

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0133167 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 28 1978  
DATE ENTERED MAY 29 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC MERIZO BELL TOWER

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *off Insoval* Route Four

CITY, TOWN

Merizo

VICINITY OF  
CODE 66

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Guam

STATE

Guam

COUNTY

N/A

CODE

410

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 125

CITY, TOWN

Agana

VICINITY OF

STATE

Guam

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Department of Land Management

STREET & NUMBER

Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Agana

STATE

Guam

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Guam Historic Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Commerce Post Office Box 682

CITY, TOWN

Agana

STATE

Guam

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Merizo Bell Tower is located between Highway 4 and the beach in the central part of Merizo Village on USGS Quadrangle Map, Merizo (1968). It is across from the Catholic Church and Rectory. The sea is ca. 10m to the SW and Highway 4 is 5 m NE. It may be reached by driving to Merizo Village and the church.

The tower is a tiered structure constructed of heavy masonry called manposteria consisting of stone with mortar covered with cement plaster. The tower is 7.3 m in height including the square base 1.5 m high and 4 m on a side. Four stairs on the SE side of the base ascend to the first tier and doorway. This is 3.5 m in height and the doorway into it is 2 m high. Inside, the stairs continue up to the second tier which has a small seaward facing window. This second tier is 1.7 m high and is topped by a third tier .7 m in height. A now missing bell was housed in a wooden structure on the third tier. This wood portion of the bell tower is now missing and its date of removal is unknown. The structure does have some severe cracking due to earthquakes.

Large trees and a small park with benches surround the tower.

# 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1914                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Father Canals

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Merizo Bell Tower is located across Highway 4 from the Merizo convento. It was built in 1919 by Father Cristobal de Canals O.F.M. Cap. He also built a church, promoted agriculture, and in general, raised the standard of living in Merizo. Although the Bell Tower is quite recent, it is nevertheless, a symbol of the Catholic Church's interest in and activity for the island. In particular, it is a monument to the work of Father de Canals.

This structure represents the transition stage in architecture on the island between colonial Spanish architecture and the influx of statewide structures. The materials and methods are reminiscent of previous Spanish structures. The overall massing is a major element of design that is missing in later pseudo-design on Guam. The tower consists of a very heavy masonry construction, stone with mortar and covered with cement plaster. Some cut stone is involved primarily for steps, with wood lintels used for smaller openings.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carano, Paul article in Guam Recorder, Volume 4, Nov. 2, 1974

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.5

UTM REFERENCES

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2	4	7	0	6	0
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1	4	6	7	5	6	5
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David T. Lotz, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Parks and Recreation Resources Division

DATE

March 5, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Department of Commerce, Post Office Box 682

TELEPHONE

646-1279

CITY OR TOWN

Agana

STATE

Guam

# 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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Chief, Parks and Recreation Resources Division

DATE

MAR 10 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5/29/75

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-23-75