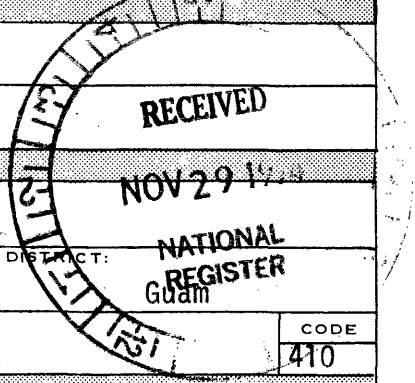


PH0056049

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Guam  
 COUNTY: N/A  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: APR 9 1975



1. NAME

COMMON: Matgue River Valley Battle Area  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 0.6 miles WSW of Asan off Marine Dr  
 CITY OR TOWN: Asan and Piti  
 STATE: Guam CODE: 66 COUNTY: N/A CODE: 410

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Small ranches

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Government of Guam  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Agana STATE: Guam CODE: 66

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Department of Land Management  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Administration Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Agana, STATE: Guam CODE: 66

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Guam Historic Survey  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1974  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Commerce  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 682  
 CITY OR TOWN: Agana STATE: Guam CODE: 66

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Guam  
 COUNTY: N/A  
 ENTRY NUMBER: APR 9 1975  
 DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

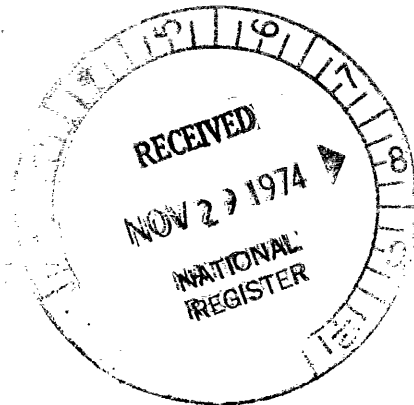
**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

- |                                    |   |                               |  |   |                                    |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| (Check One)                        |   |                               |  |   |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| (Check One)                        |   |                               | (Check One)                                      |   |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Matgue River Valley Battle Site is located on the W central coast immediately S of Asan Point on USGS Agana Quadrangle Map (1968). The Matgue River forms the boundary line between Piti and Asan Municipalities. The battle site area is S of Marine Drive and may be reached by driving to the paved roads E of the Matgue River and S of the U.S. Naval Hospital Annex which enter the site area. The condition of the site at the time of the battle is generally unknown although the source material mentions heavy undergrowth and caves as being present. No remains of the battle exist today except for a few caves dug into the sides of the Matgue River Valley. Several have been destroyed for road-building for the Nimitz Hill Estates housing development located at the southern end of the battle area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Guam	
COUNTY	N/A	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		APR 8 1975

(Number all entries)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY (cont.)

Socio Construction C. P.O. Box 8319, Tamuning, Guam 96911

Jason Guam Inc. P.O. Box 8013, Tamuning, Guam 96911

Manuel S. Rojas P.O. Box 591 Agana, Guam 96910

Vicente T. San Nicolas P.O. Box CL Agana, Guam 96910

Jose S.N. Fejerang (deceased) Administrator, Jesus C. Garcia  
C/O Asan Commissioner's Office, Asan Guam

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES (cont.)

Arthur, Robert A, and Kenneth Cohlma  
n.d. Guam; Operations of the 77th Division (21 July-10 August, 1944)  
American Forces in Action Series, Historical Division, War Dept.,  
Washington, D.C.



**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **July 21-26, 1944**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*Handwritten notes:*  
 2/23/74  
 11/29/74  
 HLB

On July 21, 1944, the 9th U.S. Marine Regiment fought through the river valley after landing at Asan Beach finding many Japanese in shallow caves in the valley. They crossed a small bridge still in existence and penetrated the area to the W of Asan Point. The 21st Regiment and the 9th Regiment linked up beyond the headwaters of the river by July 23, 1944. On the night of July 25-26, one arm of the Japanese general counterattack came down the Matgue River Valley. The 3rd Battalion of the 18th Regiment (Japanese) made their way down this valley and attacked Marine positions SE of Asan Point. In conjunction with the 2nd Battalion, 18th Regiment, they attacked the U.S. Marines and their tanks parked on the left bank of the Asan River, hoping to relieve the defenders of Asan Point and cut off the U.S. 9th Marine Regiment, then in the Piti area. Their attack, although severe, was beaten off with heavy casualties to the Japanese.

The counterattacks in the night of July 25-26, one of which came down the Matgue River Valley, were the turning point in the battle of Guam. After the failure of the attacks General Takeshina ordered a general retreat to the N. The Japanese had suffered an estimated 3500 casualties in the attacks and 90 percent of their officers who led the attacks were killed. As an integral part of the strategy for the recapture of Guam, the Matgue River Valley played a crucial part in these decisive battles. It represents an important area in the Asan Invasion area as well as in the WWII battle sites on the island of Guam.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Crowl, Philip A:  
 1960 Campaign in the Marianas. Office, Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C.  
 Lodge, Major O.R.  
 1954 The Recapture of Guam. Historical Branch, G-3 Division, Headquarters, U.S.M.C.  
 Arthur, Robert A. and Kenneth Cohlma  
 n.d. The Third Marine Division. Infantry Journal Press, Washington D.C.

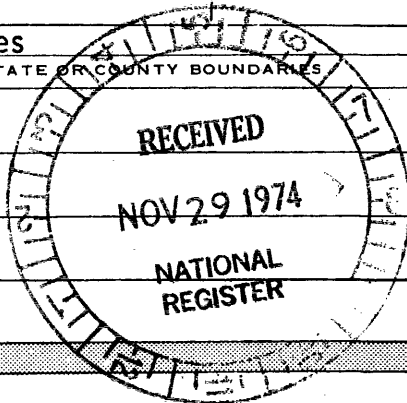
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 13° 28' 09" N	Degrees Minutes Seconds 144° 42' 14" E		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	13° 28' 08" N	144° 42' 20" E		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	13° 27' 43" N	144° 42' 23" E		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	13° 27' 42" N	144° 42' 11" E		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **55 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO  
 UTM  
 CO

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Guam Inventory Team**

ORGANIZATION: **Bernice P. Bishop Museum** DATE: **September, 1944**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1355 Kalihi St. - P.O. Box 6037**

CITY OR TOWN: **Honolulu** STATE: **Hawaii 96818** CODE: **58**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Director of Commerce**

Date: **NOV 20 1974**

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

*AR Wastensen*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **4/3/75**

ATTEST:

*W. H. ...*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: **APR 2 1975**