

CAMP EDUSA, BARRACKS FOUNDATIONS
(Wettengel Elementary School)
Northwest of the intersection of Marine Corps Drive and Route 3
Dededo
Guam
Guam

HABS GU-5-A
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
333 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAMP EDUSA, BARRACKS FOUNDATIONS (Wettengel Elementary School)

HABS No. GU-5-A

Location: Northwest of Marine Corps Drive and Route 3 junction
Dededo
Guam County, Guam

Located at latitude: 13.524315, longitude: 144.824675.
This point was obtained in December 2016, using Google Earth (WGS84). There is no restriction on its release to the public.

Date of Construction: 1947

Owner: Guam Ancestral Lands Commission

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The barracks foundations at Camp Edusa are significant for their association with Filipino immigration to Guam in the years following World War II. They are also significant for their association with the development of public education as the site of Wettengel Elementary School during the 1950s and 1960s.

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DESCRIPTION:

The extant architectural features at the Camp Edusa property are a series of three large rectangular concrete slab foundations arranged in an overall H-shaped footprint with total measurements of about 263'-8" x 168'-8". Each of the individual slabs making up the H have measurements of 168'-8" x 36'-8". The terrain is wooded, and gently slopes down from higher ground at the east.

The concrete perimeter curb of each main slab is level with the slab's surface. Along the long sides of each slab, at a spacing of 21'-0", the curb has the remains of imbedded anchor bolts that once secured the building's framing posts. On the surface of each of the main slabs, in line with this 21' spacing, are corresponding imbedded bolt of post anchors for the building's interior framing. These are located 14'-4" toward the interior from each of the perimeter post anchor points, indicating that the framing of each slab had an 8'-0" wide central corridor running its length.

At the points where the individual slabs forming the legs of the H join the center slab, there are segments of concrete slab about 10'-10" wide, which are depressed about 5" below the level of the three main slabs.

Along one edge of each of the main slabs there are two concrete buttresses, which are battered on the sides away from the slabs. These buttresses are located at 42'-0" from the slab ends and are 1'-0" thick and 9'-10" high. The base is typically 3'-5" wide, tapering to about 1'-4" wide at the top of the post. Near the top of each buttress, facing the main slab that each buttress is associated with, is a U shaped bracket of $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick steel that is about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high and 6" wide.

At the northeast end of each of the main slabs that form the legs of the H, there are adjoining concrete structures with footprints about 12' x 14' and doorways opening onto the slabs. At the south leg, this is a single story structure about 9' high and at the north leg this is a two story structure about 19'-4" high. The second story doorway of this structure is not accessible from grade. Both structures have flat, concrete roofs and painted concrete interior wall and ceiling surfaces. Both structures have no windows or other openings aside from the doorways.

Adjacent to the two story structure there is an extension of the concrete slab about 14' x 13'-6" that adjoins the leg slab of the H. Adjoining the center main slab near the mid-point of its west long side is an additional concrete slab extension measuring 11'-6" x 31'-0". The center main slab has ten soil pipe openings from former toilets. Five are in a line at the northwest corner and five in a line at the southwest corner.

Near of the H-shaped footprint, are four associated features: a concrete-based flagpole, two concrete staircases, and a concrete slab with step. The flagpole is located about 120' west-southwest of the H. It has a circular concrete base, 8'-3" in diameter with two steps up to a 6'-5" diameter concrete platform where the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter metal flagpole is centered. The tread of each of the two steps of the concrete base is undercut about 1". The existing metal flagpole is about 12'-3" high, measured from the top platform of the concrete base. The base of the metal flagpole is 7" in diameter and about 1'-2" high. The top of the flagpole is tapered and it appears that a smaller diameter segment of it has broken off of the top. About 2' from the top of the existing pole are two opposing weld marks where crossbars have broken off. A 2'-3" long section of 2" metal pipe was found lying on the concrete base that has matching welds and appears to have been one of these crossbars.

The first concrete staircase (#1) associated with the H-shaped footprint is at the south east corner, about 8' from the edge of the southern main slab, where the terrain slopes down several feet to the edge of the slab. This staircase is 13'-0" x 8'-0" in plan, with eleven steps down to accommodate the sloping terrain. Typical rise of the steps is 5" to 6". The bottom step and the second and third steps from the top have a tread of about 1'-6", the tread of the remaining steps is about 1'-1". At the northeast end of the second step from the top there is a hand lettered inscription in the concrete of five names with no date. The inscription reads:

R.W. Petty
A. Borja
G. Aguon
E. Cruz
J. Mediola

The second concrete staircase (#2) is located about 22' northeast of the northeast end of the southern main slab, where the terrain drops about 2'-10" toward the slab. This staircase is 8'-3" x 4'-3" in plan with a 4' landing at the top and six steps down. Typical rise of the steps is 6" and typical tread is 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This stair has metal railings of welded 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter metal pipe.

The third concrete feature (#3) is located about 75' north of the north corner of the H-shaped footprint. It is a concrete slab, 20'-6" x 24'-5" with one step down to a small concrete landing measuring 4'-0" x 4'-8".

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The three large concrete slab foundations arranged in an overall H-shaped footprint are the remains of a large wood framed building, probably a barracks of Camp Edusa, which was a work camp for Filipino laborers brought to Guam by the U.S. Navy.¹

When post-World War II construction got underway on Guam to upgrade and replace the antiquated or destroyed buildings and infrastructure, a flood of American workers arrived as the Navy bid out the construction of new military projects. This personnel was made up primarily of technicians, foremen, engineers, and other white collar workers for the two main contractors, J.H. Pomeroy of San Francisco, which was constructing the Apra Harbor breakwater; and the Brown-Pacific-Matson (BPM) consortium, which was doing general, island-wide construction. Because the local population on Guam gravitated to higher paying government jobs and did not generally seek to work for the Navy, the naval government of Guam believed that there was a shortage of local laborers to work under these mostly white supervisors. In May, 1947, the Philippine and United States governments agreed to hire Filipino workers to be employed by the U.S. military and its contractors on Guam. This arrangement was stipulated to be managed for the U.S. by the U.S. Navy, which would process and control Filipino laborer's immigration to Guam.² This circumvented U.S. immigration law as an expedient to acquire laborers, but also had the effect of eliminating U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) oversight of the process and terms of the Filipino's contracts. The result of this agreement was that BPM and other contractors were allowed to import as many Filipino laborers to Guam as were needed.

Thousands of Filipinos quickly took advantage of the opportunity to work on Guam and by January 1948 Camp Edusa was built. It was one of four work camps that housed Filipinos brought to Guam by the Navy. The others were; Camp Roxas near Agat/ Santa Rita, which was the largest, housing about 7,000; Camp Marbo at Yigo; and Camp Quezon at Mangilao. Camp Edusa housed between 2,000 and 3,000 laborers. It consisted of the H shaped building and a series of smaller buildings and Quonset huts that extended south east, to present day Highway 27A. About 28,000 Filipinos had been brought to Guam by the end of 1948.³

Although the situation for the Filipinos, who were typically brought in on one-year contracts that were renewable for up to three years, was better than conditions at home, the Navy and the contractors proved to be manipulative taskmasters. The Navy set up a four-tier pay scale with Americans hired on the mainland with the highest wages. Next were Americans hired on Guam, followed by locally hired Guamanians. The lowest pay scale was for Filipino contract workers, at about one third the top American mainland rate, or about 30 cents to 50 cents per hour. The imported Filipinos comprised the largest segment of the labor force on Guam, and

¹ "Department of the Air Force, Master Plan, Andersen- Family Housing." Map dated September 15, 1968, courtesy of Richard Olmo, 36CES/CEV, Andersen AFB, Guam. This 1968 map of USAF properties (the Camp Edusa parcel was transferred from the Dept. of the Navy to the USAF ca. 1958) shows the H-shaped building as "semi-permanent," which indicates wood construction. And, E-mail correspondence, author with Gregg Ikehara, 36CES/CEV Andersen AFB, Guam. December 19, 2016.

² Robert F. Rodgers, *Destiny's Landfall, A History of Guam*. (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press). 1995. P. 217. Bruce L. Campbell, "Filipino Migration to Guam 1945-1975." Website Guampedia.com. 2014. Accessed on January 18, 2017.

³ Rodgers, *Destiny's Landfall*. 1995. P. 218.

this exploitive pay system saved the Navy money and gave high profits to the contractors.⁴ The Navy kept complete control over the Filipinos brought into Guam. The laborers were housed in compounds and within "large barracks buildings."⁵

As Navy contractors completed their post-war work during the first half of the 1950s, camp populations shrunk. Camps eventually were closed, including Edusa, sometime ca. early 1950s.⁶ By about 1953, the H-shaped building was converted to the Wettengel Elementary School.⁷ At the end of the 1955-56 school year, Wettengel Elementary School graduated sixty-two students from the eighth grade out of a total student population of 985 at the school. That year, the overwhelming majority of students of Wettengel Elementary School were dependents of members of the U.S. military (801 students) or dependents of civilian employees of the military (sixty students). A further sixty-seven students were dependents of non-military employees from the US mainland. Forty-six students were Guamanian, eight were Filipinos, two were Japanese, and one Hawaiian.⁸ The H-shaped building remained in use as an elementary school through at least 1966, and possibly until ca. 1968, when a new Wettengel Elementary School was built about ½ mile to the east. The H-shaped building was damaged by Typhoon Pamela in 1976, and was demolished down to the existing foundation at an unknown date.

Aerial photos taken between January, 1948 and December, 1966 show the layout and evolution of the Camp Edusa site. The flagpole is located at the former center of a circular drive in front of the building that extended from Route 1 (Marine Corps Drive). The staircase #1 appears to have provided access from a nearby group of smaller buildings to the southeast. Staircase #2 appears to have provided access from an open area to the east, and concrete slab and step #3 was a small building. By the end of 1966, most all of the smaller buildings and Quonset huts associated with Camp Edusa, to the south east of the H-shaped building, had been removed.⁹ A historic photo ca. 1950s of the Wettengel Elementary School shows the flagpole in front of the building and the H-shaped building with two stories and a gable roof.¹⁰

⁴ Rodgers, *Destiny's Landfall*. 1995. P. 218.

⁵ Paul Carano, and Pedro C. Sanchez. *A Complete History of Guam*. (Rutland VT: Charles E. Tuttle Co.). 1964. P. 330.

⁶ The immigration of Filipino laborers to Guam continued after the 1950 Organic Act, under the authority of the civilian governor. This immigration was reduced after the mid-1950s as local workers grieved that immigrants had an unfair advantage in hiring due to their lower wages.

⁷ Portia Boyd. "Guam in Pictures." June 22, 2014. Website pbase.com/japanukid/guam_in_pictures. Accessed December 30, 2016.

⁸ "Department of Education, Territory of Guam, Annual Report, School Year 1955-56." P. 42.

⁹ USGS HI-PAC Guam, Aerial photographs from collection of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Maps, Aerial Photographs, and GIS (MAGIS): FVU-9 Flight 5, photo #8, January 29, 1948. VU-9, Sortie 31, Flight 11, photo # 11-6, March 18, 1949. VU-5-193, Flight line 6, photo # 20-6, January 26-28, 1953. Mission V1 VAP-61 USN 4489, photo # 122, December 15, 1966.

¹⁰ Howard Scott, photograph ca. 1954 from website www.navyethistory.com/Guam_Scotty_photo12.big accessed December 15, 2016.

Sources

A. Architectural Drawings:

No historic drawings were located for this report.

B. Early Views:

Several aerial photos in the online collection of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Maps, Aerial Photos, and GIS (MAGIS) collection show the building. These photos were taken by U.S. Navy aircraft flying photo reconnaissance missions over Guam and are in the public domain.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Folder/ photo</u>
Jan. 29, 1948	USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1948, Mission FVU-9, Flight 5, photo # 8
March 18, 1949	USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1949, Mission VU-9, Sortie 31, Flt. 11, photo # 6
Jan. 26-28, 1953	USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1953, Mission VU-5-193, Flt 6, photo # 20-6
Dec. 15, 1966	USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1966, Mission V1 VAP-61 USN 4489, photo # 122

A ca. 1954 view of the Wettengel Elementary School is available online at the website:
www.navycthistory.com/images/Guam_Scotty_photo12.big

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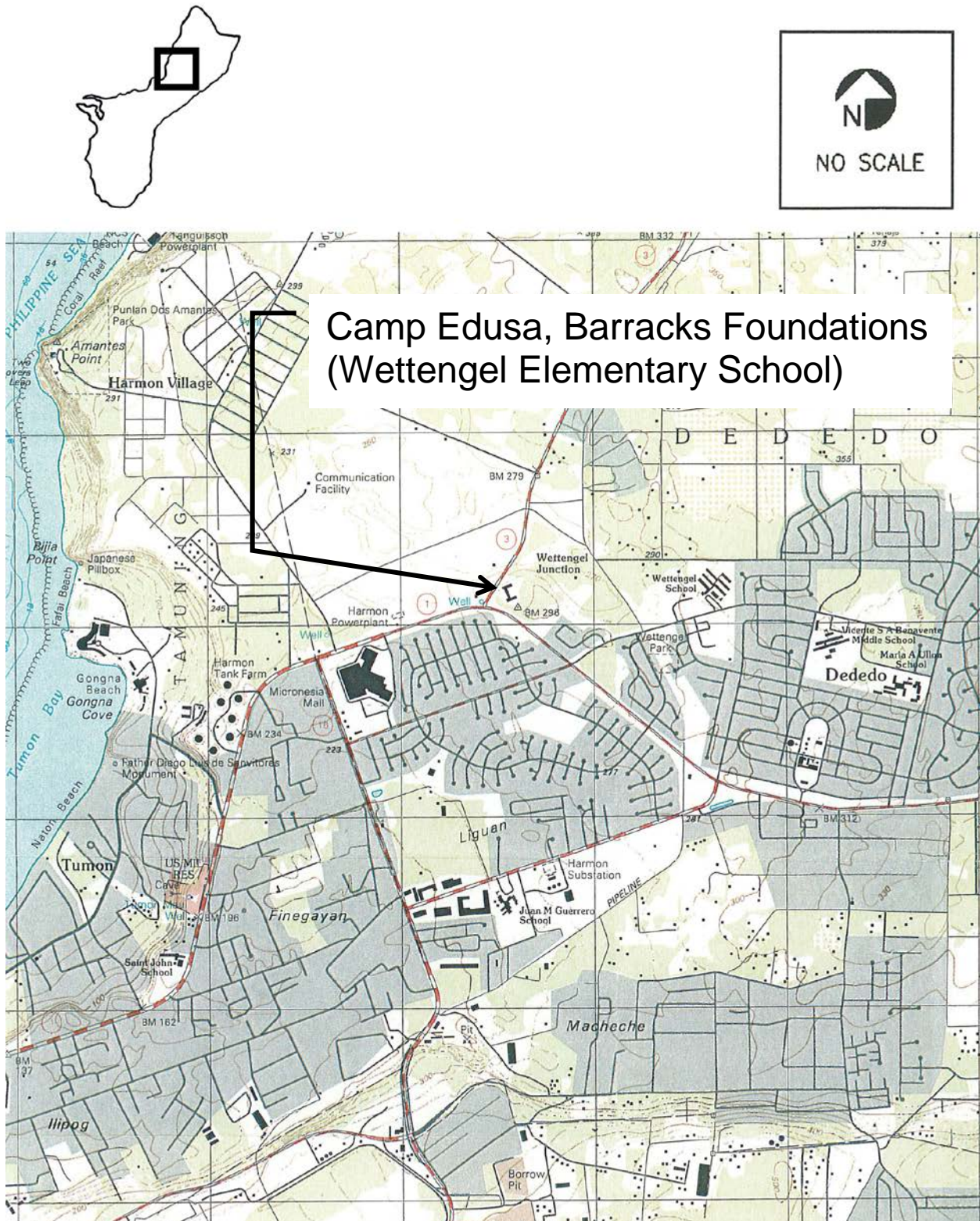
Sanchez, Pedro C. *Guahan Guam, A History of Our Island*. Agana, Guam: Sanchez Publishing House. 1988.

Scott, Howard. Photograph ca. 1954 from website
www.navycthistory.com/Guam_Scotty_photo12.big accessed December 15, 2016.

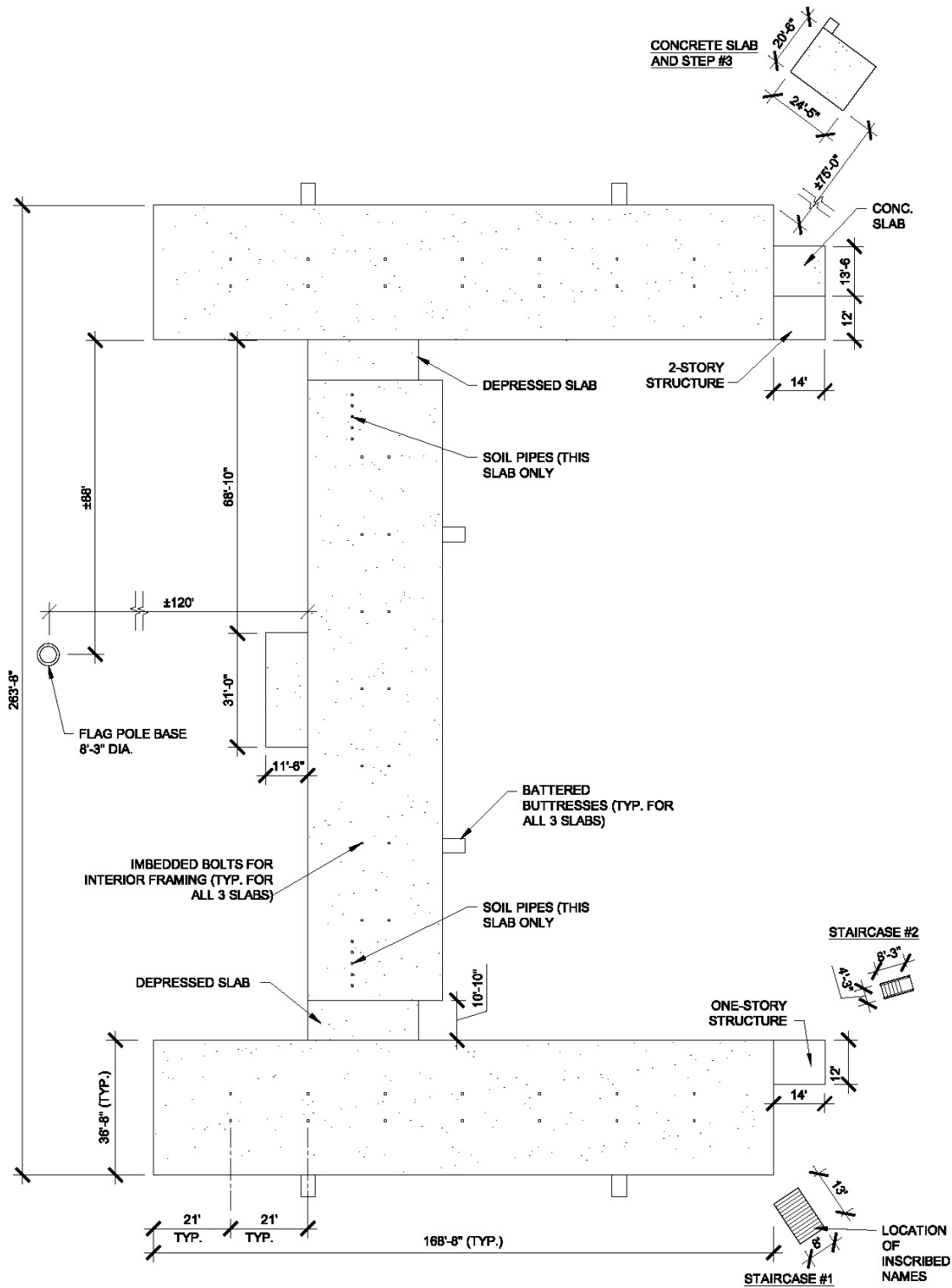
PROJECT INFORMATION

This HABS Level III documentation was produced on the request of Guam Historic Resources Division of the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, as mitigation for the development of the former Camp Edusa site into a shopping center. A Section 106 letter from Guam Historic Resources Division to the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority dated September 16, 2014 (reference RC2014-1028) suggested the HABS report. Field work was done in January 2017 by Dee Ruzicka of Mason Architects, Inc., Honolulu HI. Archival photographs were taken in January 2017 by Victor Consaga of Consaga Visual Arts, Barrigada, Guam.

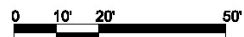
Location map. (USGS, Dededo, GU, 2000)



Field sketch of the three concrete slabs forming the H-shaped foundation, and the associated features. (Prepared by Mason Architects, Inc.)



CAMP EDUSA
3 CONCRETE SLABS ARRANGED IN H-SHAPED FOOTPRINT



Portion of an aerial photo dated January 29, 1948 showing Camp Edusa. North at top. This early photo of Camp Edusa shows the H-shaped building at top center and its circular drive with entrance off of Marine Corps Drive. The remainder of Camp Edusa can be seen extending to the southeast from the H-shaped building. *Photo from the MAGIS Collection at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1948, FVU-9, 9 flight 5, photo # 8. Dated January 29, 1948. This photo was taken by a U.S. Navy aircraft flying photo reconnaissance over Guam and is in the public domain.*



Portion of an aerial photo dated March 18, 1949 showing Camp Edusa. North at top. *Photo from the MAGIS Collection at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1949, VU-9, Sortie 31, Flt. 11, photo # 6. March 18, 1949. This photo was taken by a U.S. Navy aircraft flying photo reconnaissance over Guam and is in the public domain.*



Portion of an aerial photo dated January 26-28, 1953 showing Wettengel Elementary School at former Camp Edusa. North at top. *Photo from the MAGIS Collection at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1953, VU-5-193, Flight 6, photo # 20-6. January 26-28, 1953. This photo was taken by a U.S. Navy aircraft flying photo reconnaissance over Guam and is in the public domain.*



Portion of an aerial photo dated December 15, 1966 showing Wettengel Elementary School at former Camp Edusa. North at top. Note that by this date most all of the other structures of former Camp Edusa have been removed. *Photo from the MAGIS Collection at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, USGS HI-PAC, Guam, 1966, V1 VAP-61 USN 4489, photo # 122. December 15, 1966. This photo was taken by a U.S. Navy aircraft flying photo reconnaissance over Guam and is in the public domain.*

