

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |            |
| RECEIVED         | AUG 7 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED     | SEP 6 1979 |

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC Cable Station Ruins

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Six Miles North of Agat on Naval Station

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Agat

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Guam

CODE  
066

COUNTY  
N/A

CODE  
410

### 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED      | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL          | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK              |
| <input 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                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT          | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC        |
|                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL          | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION    |
|                                                 |                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:            |

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME U. S. Navy

STREET & NUMBER Apra Harbor Naval Reservation

CITY, TOWN FPO San Francisco VICINITY OF

STATE  
California 96630

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Commander, Pacific Division

STREET & NUMBER Naval Facilities Engineering Command

CITY, TOWN Pearl Harbor

STATE  
Hawaii 96869

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Guam Historical Survey

DATE 1974  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Department of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN P.O. Box 2950, Agana  
STATE  
Guam 96910

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cable Station on Guam was first erected in 1903. Sumay, a small village at the mouth of Apra Harbor on the western coast, was picked as the cable station site. The site was in dense jungle, on a hilltop about 65 feet down to the water. There was no road and no telephone. The first task was to clear the site for the office, then dig a trench from the hill down to the beach in which to lay the cables and to make a road through the bush to connect with Sumay. The water situation was crucial - bull carts had to be sent to Agana for spring water. There was no doctor closer than the station ship, the USS Supply. Transportation to and from the ship was only by rowboat, and only through the channel at high tide and very calm seas.

The first crew was housed in tents, then later in wooden buildings. In April, 1904, engineers and mechanics arrived to construct the permanent buildings of the cable station. Made of concrete and steel, they were designed to be fire, earthquake, and typhoon-proof. This work and more was completed within six months, making the cable station a self-contained unit, with a reservoir and water supply system, sewer system, cold storage and ice plant and illuminated by acetylene gas manufactured on the premises. Finally, a telephone was installed between Sumay and Agana, speeding up messages by several hours. The personnel of the station were housed in two separate areas. The married quarters were to the north and the bachelor's quarters to the south. Several bungalows were built, in time, for the more established married couples. There was a tennis court, very popular, and a swimming pool for a while.

Due to the bombing of the island during the American liberation in 1944, there are only a few remains of these buildings. They are very overgrown. The road from the station in Sumay is now no more than a jeep trail - old Cable Station Road. The remains of the station occur on both sides of the road for a distance of 250 to 300 m. The remains of part of the living quarters lie ca. 100 m. from the intersection of the Cable Station Road and San Luis Road. A slab of concrete 8 m. wide and ca. 16 m. long marks this site on the east side of the road. Approximately 2 m. north of it are the large concrete pillars which supported the water tank. To the west of the road, ca. 7 m., is a pile of rubble which may be the remains of another building. Approximately 30 m. north of this site is a well preserved six room building ca. 9 m. wide and ca. 9 m. long, with a porch, which was also part of the cable station living complex. Much war related damage is evident at the rear of the building. To the north, ca. 100 to 150 m. is the concrete cable station fence. It is ca. one m. high and ca. 37 m. long. East of the fence ca. 75 m. is the main building of the station. Considerable rubble and slabs of concrete are piled around it. It measures ca. 11 m. wide and 19 m. in length. Between it and the fence is a concrete trough measuring 2 m. in length, 1 m. wide and ca. 4 m. in height.

Although so much of the buildings are in ruins, the plan of the area is still recognizable. It is easy to picture it as a 'self-contained unit'. The dense undergrowth that exists now underscores the hard work involved in creating the station.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|                                           |                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |                                                 |                                              |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1903 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Commercial Pacific Cable Company

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States' expansion into the Pacific, especially as a result of the Spanish-American war, necessitated better and quicker communications to and between the far-flung outposts. Telegraphic communication between the United States and the Philippines via Hawaii and Guam became of prime importance.

However, bridging the vast distances of the Pacific was quite an enterprise. The difficulties involved had thwarted the project until 1901, when John W. Mackay, a western silver magnate, offered to lay a cable across the Pacific, without Federal subsidy. Mackay's organization, the Commercial Pacific Cable Company, was supplied with the findings of the 1899 Navy underwater survey, which had traced out a feasible route. The survey, conducted from the USS Nero, had incidently discovered the 'Nero Deep' - an ocean trench ca. 31,000 ft. deep, 80 miles southeast of Guam.

The first section of the cable between San Francisco and Honolulu was in use by January, 1902; by June, 1903, the cable between Manila and Guam was completed. This was the first telegraphic communication that Guam had with the outside world. The next month, the final sections were laid between Guam and Midway. On July 4, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt formally opened the trans-Pacific cable. This date marks the encircling of the globe by the telegraphic cable. To commemorate it, President Roosevelt and Clarence H. Mackay, as head of the Mackay System, exchanged the first messages that ever travelled entirely around the globe.

Later in 1906, cables were laid between Guam and Yap, and from there to Shanghai; and from Guam to Bonin Islands, through to Yokohama. This meant that Guam was the key station in a wide communications network.

In conjunction with the weather station set up on the USS Supply, the cable station formed an early typhoon warning center for vast areas of the Pacific and Far East, especially the Philippines, China, and Japan.

The Commercial Pacific Cable Company's operation was interrupted on Guam by the Japanese occupation. The cable operation was restored after the American liberation in 1944, but was subject to frequent and lengthy interruptions. In 1951, the cable between Guam and Hawaii broke and was not repaired.

The cable station on Guam is significant for the role it played in linking the various Pacific Island with the rest of the world. It played a part in relaying the first telegraphic message around the world. With the addition of the Cable Station to Guam, the island for the first time had fast and efficient communications with the rest of the world, including invaluable early typhoon warnings.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

|   |       |         |          |       |       |         |
|---|-------|---------|----------|-------|-------|---------|
| A | [5,5] | [24,5]  | [50,0]   | [1,4] | [8,6] | [9,2,5] |
|   | ZONE  | EASTING | NORTHING |       |       |         |
| C | [5,5] | [24,5]  | [44,0]   | [1,4] | [8,6] | [6,8,0] |

|   |       |         |          |       |       |         |
|---|-------|---------|----------|-------|-------|---------|
| B | [5,5] | [24,5]  | [52,5]   | [1,4] | [8,6] | [6,9,5] |
|   | ZONE  | EASTING | NORTHING |       |       |         |
| D | [5,5] | [24,5]  | [42,0]   | [1,4] | [8,6] | [9,1,5] |

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is a rectangular plot, approximately 6 acres in area, and including all the noted building ruins. The southern boundary lies about 60 m. north of San Luis Road, and parallel to it. The northern boundary lies ca. 300 m. north of San Luis Road, and parallel to it. The western boundary lies ca. 25 m. west of Cable Station Road (jeep trail) and parallel to it. The eastern boundary lies ca. 100 m. east of Cable Station Road (jeep trail) and parallel to it.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Helen Higman Leidemann, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2950

TELEPHONE

477-9620/21

CITY OR TOWN

Agana

STATE

Guam 96910

## 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

TITLE

Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE

6-6-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9-6-79

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-4-79

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ITEM NUMBER 9

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Driver, John D. "From the Outrigger to the Satellite: Guam Becomes a Pacific Communications Center". Guam Recorder. Vol. 3, second series, no. 1. pp. 3-4. January-March, 1973.

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Rodgers, V.P. "Guam: A Link in the Trans-Pacific Chain". Guam Recorder. Vol. 1, No. 12. p. 24. February, 1925.

Smith, Selder F. "The Submarine Telegraph Cable" Guam Recorder. Vol. 13, No. 4. p. 18. July, 1936.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

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