



Name of Property: Manenggon Concentration Camp

City, State: Yona Municipality, Guam

Period of Significance: Mid-July 1944 - July 31, 1944

NHL Criteria: Criterion 1

NHL Themes:

- I. Peopling Places
 - 6. Encounters, conflicts, and colonization
- IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
 - 3. Military institutions and activities
 - 4. Political ideas, cultures, and theories
- VIII. Changing Role of the United States in the World Community
 - 1. International relations
 - 3. Expansionism and imperialism

Previous Recognition: 1974 Guam Register of Historic Places
2016 National Register of Historic Places (NRIS 16000362)

National Historic Context: *Finding a Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study (2017)*
World War II in the Pacific National Historic Landmark Theme Study (1984)

NHL Significance:

- The Manenggon Concentration Camp NHL is strongly associated with the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II and the wartime experiences of Indigenous Pacific Islanders. It is where the Japanese military incarcerated approximately half of the island's 21,000 Indigenous CHamoru in the weeks before the July 1944 American recapture of the island. It embodies the deprivation, indignity, subjugation, and brutality endured by the CHamoru people during the Japanese occupation and holds symbolic meaning as a testament to CHamoru courage, strength, sacrifice, and triumph over adversity.



- The Manenggon Concentration Camp NHL represents the unparalleled thirty-two-month Japanese occupation of Guam, a US naval base, during World War II, wherein the island and its ethnic population, the CHamoru, legally classified as American nationals, were subsumed into the Micronesian possessions of the Japanese Empire.

Integrity:

- The Manenggon Concentration Camp site retains a high degree of historic integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The fundamental character of the site is its physical environment—an isolated floodplain at the Ylig and Manenggon river confluence. Water was the central natural feature critical to CHamoru survival and remains intrinsic to the community’s relationship to the place.
- Hundreds of shelters constructed of tangantangan, coconut fronds, and bamboo that sheltered the CHamoru detainees were so crudely constructed as to be almost part of the natural environment and wholly ephemeral.
- While some of the valley has returned to subsistence farming, the remainder is largely jungle vegetation, as it was during the period of significance. A narrow road follows the route of the trail shown on a ca. 1942 map. The site remains otherwise largely undeveloped with unaltered topography and typical vegetation people used to survive.

Owners of Property: Antonio Aguon, David Isezaki Aguon, Firia T R Aguon, Jean Marie Lizama Aguon, John P. Aguon, Peter S Aguon, Engracia Taimanglo Atoigue, Tomas T Atoigue, Estate of Maria C Cepeda, Jesse M Fernandez, Co-trustees of the Frank Sn Shimizu and Fermina G Shimizu, Cynthia M Garrow, David Wallace Laballe II, Marion Look-Jameson N/E Trust, Gerardette Ya Palacios, Dolores Cepeda, H O Pangelinan, Rosita F San Agustin, Maria Manibusan San Agustin, Vicente Navarro San Nicolas, Francisco Sn San Nicolas et. al., Vasiti Rerega Vocea Uluiviti, and Rosalia Baza-Ogo Woon, and Government of Guam.

Acreage of Property: 122.41 acres

Origins of Nomination:

- When the property was nominated to the National Register in 2016, the Director of Guam Department of Parks and Recreation requested it also be recommended for consideration for nomination as a National Historic Landmark. The Guam State Historic Preservation Officer co-signed this request. The Organization of American Historians, through a task agreement with the NPS Preservation Partnerships Program in the legacy Pacific West Regional Office (Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, & 12), commissioned the Guam Preservation Trust to prepare a nomination. This was authored by Jolie Liston, PhD, Micronesian Heritage Consulting, LLC, and H. David Tuggle, PhD (for Guam Preservation Trust).

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- The CHamoru people have long recognized the Manenggon Concentration Camp as the central site to commemorate and honor the survivors who endured the Japanese occupation, their triumph over hardship, and as a solemn reminder of World War II and the power of the human spirit.
- NHL designation will recognize the World War II experience of the CHamoru as recommended in the Asian American–Pacific Islander NHL Theme Study.



Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of May 31, 2024):

- Huy Pham, Executive Director, APIAHiP: Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

Landmarks Committee Comments:

- Note in the nomination narrative that no historic photographs exist.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of Manenggon Concentration Camp in Yona Municipality, Guam, as a National Historic Landmark, with the minor corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of Manenggon Concentration Camp in Yona Municipality, Guam, as a National Historic Landmark.