

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **SEP 24 1984**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic _____

and/or common Japanese Coastal Defense Gun

2. Location

street & number Gagani/TETNON 81 of ... _____ not for publication

city, town Rota ... vicinity of _____ congressional district

state C.M. ... code 96950 county Rota ... code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: tourist site

4. Owner of Property

name Marianas Public Land Corporation

street & number Box 380

city, town Saipan _____ vicinity of _____ state C.M. 96950

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Same as number 4

street & number _____

city, town _____ state _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Field Notes, D. Colt Denfeld has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Preservation

city, town Saipan _____ state C.M. 96950

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date August 1983

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This World War II Japanese 140 millimeter coastal defense gun, Model 3, is sited in a reinforced concrete casemate located on the cliffline above the entrance to Rota's East Harbor. The casemate was built into the cliffside and takes advantage of the terrain for camouflaging; natural stones on the roof of the casemate break up the flat structural appearance. The gun was intended to protect East Harbor from a possible invasion by U.S. forces during World War II.

The casemate, which is semi-circular in shape, measures 7.7 meters at its widest point and 6.6 meters deep. Wall thickness is approximately 800 millimeters. There are four ready ammunition magazines in the casemate, each measuring 850 millimeters wide, one meter high and 700 millimeters deep. The defense gun, which was forged in Japan in 1925, sits atop a metal pedestal which is anchored into the concrete flooring of the casemate by large bolts.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-41	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1941 (?) **Builder/Architect** Japanese military

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the Mariana Islands very few World War II coastal defense guns have survived in situ within their casemates. None have been recorded on Guam or Tinian and only a few exist in damaged casemates on Saipan. The coastal gun on Rota is significant because it is in excellent condition and because its function can readily be discerned.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Denfeld, D. Colt

1983 Field Notes. On file with the Division of Historic Preservation, Saipan

1982 Japanese Fortifications in the Central Pacific, MAS Vol. 9, Saipan.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A	5 5	3 0 2 0 7 0	1 5 6 1 8 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is defined by the outer limits of the casemate.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Scott Russell, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer

organization Division of Historic Preservation

date 8-23-83

street & number Lower Base

telephone 9722

city or town Saipan

state C.M. 96950

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

James B. Panglenon

title Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/5/84

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 11/2/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration