973

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Malesso Japanese Rice Mill

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Jesus Barcinas Road | N/A | not for publication

city or town Merizo | N/A | vicinity

state Guam code GU county Guam code 010 zip code 96916

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this ✓ 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 ✓ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_X_ national _X_ statewide _X_ local

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 9/29/12

Lynda Bordallo Aguon, Guam State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill
Name of Property

Merizo, Territory of Guam
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

__ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register

__ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

11/29/12
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage	VACANT/NOT IN USE
DOMESTIC/Institutional housing	

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill
Name of Property

Merizo, Territory of Guam
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Japanese Occupation Period (11) December 1941 - August 10, 1944)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is situated on a 0.4 ha parcel in the village of Merizo. The building is located approximately 400 m west of the Geus River and 50 m from the shoreline of Cocos Lagoon. The building consists of two rooms, each with a separate entrance. Constructed during the Japanese Occupation Period on Guam, the building was used to store rice and house Chamorro villagers forced into labor. Contrary to its name, there is no evidence that rice was milled on-site. It is possible that the building was intended for milling and that as a result of historical events, such as failed rice crops and the impending U.S. invasion, the mill never became operational. Today the building is vacant and in poor condition. As no modifications have been made to the building since construction in 1943, its historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association have not been compromised.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill was constructed December 24, 1943. The date is inscribed on the back wall of the building. The building is situated on a 0.4 ha lot in the middle of Merizo Village, south of Route 4, off Jesus Barcinas Street and the small surface street S-2 on the West side of the Geus River (Piga area). The area is residential with occupied family homes in the vicinity. The structure is severely overgrown with vegetation, some of which surpasses the height of the walls. The interior is densely filled with trash, consisting mostly of modern household rubbish. The perimeter of the building is also densely littered. Viewed from the road, the building is heavily obscured by dense vegetation.

At the front of the building there is a low wall extending beyond the property, most likely a retaining wall for a former rice paddy.

Exterior Description

Roof

The roof has collapsed and some elements have fallen to the outside and appear partially sunken into the ground. The lower portions of both gables remain on both sides of the building. The only remnants of eaves are at the four corners of the building.

South wall

The south wall is the rear side of the building. There is rebar protruding from the exterior of the wall. There are four vertical 52-cm-wide piers that connect flush with a top border to partition the wall in three sections. There are a total of four rectangular windows, all of which abut the top of the wall. The two inner windows are oriented horizontally and the two outer windows are oriented vertically. All four measure approximately 4 m by 2 m, and vary in size due to erosion of the frame edges.

At the base of the building there is a border approximately 1 m wide extending the length of the wall. It is recessed between the level of the piers and face of the wall. Within this border there are vents at the base of the wall, one below each of the outer windows, that measure approximately 52 cm square.

The eastern corner exhibits an inscription approximately 1.5 m from the base of the wall reading: "This building was completed on Dec. 24 1943 under the leadership of Mr. Hagiara.". A portion of the inscription has eroded. Below this is the name Hagiara written in Katakana.

North wall

The north wall is the front of the building. There are two doorways measuring 80 cm wide and 3.5 m tall. The doorways have enframements approximately 50 cm wide. Between the doorways there are two windows and between the doorways and the corners of the building there is one window on each side. All windows on this wall measure approximately 2 m tall and 1 m wide and are eroding along the edges. The eastern window between the doorways no longer retains an upper border. Running diagonally toward the ground there is a fissure from the bottom west corner of the middle west window to the western doorway where there is a hole in the wall adjacent to the enframement.

East and West walls

The east and west side walls of the building have three piers creating two recessed section of wall. Each section contains one window measuring approximately 1.2 m tall by 0.8 m wide. There is some variation in dimensions due to erosion. At the base of each wall there are two vents measuring 52 cm square placed approximately 3 m below each window. There is a bottom border approximately 1 m wide extending the length of the wall that is recessed between the level of the piers and face of the wall.

Concrete slab and retaining wall

At the front of the building (north side) there is a broken concrete slab that extends 2.5 m from the building and runs the length of the north wall. A retaining wall abuts the slab on three sides. It stands 15 cm above the slab, 30 cm above the ground surface to the north, and 80 cm above the ground surface to the east. The wall continues east and north onto neighboring property.

Interior Description

The interior of the building consists of two non-adjoining rooms. There is more than a one meter drop from each doorway to the ground inside. Both rooms have a 10-cm-wide ledge, 110 cm above the ground, that was likely used to support floor joists.

Large trees and various types of vegetation are present in both rooms. Dense mounds of trash with rusted metal have been deposited just inside each doorway. This rubbish was particularly dense in the western portion of the building and bars entrance to this part of the building.

Condition and Changes

Currently the building is in poor condition. The interior and exterior are heavily overgrown with vegetation and trash is present around the perimeter and the interior. All window openings are crumbling along the borders. The side-gabled roof collapsed in 1949 and only a small portion of the gables remain intact. Fallen portions are visible on the ground surface. Remnants of the eaves are present at the corners. The exterior plaster is eroding at several points adjacent to artillery impact craters. The impact craters are present all sides of the building. A 50-caliber bullet was observed at one location. The craters appear to be eroding and presently average 10 to 15 cm in diameter, though some are much larger.

Below the plaster, the river pebble matrix used for the concrete mixture is visible. It is likely that these large smooth inclusions are contributing to the decay of the concrete.

In addition to trash dumping, the building has been graffitied on the interior and exterior.

Integrity

Despite the current condition of the Japanese Rice Mill, the building retains its historic integrity. The building still stands at its original location. No changes have been made to the original construction design, the materials are all original, and it retains the feel of the original workmanship, which is further supported by the inscription on the south wall. The structure's deterioration over time is due to World War II impacts, abandonment, and natural forces, such as typhoons.

It is important to note that World War II impacts to the structure can be considered contributing elements to its significance. These impacts are associated with its period of significance and represent the final stage in its utilization under the Japanese Occupation. They are likely associated with pre-invasion U.S. artillery or aerial bombardment. As such, some aspects of the structure's poor condition are a direct result of its place in Guam's history and may serve to imbue the site with deeper meaning, feeling, and association.

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill
Name of Property

Merizo, Territory of Guam
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture, Architecture
Archaeology: Historic – Aboriginal
Ethinic Heritage: Pacfic islander, Other:Japanese
Industry, Military, Social History

Period of Significance

Japanese Occupation Period 11 December 1941 - August 10, 1944

Significant Dates

December 24, 1943 (Japanese Invasion)
July 20, 1944 (Liberation of Merizo)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Period of Significance (justification)

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill was constructed during the Japanese Occupation Period on Guam as a direct result of the Japanese war effort to produce rice to support their military using Chamorro forced labor.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is a significant historic property at the local and state level under Criterion A because the building is associated with Japanese occupation and wartime economic exploitation of Merizo during World War II. This historic context is well documented, and The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is directly associated with Japanese occupation activities and policy on Guam and in Merizo.

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is also significant at the national level under Criterion C for its representation of a World War II Japanese Occupation Agricultural Support Structure. This type of structure is distinguished by: 1) simple utilitarian design, 2) use of local construction materials, such as concrete made from locally produced lime and locally available aggregate, and 3) utilization of compulsory local labor for construction. Most, if not all, of these structures were destroyed on Guam during the U.S. pre-invasion bombardment in 1944. This is the last remaining example known on Guam, and is an excellent example of the type.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill was constructed in December of 1943, near the end of the Japanese World War II Occupation Period on Guam. Although the building was probably not operational as a mill due to historical events, including failed rice crops and the impending U.S. invasion, the building has been known by this name for decades. Contextually, the building is associated with the Japanese war effort to produce rice to support the Japanese Army both on Guam and abroad. As was common during the occupation, forced Chamorro labor was used to construct the building. After construction, the building served as a rice storage facility and sleeping area for Chamorro men forced to work in the adjacent rice paddies. The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is the only extant non-military building constructed during the Japanese Occupation of Guam.

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is significant under Criterion A at the local and state level because the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill represents significant local events in a time period pivotal in the history of Merizo. During the Japanese occupation, the Chamorro people of Merizo were forced to work in various aspects rice production, including the movement of the rice from the field to the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill and the construction of the building itself. Construction of the mill and the forced local rice cultivation that it is associated with were highly significant events in this small community. Many residents of the area still remember these events and those particularly familiar with the mill feel that the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is historically significant and should be preserved.

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is also significant under Criterion C at the national level because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of structure built on Guam only during the Japanese World War II Occupation Period. This type is here termed "World War II Japanese Occupation Agricultural Support Structure." This type of structure is distinguished by: 1) simple utilitarian design, 2) use of local construction materials, such as concrete made from locally produced lime and locally available aggregate, and 3) utilization of compulsory local labor for construction. This combination of features was only possible during the Japanese Occupation period and resulted in the construction of highly utilitarian structures. Construction materials were by necessity locally procured and manufactured, since the Japanese could not depend on support from mainland Japan at this late stage in the war.

Currently, the building retains all seven aspects of integrity. These include integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All of these appear to be intact with respect to the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill. The building still stands at its original location. No changes have been made to the original construction design, the materials are all original, and it retains the feel of the original workmanship, which is supported by the inscription on the south wall.

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is important locally and in the broader context of the Island of Guam. Locally, the building is associated with families of Malesso that were involved with forced Japanese rice production and other significant incidences dating to Japanese occupation in the area. For Guam, a wider context, the building represents a rare example of non-military Japanese architecture that reflects a relatively brief but significant period of Guam's history.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The following historical narrative is intended to supply additional context regarding important events and processes during the Japanese Occupation Period on Guam. This context is necessary to understanding the local, state and national significance of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill. The narrative focuses on Japanese policies of labor and agricultural exploitation on Guam and in Merizo, with special emphasis on rice cultivation. Other Japanese events significant in Merizo local history are recounted as well, since the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill stands as a monument to a broad range occupation events associated with Japanese Occupation.

On December 8, 1941 (UTC/GMT +10 hours), the same day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Hawai'i, the Japanese launched an attack on Guam. The fighting consisted of two days of air strikes with ground forces entering Tumon Beach, Agaña Bay, and Merizo, forcing the US surrender of the lightly fortified island. The Imperial Japanese Army regiment that landed at Bile Bay, Merizo was misinformed that a road existed heading north to Apra Harbor that would allow an overland attack. They occupied the village until realizing their mistake, and then reboarded their ship to head further north (Allen 2004:13).

Once controlling the island, the 6,000 Japanese troops sent all American and foreign prisoners to Japan for internment, while Chamorro prisoners were interned on Guam. The Army remained in control of the island for four months and were housed in schools and government buildings. The civilian affairs section of the army, called the Minseisho, ruled with great cruelty until they left to fight other battles (Rogers 1988:170; Allen 2004:13). During this brief period all residents were forced to wear an identification strip of cloth with Japanese characters, bowing to all Japanese was mandatory for all Chamorros, and American money was banned. Cars radios, and cameras were confiscated, food was rationed until supplies were exhausted, and physical cruelty by the Japanese toward the Chamorros was frequent (Rogers 1988:171–172).

The Imperial Japanese Navy took control in March 1942 and Guam was governed by the Fifty-Fourth Keibitai for the next 19 months (Rogers 1988:172). Guam was divided into districts each with a Chamorro leader, called a *kuchō*, while each village had a *sonchō*. To control each village and district there was a Japanese noncommissioned officer, called a *taichō*. Ruling by the civil affairs branch, called the Minseibu, was more relaxed and Chamorros were allowed to farm and trade. However, English was forbidden, Japanese language and customs enforced along with propaganda sessions, and communal work quotas were imposed through the *kuchō* and *sonchō* (Rogers 1988:172–175). By 1944, the communal forced labor had deteriorated into slavery with workers being forced to work up to 24 hours at a time. Most never received foods rations, and had to manage their own meals when food was extremely scarce (Rogers 1988:176).

During World War II, rice was of tremendous importance to the Japanese. Emergency measures were adopted by the Japanese Cabinet in September 1941 to increase rice production and storage (Higuchi 2008:69). Guam was a priority for this endeavor due to its size and potential for agriculture. In February 1942, after the Japanese invasion, the Chamorro population was forced into labor for the reclamation, cultivation, and irrigation of paddies. To accomplish this, private land ownership was not recognized. Evaluation of the land suitable for rice production on Guam only rated possible paddy locations as fair to good, however, there was an expectation that Guam would become a major producer of rice in the South Sea Islands (Higuchi 2008:70). Rice farms were opened throughout southern Guam where water sources were available. This included Merizo, which was renamed Matsuyama during the occupation (Higuchi 2008:70). The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill, constructed in December of 1943 was a part of this war effort.

Paddies on Guam were worked by villagers organized by Chamorro leaders under Nan'yō Kōhatsu Kibushiki Kaisha (South Seas Development Company) and Minseibu staff (the navy's civil administration department) (Higuchi 2008:71). Later the Kaikuntai oversaw the rice production and from mid-1943 on the workers saw no compensation. After the military and Japanese civilians, the Chamorro were the last group of people to receive rice provisions during distribution. This situation was aggravated by the inadequacy of rice production to supply the 46,000 Japanese in the Marianas at the time, and the general failure of the crop. To combat pests the Kaikuntai used nicotine salt sulfur, which ran off into the lagoons, killing marine life and causing permanent damage to patches of reef off Merizo (Rogers 1988:176). The following is an excerpt from the diary of the Nan'yō Kōhatsu Business Section Head Koshimuta Takeshi:

> Damage from the leafhoppers was immense. Plants in seven tan of paddy died within 2 days. Examination was carried out. Rice planting in Matsuyama (Merizo) was also hopeless (October 9, 1943).
>
> (Higuchi 2008:71, 72)

In January 1944 there were 43 chō (1 chō = .99 hectares) of paddies in Merizo, however, because of the failure of rice the Chamorro were no longer allowed rations. When there was no rice to provide the Japanese, they were forced to offer vegetable crops, which severely infringed upon an already strained food supply. By the time American troops arrived in July 1944, the Minseibu had failed in

their endeavor to produce rice for self-sufficiency, which undoubtedly affected their military operations and their administration of the Chamorro people (Higuchi 2008:77).

At the beginning of 1944 the Japanese army retuned to Guam fearing an American invasion. Administration became much stricter with the presence of the military police, called the Kempeitai, and units in charge of providing combat troops with food and supplies, called the Kaikuntai. All social activities ended, schools closed, and all male Chamorros over the age of 12 were forced to labor in fields, build or repair defense installations, and excavate cave and rock shelters, while agricultural quotas for women, girls, and the elderly increased to impossible levels (Rogers 1988:175–176).

Measures to increase the food supply available for the army units on Guam were failing in 1944. Complicating the agricultural difficulties of drought and pests was the introduction of the giant African land snail (*Achatina fulica*). Although it was a food source for troops, it also heavily damaged crops (Rogers 1988:176). The Chamorros on Guam suffered from malnutrition and lacked basic necessities such as shoes.

In June of 1944 the Japanese began moving Chamorros from their homes and marching them to concentration camps in the interior of Guam. Conditions in the camps were especially hard for the young and elderly as food was limited, medical attention nonexistent, and sanitation inadequate (Gailey 1988:38). The treatment of the Chamorros by the Japanese became even more atrocious with beheadings, rapes, and shootings (Rogers 1988:178). At Merizo two massacres occurred just prior to the American invasion. At Tinta on July 15th 30 villagers were forced into a dugout cave and Japanese soldiers hurdled hand grenades inside. Those not killed by the explosions were bayoneted or beheaded. Fourteen individuals did survive by feigning death. The following day at Faha thirty men were ordered by the Japanese military police to excavate a trench. While digging, the Japanese threw hand grenades at the men while firing upon them with machine guns. There were no survivors.

News of the massacres somehow reached a group of men among 800 villagers of Merizo that were being marched to a concentration camp inland. While stopped at a camp on the night of 20 July, eight Chamorro men killed six guards and attacked a supply depot killing four more. The remaining soldiers fled into the jungle and Merizo became the first liberated village on Guam, and the only village to be liberated solely by Chamorros (Rogers 1988: 180–181).

The US regained control of the island during the Battle of Guam in 1944. Beginning 8 July, Guam was bombarded by the Americans for 13 days, and on 21 July over 20,000 Marines landed at Asan and over 29,000 Marines and Army troops at Agat. During this time civilians were raped and murdered by the Japanese soldiers. Some of these people were accused of helping the Americans, while others were killed or raped indiscriminately (Rogers1988:181). The 54,891 American troops successfully defeated the 18,500 Japanese troops, with the last major battles taking place in the north of Guam on 8–9 August (Rogers 1988:181–193). Through these weeks many small battles occurred, one of which involved a joint American and Chamorro attack to free villagers of Merizo still being held in a concentration camp inland from Inarajan. On 10 August General Geiger of the United States Marine Corp announced that all organized resistance by the Japanese had ceased on Guam.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allen, Jane
2004 *Research Design for Archaeological Monitoring at the Merizo Overhead-to-Underground Conversion Project, Merizo (Malesso), Guam*. Prepared for M. D. Crisostomo, Inc. by International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu.

Gailey, Harry. A
1988 *The Liberation of Guam, 21 July–10 August*. Presido Press, Novato, CA.

Higuchi, Wakako
2008 Japan's Industrial Development of a U.S. Territory: Guam, 1941-1944. *Pacific Studies* 30: 55–104.

Rogers, Robert F.
1995 *Destiny's Landfall: A History of Guam*. University of Hawai'i Press: Honolulu.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill
Name of Property

Merizo, Territory of Guam
County and State

___ 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 # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (ifassigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.09
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	55N	247690.374	1467481.822	3	55N	247716.299	1467497.460
2	55N	247690.484	1467496.032	4	55N	247716.958	1467483.581

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the property being nominated is the building itself and the concrete slabs at the front entrance, which covers a rectangular area 26 m by 14 m.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary encompasses the building and the associated concrete slabs at the entrance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nicole Vernon

organization Garcia and Associates date 11 November 2010

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill
Name of Property

Merizo, Territory of Guam
County and State

street & number Garden Villa H302, 800 pale San Vitores Road telephone 671-488-2005

city or town Tumon state Guam zip code 96913

e-mail nvernon@garciaandassociates.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Malesso Japanese Rice Mill

City or Vicinity: Merizo

County: Merizo State: Guam

Photographer: Patick O'Day

Date Photographed: 14 September 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

North side of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill facing west: 1 of 8

Western entrance on the north side of the Maleso Japanese Rice Mill: 2 of 8

Interior of the eastern room of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill: 3 of 8

Interior of the western room Malesso Japanese Rice Mill: 4 of 8

East side of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill: 5 of 8

West side of the building Malesso Japanese Rice Mill: 6 of 8

Associated retaining wall of north side of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill: 7 of 8

Inscription on south side of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill: 8 of 8

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill
Name of Property

Merizo, Territory of Guam
County and State

Property Owner:
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 12000973 **Date Listed: 11/28/2012**

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill — **Property Name**

Guam — **County** **GU** — **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.

_____ 11/28/12

Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Certification:

This confirms that the documentation was submitted as a *Nomination* that *meets* the National Register Criteria, as outlined in the SHPO's cover letter.
[The certification boxes were not fully completed on the original nomination form.]

Significance:

The nomination is amended to remove *Archeology* as an area of significance.
[The current narrative provides no discussion or justification for archeological significance at this time, nor is Criterion D checked. Important research questions or additional archeological potential may exist based on further study and analysis of the property, at which time the nomination may be amended.]

The Period of Significance is amended to read: *1943—1944.*
[The period of significance refers to the specific year or span of dates in which a property attained the significance qualifying it for listing. In order to correspond to the NRIS database format these must reflect specific dates rather than general terms. The period also cannot predate the existence of the resource being nominated. Although the resource is associated with broad wartime events, the start date must coincide with the date of construction.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the Guam SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Malesso Japanese Rice Mill

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GUAM, Guam

DATE RECEIVED: 10/12/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/13/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/28/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/28/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000973

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	Y	NATIONAL:	Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Agriculture, Ethnic History-Pacific Islander and Asian (Japanese), Industry, Military and Social History. Constructed in 1943 using forced Chamorro labor, the modest agricultural/industrial building represents a rare extant example of non-military Japanese architecture constructed in Guam during World War II. The building's simple lines and basic materials reflected the wartime constraints of local construction and labor. While Japanese-built military fortifications still exist in various locations, the mill is the only, as yet, identified non-military structure in the area. In an effort to support the occupying military forces on Guam, the Japanese built utilitarian structures such as this to assist in the procurement and storage of much needed foodstuffs (rice). The use of often brutal forced labor had major impacts on the local population of Malesso, and Guam in general, despite the relatively short period of Japanese occupation.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A & C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 11/28/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.


UCK YOU


ThIS BUIL
WAS COMPL

MERIZO QUADRANGLE
MARIANA ISLANDS–ISLAND OF GUAM
1:24 000 SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(TALOFOFO)
38'
(AGAT)
AGAT 8 MI.
UMATAC 1.7 MI.
40'
44 000 METERS
144°42'
13°17'30"
29 000 METERS
15'
Mamatgun Point
Toguan 209
Madog
Asdulili
U M A T A C
Fane
Atate
I N A R A J A N
Toguan
BM 16
Inaso Hill
Toguan River
Toguan Bay
Mount Schroeder
Mount Jinago
Jinago
Bile River
Bile Bay
Bile
Mount Sasalaguan
Somnac
Mount Finansanta
Siligin Spring
Gugae
Bingot
Merizo Catholic Cem
Merizo Sch
Public Health Center
Pigua River
Merizo Martyrs Memorial Sch
Water Tank
Gaging Station
Pigua
Pigua Pumping Station
Geus Valley
Magpogugae
Merizo Martyrs Monument
Museum
Merizo
BM 16
Piga
Piga Beach
Merizo Cockpit
M E R I Z O
Mamaon Channel
Talona
Lotnon
Palalo
Geus River
Joa
Manell River
Guagua River
Aba Beach
Toa
Jaotan
Jaotan Pt
Lingae
Julog
Achang Bay
BM 13
Manell Pt
Sagualao
Balang Point
Suyafe River
Sumay
Maleso
Liguan BM 9
INARAJAN 1.7 MI.
TALOFOFO 9 MI.
Manell Channel
ACHANG REEF (CORAL)
Tangon Rock
Sumay Bay
CORAL REEF
Babe Island
C O C O S
L A G O O N
Cocos Island
U S NAVAL RESERVATION
P H I L I P P I N E S E A
North

Malesso Japanese Rice Mill
Merizo, Guam
UTM References
55N 247690.374 EASTING
1467481.822 NORTHING
SCALE 1:24,000 (USGS)

Department of Parks and Recreation
Government of Guam
490 Chalan Palasyo
Agana Heights, Guam 96910
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Guam Historic Resources Division: (671) 475-6295/6270

Eddie Baza Calvo
Governor

Ray Tenorio
Lt. Governor

Peter S. Calvo
Director

September 29, 2012

Carol Shull
Interim Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.

Subject: Submission of National Register Nomination: Malesso Japanese Rice Mill

Dear Ms. Shull,

Submitted for your review is the *Malesso Japanese Rice Mill* nomination documentation. As required a CD of the images is enclosed.

The State review Board determined that the historic property is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Should you require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lynda Bordallo Aguon
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

Historic Survey and Condition Assessment of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill, Municipality of Merizo, Guam

Project Number: 66-09-004

Prepared For:

Guam Historic Resources Division
490 Chalan Palasyo
Agana Heights, Guam 96910

Prepared By:

Nicole I. Vernon, M.A.

Garcia and Associates
146 Hekili St., Suite 101
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

GANDA Report No. 2172-2

GANDA

30 September 2010

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

At the request of the Guam Historic Resources Division (GHRD), Garcia and Associates conducted an historic survey at the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill located within the Municipality of Merizo, Guam. The building is located on an approximately 0.4 hectares (ha) (4,000 m^2 or .988 acres) parcel of land in a residential area. The purpose of the survey was to gather data on the Japanese Rice Mill for possible inclusion in the Guam and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

To document the historic building, an existing condition survey was performed on 14 and 15 September 2010, which recorded the physical spaces and elements of the Japanese Rice Mill. This information was used to evaluate the historic and physical integrity of the building. Information gathered during the survey was documented with field notes and measured drawings. In addition, documentation included extensive digital photography of the overall building and of all architectural details. Two shovel test units were excavated to examine the subsurface for buried cultural deposits.

Today the mill is in ruins with only the four outer walls, one inner wall, and a concrete slab running the length of the north wall of the structure remaining. Large trees and vegetation is growing in the interior of the building where modern household refuse and rushed metal has accumulated from illicit dumping. It is apparent that this illicit dumping is ongoing. Graffiti has also been painted onto various portions of the exterior of the mill.

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is a significant historic property and is NRHP-eligible under Criteria A and C. During the Japanese Occupation, Chamorro people were forced to work in various aspects of the production of rice, including the movement of the rice from the field to the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill and the construction of the mill itself. Additionally, the design and construction of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is unique on Guam.

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FIGURES

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the Guam Historic Resources Division (GHRD), Garcia and Associates conducted an historic survey at the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill located within the Municipality of Merizo, Guam (Figures 1–3). The building is located on an approximately 0.4 hectares (ha) (4,000 m^2 or .988 acres) parcel of land in a residential area. The purpose of the survey was to gather data on the Japanese Rice Mill for possible inclusion in the Guam and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The primary goal of this survey was to identify, evaluate, and possibly nominate this historic property to the National Register of Historic Places in order to follow the intent of the Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan as required by the National Parks Service. This report presents background information for the historic building, the research design, methodologies employed during the course of the project, and results of the survey.

Nature and Location of the Project

The goals of this project are to: 1) gather empirical data regarding the historic context and current physical condition of the Japanese Rice Mill, 2) complete a Guam Historic Properties Inventory Data Form for the property, 3) test the property for subsurface cultural deposition, and 4) assess this property for Guam and National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) eligibility.

The Japanese Rice Mill is situated on a .4 ha lot in the middle of Merizo Village south of Route 4, off of Jesus Barcinas Street, and the small surface street S-2 on the West side of the Geus River in the Piga area.

The mill is in ruins with only the four outer walls, one inner wall, and a concrete slab running the length of the north wall of the structure remaining. Both of the gables on the east and west walls of the building have fallen and the entire roof has collapsed. The inscription described by Kurashina et al. (1983) is still present on the southeastern corner of the structure: "This building was completed on Dec. 24 1943 under the leadership of Mr. Hagiara." There is also evidence of possible damage from aircraft strafing during World War II (Kurashina et al. 1982). Large trees and vegetation is growing in the interior of the building where modern household refuse and rusted metal has accumulated from illicit dumping. It is apparent that this illicit dumping is ongoing. Graffiti has also been painted onto various portions of the exterior of the mill.

Physical Environment

Guam is the southernmost island in the Marianas Archipelago and is the largest (554 km^2), most populated and commercially developed island in Micronesia. Vegetation has been affected by frequent typhoons and widespread human disturbance, including military use of the island and the devastation caused by World War II. Guam has a tropical marine climate and is situated approximately 13 degrees north of the equator. Rainfall averages from 216 to 292 centimeters (cm) per year with the wet season beginning in July and terminating at the end of November (Gingerich 2003).

The Marianas sit on the eastern edge of the Andesite Line, a noteworthy geological division between the older continental land to the west and the young volcanic islands of the east Pacific. The nine northern Marianas Islands are volcanic, while the five islands in the south are composed of limestone formed on igneous rock (Craib and Yoklavich 1996:11). The southern islands are older and exhibit greater coral reef development. Guam is divided into two distinct physiographic regions by the Pago-Adelup Fault line (Figure 4). The northern portion consists of a low relief limestone plateau and the south is comprised mostly of volcanic cuesta with an uplifted limestone component located on the eastern coast (Taboroši et al. 2005).

The Japanese rice mill is located in the center of a small residential neighborhood along the coastal strip in the Piga portion of Merizo Village adjacent to Cocos Lagoon. It is situated on a .4 ha lot south of Route 4, off Jesus Barcinas Street and a small surface street S-2 on the west side of the Geus River.

Modern houses with maintained yards and vacant lots covered by mowed grass surround the ruins of the mill. The vegetation within the project area is not maintained and consists of coconut trees, *tangan tangan*,

and ginger. Various types of modern rubbish have been deposited on the lot and within the mill ruins, and historic ceramics and pre-Contact pottery sherds are present on the ground surface around the building. The residential development and road construction in the vicinity of the mill suggests that the area has been heavily disturbed by modern activities.

Geologically, the project area consists of Inarajan Clay, a very deep, poorly drained, and very fine mixed alluvial soil found on broad valley floors and coastal plains (Young 1988:93) (Figure 5). Within the study area parcel the soil is very dark with natural crushed coral and marine shell. Crab burrows are common throughout the project area, and pre-Contact pottery and historic ceramics are also present on the ground surface.

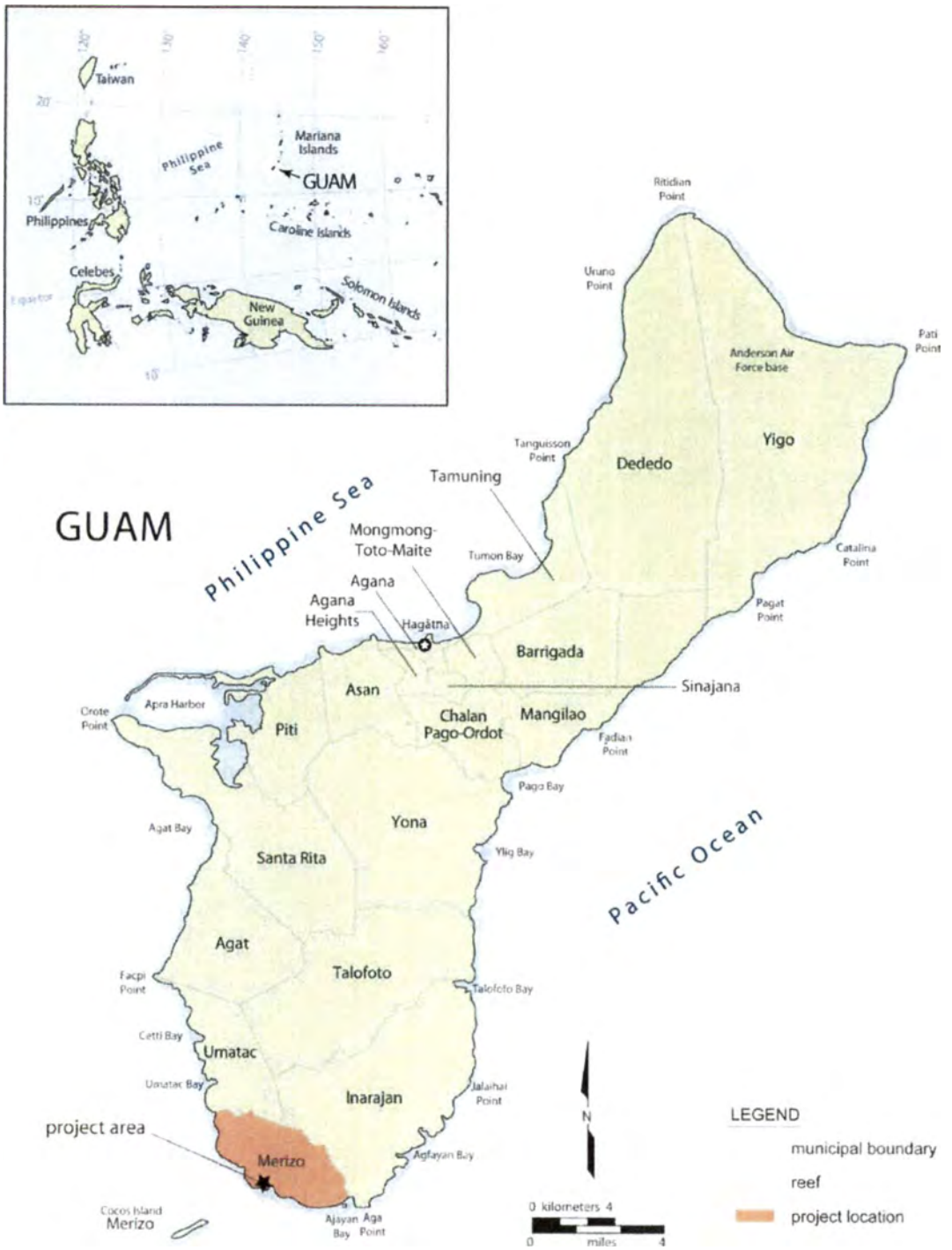

Figure 1. The Island of Guam, showing project location in the Merizo Municipality.

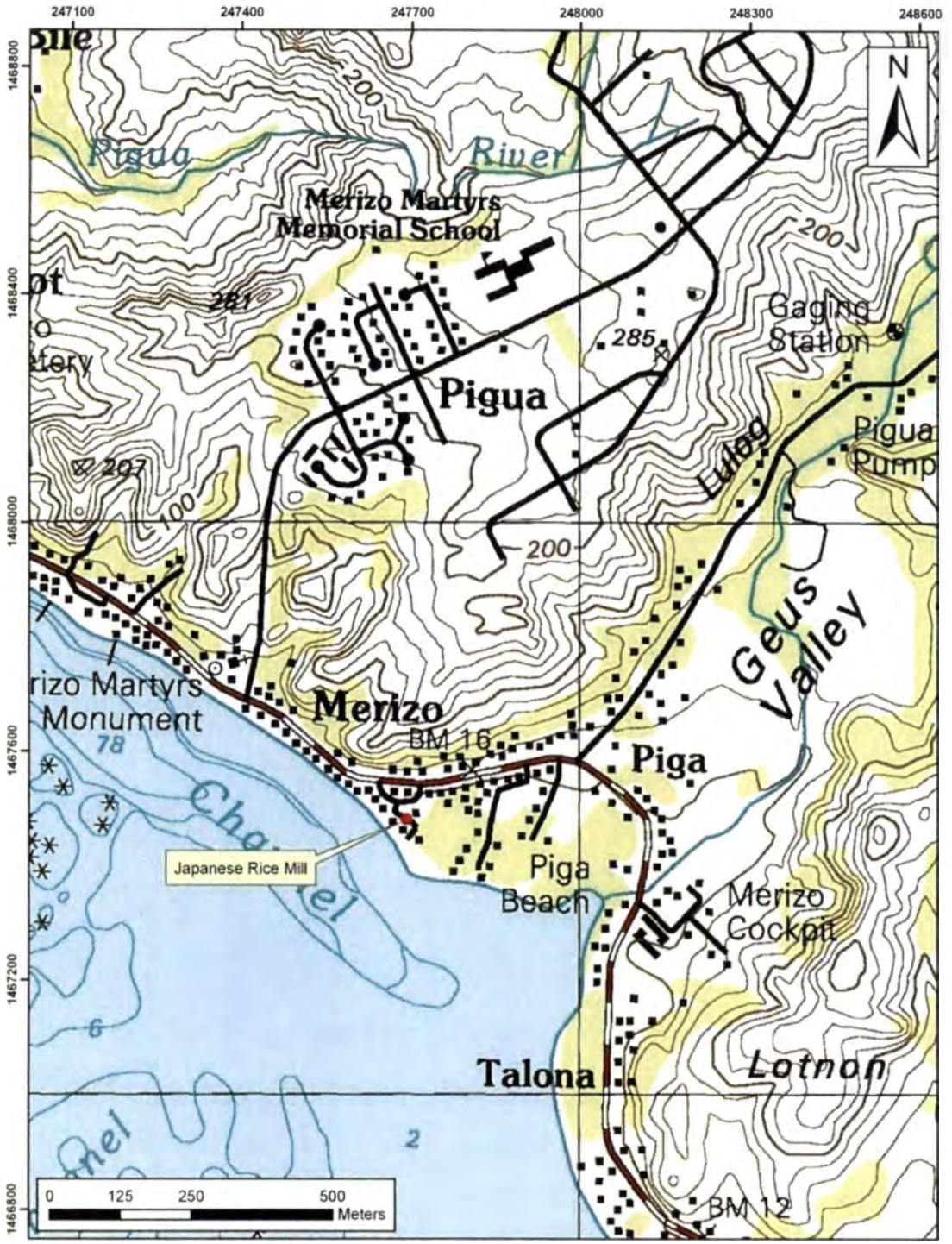

Figure 2. Project area on USGS 7.5 minute Merizo Quadrangle.

Figure 3. Location of the Japanese Rice Mill displayed on satellite imagery.

Figure 4. Two major physiographic regions on Guam (base map from Taboroši et al. 2005:18).

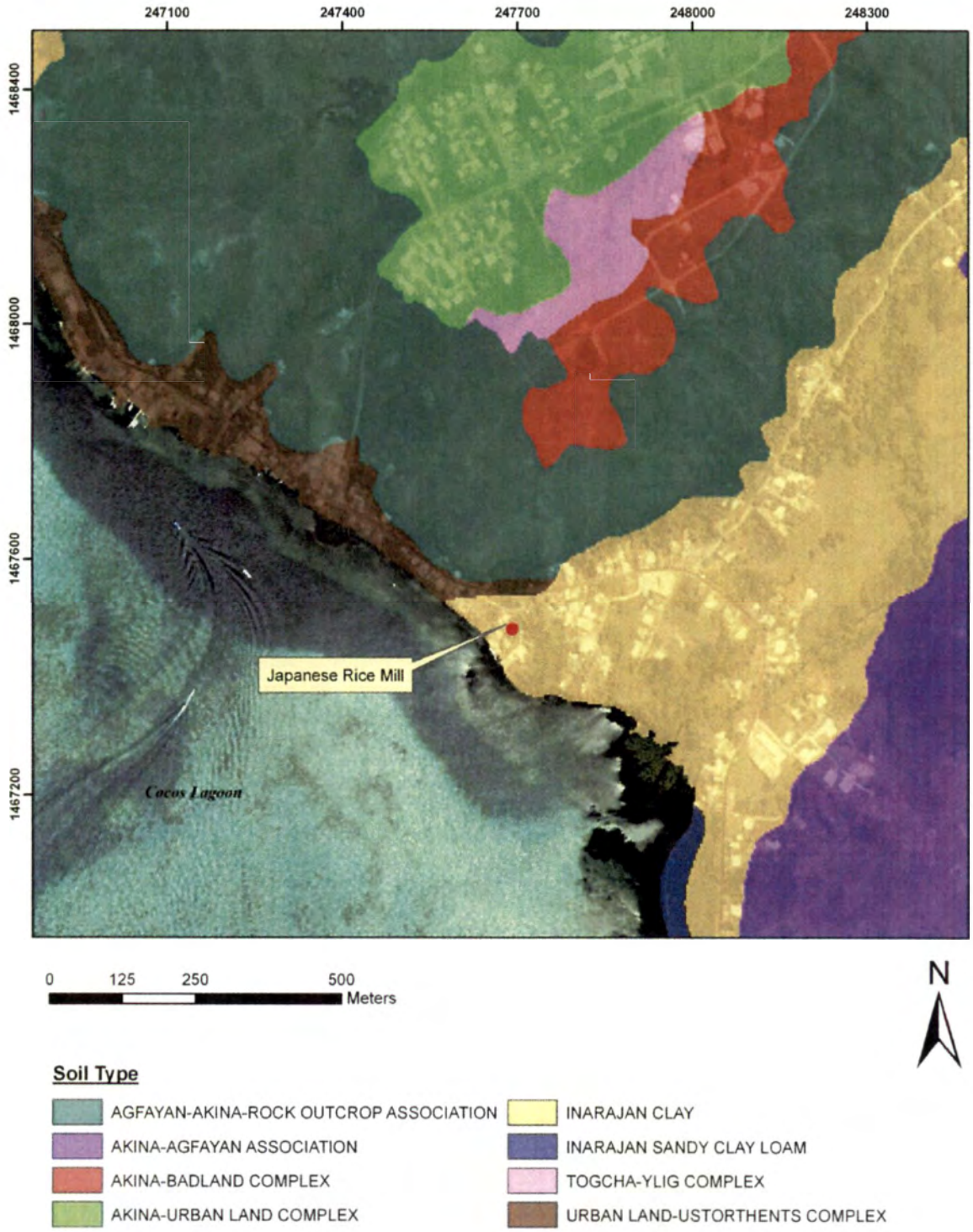

Figure 5. Map of soils present in the vicinity of the project area.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Various pre-Contact and historical periods have been developed to describe Guam's human occupation. This section presents a brief overview of the major archaeological and historical periods that comprise Guam's 3500 year cultural history. Special attention is given to archaeological sites and historical events relevant to the current project's location.

Pre-Contact Guam

The pre-Contact era in Guam is divided into two main archaeological periods, the Pre-Latte and Latte periods (Spoehr 1957). The Pre-Latte period begins with the first human occupation at approximately 1500 BC and concludes with the onset of *latte*-based construction at approximately AD 1000. The number of known Pre-Latte sites on Guam remains low, possibly because the deposits are deeply buried and have not been disturbed during commercial development. The Pre-Latte period has been further subdivided into four archaeological phases based on pottery types: the Early, Middle, and Late Unai and the Huyong (Moore 2002; Tomonari-Tuggle et al. 2005).

Pre-Latte Period

Ancestors of the Chamorro people settled Guam and the Northern Marianas from Island Southeast Asia (or possibly Taiwan) over 3000 years ago (Kirch 2000). The first 500 years following initial human settlement constitute the Early Unai Phase. Coastal locations with access to marine resources were likely habitation areas for the earliest settlers. Cultural materials associated with this phase include a high proportion of bivalve remains, thin-walled pottery, stone and shell tools, fishing equipment, and shell ornaments (Bath 1986; Graves and Moore 1995). Only three sites of this earliest phase are known for Guam, with Huchunao in Mangilao and Ypao at Tumon Bay on the west coast being the most substantial (Moore 2002:7).

The dominant pottery type during this period is non-decorated Marianas Redware (Moore 2002:7). The name for this pottery type is taken from the red (2.5YR 4/6) or reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) exterior coloring of the vessels. The Marianas Red vessels are characterized by thin walls, restricted openings, everted rims, and slipped exteriors. Achugao Incised and San Roque Incised pottery is also found in very small numbers. These sherd types are often small and do not decisively display vessel morphology. The coloring is most often dark gray (2.5YR 4/0) and the wall thickness averages from 5 to 6 millimeters (mm). Tempering typically consists of calcareous sand, though some volcanic sand mixing has been observed (Moore 2002:7). The Merizo Village Site (Site Number 66-0600117) located to the northwest of the current project area yielded Pre-Latte Period radiocarbon dates.

The Latte Period (AD 1000–1668)

The Latte Period follows the Huyong Phase of the Pre-Latte Period and extends slightly into the post-Contact Period. Pottery is characterized by Marianas Plainware, a thick-walled ware with no slip and little decoration. Settlement expanded inland to more marginal environments, such as the interior uplands. At the time of contact, settlements consisted of groups of *latte* houses nucleated into villages (Tomonari-Tuggle et al. 2005). Structures were used for habitation, storage, or ritual. Archaeological evidence points to a stratified society with chiefs able to organize the labor needed to construct monumental structures. It has been hypothesized that *latte* were symbols of corporate landholdings (Hunter-Anderson 1989). Subsistence practices included fishing as well as farming of crops such as taro and rice. Breadfruit, yams, bananas, and sugarcane were important crops as well. Latte Period site types include *latte* structures, artifact scatters, isolated mortars, quarries, and caves/rockshelters (Tomonari-Tuggle et al. 2005). There are two sites near the current project area where materials dating to the Latte Period have been observed. In the region surrounding the current project area there have been many Latte Period sites recorded along the coast, interior uplands, and river valleys.

Guam in the Post-Contact Era

European contact first occurred in 1521 in Guam with the arrival of Spain's Magellan expedition. This marked the beginning of the post-Contact era. The era is commonly divided into the Spanish Colonial, First American, Japanese World War II, American World War II, and Second American periods.

The Spanish Colonial Period (1521–1898)

Spanish missionary descriptions from the seventeenth century characterize Guam as a thriving island, with some 180 villages, the largest comprised of 150 residences (Lèvesque 1995). The population at this time has been estimated at 20,000 (Tomonari-Tuggle et al. 2005). Spanish control and epidemics associated with foreign contact dramatically changed the character of the island. By the end of the seventeenth century the Chamorro population was reduced to a mere 1,600 (Russel and Flemming in Tomonari-Tuggle et al. 2005). Many Chamorros fled inland as Spanish forces burned villages. The Spanish *Reducción* during this period consolidated the Chamorro population of the Marianas into seven mission stations. Six of these were located on Guam and included Pago, Merizo, Hagåtña, Agat, Umatac, and Inarajan and one was located on Rota (Rogers 1995). Also, Saipan was occupied well after the *Reducción*, at least until the 1740s. Foreign contact also impacted the landscape thorough the introduction of new species such as cattle, horses, deer, pigs, goats, and carabao.

Various new materials were incorporated into Chamorro sites during the Spanish Period including Mexican *metate* and *mano*, porcelain and stoneware dishes and jars, and metal tools such as hoes. Also, metal nails have been recovered that were shaped into fishhooks (Moore 2007). Spanish sites exhibit Western-style structures and artifacts, mostly in the urban areas such as Agaña and Umatac.

Illustrated on the 17th century map from the Jesuit Charles Le Gobien the village of "Merico" contained a mission (Figure 6), which was the fifth established on Guam (Haynes and Wuerch 1990). On an historic Spanish map from 1887 there is a road, most likely a bull cart trail, passing through the village (Figure 7).

The First American Period (1898–1941)

In 1898 the US took control of Guam during the Spanish-American War, although US rule was not firmly established until the turn of the century. The Orote Peninsula was not armed when Captain Henry Glass, USN, entered Apra Harbor on 20 June 1898 aboard the *Charleston* to attack the Spanish Forts. Fort Santa Cruz had been abandoned several years prior, so Glass anchored the ship and demanded that the governor of Guam surrender the island. Though he refused to board the Charleston for a meeting with Glass, Governor Juan Marina sent a reply agreeing to a meeting with American naval officers on land the following morning. After a short delay on June 21st, the governor sent a letter to Glass stating, "I am under the sad necessity of being unable to resist such superior forces and I respectfully accede to your demands" (Rogers 1995:110).

Though the US Navy occupied Guam, it did not invest in heavy fortification. In 1901 Captain John F Merry, USN, recognized the importance of Orote and suggested installation of ten 9-inch and 6-inch gun emplacements. Necessary funds were ultimately diverted to the Philippines, however. Urban and military activity was centralized in what is now the Waterfront Annex, in the site of the destroyed Sumay Village.

In 1922, the Naval Limitations Treaty was signed and all coastal defenses were removed from Guam. As a consequence of the treaty Guam were extremely vulnerable and unprepared for the 1941 Japanese invasion.

In 1903 an article was published by the American Geographical Society that combined two first hand reports on Guam: a report by Brig. Gen. Joseph Wheeler that was published by the War Department and an article by Mr. W. E. Safford that was published by the Smithsonian Institution. According to the 1903 article a vast majority of the 9000 residents of Guam lived in the six main towns: Agafia, containing 6,400 inhabitants; Sumai, 900; Ynarajan, 550; Agate, 400; Merizo, 300; and Umata, 200. The residents of the

towns were mostly farmers who visited their ranchos to raise crops. There were also a number of hamlets, composed of a few homes each along the coast.

The Japanese and World War II Period (1941–1944)

On 8 December 1941 (UTC/GMT +10 hours), the same day of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, Hawai'i, the Japanese launched an attack on Guam. The fighting consisted of two days of air strikes with ground forces entering Tumon Beach, Agaña Bay, and Merizo, forcing the US surrender of the lightly fortified island. The Imperial Japanese Army regiment that landed at Bile Bay, Merizo was misinformed that a road existed heading north to Apra Harbor that would allow an overland attack. They occupied the village until realizing their mistake, and then reboarded their ship to head further north (Allen 2004:13).

Once controlling the island, the 6,000 Japanese troops sent all American and foreign prisoners to Japan for internment, while Chamorro prisoners were interned on Guam. The Army remained in control of the island for four months and were housed in schools and government buildings. The civilian affairs section of the army, called the Minseisho, ruled with great cruelty until they left to fight other battles (Rogers 1988: 170; Allen 2004:13). During this brief period all residents were forced to wear an identification strip of cloth with Japanese characters, bowing to all Japanese was mandatory for all Chamorros, and American money was banned. Cars radios, and cameras were confiscated, food was rationed until supplies were exhausted, and physical cruelty by the Japanese toward the Chamorros was frequent (Rogers 1988: 171-2).

Imperial Japanese Navy took control in March 1942 and Guam was governed by the Fifty-fourth Keibitai for the next 19 months (Rogers 1988:172). Guam was divided into districts each with a Chamorro leader, called a *kuchō*, while each village had a *sonchō*. To control oversea each village and district there was a Japanese noncommissioned officer, called a *taichō*. Ruling by the civil affairs branch, called the Minseibu, was more relaxed and Chamorros were allowed to farm and trade. However, English was forbidden, Japanese language and customs enforced along with propaganda sessions, and communal work quotas were imposed through the *kuchō* and *sonchō* (Rogers 1988:172-5). By 1944, the communal forced labor had deteriorated into slavery with workers being forced to labor up to 24 hours at a time. Most never received foods rations, and had to manage their own meals when food was extremely scarce (Rogers 1988:176).

At the beginning of 1944 the Japanese army retuned to Guam fearing an American invasion. Administration became much stricter with the presence of the military police, called the Kempeitai, and units in charge of providing combat troops with food and supplies, called the Kaikuntai. All social activities ended, schools closed, and all male Chamorros over the age of 12 were forced to labor in fields, build or repair defense installations, excavate cave and rock shelters, while agricultural quotas for women, girls, and the elderly increased to impossible levels (Rogers 1988:175-6).

Measures to increase the food supply available for the army units on Guam were failing in 1944. Complicating the agricultural difficulties of drought and pests was the introduction of the giant African land snail (*Achatina fulica*). Although it was a food source for troops, it also heavily damaged crops (Rogers 1988: 176). The Chamorros on Guam suffered from malnutrition and lacked basic necessities such as shoes.

In June of 1944 the Japanese began moving Chamorros from their homes and marching them to concentration camps in the interior of Guam. Conditions in the camps were especially hard for the young and elderly as food was limited, medical attention nonexistent, and sanitation inadequate (Gailey 1988:38). The treatment of the Chamorros by the Japanese became even more atrocious with beheadings, rapes, and shootings (Rogers 1988: 178). At Merizo two massacres occurred just prior to the American invasion. At Tinta on July 15th 30 villagers were forced into a dugout cave and Japanese soldiers hurdled hand grenades inside. Those not killed by the explosions were bayoneted or beheaded. Fourteen individuals did survive by feigning death. The following day at Faha thirty men were ordered by the Japanese military police to excavate a trench. While digging, the Japanese threw hand grenades at the men while firing upon them with machine guns. There were no survivors.

News of the massacres somehow reached a group of men among 800 villagers of Merizo that were being marched to a concentration camp inland. While stopped at a camp on the night of 20 July, eight Chamorro men killed 6 guards and attacked a supply depot killing four more. The remaining soldiers fled into the jungle and Merizo became the first liberated village on Guam, and the only village to be liberated solely by Chamorros (Rogers 1988: 180-1).

The US regained control of the island during the Battle of Guam in 1944. Beginning 8 July, Guam was bombarded by the Americans for 13 days, and on 21 July over 20,000 Marines landed at Asan and over 29,000 Marines and Army troops at Agat. During this time civilians were raped and murdered by the Japanese soldiers. Some of these people were accused of helping the Americans, while others were killed or raped indiscriminately (Rogers1988: 181). The 54,891 American troops successfully defeated the 18,500 Japanese troops, with the last major battles taking place in the north of Guam on 8-9 August (Rogers 1988:181-93). Through these weeks many small battles occurred, one of which involved a joint American and Chamorro attack to free villagers of Merizo still being held in a concentration camp inland from Inarajan. On 10 August General Geiger of the United States Marine Corp announced that all organized resistance by the Japanese had ceased on Guam. Japanese resistance fighters continued to remain in rockshelters and caves well after the war, most surprisingly being Sergant Shoichi Yokoi hide in the jungles southern Guam until 1972.

The Second American Period (1945–Present)

In 1948, the US Navy transferred control of Guam to the US Department of the Interior. The Organic Act of 1950 provided locals with US citizenship and some degree of self-rule. In 1970 the people of Guam elected their first governor and today Guam is a territory of the US and retains a substantial military presence.

History of Rice Production on Guam

Rice has been a staple of Chamorro diet throughout history. Evidence suggests that rice was present on Guam during the pre-Contact era. This has been found in microscopic analyses of soil samples from archaeological sites and in core samples (Collins and Pearsall 2001a, Collins and Pearsall 2001b, Pearsall and Collins 2000, Hunter-Anderson 1994 cited in Moore 2005:101). After European contact accounts were recorded of the Chamorro diet, which included rice (Lévesque 1992[2]:94, 1995[5]:481 cited in Moore 2005:101). In 1556 the Spanish described rice fields on Guam, and the crop was a provision for ships visiting the island (Lévesque 1992[2]:158, 617, 647 and see Hunter- Anderson et al. 1995 cited in Moore 2005:101).

In 1802 the American first officer Haswell visited Guam aboard the *Lydia*. He observed rice growing in the lowlands (Rogers 1995:88). In 1819 members of the Freycinet expedition documented the cultivation of wet and dry rice (Lévesque 2002[19]:268–277, 396–399, 403 cited in Moore 2005). During the First American Period, archaeologist Laura Thomson was living in Merizo just before World War II. She recorded rice paddies covering the Geus River Valley, almost all of which were under cultivation, and that there was a dam a mile up the valley that controlled irrigation (Thompson 1947). Rice was also imported to Guam from Japan during the First American Period because it was cheaper than locally grown rice (Higuchi 2008:58).

During World War II, rice was of tremendous importance to the Japanese. Emergency measures were adopted by the Japanese Cabinet in September 1941 to increase rice production and storage (Higuchi 2008:69). Guam was a priority for this endeavor due to its size and potential for agriculture. In February 1942, after the Japanese invasion, the Chamorro population was forced into labor for the reclamation, cultivation, and irrigation of paddies. To accomplish this, private land ownership was not recognized. Evaluation of the land suitable for rice production on Guam only rated possible paddy locations as fair to good, however, there was an expectation that Guam would become a major producer of rice in the South Sea Islands (Higuchi 2008:70). Rice farms were opened throughout southern Guam where water sources were available. This included Merizo, which was renamed Matsuyama during the occupation (Higuchi 2008:70).

Paddies on Guam were worked by villagers organized by Chamorro leaders under Nan'yō Kōhatsu Kibushiki Kaisha (South Seas Development Company) and Minseibu staff (the navy's civil administration department) (Higuchi 2008:71). Later the Kaikuntai oversaw the rice production and from mid-1943 on the workers saw no compensation. After the military and Japanese civilians, the Chamorro were the last group of people to receive rice provisions during distribution. This situation was aggravated by the inadequacy of rice production to supply the 46,000 Japanese in the Marianas at the time, and the general failure of the crop. To combat pests the Kaikuntai used nicotine salt sulfur, which ran off into the lagoons , killing marine life and causing permanent damage to patches of reef off Merizo (Rogers 1988:176). The following is an excerpt from the diary of the Nan'yō Kōhatsu Business Section Head Koshimuta Takeshi:

> We burned the entire crop except three tan of paddy of the fifth plantation area in Naka (Agat) because of damage by leafhoppers. The 3 tan of paddy was sprayed with insecticide. I ordered the farmers to plant *maizu* (corn) and cowpea (13 December 1942).
>
> Damage from the leafhoppers was immense. Plants in seven tan of paddy died within 2 days. Examination was carried out. Rice planting in Matsuyama (Merizo) was also hopeless (October 9, 1943).
>
> (Higuchi 2008:71, 72)

In January 1944 there were 43 chō (1 chō = .99 hectares) of paddies in Merizo, however, because of the failure of rice the Chamorro were no longer allowed rations. When there was no rice to provide the Japanese, they were forced to offer vegetable crops, which severely infringed upon an already strained food supply. By the time American troops arrived in July 1944, the Minseibu had failed in their endeavor to produce rice for self-sufficiency, which undoubtedly affected their military operations and their administration of the Chamorro people (Higuchi 2008:77).

Immediately after the war all production of rice ceased. Some small rice farms operated in the south of Guam until the 1960s, but since then all rice has been imported (Bevacqua 2009). Today rice continues to be a staple food on the island of Guam.

Figure 6. Historic Spanish map from 1700 displaying villages on the island of Guam (Le Gobien 1700).

Figure 7. 1887 map of Guam from Olive y Garcia (on file at MARC).

Previous Research

Various Cultural Resource Management projects have been conducted in Merizo near the current project area relating to the various periods in Guam's history. Reinman (1965) registered the Merizo Village Site (Site 66-06-0116), which is a large multicomponent site northwest of the Geus River. There are three other recorded historic sites: the Merizo *Kombento* (Site 66-06-1067) constructed in 1865, the Merizo Bell Tower (Site 66-06-1013) constructed in 1919, and the Merizo *Hot'no* (Site 66-06-1222) constructed in 1939, which is a beehive shaped oven (Liston and Olmo 1995; Allen 2004).

Numerous pre-Contact sites have been documented in the surrounding region of the Japanese Rice Mill. This includes Cocos Islands, the inland river valley areas, and the coast. For a recent summary of the sites see Allen 2004.

Directly related to the current project are the Japanese pillbox at Talona (Kurashina et al 1983), located approximately .5 km south of the current project area on Route 4. Also important to the historical context of the Japanese Rice Mill are the two massacre sites at Faha and Tinta. Finally, the Merlyn G. Cook School (Site 66-06-1123) was utilized by the Japanese during World War II as a headquarters (GHPO in Allen 2004). This building was constructed during the First American Period and in 1931 was the largest school on Guam. It was operational until 1960 (Allen 2004).

In the course of a cultural resource survey for the Merizo Small Boat Harbor by the Micronesian Area Research Center in 1983 the Japanese Rice Mill was photographed (Kurashina et al. 1983). The image available is of the west wall, which illustrates that as of 1983 the gable on the west side of the building was still intact, but a large fissure is visible (Figure 8). Graffiti is also visible in this photograph that was not present during the current survey.

Project Expectations

Prior to fieldwork the following archaeological expectations concerning potential historic findings were formulated based on previous archaeological work and historical documents concerning the site. The current project is focused on a building associated with Guam's Japanese Occupation Period, which is relatively short, lasting only two and one-half years. This period began on 10 December 1941 when the Japanese landed invasion forces on Guam, and ended in 1944 when American Marines landed on Asan and Agat beach on the 21st of July.

As the site contains the Japanese Rice Mill, it was considered possible that isolated artifacts related to the building remain; however, any cultural materials appear to have been destroyed, removed, or buried by modern activities on the property.

After World War II there was an increase in activity in the vicinity of the project area, such as farming, road construction, and residential development. Any evidence of activities from this period would most likely be modern, possibly in the form of discarded household materials and rubbish. Currently there is an abundance of trash in and around the Japanese Rice Mill ruins.

Figure 8. Condition of Japanese Rice Mill in 1983, facing northeast (Kurashina et al. 1983: Figure 15)

RESEARCH DESIGN

The goal of this project was to evaluate the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill for inclusion on the Guam and National Register of Historic Places. Two primary lines of evidence were used to make the eligibility determination: 1) Historical context and significance, and 2) Physical condition and integrity.

First, the rice mill's historical role during the Japanese Occupation was researched. Special attention was given to its relationship to wartime agricultural production and Japanese military policy on Guam and the South Seas Islands generally. Furthermore, the relative importance of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill property within the context of remaining similar historical properties on Guam and the Marianas was researched. It is clearly one of the very few, and possibly the only, remaining Japanese-constructed non-defensive building on Guam.

Second, the physical qualities of the building were recorded and assessed in terms of their ability to convey the Japanese Rice Mill's significance and original historical function. Appropriate treatment options were also developed. The Secretary of the Interior provides four distinct but interrelated approaches to the treatment of historic properties (Slaton 2005):

- Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.
- Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.
- Restoration is undertaken to depict a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.
- Reconstruction re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

The results of the background research and field investigation formed the basis for specific work recommendations. The history and significance of the building and its site have been evaluated to understand what spaces, elements, and finishes are of architectural or historical importance, and to confirm the overall project goals and treatment direction. The physical condition of the building was evaluated with regard to existing deterioration and distress, and needed repairs. Attention has been given to identification of life safety issues and code considerations. Possible conditions contributing to future safety risks, loss of historic fabric, or loss of performance.

All work was conducted in accordance with the appropriate Secretary of the Interior's Standards and directed by an individual who meets the minimum professional standards for archeologists as outlined in 36 CFR Part 61.

METHODS

To document the historic building, an existing condition survey was performed on 14 and 15 September 2010, which recorded the physical spaces and elements of the Japanese Rice Mill. This information was used to evaluate the historic and physical integrity of the building (see Evaluation Methods). Information gathered during the survey was documented with field notes and measured drawings. In addition, documentation included extensive digital photography of the overall building and of all architectural details.

Two shovel test units were excavated to examine the subsurface for buried cultural deposits. Shovel testing consisted of 50 x 50cm units excavated with a shovel. All soils were passed through a 6.35 millimeter (1/4 inch) mesh screen and described noting texture and color. Each shovel test unit was also photographed and recorded using a Trimble GPS with sub-meter accuracy.

Artifact Recording

Analyses of cultural materials associated with the Rice Mill and the Japanese Occupation Period was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Documentation*. No artifacts were collected during the project. All observed surface artifacts associated with the Rice Mill were recorded in place. Recording consisted of digital photographs, measurements, and narrative descriptions.

Evaluation Methods

The property was assessed for inclusion on the Guam and National Register of Historic Places. This process involved the following steps: (1) categorize the property, (2) determine the historic context of the site, (3) determine the site's significance under the National Register Criteria (A, B, C, or D), (4) determine if the site's type is excluded from the national Register, and if so determine if it meets any Criteria Considerations, and (5) determine the site's integrity.

The final step involved evaluating the aspects of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association that the property must retain to convey its historic significance.

Forms and Reports

The Guam Historic Properties Inventory Data Form was completed for the Japanese Rice Mill and a permanent site number will be assigned by GHPD. If the property qualifies for the Guam or National Registers based on the results of the evaluation, then Garcia and Associates will prepare the written nomination.

Two (2) copies of the final report will be submitted to GHPD, one (1) copy will be submitted to the University of Guam, Micronesia Area Research Center (MARC), and one (1) copy will be submitted to the Hagåtña Public Library.

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill was surveyed on 14 and 15 September by Patrick O'Day, MA, Nicolette Parr, MS, and Nicole Vernon, MA. The building is composed of four standing outer walls and one solid inner wall that divides the interior in half (Figure 9-11). The walls are approximately 30 cm thick with a 10 cm wide ledge inside that likely served to support floor joist. The entire building measures 20 m by 7 m and stands 7 m high. Associated with the building is a low wall approximately 30 cm high. This wall extends well beyond the building and could not be mapped due to unclear property boundaries and dogs. The wall most likely retained a rice paddy. Future investigation of this feature is recommended prior to NRHP nomination.

Existing condition of the Building

The building is currently in poor condition. The interior is severely overgrown with vegetation and large trees surpassing the height of the building itself. The interior is densely filled with trash that mostly consists of household rubbish. The perimeter of the building is also densely littered. All window openings are crumbling along the borders. As the side-gabled roof collapse in 1949, only a small portion of the gables remain intact, while fallen portions are visible on the ground surface. Remnants of the eaves are present at the corners. The exterior plaster is eroding at many places where there are impact craters. The impact craters are present on all sides of the building and were probably made by an American 50 caliber machine gun fired from an airplane during WWII. A 50 caliber bullet lodged in the wall at the center of an impact crater was observed at one location (Figure 12). All of the craters are eroding and presently average 10 to 15 cm in diameter although some are much larger.

Below the plaster the river pebble matrix used for the concrete mixture is visible. It is likely that these large smooth inclusions are contributing to the erosion.

Roof

The roof has collapsed and some elements have fallen to the outside and appear partially sunken into the ground (Figure 13). The lower portions of both gables remain on both sides of the building. The only remnants of eaves are at the four corners of the building.

South wall

The south wall is the rear side of the building. There is rebar protruding from the exterior of the wall. There are four vertical 52 cm wide piers that connect flush with a top border to partition the wall in three sections. There are a total of four rectangular windows, all of which abut the top of the wall. The two inner windows are oriented horizontally and the two outer windows are oriented vertically. All four measure approximately 4 m by 2m, and vary in size due to the eroded edges (Figure 14).

At the base of the building there is a border approximately 1 m wide extending the length of the wall. It is recessed between the level of the piers and face of the wall. Within this border there are vents at the base of the wall one below each of the outer windows that measure approximately 52 cm square (see Figure 19 for example).

At the eastern corner there is an inscription approximately 1.5 m from the base of the wall: "This buil[ding] was comple[ted] on Dec. 24 1943 under the leadership of Mr. Hagiara" (Figure 15). A portion of the inscription has eroded. Below this is the name Hagiara written in Katakana.

North wall

The north wall is the front of the building. There are two doorways measuring 80 cm wide and 3.5 m tall (Figure 16). The doorways have enframements approximately 50 cm wide. Between the doorways there are two windows and between the doorways and the corners of the building there is one window on each side

(Figure 17). All windows on this wall measures approximately 2 m long and 1 m wide and are eroding along the edges. The eastern window between the doorways no longer retains an upper border. Running diagonally toward the ground there is a fissure from the bottom west corner of the middle west window to the western doorway where there is a hole in the wall adjacent to the enframement.

East and West walls

The east and west side walls of the building have three piers creating two recessed section of wall (Figures 18 and 19). Each section contains one window measuring approximately 1.2 m long by 0.8 m wide. There is some variation in dimensions due to erosion. At the base of each wall there are two vents measuring 52 cm square placed approximately 3 m below each window. There is a bottom border approximately 1 m wide extending the length of the wall that is recessed between the level of the piers and face of the wall.

Building interior

The interior of the building consists of two non-adjoining rooms (Figures 20 and 21). There is more than a 1m drop from each doorway to the ground inside. Both rooms have a 10 cm wide ledge 110 cm above the ground that was likely used to support floor joist.

Large trees and various types of vegetation are present in both rooms. Dense mounds of trash with rusted metal have been deposited just inside each doorway. This rubbish was particularly dense in the western portion of the building and barred entrance to this part of the mill during the survey.

Concrete slab and retaining wall

At the front of the building (north side) there is a broken concrete slab that extends 2.5 m from the building and runs the length of the north wall (Figure 22). A retaining wall abuts the slab on three sides that rise 15 cm above the slab, and 30 cm above the ground surface to the north and 80 cm above the ground surface to the east. The wall continues east and north onto neighboring property (Figure 23).

Shovel Test Units

Shovels test units were placed on two side of the historic building (see Figure 9). Excavation at both units ceased when they were inundated with ground water (Figure 24). The soils in both shovel tests were saturated including the surface. This condition is due the site's adjacency to the Geus River's mangrove swamp (Kurashina et al. 1983).

Shovel Test Unit 1

Shovel Test Unit 1was excavated to 52 cm below the ground surface terminating at the water table. The excavation sectioned one layer of sandy clay mangrove soil (Munsell 10YR 2/1 black) with marine shell and coral inclusions. Modern rubbish was present on the surface and no historic or pre-Contact artifacts were encountered.

Shovel Test Unit 2

Shovel Test Unit 2 was excavated to 60 cm below the ground surface, also terminating at the water table. The excavation also sectioned one layer of sandy clay mangrove soil (Munsell 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown) with marine shell and coral inclusions. There was one white ceramic shard and a 1970s Schlitz beer can in the upper portion of this unit.

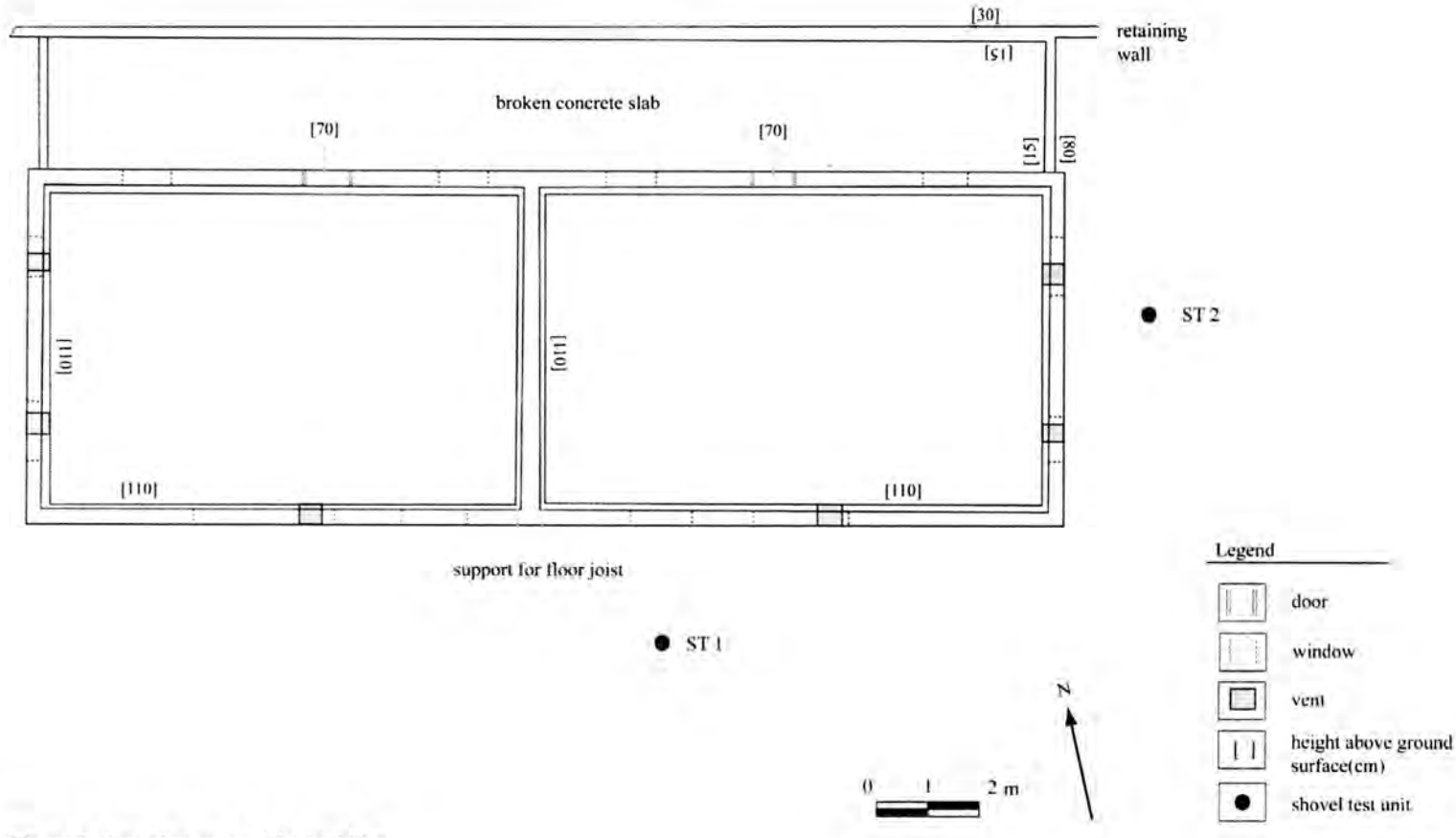

Figure 9. Plan view map of the building.

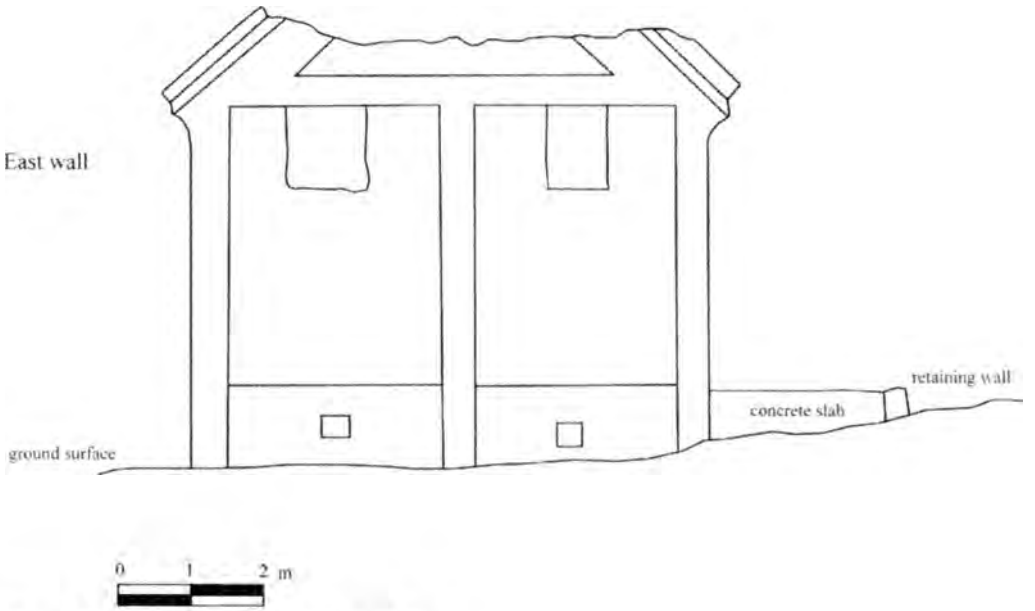

Figure 10. Side view drawing of the building.

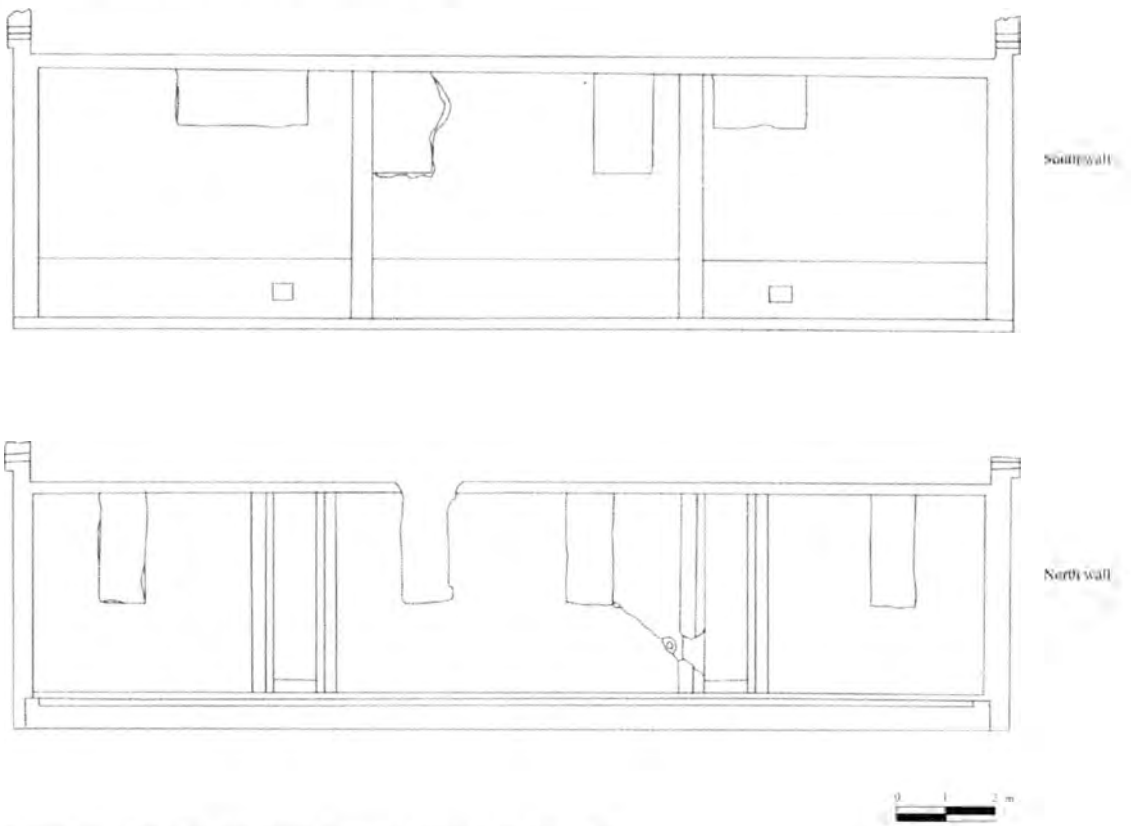

Figure 11. Rear (top) and front (bottom) views of the building.

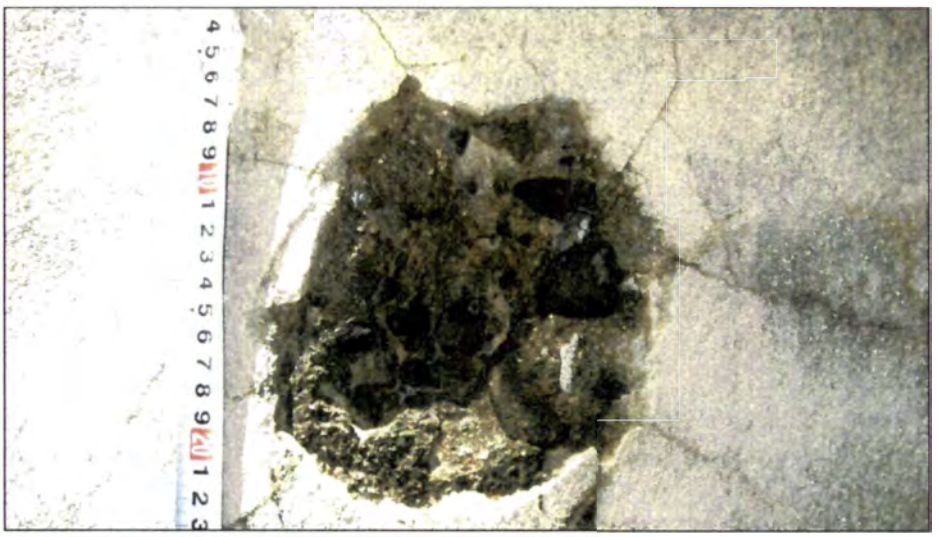

Figure 12. 50 caliber bullet lodged within an impact crater on the exterior surface of the south wall.

Figure 13. Portions of fallen gable adjacent to the east wall of the building.

Figure 14. Westernmost window of south wall.

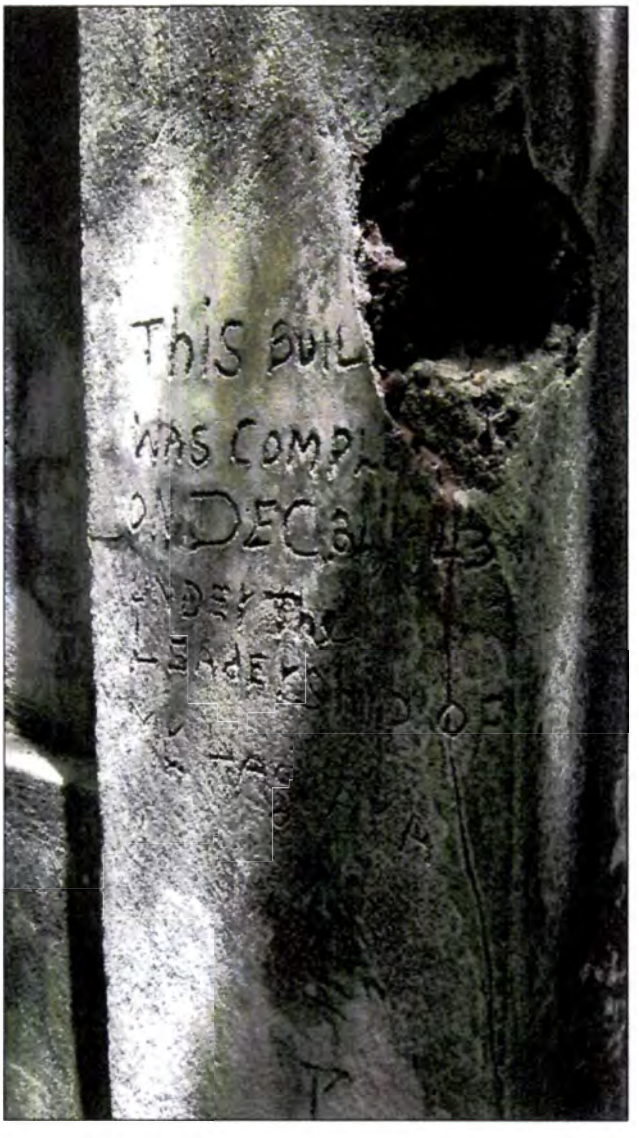

Figure 15. Inscription on southwest corner of the rear wall.

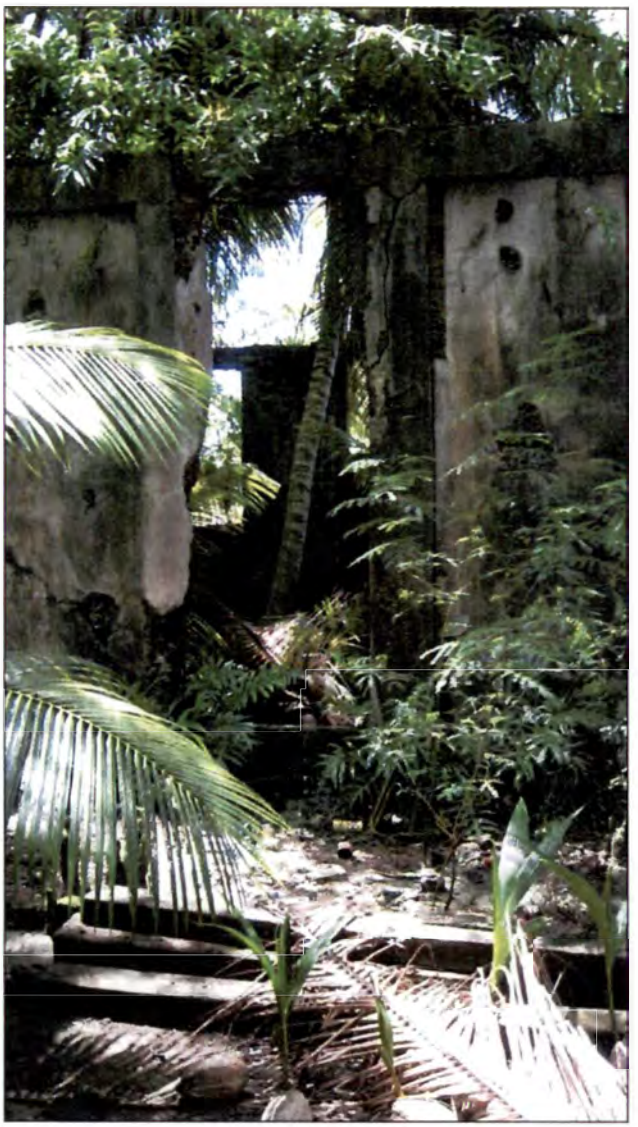

Figure 16. Eastern entrance on the north side of the building.

Figure 17. West middle window of the north wall.

Figure 18. Exterior of west side of the building.

Figure 19. East side of the building. Note vents at the base of the wall.

Figure 20. Interior of east room facing southwest.

Figure 21. Interior of west room facing south.

Figure 22. Concrete slab facing east.

Figure 23. Low retaining wall running north onto neighboring property.

Figure 24. Shovel Test Unit 2 revealed on layer of very wet sandy clay mangrove soil.

SUMMARY AND SIGNIFICANCE FINDINGS

The historic Malesso Japanese Rice Mill consists of the four outer walls with two door frames at the front, eroded window frames on all sides, and one interior dividing wall. Although no evidence remains, there was formerly an upper level on at least one side of the building. This was likely a loft of some sort constructed from lumber. Associated with the structure is a retaining wall that extends northward from the northeastern corner. This wall was for the rice fields immediately east and north of the building.

History of the Japanese Rice Mill

Based largely on information provided by local informant Jesus M. Cruz, it is now possible to construct a brief history of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill. The building was used as a rice storage facility during the Japanese occupation for harvest from adjacent paddies, and also as sleeping quarters for Chamorro workers. The building is divided by an interior wall into two separate non-connecting rooms; one side was for the rice storage and the other for the workers. Chamorro residents of the village were forced by the Japanese to work the rice fields and reside in the building at night.

The inscription in the southeastern corner dates the building: "This building was completed on Dec. 24 1943 under the leadership of Mr. Hagiara." Information concerning who Mr. Hagiara is has not been forthcoming, however it is likely that the inscription was written by the Chamorro workers and that Mr. Hagiara was a Japanese official.

Mr. Cruz was a child at the time of the Japanese occupation and stated that most of the people that helped build and/or worked in the adjacent paddies and slept in the mill have passed on. Furthermore, many residents were killed during the massacres in Merizo or resulting from the occupation and war. Mr. Cruz does recall that his friend had to light torches in the evening to ward off insects in the fields adjacent to the Japanese Rice Mill. Various other residents of Merizo were interviewed informally during the survey. Some of these people stated that as children they were forced by the Japanese to harvest rice but did not remember a rice mill. Based on this information it seems possible that the building was misnamed at some point in time, or that the structure was originally intended to be a mill but plans were changed due crop failure and the American invasion of Guam in 1944.

After the war ended, the matriarch of the family owning the property, Mr. Ignacio Cruz's mother, resided on the upper floor of the building and operated a small store below until 1949. When typhoon Alyn struck Guam, Mr. Cruz, along with other residents of Merizo, sought shelter in the Japanese Rice Mill. During the storm the roof was mostly destroyed.

After 1949 the building was abandoned and left to deteriorate. Over time the walls have been subjected to vandalism and the interior used for dumping trash.

NRHP Eligibility

To determine if an historic property is eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing, it must be assessed for significance according National Register Bulletin 15. According to Bulletin 15:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
>
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
>
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
>
> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic

values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. That has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

(National Park Service 1990:2)

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is a significant historic property and is NRHP-eligible under Criteria A and C. Criterion A is a fitting category because the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill represents significant events of a time period pivotal to Guam's history. During the Japanese Occupation, Chamorro people were forced to work in various aspects of the production of rice, including the movement of the rice from the field to the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill and the construction of the mill itself. Many residents of the area still remember these events and those residents particularly familiar with the mill, like Mr. Cruz, feel that the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is historically significant and that it should be preserved.

Additionally, the design and construction of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is unique on Guam as it represents the only standing non-military building constructed during the Japanese Occupation and it is therefore eligible under Criterion C. Furthermore, the building was constructed using forced labor, which significantly adds to the historical importance of the building. The building matrix is also unique to the area as river pebbles were used in the concrete.

The dilapidated condition of the building is cause for concern, as the roof has collapse and some gables have fallen on the exterior. The property's condition does not adversely affect its significance or NRHP eligibility in this case. Furthermore, the building retains all seven aspects of integrity, as defined in Bulletin 15 (National Park Service 1990:44). These include integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All of these appear to be intact with respect to the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill. Further research into the architectural history of Rice Mill construction is recommended to support an NRHP nomination, however, the construction style and historical function of the building appear sufficient to make this preliminary significance determination.

The Japanese Rice Mill's history is important locally and in the broader contexts of the Territory of Guam and the United States of America. Locally, the building is associated with families of Malesso that were involved with Japanese rice production and other significant incidences dating to Japanese occupation in the area. For Guam, a wider context, the building represents a rare example of non-military Japanese architecture that reflects a very short, but significant period of Guam's history.

Recommendations

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is clearly an important historical resource representing a turbulent time period in both Guam's and the Nation's history. The significance and NRHP determinations presented here for the historic resource are based on initial survey of the building. Further collection of oral histories surrounding the Japanese Rice Mill could enhance the narrative of the building's past, and possibly determine why today the building is referred to as a mill, which contradicts interviews with local residents.

A logical treatment option for the building is preservation, which focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. Because of the poor condition of the building, suitability for nomination to NRHP should be verified by an historic architect and a person knowledgeable of the buildings structural integrity. Additionally, the building has been subjected to graffiti on the historic masonry and trash dumping within and around the building, which requires extensive cleaning and future maintenance along with prevention measures (Weaver 1995).

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Appendix A. Additional Photographs

Figure A-2. West corner of south wall.

Figure A-3. Easternmost window on south wall.

Figure A-4. Middle west widow of south wall.

Figure A-5. Middle east window on south wall.

Figure A-6. Western entrance on the north side of the building.

Figure A-7. Eastern most window of the north wall.

Figure A-8. Middle east window of the north wall.

Figure A-9. Westernmost window of the north wall.

Figure A-10. Northern widow on the west side of the building.

Figure A-11. Southern window on the west side of the building.

Figure A-12 Interior of east room facing southeast.

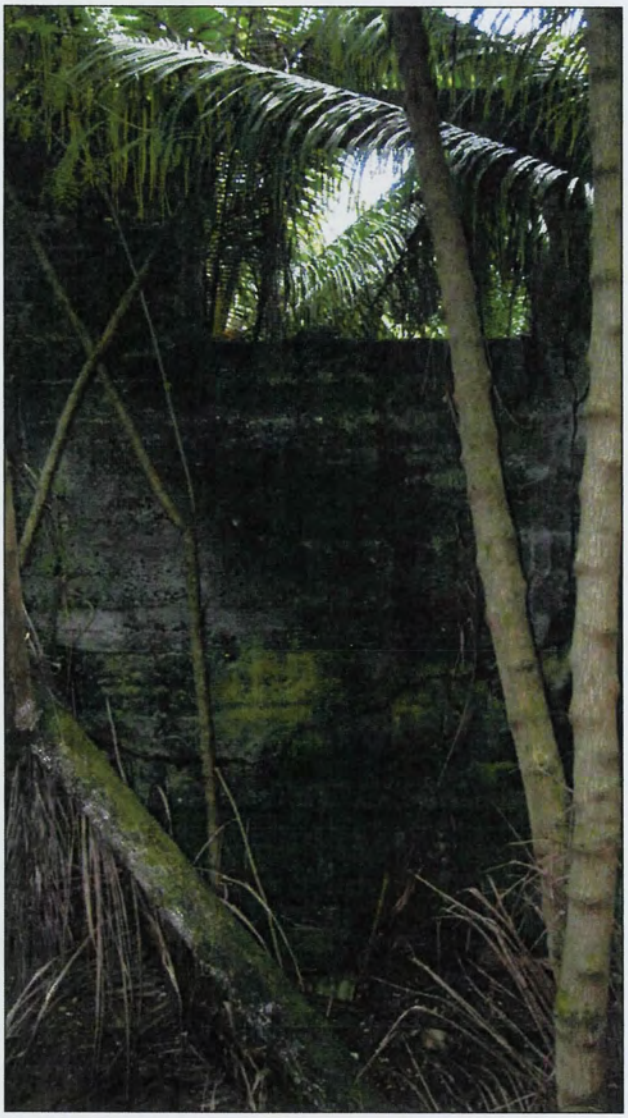

Figure A-13. Interior of east room facing south.

Figure A-14. Interior of west room facing south.

Figure A-15. Concrete slab facing west.

Appendix B. Guam Historic Properties Data Form

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
GUAM HISTORIC RESOURCES DIVISION (HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE)

GUAM HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY (GHPI) DATA FORM

A. IDENTIFICATION: Items 1, 2, and 3

1. Date: 19 September 2010

2. Guam Historic Property Inventory Number: 06 (Quad number) - 2399 (Greater than 1300)
This number is assigned by HRD personnel.

3a. Name of Property: Malesso Japanese Rice Mill

3b. Other Property Names: N/A

B. LOCATION: Items 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 *(Note: Use USGS topographic map (1:24,000 series) to complete items 4, 5, 6)*

4. Indicate USGS Topographic Map(s) where property is located:

☐ Hagåtña (1) ☐ Apra Harbor (3) ☐ Inarajan (5) ☐ Pati Point (7) ☐ Talofofo (9)
☐ Agat (2) ☐ Dededo (4) ☒ Merizo (6) ☐ Ritidian (8)

5. Local place name of property:
Malesso Japanese Rice Mill

6. Municipality(ies) of property location:

☐ Agana Heights ☐ Inarajan ☐ Tamuning
☐ Agat ☐ Mangilao ☐ Umatac
☐ Asan-Maina ☒ Merizo ☐ Sinajana
☐ Barrigada ☐ Mongmong-Toto-Maite ☐ Yigo
☐ Chalan Pago - Ordot ☐ Piti ☐ Yona)
☐ Dededo ☐ Santa Rita
☐ Hagatna ☐ Talofofo

Other: _____

7. Acreage: *(check one)*

☒ Less than 1 acre ☐ 10-15 acres
☐ 1-4 acres ☐ 15-20 acres
☐ 4-5 acres ☐ More than 20
☐ 5-10 acres

8. Lot Number(s): N/A

C. PROPERTY OWNER or LEASEHOLDER

Name: Ignacio "Buck" Cruz
(Leaseholder): _____
Address: N/A
Zip Code: N/A

Phone Number: N/A
Fax Number: N/A
Other Contact Numbers: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

☒ Private Property ☐ Govt. of Guam /Public ☐ Federal Property

D. U.T.M. COORDINATES, APPROXIMATE CENTER POINT: Zone 55

9a. *(for property larger than one acre, locate at least three points)*

1. E _____ N _____
2. E _____ N _____
3. E _____ N _____
4. E _____ N _____
5. E _____ N _____
6. E _____ N _____

9b. *(Locate center point for property one acre and less)*

247690.374 (Easting) 1467481.822 (Northing)

Note: Instruction booklet and transparent ruler overlay for identifying Universal Transverse Mercator grid coordinates are available from HPO or make an appointment with the HPO office for assistance.

E. CONDITION OF PROPERTY

10. Indicate current condition of property: (Check only one box)

- ☐ Excellent / Undisturbed (1)
- ☐ Good (2)
- ☒ Poor / Deteriorated (3)
- ☐ Destroyed (4)

F. HISTORIC CONTEXT CLASSIFICATION

11. The historic context of this property is best classified as: (Check one or more boxes)

- ☐ Pre-Latte Period
- ☐ Latte Period
- ☐ Spanish Period 1521-1899
- ☐ First American Period 1898 -1941
- ☒ Japanese Occupation 1941-1944
- ☐ Second American Period 1944 to 1970
- ☐ Quasi Self-Governing Period 1970 to present

G. CULTURAL RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION

The term "cultural resources" is broadly defined to include cultural uses of the natural environment, religious and sacred sites, places of traditional cultural importance, historic and archaeological resources, historic objects and documents, and community values.

12. How would the cultural use of this property be best described as. *(Check one or more)*

- ☐ natural environment (1)
- ☐ sacred site (3)
- ☒ historic and archaeological resources (5)
- ☐ religious site and/or (2)
- ☐ place(s) of traditional cultural importance (4)
- ☐ community values (6)

H. PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION

13. This site/property can also be best classified as (check one box).

☐ Site Area

A site can be the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

☐ District Area

A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

☒ Building

A building such as a house, church, hotel created principally to shelter any form of human activity. A "building" may also be used to refer to a historically and functionally related unit, such as a courthouse and jail.

☐ Structure

The term "structure" is used to distinguish from buildings - its function was principally to shelter any form of human activity. Structures can be pillboxes, bookshelves, shrines or monuments.

☐ Object

The term "object" is used to distinguish from buildings and structures. Objects are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply created, although it may be by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment.

I. DESCRIPTION

14. Check one or more boxes and attach the items marked.

☐ USGS Topography Map	☐ Drawing or Sketch	☐ Photographs	☒ Other Documents
Use a 1:24,000 series. Photocopy the vicinity of where the property is located on a 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper. Clearly identify the location of this property on this map.	Provide a measured drawing or sketch of this property, preferably on a 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.	Tape photographs on a 8.5 x 11 sheet or paper. Use as little tape as possible. Clearly identify each photo on the bottom right of each sheet of paper.	These include newspaper clippings, articles, sections from a book or magazine. Maps, survey report descriptions, letters, etc.

I. DESCRIPTION - cont.

15. Narrative Description; and if any, Statement of Significance:

See attachment

J. FUNCTION OR USE

16. Current use of property:

- ☐ Communications Facility
- ☐ Hospital / Clinic
- ☐ Government Office
- ☐ Habitation
- ☒ Other: abandoned
- ☐ Toolmaking
- ☐ Social / Meeting Hall
- ☐ School
- ☐ Warehouse
- ☐ Storage

K. FORM PREPARED BY

Name: Nicole I. Vernon Contact Numbers: 671-488-2005

Title: Archaeologist Fax Number: 671-647-0870

Office / Address: Garcia and Associates, Garden Villa H302, 800 Pale San Vitores Road Tumon, GU 96913

Email Address: nvernon@garciaandassociates.com

Attachment for GHPI Form

I. Description

15. Narrative Description; if any, Statement of Significance:

Summary

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill sits on a parcel less than an acre in the village of Merizo. The building is located approximately 400 m to the west of the Geus River and 50 m from the shore line of Cocos Lagoon. The building consists of two rooms, each with a separate entrance. Constructed during the Japanese Occupation Period on Guam, the building was use to store rice and house Chamorro villages forced into labor. Contrary to its name, there is no evidence that rice was milled on-site. Today the building is vacant.

Setting

The Japanese Rice Mill was constructed 24 December 1943. The date is inscribed on the back wall of the building. The Japanese Rice Mill is situated on a .4 ha lot in the middle of Merizo Village south of Route 4, off of Jesus Barcinas Street, and the small surface street S-2 on the West side of the Geus River in the Piga area. The building is in a residential neighborhood and from the road appears obscured by dense vegetation. Only the four outer walls and one inner wall of the structure remain. There are two front entrances and windows are present on all sides. There is also evidence of damage from aircraft strafing during World War II.

The roof of the building has collapsed and the interior is severely overgrown with some vegetation surpassing the height of the building itself. The interior is densely filled with trash that mostly consists of household rubbish. The perimeter of the building is also densely littered. At the front of the building there is a low wall that extends beyond the property that was most likely a retaining wall for a rice paddy.

Existing condition of the Building

The building is currently in poor condition. The interior is severely overgrown with vegetation and large trees surpassing the height of the building itself. The interior is densely filled with trash that mostly consists of household rubbish. The perimeter of the building is also densely littered. All window openings are crumbling along the borders. As the side-gabled roof collapse in 1949, only a small portion of the gables remain intact, while fallen portions are visible on the ground surface. Remnants of the eaves are present at the corners. The exterior plaster is eroding at many places where there are impact craters. The impact craters are present on all sides of the building and were probably made by an American 50 caliber machine gun fired from an airplane during WWII. A 50 caliber bullet lodged in the wall at the center of an impact crater was observed at one location. The craters appear to be eroding and presently average 10 to 15 cm in diameter although some are much larger.

Below the plaster the river pebble matrix used for the concrete mixture is visible. It is likely that these large smooth inclusions are contributing to the erosion.

In addition to trash dumping, the building has been subjected to graffiti on the interior and exterior.

Roof

The roof has collapsed and some elements have fallen to the outside and appear partially sunken into the ground. The lower portions of both gables remain on both sides of the building. The only remnants of eaves are at the southern corners of the building.

South wall

The south wall is the rear side of the building. There is rebar protruding from the exterior of the wall. There are four vertical 52 cm wide piers that connect flush with a top border to partition the wall in three sections. There are a total of four rectangular windows, all of which abut the top of the wall. The two inner windows are oriented horizontally and the two outer windows are oriented vertically. All four measure approximately 4 m by 2m, and vary in size due to the eroded edges.

At the base of the building there is a border approximately 1 m wide extending the length of the wall. It is recessed between the level of the piers and face of the wall. Within this border there are vents at the base of the wall one below each of the outer windows that measure approximately 52 cm square.

At the eastern corner there is an inscription approximately 1.5 m from the base of the wall: "This buil[ding] was comple[ted] on Dec. 24 1943 under the leadership of Mr. Hagiara." A portion of the inscription has eroded. Below this is the name Hagiara written in Katakana.

North wall

The north wall is the front of the building. There are two doorways measuring 80 cm wide and 3.5 m tall. The doorways have enframements approximately 50 cm wide. Between the doorways there are two windows and between the doorways and the corners of the building there is one window on each side. All windows on this wall measures approximately 2 m long and 1 m wide and are eroding along the edges. The eastern window between the doorways no longer retains an upper border. Running diagonally toward the ground there is a fissure from the bottom west corner of the middle west window to the western doorway where there is a hole in the wall adjacent to the enframement.

East and West walls

The east and west side walls of the building have three piers creating two recessed section of wall. Each section contains one window measuring approximately 1.2 m long by 0.8 m wide. There is some variation in dimensions due to erosion. At the base of each wall there are two vents measuring 52 cm square placed approximately 3 m below each window. There is a bottom border approximately 1 m wide extending the length of the wall that is recessed between the level of the piers and face of the wall.

Building interior

The interior of the building consists of two non-adjoining rooms. There is more than a 1m drop from each doorway to the ground inside. Both rooms have a 10 cm wide ledge 110 cm above the ground that was likely used to support a floor joist.

Large trees and various types of vegetation are present in both rooms. Dense mounds of trash with rusted metal have been deposited just inside each doorway. This rubbish was particularly dense in western portion of the building and barred entrance to this part of the mill during the survey.

Concrete slab and retaining wall

At the front of the building (north side) there is a broken concrete slab that extends 2.5 m from the building and runs the length of the north wall. A retaining wall abuts the slab on three sides that rise 15 cm above the slab, and 30 cm above the ground surface to the north and 80 cm above the ground surface to the east. The wall continues east and north onto neighboring property.

History of the Japanese Rice Mill

Based largely on information provided by local informant Jesus M. Cruz, it is now possible to construct a brief history of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill. The building was used as a rice storage facility during the

Japanese occupation for harvest from adjacent paddies, and also as sleeping quarters for Chamorro workers. The building is divided by an interior wall into two separate non-connecting rooms; one side was for the rice storage and the other for the workers. Chamorro residents of the village were forced by the Japanese to work the rice fields and reside in the building at night.

The inscription in the southeastern corner dates the building: "This building was completed on Dec. 24 1943 under the leadership of Mr. Hagiara." Information concerning who Mr. Hagiara is has not been forthcoming, however it is likely that the inscription was written by the Chamorro workers and that Mr. Hagiara was a Japanese official.

Mr. Cruz was a child at the time of the Japanese occupation and stated that most of the people that helped build and/or worked in the adjacent paddies and slept in the mill have passed on. Furthermore, many residents were killed during the massacres in Merizo or resulting from the occupation and war. Mr. Cruz does recall that his friend had to light torches in the evening to ward off insects in the fields adjacent to the Japanese Rice Mill. Various other residents of Merizo were interviewed informally during the survey. Some of these people stated that as children they were forced by the Japanese to harvest rice but did not remember a rice mill. Based on this information it seems possible that building was misnamed at some point in time, or that the structure was originally intended to be a mill but plans were changed due crop failure and the American invasion of Guam in 1944.

After the war ended, the matriarch of the family owning the property, Mr. Ignacio Cruz's mother, resided on the upper floor of the building and operated a small store below until 1949. When typhoon Alyn struck Guam, Mr. Cruz, along with other residents of Merizo, sought shelter in the Japanese Rice Mill. During the storm the roof was mostly destroyed.

After 1949 the building was abandoned and left to deteriorate. Over time the walls have been subjected to vandalism and the interior used for dumping trash.

NRHP Eligibility

To determine if an historic property is eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing, it must be assessed for significance according National Register Bulletin 15. According to Bulletin 15:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
>
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
>
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
>
> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
>
> D. That has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
>
> (National Park Service 1990:2)

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is a significant historic property and is NRHP-eligible under Criteria A and C. Criterion A is a fitting category because the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill represents significant events of a time period pivotal to Guam's history. During the Japanese Occupation, Chamorro people were forced to work in various aspects of the production of rice, including the movement of the rice from the field to the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill and the construction of the mill itself. Many residents of the area still remember these events and those residents particularly familiar with the mill, like Mr. Cruz, feel that the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is historically significant and that it should be preserved.

Additionally, the design and construction of the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is unique on Guam as it represents the only standing non-military building constructed during the Japanese Occupation and it is therefore eligible under Criterion C. Furthermore, the building was constructed using forced labor, which significantly adds to the historical importance of the building. The building matrix is also unique to the area as river pebbles were used in the concrete.

The dilapidated condition of the building is cause for concern, as the roof has collapse and some gables have fallen on the exterior. The property's condition does not adversely affect its significance or NRHP eligibility in this case. Furthermore, the building retains all seven aspects of integrity, as defined in Bulletin 15 (National Park Service 1990:44). These include integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All of these appear to be intact with respect to the Malesso Japanese Rice Mill. Further research into the architectural history of Rice Mill construction is recommended to support an NRHP nomination, however, the construction style and historical function of the building appear sufficient to make this preliminary significance determination.

The Japanese Rice Mill's history is important locally and in the broader contexts of the Territory of Guam and the United States of America. Locally, the building is associated with families of Malesso that were involved with Japanese rice production and other significant incidences dating to Japanese occupation in the area. For Guam, a wider context, the building represents a rare example of non-military Japanese architecture that reflects a very short, but significant period of Guam's history.

Recommendations

The Malesso Japanese Rice Mill is clearly an important historical resource representing a turbulent time period in both Guam's and the Nation's history. The significance and NRHP determinations presented here for the historic resource are based on initial survey of the building. Further collection of oral histories surrounding the Japanese Rice Mill could enhance the narrative of the building's past, and possibly determine why today the building is referred to as a mill, which contradicts interviews with local residents.

A logical treatment option for the building is preservation, which focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. Because of the poor condition of the building, suitability for nomination to NRHP should be verified by an historic architect and a person knowledgeable of the buildings structural integrity. Additionally, the building has been subjected to graffiti on the historic masonry and trash dumping within and around the building, which requires extensive cleaning and future maintenance along with prevention measures (Weaver 1995).

References

National Park Service
1990 (rev. 1997) *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. National Register Bulletin 15. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources.

Weaver, Martin M.
1995 *Preservation Brief 38: Removing Graffiti from Historic Masonry*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation.