

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 21 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 30 1976

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 Suicide Cliff
AND/OR COMMON Laderan Banadero

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Banadero, Magpi area
CITY, TOWN Saipan, N. Mariana Is. VICINITY OF
STATE Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands 96950 COUNTY 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands - Headquarters STATE
TTPI 96950 VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Attorney General, Office of the High Commissioner
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Saipan Island STATE
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands 96950

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Micronesia Parks,
DATE July, 1972 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS U.S. Department of the Interior, Hawaii Group, National Park Service
CITY, TOWN 667 Ala Moana Boulevard, suite 512, Honolulu, Hawaii 96950 STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Suicide Cliff is a section of the Banadero cliff line. The highest point of this cliff line reaches an altitude of nearly 800 feet above sea level. Near this point and the area immediately surrounding it is the area commonly designated as Suicide Cliff. Composed of coral limestone, the cliff faces north at this point and its rock face presents a vertical drop of over 600 feet to the coastal plain below. At the top of the cliff is a cleared, gravel-coated parking lot. Two overlook areas on the edge of the cliff also have been cleared and guard rails have been constructed around them. Adjacent to the parking area is a sculptured peace memorial surrounded by a small landscaped park and garden. A recently constructed nature trail begins in this park area running westward and southward along the top of the cliff line before descending to the plain below and eventually terminating at the base of Suicide Cliff.

Suicide Cliff has remained unaltered since the time of World War II. The park development has added to the tourist appeal of the site without altering its historic character and integrity. Some of the vegetation has also been altered, due to the war's destruction and subsequent replanting efforts.

The area symbolizes the Japanese occupation/surrender to the present administering authority--the United States.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The name Suicide Cliff was applied to this section of the Banadero Cliff line following World War II. There, during the final week of the American invasion of Saipan, many of the last Japanese defenders were surrounded and hundreds of Japanese civilian and military personnel chose to die by throwing themselves over the edge of the cliff, rather than to allow themselves to be captured by the American forces. The total number of the more than forty thousand Japanese military and civilian casualties on Saipan who chose suicide over the 'dishonor' of surrender is unknown. The number of human remains which lay scattered at the base of Suicide Cliff long after the war indicates that the toll taken there was lamentably great.

Today, Suicide Cliff has been developed as a place of pilgrimage for those wishing to honor memory of the many people who died in the fighting and suicides on Saipan. A peace memorial and small garden/park area have been constructed at the top of this cliff. Each year an increasing number of visitors--especially from Japan--journey to this shrine and offer prayers, small gifts and flowers.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

UTM REFERENCES

A

5	5
ZONE	EASTING

3	7	2	2	8	0
NORTHING					

1	6	8	9	4	8	0
NORTHING						

B

ZONE	EASTING

NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Acreage of nominated property includes cliff face and strip of sloping land at base of cliff, as well as developed area at top of cliff.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Peace Corps Volunteer)

NAME / TITLE

Dennis Vander Tuig, Technical Advisor, NMI Historic Preservation Committee

ORGANIZATION

Planning Office -- Office of the Resident Commissioner

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

(TTPI)

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 Neil K. Chase

Neil K. Chase 8/28/76

TITLE Chief, Branch of Resources & Land Use, Div. Lands/Surveys, TTPI 96950

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. ...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/30/76

ATTEST *Charles ...*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-17-76