

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

AUG 27 1976

**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

BANZAI CLIFF

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Banadero, Magni area

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands 96950

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

STREET & NUMBER

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

CITY, TOWN

96950

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Attorney General, Office of the High Commissioner

STREET & NUMBER

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands 96950

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

survey -- Micronesian Parks

DATE

July, 1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of the Interior, Hawaii Group, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

667 Ala Moana Boulevard, suite 512, Honolulu, Hawaii

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Banzai Cliff is located at the extreme northern tip of Saipan Island on the edge of the Banadero platform. The cliff consists of a deep drop of approximately one hundred twenty (120) to one hundred fifty (150) feet to the ocean below. The cliff face is concave; it is bordered by two points of land jutting out into the ocean--Puntan Sabaneta on the west and Puntan Laguna Katan on the east.

The cliff face has remained basically unchanged, excepting a certain amount of natural erosion caused by the constant action of the waves below. The top of the cliff has been developed for tourism purposes. A gravel-coated parking area has been constructed. Two peace memorials have been erected through the cooperative efforts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands Government and various Japanese government interests. One memorial is a small Buddhist shrine and the other is a larger monument representing a mother and child kneeling in prayer at the edge of the cliff. A gravel and concrete walkway leading to an overlook point on the edge of the cliff is also present. A guardrail has been constructed to protect this overlook.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

July, 1944

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Banzai Cliff is one of two sites where, during the World War Two American invasion of Saipan, hundreds of Japanese civilian and military personnel chose to die by throwing themselves over the edge of the cliff rather than to face surrender to the American forces. The mass suicides occurred during the last week of the American invasion, when all hope for the Japanese defense of the island had disappeared.

The exact number of deaths which occurred at Banzai Cliff is unknown. In spite of the American military's attempts to convince the Japanese to surrender, the number of those who chose to jump--men, women and children--is very large. Accounts of survivors of Banzai Cliff have been found. Some who survived the drop to the ocean were rescued by American ships waiting below. Most of those who jumped, however, did not survive. Many of the bodies were never recovered from the rocks and waves at the base of the cliff.

