

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: American Samoa	
COUNTY: Eastern Samoa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 16 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Navy Building 38

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Radio Station WVUV

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Fagotogo

STATE: American Samoa CODE: 03 COUNTY: Eastern CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments: American Samoa official tourist office

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Government of American Samoa

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Governor

CITY OR TOWN: Pago Pago STATE: American Samoa CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
same as above

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

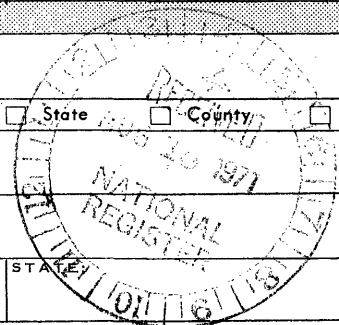
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Navy Building 38: This building, approximately 50 feet by 60 feet, is built of locally-made reinforced concrete blocks, reinforced concrete sills and lintels, and cast metal pillars, on a poured reinforced concrete slab. Design was probably local. Roof is of corrugated iron. Roof beams (not seen) are probably either metal or concrete. Pillars support the outer edges of the roof over the lanais.

As originally constructed ca. 1917, the front (south) side and the east side had wide covered lanais, included under the same roof as the interior. During World War II, these lanais were boarded in to enclose them and make them part of the building to handle the increased work load and personnel within a militarily securable building. Probably at this time, certain doorways between the lanais and the interior were made wider and taller to permit movement of bulky equipment in and out.

Transmitters within the building in 1970 were identified by one long time civilian employee as TDH-4's. In 1970, radio traffic was handled from a station in the Court House.

Two masts or radio towers were associated with the station. One was adjacent to the station, and the other further in along the bay front. The towers had been removed by 1970, and the area adjacent to Building 38 used as a parking lot for the post office.

Concrete blocks in the walls are mortared. Each is about one foot long, seven inches high, and an estimated eight inches thick. Blocks for the low wall which outlines the lanais, and on which the cast iron pillars rest, are each one foot high, two feet long and an estimated eight inches thick.

Faces of the lanai blocks are smooth, but faces of the wall blocks have been cast in a mold to present an exterior which resembles undressed quarried stone.

Buildings 38 and 43 represent a distinctive architectural style developed locally by the U. S. Navy in 1917 to solve local construction problems. The problems had been faced since early 1900, and in his report for 1916 for American Samoa, the Secretary of the Navy wrote, "Concrete is recommended not only on account of its durability, but also because it can be made more easily rat proof." He was justifying the high construction cost.

The Poyer school at the head of Pago Pago bay, built in 1918, and buildings 38 and 43 are built of cast concrete blocks and still stand in 1971, a testimony of a wise 1917 decision. One central concrete casting plant, location unknown, probably supplied the blocks for these and other buildings. Cement, reinforcing material, and the cast iron pillars were probably imported from the U. S. Sand and water were available locally.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1917

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Tropical</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>architecture</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Short Statement: Building 38, of unusual concrete block and metal construction, was the Navy's South Pacific radio station during and between two World Wars. It was built in 1917 by the Navy to withstand tropical conditions.

Sometime after the U. S. Naval Station, Tutuila, was established in 1901, and before World War I, an official naval radio station, low power obviously, was established. Indirect communication was maintained with Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Since Pearl Harbor was not an operating naval station until ca. 1910, this puts the start of Tutuila's first radio station sometime in the period 1910 through 1915.

This first station communicated with Pearl Harbor through the relay of Morse code via either Apia, where the German government had a powerful station in Western Samoa, or through Fiji, where the British also had a powerful radio station.

At the start of World War I, and before American involvement, the German station at Apia, on the adjacent Samoan island of Upolu, went silent on August 20, 1914. The Germans destroyed it nine days later to keep it out of British hands. Pago Pago harbor was fortified, German raiders were suspected in its vicinity, and two German warships were seized in Pago Pago harbor. This left only the Fiji link between Tutuila and Pearl Harbor. The British exercised censorship over communications, and were also aware of American naval activities through this relay.

In 1915, it was hoped that with a few improvements in the radio apparatus at Tutuila, that "under favorable conditions" it would be possible for Hawaii to communicate directly with Tutuila "on some nights." And in 1916, "owing to small-power sets at both ends of the circuit," the Navy's Bureau of Steam Engineering "was taking steps to increase the power at Tutuila."

In 1916, by act of August 29, Congress appropriated funds for a radio station at Tutuila. Building 38, the radio station, was probably built early in 1917, together with "two wooden lattice aerial masts," which were not visible outside the harbor. This situation was desirable because of potential German raiders. Naval station improvements in 1917-1918 amounted to \$23,491.01 of which \$8,859.90 were charged to the radio station. It is not known if equipment was included in this amount, or just construction costs. Over the years, new masts and towers replaced the lattice ones. (con.t. on 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Iamanu Poutoa, personal on-site interview, 7/9/70
 Secretary of the Navy, Reports, 1900-1950
 USN, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Reports, 1902-1947
 Bryan, Henry F., American Samoa, Oct. 1, 1926 (Navy mss.)
 Gray, J.A.C., Amerika Samoa, Annapolis, c 1960
 USN, American Samoa, Information of Living Conditions for Naval Dependents,
 mimeo., 1949.

H/3 no 1174

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		South	W	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	14°	16'	50"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	170°	41'	12"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Russell A. Apple

ORGANIZATION
Hawaii Group, National Park Service

DATE
July 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 512

CITY OR TOWN:
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STATE
HAWAII

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name John W. Anderson
 Title Governor
 Date 8/5/1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Conrally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE MAR 16 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:

William S. Purdy
 Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 8 1972

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
American Samoa	
COUNTY	
Eastern	
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The original radio station building continued in use well into civilian administration, which began in 1950, stored radio equipment, and was still used as the government radio equipment repair shop in 1970. It is planned to be converted for use by the government tourist bureau.

To cover the Pacific with Naval radio communications during World War I, the Navy planned a chain of three high-powered stations -- Pearl Harbor, Guam, and Tutuila. Building 38 was probably built with this use in mind. When Pearl Harbor's new station was operating, it was found that it could reach the Naval Station, Cavite, Philippine Islands, without a Guam relay. Guam and Tutuila then received only sets of "moderate power." They were then considered subsidiary stations to the one at Pearl Harbor.

To place Samoa's radio communications in perspective during its early decades in 1922, the Naval Station had one passenger automobile, four Ford trucks, and one cart. In 1926, the Navy had two passenger cars, three trucks, and an ambulance. The civilian government had five trucks and four busses. There were 18 privately-owned passenger cars and seven trucks. Annual operating costs of the Navy radio station in 1919 was listed as \$6,731.33, the only annual operating figures found.

In 1926, communications from Building 38 included daily direct schedules with USN stations at Honolulu, San Francisco and Washington, D. C.; commercial stations at Apia, Western Samoa; Papeete, Tahiti and with merchant vessels, with one Asiatic station and with the Tutuila station naval ship within 200 miles. It also had daily schedules with Ta'u, an island in the Manua group of American Samoa 60 miles to the east. There was heliograph communication between Ta'u and Ofu, another of the Manua islands.

The power plant, which supplied electricity to Building 38 in 1926, was a new one in 1926, furnished 220 volts D.C., and operated from 6 a.m. to midnight. It also supplied power to certain other Navy buildings.

There appeared to be little change in the Naval Station, Tutuila, until just before World War II. In its report for 1947, which summarized Pacific operations during the years when security eliminated detailed reports, the Navy said that Pago Pago was a refueling station and communication center before World War II and was "a minor establishment until construction under contract was begun in 1940 as part of the national defense program." It listed Tutuila's pre-World War II assets as a 300-foot wharf, a radio station, office space for four desks, shops, a garage, a small power plant, a water supply system, and "narrow crooked roads."

In 1940, contracts worth \$10½ million included an airfield, hangars, gun emplacements, facilities for defense forces, and a "radio station." This probably included new equipment for Building 38 and probably the towers shown on maps of 1941 and 1948. Additional power plants came in 1941. Seabees and Marines occupied Tutuila, especially during the opening months, and destroyers were repaired there regularly. Radio communications with the Pacific fleet

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and bases in the South Pacific centered at Building 38.

As Armed Forces Radio Station WVUV, Building 38 operated daily in the 1940's after World War II, put out daily news sheets, and rebroadcast shortwave newscasts each evening.

Building 38 is one of at least two buildings left over from the Naval Station, Tutuila, which from their location, construction materials, architectural interest, and use in historic times can continue in public use and serve as a reminder of the naval facility which once occupied what is now the business and government district of Tutuila.

