

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received SEP 16 1980

date entered APR 16 1981

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic \_\_\_\_\_

and/or common Japanese Hospital

**2. Location**

street & number South of Songsong Village on west side of \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication  
Sasanhaya Bay.

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is. code \_\_\_\_\_ county Rota code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: abandoned

**4. Owner of Property**

name Government of the Northern Mariana Islands

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Saipan \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Land Management

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Saipan \_\_\_\_\_ state Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N.A. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Japanese Hospital is an "L" shaped building 17.0m by 22.6m. The east wing is 5.7m wide; the south wing is 10.2m wide. It is a one story concrete structure. The majority of the floor was wood framed and has been destroyed. The portions of the floor which were concrete remain. The original floors were approximately 1m above the surrounding ground. The roof was originally wood framed and has been destroyed.

There are four exits; the south exit has a platform and steps which are curved in plan. Near the south and east exits are remains of what appears to have been exterior toilets. Nestled into the "L" is a circular concrete water catchment 3.0m in diameter.

The walls are in fair to good condition, some spalling has taken place. There are a variety of openings throughout the exterior walls. The sizes vary and there is little or no symmetry in their arrangements. The openings are shaded by concrete canopies. There are no remains of any frames in the window openings.

Many of the details are typical to Japanese structures built elsewhere in Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

The structure was originally unpainted concrete and it remains in that condition today. The site is heavily overgrown with vegetation some of whose roots pose a threat to the structure.

The building is excellently sited both for prevailing breeze and view.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**    circa 1930

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Japanese Hospital is significant because there are a limited number and types of structures remaining from the Japanese era. It is further significant because it is one of the larger structures and because future comparisons may be made with the Japanese Hospital in Garapan, Saipan. Its size and excellent site offer good potential for adaptive reuse.

The building is part of the complex of structures built by the large Japanese corporation, Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha (N.K.K. or N.K.K.K.), South Seas Development Corporation. The complex supported the firm's sugar cane industry and was located in Songsong Village and south of the village near the remaining sugar mill. The vast majority of the 370 structures in the area were destroyed during World War II.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Paul B. Souder, Island of Rota; late 1940's; Micronesian Area Research Center.  
 Album of the South Sea Islands; the South Sea Islands Assn; Japan, circa 1940;  
 Photographic Essay

UMT NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

### UMT References

A 

5	5	2	9	9	1	3	0	1	5	6	3	4	1	0
Zone		Easting			Northing									

B 

Zone		Easting			Northing									

C 

Zone		Easting			Northing									

D 

Zone		Easting			Northing									

E 

Zone		Easting			Northing									

F 

Zone		Easting			Northing									

G 

Zone		Easting			Northing									

H 

Zone		Easting			Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification From road on west to 15m beyond structures on other side.

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

state	code	county	code
Commonwealth of the			
state Northern Mariana Is.	code	county	code Rota

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack B. Jones Project Evaluator

organization J.B. Jones, Architect, AIA date April 1980

street & number P.O. Box 6277 telephone 646-1101

city or town Tamuning state Guam 96911

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James B. Longman

title Chief, Division of Historic Preservation date 9/12/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bruce Van Duzer</u>	date <u>4/16/81</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	date <u>4/16/81</u>
Chief of Registration	

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received MAR 11 1981  
date entered APR 16 1981

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 1

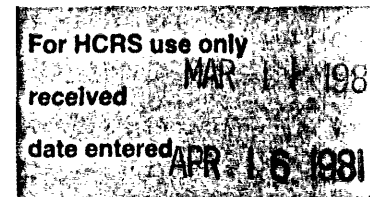
Japanese Hospital

Significance(cont)

There are two remaining Japanese hospitals in the Marianas, one in Saipan and this one in Rota. Both are "L"-shaped in plan, but from that point there are few similarities. The hospital in Rota is irregular in room layout, had an interior circulation pattern and has nonsymmetrical windows of a large variety of sizes. The Saipan hospital was more regimented in design elements of windows and structure spacing and has a cloister arrangement. The building was damaged during WWII. It was later used as a school but fire gutted the roof in the early post war years.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

## 8. Significance:

1. Japan seized the Marianas, except for Guam, along with the other German South Sea Islands in October, 1915 and retained them under the Mandates commission of the League of Nations following the Versailles Peace Treaty. During the period from 1922 to 1943 the Japanese South Seas Government maintained a Branch Government in Saipan. In the mid to late 1920's the NKK became very active in Saipan, with some of the major construction in Chalan Kanoa dating from 1928. Major settlements in Rota dated from 1930. Tinian construction was similar to Saipan and Rota.
2. The economic organization in the Marianas as in all of the Japanese Mandates were dominated by three large civilian Japanese Corporations: Nanyo Bocki Kaisha, South Seas Trading Company; Nanyo Takushoku Kabushiki Kaisha and Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha, NKK.
3. The NKK was the largest and most influential corporation in the Marianas because it was the most important economic organization in the islands. It operated a system of tenant farming on sugar plantations covering 28, 687 acres. Part of the land was owned by the NKK and part was leased from the native Chamorros. The NKK owned and operated 2 sugar mills on Saipan, 1 mill on Tinian and 2 on Rota. The Chalan Kanoa area of Saipan was the support base for the major mill on Saipan. Singsong village was the support base for the major mill on Rota. Tinian Village was the support base for the mill on Tinian. The mill capacity for just the two Rota mills was 1,000 tons of sugar cane per day.
4. The vast majority of the NKK physical plant was destroyed during World War II. Only some of the residential and administrative structures are in use today and these are not being used in support of sugar cane or other original NKK enterprises.

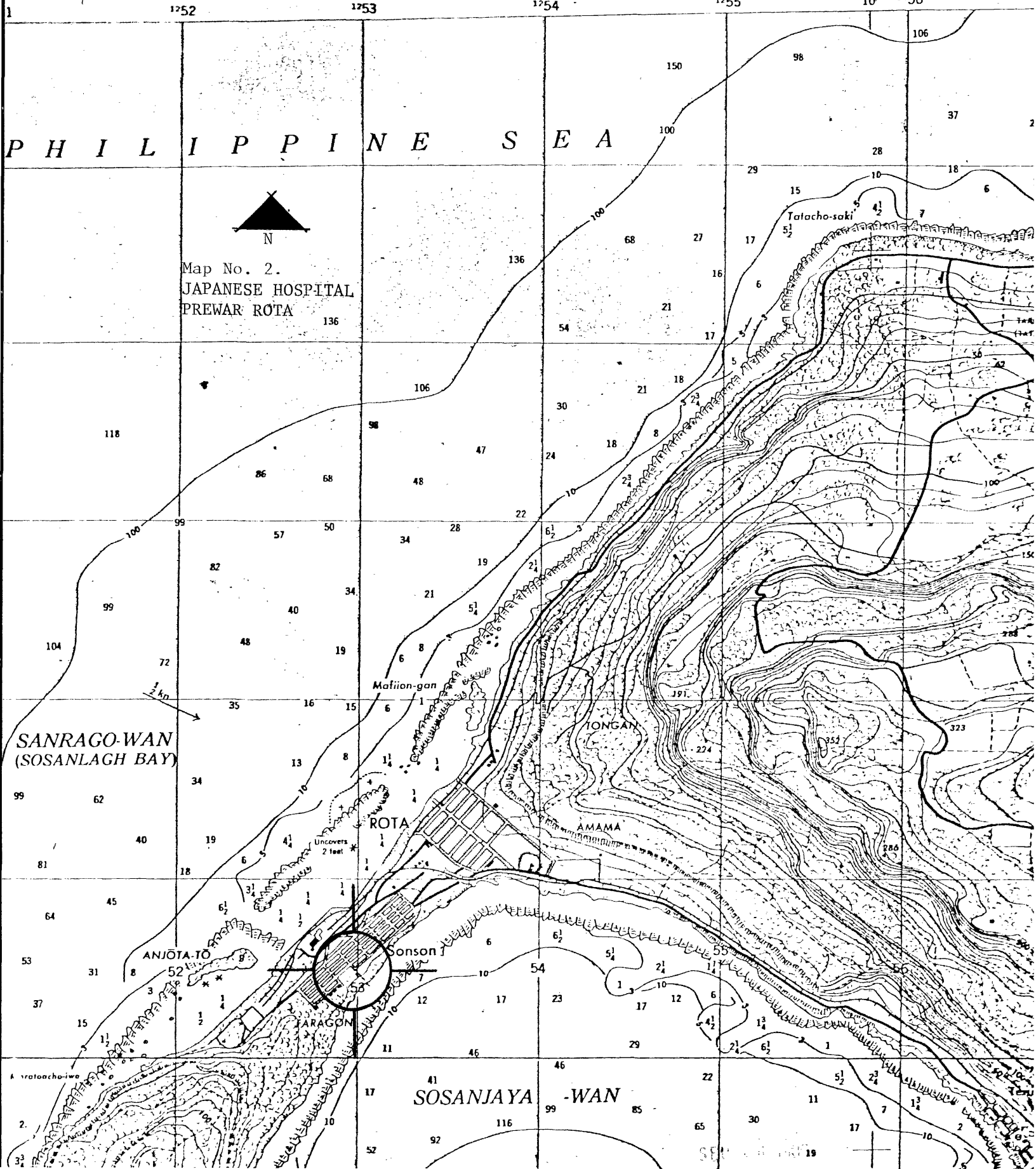
The remaining buildings have all suffered some war damage resulting from the Invasion of U.S. Forces in spring of 1944.

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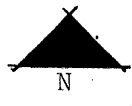
RIANAS ISLANDS 1:25,000

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Not for sale or distribution

ROTA SW

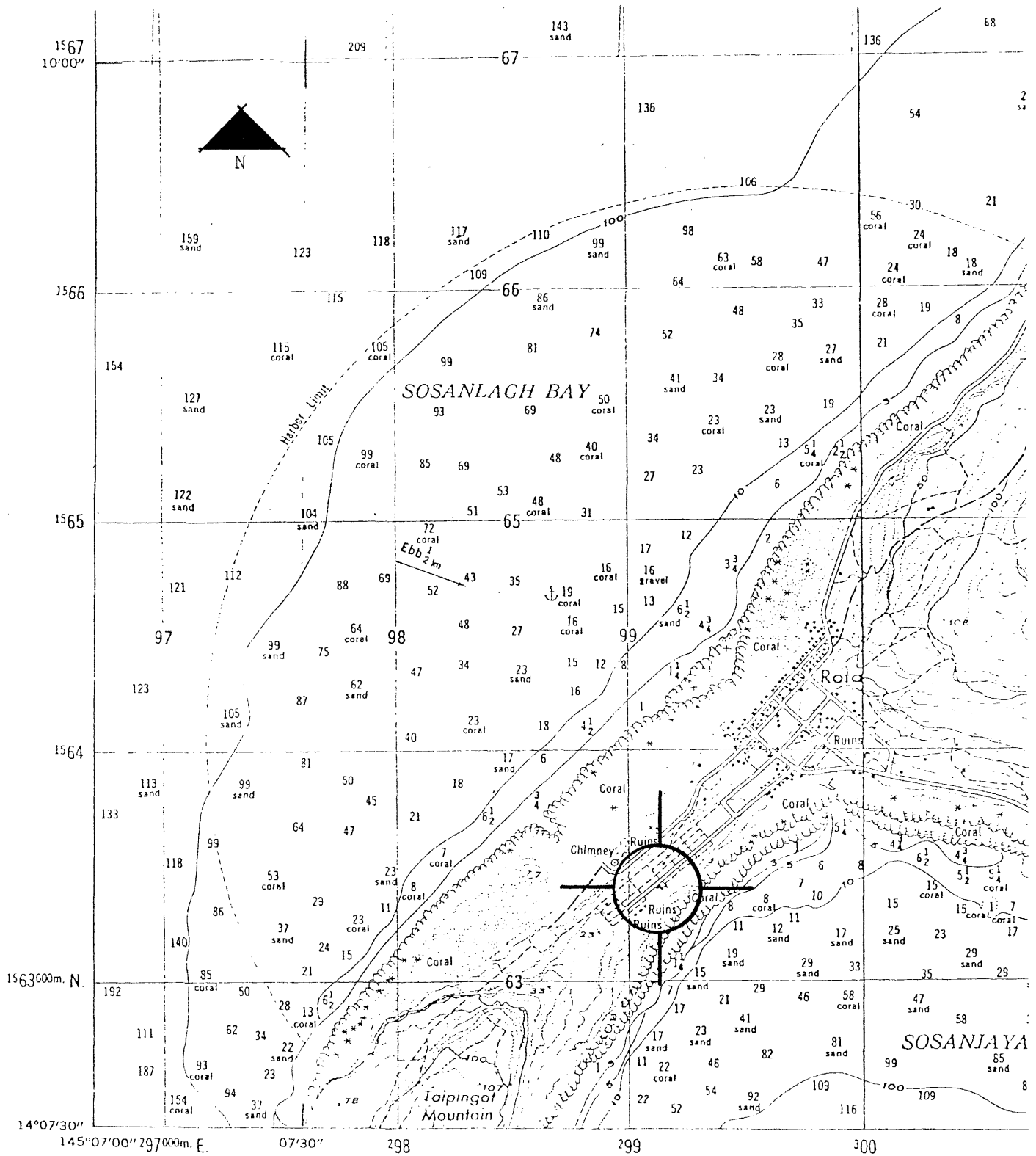


Map No. 2.  
JAPANESE HOSPITAL  
PREWAR ROTA



SANRAGO-WAN  
(SOSANLAGH BAY)

SOSANJAYA -WAN



AMS W843

First Edition - AMS (FEC)

Prepared under the direction of the Engineer, GHQ, FEC, by the 64th Engineer Base Topographic Battalion. Compiled in 1951 by photogrammetric (multiplex) methods. Coastal hydrography compiled from USHO Chart 6059, 1944. Horizontal and vertical control established by the USS Bowditch, 1944; recovered and extended by the 71st Engineer Survey Liaison Detachment, 1950. Native place names and miscellaneous detail added from reconnaissance material and intelligence reports, 1950-51. Map not field checked.

Map No. 1.  
JAPANESE HOSPITAL

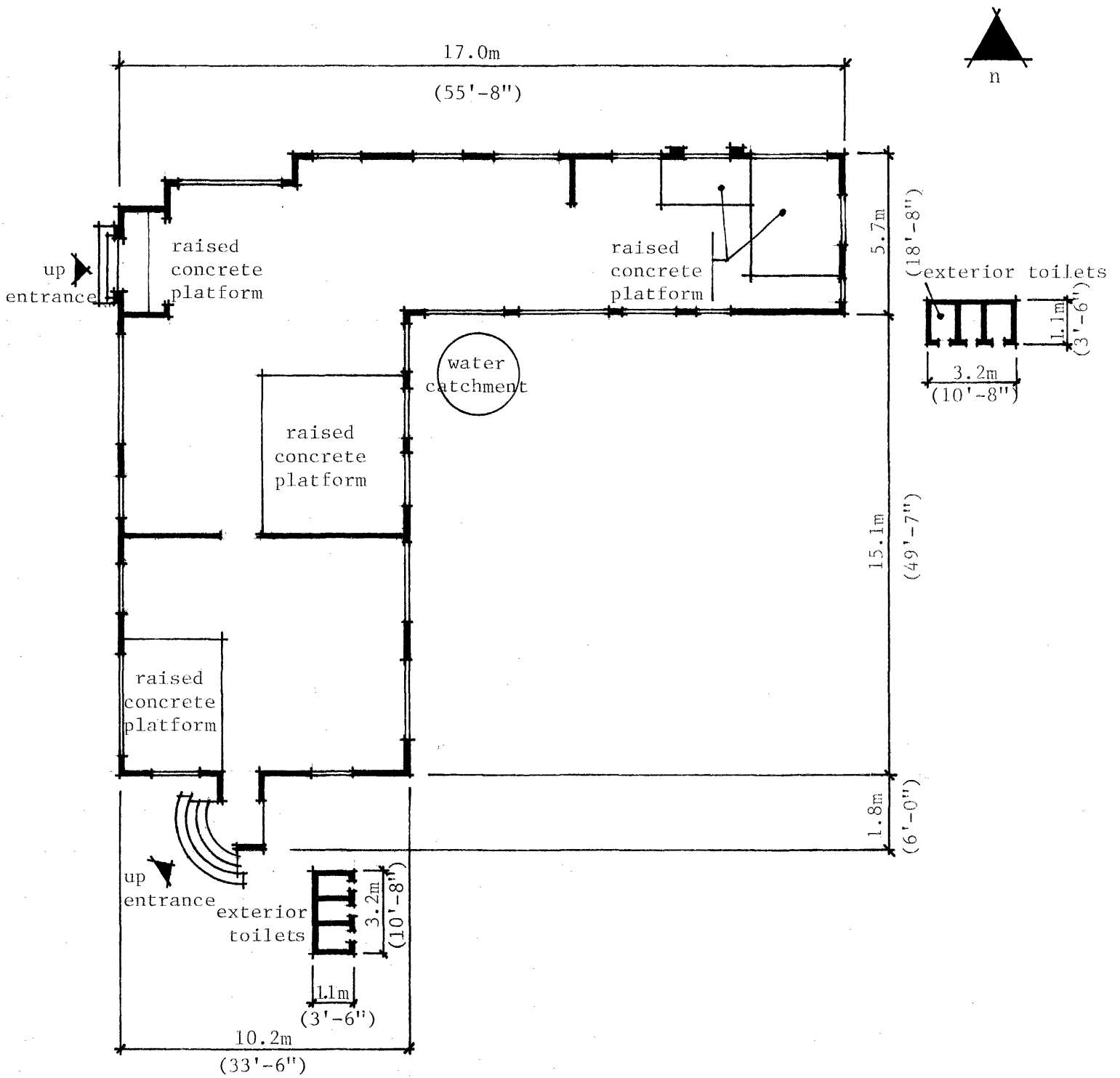
UTM REFERENCE

55/299130/1563410

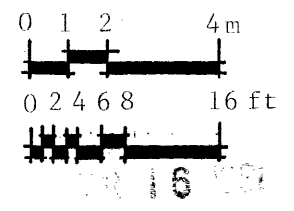
SEP 16 1980

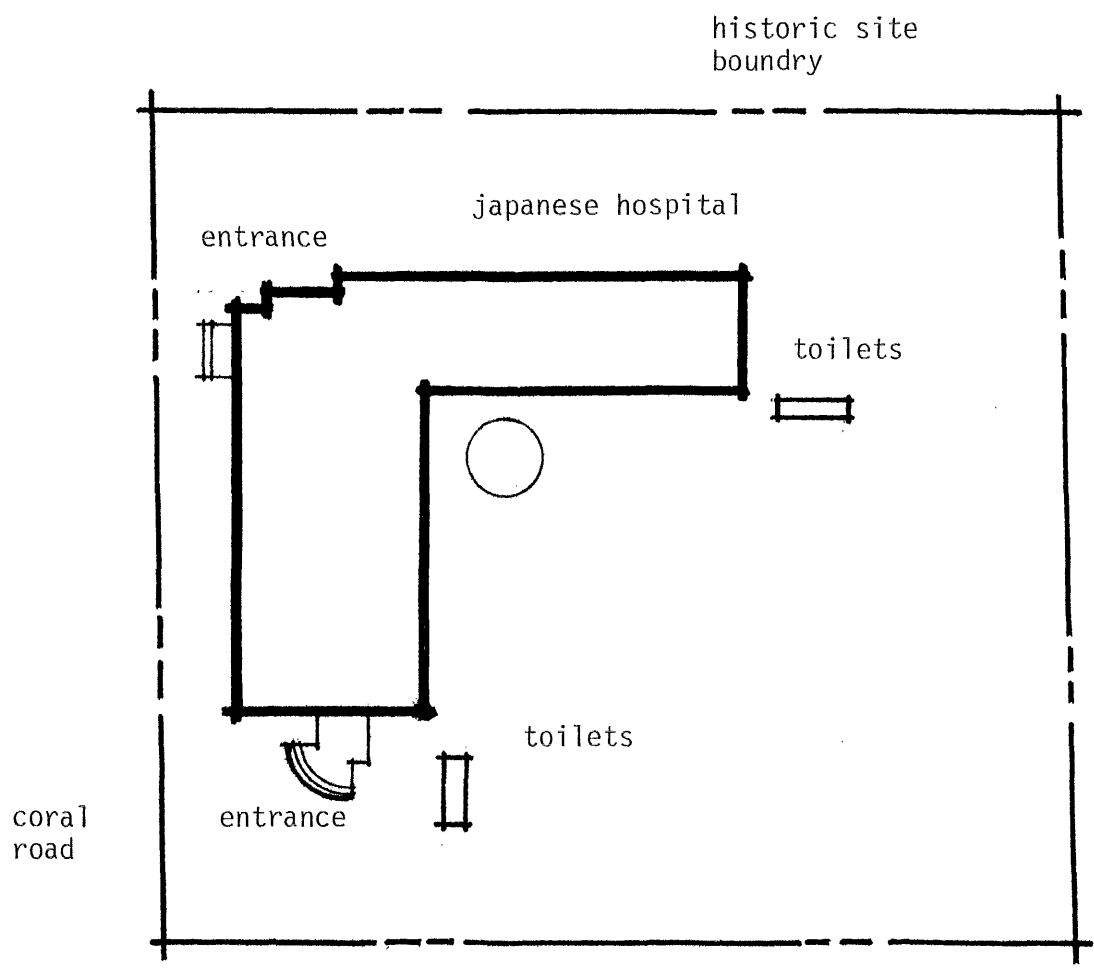
APR 16 1981



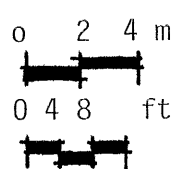


floor plan  
 map no. 3.  
 japanese hospital





site plan  
map no. 4  
japanese hospital



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