

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0246760

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

OCT 31 1975

**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

AND/OR COMMON

San Vitores Martyrdom Site

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

0.7 miles south of Bija Point

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tamuning

VICINITY OF Tumon Bay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Guam

CODE

66

COUNTY

N/A

CODE

0850

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box CF

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 96910

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Guam Historic Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

Post Office Box 682, 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 Father San Vitores Martyrdom Site is located on the W central coast of the island at the N end of Naton Beach between Tumon Beach Road and the sea on USGS Dededo Quadrangle Map (1968). It may be reached by driving N from Tamuning to the JFK Road on the W side of Highway 1. Take this to the Tumon Beach Road, then turn N 0.6 miles to a crushed coral road which turns W to the shrine and the marker.

The cross marking the site of Father San Vitores martyrdom lies 10 m S of a 2 story shrine on the site. It is a small monument bearing a plaque and topped by a cross. The base is 1 m long and .7 m wide, with a slanted top. The front or beach side is .2 m and the back is .5 m in height. The cross is 2.5 m high for a total monument height of 3 m. The plaque is inscribed as follows: "In this very place was martyred the venerable Father Diego Luis de Sanvitores, S.J., First Apostle of the Marianas on April 2, 1672. Msgr. Olano, Vic. Apostle dedicated this remembrance, being Governor of Guam, Capt. J.T. Alexander, USN, Jan. 1940".

Sometime between June 1674 and June 1676, when Don Damian de Esplana was military commander of Guam, a chapel was built where Father San Vitores was killed. Don Damian de Esplana believed he had been cured of a disease due to the intercessions of San Vitores. A marker is known to have existed on the spot in 1886. The area was devastated by a typhoon in 1918 and a small chapel was refound in 1936 and the present marker placed in 1940.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although Spanish ships bound for Manila had often visited Guam from 1521 until 1668 for fresh water and food, the Spanish did not establish a permanent garrison until June 15, 1668, when Father Diego Luis de San Vitores and four other Jesuits plus some lay assistants landed on Guam. Accompanying the missionaries was a Spanish garrison force of thirty two soldiers commanded by Capt. Juan de Santa Cruz. After winning the good will of the natives, the missionaries began to preach the Gospel. A native chief, Quipuha, who befriended them, was particularly helpful when he donated land for a church in Hagatna (Agana). Soon after, Father San Vitores changed the name of the islands to the Mariana Islands in honor of the Queen, who had helped to establish the mission and in order to erase a name and stigma he thought unjust.

It soon became apparent to the Chamorros that Christianity was a strict way of life, and that they were expected to lead a Christian life. With this realization came increasing bitterness and hatred for the missionaries. Father Morales had to flee from Tinian, returning later accompanied by Father San Vitores. Incident after incident showed that the Chamorros were reluctant to accept the cultural changes that Christianity demanded. An assistant, Pedro, was murdered in Anatahan, and in January 1670, Father Luis de Medina was killed on Saipan. Finally, in July 1670 the Chamorros rose in open rebellion, attacking the fort and mission. The siege lasted for 40 days.

On March 31, 1672 Father San Vitores was in the village of Nisichan on the E side of the island when he heard of the death of a young Mexican catechist, Diego Bazan. He immediately began a return to Agana. The morning of April 2, 1672 found him in the village of Tumhon (Tumon) where he wished to baptize the infant daughter of a Chamorro Chief, Matapang. The chief angrily refused, but Father San Vitores waited until he had left the house and then baptized the girl. When Matapang returned, he threatened the missionaries life. A crowd gathered and suddenly attacked Father San Vitores and his assistant, Pedro Casor. Both were killed.

The San Vitores monument is important in that it marks the spot where he is purported to have been killed. His martyrdom also marks the beginning of the Chamorro wars which continued intermittently for the next 20 years. The marker also commemorates the arrival of Catholic Christianity to the island and the many changes which its adoption brought to the island's culture. It also denotes the beginning of Spanish influence; an influence which still permeates the island culture. It is probably most important in terms of San Vitores himself, an important figure in Guam's history. He will become even more so if the move for his canonization is successful. For these reasons we recommend the site be considered a valuable one.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A

5	5	2	6	2	2	6	0	1	4	9	5	1	4	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

C

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

D

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen F. Lander

ORGANIZATION

Department of Parks and Recreation

DATE

Oct. 1975

STREET & NUMBER

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Robert BPC

10-10-75

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ACCORDING TO

Lawrence W. Ruppel
W. W. [Signature]

DATE

10/31/75

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

OCT 28 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Our earliest document is that of Father Francisco Garcia, S.J., who says:

Enel lugar de su martirio levanto una capilla a honra de Dios, y una cruz donde quemaron su sangre, que es enfrente de la capilla, el Capitan Juan de Esplana por haberlo prometido en una enfermedad de que sano por intercesion del P. Sanvitores.

Esta capilla y lugar sagrado visitaron el Padre Bustillos que lo escribe y otros Padres de la Compania de Jesus que llegaron a Marianas el ano de 1675, besando y reverenciando aquella tierra santa y dando gracias a Dios por haberles dejado ver aquel suelo dichoso donde derramo su sangre el primer apostol de aquellas islas. 5

Captain Don Juan de Esplana¹ erected a chapel on the very spot² where Padre Sanvitores was martyred. He planted also a Cross on the place where his blood was burned which is in the front of the chapel. He did this because he had promised during an illness of which he was cured by intercession of Padre San Vitores. This chapel and holy place was visited by Padre Bustillos who writes of it and other Padres of the Society who arrived³ at the Marianas, June 14, 1675. They kissed and revered the holy ground and gave thanks to God for permitting them to see that fortunate soil where the blood of the first⁴ Apostle of these islands was shed.

A footnote which accompanies Margaret Higgins translation says: "Nothing remains of the chapel except a few bits of its foundation. It is unfortunate that no effort has in later years been made to mark

this spot."⁴ This gives an indication that in 1938, Margaret Higgins was aware of the remains of the original chapel.

Two years earlier, in 1936, Father Pastor, who had read the Captain Esplana account, tells us that he discovered the "bits of foundation" while teaching catechism at Tumon Bay. Consequently, in 1940, the above mentioned bronze plaque was erected within the contour of said foundation.

Father Garcia's report which was published in 1683, mentions Tuhmon as the village where Father San Vitores was struck by Hirao with a cutlass and run through the chest with a lance by Matapang. San Vitores' body was dragged to the beach where heavy stones were tied to his feet and placed in a light boat. Then he was taken out to sea and thrown overboard.

Before the murderers could row away, a strange thing happened, for the body of San Vitores came twice to the surface, trying to grasp the outrigger. The body rose a third time and grasped the stern of the small craft but Matapang who was on the boat struck one heavy blow at the head with one of the oars and sacred cadaver fell buried in the sea.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

If this information is true, then, where did San Vitores actually die? In the waters of Tumon Bay? Still we could argue that there is no contradiction, since the Spanish text merely says: "en el lugar", meaning, "in the area."

Father Pastor sought further evidence and found a map of Guam, drawn by a Spanish marine in 1889. The map was marked with a cross and a footnote saying the marker indicated the place of the martyrdom of Padre San Vitores.

In 1819, Jacques Arago while in Guam, personally visited TIMBOUN (Tumon) "where," he says, "a spot was marked by a crucifix." However, he mentions no chapel.

-
1. Should be: Don Damian de Esplana who was a military commander of the Mission from June 16, 1674 until June 10, 1675.
 2. It is very significant that the Spanish text does not say: "On the very spot." It says: "en el lugar" which means "in the place" or "in the area."
 3. Aboard the ship San Telmo.
 4. Margaret Higgins: First History of Guam. Guam Recorder. May 1938 Page 38
 5. Father Francisco Garcia S.J. Vida Y. Mastirio del venerable D.L. de SV Primer Apostol de Marums Y. Mestir de Jesuesisto Medrid 1683 p. 296.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
001 81 65	

(Number all entries)

Beaty, Janice J.

1968 Discovering Guam. Faith Book Store

1968 Guam Today and Yesterday. Chas. E. Tuttle Co., Inc.

Carano, Paul

1968 "Diego Luis de Sanvitores, Apostle of the Marianas." Umatuna Si Yuus, May 9, 1968

Carano, Paul

1972 "Father San Vitores." Pacific Sunday News, Feb. 6, 1972

Risco, Alberto S.J.

1938 "On the Island of Thieves." Society of Jesus (trans. Micronesian Area Research Center).

Ansaldo, Marcelo S.J.

"Events that Transpired on June 15, 1668 on the Arrival of San Vitores Mission at Agana Bay." Guam Recorder, New Series, Vol. 1, No. 1, M.A.R.C. (trans. Felicia Plaza, M.M.B.)

U.S. Navy

"First History of Guam." Guam Recorder, Vol. 14, No. 12; Vol. 15, Nos. 1 and 2, (trans. Margaret M. Higgins).

Calvo, Mon. Osco L. (Ed.)

1971 "Apostle of the Marianas, 1668-1672." (trans. by Fa. Juan Ledesma), Original by Alberto Rosco published in Spani, 1935

Carano, Paul

1972 "Martyrdom of San Vitores." Guam Recorder, Vol. 2, Nos. 2-3.

McGrath, Thomas B., S.J.

1972 "A Man Determined." Guam Recorder, Vol. 2, Nos. 2-3

Plaza, Felicia, M.M.B.

1972, "Companions of San Vitores." Guam Recorder, Vol. 2, Nos. 2-3

Arroyoz, Pastor De

1940 "Monumento A un Misionero Espanol, for El Padre Pastor De Arroyoz." El Siglo De Las Misiones (Bilbao). 27 p. 225-228 1940.

