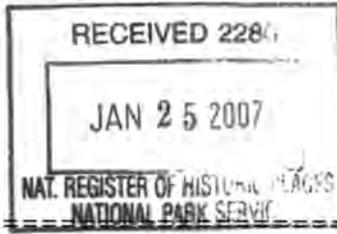


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Brown Beach One Japanese Fortifications
other names/site number Site SP-5-0964; Unai Laolao Kattan

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication _____
city or town _____ vicinity Unai Laolao Kattan
state Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands code MP county _____
code 110
zip code 96950

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this XXX 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 XXX meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally XXX statewide _____ locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR., DIRECTOR, HPO

DEC. 28, 2006

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Defense Sub: Fortification

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Landscape Sub: Conservation Area

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation none
roof stone (limestone), concrete
walls stone (limestone), concrete
other N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
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)

- XXX 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.

- XXX 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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Military
Engineering

Period of Significance 1944

Significant Dates June 15-25, 1944

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Japanese

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 8.3 ACRES (33,560sq. meters)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>55</u>	<u>369570</u>	<u>1678012.43</u> ³	___	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___
	___ See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (See Continuation Sheet Number 10)

Boundary Justification (See Continuation Sheet Number 10)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Scott Russell
=====

organization Independent Researcher date 12-15-06

street & number Box 5020 telephone (670) 322-7312

city or town Saipan state MP zip code 96950
=====

Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government

street & number Division of Public Lands telephone (670)234-3752

city or town Saipan state MP zip code 96950
=====

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Section 7 Page 1

Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

Narrative Description

The Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications Site is situated at Unai Laolao Kattan (North Laolao Beach) on the eastern coast of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Unai Laolao Kattan is a north-south trending sandy beach, roughly 400 meters long by 50 to 100 meters wide. It fronts a narrow reef flat (approximately 20 meters wide) formed by a fringing coral reef. This reef is normally pounded by large waves generated by northeast trade winds that dominate from October to May each year. Water depth within the reef flat ranges from 30 to 90 centimeters deep (depending on the tide). An unnamed intermittent stream empties into Unai Laolao Kattan via two small channels at roughly its center point. Much of the beach is ringed by low cliffs of rugged limestone rising to a height of approximately six to eight meters above mean sea level. Vegetation in the area comprises typical beach strand species including *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Scaevola sericea*. Unai Laolao Kattan has remained undeveloped since World War II and is currently a part of a marine conservation zone where fishing and shell fishing are prohibited. Vehicles are prevented from entering the beach by a wooden post barrier that blocks the unpaved road providing access to the site at its southwestern end.

The site comprises four defensive fortifications including two 20mm cannon pillboxes (Features 1 and 2), a machine gun pillbox (Feature 3) and an unidentified feature (Feature 4) constructed by the Japanese military in early 1944 to defend Unai Laolao Kattan (code named Brown Beach One by U.S. military planners) against amphibious landings by U.S. forces. The two 20mm cannon pillboxes are built into limestone rock outcroppings, one just north of the northernmost stream channel (Feature 1) and the second at the southern end of the beach (Feature 2). These pillboxes were sited to provide interlocking enfilade fire along the length of Brown Beach One to repel anticipated amphibious landings by American troops with a particular focus on that stretch of beach where a break in the limestone cliffs would permit an inland advance by tanks and other tracked and untracked vehicles. Also present is a pillbox built into a rock outcropping at the northern end of the beach (Feature 3). This pillbox originally emplaced a 7.7mm machine gun and was sited to protect the two 20mm cannon fortifications from infantry assault and to provide supplemental defensive fire to repel amphibious assaults. Also present is an unidentified feature (Feature 4) that apparently represents an unfinished defensive position. It is described in this nomination as a non-contributing feature. The site also originally included a trench system for Japanese infantry troops located approximately 90 to 100 meters inland from the high water mark. This trench system is no longer extant.

Feature 1. 20mm Cannon Pillbox

This 20mm cannon pillbox was built into a small natural fissure in a north-south trending

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limestone rock outcropping that rises to a height of approximately 3 meters. A portion of the fissure's southern face and top were closed in with a wall and roof of limestone cobbles set in mortar forming a small interior space measuring 2.5 meters deep, 2 meters wide and 1.3 meters high. Semicircular impressions in the ceiling of the pillbox suggest that tree branches were used as support forms when the roof was constructed. It is likely that these wooden members were left in place to provide pillbox occupants protection from concrete and rock spalling during bombardment. This form material is no longer extant. The floor of the interior is covered in water deposited beach sand.

The pillbox's single embrasure has outside dimensions of 1.6 meters wide by 60 centimeters high. Its bottom edge is 35 centimeters above ground surface. The embrasure possesses concrete stepping on its eastern side but this feature is absent on its western edge. It is unclear whether this stepping was not constructed or displaced by storm surge at some later time. Entry to and exit from the pillbox is via this embrasure.

A rectangular-shaped concrete pad, measuring 51 centimeters wide by 1.17 meters long by at least 33 centimeters deep is present inside the pillbox immediately adjacent to the embrasure opening. It is likely that it supported a Model 97 20mm antitank rifle. This weapon weighed 150 pounds and was operated by a two-man crew. It had a rate of fire of twelve rounds per minute (Anon. 1944a:216). Its extremely low silhouette of 43 centimeters would have made it an ideal weapon for this small position. The embrasure faces southeast and its weapon would have provided effective enfilade fire along the beach and reef flat from just north of the streambed to the beach's southern terminus.

The position is of rugged construction and extremely well camouflaged.

Feature 2. 20mm Cannon Pillbox

This 20mm cannon pillbox was constructed into a limestone outcropping at the southern end of the beach. Here, the Japanese constructed a poured concrete wall roughly six meters long, two meters high and 60 centimeters thick with a concrete gun embrasure is at its center point. This wall and embrasure were constructed immediately in front of a naturally-occurring overhang in the limestone rock outcropping. Once the poured concrete wall and embrasure were completed, a roughly two meter thick layer of limestone rock cobbles and mortar was constructed on the outside face of the concrete wall and embrasure effectively forming an enclosed position within the overhang area. The finished wall is slightly concave in shape and measures roughly 8 meters long by 3 meters high. As with Feature One, the Japanese construction crew carefully placed the limestone cobbles used in this outer wall in a manner to ensure that the pillbox closely resembled the natural rock outcropping. The resulting fortification is both strong and effectively

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camouflaged. The pillbox is accessed at its extreme western end via a narrow opening between the rock and concrete wall and the natural rock outcropping. The opening has been restricted by the construction of a concrete and rock wall oriented perpendicular to the entrance and a second wall that partitions the entry chamber from the pillbox proper. This design was undoubtedly to protect the gun crew from small arms fire and grenade attacks originating from the entrance.

The interior of this fortification, comprising roughly 60 square meters, is now in filled with water deposited beach sand about 20 centimeters higher than the grade of the existing beach. It is likely that at the time of its use, the interior was excavated down to bedrock estimated to be at least a meter to a meter and one half below the existing surface grade providing an original interior height of roughly two meters.

The pillbox possesses two firing embrasures. The main embrasure, whose bottom edge is approximately 20 centimeters above ground surface, is situated on northeastern face of the fortification. It measures 50 centimeters wide by 25 centimeters high at its outside opening and then progressively becomes smaller by means of seven poured concrete steps designed to protect the gun crew from enemy counter-fire. The presence of possible bolt holes around the exterior perimeter of this embrasure suggests that the Japanese camouflaged this opening in some fashion, possibly by securing vegetation or other material to a wire frame. This embrasure with a northeastern field of fire commands nearly the entire stretch of Brown Beach One. It is likely that it possessed a Model 97 20mm anti-tank rifle. The second embrasure, measuring 53 centimeters wide by 8 centimeters high, is situated on the eastern face of the pillbox. It is a secondary firing port for small caliber weapons undoubtedly designed to protect the position from infantry attack from the south and southeast. It may also have served as an observation port.

This fortification is of robust construction and thanks to the skillful use of local limestone rock is excellently camouflaged. According to an assessment made by an Army Engineer unit shortly after its capture, this position "could scarcely have been silenced as long as ammunition was available" (Anon. 1944b:4). It remains in an excellent state of preservation. The only damage is a small section of rock along the bottom of its eastern elevation that was removed by storm surge.

Feature 3. Machine Gun Pillbox

This pillbox was built into a roughly circular depression in a naturally occurring limestone rock outcropping that juts seaward at the northern end of Unai Laolao Kattan. The position was formed by the construction of limestone rock and concrete walls and roof. The resulting fortification comprised roughly 60 square meters. Its main gun embrasure is extant and has a

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southeastern field of fire. The embrasure's exterior measurements are 76 centimeters wide by 21 centimeters high. It is 1.5 meters above ground surface. The embrasure's interior measurements are 32 centimeters wide by 22 centimeters high. It has an unobstructed view of the beach looking south and would have provided effective defensive fire against beach landings and also against infantry assaults directed against Features 1 and 2. It probably was armed with a 7.7mm machine gun operated by a two-man crew.

One unexpected feature of this position is an extant piece of wood planking in the upper edge of the embrasure that undoubtedly served as a form when the concrete embrasure was poured. It may have been left in place to protect pillbox occupants from ricochet rounds (see Denfeld 202:28). Its presence may also be indicative of position's rushed construction.

This pillbox is both smaller and of much less robust construction than Features 1 and 2. The wall sections and roof were built without reinforcing steel and the main firing embrasure lacks the step design present at the two 20mm cannon positions. In spite of its more modest design, this fortification was skillfully camouflaged and sited.

This pillbox is in a fair state of preservation. Although portions of its walls and roof are extant, including the section containing main embrasure, storm waves have demolished portions of the eastern face of this pillbox and all but a small section of the roof has collapsed. There is a section of the roof present within the interior of the fortification. It is unclear whether the entire depression originally was roofed. It is possible that only the southeast corner of the pillbox was roofed.

Feature 4. Unidentified Feature.

This feature is located in a low overhang of limestone rock approximately 30 meters from the high tide line. It comprises a thin layer of concrete plaster that has been applied to the underside of the rock overhang. The plastered area measures roughly 90 centimeters long, 45 centimeters wide and 4 centimeters thick. Its exact function cannot be determined. It is probable that it represents initial efforts by the Japanese to construct another defensive position at this at this overhang area.

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Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
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The Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications Site meets National Register criteria A and C under the theme of World War II in the Pacific Theater.

Criterion A

The Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications Site is significant due to its direct association with the Battle for Saipan, a key event in the Pacific Theater during World War II and an important moment in the history of the United States.

A key element in the United States' victory over Japan in World War II was its "island-hopping" campaign in the Central Pacific. This campaign, championed by Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, called for key enemy islands in Micronesia to be captured by amphibious assault and then used as staging bases for subsequent attacks (Crowl 1960:8). Heavily defended islands not needed for airfield or harbor construction were to be effectively isolated and left to wither on the vine.

This Central Pacific campaign, conducted by naval forces under the command of Admiral Chester Nimitz, complemented a second campaign in the Southwest Pacific fought by Army forces under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. These two lines of advance, designed to capture objectives permitting the conduct of intensive air bombardment and the establishment of sea and air blockades against Japan, were to be "mutually supporting" (Crowl 1960:13). In case of conflicts, however, due weight was to be accorded the fact that operations in the Central Pacific promised "a more rapid advance toward Japan and her vital life lines of communication, the earlier acquisition of strategic airbases closer to the Japanese homeland, and of greatest importance, are more likely to precipitate a decisive engagement with the Japanese Fleet" (Crowl 1960:13).

The Central Pacific campaign began with costly attacks on islets in the Gilbert group (now Kiribati) in late 1943. They featured amphibious landings by marines and soldiers transported to the battle sites by powerful naval task forces. These task forces provided assault troops with supporting naval gunfire, air cover, and supplies. By early 1944, following the capture of key islands in Marshall group, the Mariana Islands became the next target. The Marianas were only 1,300 miles southeast of Tokyo and a part of Japan's Absolute National Defensive Sphere. The decision to capture key islands in this archipelago was made during the Cairo Conference held in December 1943 (Crowl 1960:12-13). This decision was influenced by the advocacy of Admiral King and by the Army Air Forces' call for the acquisition of secure airfields within range the Japanese home island capable of accommodating the very long range B-29 Superfortress. The B-

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29, which became available in the spring of 1944, was the world's first strategic bomber. Army Air Forces planners intended to use the aircraft's 1,500 mile range and large bomb capacity to defeat the Japanese without the need for a costly amphibious invasion of the home islands. Airfields initially developed in China during the spring 1944, however, subsequently proved difficult to defend and supply and these factors limited the effectiveness of the early Superfortress operations against Japan (LeMay and Yenne 1988:74-91).

The assault on the Mariana Islands, code-named Operation Forager, was to commence with amphibious landings on Saipan, the lynchpin of Japan's defense of the Marianas archipelago. Following its capture, similar assaults would be launched against Tinian and Guam which, like Saipan, were slated for airfield and advance base construction. The other islands in the archipelago would be isolated and neutralized by aerial bombardment in keeping with the island-hopping strategy.

In support of this ambitious and potentially risky operation, the United States assembled over 500 ships and 105,000 combat troops, 66,000 of which were allocated for the invasion of Saipan. Opposing this force were approximately 31,000 Japanese defenders comprising roughly 25,000 army troops and 6,100 naval personnel (Crowl 1960:65). On the eve of the invasion, these troops were engaged in a frantic program to complete needed defensive fortifications and emplace coastal defense weapons. This effort was made more difficult by the lack of needed construction materials and the absence of Lt. General Hideyoshi Obata who was in the Palau Islands on an inspection trip when the invasion commenced. In his absence, command of Army forces, which formed the backbone of the island's defenses, was assumed by Lt. General Yoshitsugu Saito of the 43rd Division.

The operation against Saipan commenced on 11 June 1944 with air attacks against key Japanese targets carried out by 200 carrier-based fighter aircraft. Two days later, on 13 June, the main elements of the U.S. invasion fleet arrived off Saipan and began the pre-invasion bombardment. For the next two days, Japanese airfields and defensive strong points were subjected to intense naval bombardment by destroyers, cruisers and battleships and by bombing runs by carrier-based aircraft. On the eve of the invasion, men of the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions, under the command of Lt. General Holland Smith, were packed in the LSTs steaming a few miles off Saipan. Just before sunrise on the morning of 15 June these troops were loaded into amphibian tractors (called amtracs) where they awaited the order to "land the landing craft."

At approximately 0840, the first wave of amtracs began churning towards the landing beaches on Saipan's southwestern coastline. Once within the fringing reef, they came under heavy fire from automatic weapons, anti-boat guns, and artillery and mortar barrages. Resistance increased as the

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second and third waves headed for shore. The landings did not go according to plan and by mid-day, the invasion beaches were covered with a confused mass of men, equipment, and supplies. By day's end, Marines had succeeded in securing a beachhead 10,000 yards long and 1,000 deep. This gain had come at the cost of over 2,000 casualties, many of which were officers.

In accordance with their defeat-them-at-the-beach strategy, the Japanese launched a major counter attack against marine lines during the early morning hours of 16 June. More than 1,000 Japanese troops, backed by 44 tanks, smashed into positions held by elements of the 2nd Marines. This attack was repulsed by concentrated naval fire. In the face of heavy Japanese resistance, General Smith was forced to commit elements of the 27th Infantry Division to the battle on 17 June. These army troops assaulted Japanese positions in the southern end of Saipan, including Aslito Airfield, a key pre-invasion target.

Although the Japanese were being pushed back steadily in the face of overwhelming American firepower, their morale was bolstered by word that a powerful Japanese naval strike force, under command of Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa, was steaming to the Marianas to destroy the American fleet and end the siege of Saipan. Ozawa's First Mobile Fleet, eager to fight the long awaited "decisive battle," engaged U.S. Task Force 58 in the Battle for the Philippine Sea on 18 June (Crowl 1960:119-123). During the two-day battle, the Japanese lost over 300 aircraft in what became known as the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot." With this defeat, Japanese naval air power evaporated and the fate of the Saipan garrison was sealed.

Over the next few days, American forces expanded the beachhead and captured key targets in southern Saipan. By 18 June American forces had reached the eastern coast at Magicienne Bay and were poised to begin the advance north. Brown Beach One fell to 2nd Battalion, 23d Marines on 25 June. According to Hoffman "[t]he 2nd Battalion found Brown Beach well fortified against amphibious landing, but extremely vulnerable to an attack from the landward side" (1950:149). It may be assumed that troops assigned to defend these positions retreated northward where they joined the final Japanese defensive line that stretched from Tanapag Village on the west coast to Puntan Nanasu along the east coast.

On 9 July, following 24 days of heavy fighting, organized Japanese resistance ceased and Saipan was declared secure. The battle, one of the bloodiest of the Pacific campaign, cost the invading American forces 14,111 casualties with over 3,100 marines and soldiers killed in action (Crowl 1960:265). The Japanese losses were significantly higher. Of the 31,000 men who defended the island, fewer than 1,000 survived the battle.

The successful prosecution of the Marianas campaign yielded four significant results summarized

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by Miller as follows:

“First, the Japanese carriers came out, lost their squadrons in the ‘Great Marianas Turkey Shoot,’ and never again threatened U.S. forces. Second, Guam was transformed into a naval depot and headquarters of the Pacific Fleet, one of the triad of great western bases. Third, Saipan, Tinian and Guam were carpeted with aerodromes for massive raids on Japan that began six to nine months sooner than scheduled and terminated the China strategy that until then had gripped U.S. planners. Finally, the government of General Hideki Tojo fell when Saipan fell. ‘Never before had a modern Japanese leader gathered himself so much power,’ it was said of Tojo, warlord of Japan since 1941. Moderates in Tokyo began seeking a way out of the war. The unthinkable became thinkable” (1991:343).

According to Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni, Commander in Chief of the Home Defense Headquarters:

“The war was lost when the Marianas were taken away from Japan and when we heard the B-29s were coming out . . . We had nothing in Japan that we could use against such a weapon. From the point of view of the Home Defense Command, we felt that the war was lost and said so. If the B-29s could come over Japan, there was nothing that could be done” (Crowl 1960:445).

The loss of the Marianas also forced in a change in Japanese defensive tactics after it had become clear that a thin line of beach fortifications was no match for overwhelming American counter-fire (Denfeld 1997:47). The longstanding doctrine that emphasized coastal defenses and wasteful counterattacks designed to defeat the enemy at the beaches was abandoned in favor of defense in depth. Although the Japanese had little chance of victory, they would make the enemy pay as dear a price as possible during future battles. This change in strategy is clearly evident in the post-Marianas battles such as Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Japanese fears regarding the consequences of losing the Marianas were realized within months of their capture. By early 1945, hundreds of Marianas-based B-29s were conducting daily bombing raids against Japanese cities and by summer most cities of any size had been reduced to smoldering ruins. The Pacific War ended abruptly following the atomic attacks launched from Tinian in August 1945. When rating the events that led to the ultimate American victory, Admiral King referred to the Marianas as “the key to the Pacific War” (Crowl 1960:446). As Crowl notes, “the Marianas was a key and a very important key to the door that led to the defeat of the Japanese Empire in World War II” (Crowl 1960:446).

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Criterion C

The Brown Beach One Defensive Fortifications Site is significant because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction utilized by the Japanese military in the Central Pacific during World War II, specifically during the period November 1943 to June 1944. This significance is enhanced by the site's excellent state of preservation and the fact that the Unai Laolao Kattan area has undergone little change since World War II.

Saipan and the rest of the islands of German Micronesia (except the U.S. territory of Guam) were seized by Japanese naval forces in October 1914 shortly after the outbreak of World War I. In 1921, the League of Nations formally awarded control of these islands to Japan under the terms of a Class C Mandate (Peattie 1988:56).

Although the mandate forbade fortification of the islands, the Japanese Navy undertook limited military construction on Saipan during the period 1934 to 1940. This work included the construction of two air bases, troop barracks, and gasoline storage tanks. Additional military construction was undertaken in early 1941 including communication facilities, radio direction finders, latrines, kitchens, infirmaries, air raid shelters and three reinforced concrete bunkers (Crowl 1960:54).

Within hours of Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on 8 December 1941 (local time), Saipan-based aircraft attacked American military facilities on nearby Guam. Two days later, Japanese army and navy troops captured the island after briefly skirmishing with its defending garrison comprising U.S. marines and Chamorro insular guard members. For two years following the capture of Guam, Saipan was utilized by the Japanese military as a staging area for materials, equipment and troops bound for battlefronts well to the east and south (Crowl 1960:55).

In September 1943, following a review of the war situation, the Japanese high command issued an order calling for the establishment of an absolute national defensive sphere of land-based naval airbases along a Burma, Malaya, East Indies, New Guinea, Carolines, Marianas, and Kurile Islands line (Denfeld 1997:12). It was envisioned that aircraft flying from these airbases would slow and reduce the American fleet prior to the long-planned decisive naval battle to be fought to the west of the Marianas. The following month, Admiral Chuichi Nagumo visited the Marianas to develop an air defense plan for the archipelago. In March 1944 he assumed command of the Marianas naval area at which time he commenced work to significantly expand the number of naval airbases in the islands.

In spite of the importance of the Marianas in their overall defensive scheme, the Japanese were

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slow to reinforce them. With the U.S. capture of key atolls in the Gilbert and Marshall groups in late 1943 and early 1944, the Marianas became frontline positions. The islands, however, were woefully unprepared to serve in this capacity (Denfeld 1997:8-43). In February 1944, for example, Saipan was garrisoned by less than 1,000 military personnel and defensive fortifications needed to repel a major enemy invasion were virtually non-existent. Positions on the other key islands of Tinian and Guam were similarly unprepared.

Japanese military and civilian leaders realized that should the Marianas be lost, the home islands would be exposed to enemy air raids. The defense of the Marianas, therefore, was assigned high priority. In early March 1944, in a belated effort to ready defenses, the Japanese began pouring troops and equipment into Saipan which was to serve as their defensive lynchpin. The following month, the Marianas were assigned a special and high priority for the delivery of essential war materials. Shipping was undertaken by a regular convoy service, the Matsui Transport, which was tasked with bringing in much needed construction materials such as cement, reinforcing steel and heavy weapons (Denfeld 1997:17).

Ships of the Matsui Transport were forced to run the gauntlet of American submarines operating in the area and many were sunk or damaged. In spite of these difficulties by early June 1944, the Japanese succeeded in landing over 31,000 troops on Saipan including the 43rd Army Division that was to serve as the backbone of the island's ground defense forces (Crowl 1960:64-65). Many troops, however, arrived injured and without weapons and supplies, as did so-called straggler units that originally were bound for other islands. Also lost to aggressive American submarine attacks were much needed construction materials.

All Japanese army forces in the Marianas fell under the 31st Army commanded by Lt. General Hideyoshi Obata who maintained his headquarters on Saipan. Under Obata's guidance the major Japanese defensive construction program commenced in March 1944 and continued until the eve of the American invasion three months later.

Construction efforts were shaped by three factors. These included the prevailing Japanese defensive doctrine, the limited time before the American landings, and a shortage of essential construction materials.

The prevailing Japanese defensive doctrine at the time called for the enemy to be

“destroyed at the beaches through a policy of tactical command based on aggressiveness, determination, and initiative When the enemy elements are attempting to land the main fire-power will be directed at the enemy landing

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Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

forces prior to their arrival on the beach. Taking advantage of the confusion, the enemy will be rapidly destroyed by counter attacks, mounted from all sectors wherever the opportunity presents itself. Should the enemy succeed in gaining a foothold on the beach, intense fire will be concentrated and determined counter attacks launched with the aid of reserves and tanks. Although the advantages of surprise will be lost, the enemy landing forces can be dealt with by further attacks after nightfall" (Crowl 1960:63).

This doctrine was driven primarily by the physical conditions that confronted Japanese defenders in the Gilbert and Marshall groups. These archipelagos are made up of widely scattered coral atolls, each of which in turn is composed of smaller islets. The atolls' limited size was compounded by their flat terrain (only two to three meters above sea level) that offered no natural features such as caves or hills that could be used to conceal defensive positions. The only possible defensive strategy in such circumstances was a thin line of beach defenses.

Conditions in the Marianas, however, were quite different. In comparison to the atolls, the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Guam were much larger and possessed rugged, hilly terrain well suited for defense in depth. According to the defensive plan developed by the 31st Army, provisions were made to fall back upon prepared "strategic inland positions" in the event that the enemy was not thrown back into the sea. This plan called for first priority to be given to

"improvised positions designed to frustrate enemy landings on the beaches . . . and to temporary protective measures designed to minimize . . . losses in personnel and materials. Later, these will be rapidly supplemented and strengthened by extending the positions in depth, converting the island into an invulnerable fortress" (Crowl 1960:64).

In keeping with the doctrine of defeating the enemy at the beaches, the 31st Army planned to cover all segments of the shore line "where the enemy could land without difficulty" with strong points located several hundred meters apart (Crowl 1960:64). Each strong point would be manned by an infantry company or a heavy weapons platoon. To the rear of these coastal defenses was to be constructed a second line designed to cover any breaches in the initial defensive lines. The plan also called for the construction of dummy positions between the two lines to draw enemy fire away from defenders.

The second factor affecting Japanese defenses was a shortage of time. This was dramatically reflected in the fact that while the Japanese had succeeded in landing a considerable number of heavily caliber coast defense and dual purpose guns on Saipan in the months before the invasion, only 32 were emplaced and ready to fire on the eve of the battle (Anon. 1944b:6). An additional

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

twelve guns were at their positions but not emplaced to fire and 42 others, including six 200 mm anti-boat guns and thirty-two 120 mm dual purpose guns, remained in storage (Anon. 1944b:6).

A final factor affecting fortifications construction on Saipan was the paucity of building materials. This problem was noted in a May 1944 report from the chief of staff of the 31st Army:

“We cannot strengthen the fortifications appreciably now unless we can get materials suitable for permanent construction. Specifically, unless the units are supplied with cement, steel reinforcements for cement, barbed wire, lumber, etc., which cannot be obtained in these islands, no matter how many soldiers there are they can do nothing in regard to fortifications but sit around with their arms folded, and the situation is unbearable. I would like this matter of supply of construction materials dealt with immediately” (Crowl 1960:62).

Faced with these critical shortages, Japanese engineers were forced to modify standard design plans and to supplement conventional construction materials with those readily available in the islands (Denfeld 2002:1-2). Particularly effective was the use of coral limestone in the construction of smaller bunkers and pillboxes, especially those emplaced along the rocky shorelines on Saipan’s eastern and northern coasts. Not only did the rock and concrete walls provide adequate protection against all but the largest caliber American weapons, they also provided excellent camouflage.

In keeping with the prevailing defensive doctrine, Saipan’s well-protected southwestern shoreline received considerable defensive attention and the bulk of scarce supplies of reinforcing steel and cement. The Japanese also invested considerable time and resources along the shore in Laolao (Magicienne) Bay on the eastern side of island. Here, they constructed some of their strongest defenses including extensive trench works containing mutually supporting rifle and machine gun positions, several heavy caliber gun positions, anti-aircraft batteries, mortar positions, and a large blockhouse of reinforced concrete skillfully built between two rock outcroppings (Anon. 1944b:8).

The only other areas along the eastern coastline to be defended were two beaches on the northern edge of the Kagman Peninsula, code-named Brown Beaches One and Two. Although both beaches were usually pounded by large waves generated by the prevailing northeast trade winds, the Japanese were sufficiently concerned about their potential as landing sites to invest scarce resources for their defense. These positions

“were prepared for defense by the construction of machine gun and 20mm gun emplacements, and by what could have been a reasonably effective trench system,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

extending the width of the beaches and to a depth of 100 to 150 yards" (Anon. 1944b:4).

To supplement the fortifications at Brown One and Two, the Japanese commenced construction of a battery of three 120mm dual purpose guns at a location roughly 1,000 meters southeast of Brown One. These guns were intended to cover the seaward approach to these beaches. This battery, however, was not completed before the commencement of the American invasion. The Japanese attempted to conceal the guns by covering the tubes and carriages with foliage (Anon. 1944b:7).

In addition to these defenses, the Japanese constructed several well-designed dummy positions to the inland of beaches Brown One and Two. These included dummy figures of men, and range finding, observation, search light and gun positions intended to draw American counter fire away from the actual defensive positions (Anon. 1944b:7).

The Army Engineer Team that inspected Brown Beach One shortly after its capture by American forces noted the presence of

"two 20mm gun positions excellently sited to cover the beach and approaches thereto, and were so situated as to be invulnerable to destroyer or LCI fire. One of these in particular, with a gun embrasure 10 inches by 20 inches, in a five foot concrete wall, with eight feet of concrete overhead, could scarcely have been silenced as long as ammunition was available. Furthermore, the 20mm positions would have been well protected against foot troops by fire from prepared machine gun positions nearby" (Anon. 1944b:4).

Fortunately for American forces, no landings were undertaken at Brown Beach One and these fortifications were captured from the rear without casualties.

The defensive positions at Brown Beach One are excellent examples of the type of fortifications constructed by the Japanese in the Central Pacific area during the period November 1943 to June 1944. These fortifications were affected by the prevailing Japanese defensive doctrine that emphasized coastal fortifications to repel the enemy at the beach, the shortage of time available to construction crews, and the paucity of construction materials, particularly cement and reinforcing steel which necessitated the use of limestone rock and non-standard designs.

The Brown Beach One fortifications are noteworthy for several reasons. First, they are of robust construction and carefully sited to provide effective interlocking 20mm cannon and machine gun fire on the reef flats and beach area. This fire would have been particularly effective against

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

American efforts to move men and vehicles inland via a narrow break in the low limestone cliffs located at the southern end of the beach. These fortifications are skillfully camouflaged into the low limestone cliffs that ring Brown Beach and were virtually invisible to aerial reconnaissance and fire support ships. Finally, they were combat-ready with their weapons emplaced, unlike a number of other Japanese positions around Saipan at the time of the U.S. invasion.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

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National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2

Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications
Unai Laolao Kattan, Saipan, CNMI

Boundary Description

The boundary for the Brown Beach One Japanese Defensive Fortifications site is formed by an imaginary line that encompasses the beach deposits at Unai Laolao Kattan, the contiguous reef-flat to the east, and the low limestone rock outcroppings to the north, south and west. The total site area is approximately 33,000 square meters.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the fortifications and the landscape that they originally were designed to defend against a possible U.S. amphibious assault.



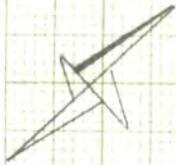
Div. of Historic Preservation, DCCA

GRAPHING PAPER

20 x 20 to the Inches 7 x 10 Inches



NORTH



369472 E
1678070 N
8.7% Accuracy

LINA LAOLAO KATAU/TAVE BEACH
COASTAL DEFENSIVE POSITION
20 mm. PILL BOX
26 SEPTEMBER 2006
314° NORTHWEST FACE
BARAITA L., DELGUERRERO T., ROGERS R., & PALACIOS J.
PLAN - VIEW

FEATURE NO. 1

369485 E
1678078 N
8.6% Accuracy

NATURAL LIMESTONE OUTCROP

CEMENTED PLASTERED
LIMESTONE ROCKS

(INTERIOR)

(SAND)
EXISTING
N.G.

(INTERIOR)
SAND

CEMENTED PLASTERED
LIMESTONE ROCKS

ENTRANCE
ACCESS
(GUN POSITION)

A
369476 E
1678129 N

B
369486 E
1678069 N
11.6% Accuracy

0 50 100
SCALE IN CENTIMETERS



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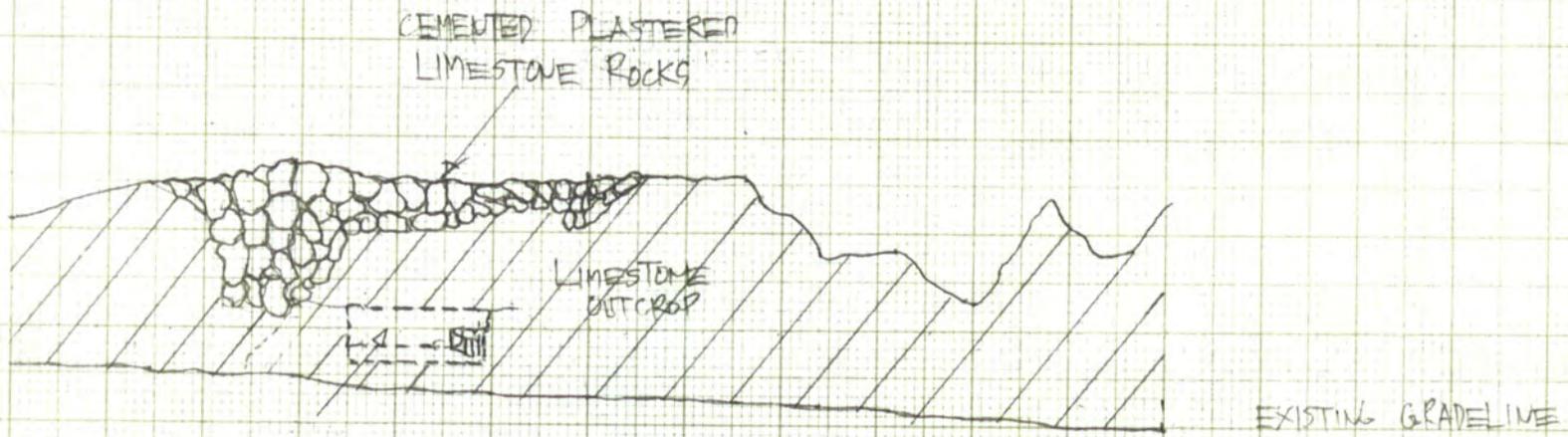
GRAPHING PAPER

20 x 20 to the Inches 7 x 10 Inches



UPAI - LLOLLO KATAV TANK BEACH
COASTAL DEFENSIVE POSITION
20 m PILL BOX
26 SEPTEMBER 2006
FACING 314° NORTHWEST
BABAUTA L., ALGUERRERO T., ROGERS R. & PALACIOS J.
ELEVATION VIEW

FEATURE NO. 1



0 100
SCALE IN CENTIMETERS

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

Feature Form
Revised (9-93)

Site No. S P 5 0 9 6 4
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Feature Designation 2
8

9 Previous Site Designation:

10 Feature Common Name: Japanese WW II Coastal Defensive Pillbox

11 Feature Historic Name:

For Latte Features

12 Type of Material from which shafts were manufactured:

13 Type of Material from which capstones were manufactured:

14 Overall dimensions of latte se length: width:

15 Number of shafts present now standing: fallen:

16 Number of capstones present now

17 Original number of shafts in set, if determinable:

18 For Latte Period stone mortar length: width: height:

depth of grinding hole: diameter of hole:

For Non-Latte Features

19 Describe feature: Literally structured onto a natural formation limestone outcrop and consists of two (2) defensive position openings or gun embrasure on its walls facing 354 degrees north northwest, and 60 degrees east northeast. The front wall of this pillbox is generally stacked up with limestone boulders with a maximum and minimum diameter of .45 x .18 centimeters respectively.

20 Describe material or method of construction: Apparently had been utilized by means of poured concrete cement for the plastering of the gun embrasures and attachments of the stacked limestone rock boulders.

21 Feature Dimensions: length 20 meters width: 11.25 m. height: 2.85 m.
depth below ground surface: n/a

22 Any additional information: This feature is literally a natural coastal limestone outcrop on the mid-eastern region of the island of Saipan, that was modified by the Japanese before the Second World War as a coastal defensive position camouflage Pillbox. It is one of four (4) pillboxes within this project location that is being proposed for nomination to the "National Register of Historic Places"



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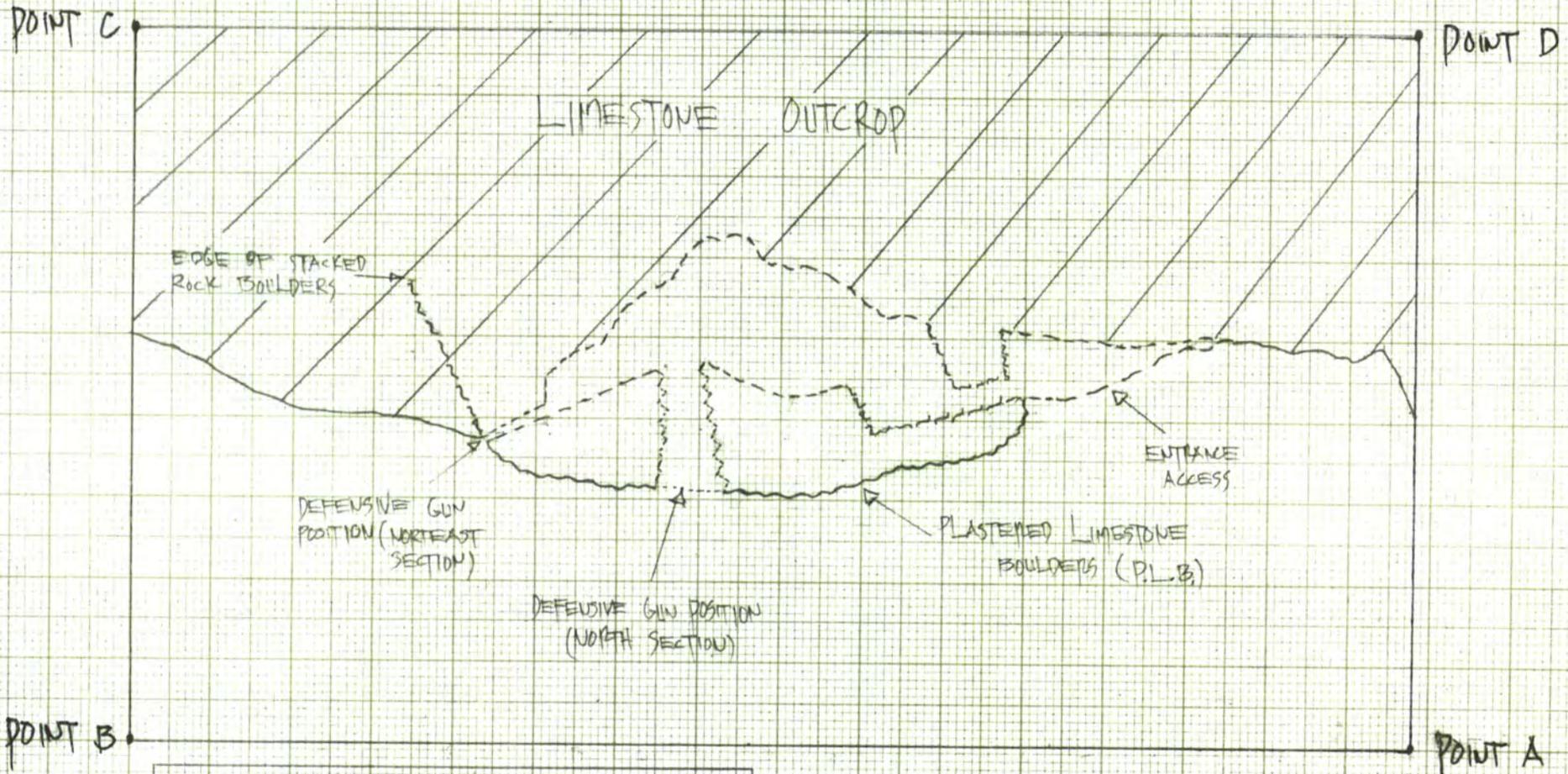
GRAPHING PAPER

20 x 20 to the Inches 7 x 10 Inches



UTAI LANDING / IAME VENT
JAPANESE COASTAL DEFENSIVE
POSITION PILLBOX (SOUTH SIDE)
FACING 172° NORTH
MARCH 30, 2006

PLAN VIEW

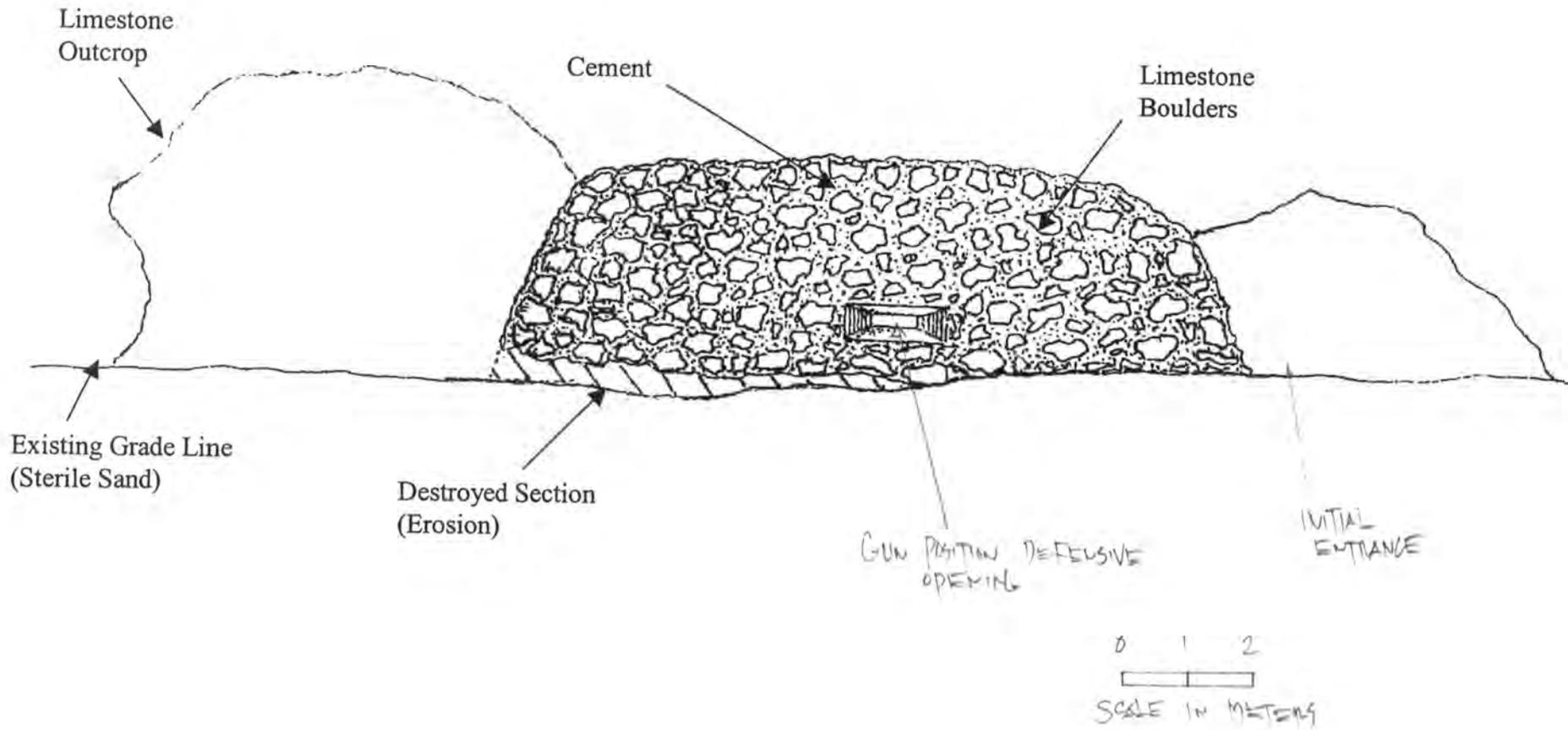


SYMBOL	
	EXTERIOR OUTLINE
	CEMENTED PLASTERED LIMESTONE ROCKS
	INTERIOR CEMENTED PLASTERED ROCKS
	INTERIOR PLASTERED CEMENTED WALL OUTLINE

0 100
SCALE IN CENTIMETERS

UNAI LAULAU NATAN/TANK BEACH (1) 100 METERS
JAPANESE DEFENSIVE PILLBOX

Tank Beach (Southern Area)
Japanese Defensive Pillbox (1)
Southeast Elevation View at 174°
February 24, 2006



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

Feature Form
Revised (9-93)

Site No. S P 5 0 9 6 4
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Feature Designation 3
8

- 9 Previous Site Designation:
10 Feature Common Name: Japanese WW II Coastal Defensive Pillbox
11 Feature Historic Name:

For Latte Features

- 12 Type of Material from which shafts were manufactured:
13 Type of Material from which capstones were manufactured:
14 Overall dimensions of latte se length: width:
15 Number of shafts present now standing: fallen:
16 Number of capstones present now
17 Original number of shafts in set, if determinable:
18 For Latte Period stone mortar length: width: height:
depth of grinding hole: diameter of hole:

For Non-Latte Features

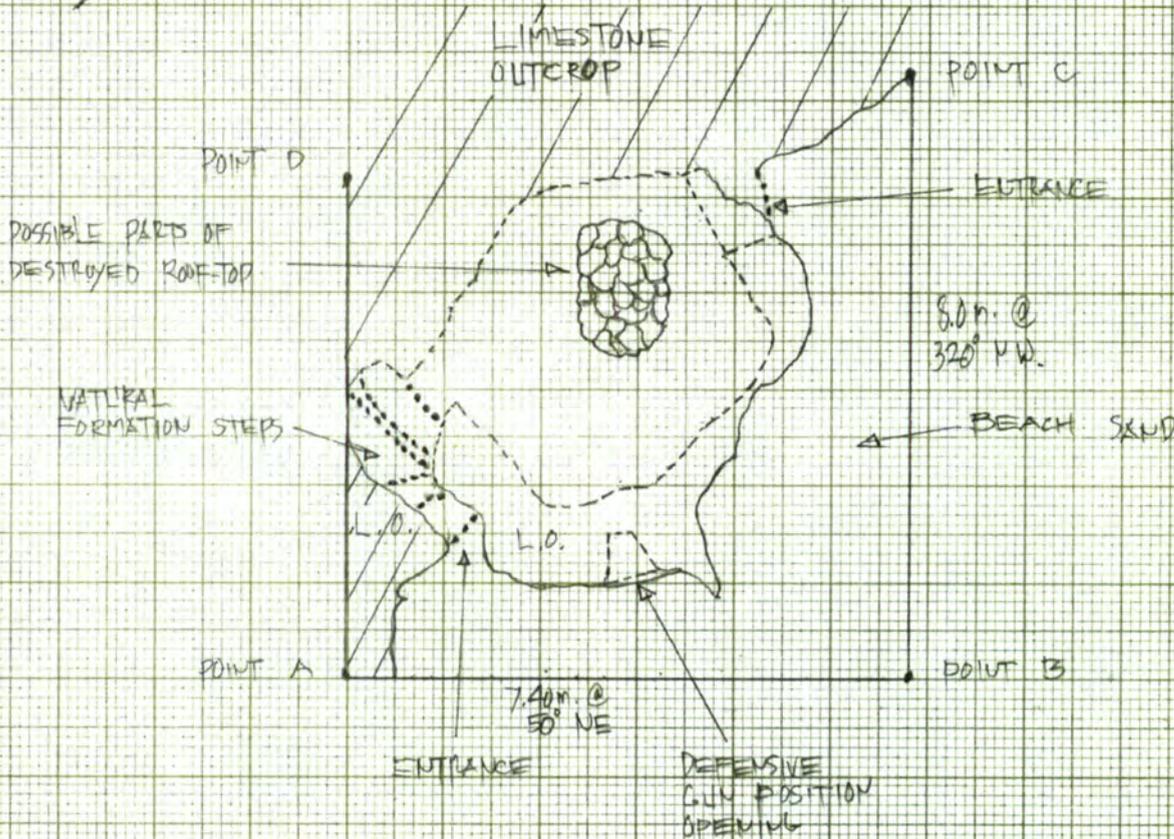
- 19 Describe feature: Literally structured onto a natural formation limestone outcrop and consists of a single gun embrasure opening on its southeast wall facing 140 degrees, and its entrance is also composed of a natural outline staircase located on the southwest section facing 230 degrees.
20 Describe material or method of construction: Apparently had been utilized by means of poured concrete cement for the plastering of the gun embrasure.
21 Feature Dimensions: length 8.10 m. width 7.50 m. height:
depth below ground surface: n/a
22 Any additional information: This is the northernmost feature within this general site situated at Unai Laolao Kattan/Tank Beach area on the mid-eastern region of the island of Saipan, that was modified by the Japanese before the Second World War as a coastal defensive position camouflage Pillbox. It is one of four (4) pillboxes within this project location that is being proposed for nomination to the "National Register of Historic Places"



Div. of Historic Preservation, DCCA
 GRAPHING PAPER
 20 x 20 to the Inches 7 x 10 Inches

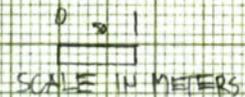


JAPANESE COASTAL
 DEFENSIVE POSITION PILLBOX
 UMA LAULAU KATAU/TALK BEACH (NORTH)
 APRIL 03, 2006
 T.G. & J.P.



SYMBOL:

	EXTERIOR OUTLINE
	INTERIOR OUTLINE
	NATURAL FORMATION STEPS
	LIMESTONE BOLLERS
	LIMESTONE OUTCROP
	GENERAL PERIMETER BOUNDARY



JAPANESE COASTAL DEFENSE DILLBOX (NORTH SIDE)

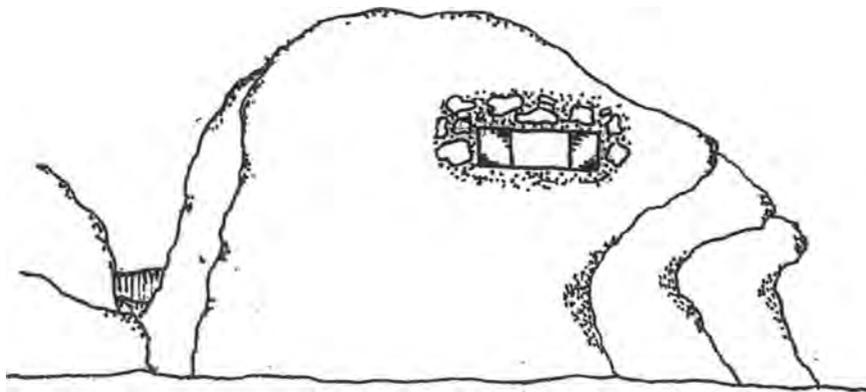
UMAI LAULAU KATAN/TAMU BESCH

APRIL 03, 2006

MAGOFUS, R & PALACIOS, J.

FACING NORTHWEST @ 320°

ELEVATION VIEW



0 1 2m.



SCALE IN METERS



Div. of Historic Preservation, DCCA

GRAPHING PAPER

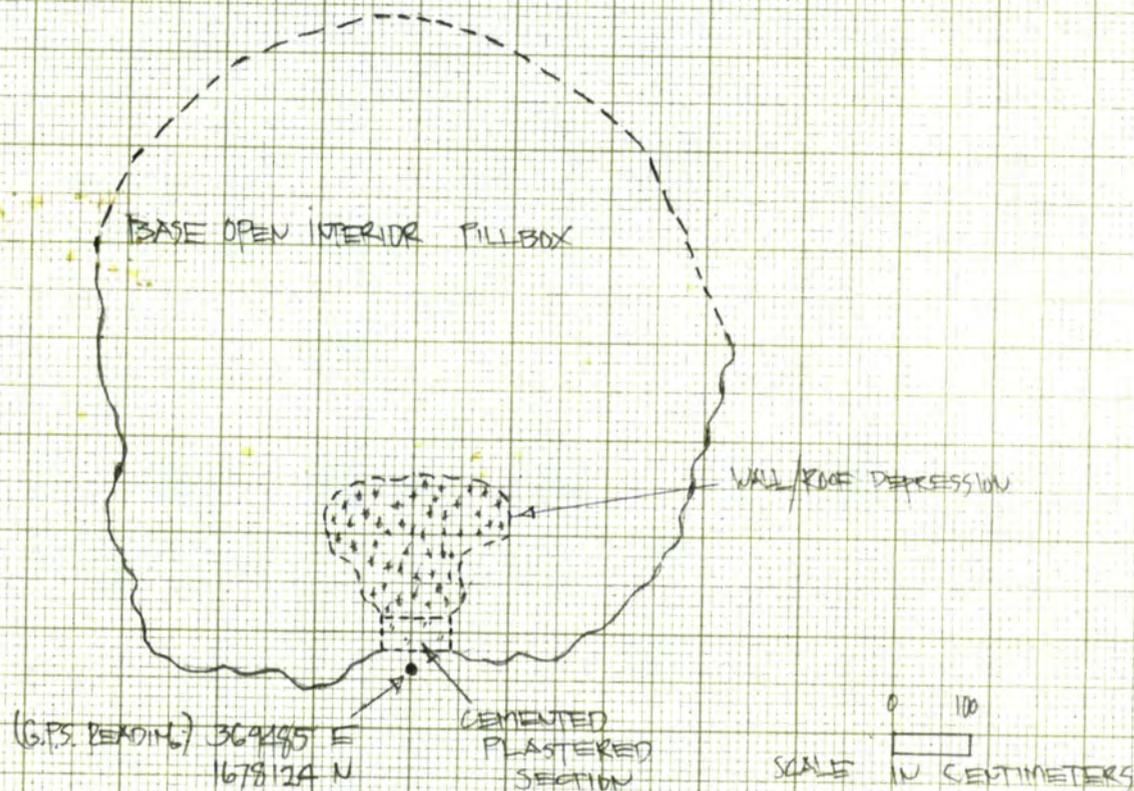
20 x 20 to the Inches 7 x 10 Inches



LINA LAOLAO KATTAN/TAYK BEACH
COASTAL DEFENSIVE POSITION
20 MA. PILL BOX
27 SEPTEMBER 2006
270° WEST
MIGUERRERO, T. & PALACIOS, J.

FEATURE NO. 4

PLAN VIEW





Div. of Historic Preservation, DCCA

GRAPHING PAPER

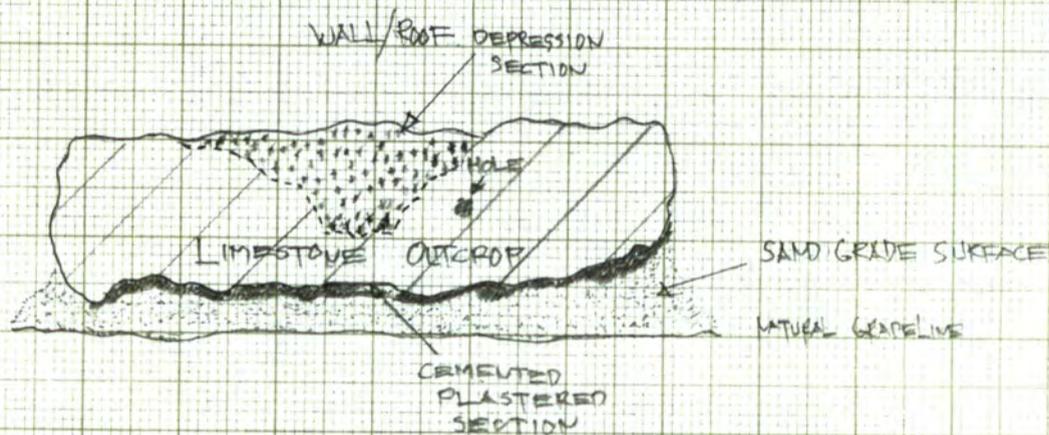
20 x 20 to the Inches 7 x 10 Inches



FEATURE NO. 4

LIVAT LAOLAO KATTAN TAVE BEACH
COASTAL DEFENSIVE POSITION
20 MM. PILL BOX
27 SEPTEMBER 2006
FACING 270° WEST
DIGUERRERO, T. & PALACIOS, J.

ELEVATION VIEW



0 100
SCALE IN CENTIMETERS

List of Photographs Accompanying NRHP Nomination for
Brown Beach One (Tank Beach or LauLau Kattan)
Saipan, CNMI

Photograph #	Facing	Subject	Comments
1	SW	F4	Environment of Fea 4
2	W	F4	Detail under poured cement
3	W	F4	Detail of Form Impression
4	W	F4	General view concrete and boulder work
5	W	F4	General view including natural cavity in rock
6	N	F3	Detail of firing/observation port
7	N	F3	General view of Feature showing environment
8	N	F3	Close up of Feature
9	W	F3	Collapsed wall and roof
10	E	F3	View from upslope
11	S	F2	General view showing 20mm and MG ports
12	SE	F2	Entrance
13	S	F2	General view from beach
14	S	F2	View into interior through 20mm gun port
15	N	F2	View of beach from interior of feature
16	W	Environment	Looking from beach toward access road
17	E	Environment	Looking from beach across reef flat
18	N	F1	20mm gun embrasure
19	N	F1	Detail of gun embrasure
20	N	F1	General view of feature and environment
21	N	F1	Interior view
22	N	F1	Interior view
23	N	F1	Looking into feature through embrasure
24	NNE	F1	20mm gun embrasure

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 07000123

Date Listed: 2/28/2007

Brown Beach One Japanese names

Saipan

MP

Property Name

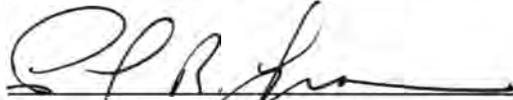
County

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.


Signature of the Keeper

2/28/2007
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Location:

The Location citation is amended to read: *Unai Laolao Kattan (North Laolao Beach) along the east coast of Saipan.*

The County Code should read: *Saipan 110*

Classification:

The resource count should read: *three (3) contributing structures.*

[While technically the pillbox fortifications could be identified as "buildings," the more common designation found in the National Register database for this property type is "structure."]

Geographical Data:

The U. T. M. coordinates provided on the USGS map refer to the southern most pillbox only. The U. T. M. coordinates provided on the nomination form and sketch map define the correct point for designating the entire 8 acre site. (Revised)

The Verbal Boundary Description is amended to add: *See attached scaled sketch map.*

These clarifications were confirmed with the MP 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: Brown Beach One Japanese Fortifications

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: N. MARIANA ISLANDS, Northern Islands

DATE RECEIVED: 1/25/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/13/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/28/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000123

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: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Brown Beach One Japanese Fortifications are significant at the regional level under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Military History and Engineering. The rudimentary gun emplacements represent the frantic program of the Japanese military to complete defensive fortifications on the island of Saipan in anticipation of impending Allied invasion during the climatic period of World War II. The defensive positions are excellent examples of the type of fortifications constructed by the Japanese in the Central Pacific area during the period 1943-1944; their engineering reflecting both the prevailing military doctrine emphasizing coastal defenses and counter attacks designed to defeat an invading enemy at the beachhead, as well as the physical constraints of shortages in building materials and construction time.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A & C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignea DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE 202-354-2229 DATE 2/28/2007

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

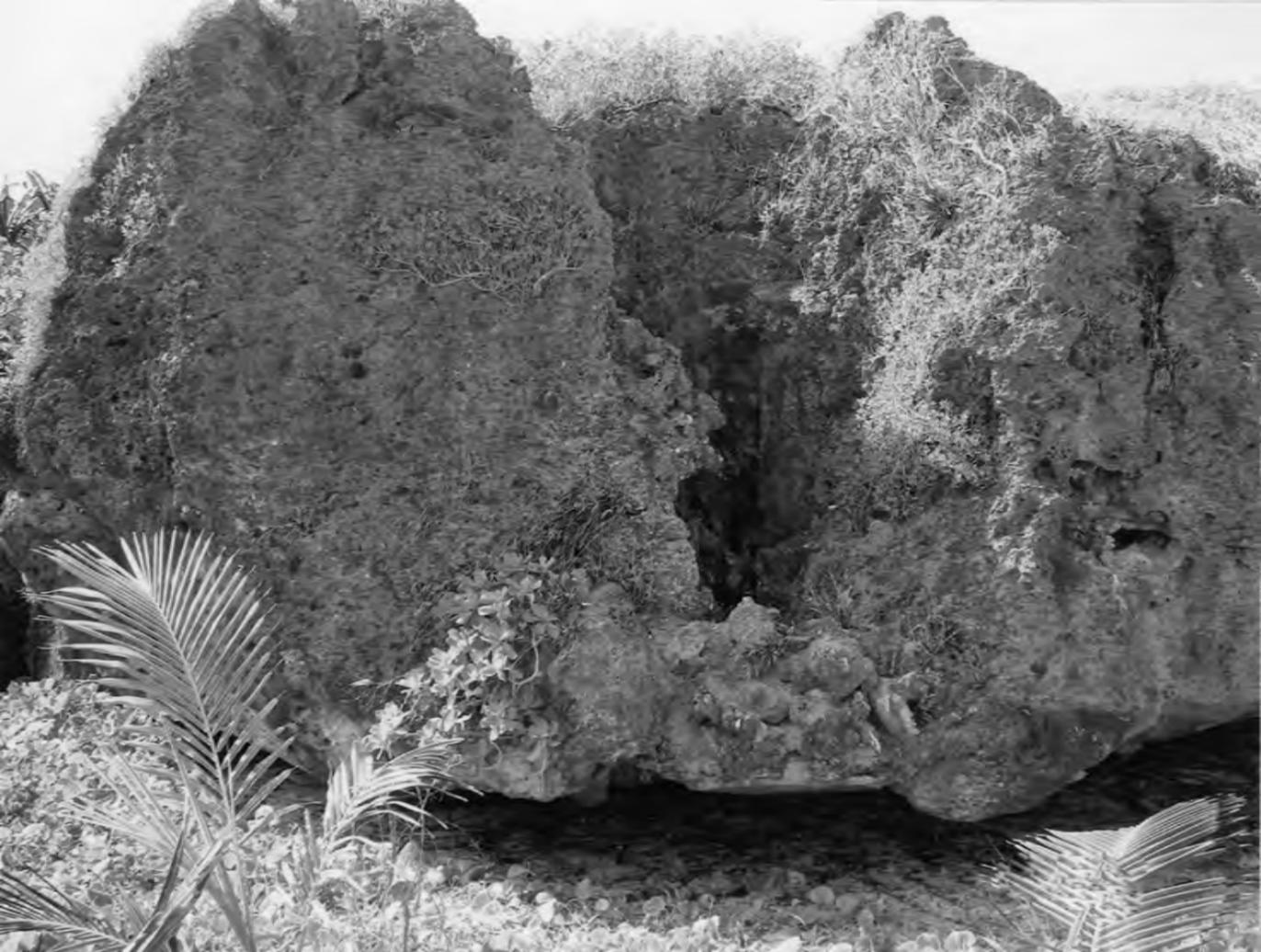
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

























3 30 08

























Laolao

20

KATTAN

Unai Laolao
(Tank Beach)

NORTH



0 100
Scale in Meters

Feature No. 3

Feature No. 4

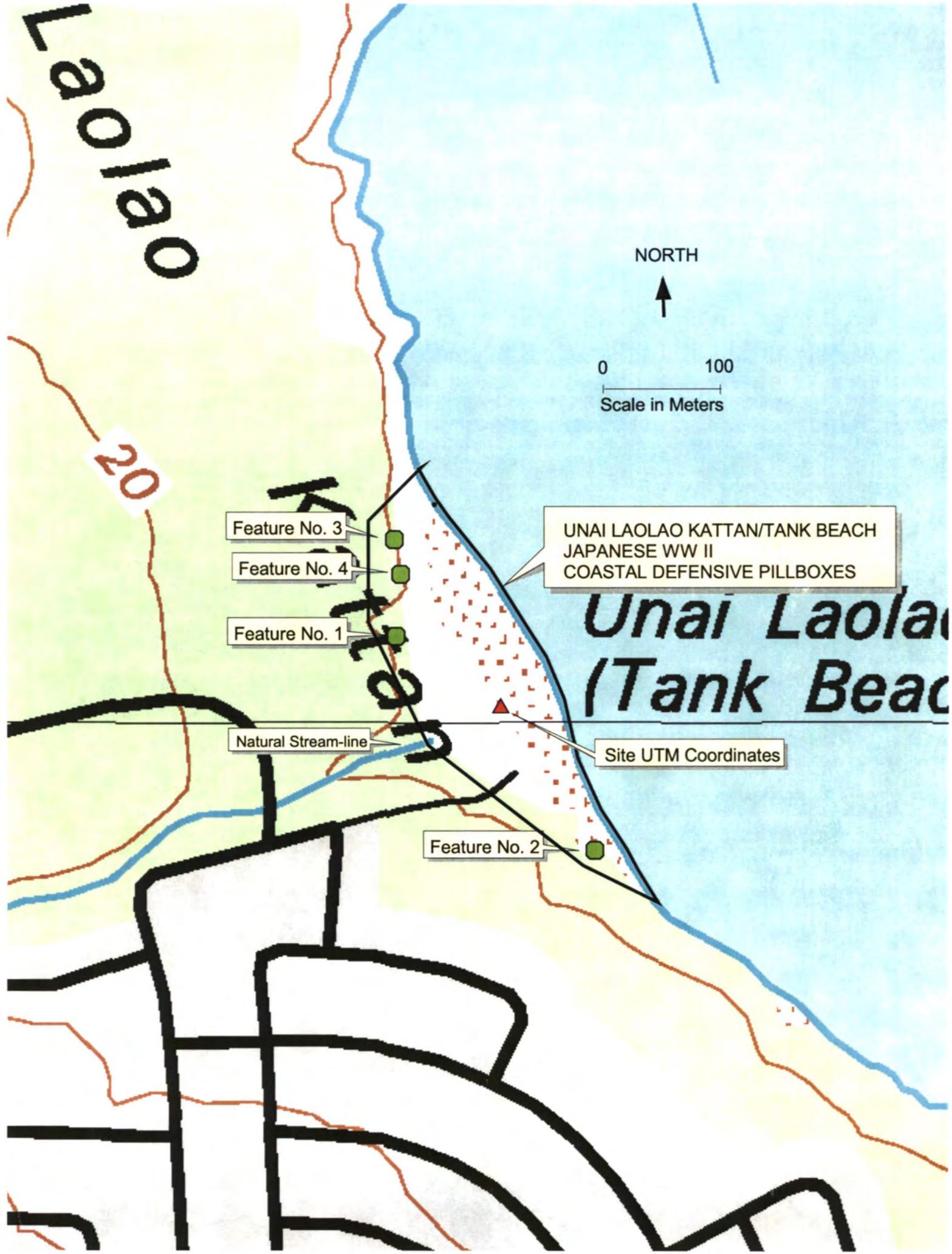
Feature No. 1

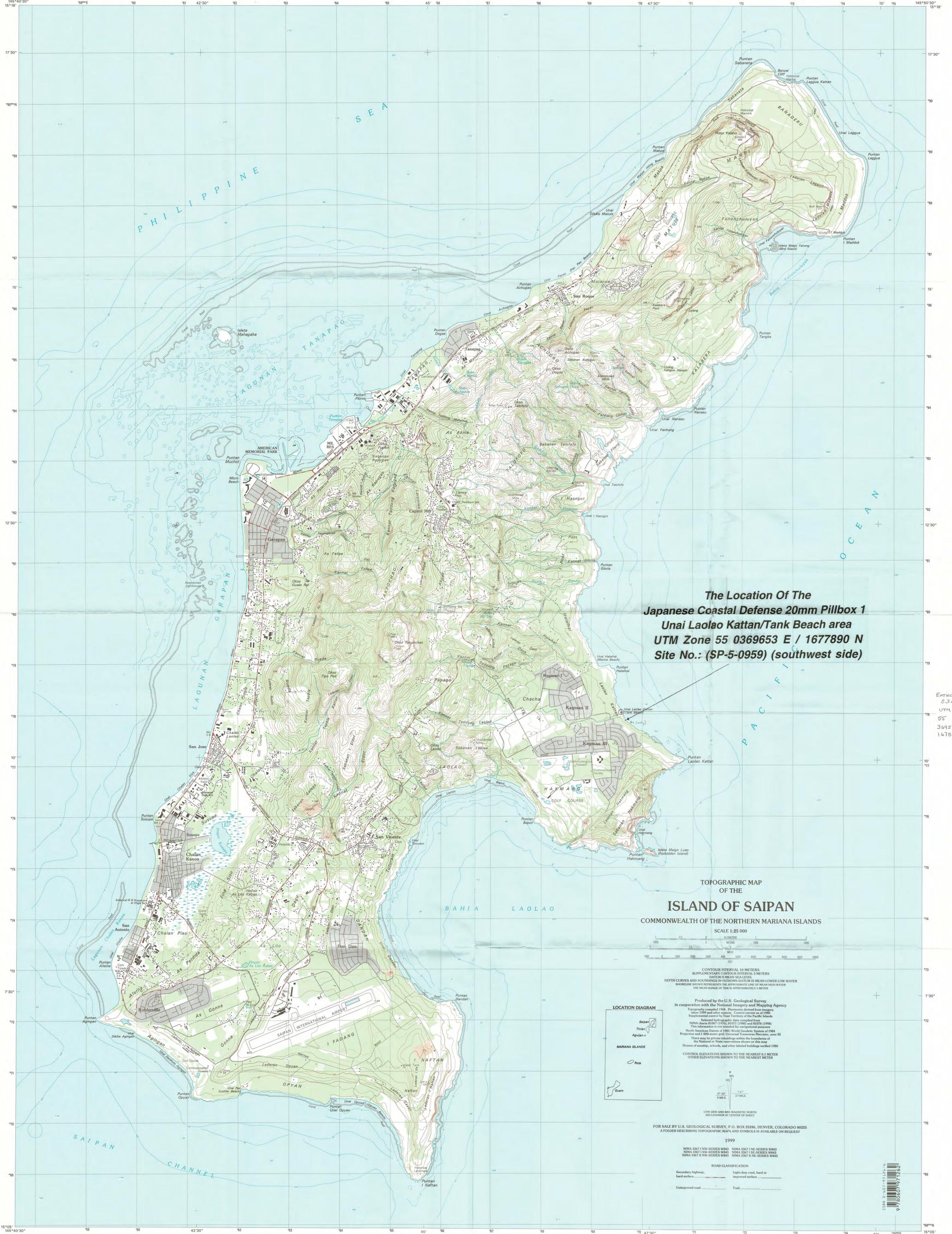
Natural Stream-line

Feature No. 2

UNAI LAOLAO KATTAN/TANK BEACH
JAPANESE WW II
COASTAL DEFENSIVE PILLBOXES

Site UTM Coordinates





**The Location Of The
Japanese Coastal Defense 20mm Pillbox 1
Unai Laolao Kattan/Tank Beach area
UTM Zone 55 0369653 E / 1677890 N
Site No.: (SP-5-0959) (southwest side)**

ENTRANCE SHEET
8-3 ACCESS
UTM
55
369653
1677890

**TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
OF THE
ISLAND OF SAIPAN
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

SCALE 1:25 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 METERS
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 METERS
DATUM: MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS-DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1 METER

Produced by the U.S. Geological Survey
In cooperation with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Topography compiled 1968. Planimetry derived from imagery
taken 1999 and other sources. Control control as of 1980.
Supplemental control by Triangulation of the Pacific Islands
NIMA charts 8107 (1976), 8107 (1980) and 8107 (1998)
This information is not intended for navigation purposes.
North American Datum of 1983. Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 55.
There may be private buildings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map.
Houses of worship, schools, and other labeled buildings verified 1980.
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER



FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P. O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1999
NIMA 3307 IN-SERIES W843 NIMA 3307 IN-SERIES W843
NIMA 3307 IN-SERIES W843 NIMA 3307 IN-SERIES W843
NIMA 3307 IN-SERIES W843 NIMA 3307 IN-SERIES W843

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Secondary highway, hard surface Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road Trail





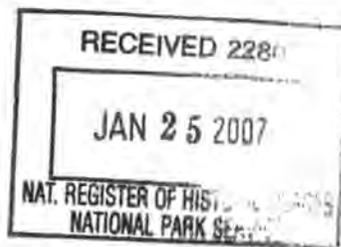
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 500090, Airport Road
Saipan, MP 96950



TEL: 664-2120-24
FAX: 664-2139
E-mail: cnmihpo@pticom.com

December 29, 2006

Serial No.: 25543
File: NPS



Ms Paula Falk Creech
American Samoa and Micronesia Program Coordinator
Cultural Resource Team
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4708^{FC}

Re: NRHP application for Brown Beach (Tank Beach), also final reports and project close out for Old Japanese Jail project

Dear Paula,

We've been working to finish up a couple of projects before the end of the year, and we've made good progress. I'm sending you the final reports for the Old Japanese Jail (Phase I) project and the NRHP nomination for Brown Beach One (Tank Beach). We're routing the NRHP nomination through your office to give you an opportunity to look it over, if you'd like, before forwarding it on to the Keeper. Scott Russell prepared this nomination for us with significant contributions from John Palacios of the HPO staff. We have other nominations in progress and are also working to complete the grant paperwork and planning (including the project amendments) for next year's projects. We are looking forward to a productive new year. Thanks again for your assistance and understanding.

Sincerely,

Pedro (Roy) C. Sablan
Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
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 File: 10.2/National Register



Keeper of the National Register
 National Park Service
 1201 "T" Street NW
 8th Floor (MS 2280)
 Washington, DC 20005

Dear Keeper of the National Register,

The Historic Preservation Office of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas is pleased to submit the enclosed National Register Nomination for Brown Beach One, also known as Tank Beach or LauLau Kattan, a Japanese coastal defense site on the eastern shore of the island of Saipan.

The Mariana Islands became a strategic military objective during the WWII American offensive against Japan. Americans needed the islands to establish bases for long-range bombers that could reach the Japanese home islands and for building logistical bases for the anticipated invasion of Japan. The Japanese considered the Marianas to be an important line of defense and were aware of the consequences if these islands fell to the invading forces. The battle for the Marianas, particularly for Saipan, was one of the most fiercely fought battles of the Pacific War and resulted in heavy casualties on both sides, as well as among the local civilian population. American capture of the Marianas contributed to shortening the Pacific war and making a costly invasion of the Japanese home islands unnecessary.

Faced with imminent invasion and a shortage of much-needed supplies, Japanese defenders resorted to improvised construction methods in their preparation of defensive works in the Marianas. The Brown Beach One site contains features that are representative of those efforts and demonstrate the effectiveness of their methods in building and camouflaging the defensive works. This well-preserved site is a visible reminder of this significant era in the history of the Marianas.

Sincerely,

Pedro (Roy) C. Sablan
 Director

cc: Secretary, DCCA / AIA, Chef Cultural Resources