

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only
received SEP 16 1980
date entered APR 16 1981
APRI 69006
April 16, 1981

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

1. Name

historic Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha Laboratory

and/or common NKK Laboratory

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____
state ~~Commonwealth of the~~ ~~Trust Territory of~~ Northern Mariana Islands code _____ county Tinian code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Government of the Northern Mariana Islands

street & number _____

city, town Saipan _____ vicinity of _____ state Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number _____

city, town Saipan _____ state Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.A. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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 NKK Laboratory is a two story concrete structure. The plan is rectangular 5.9 m by 9.2 m. The walls are _____ m high with the top of the roof at approximately _____ m.

The original roof was wood framed with metal roofing; the current roof has somewhat similar materials. The ground floor is concrete slab-on-grade.

An exterior stairs is located on the east.

The existing structure remains unpainted similar to the original condition. The structure has been altered some on the west and south, but the majority of the building and its major elevations remain intact.

The structure is currently being used as a private residence.

A large open concrete trench is adjacent to the south.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1930

Builder/Architect

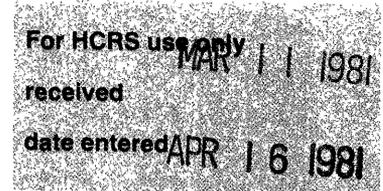
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The NKK Laboratory is significant because there are a limited number and type of structures remaining from the Japanese era. It is further significant as the only laboratory building and as one of few two story structures. The majority of the details are only associated with this structure. A few details such as the window canopies are related to other Japanese structures.

The dominant economic force in the Marianas was the large Japanese corporation Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha (N.K.K. or N.K.K.K.), South Seas Development Company. The firm's main development was the sugar cane industry including a mill on Tinian. This building was their laboratory in Tinian.

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 1

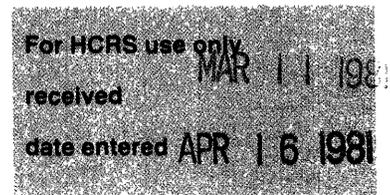
NKK Laboratory

Significance(cont)

The decorative features around the windows are unique to this structure. Some of the details of the stairs are unique to this structure. Other details associated with the Japanese standard detailing of concrete are identical with the other Japanese structures in Saipan and Tinian.

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Continuation sheet

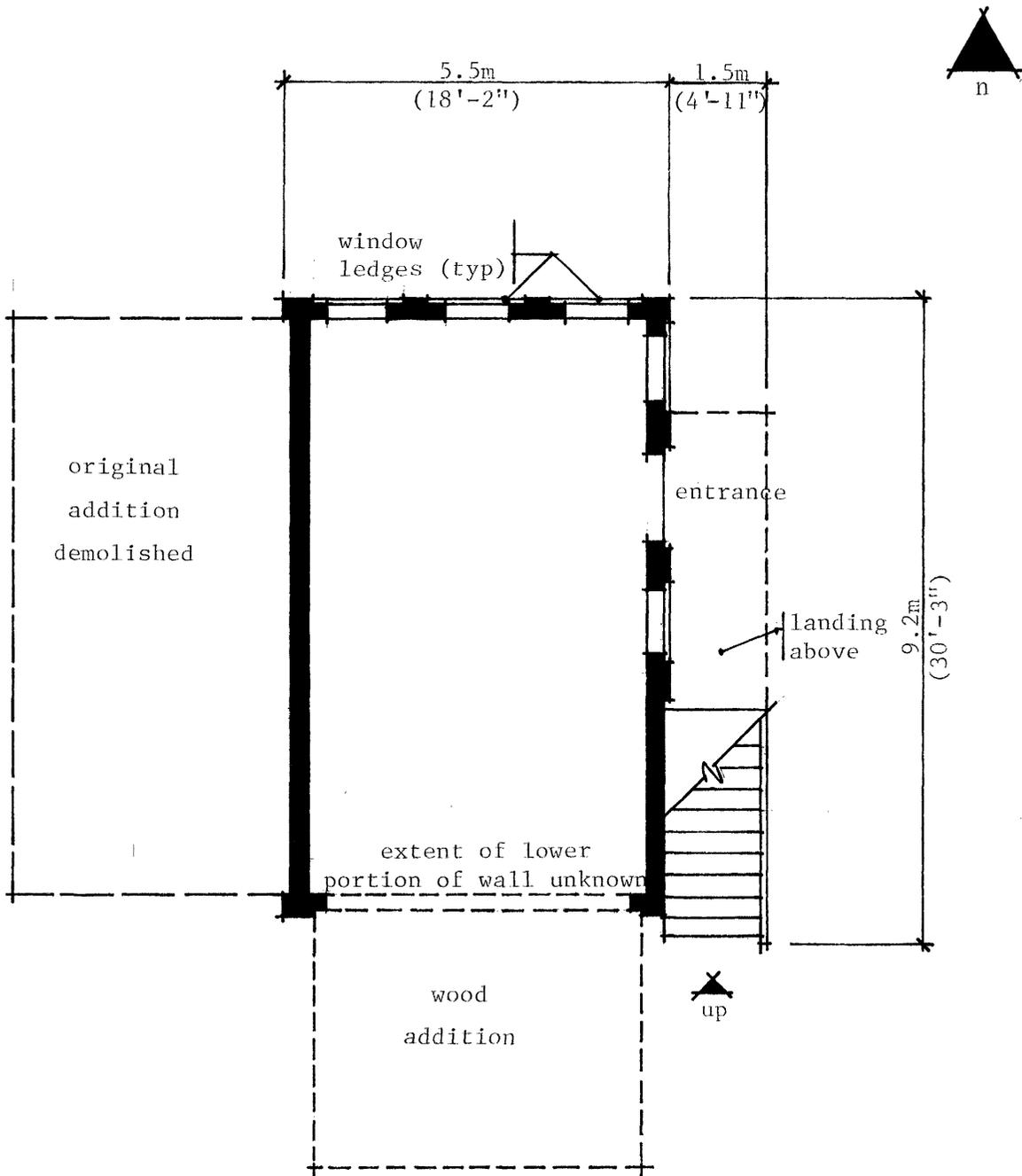
Item number

Page

8. Significance:

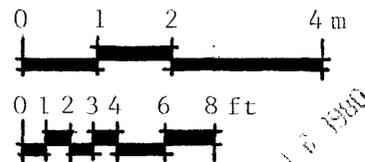
1. Japan seized the Marianas, except for Guam, along with the other German South Sea Islands in October, 1915 and retained them under the Mandates commission of the League of Nations following the Versailles Peace Treaty. During the period from 1922 to 1943 the Japanese South Seas Government maintained a Branch Government in Saipan. In the mid to late 1920's the NKK became very active in Saipan, with some of the major construction in Chalan Kanoa dating from 1928. Major settlements in Rota dated from 1930. Tinian construction was similar to Saipan and Rota.
2. The economic organization in the Marianas as in all of the Japanese Mandates were dominated by three large civilian Japanese Corporations: Nanyo Bocki Kaisha, South Seas Trading Company; Nanyo Takushoku Kabushiki Kaisha and Nanyo Kohatsu Kabushiki Kaisha, NKK.
3. The NKK was the largest and most influential corporation in the Marianas because it was the most important economic organization in the islands. It operated a system of tenant farming on sugar plantations covering 28, 687 acres. Part of the land was owned by the NKK and part was leased from the native Chamorros. The NKK owned and operated 2 sugar mills on Saipan, 1 mill on Tinian and 2 on Rota. The Chalan Kanoa area of Saipan was the support base for the major mill on Saipan. Singsong village was the support base for the major mill on Rota. Tinian Village was the support base for the mill on Tinian. The mill capacity for just the two Rota mills was 1,000 tons of sugar cane per day.
4. The vast majority of the NKK physical plant was destroyed during World War II. Only some of the residential and administrative structures are in use today and these are not being used in support of sugar cane or other original NKK enterprises.

The remaining buildings have all suffered some war damage resulting from the Invasion of U.S. Forces in spring of 1944.

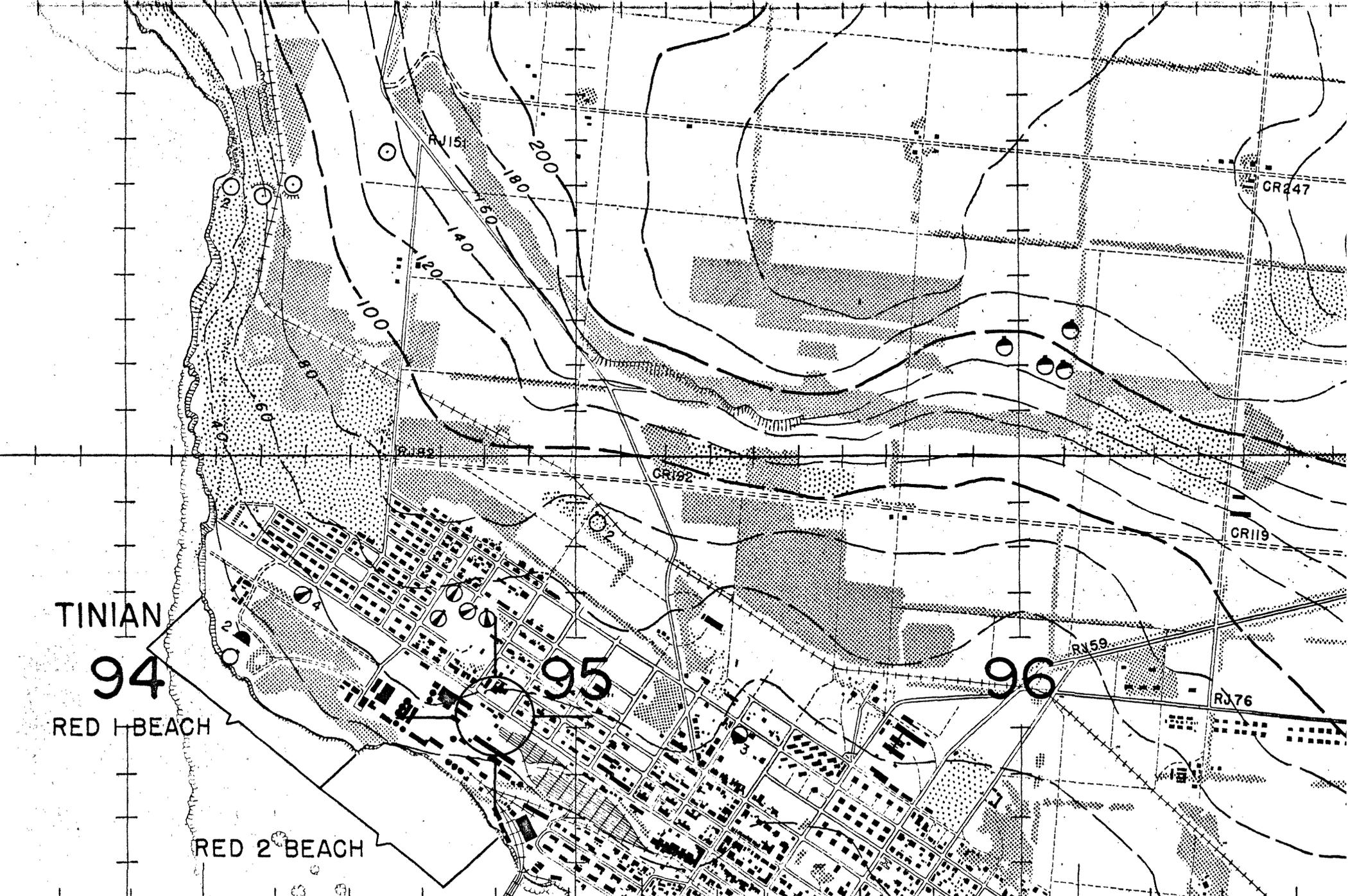


floor plan
map no. 3.

nkklaboratory



SEP 16 1960



TINIAN

94

RED 1 BEACH

RED 2 BEACH

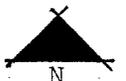
95

96

145° 37' 00"

37' 30"

145° 38' 00"



Map No. 2.
NKK LABORATORY
PREWAR TINIAN

SEP 14 1981 APR 16 1981

SCALE 1:10000

500

0

1000

2000