

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
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 deBrum Home House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER central section, Likiep Is, Likiep Atoll

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Marshall Islands VICINITY OF

STATE

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands CODE

COUNTY

CODE  
96950

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME de Brum Family Clan

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Likiep Island, VICINITY OF Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands, TTPI

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Land Management Office, Majuro, Marshall Islands, TTPI

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE unknown.

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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

The deBrum Family Home on Likiep Island, Likiep Atoll in the Marshalls is a fairly well maintained example of turn of the century plantation home architecture. It is a large wooden building, rectangular, with spacious lanais and porches. A large collection of old books are still in the house along with many pieces of the original family's Oriental furnishings. There has been some degree of alteration since the house's construction: for example, the roofing material at this time is composed of galvanized sheets of metal. The original material was thatch, as were all structures at the time of original construction. This house remains the best standing example of this architectural period in the Trust Territory.

The house is deteriorating at an accelerating pace and many of the items in the house are 'disappearing' at a rapidly increasing rate.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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      1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*1888  
S.G.*

This home was constructed by Joachim deBrum, the eldest son of Jose deBrum who--as a partner of A. Capelle--bought Likiep Atoll from the Iroij (chief) Elap Jortaka, in the 1870's. It is believed that Joachim finally completed the house to his satisfaction by 1888, though it was occupied earlier. He furnished the home with contemporary and antique imports from Germany, the U.S. and the Orient--some of which survive today. Joachim deBrum and his decendents occubied this beautiful old home until the late 1940's. It has been essentially vacant since that time as most of the younger family members have migrated into the District Center atoll of Majuro as well as Kwajalein (Ebeye).

This tropical plantation home is thought to be the only one of its kind still standing in the Marshall Islands, and in fact--the whole of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It reflects the period of history in these islands of plantations and trading during the German and Japanese occupations, colonization, World War II and the early Post War Periods. The house and its remaining contents are representative of the early foreign customs which were assimilated into island living, and are reflective of an era that has vanished.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

personal family records.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	5 9	3 1 4 4 0 0	1 0 8 6 1 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gister deBrum: Chairman, Marshall Islands Historic Preservation Committee

ORGANIZATION

Acting Land Management Officer

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Land Management Office, Majuro, Marshalls Islands

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

STATE

96950

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE  TTPI

LOCAL  Marshall Islands

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* 5/20/76

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

9/30/76

DATE

9/30/76

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

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Joachim de Brum House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER central section, Likiep Island, Likiep Atoll

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marshall Islands

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

COUNTY

CODE 96950

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
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		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME de Brum Family Clan

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Likiep Island

STATE

VICINITY OF Likiep Atoll, Marshall Islands, TTPI

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Land Management Office, Majuro, Marshall Islands, TTPI

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

The main house is a single-story frame building consisting of a 19 by 19 ft. central parlor and two 13 by 19 ft. bedrooms, one on either side of the parlor, with a 10 ft. wide veranda all around. Built about 1900, it originally stood on small concrete piers and had a thatch roof. About 1929 the thatch was replaced with metal roofing and the whole house was raised to its present height of about 6 ft. off the ground, the concrete piers being replaced with wooden piers. The fabric of the house has remained unchanged since its construction save for the new roof and the new, longer piers. The house was stabilized in 1977 by putting on a complete new metal roof, replacing several rotted piers, and replacing several floor joists, rafters, and porch flooring planks.

There are three other standing structures associated with the house: a storage building, a detached dining room-kitchen combination, and a large concrete cistern. The storage building is a one story frame structure with a metal roof and a wooden floor. The dining room-kitchen rests on a concrete slab foundation and has a metal roof. The kitchen has plank sheathing; the dining room has lattice walls made of laths placed vertically and spaced about an inch apart. The 15 by 19 ft. cistern stands about 11 ft. high. Its metal roof has collapsed.

Also present are the concrete slab foundation of two former buildings and several graves marked with curbing, concrete slabs, and gravestones.

The buildings contain many artifacts, including the original Oriental furniture in the house, thousands of books, and a large number of documents.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 ca. 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT designed by Joachim de Brum

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This home was constructed by Joachim de Brum, eldest son of Jose de Brum who--as a partner of A. Capelle and C. H. Ingalls--bought Likiep Atoll from the Iroi j (chief) Elap Jortaka in 1877. Joachim furnished the house with contemporary and antique imports from China, Germany, the United States, and France--some of which are still in the house. After Joachim's death in 1937, his descendents occupied the home until the late 1940's. It has been essentially vacant since that time as most of the younger family members have migrated into the District Center of Majuro or Kwajalein.

This tropical plantation home is thought to be the only one of its kind still standing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It reflects the period of history in these islands of plantations and trading during the German and Japanese occupations, colonization, World Wars I and II, and the early Post War Period. The house and its remaining contents are representative of the early foreign customs which were assimilated into island culture, and are reflective of an era that has vanished.

Of at least equal historical significance to the house was its occupant, Joachim de Brum, a Marshallese renaissance man who might have stepped out of a James Michener novel. Not only a successful business man--copra planter, shipbuilder, and merchant--he also was a self-taught scientist, engineer, and artist of exceptional ability. He made daily records of temperature, atmospheric pressure, and wind velocity at Likiep. He learned to give expert medical treatment to the people of Likiep and nearby atolls where there was no doctor.

He kept notes on Marshallese customs and photographed Marshallese ceremonies, copra making, and other activities. A master of portraiture, he snapped hundreds of pictures of Marshallese family groups, visiting sea captains, and local chiefs. Approximately 2600 of his glass negatives are among the irreplaceable ethno-historic documents remaining in the house. After learning nautical architecture, through self study, he trained local men as shipwrights and began a shipbuilding business. Before his death he had designed and built more than 100 wooden sailing ships, mostly in the 50 to 80 ft. size range, all completely hand crafted without power tools. Several are still in service today.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal family records

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C	_____	_____	_____

B	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D	_____	_____	_____

E	_____	_____	_____
---	-------	-------	-------

F	_____	_____	_____
---	-------	-------	-------

G	_____	_____	_____
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H	_____	_____	_____
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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The residence and surrounding property, to include the storage building, dining room-kitchen, cistern, graves, and foundations of former buildings.

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

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edward B. Jelks, Professor of Anthropology

ORGANIZATION

Illinois State University

DATE

4 November 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

(309) 438-2271

CITY OR TOWN

Normal

STATE

Illinois 61761

## 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

*Clarence E. Jelks*

TITLE Trust Territory Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-19-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

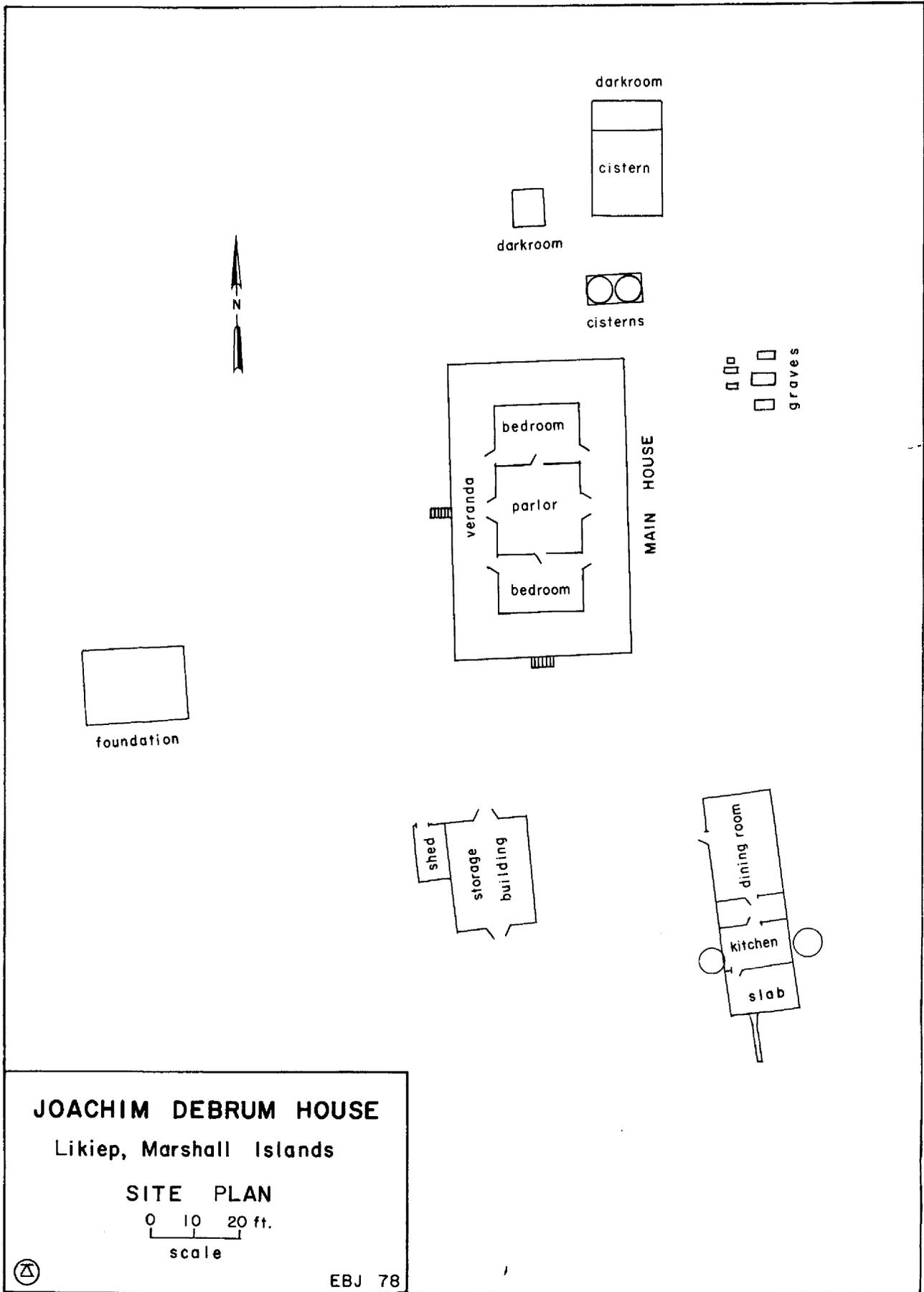
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

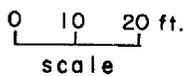
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



**JOACHIM DEBRUM HOUSE**

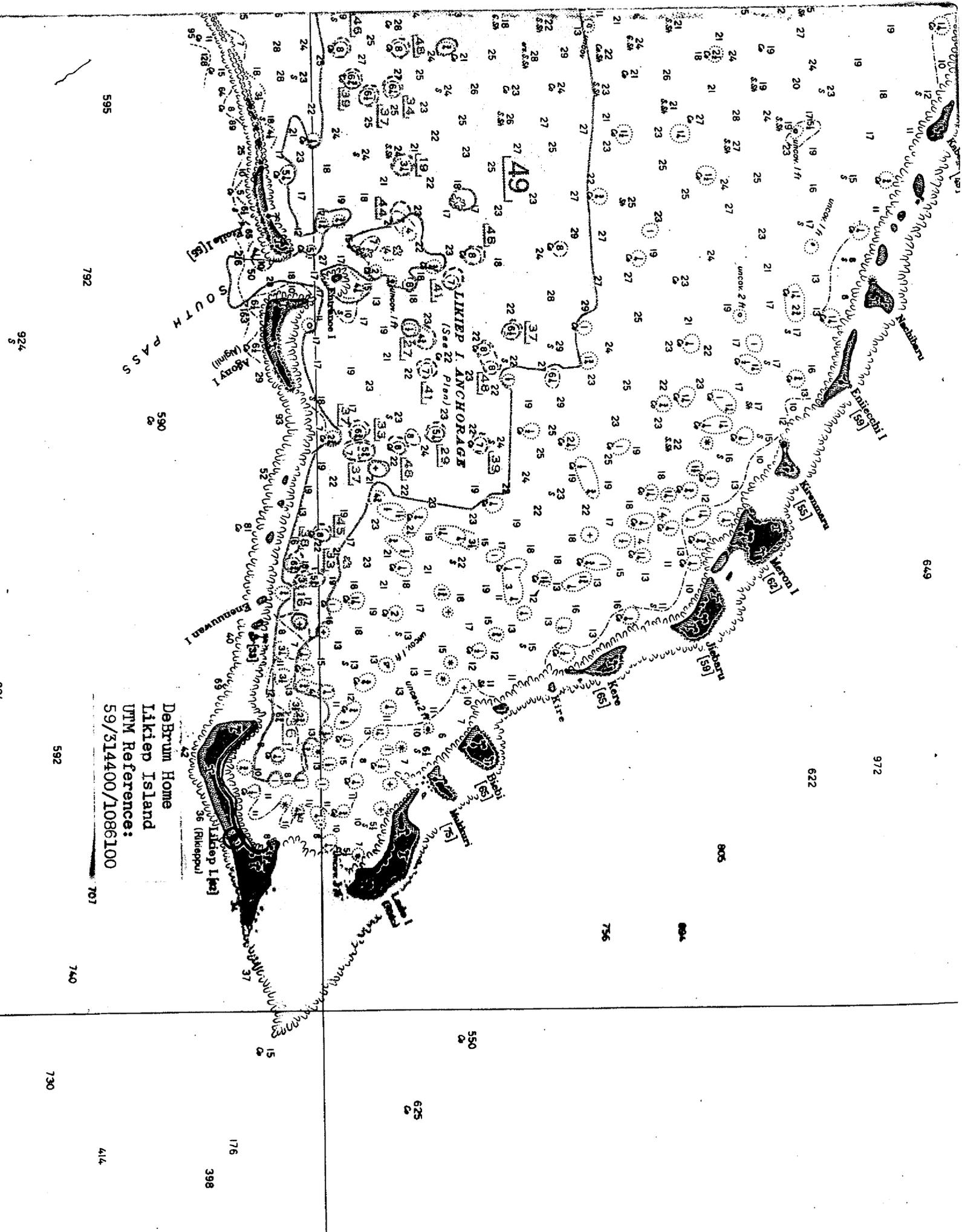
Likiep, Marshall Islands

**SITE PLAN**



EBJ 78

8 8



DeBrum Home  
 Laklep Island  
 UTM Reference:  
 59/314400/1086100

49

LINEP I ANCHORAGE  
 (See 22 Plan) 23

SOUTH PASS

