

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: Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi Collection

Other names/site number: Yokoi Collection / 66-01-2656

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: Guam Museum, Department of Chamorro Affairs, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, 2nd Floor, DNA Building

City or town: Hagåtña State: GU County: 010

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

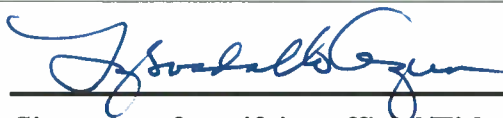
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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:

X national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D



Signature of certifying official/Title:

Dec. 27, 2013

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

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/camp = temporary habitation site

DEFENSE/fortification = bunker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/museum = museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____ other: metal, wood, fiber _____

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

The collection of artifacts used by Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi, the last Japanese straggler in Guam, represents the main set of vestiges of his 28 years history of survival and endurance. The set is comprised of approximately forty pieces of artifacts, varying from clothes, tools, guns and ammunition. The collection is owned by the Guam Museum (Personal communication to author by Guam Museum's Curator Sandra Yee, Nov. 12, 2013) where its currently stored. It retains its integrity in materials and workmanship. Some items show corrosion and smoke blackening, as a result of their use for over 28 years.

Some of the items were handcrafted, like the loom he made to weave clothes. Yokoi, a tailor's apprentice before the war, used fibers of local plants such as the Pãgo tree to make trousers, shirts, etc. He also made sandals, sewing implements, and buttons, including items of the

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simplest commodities for daily use, such as utensils, canteens, etc., which he either kept with him since before hiding, or obtained from surrounding properties. The set of artifacts offers contemporary visitors tangible testimonies of the hardships of the living conditions and struggle to survive endured by Sergeant Yokoi. The Collection also serves as a complement to Yokoi's Cave, located in Talofofo, Guam, in which Sergeant Yokoi lived out his 28 years, from the time Guam was recaptured by the United States July 21, 1944, to the time he was discovered in 1972. A replica of Yokoi's Cave is visited every year by hundred of tourists. The original cave has been listed in the National Register since January 16, 1980 (RefNum 80004244).

Narrative Description

Sgt. Yokoi arrived on Guam on February 1943, assigned to the 38th Regiment of the Japanese Imperial Army. He was in the Fena mountain area by July 21, when the first U.S. troops landed on Guam. After the Japanese defenses were destroyed, Yokoi and nine other companions managed to march towards Talofofo, where they hid in the mountains.

Japanese stragglers were, by then, so numerous, that a group refused to host Yokoi (Higuchi, 2013:230). Eventually he and other two companions dug a man-made cave. For the next 28 years he survived by feeding on rats, frogs, snails, shrimps, coconuts, and fruits from the area, such as breadfruits, mangoes and papayas. By 1952 he learned that the war was over through a leaflet that the US forces had scattered throughout remote areas of Guam.

Two other Japanese stragglers in Guam, Private Bunzō Minagawa, and his superior Sergeant Masashi Itō, had surrendered on May, 1960. The other two companions of Yokoi, according to his testimony, died of starvation sometime around 1964. In late January, 1972, the search party of the Guam Police, that was exploring Yokoi's cave, found their bones in a nearby tunnel.

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Yokoi was discovered in a tributary of the Talofofu River in January 24, 1972, by local residents Jesus M. Dueñas and Manuel T. DeGracia. His story immediately raised international attention, particularly in Japan, where he was regarded as a hero.

Yokoi declared to have known that the war was over since 1952 (Walthall, 2002:212), but he was afraid of surrendering. In fact, upon being found by Degracia and Dueñas, his first reaction was to charge against them.

Information in need of further investigation, is the unverified belief that some disappearances and deaths that took place in the same area in the years prior to 1972, could be attributed to Yokoi. Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi died in 1997. As of 2013, these accusations remain unconfirmed.

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.)

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- ☐ 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Invention
Other: Survival Techniques

Period of Significance

1944-1972

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi Collection
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Architect/Builder

N/A

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.)

The collection of artifacts of Sgt. Yokoi, last active Japanese soldier in U.S. Territory, after the end of World War II, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) at the national, state and local levels.

The period of significance covers the period from July 21, 1944, when Guam was liberated from Japanese Military rule, to the end of World War II, and up to 1972, when Sgt. Yokoi was discovered and he surrendered.

The artifacts of Yokoi are a tangible indication, three decades after the end of the hostilities, of the extreme difficulties that the people of Guam and the U.S. troops faced against the suicidal determination of Japanese soldiers, who took to the extreme their loyalty to an Emperor of quasi-divine status.

The Collection provides valuable insights of his life in Guam throughout the 28 years of his hideout, the hardships he went through, and his ingenuity in solving the needs of daily life using limited resources that he could obtain in the area surrounding the cave he constructed as his refuge.

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

After the surrender of Japan, on August 15, 1945, several Japanese soldiers on Guam and other isolated areas of the Pacific, either considered the news about the end of the war as American propaganda, or refused to surrender due to fear of reprisal.

Before Yokoi, in Anatahan, one of the Northern Mariana Islands, a group of Japanese holdouts was rescued in 1951. Two other Japanese stragglers were found in Guam long after the end of the war, Sergeant Masashi Itō, and Private Bunzō Minagawa, who surrendered in late May, 1960.

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Of the original group of ten, two of the companions died while in hiding sometime in 1964, according to Sgt. Yokoi. Their bones were found by a search team of the Guam Police, and eventually repatriated in the same flight that took Yokoi back to Japan on February 2, 1972. Yokoi was the last of the Japanese holdouts in Guam, and one of the last in the world.

For the people of Guam and island visitors, as well as for military historians and survivalist, the story of the last Japanese straggler in Guam raises curiosity and interest. The fact that Yokoi managed to resist for such period of time, in such difficult circumstances, is indicative of his resolution to stay alive.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

The Sunday News. "Guam Museum: Legendary Soldier Shares Tattered Remnants of His Past". Agaña, Guam. V. 9, no. 179, p. 22. July 30, 1978.

Pacific Sunday News Magazine. "Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi: The Soldier Who Held Out". Agaña, Guam. V. 2. No. 358. January 30, 1972.

Pacific Daily News. "Pipe Dreams". Murphy, Joe. February 1, 1972. Agaña, Guam. Vol. 2, no. 361. P. 10.

Pacific Daily News. "Museum Exhibit to Feature Yokoi's Story". July, 17, 2007. P. A.3.

Pacific Daily News. "Yokoi, the Focus of New Exhibit". July 12, 2007. P. A.3.

The Asahi Shimbun (1972), *28 Years in the Guam Jungle: Sergeant Yokoi Home from World War II*. San Francisco. Japan Publications, Inc.

Yokoi's Cave Nomination Form. National Register of Historic Places. Guam HPO, 1977.

Corley Smith, Ruri (1972), *The Last Japanese Soldier: Corporal Yokoi's Incredible Years in the Guam Jungle*. Tom Stacey Ltd.

Hatashin, Omi: Yokoi, Shoichi (2009), *Private Yokoi's War and Life on Guam, 1944-1972*. London, Global Oriental.

Higuchi, Wakako (2013), *The Japanese Administration of Guam, 1941-1944*. McFarland & Company, Inc.

Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi Collection
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Walthall, Anne (2002), *The Human Tradition in Modern Japan*. SR Books. Lanham.

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: Guam Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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

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4. Latitude:

Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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

N/A

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Carlos Madrid, Ph.D., Research Associate / Assistant Professor
organization: Micronesia Area Research Center (MARC), University of Guam
street & number: 490 Chalan Palasyo
city or town: Agaña Heights state: Guam zip code: 96910
e-mail: cmadrid@uguam.uog.edu
telephone: (HPO) 671-475-6294/5

Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi Collection
Name of Property
date: August 5, 2013

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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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi Collection

City or Vicinity: Hagåtña

County: N/A State: Guam

Photographer: Carlos Madrid

Date Photographed: August 19, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn shirt. Made of coconut husk fiber. Shirt is similar to attire worn by Japanese soldiers.

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2 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn pants with coconut shell buttons. Made of coconut husk fiber.

3 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn knapsack. Made of plant fiber.

4 of 7: Hand-made sewing implements.

5 of 7: Woven trap.

6 of 7: U.S. ammunition box, used for storage.

7 of 7: Hand-made coconut grinder.

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.

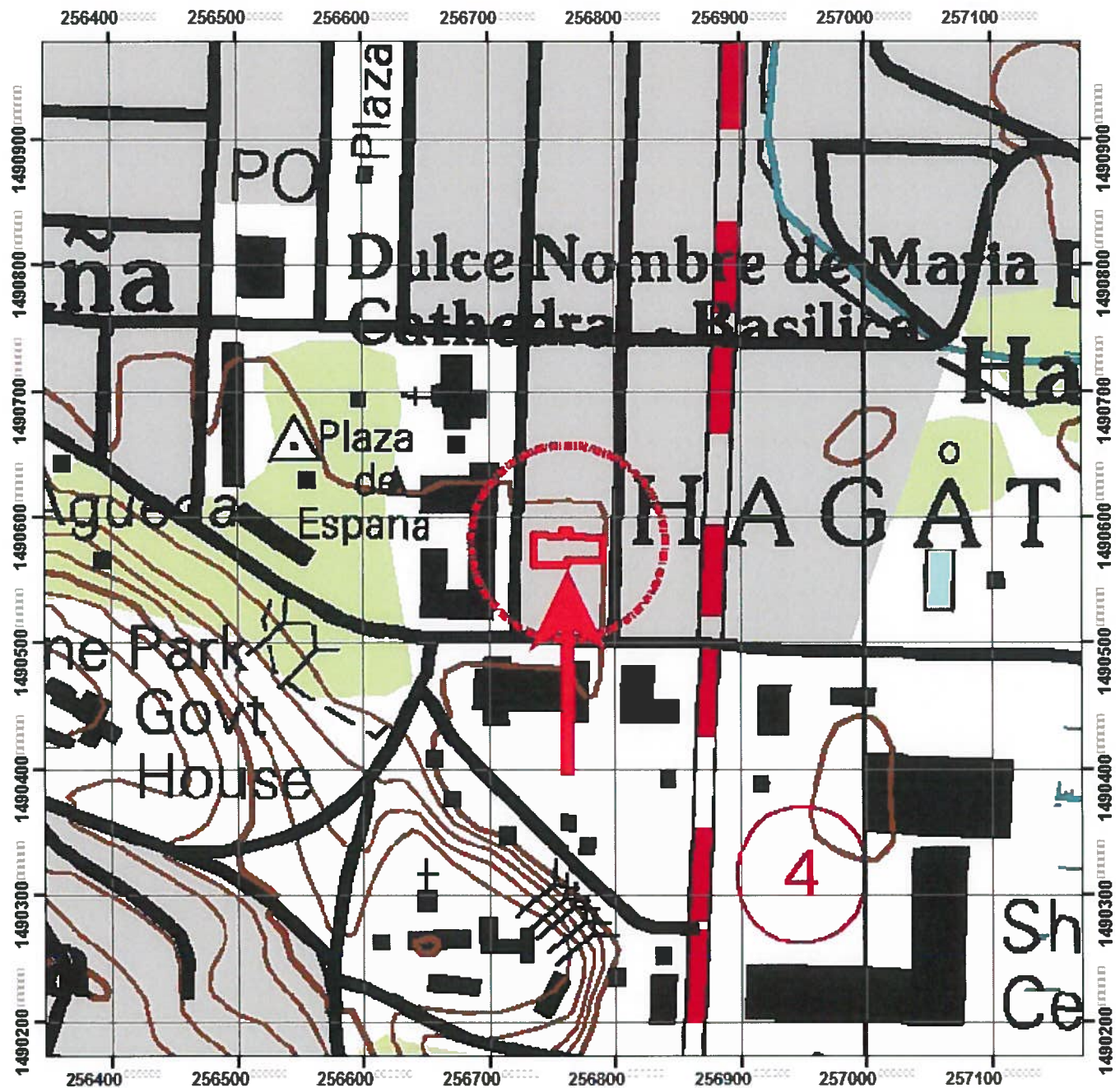
GHPI NO. 66-01-2656

N 13 28 23 / E 144 45 11 : CENTER LAT/LONG

NAME: SGT. YOKOI COLLECTION
GUAM MUSEUM (DNA BUILDING)
HAGATNA, GUAM

256736E/1490586N :UTM NW
256791E/1490584N :UTM NE
256790E/1490566N :UTM SE
256735E/1490563N :UTM SW

USGS MAP HAGATNA QUADRANGLE 2000 : BASE MAP



50 25 0 50 100 150 200
Meters

SUBJECT AREA (POLYGON)



N 13 20 16 / E 144 43 17 : CENTER LAT/LONG

: UTM NW

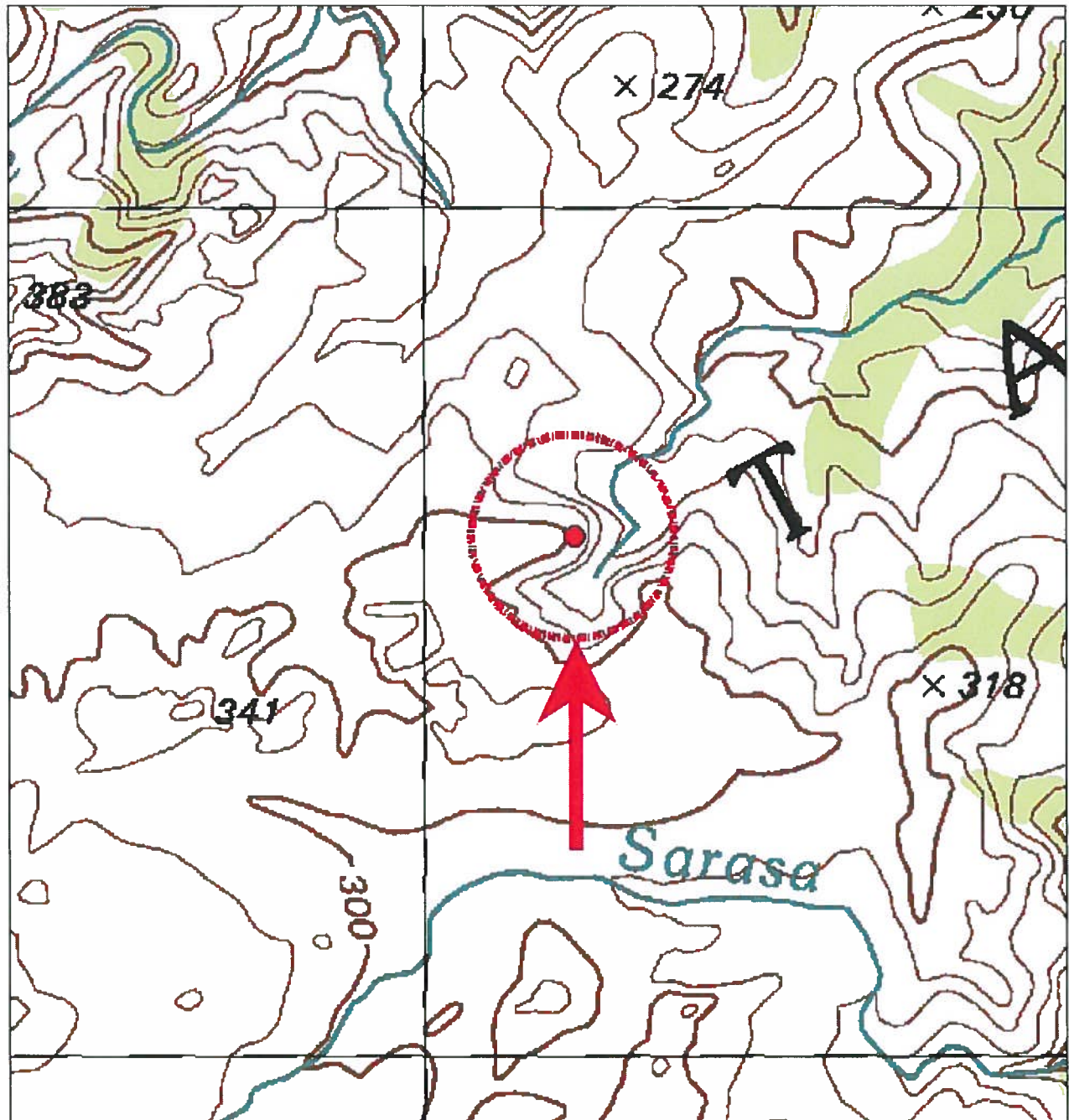
: UTM NE

: UTM SE

: UTM SW

NAME: YOKOI'S CAVE
TALOFOFO, GUAM

USGS MAP TALOFOFO QUADRANGLE 2000 : BASE MAP



125 62.5 0 125 250 375 500

Meters

● SUBJECT AREA (POINT)



N 13 20 16 / E 144 43 17 : CENTER LAT/LONG

UTM NW

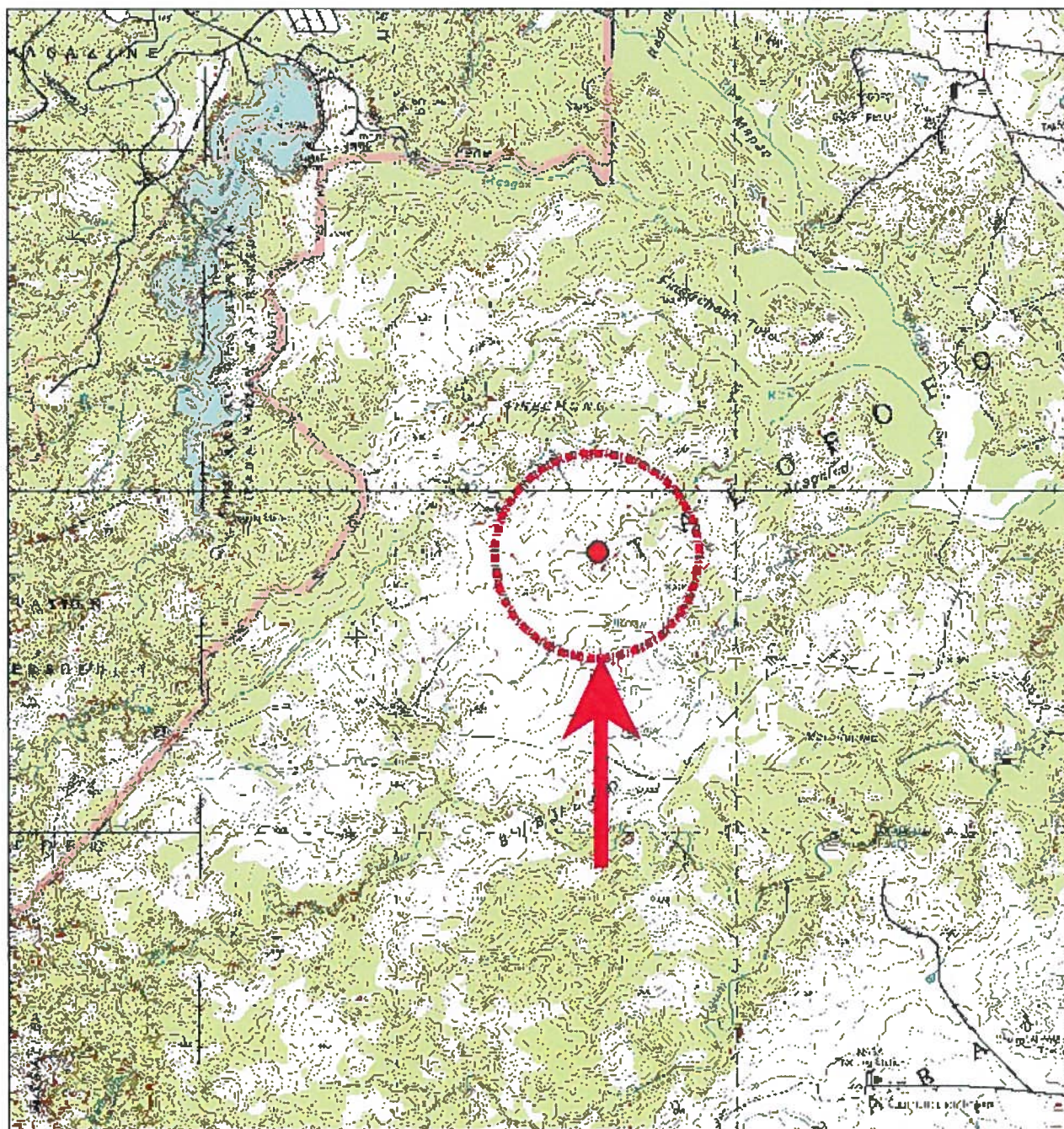
UTM NE

UTM SE

UTM SW

NAME: YOKOI'S CAVE
TALOFOFO, GUAM

USGS MAP TALOFOFO QUADRANGLE 2000 : BASE MAP



580 290 0 580 1,160 1,740 2,320

Meters

● SUBJECT AREA (POINT)



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Date Photographed: August 19, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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2 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn pants with coconut shell buttons. Made of coconut husk fiber.

3 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn knapsack. Made of plant fiber.

4 of 7: Hand-made sewing implements.

5 of 7: Woven trap.

6 of 7: U.S. ammunition box, used for storage.

7 of 7: Hand-made coconut grinder.

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Continuation Sheet 1

Photo 1 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn shirt. Made of coconut husk fiber. Shirt is similar to attire worn by Japanese soldiers.



Continuation Sheet 2

2 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn pants with coconut shell buttons. Made of coconut husk fiber.



Continuation Sheet 3

3 of 7: Hand woven, hand sewn knapsack. Made of plant fiber.



Continuation Sheet 4

4 of 7: Hand-made sewing implements.



Continuation Sheet 5

5 of 7: Woven trap.



Continuation Sheet 6

6 of 7: U.S. ammunition box, used for storage.



Continuation Sheet 7

7 of 7: Hand-made coconut grinder.



Accession

Guam Museum

Accession # <u>2013.10</u>	Other # <u>77-2-3,77-2-4,77-244--299</u>	Date received <u>2/8/1973</u>
Source <u>Yokoi</u>	Received by <u>J.L. Davis</u>	
Address <u>P.O. Box 2950</u>	Accessioned by <u>SYee</u>	
<u>Hagatna</u>	<u>GU 96932</u>	Date accessioned <u>11/20/2013</u>
Received as <u>Gift</u>		Acknowledged by Registrar Yes ☐ No ☐
Purchase price or value \$ _____		

Object ID	Object name ---- Description
O 2013.10.01	Pants ----- pants woven by Yokoi of coconut husk fiber, with coconut shell buttons at fly and
O 2013.10.02	Jacket ----- coconut fiber jacket of patches sewn together, 2 patch pockets, 2 buttons (one
O 2013.10.03	Bag ----- bag of coconut fiber patches sewn together. rectangular base ~13 cm wide by 32
O 2013.10.04	Bag ----- woven coconut fiber patches sewn together to form bag 56 cm deep and with 60 cm
O 2013.10.05	Bag ----- woven coconut fiber patches sewn together into long "tubular" bag ~130 cm long
O 2013.10.06	Belt ----- woven coconut fiber flat piece, one weavng, not patches of probable belt or sash, 70
O 2013.10.07	Fiber ----- loose bundle of coconut husk fibers, bundled together with short piece of coconut
O 2013.10.08	Basket ----- Large rectangular closed basket (42 cm high, 30 cm wide, 25 cm deep) woven
O 2013.10.09	Trap, Fish ----- Woven bamboo cylindrical fishtrap (or shrimp trap) (55 cm long by 18 cm
O 2013.10.10	Trap, Fish ----- Woven bamboo cylindrical fishtrap (or shrimp trap) (53 cm long by 20 cm
O 2013.10.11	Bag, Fruit Picking ----- Bag of knotted (macrame) 2-ply coconut coir (2mm diameter)
O 2013.10.12	Bucket, Water ----- Bamboo water carrier/holder (at one time labeled a shrimp trap ??). One
	following items not yet assigned Object ID numbers-----
x	wood cork
x	empty rifle shell
x	home-made metal sieve
x	Japanese mess kit
x	home-made metal plate
x	ammunition box
x	"fadang" nuts
x	small scraps of metal (possibly for future fabrication of tools)
x	coconut (coir) twine (coils)

Total Objects:40**Restrictions:** None

x	ferrous metal spike
x	Asian liquor bottle with wood cork and coconut twine handle at neck
x	machete in leather sheath
x	scraps of leather (possibly for future fabrication of tools)
x	scissors
x	punch (sharpened nail inserted in wooden handle to punch holes in items)
x	live rifle shells
x	bundle of wood/bark/skewers (possibly for future fabrication of tools)
x	"kamyu" (tool of metal, a grater for grating coconut meat, attached to a stick)
x	Japanese green glass bottle
x	spools of very fine copper wire
x	irregular shaped metal and wood box
x	small unidentified mechanical mechanisms (gears etc.)
x	pounded copper "mosquito coil" holder
x	ferrous metal wire trap (possibly for rats)
x	broken silver spoon
x	canteen cut longitudinally to form a bowl and a plate
x	whole uncut canteen