches to constitutional conventions, high school graduation to state funerals. Events that took place there fill every islander's memory.

Criteria B: Association with persons significant in American Samoa's History

Hyrum Rex Lee

In 1961, Hyrum Rex Lee was appointed by President Kennedy to be Governor of American Samoa. Lee had previously worked for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Agriculture. By the time he reached Pago Pago, he had nearly 25 years working for the federal government, the majority of which had been at the Interior Department. (National Governors Association 2004) Lee's extensive experience in government showed that he was not a political contributor being rewarded for loyalty; he was brought to American Samoa to get results.

When Lee arrived in American Samoa, he found "that standards prevailing in the American Samoan school system did not approach those required to enable Samoans to compete on terms of equality in the modern

world.” (Lee 1965:13) To alleviate this problem, Lee began an ambitious program to improve the education system from the ground up. During his tenure, over 20 consolidated schools were built (Lee 1967: 15), funding was procured for continuing education for local teachers (Lee 1962: 37), and many teachers were brought from the United States to formulate and teach lessons from the new Michael J. Kirwan Instructional Resource Center (KVZK-TV). The first public high school on the island was opened in the central village of Utulei. The most significant and useful structure incorporated into the high school campus was the auditorium, later to be commemorated in his name, that would serve many purposes above and beyond its academic setting.

Governor Lee was instrumental in modernizing American Samoa’s infrastructure. A 9000 foot runway was built at the Tafuna International Airport to accommodate large jet aircraft, the Intercontinental Hotel was built in Utulei as a luxury resort for tourists, and a soft drink bottling plant, (Lee 1964: 32-35). Lee also oversaw the building of a 6 megawatt power plant and the improvement of the territory’s roads. (Lee 1962: 2) His administration also built the Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center in Faga’alu that still serves as the primary health provider in American Samoa. (Lee 1967: 31) In 1966, a hurricane destroyed many of the traditional fale that American Samoans had lived in, and most of these were replaced by Western style houses. (Barnett 1967, 75) Some of these structures still house residents of American Samoa today. Lee was the longest serving appointed Governor—a term of over six years. Lee was the Governor when President Johnson became the first and only U.S. Head of State to visit the territory in 1966. Lee was also the only appointed Governor ever re-appointed to the post; he was brought back in 1977 to oversee the transition from appointed chief executives to locally elected ones.

Governor Lee’s first administration was a watershed moment in the history of American Samoa. He affected drastic changes in the education, health care, transportation, and entertainment of American Samoans. Although his vision for educational television was not fully realized, it was part of the transition of American Samoans from the relatively simple lifestyle they had lived for centuries to the more westernized culture that exists today.

Criteria C: Architectural Significance

The architectural significance is, aside from being a much needed and much used community activity venue, that the exterior shapes relate to traditional architectural forms. While not being an accurate copy of a Samoan Fale tele nor an intentional mimic of a turtle, it does have a Samoan regional character with the curved roof and rounded ends, features seen in almost all traditional fale. It also sits raised on a base as traditional fale always do and it has the supporting columns clearly expressed as do traditional fale. It is clear that the intent of the unknown architect was to suggest traditional Samoan architectural design to the maximum extent without compromising the functionality of the building or being a direct copy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barnett, Frank (1967) Annual Governor’s Report to the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Enright, John (draft) *American Samoa Historic Context, the 1960s: From America’s Shame to America’s Showplace*. American Samoa Historic Preservation Office.

Hall, Clarence W. (1961) “Samoa: America’s Shame in the South Seas,” *Reader’s Digest*, July, pp 111-116.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES-CONTINUATION SHEET
Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium, Tutuila Island, Western, American Samoa

Hall, Clarence W. (1965) "Samoa: America's Showplace in the South Seas," *Reader's Digest*, November, pp 157-167.

Kennedy, Joseph (2009) *The Tropical Frontier: America's South Sea Colony*. Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam.

Lee, H. Rex (1961) Annual Governor's Report to the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Lee, H. Rex (1962) Annual Governor's Report to the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Lee, H. Rex (1964) Annual Governor's Report to the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Lee, H. Rex (1965) Annual Governor's Report to the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

1.7 acres (including noncontributing buildings, associated grounds and parking area)

Acreage of Property

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 2 534178.281 8421409.436
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES-CONTINUATION SHEET
Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium, Tutuila Island, Western, American Samoa

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning in the front of the building on the corner of Rte. 1, the William McKinley Memorial Highway, and the unnamed side street on the north end of the building head west along the curb 190 feet; turn left, south in a straight line past the rear of the new conference room/catering wing for 247 feet to the property fence line; turn left, east, following perimeter fence 40 feet; then right, south for fifteen feet' then left, east again, for 150 feet back to Rte. 1. A left in front of the building and 260 feet along the curb returns to starting point.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary includes original structure and attached *fale*-style building along with unattached new facilities added to the rear (west) side of the building, the new entry canopy and entry drive on the front (east) side of the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Enright, Consultant Historian

organization American Samoa Historic Preservation Office date 1 Sept. 2010

street & number Office of the Governor, Amer. Samoa Government telephone 401-924-1809

city or town Pago Pago state AS zip code 96799

e-mail eright45@yahoo.com

name/title Joe N. Weilenman, AIA, Architect

organization American Samoa Historical Commission date 1 Sept. 2010

street & number Office of the Governor, Amer. Samoa Government telephone _____

city or town Pago Pago state AS zip code 96799

e-mail inwarch@bluskynet.as

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

See continuation sheets 1 – 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Name of Property

Ma'oupatasi, American Samoa

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 1



Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Ma'oupatasi American Samoa

John Enright

2010

Digital Image on file at the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office

Facing west, front view

Photo #1

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

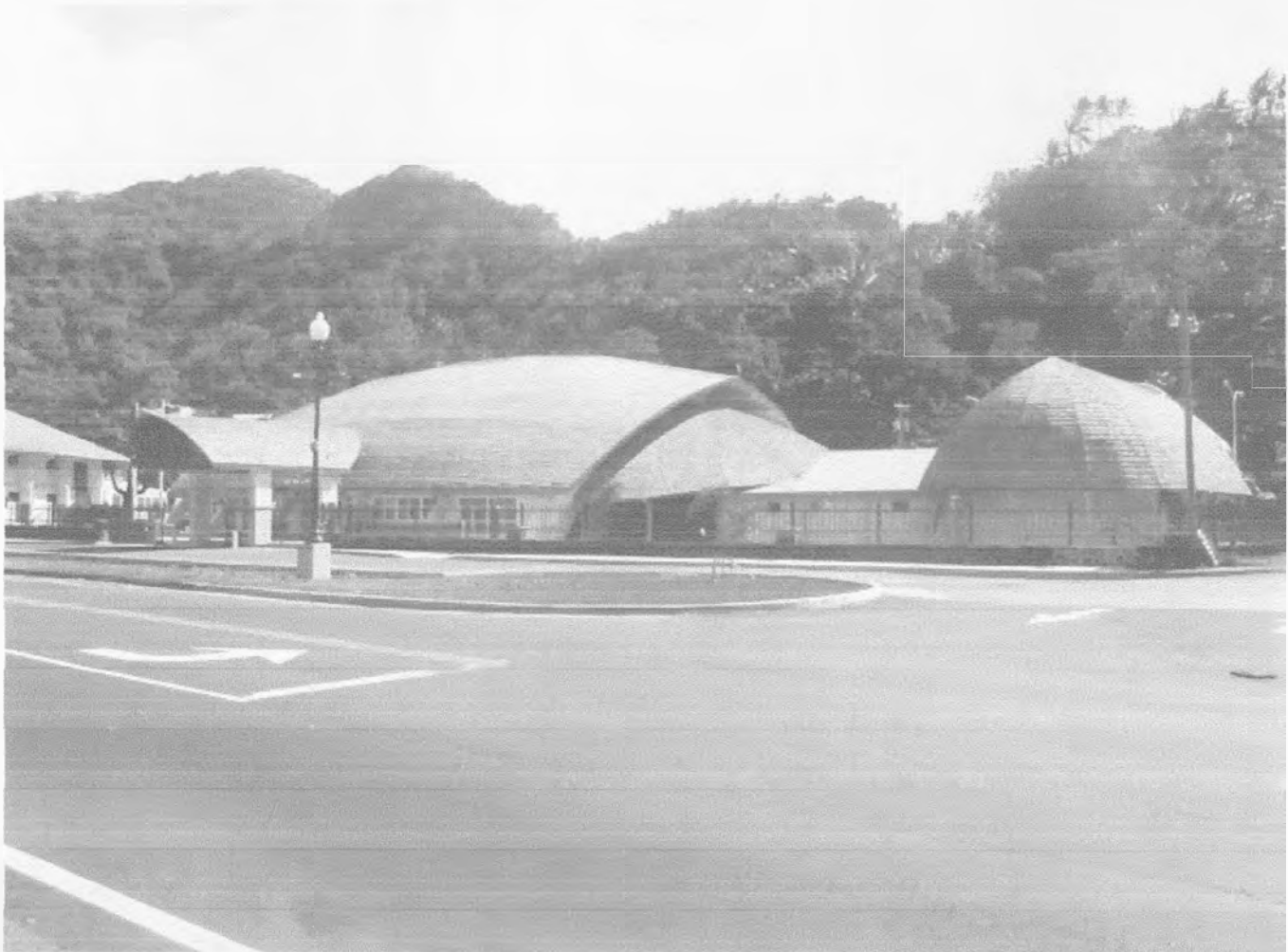
Name of Property

Ma'oupatasi, American Samoa

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 2



Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium
Ma'ouputasi American Samoa
Joe N. Weilenman
2007

Digital Image on file at the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office
Facing southwest, front view
Photo #2

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Name of Property

Ma'oupatasi, American Samoa

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 3



Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Ma'ouputasi American Samoa

Joe N. Weilenman

2007

Digital Image on file at the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office

Facing south, side view

Photo #3

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

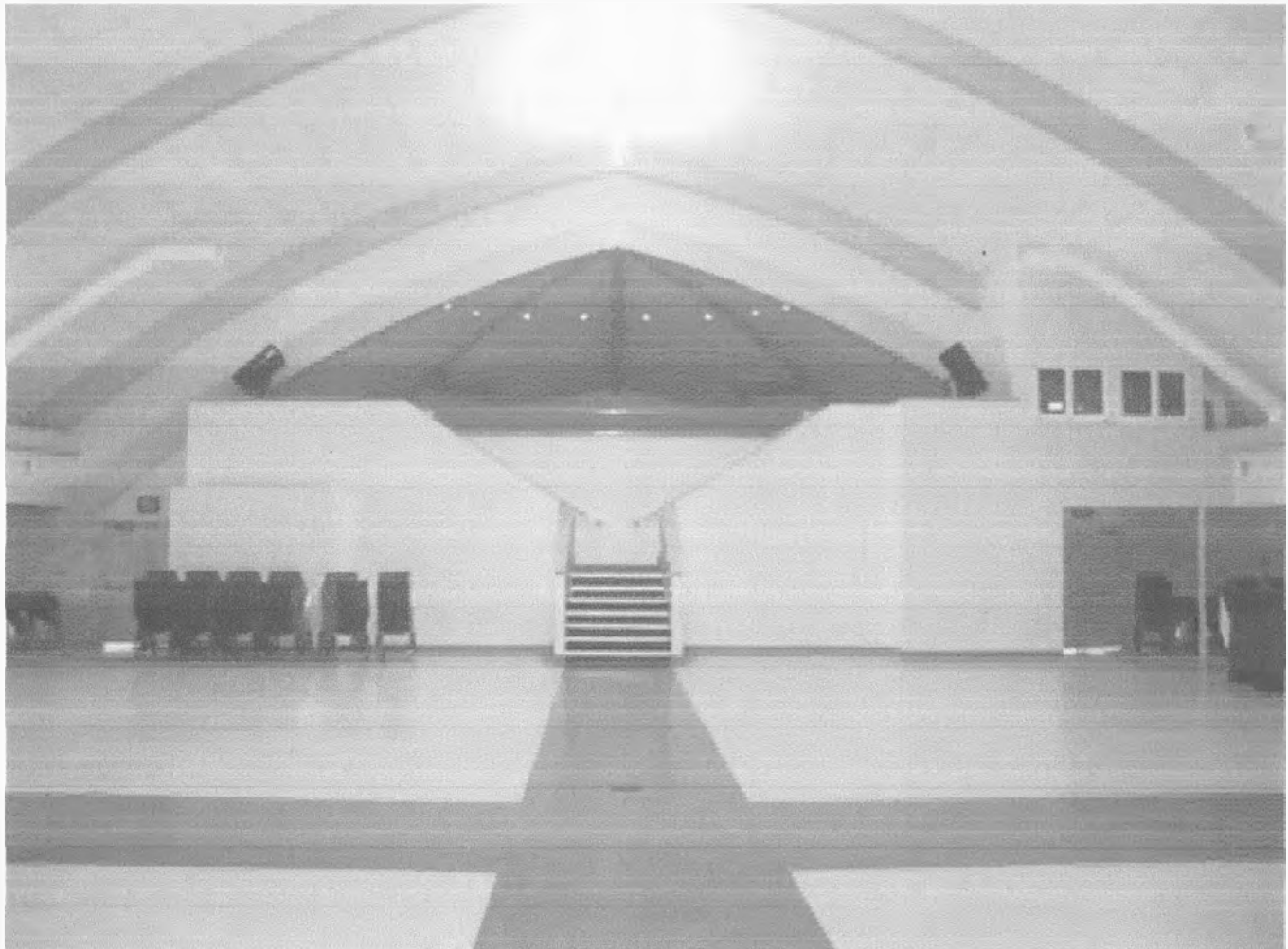
Name of Property

Ma'oupatasi, American Samoa

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 4



Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Ma'oupatasi American Samoa

Joe N. Weilenman

2007

Digital Image on file at the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office

Interior view

Photo #4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

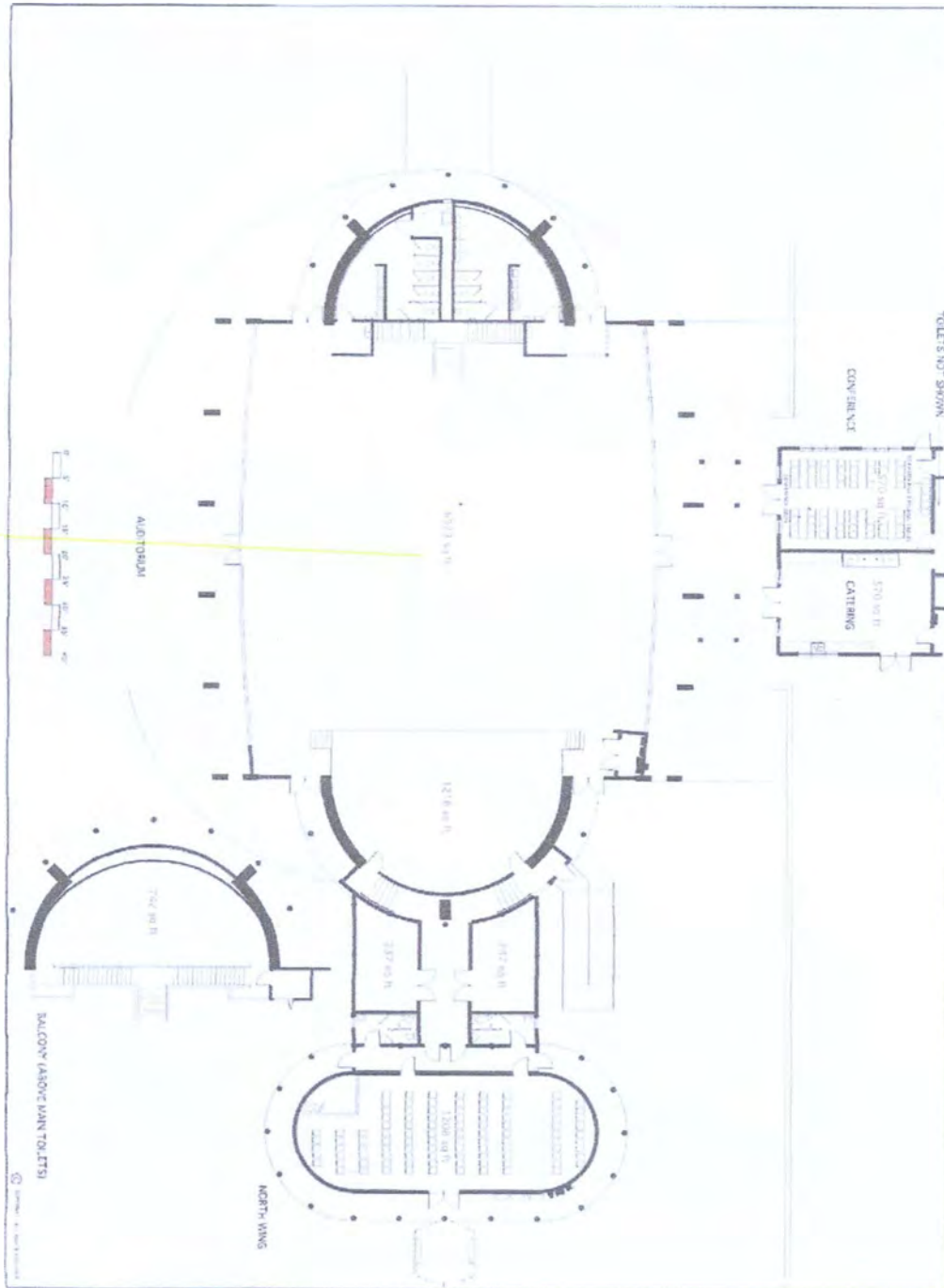
Name of Property

Ma'oupatasi, American Samoa

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 5



AREAS OF LEE AUDITORIUM
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
UTULEI, AMERICAN SAMOA

JOE K. WOLENMAN, FAIA ARCHITECT

Renovation building site plan (2006)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Name of Property

Ma'oupatasi, American Samoa

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 7

Renovation building and grounds site plan (2006) (Caption p. 6)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name American Samoa Government

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town Pago Pago

state AS

zip code 96799

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

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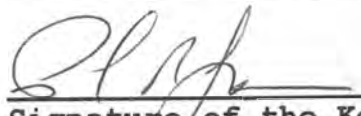
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000888 Date Listed: 11/12/2010

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium Tutuila Island, Western AS
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper 11/12/10
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Architectural Classification:

The Architectural Classification is amended to read: *Modern Movement and Other: Traditional Samoan.*

Significance:

The appropriate level of significance is: *State.*
[The SHPO certification cited two differing levels of significance. While the introduction of the auditorium and other civic amenities received widespread exposure, their main significance as described in the nomination was to American Samoa and its people.]

The Period of Significance is revised to read: *1962—1967.*
[Taking the period of significance up to the present to reflect the continuing use of the site is not warranted. Although still used in much the same manner as historically designed, continuing use does not necessarily equate to (exceptional) National Register significance. The nomination documents the fact that the property's primary significance lay in its connection to the innovative development and modernization programs initiated under the leadership of Governor Hyrum Rex Lee in the 1960s, which radically transformed the island nation. 1967 as an end date closely corresponds to both the completion of the initial phase of these important programs, as noted by Clarence Halls' 1965 follow-up *Reader's Digest* article, and to the term of Hyrum Rex Lee's initial governorship. The exceptional significance necessary for less than 50 year old properties under NR Criteria Consideration G appears best limited to the span from 1962 to 1967.]

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES-CONTINUATION SHEET
Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium, Tutuila Island, Western, American Samoa

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

(continued)

Significance:

The Areas of Significance are amended to add: *Architecture* and *Social History*.
[The use of Criterion C normally compels the use of either Architecture or Engineering as an area of significance, while the historic function of the auditorium as an important cultural and social venue suggests Social History as an appropriate additional area of significance.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the American Samoa SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: AMERICAN SAMOA, Western

DATE RECEIVED: 9/28/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/26/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/10/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/12/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000888

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium is of exceptional significance at the statewide level under National Register Criteria A, B, and C in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Pacific Islander, Politics/Government, Performing Arts, Social History, and Architecture. Completed in 1962, the Auditorium was part of a bold, post-war development program designed to modernize American Samoa's civic and educational infrastructure.

See Attached Comments

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria AB+C
REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN
TELEPHONE 202-354-2229 DATE 11/12/10
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR YN

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Less than 50 Year Property

Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Tutuila Island, Western, American Samoa (AS)

Criterion A, B, and C

Ethnic Heritage-Pacific Islander, Politics/Government, Performing Arts, Social History, and Architecture

The Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium is of exceptional significance at the statewide level under National Register Criteria A, B, and C in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Pacific Islander, Politics/Government, Performing Arts, Social History, and Architecture. Completed in 1962, the Auditorium was part of a bold, post-war development program designed to modernize American Samoa's civic and educational infrastructure.

After years of neglect and ineffectual programs during the immediate post-World War II era, American Samoa was considered ripe for economic and social reforms. Under the direction of newly appointed Governor, Hyrum Rex Lee, a host of innovative, new development programs signaled a major effort by the U.S. to finance the building of schools, office buildings, streets, civic amenities and residences, while addressing such problems as rampant illiteracy and dubious health care in American Samoa. Embarking on an intense program of modernization that touched all segments of the territory, Governor Lee ushered in a new era of economic vitality for American Samoa.

Located in the civic center of the territory, alongside a number of new government offices and other facilities, the Auditorium highlighted the first wave of concerted effort by the U.S. government to reverse the decades of benign neglect and actively support local civic improvements. The Auditorium, as the largest indoor public venue in American Samoa, served as a significant central site for hosting civic, artistic, governmental, and inter-governmental events. As a highly visible symbol of the new revitalization efforts, the Auditorium became an important symbol of island identity, hosting the 1962 tri-annual South Pacific Conference, held for the first time on American soil.

While this site is less than fifty years old, it nevertheless played an exceptionally important role in the history of twentieth century American Samoa during a watershed period in regional political and cultural development. The nomination provides sufficient contemporary and scholarly references to assess the significant nature of the programs and their impact on twentieth century development in American Samoa.

Under National Register Criterion B the property is closely associated with the contributions of Governor Hyrum Rex Lee. Although numerous buildings and resources in American Samoa can trace a direct association to Governor Lee—in particular, Government House [NHL], but also local schools, airport facilities, hotels, hospitals, and roadway systems—the Auditorium reflects his unique vision for the development of a modern civic center in the territory. Under Lee's leadership, the American Samoan Development Corporation created a 101-room hotel as part of a campaign to cultivate the tourist industry. A hospital and two tuna processing plants were also built, and the Samoan legislature passed a law in 1963 to institute a federal income tax. Lee received the Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service toward the end of his six-year tenure in American Samoa. Normally, sites associated with the normal work responsibilities of political figures (project establishment, new legislation, building projects) and commemorative properties and not suitable candidates for listing in the National Register. Yet for this individual, his contribution to the completion of the Auditorium and other programs rises above the normal

duties of office to represent exceptional contributions within the context of regional history.

Architecturally, the building reflects a unique combination of functional, modernist design (domed, self-bracing arched roof, concrete block construction, and large glazing walls) and traditional Samoan building forms (low eaves, *fale* roof-shape). Alluding to the transitional nature of much of the new revitalization work, the Auditorium served as a bridge between the traditional lifestyle patterns of the Samoan community and modern infrastructure development. The physical integrity of the building has not been compromised to any extent by the modern alterations. The unique nature of this facility coupled with its still intact functional character is sufficient to convey its historic significance within the context of American Samoa cultural history.



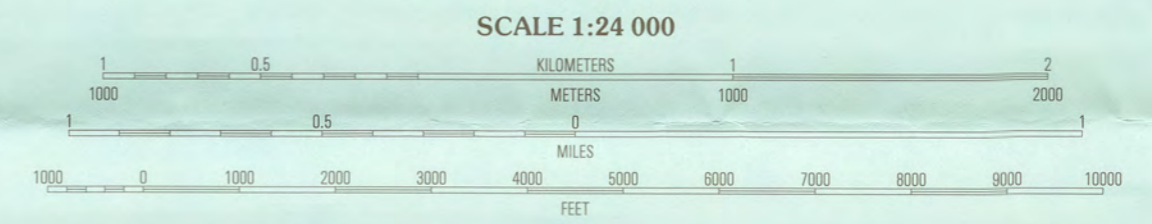






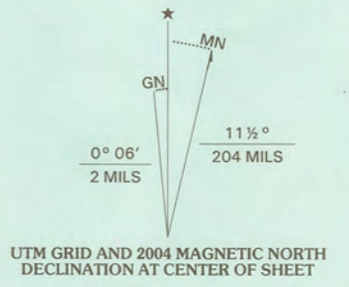
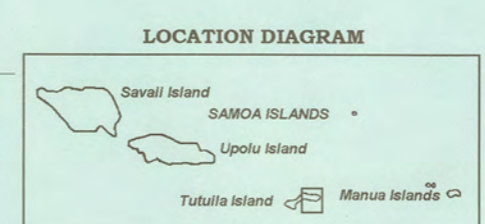


TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF TUTUILA ISLAND EAST AMERICAN SAMOA



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency Topography compiled 1961. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 2001 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1987



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

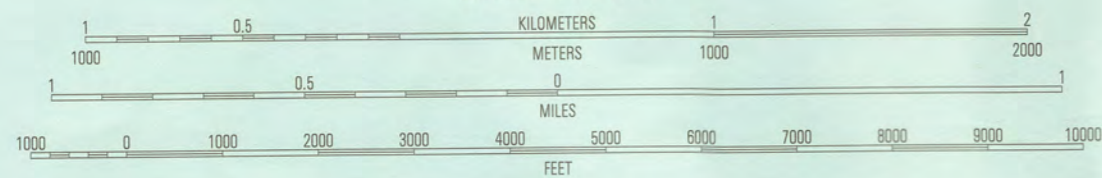
2001 NIMA 7945 II NW-SERIES X866

ROAD CLASSIFICATION Secondary highway, hard surface, Unimproved road, Light-duty road, hard or improved surface, Trail



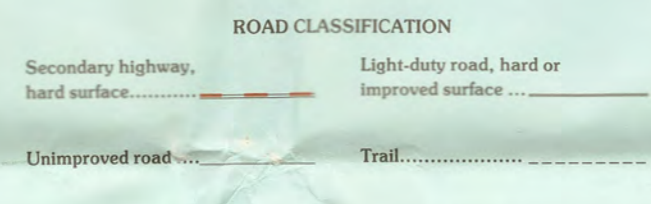
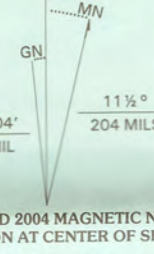
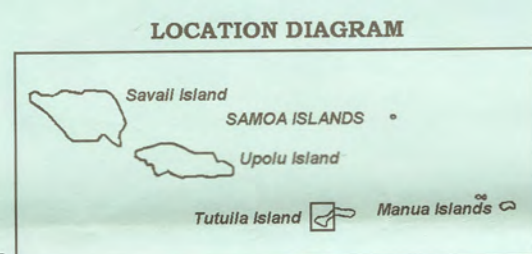
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF THE TUTUILA ISLAND WEST AMERICAN SAMOA

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

Produced by the United States Geological Survey In cooperation with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency Topography compiled 1961. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 2001 and other sources. Survey control control as of 1967 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NIMA chart 5701 (1962) This information is not intended for navigational purposes North American Datum of 1983 World Geodetic System of 1984 Projection and 1 000-meter grid. Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 2 There may be private holdings within the boundaries of the National Park System reservations shown on this map. Elevations shown are based on 1985 data. Houses of worship, schools, and other labeled buildings verified 1989



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

2001 NIMA 7945 II NW-SERIES X866

Coordinate: H. Rex Lee Auditorium
Ututuia, Tutuila, American Samoa
UTM: Zone 2: 534178.281 Easting
8421409.456 Northing

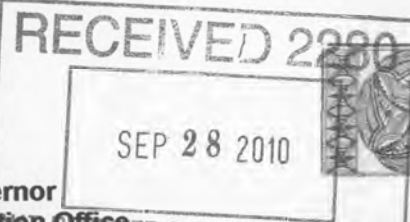


Honorable Togiola T. A Tulafono
Governor

Faoa A. Sunia
Lieutenant Governor



Executive Offices of the Governor
American Samoa Historic Preservation Office
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799



REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
David J. Herdrich
Historic Preservation Officer

Phone: (684) 699-2316
Fax: (686) 699-2276

September 21, 2010

Dr. Paul Lusignan - Historian
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280) -8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Lusignan:

Please find enclosed a National Register nomination submitted for review for the property named the H. Rex Lee Auditorium

Thank you for your time and assistance in reviewing the nomination for this building for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination please do not hesitate to contact me at (684) 699-2316 or email me at tavita22@mac.com.

Sincerely,

David J. Herdrich
Historic Preservation Officer

Recommendation: SLR Return Action: SLR Return None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: AS County Name Western Resource Name Governor H. Rex Lee
Tutuila Island Auditorium

Reference No. 10000888 Multiple Name _____

Solution:

See SLR

Problem:

EXB 1) All Samoa to Paul!

Please flag for Turkiya! Ethnic Property

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change _____