

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JAN 3 1985

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Agana Historic District (Agana Historic District)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town Agana _____ vicinity of _____

state Guam 96910 _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	Not yet considered	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Land Management

street & number Administration Building

city, town Agana state Guam 96911

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lujan House/ Guam Institute has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 6, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Parks and Recreation

city, town Agana state Guam 96910

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Agana Historic District consists of a 9000 square meter area located in the middle of Agana. The district consists of five significant structures with no intrusions. Agana is located on the flatlands between cliff and shore. It is bounded on the north by the Philippine Sea; the south by steep coral cliffs and San Ramon Hill; on the east and west the area narrows down due to natural terrain. Contours rise gradually from sea level to four meters.

At the time of Spanish contact, Agana was already established as a major village. Under Spanish rule Old Agana, Hagatna, became the government center with the Palace and surrounding facilities, east of the district, being built circa 1736. Agana evolved as a compact city with a mixture of European and tropical character. The lots were small by modern standards, 100 to 200 square meters. Streets were well defined with major streets 10 to 15 meters wide and minor streets and alleys four to five meters wide. Dwellings were built close together immediately fronting the right of way. The tight streets and small lots with one-and-a-half to two story structures created an intimate urban scale. The combination of indigenous materials, tropical details and Spanish construction techniques gave the city a definite character as shown in older photographs.

Much of this character and much of Agana were destroyed by World War II and post-war reclamation. Naval and aerial bombardment damaged all of the structures in Agana. Near Agana's center, one area, the district, was spared some of the heaviest shelling. A few other structures survived but they were widely scattered. After the liberation of Guam from the Japanese by the American forces, several Agana homeowners returned to damaged buildings. During the reclamation these owners had to individually protect their homes from the post-war bulldozers, mainly by refusing to leave. Seven pre-war structures were preserved in the area, but one has since been torn down and another greatly modified and not included in the district. The five remaining structures in the district still maintain a portion of the compact urban scale and individual architectural character. These structures are the Calvo-Torres, Rosario, Martinez-Notley, Lujan and Leon Guerrero houses.

The Calvo-Torres house is the oldest of the structures. Its name is derived from two major families whose lineage is

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1800 to post WWII **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Agana Historic District is architecturally significant as an example of the Pacific Spanish colonial vernacular building tradition. Each of the houses embody a unique version of the distinctive characteristics of this style such as the use of porches, one and-a-half-story bodega type building and veranda kitchen extensions. All of the houses are excellent examples of old construction methods and materials including manposteria construction, ifil wood framing and details, massive exterior stairs and Spanish overtones in building massing and roof lines. The Calvo-Torres, Rosario and Martinez-Notley houses originally had Spanish tile roofs. The Calvo-Torres and Martinez-Notley houses are the oldest private dwellings on Guam, dating from circa 1800's. The structures are also the island's earliest remaining examples of concrete building construction. The district is significant because it is the last remaining concentration of pre-World War II dwellings left in Agana. It is the only fragment left of old Agana's urban space. Natural disasters and World War II have destroyed all the other houses in the city, with the exception of a few scattered individual structures. The district is also significant because of its association with broad patterns of events in the history of Guam. These include the Spanish colonial administration, the use of ifil wood prior to deforestation, World War II and the reconstruction activities following it, severe termite infestations and Super-typhoons Karen, 1962 and Pamela 1976. These houses are the only remaining concentration of dwellings of pre-war Agana. There are no intrusions in the district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Carano Collection, 1925; Micronesia Area Research Center, UOG, Guam
2. 1972 MARC Collection: Micronesia Area Research Center UOG, Guam
3. Brooks, G.E. "Concrete Construction on Guam" Guam Recorder
4. Signal Corps photos S.C. 324737

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Agana

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

5	5
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2	5	7	9	7	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The district was designed to include the five historically significant houses with no intrusions. The original streets were included in the district (Please see continuation sheet.)

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title JACK B. JONES ARCHITECT

organization J.B. JONES, ARCHITECT AIA

date AUGUST 1980

street & number P.O. BOX 6277

telephone 646-1101

city or town TAMUNING

state GUAM 96911

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

John T. Palomares

title Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

date 26 November 1984

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

Keeper of the National Register

date

2/18/85

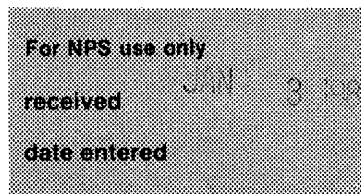
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Agana Historic District Item number 4

Page 1

BLOCK LOT NO.	OWNER
Block 25; lot 2	Ada Plaza Incorporated
Block 25; lot 3	Ada Plaza Incorporated
Block 25; lot 6	Paul M. Calvo
Block 25; lot 7	Rosa Calvo
Block 25; lot 8	Oliva T. Cruz
Block 25; lot 10	Government of Guam
Block 25; lot 11	Government of Guam
Block 25; lot 12	Rosa M. O'Mallen
Block 25; lot 13	Candelaria C. Ada
Block 25; lot 18	Richard C.P. Salas
Block 25; lot 19	Government of Guam
Block 25; lot 25	Government of Guam
Block 25; lot 26	Government of Guam
Block 25; lot 27	Ada Plaza Incorporated

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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JAN 3 1985

Continuation sheet Agana Historic District

Item number 7

Page 1

associated with the building. It is the home of the parents of Former Governor Paul M. Calvo. The house faces north toward what was once old Legaspi Street. The structure consists of a combination of several buildings clustered around a central courtyard. The oldest portion constructed of manposteria (coral stones mixed with lime mortar) is a one-story structure built circa 1800. This part is located on the south and housed a silversmith. A detached kitchen, a korsina, was later incorporated into the plan. A major concrete addition was added in the early 1920,s. The overall dimensions of the house are 16.6m by 17.6m by approximately 4.3m at the roof top. The floor framing, roof framing, flooring and trim, and portions of the walls are ifil wood. The roof was originally Spanish tile; some tile which has been partially covered with a second roof of metal still exists. The concrete framed porch on the north has been enclosed. The overall entrance to the house is along a side entrance into a veranda. The house is in fair condition and the integrity of the original structure remains.

The Rosario house, named after former owner, Vicente Rosario, is directly opposite the Calvo-Torres house, north of old Legaspi Street. The exact date of construction is unknown, but based on several identical details with adjacent structures, the house is believed to have been constructed in the late 1800's. The house faces south; the main entrance leads around the east side to the main exterior steps on the north. A porch extends to the south. The overall dimensions of the house are 8.8m by 11.3m and approximatley 5.5m at the roof top. It is a one-and-a-half bodega type structure. The upper levels were used for living quarters and the lower portion was used for storage. The floor framing, roof framing, flooring, jambs, railings and shutters are ifil. Originally the house had a Spanish tile roof, but current roofing is corrugated metal. A concrete block addition extends to the north. The house is abandoned, in poor condition, but capable of being preserved.

The south portions of the Martinez-Notley house was built in 1826 by a Filipino craftsman, Louis Calvo. The house later became known as the Notley house, after William H. Notley, who married into the Martinez family. The overall dimensions of the house are 20.9m by 15.5m and approximately 6.0m at the roof top. It is one-and-a-half stories high with the ground level being a bodega. The house has ifil framing and

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Agana Historic District Item number 7 Page 2

materials throughout. The roof framing is identical to the Calvo-Torres and Rosario houses. The roof was originally Spanish tile, but is now corrugated metal. A concrete addition believed to have been constructed in the early 1920's was added to the north side. The concrete construction has a porch handrail similar to the Calvo-Torres house. The massing of the building and overall character have strong Spanish overtones. Free standing manposteria walls frame the majority of the property. The building is in fair to good condition.

The Leon Guerrero house, named after its owner, is a two-story structure built just prior to the war by Jesus F. Torres. Construction started in 1939, but interior finishing work particularly the ground floor, was halted due to rumors of pending war. The structure was used as a barracks for Japanese personnel during the war. The lower level was used for storing rice. The building was saved from demolition after the war because the Leon Guerreros refused to leave. The overall building size is 17.7m by 12.0m and approximately 7.9m at the roof top. The exterior framing and ground floors are concrete. The second floor framing, roof framing, flooring and interior details are ifil wood. The structure has a corrugated metal roof. The interior spaces are rather large. The south portion of the house has had a one-story screen porch added. Some of the window openings have been revised. The house is in good condition.

The Lujan House/ Guam Institute is already on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located directly to the west of the Leon Guerrero house. The structure was owned by Jose C. Lujan. It was built in 1908. Many of the island's leaders attended the school. After he war the building was used as a residence. It has manposteria construction on the first level and trapechai on the second level. Trapechai construction is similar to manposteria, except the coral stone and lime mortar are sandwiched between vertical ifil framing 40 to 60 cm on the center. The structure was severely damaged by Typhoon Pamela in 1976. In 1979, the owner received a federal matching grant for rehabilitation of the structure. The rehabilitation work consisted of utilizing design, materials, (ifil wood) and workmanship to maintain the original character of the building. Actual construction began in 1980 and was completed in May 1982.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Agana Historic District

Item number 10

Page 1

and are represented by vacant lots. The houses are the only remaining dwellings close to each other and portray the urban scale of Spanish pre-war Agana. It is not possible to provide a streetscape view because the houses are not along a straight line but rather are situated in a T-shape to each other. In addition, vegetation in the vacant lots currently obstructs visual grouping of the houses.

AGANA HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP

0 5 10 20 M



NEW LOTS

OLD LOTS

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

