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# ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY

## OF GUAM

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1952

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GENERAL REPORT ON  
ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY  
OF GUAM

Erik K. Reed  
Regional Archeologist  
National Park Service  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:  
L58 WASO-H

OCT 27 1954  
KM

Hon. Carlton Skinner  
Governor of Guam  
Agana, Guam

My dear Governor Skinner:

In accordance with your request, there is transmitted here-  
with a "General Report on Archeology and History of Guam". This study  
was prepared by the National Park Service under authority of the Park,  
Parkway and Recreational Area Act and pursuant to the provisions of the  
Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666) which makes the  
Department of the Interior, through this Service, responsible for a  
nationwide program for the preservation of the irreplaceable historical  
and archeological resources of the United States and its territorial  
possessions.

The report is the result of a thirty-day field study in Guam  
with brief visits to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by Dr. Erik K. Reed,  
Regional Archeologist, Region Three Office of the National Park Service  
in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On the basis of a comprehensive review of  
the ecology, cultural history of the Marianas, and historical and arche-  
ological data relating to Guam, derived from reconnaissance and previous  
studies, recommendations are made regarding conservation and interpre-  
tation of sites.

The cooperation of the various branches of the Government of  
Guam in assisting with transportation and information for the preparation  
of this report is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Conrad L. Wirth*  
Conrad L. Wirth  
Director

Enclosure

is agriculture still carried on. The privately-owned beaches about the northwestern and northern end are unoccupied; clear evidences of old farms (coconut plantations, etc.) and house-sites may be occasionally seen. The one tract of private property within the public domain along the east coast in the north is utilized but not regularly inhabited (the area served as a refuge for a group of Guamanians who supported themselves there during the 2½-year Japanese occupation). The entire northern plateau, in fact, is virtually unpopulated north of Dededo except by the Air Force; there is only one straggling little village -- Yigo -- with an even smaller concentration close by at Santa Rosa, with a number of farms in this vicinity and atop Mt. Santa Rosa. There seem to be only a few other small scattered farms, in the Hilaan vicinity. There is only one seasonally- or temporarily-occupied house on the northern beaches, Juan Castro's place near Ritidian Point. Settlement is almost continuous in the western part of the mid-section of the island, from Asan and Agana (the capital, which was completely destroyed in 1944), and Tumoning through Sinajana and smaller villages to Barrigada and vicinity. On the east, however, the Pago Bay area is unoccupied: the former village of Pago was moved (by the Japanese, I believe) to Sumay, on Orote Peninsula, whence the people were again cleared out, to establish Santa Rita, I understand. Around the southern coast is a series of small towns comparatively undisturbed

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by the war and the post-war period; from northeast to Southwest these are Yona, Talafofo, Inarajan, Merizo, Umatac. Farms and houses are scattered between these to some degree, and extend inland from them up the valleys; much of the interior, however, is not occupied permanently.

The total population (including the military) of Guam in 1950 was 58,754, including about 28,600 Guamanians. Of the total, 20,700 were concentrated in the municipalities of Sinajana and Barrigada, the former including the Agana vicinity. About half of the total is made up by United States military personnel, who would be largely in the municipalities (districts) of Yigo, Dededo, Asan, Piti, Sumay, and Agat.

Agriculture is generally small-scale and practically on a family subsistence basis. Farm products are not exported or even marketed locally to any extent. Livestock raising is not well developed at all, and grazing lands are in generally poor condition. Livestock, poultry, fruit trees, and farming equipment were extensively lost in the war and in the 1949 typhoon. The forests have been removed and destroyed pretty completely. Fishing is almost entirely neglected, surprisingly. In fine, the natural resources of Guam have been seriously depleted and yet are not being fully exploited at present or systematically rebuilt.

A considerable percentage of Guamanian citizens are

working, directly or indirectly, for the military (even so, the Navy or their contractors have found it advisable to import several thousand Filipino laborers). A very high percentage, probably the majority of Guamanians, have changed over completely from a self-supporting basis or subsistence economy to a dollar economy, dependence on cash received by sale of goods or services to, primarily, the military. Actually, the trend to a cash economy, instead of a subsistence basis, began early in the American period, between 1900 and 1911. The traditional attitude toward land ownership and alienation has persisted, however, and Guamanians do not generally sell their lands readily. Toward cash money and other possessions, except land, many or most Guamanians have an understandably careless attitude, after undergoing typhoons, earthquakes, the Japanese occupation, the American reconquest, and finally the less abrupt but heavy impact of post-war military activities and planned reconstruction.

Many complex problems, even further beyond the scope of this report than are topics already discussed, are created by these factors and various others. An important opportunity is offered for a historical and practical study by a social anthropologist interested in culture-change and applied anthropology, to compare and trace developments through (1) the aboriginal culture, as reconstructed from early historical sources and archeological materials, partly

done by Laura Thompson in The Native Culture of the Marianas Islands, B. P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 185, 1945; (2) the modified culture of 1700-1870, from travelers' descriptions and sources such as the memoirs of Governor de la Corte; (3) the people of Guam in the early twentieth century, drawing mainly on Safford, 1906; (4) the situation just before World War II, as discussed in the original 1941 edition of Mrs. Thompson's book Guam and Its People, and other sources; and (5) post-war and present-day Guam and its problems. Studies are needed for Guam such as the paper by Alexander Spoehr, "The Tinian Chamorros," Human Organization 10:16-20, No. 4, Winter 1951, and the book by Alice Joseph and V. Murray, Chamorros and Carolinians of Saipan, 1951.

Chandija (Osborne, ms.) -- an important site, largely destroyed by a NAD road.

Bona (Osborne, ms.) -- a small site, evidently has disappeared, except for the stones which have been set up near the NAD entrance.

San Isidro (Osborne, ms.) -- could not be located, and may have been removed in the course of NAD construction.

Other sites have been reported to exist in the basin, and those downstream from Fena toward Talafofo presumably survive. Very possibly there are important sites to be found along the Ugum River, major tributary from the south. There seems to be none on the grassy uplands on the north of the Fena basin crossed by the Santa Rita-Talafofo road.



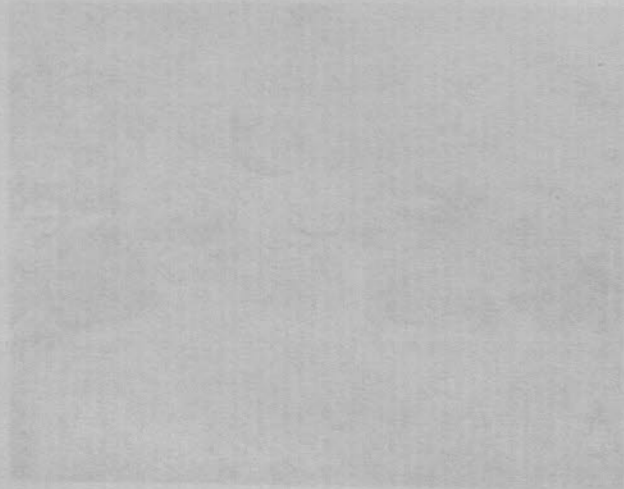
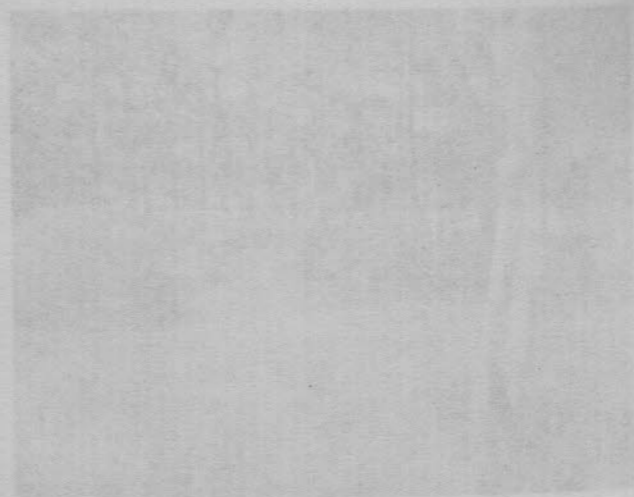
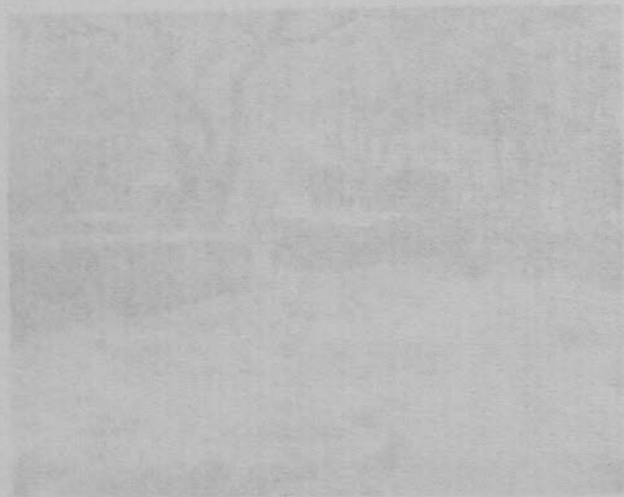
D. RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES AND ACTION PROGRAM

1. Basic legislation and general protection

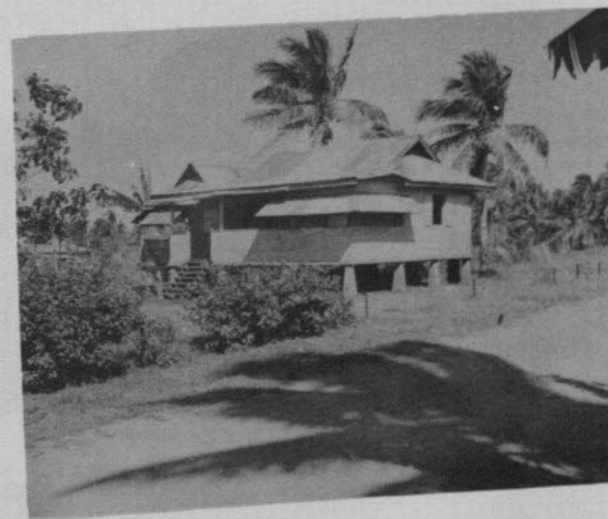
General protection by law of surviving historic structures and archeological sites from destruction or vandalism is the first and fundamental need, especially with the recent transfer of the public domain on the island to the Government of Guam, until which these lands were theoretically covered, like all other federal lands, by the Antiquities Act of 1906. A territorial law, similar to the various state laws protecting historic and archeological remains, should be promptly enacted, stating the general policy of conservation of historical resources in line with the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and specifically prohibiting any disturbance of historic and archeological sites on all government lands, providing for the authorization of excavations or collecting on the island by qualified representatives of reputable institutions, by issuance of permits on the favorable recommendation of the Conservation Committee for Micronesia of the Pacific Science Board (National Research Council), or of the Subcommittee for Pacific Archeology of the same organization. The only other measures looking toward general protection of historic and archeological remains which I can suggest are educational -- involving a degree of care in arousing local interest -- and discussed in section three below.

2. Areas to be reserved or developed

(1) AGANA. The plaza and the adjoining "azotea" or governor's garden should be kept, and kept up, much as they are now, with perhaps the



11a - The detached taza of the  
As Nieves group, island  
of Rota

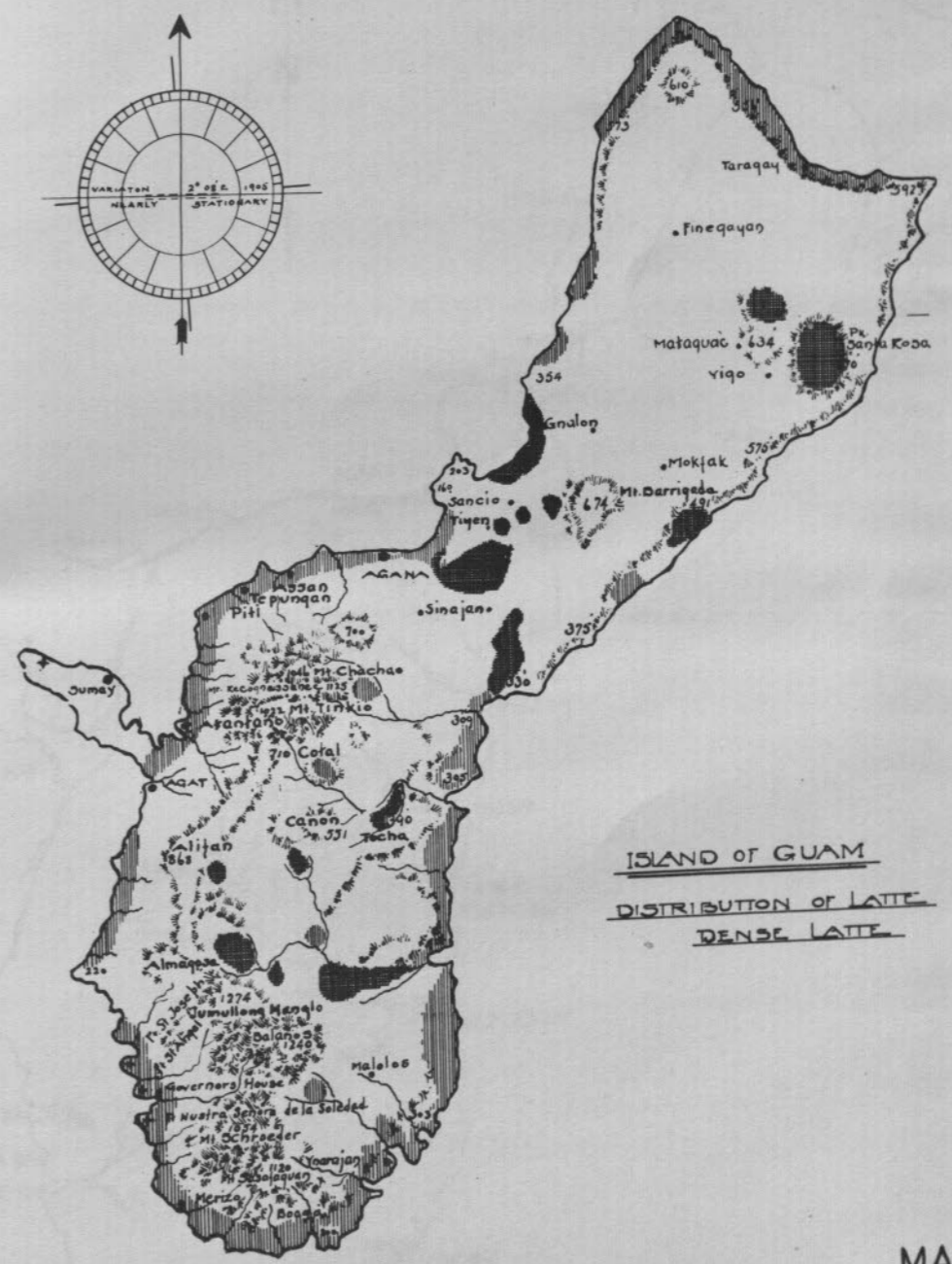
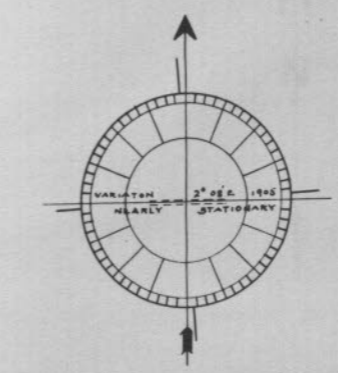


A typical house, at Talafofo, of  
modern materials on the Micronesian  
plan

10a, 10b, and 10c - The huge taza of the House of Tapa on the island of Tapan

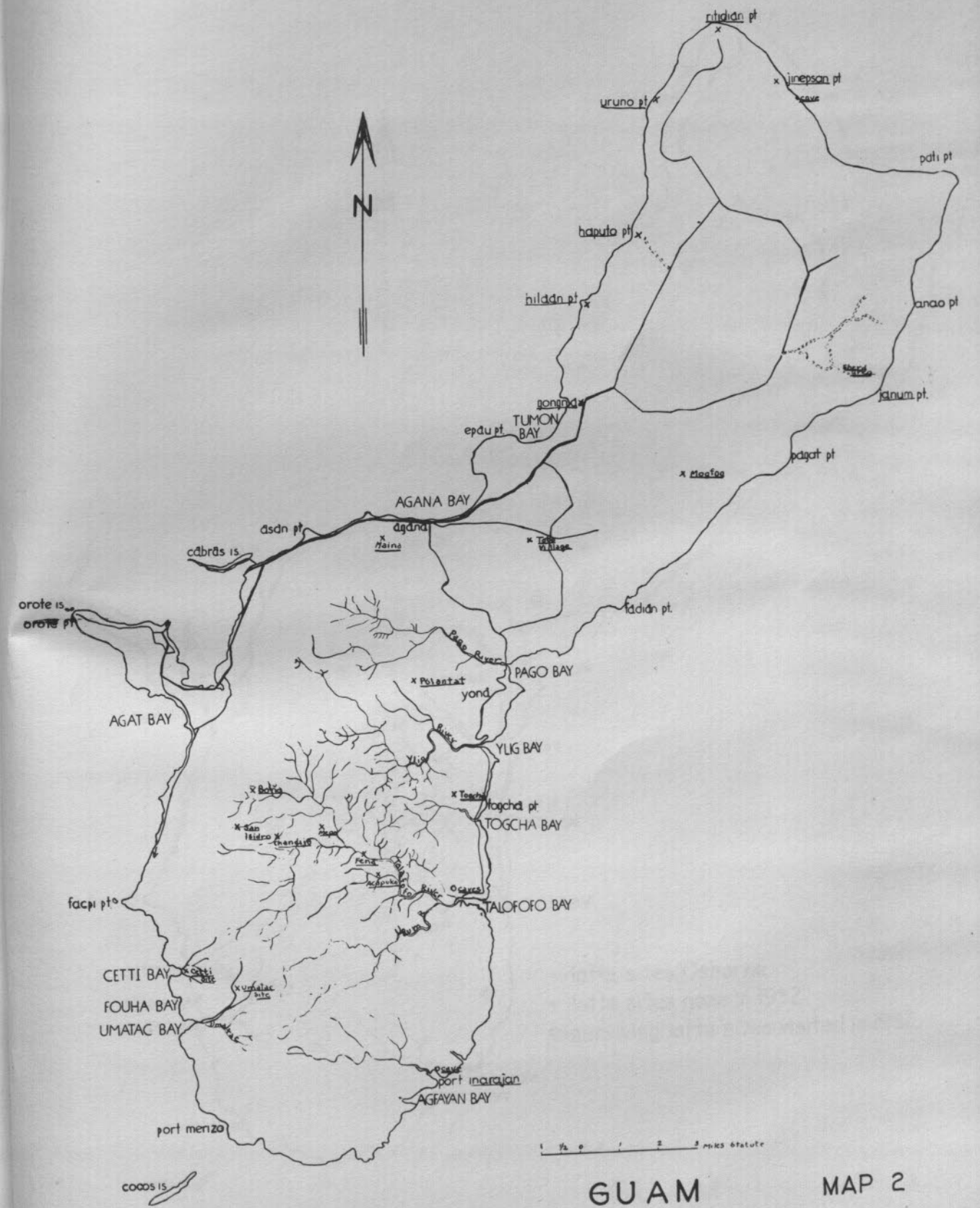
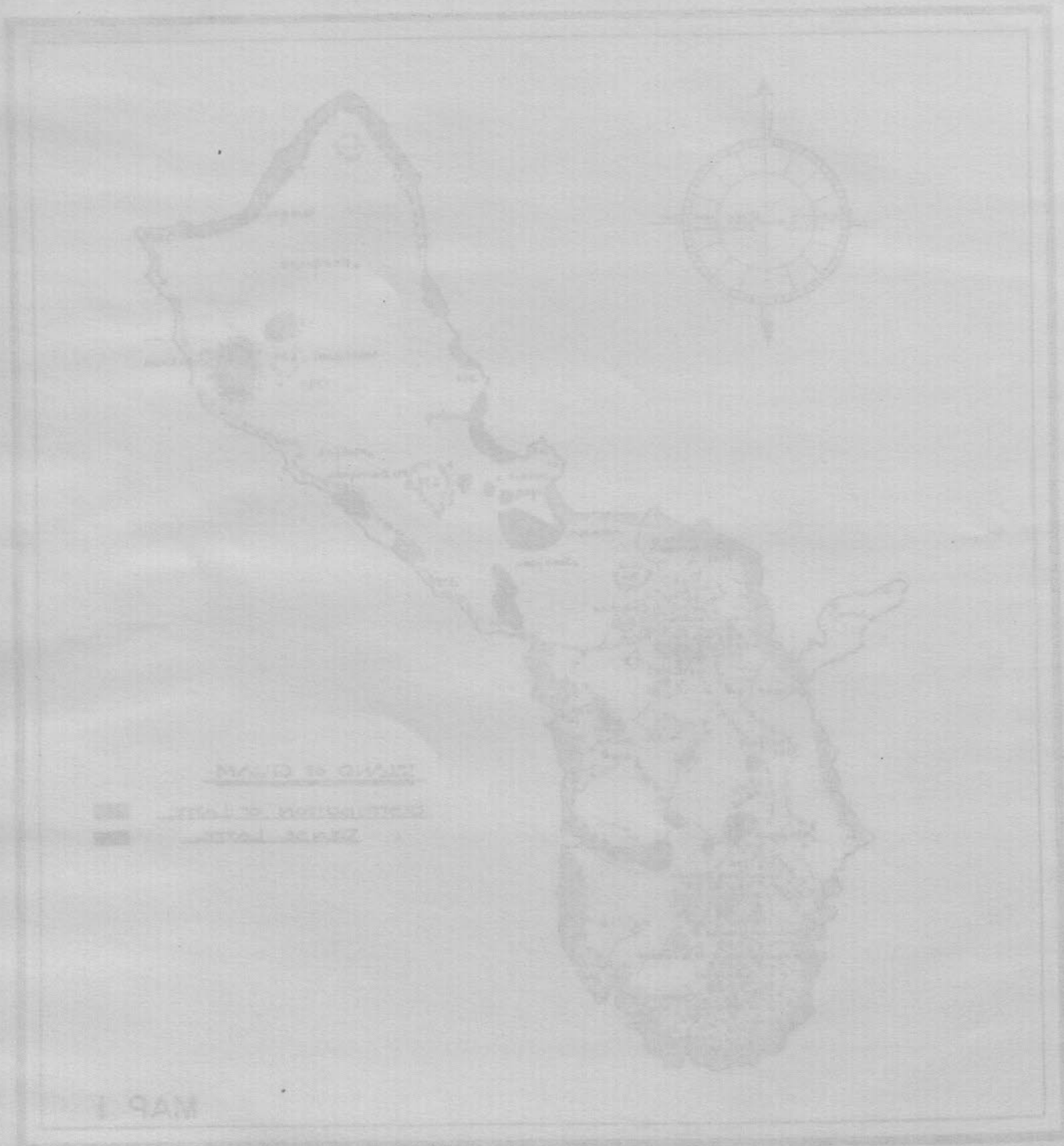
23 - Marker at location of U.S. Signal Corps post

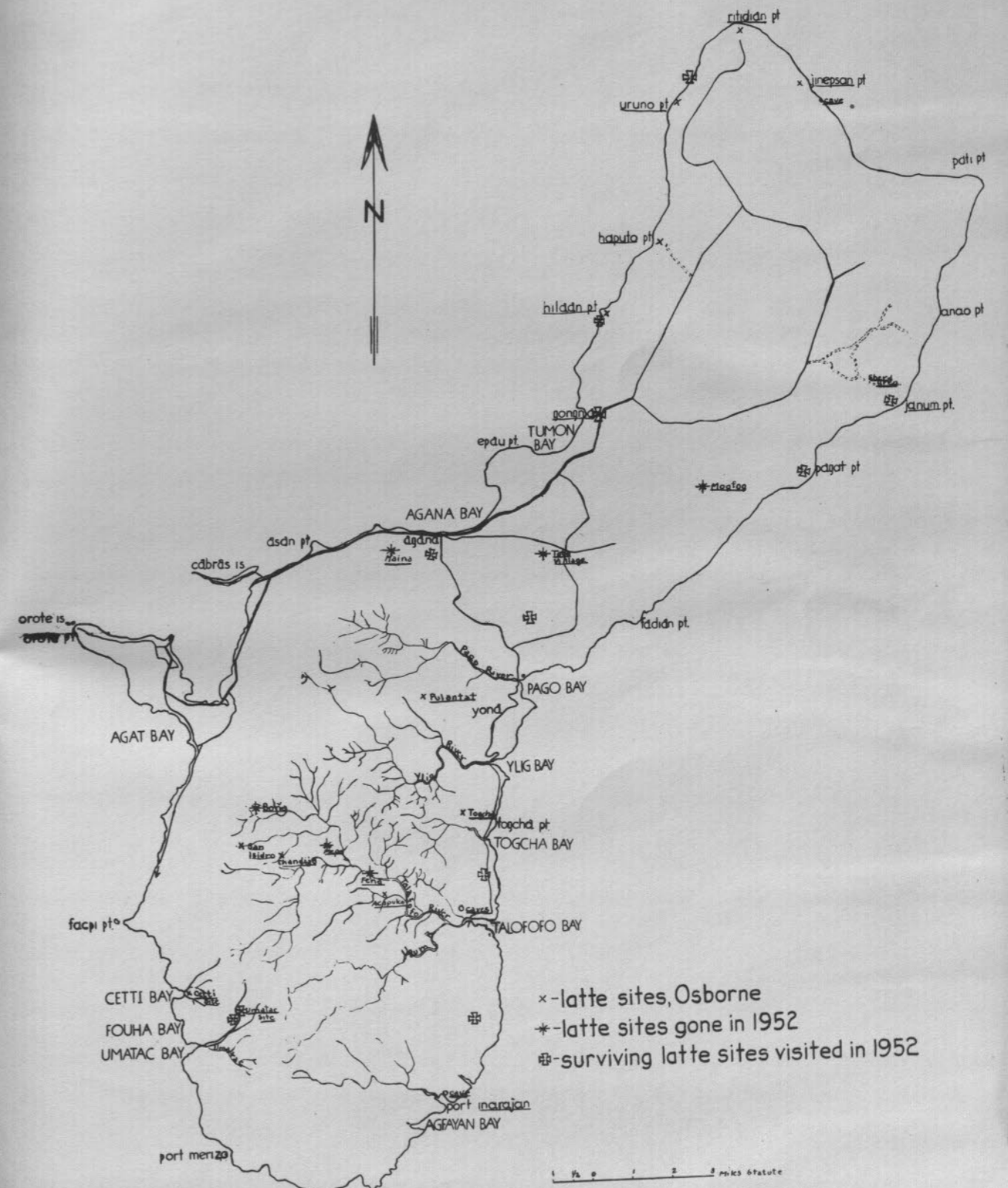
23 - Marker at location of U.S. Signal Corps post



MAP 1

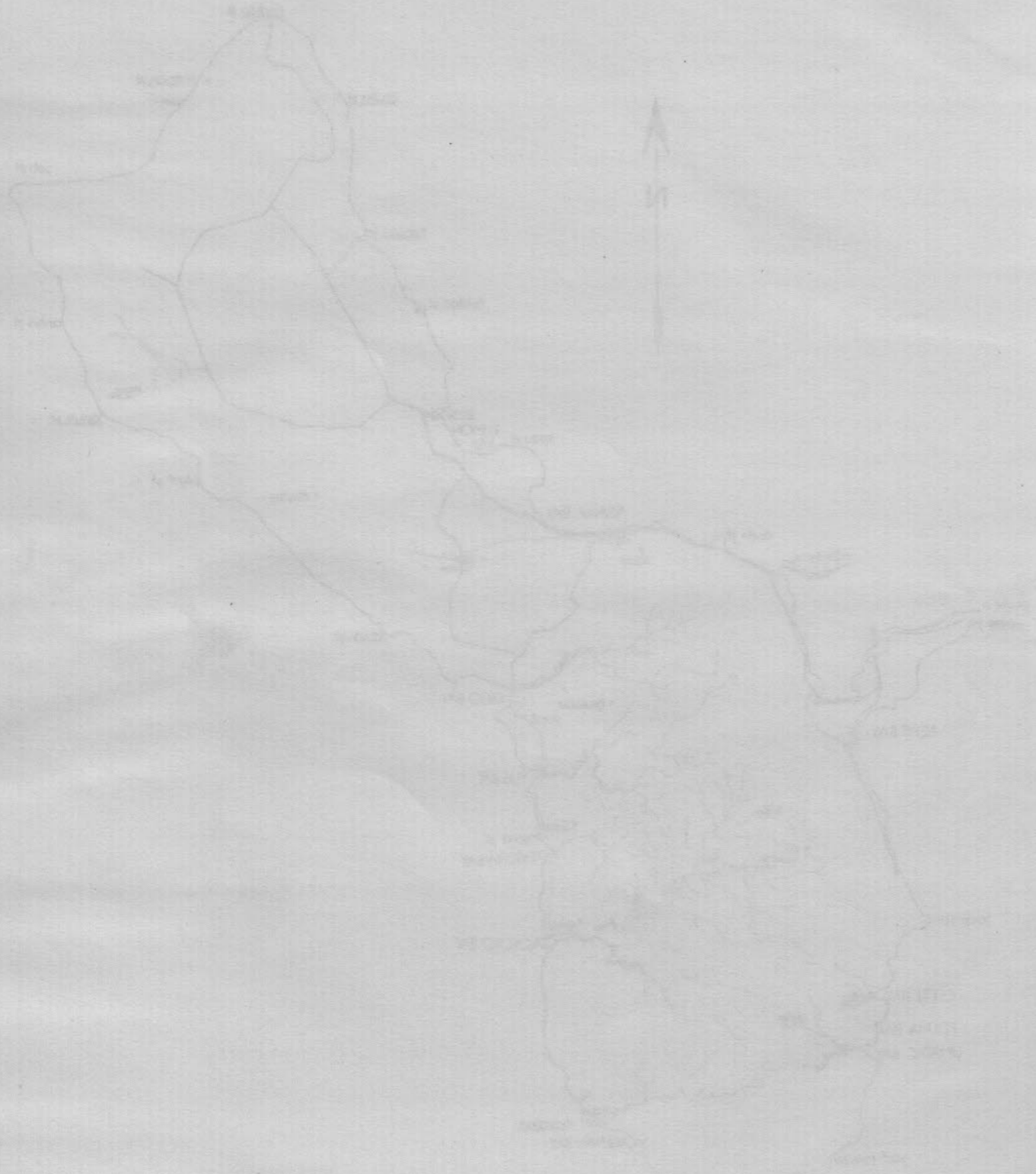






x - latte sites, Osborne  
 \* - latte sites gone in 1952  
 ☒ - surviving latte sites visited in 1952

GUAM MAP 3



GUAM MAP 3