

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NOV 1987  
EDUCATION

1. Name of Property

historic name: FAHA MASSACRE SITE

other name/site number: FAHA (66-06-1077)

2. Location

street & number: ROUTE FOUR, VICINTY OF MERIZO

not for publication:     

city/town: MERIZO

vicinity: X

state: GU county: MERIZO

code: 010

zip code: 96916

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: PUBLIC

Category of Property: SITE

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>ONE</u>   | <u>    </u>     | buildings  |
|              | <u>    </u>     | sites      |
|              | <u>    </u>     | structures |
| <u>FOUR</u>  | <u>    </u>     | objects    |
| <u>FIVE</u>  | <u>    </u>     | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. See continuation sheet.

Richard D. Davis Signature of certifying official Date 9/12/91
Guam Historic Preservation Officer
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, HISTORIC RESOURCES DIVISION
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kenneth R. Perez Signature of commenting or other official Date 9/12/91
Historian
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, HISTORIC RESOURCES DIVISION
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: MILITARY Sub: MASSACRE SITE
Current : FUNERARY Sub: CEMETARY

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

Other Description:

Materials: foundation N/A roof N/A
walls N/A other
N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: HISTORIC SITES

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : G,F

Areas of Significance: MILITARY

Period(s) of Significance: 1944

Significant Dates : JULY 16, 1944

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**


---

See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**


---

Acreege of Property: ONE POINT FIVE (1.5) ACRES

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

|   |           |               |                |   |           |               |                |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| A | <u>55</u> | <u>246900</u> | <u>1468420</u> | B | <u>55</u> | <u>246900</u> | <u>1468315</u> |
| C | <u>55</u> | <u>246840</u> | <u>1468320</u> | D | <u>55</u> | <u>246840</u> | <u>1468440</u> |

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Boundary lines are as indicated on the accompanying USGS map.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The present concrete boundary markers of the massacre site have been placed to set off the site rather than to define the extent of its historic boundaries. The boundary of an acre is set to protect the integrity and the setting of the massacre site.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**


---

Name/Title: Antonio E. Martinez, Jr./ Archeological Technician I; Kenneth R. Perez/ Historian; Alejandro B. Lizama/ Archeological Technician II

Organization: Guam Historic Preservation

Date: May 10, 1991

Street & Number: 490 Chalan Palasyo Rd.

Telephone: (671) 477-9620

City or Town: Agana Heights

State: GU ZIP: 96919

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7            Page 1            Faha Massacre Site (66-06-1077)  
=====

The site of the Faha Massacre is located on the north slope of the ridge line immediately behind Pigua Cemetary in the village of Merizo. The site has been marked out by local residents with four concrete pillars connected together by a metal cable to outline the boundries. Within the boundries are three cement crosses and one cement block imbedded in the earth. Two crosses are located in the northeast and northwestern corners of the site, with the third cross being located in the northern end of the site next to the cement block. A metal plaque has been bolted into the top of the cement block. This plaque commemorates the dead and bears the names of all thirty people who lost their lives in the massacre.

The site is overgrown with sword grass (*miscanthus floridulas*) and has a gully through the center running its length from north to south. A lumbang tree (*aleurites molucanna*) has been planted in the gully roughly at the center of the site. It serves perhaps two purposes, one is as a commemorative marker and the second is to prevent further erosion of the site.

Other than the boundary and commemorative markers placed at the site by the residents, the Faha Massacre Site has not changed significantly.

OCT 15 1991

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8            Page 2            Faha Massacre Site (66-06-1077)  
=====

The site at Faha meets the criteria of the National Register in the historical significance of the event that occurred there in July 1944. Not only is the event important to the history of Guam, but it should also be considered important within the framework of World War II. The integrity of the site has been maintained and its appearance has not changed significantly since the event.

On July 16, 1944 thirty people from the village of Merizo, Guam were massacred at a place known as Faha by soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army. Unlike the incident of the previous night at Tinta, there were no survivors.

However, the general circumstances regarding the Faha massacre were similar to those of the event at Tinta. Again using the pretense of gathering a work crew, the Japanese herded a group of thirty men and marched them off to the site at Faha. Here the men had grenades thrown at them and were and slashed to death.

The exact details of the incident are not clear, as the information must be speculative. In fact, the remaining residents of Merizo were not aware of the full extent of the massacre until several days had passed and the bodies were found.

As the intentions of the Japanese became clearer to the villagers, their unrest grew. This unrest culminated in the rebellion against the Japanese at Atate on July 20, 1944.

The site at Faha is significant for two reasons: 1) in the event that occurred there, and 2) the historical relationship that the people had with the United States and its relevance within the context of World War II.

Obviously, the event itself is of significant importance not only to the people of Merizo, but to the people of Guam in general. The site holds value in its historic context and in its symbolic qualities as well. Such symbolic value allows the site to fall under criteria consideration "F". The site at Faha serves to represent the suffering and hardships that the Guamanian people were forced to endure during the Japanese occupation of the island. The massacre at Faha also seems to stem directly from the Tinta massacre the night before. Accordingly, the rebellion at Atate on July 20 must then be regarded as a direct result of the massacres at Faha and Tinta.

OCT 15 1991

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8            Page 3            Faha Massacre Site (66-06-1077)  
=====

The sites of the massacres of U.S. Nationals on Guam represent some of the few places within current U.S. jurisdiction where civilians were so directly affected by the hostile acts of the Japanese during the war. As such, these sites should be considered as having a national level of significance as well as the obvious significance at the local and "state" levels.

Considering its association with an event that occurred during World War II, the site at Faha must necessarily be considered to fall under the criteria consideration "G". That is, it is a site that has achieved importance within the past fifty years.

The island of Guam remained under hostile occupation from Dec. 10, 1941 through Aug. 10, 1944 when the island was declared secured. In this period the people of Guam were forced to endure numerous hardships, many of which, it seemed to the people, did not have any bearing on the war effort.

As the tide of war turned against the Japanese, their once impregnable defensive perimeter began to inexorably recede. Guam, once considered as a safe zone by the Japanese, now became the front line. As the summer of 1944 moved closer, preparations for the inevitable American invasion continued at an even more frantic pace.

Lacking the machine and materials necessary for the construction of defensive positions, the work became increasingly labor intensive. That is the Japanese forced the local population into building the fortifications that would protect them from their liberators.

At that time, although Guam had been an American possession for over forty years, its people were not American citizens and as such were not protected by the Constitution. Nevertheless, the Guamanian people were quite patriotic and placed great faith in the United States.

During the occupation the Japanese had tried to eradicate any and all vestiges of Western culture on the island. Japanese language and culture were the rule and sought to define the newly renamed island of Omiya Jima. Any sympathy or inclination toward America, whether real or perceived, was dealt with quickly and severely.

OCT 15 1991

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8            Page 4            Faha Massacre Site (66-06-1077)  
=====

While many punishments were dealt out by the Japanese for perceived violations of law, some attacks on the Guamanians appear to be senseless and random. Yet, there is the appearance that the massacres seem to represent a Japanese plan to kill as many of the local population as possible before the American invasion.

As mentioned, there were many instances of brutal attacks on the local people. But certainly the most notorious in terms of numbers and in public recollection, were the massacres of 46 men and women at Tinta on July 15, 1944, and Faha on July 16, 1944.



OCT 15 1991

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9            Page 5            Faha Massacre Site (66-06-1077)  
=====

Palomo, Tony. An Island in Agony. Washington, D.C.: 1984.

Sanchez, Pedro C. Guam 1941-1944, Wartime Occupation and Liberation.  
Tamuning: 1983.

Carano, Paul and Pedro C. Sanchez. A Complete History of Guam. Rutland: 1964.

Owings, Kathleen R.W. (editor). The War Years on Guam: Narrative of the Chamorro  
Experince. Micronesia Area Research Center: 1981.

Guam Daily News. "Chamorro Sailor Tells His Story". p.30-31.  
Agana: 1969.

OCT 15 1991

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7            Page 3            Faha Massacre Site (66-06-1077)  
=====

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Page 1: TOP 1) Faha Massacre Site; 2) Merizo, Guam; 3) Kenneth Perez; 4) 2/26/91;  
5) negative located at Guam HPO; 6) NW View Faha Site

BOTTOM 1) Faha Massacre Site; 2) Merizo, Guam; 3) Kenneth Perez; 4)  
2/26/91; 5) negative located at Guam HPO; 6) SE View Faha Site

Page 2: TOP 1) Faha Massacre Site; 2) Merizo, Guam; 3) Tony Martinez; 4) 2/26/91;  
5) negative located at Guam HPO; 6) SE View Faha Site

BOTTOM 1) Bronze Commemorative Plaque; 2) Merizo, Guam; 3) Kenneth Perez;  
4) 2/26/91; 5) negative located at Guam HPO

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001091 Date Listed: 8/27/91

Faha Massacre Site  
Property Name

Guam County                      Guam 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.

*for* Antoinette J. Gee  
Signature of the Keeper

11/22/91  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Classification:** The number of contributing resources includes four objects, bringing the total of contributing resources to five.

**Statement of Significance:** Criteria consideration F is added. The Period of Significance is amended to read: 1944.

This was confirmed with Richard Davis of the Guam State historic preservation office.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

FAHA

66-061077

