

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Sogelau Hill Flag Pole

Other names/site number: NA/AS-25-067

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 163 ft. w. of Post Office, up path, before 4th house, flag & clearing to w.

City or town: Fagatogo State: AS County: Tutuila Is., E., 001

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
- District ☐
- Site ☒
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/flag pole

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/flag pole

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL/Iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Sogelau Hill Flag Pole is a flat terrace on the side of a hill measuring approximately 10.2 m. in length, 6.7 m. in width, oriented along an axis of 248 degrees magnetic. The property is located on a hill in Fagatogo, in Mauputasi County, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. The area is filled with lush grass partially shaded by the hill and trees tended by an extended Samoan family that owns the area. In the center of the terrace is a flag pole where the first formal raising of the flag of the United States occurred, on April 17, 1900, symbolizing American Samoa's deed of cession to the United States.

Narrative Description

After the Dutch navigator, Admiral Jacob Roggeveen, was the first European to sight the future islands of American Samoa in 1722, European visits to Manu'a and Tutuila ensued by French explorers, Louis Antoine de Bougainville in 1768 and Count Jean Francois de Galaup Le Perouse in 1787, and the British Captain Edwards in 1971. Thereafter, *palagi* or European persons residing in Samoa or the "Navigator Islands" comprised an assortment of mostly ex-

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convicts, deserters, mutineers, and cult leaders before international recognition of the Samoa Islands began in the nineteenth century.

Christian missionary efforts in the Samoan Archipelago began with the arrival of the Marquesan Reverend Hura, who survived a shipwreck and swam to Fitiuta on Ta'u Island and converted the Tuimanu'a. Around the same time a U.S. citizen named Norval, who the Samoans called "Salemi" landed on Tutuila and translated the English Book of Prayer into Samoan. Formal Christian missions in Samoa began with Peter Turner, a Methodist missionary, in 1828, and Reverend John Williams of the London Missionary Society, who landed on August 24, 1830, at Sapapali'i, Savai'i, now part of Western Samoa. In 1832, Reverend Williams visited the growing church membership in Fitiuta and all other congregations in Manu'a.

During the next sixty years, three international powers: Germany, Britain, and the United States vied for control of the Samoan islands. The United States was interested in providing coaling stations and deep-water ports for its expanding Navy and commercial vessels. In 1839, Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, USN, commanding the United States Exploring Expedition, arrived in Pago Pago harbor in Tutuila aboard USS Vincennes, and reported on the excellence of the harbor as a suitable deep-water and protected port for American vessels. In 1872, Commander Richard Meade, USN, arrived in Pago Pago aboard USS Narragansett, seeking rights for a coaling station. On March 2 of that year, Meade and Paramount Chief Mauga Manuma signed the first American-Samoan treaty at Gagamoe, at the western end of Pago Pago Harbor. The U.S. Congress, however, failed to ratify this treaty and clashes then occurred between American landing forces and Samoans.

England and Germany were also interested in acquiring rights in Samoa. Tensions grew among these nations but abated after the Apia Hurricane of 1889 destroyed several American, German, and English warships in Apia Harbor, now in Western Samoa, and the citizens from each country questioned why naval vessels were so prominent at this remote locale. On November 14, 1899, Freiherr Speck von Sternberg from Germany, Mr. C.E.N. Elliott from Britain, and the Honorable Bartlett Trip representing the United States held a negotiation aboard the U.S.S. Badger and signed an agreement later referred to as the Berlin Agreement or Treaty of Berlin. The agreement, ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1900, recognized Germany's control of 'Upolu, Savai'i and adjacent islands, American hegemony in Tutuila, Aunu'u, and Manu'a, and Britain's suzerainty in the Solomon Islands and influence over Tonga. After the Senate's ratification, Tutuila, Aunu'u, and Manu'a became a U.S. Territory.

On April 17, 1900, the principal chiefs of Tutuila signed the Deed of Cession, which recognized American control over their island. This signing of the Deed of Cession, which transferred authority of the American Samoa to the United States occurred at the Sogelau Hill Flag Pole, the property in this nomination.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☒ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1900 - 2017

Significant Dates

APRIL 17, 1900

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Sogelau Hill Flag Pole meets criterion “A” of the National Register because Sogelau is a place associated with a ceremony and event important to the establishment of the government and community of American Samoa. For over 110 years, Sogelau Hill is renowned as the site for the first formal raising of the U.S. flag in American Samoa following its Deed of Cession to the United States. The family owning Sogelau Hill continues to maintain the property and encourages annual visitation of Samoans and visitors to the site, the locale of a significant event: the first Flag Day of American Samoa. Each year, the inhabitants of Tutuila and tourists ascend the concrete steps and pathway to Sogelau Hill and are treated to a spectacular view of the harbor at Pago Pago, from the well-maintained grassy area surrounding the flag pole. The site exhibits the iron pieces that anchored the first flag pole of American Samoa in 1900. The beauty of the views at and from Sogelau Hill causes feelings of civic pride and spectacle associated with the Sogelau locale. These outlooks combine with the largely intact conservation of the terrace that has been visited for more than a century and yet retains its continual association with the day that established American Samoa, its government, and its association with the United States.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

A flagpole was erected on Sogelau Hill, above new construction for a wharf and coaling facilities. Attending the ceremony was the governor of German Samoa, Heinrich Solf, who arrived on the *SMS Cormoran*. The first governor of American Samoa, Benjamin F. Tilley, presided over the flag raising as the master of ceremonies. Tilley was residing on board the *USS Abarenda*, utilizing the vessel as a domestic dwelling and center for the new American Samoa government. The vessel remained in the harbor of Pago Pago.

A crowd of U.S., European, and Samoans climbed Sogelau Hill and attended the ceremony. Tilley first read the Proclamation of the President McKinley and then the Order of the Secretary of the Navy that established the Naval Station in Tutuila. High ranking Samoan chiefs then read the Deed of Cession culminating with Chief Mulitauaoepele, a High Orator, signing the deed to formally establish the agreement. Subsequently, Reverend Father Meinaidier of the Roman Catholic Mission and Reverend E. V. Cooper of the London Missionary Society offered prayers.

Governor Tilley subsequently declared, “Tutuila and all east of the 171st parallel of longitude, to be under the sovereignty of the United States, and I hoist this flag as a sign that these islands now form part of the territory of the United States” (Sunia 2009:146). Then students from the Fagalele Boys School, of the London Missionary Society, sang the Star Spangled Banner. When the U.S. national anthem ended, the *SMS Cormoran* and *USS Abarenda* fired their naval guns to provide a salutation of the event. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the crowd mostly dressed in

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white descended the hill and walked to the *malae*, the central area of Fagatogo for a celebratory feast.

Several years later, the flag pole was disassembled and removed from Sogelau Hill. In the 1920s, contractors excavated the side of Sogelau Hill to acquire fill for wharf construction.

In 1999, the Boy Scouts of the American Samoa with the American Samoan Historic Preservation Office identified the location of the original flagpole site and established a new metal flag pole approximately 9.3 m. from the site of the first flag pole.

Current Condition

Today, the Sogelau Hill Flag Pole is regularly visited as tourists and Samoans ascend the concrete steps and path to the site. The date of April 17 continues to be lauded in American Samoa as Flag Day is an annual holiday where villages throughout Tutuila gather, entertain, and celebrate with other villages. The location and date of the first raising of the American Flag on Tutuila is taught in American Samoa schools, and is noticed in government-sponsored tourism campaigns for the territory. The current caretaker, Fualau Mata, maintains the lush grass and welcomes visitors to the site, encouraged by the High Chief Ta'amu Iakopo, and readily shows Samoans and tourists the site of the original flag pole. The Mata family considers the Sogelau Hill Flag Pole as a place where people are able to visit and share the history of American Samoa.

Conclusion

Sogelau Hill Flag Pole is a property that is historically and culturally significant to the American Samoan community for several reasons. First, the site provides a physical reference for a widely known event and American Samoan holiday: Flag Day. Second, it is a location where an American Samoan civic tradition has been maintained as the population of American Samoa continues to utilize the site following its original function on April 17, 1900. Third, the use of Sogelau Hill as the locale for the raising of an American Flag is a tradition has been maintained and passed down for 117 years. Fourth, Sogelau Hill maintains its historic integrity of location, association, setting, and feeling. For these reasons, Sogelau Hill qualifies as a significant property under the National Register criterion "A."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Darden, T.F. (Capt., USN). 1952. *Historical Sketch of the Naval Administration of the Government of American Samoa: April 17, 1900-July 1, 1951*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
 - ☐ Other State agency
 - ☐ Federal agency
 - ☐ Local government
 - ☐ University
 - ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1/2 Acre

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 2L | Easting: 533802 E | Northing: 8421505 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Sogelau Hill Flag Pole site is located within a 20 m. radius from UTM 2L 533802 E 8421505 N.
The location is shown as a point (A) or as a polygon on maps attached to this form.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the terrace that exhibits a grass foundation near a concrete path featuring the former location of the flag pole, the new location of the flag pole built in 1999, and two iron foundations from 1900. The location of the landscape contributes to the integrity of setting and feeling as the terrace continues to be the site of a U.S. flag in the same manner it did in 1900.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Joel D. Klenck, Principal Investigator
organization: PRC, Inc.
street & number: 1665 Brookside Cir. E.
city or town: Jacksonville state: FL zip code: 32207
e-mail: jklenck@paleorc.com
telephone: (904) 258-8992
date: June 29, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property:	Sogelau Hill Flag Pole
City or Vicinity:	Fagatogo Village
County:	Tutuila Island E., 001
State:	AS
Photographer:	Joel D. Klenck
Date Photographed:	June 5, 2017, to June 6, 2017
Location of Original Digital Files:	1665 Brookside Cir. E., Jacksonville, FL 32207
Number of Photographs	7

Photo #1 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0001): Sogelau Hill showing terrace where original flag pole was erected in 1900 and the current flag pole established by the Boy Scouts of American Samoa in 1999. Photograph taken from 29 degrees magnetic, at UTM 02L 0533802 E 8421505 N.

Photo #2 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0002): Sogelau Hill showing flag pole established by the Boy Scouts of American Samoa in 1999. Photograph taken from 125 degrees magnetic, at UTM 02L 0533803 E 8421505 N.

Photo #3 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0003): Sogelau Hill exhibiting original location of flag pole from 1900. Photograph taken from 294 degrees magnetic, at UTM 02L 0533800 E 8421507 N.

Photo #4 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0004): Sogelau Hill showing first iron base that stabilized the flag pole in 1900. Photograph taken from 25 degrees magnetic, at 0533801 E 8421508 N.

Photo #5 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0005): Sogelau Hill showing second iron base that stabilized the flag pole in 1900. Photograph taken from 195 degrees magnetic, at 0533800 E 8421501 N.

Photo #6 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0006): Sogelau Hill showing placement of original iron anchors for the flag pole in 1900 before they were move to present locations by the Boy Scouts in 1999 (See Photographs #4 & #5). Photograph taken from 248 degrees magnetic, at 0533803 E 8421505 N.

Photo #7 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0007): Sogelau Hill view overlooking harbor at Pago Pago. Photograph taken from 300 degrees magnetic, at 0533778 E 8421484 N.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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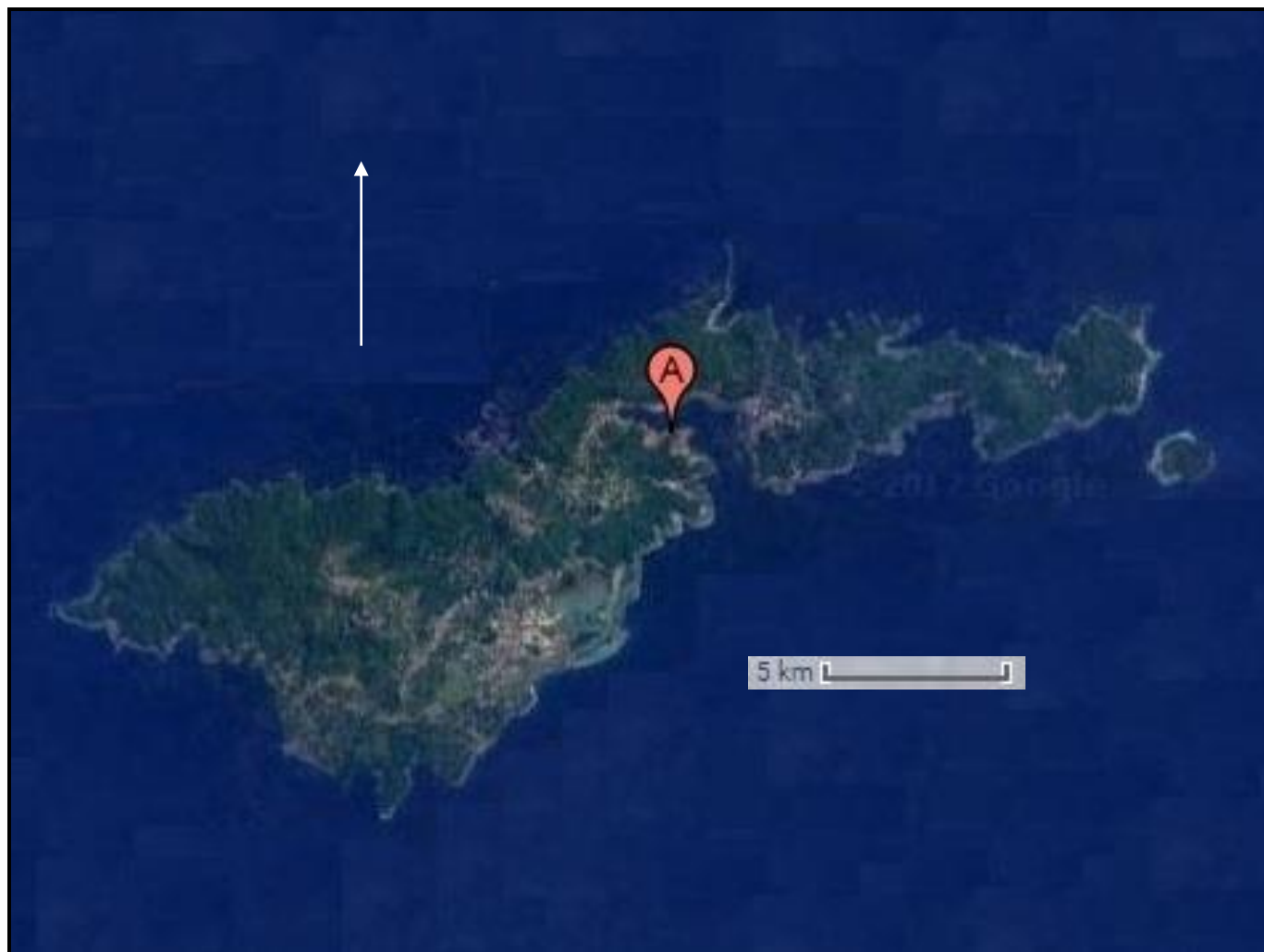


Figure 1: Satellite Map showing location of Sogelau Hill Flag Pole in Fagatogo (Point A), in Mauputasi County, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Arrow is oriented north.

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Figure 2: Administrative Map showing location of Sogelau Hill Flag Pole in Fagatogo (Point A), in Mauputasi County, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Arrow is oriented north.

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Figure 3: Terrain map showing location of Sogelau Hill Flag Pole in Fagatogo (Point A), in Mauputasi County, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Arrow is oriented north.

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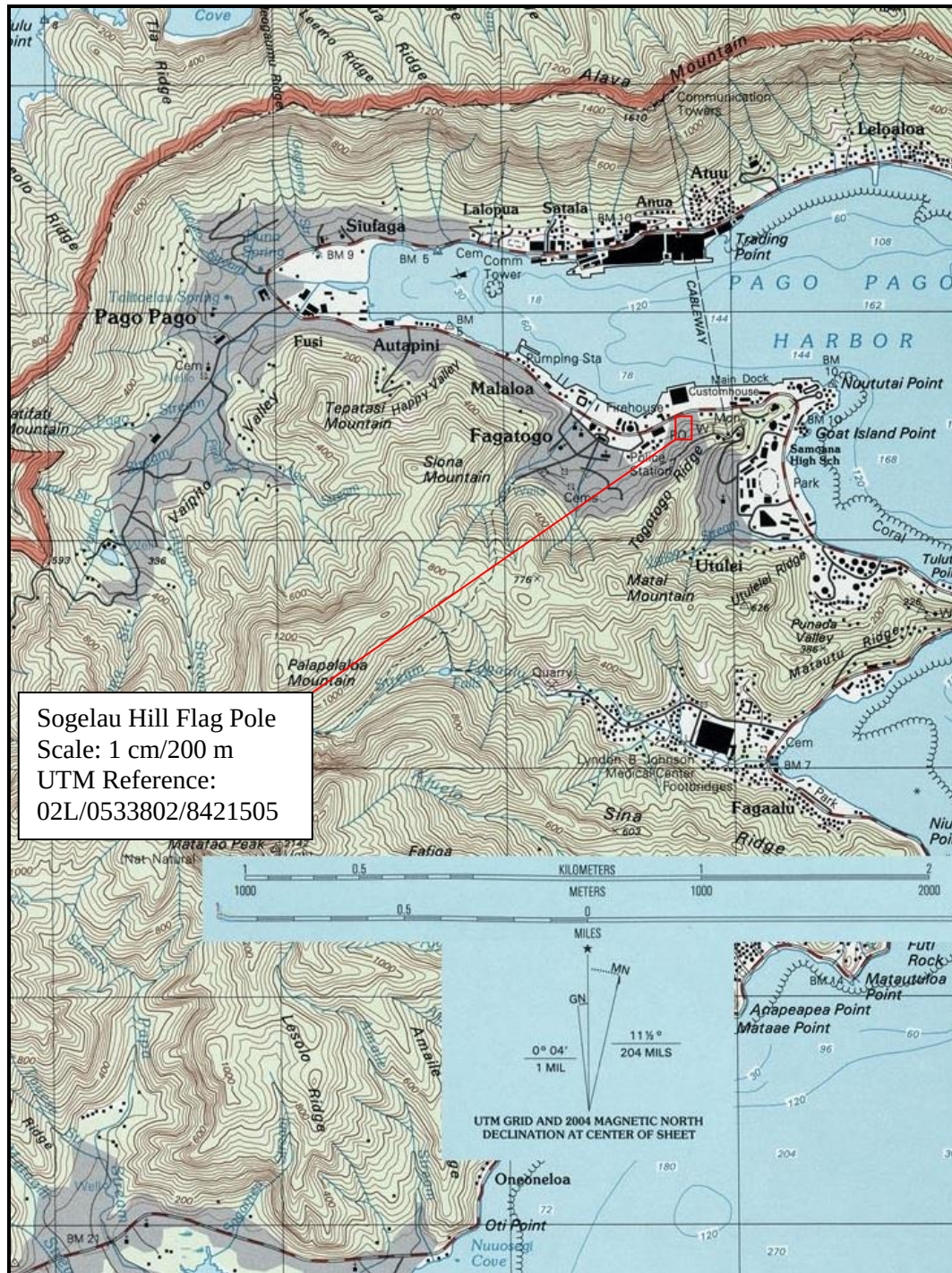
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Figure 4: Topographic Map showing location of Sogelau Hill Flag Pole in Fagatogo, in Mauputasi County, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Arrow is oriented north. USGS Quadrangle: Tutuila Island West, Scale 1:24,000. USGS 2001 (NIMA 7945 II NW-Series X866).

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Figure 5: Satellite Map showing location of Sogelau Hill Flag Pole in Fagatogo (Point A), in Mauputasi County, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Arrow is oriented north.

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Photo #1 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0001): Sogelau Hill showing terrace where original flag pole was erected in 1900 and the current flag pole established by the Boy Scouts of American Samoa in 1999. Photograph taken from 29 degrees magnetic, at UTM 02L 0533802 E 8421505 N.

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Photo #2 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0002): Sogelau Hill showing flag pole established by the Boy Scouts of American Samoa in 1999. Photograph taken from 125 degrees magnetic, at UTM 02L 0533803 E 8421505 N.

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Photo #3 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0003): Sogelau Hill exhibiting original location of flag pole from 1900. Photograph taken from 294 degrees magnetic, at UTM 02L 0533800 E 8421507 N.

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Photo #4 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0004): Sogelau Hill showing first iron base that stabilized the flag pole in 1900. Photograph taken from 25 degrees magnetic, at 0533801 E 8421508 N.

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Photo #5 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0005): Sogelau Hill showing second iron base that stabilized the flag pole in 1900. Photograph taken from 195 degrees magnetic, at 0533800 E 8421501 N.

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Photo #6 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0006): Sogelau Hill showing placement of original iron anchors for the flag pole in 1900 before they were move to present locations by the Boy Scouts in 1999 (See Photographs #4 & #5). Photograph taken from 248 degrees magnetic, at 0533803 E 8421505 N.

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Photo #7 of 10 (AS_Tutuila Island E._Sogelau_0007): Sogelau Hill view overlooking harbor at Pago Pago. Photograph taken from 300 degrees magnetic, at 0533778 E 8421484 N.

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Historic Photo 1 of 5: Photograph of Flag Pole on Sogelau Hill circa. 1900.

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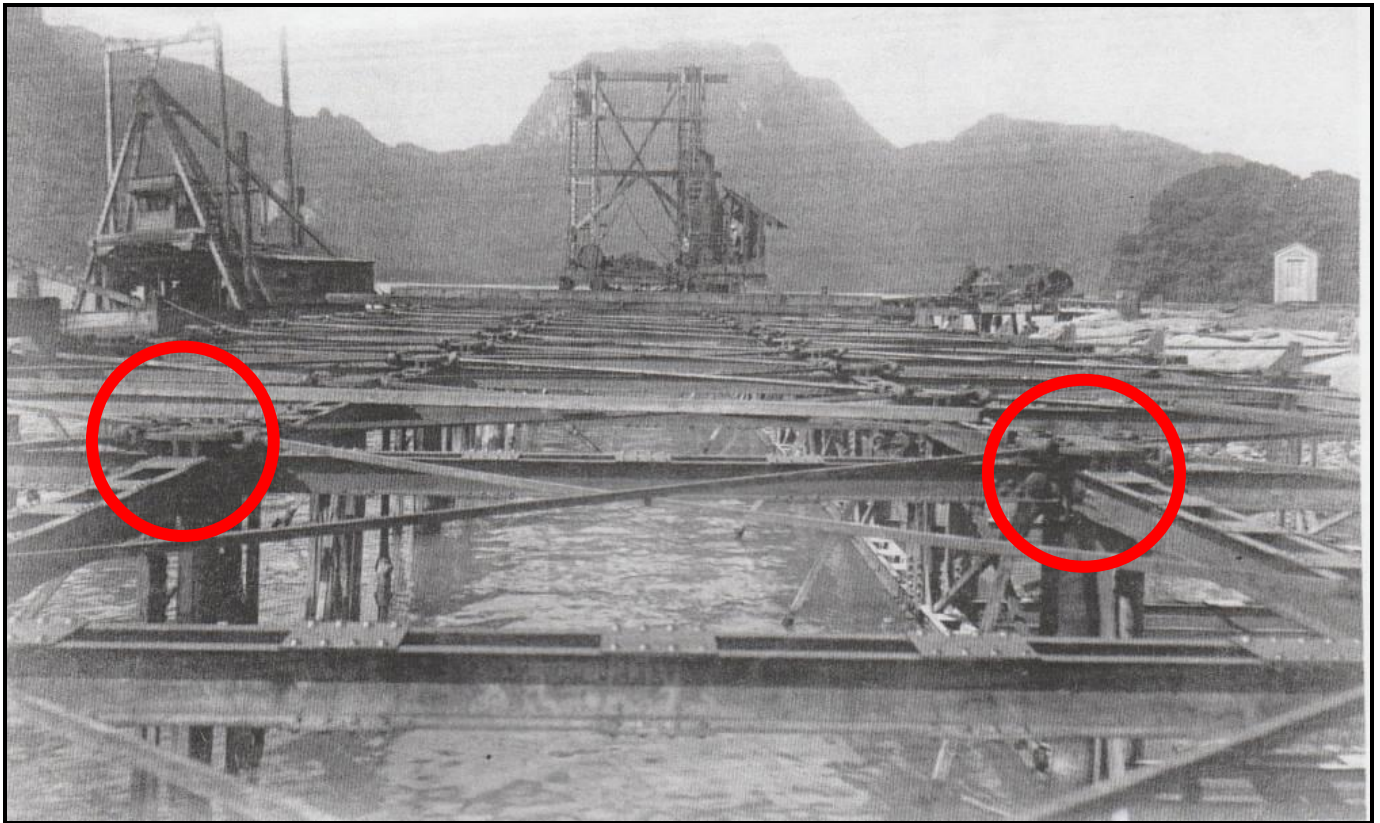
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Historic Photo 2 of 5: Photograph taken around 1900 of the construction of the wharf in Pago Pago harbor showing the iron foundations used to support the metal frame. Some of these objects were transported to Sogelau Hill to fasten the wires holding the flag pole. Compare this photograph to Photos #4 & #5 from the survey.

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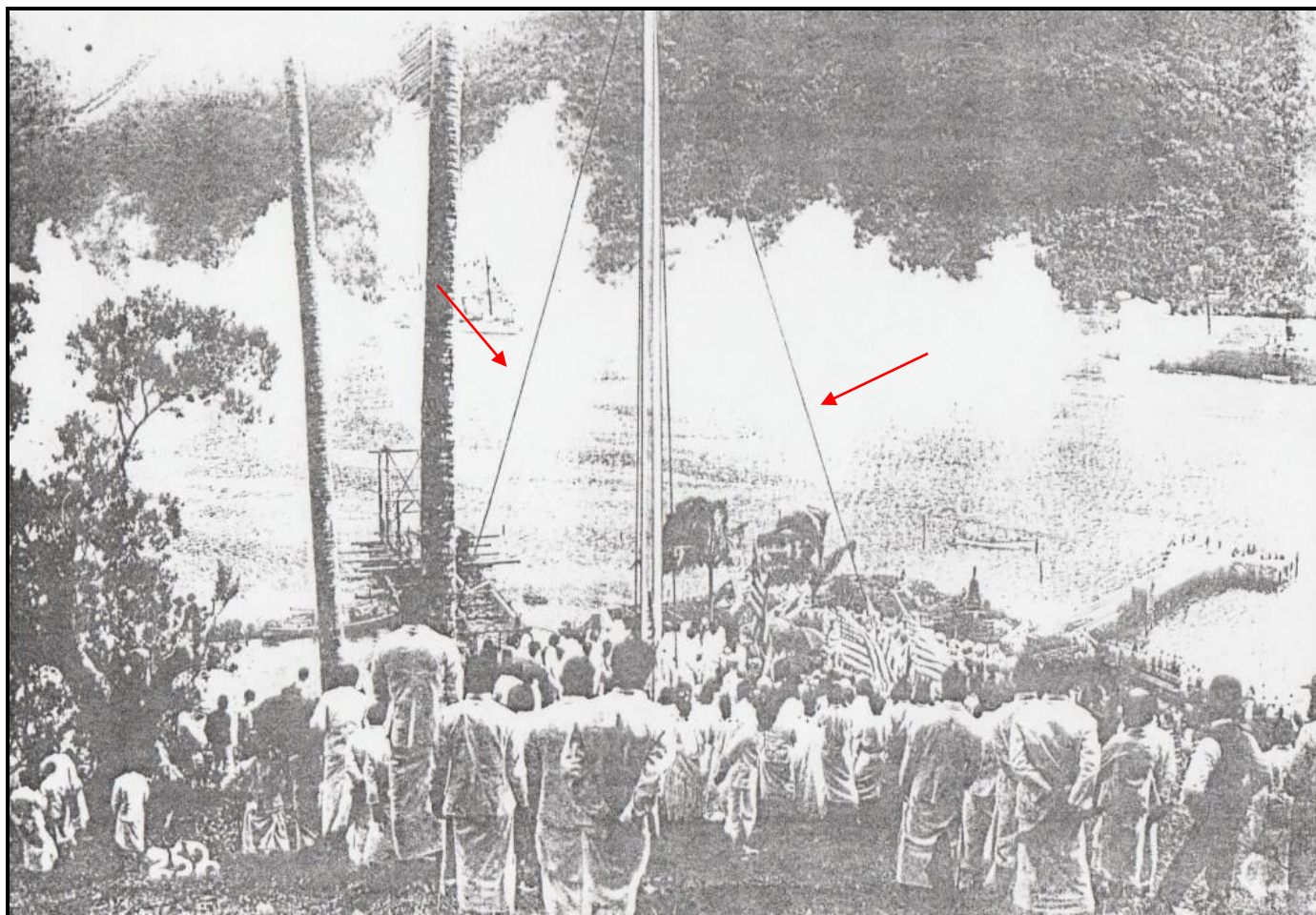
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Historic Photo 3 of 5: Photograph on April 17, 1900, the first Flag Day. Photograph shows the wires (red arrows) supporting the Flag Pole that were anchored to the iron objects shown above and in photos #3 and #4 identified during the survey.

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Historic Photo 4 of 5: Photograph taken 1903 of the U.S.S. Abarenda in Pago Pago harbor. The vessel fired the salutation after the first raising of the U.S. flag on Sogelau Hill and served as the residence of Benjamin F. Tilley, the first governor of American Samoa.

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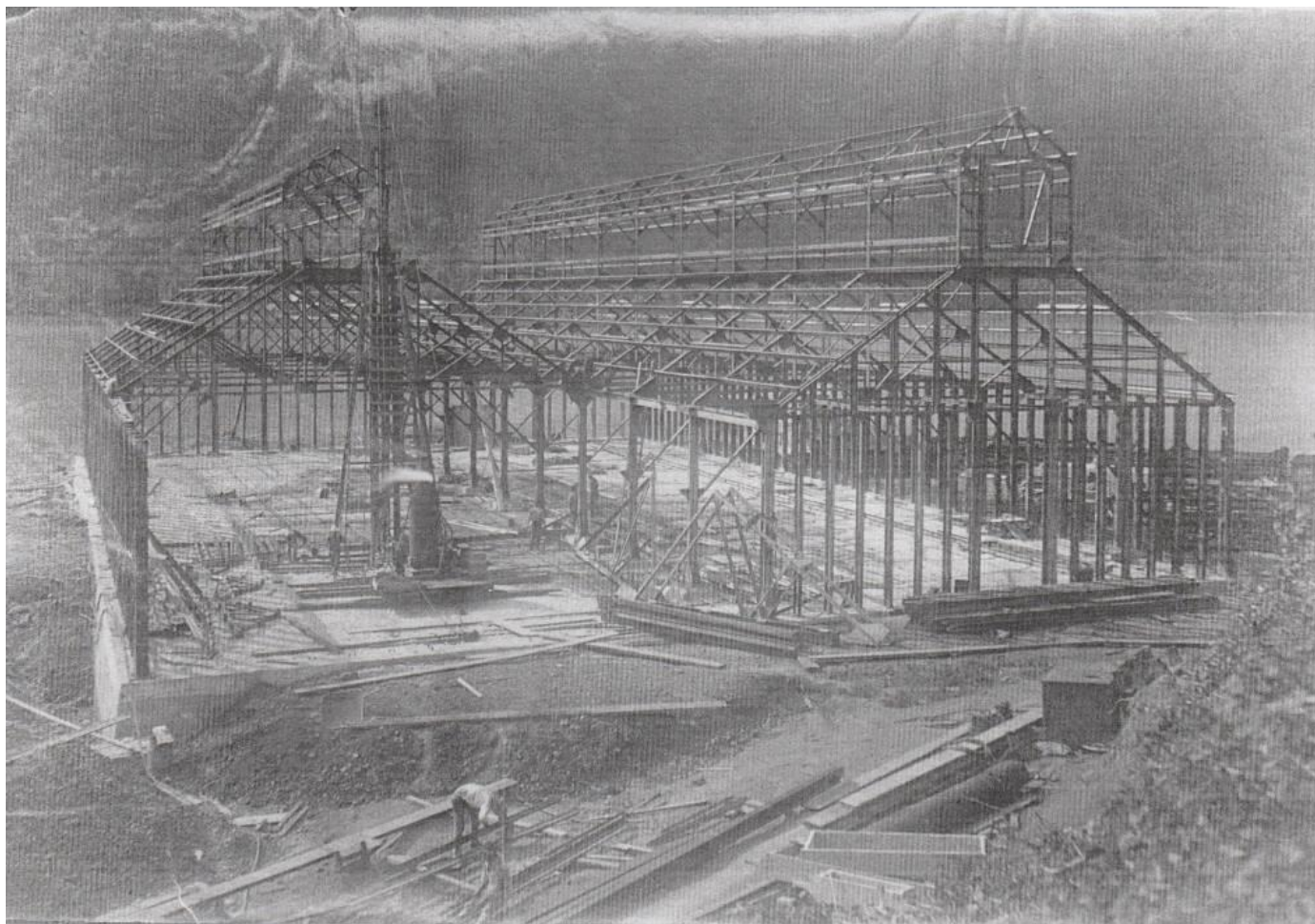
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Historic Photo 5 of 5: Photograph taken after April 17, 1900, of wharf construction as evidence by Flag Day photographs that show the wharf without a fully completed iron frame. See Historic Photo 3 of 5 above.

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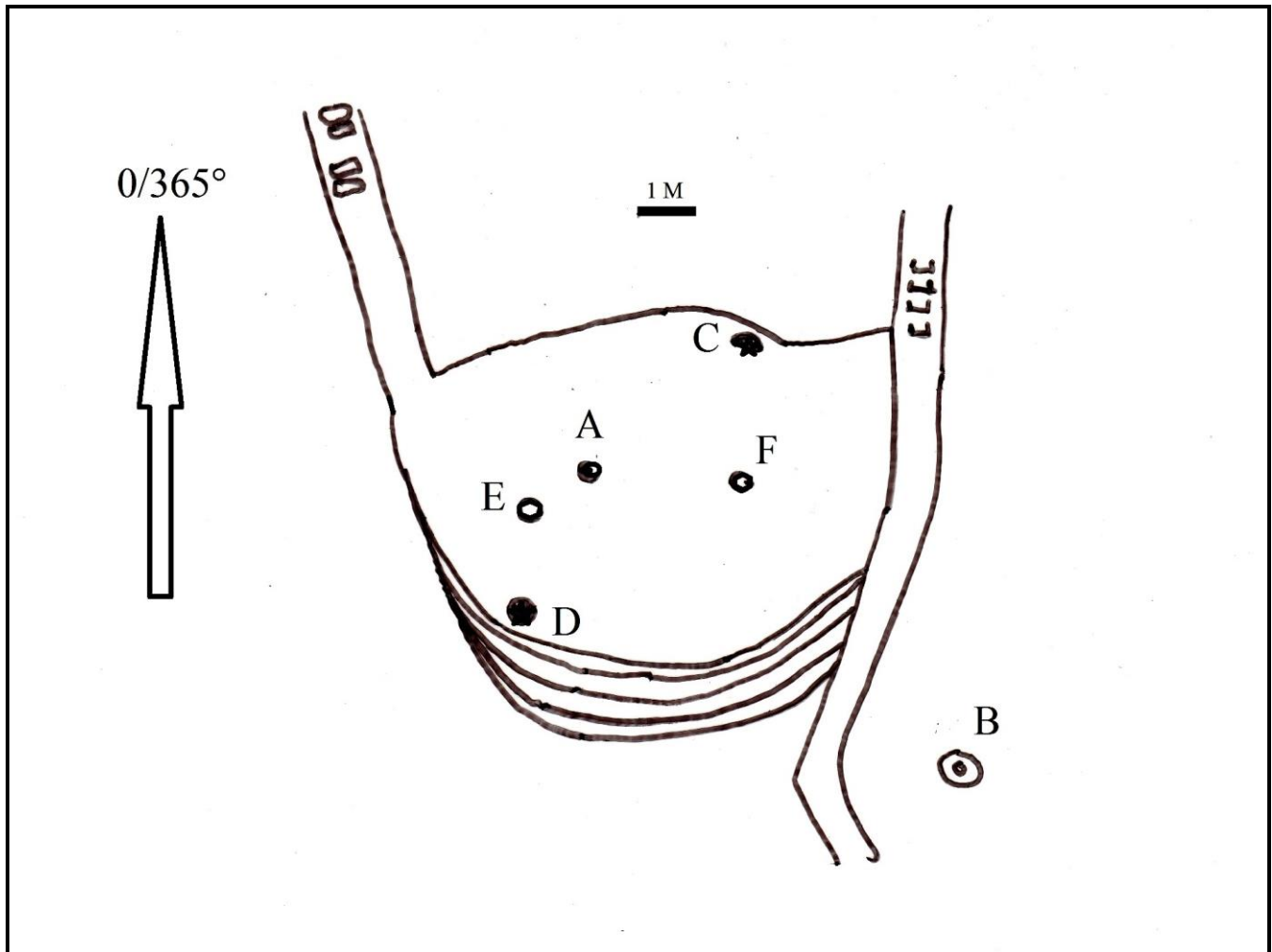
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Figure 6: Field sketch showing location of features at Sogelau Hill Flag Pole in Fagatogo, in Mauputasi County, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. Arrow is oriented north. (A) denotes location of current flag pole established in 1999 by the Boy Scouts of American Samoa. (B) exhibits the former location of the flag pole from 1900. (C) & (D) are anchors for the wires that secured the first flag pole from 1900, however, both features were reportedly moved during the Boy Scouts' construction effort on Sogelau Hill in 1999. (E) & (F) represent the former locations of the wire anchors before the 1999 project by the Boy Scouts on Sogelau Hill.

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