

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 10 1979**
DATE ENTERED **NOV 29 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

Merlyn G. Cook School

AND/OR COMMON

Merizo School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

644

Insular Rt. 4

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Merizo

— VICINITY OF

Guam

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Guam

066

N/A

N/A

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

PUBLIC

—OCCUPIED

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

—PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

—WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

—NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Government of Guam

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2950

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Agana

— VICINITY OF

Guam 96910

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Department of Land Management

STREET & NUMBER

Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Agana

Guam 96910

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Guam Historic Survey

DATE

1977

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Agana

Guam 96910

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Merlyn G. Cook School, located in Merizo, is sited along the main road (Route 4) near the center of the village. The structure is presently used as a community and youth center for the village.

The 40'-0" by 71'-4" one-story structure is of pre-World War II construction and incorporates construction techniques and details which represent the transition between traditional Chamorro/Spanish construction and contemporary construction methods imported by the American administration.

Construction utilized in the Cook School includes a raised foundation system of concrete pillars and beams spaced at 8'-8" at the sides and 14'-8" at the ends. Floor framing consists of purlins hand-hewn from ifil wood - the scarce local lumber which is highly resistant to insect damage and decay. Board-formed concrete walls extend from the foundation to the sill of the windows. The upper portion of the structure is ifil wood framing with board siding and horizontal pivoting wood shutters. This structure is the only remaining building on the island which displays extensive use of this type of pivoting window, here constructed primarily of ifil wood. The roof also is ifil framing with corrugated metal roofing. At each end are located concrete entry porches and stairs with decorative wood brackets providing support for the entry roof.

The interior ceiling is grooved wood typical of early 1900 Chamorro construction. The floor is polished ifil planking. Double entry doors are located at each end of the building.

The exterior building form, interior space and finishes are generally pleasing and representative of construction during the Spanish to American transition period. The building appears to be in sound structural condition and adequate for continued use by the community of Merizo.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 by 1931, at least BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Navy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Merlyn G. Cook Schoolhouse is both historically and architecturally significant. It was one of the first American Schools, and illustrates the great concern with education on the part of the American Naval Administration. This early territorial period is important in the history of the United States and of Guam. Also, the events surrounding the school during World War II, including the Japanese takeover of the island and the liberation by the Americans, are part of the broad patterns of history. Architecturally, the building design reflects distinctive characteristics of the type and period of construction found during the Spanish and first American periods.

It is not known precisely when the Merizo Schoolhouse was erected. A school was conducted in Merizo even in Spanish times, but certainly not in the present building. An American school was opened in Merizo in 1905. A note in the Guam Newsletter of January 1915, mentioned that the school had been painted by the teachers during the Christmas vacation. This would suggest the present wooden building, rather than one of the temporary thatched type. A school in Merizo is shown on a map drawn in 1916. Additions to the building were mentioned in 1923. The present school was built by at least 1931, when it was described as Guam's largest and best school. This comment was made at a ceremony naming the school the Merlyn G. Cook School, after the first head of Guam's Department of Education. The principal at that time was Manuel Charfauros. The school life revolved around academics, sports and school fairs, and as in other schools at that time, children were punished for speaking Chamorro. A fine of five coconuts was levied each time a child "slipped" into Chamorro. On December 9, 1941, the Japanese invaded Guam. Merizo was strafed, and three bombs were dropped, intended for the school, but which fell harmlessly into the brush. The next day, the Japanese had stationed their headquarters in the schoolhouse. Three Americans who were in the area turned themselves in and were confined to the schoolhouse. After a few days, the Japanese left Merizo, carrying off the school's tables, globes and other equipment. In January, 1942, the school reopened under the Japanese as part of the Machiyama Gakko Co-prosperity Sphere. It was also the meeting place for progress reports on the Guamanian work groups. The whole community was gathered to the schoolhouse to witness a brutal beating of one Guamanian being punished for not working hard enough. The Japanese improved the playground adjacent to the school, and encouraged games, especially softball. In July, 1944, the Merizo massacre occurred and the people fled. The people of Inarajan heard of this, and after killing several guards, the people of that community fled to Merizo. They camped in the schoolhouse. As the Americans approached,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	5,5	2,4,6,6,7,0	1,4,6,7,9,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot, 120' by 150', bound on the east by insular Route 4 and on the west by the western boundary to the Merizo Pier Park. To the north is a multi-purpose recreational court and the south is an unpaved parking area.

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

7-16-79

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

9-10-79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11-29-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

11/28/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 29 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

the people went to the hills beyond the schoolhouse to wave white sheets at the planes, so they would not be strafed. After the planes had passed, the Guamanians fled back to the schoolhouse. Japanese snipers in the hills then started firing at the people in the school. Two people were hit, and one old man died. Guards were posted outside to wait for the Japanese. Many of the Japanese were killed trying to throw hand grenades into the building. Over 200 Guamanians, most of them children, lived through this experience in the schoolhouse, camping in and under the building. The school was repaired after the war, and used until about 1960, when it was reserved as typhoon shelter. When Typhoon Karen struck the island in 1962, it was discovered that the school was not at all effective as a shelter. The inside was quickly strewn with broken glass from the many windows. Some people tried to shelter under the building, but found it to be just as dangerous from wind-swept debris. The school was not significantly damaged, however, by either Typhoon Karen or Typhoon Pamela, 1976. The school now serves as a center for both the young and senior citizens.

ITEM NUMBER 9

1. Aguigui, Delfina. Interview, September 11, 1977.
2. Beaty, Janice. Discovering Guam. Tokyo: Tokyo News Service, Ltd., 1967.
3. Guam Newsletter. "School Notes". Vol. VI, No. 7, p. 8. January, 1915.
4. Guam Recorder. "The Merizo School is Renamed Merlyn G. Cook School". Vol. VII, No. XI, p. 219-20. February, 1931.
5. Guam Recorder. "Merizo Schoolnotes". Vol. II, No. 19, pp. 196-97. October, 1925.
6. Pacific Profile. "Inarajan Uprising". Vol. 3, No. 6, p. 9. July, 1965.
7. Pacific Profile. "Merizo Massacre". Vol. 3, No. 6, p. 6. July, 1965.
8. Ruth, H. Mark. Memo from Architectural Historian to Dave Lotz, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, October 7, 1978.
9. "Schools, Guam". Manuscript on file, Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam (n.d.).

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. X See continuation sheet.

Richard D. Davis
RICHARD D. DAVIS
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Parks and Recreation
State or Federal agency and bureau

10/13/91
Date

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

Kenneth R. Perez
KENNETH R. PEREZ
Signature of commenting or other official
Historian
Department of Parks and Recreation, Historic Resource Division
State or Federal agency and bureau

11/13/91
Date

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: Sub:

Current : Sub:

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8/86)
NPS/WHS Word Processor Format
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

AMENDMENT TO THE MERLYN G. COOK SCHOOL

The Merlyn G. Cook School opened in the present structure during the summer of 1941. The original nomination implies that the school had occupied the building prior to the above date, "The present school was built by at least 1931, when it was described as Guam's largest and best school. This comment was made at a ceremony naming the Merlyn G. Cook School.". This is incorrect.

The confusion arises due to the fact that there were actually two buildings that housed the Merlyn G. Cook School. The original M.G. Cook School was dedicated in a ceremony on January 19, 1931. This indeed, is the structure referred to in the quote above. The original building was initially constructed and utilized as a barracks for the U.S. Naval Radio Station in the village. It was this structure that housed the M.G. Cook School until the new schoolhouse was built.

The the second school was built on the site of the former U.S. Naval Radio Station which was destroyed in a typhoon that struck Guam

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8/86)
NPS/WHS Word Processor Format
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

in 1940. This new structure retained the name of the first Merlyn G. Cook School and opened on July 2, 1941. However, unlike the original, this building was constructed specifically to house a school, its design similar to that of the Junior High School building in Agana. It is this structure that is known today as the M.G. Cook School. It is this structure that was nominated and accepted to the National Register in 1979.