

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: American Samoa	
COUNTY: Eastern <i>Samoa</i>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>MAR 16 1972</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Navy Building 43

AND/OR HISTORIC: Post Office - Commissary Store

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fagotogo

STATE American Samoa	CODE 03	COUNTY: Eastern	CODE
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**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
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE	CODE
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

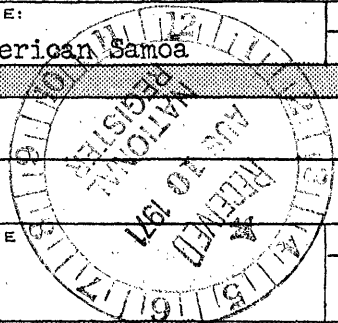
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

## 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 43: This building, approximately 40 feet by 70 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.

The exterior of the building is unchanged since construction in 1917. The 40-foot frontage on the main road contains a wide covered lanai, included under the same roof as the interior.

Interior changes in 1950 converted the Navy Commissary Store into 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.

Note: Navy Building 43, the former Commissary Store and later the Post Office is apparently the second Navy building to carry the number. An earlier Building 43 was located by 1910 at the site occupied in 1970 by Buildings 27 and 56, Boathouse and Boatshed. The former Building 43 shows on a 1910 map, and a 1921 map dated June 30 and identified as Enlisted Men's Club House. The site of the earlier Building 43 was occupied by the boat house and shed by 1941. No available maps cover the 31-year period 1921 through 1941.

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  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) <u>Tropical architecture</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <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: Tennis shoes, dried and canned provisions were among the items imported from the United States and sold in Building 43 to Naval personnel and their dependents 1917-1950 when it was the Commissary Store. After 1950 it became the Post Office, and in 1971 will become the Museum of American Samoa. It was built of concrete blocks and metal in 1917 to withstand Pago Pago bay's tropical conditions.

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Complement of the Naval Station, Tutuila, probably did not differ materially during its half century of existence from that of 1926. World War I saw a modest buildup, and World War II an explosion of personnel and facilities. Except for these unusual periods, year after year the station probably had about the same as listed for 1926 -- 16 officers and 147 enlisted men, which included 70 Samoan men of the Fita Fita guard. There was also a station ship. In 1926 it was a Navy tug, with 54 enlisted men aboard. These naval personnel, and their dependents enjoyed certain privileges not granted to the civilians. Among these was access to the goods on the shelves of the Navy Commissary Store. These were goods from the United States, "home" for many of the customers, and the only local source of such goods in any quantity. "Provisions of all kinds, including meat and such other cold storage supplies as will stand the long haul from the United States are purchased from the Government Commissary. A wide variety of dried and canned provisions is carried," was the way it was put in 1926. Tennis shoes, for use on the station's three courts, were also listed.

Building 43, the Commissary Store, was probably built during the modest buildup of World War I. Its architecture and materials match that of Building 38, the radio station, which was specifically mentioned in the Navy Report for 1918 as built as part of the improvements at the Naval Station, Tutuila. Of the \$23,491.01 spent, about \$9,000 went for the radio station, leaving approximately \$14,000 for other facilities. One was probably the Commissary Store. It served as such through 1950, until about the time the station was deactivated and control of American Samoa assumed by the Department of Interior.

With the need for a Commissary store gone, the well-built structure became the Post Office for American Samoa. Mail for both the Samoans and naval personnel had always been handled through the single office, which had informal branches at other villages on both Tutuila and the Manua islands. In 1926 the post office was listed as third class and was on the naval station. "Mails are received and dispatched (cont. on 10-300a)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Secretary of the Navy, Reports, 1900-1947  
 USN, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Reports, 1902-1947  
 Bryan, Henry, American Samoa, Oct. 1, 1926 (Navy mss.)  
 Gray, J.A.C. Amerika Samoa, Annapolis, c 1960  
 Maps of Naval Station, Tutuila, "1910"; May 1921; 6/30, 1921; 11/12, 1941  
 (GS-11); 6/30, 1948 (14-73); and Topo. T-23 of Government of American  
 Samoa Series, July 1970.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	14 ° 16 ' 50 "	170 ° 41 ' 12 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Russell A. Apple

ORGANIZATION: Hawaii Group, National Park Service

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

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

DATE: 7/27/71

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_



**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 Hayden

Title: Governor

Date: 8/5/1971

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

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

MAR 16 1972

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William Monte  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

July 1969)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

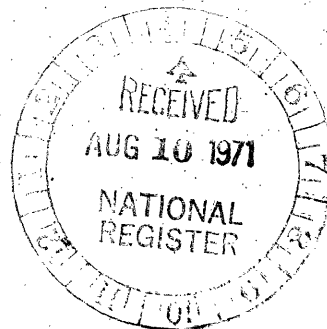
American Samoa	
COUNTY	
Eastern	
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(Number all entries) 8p2

to San Francisco, Honolulu, Fiji, Sydney and Western Samoa every twenty-one days" (1926). In the 1940's the post office was located in Navy Building 19, just off the west end of the "parade grounds," more commonly called by its Samoan name for a village green -- Malae. There was also a "Post Office Pier" for handling mail bags between the office and vessels.

A new Post Office building is under construction in 1971. It is then planned to make Building 38 into the Museum of American Samoa.

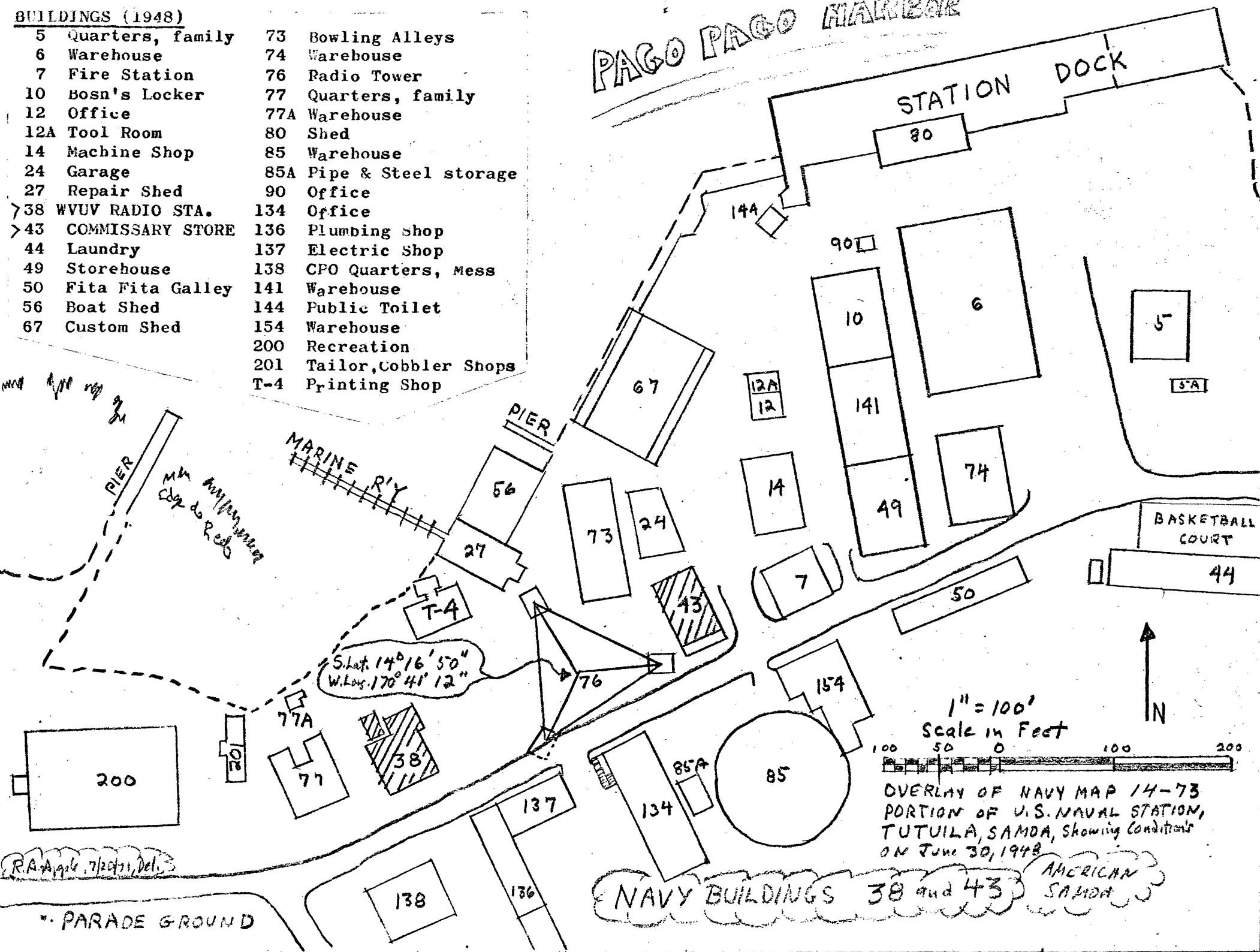
43? 43  
Building 38 is one of at least two buildings left over from the Naval Station, Tutuila, which from their location, construction, materials, architectural interest, and use in historic times can continue in public use and serve as a reminder of the naval facility which once occupied what is now the business and government district of Tutuila.



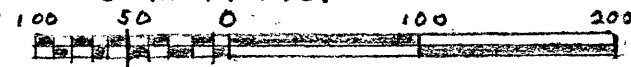
**BUILDINGS (1948)**

- |     |                  |     |                       |
|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 5   | Quarters, family | 73  | Bowling Alleys        |
| 6   | Warehouse        | 74  | Warehouse             |
| 7   | Fire Station     | 76  | Radio Tower           |
| 10  | Bosn's Locker    | 77  | Quarters, family      |
| 12  | Office           | 77A | Warehouse             |
| 12A | Tool Room        | 80  | Shed                  |
| 14  | Machine Shop     | 85  | Warehouse             |
| 24  | Garage           | 85A | Pipe & Steel storage  |
| 27  | Repair Shed      | 90  | Office                |
| >38 | WVUV RADIO STA.  | 134 | Office                |
| >43 | COMMISSARY STORE | 136 | Plumbing shop         |
| 44  | Laundry          | 137 | Electric Shop         |
| 49  | Storehouse       | 138 | CPO Quarters, Mess    |
| 50  | Fita Fita Galley | 141 | Warehouse             |
| 56  | Boat Shed        | 144 | Public Toilet         |
| 67  | Custom Shed      | 154 | Warehouse             |
|     |                  | 200 | Recreation            |
|     |                  | 201 | Tailor, Cobbler Shops |
|     |                  | T-4 | Printing Shop         |

**PAGO PAGO HARBOR**



1" = 100'  
Scale in Feet



OVERLAY OF NAVY MAP 14-73  
PORTION OF U.S. NAVAL STATION,  
TUTUILA, SAMOA, Showing Conditions  
ON June 30, 1948

NAVY BUILDINGS 38 and 43 AMERICAN SAMOA

PARADE GROUND

RA Apple 7/20/71, Del.

MM 4/11/1948  
Cdr. R. R. S.

S. Lat. 14° 16' 50"  
W. Long. 170° 41' 12"