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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND INVESTIGATIONS  
CONDUCTED AT THE FAGA'ALU QUARRY,  
MA'OPUTASI COUNTY, TUTUILA,  
AMERICAN SAMOA  
FEBRUARY 1996

**COPY**  
ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS  
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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**Archaeological Survey and Investigations Conducted at the  
Faga'alu Quarry, Ma'oputasi County, Tutuila,  
American Samoa**

**Abstract**

Archaeological Consultants of the Pacific, Inc. (ACP) conducted archaeological investigations at the request of Mr. George Poysky, Sr. of Samoa Maritime at the Faga'alu Quarry, located near Faga'alu Village, Central Tutuila, American Samoa. The investigations consisted of pedestrian survey and reconnaissance in order to assess the location and nature of any historic remains located on the subject property. No historic remains were encountered during the course of the survey. Therefore, in accordance with Advisory Council Regulation (Section 106), 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties (800.4 (d)), a "no historic properties" determination applies to the subject property.

**Archaeological Survey and Investigations Conducted at the  
Faga'alu Quarry, Ma'oputasi County, Tutuila,  
American Samoa**

**Introduction**

Archaeological Investigations were conducted by Archaeological Consultants of the Pacific, Inc. (ACP) at the request of Mr. George Poysky, Sr. of Samoa Maritime for property located at the Faga'alu Quarry, Faga'alu Village, Tutuila, American Samoa. The subject property is the current location for quarrying activities for the extraction of rock from a steep spur projecting from the nearby mountain ridge. Pedestrian survey was conducted at this location to determine if historic properties exist within the subject property and assess the impact that quarrying activities will have on any historic properties encountered. As no historic properties were encountered during the course of survey, there will be no impact.

Survey activities were conducted by field archaeologists James R. Moore, B.S. and D. Kyle Latinis, M.A. under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, Joseph Kennedy, M.A. in November, 1995. Due to the steep topography and dense vegetation, uniformly distributed transects could not be surveyed. However, a series of radial sweeps spaced at approximately 10m intervals was conducted over the entire subject area, approximating a 100% surface survey.

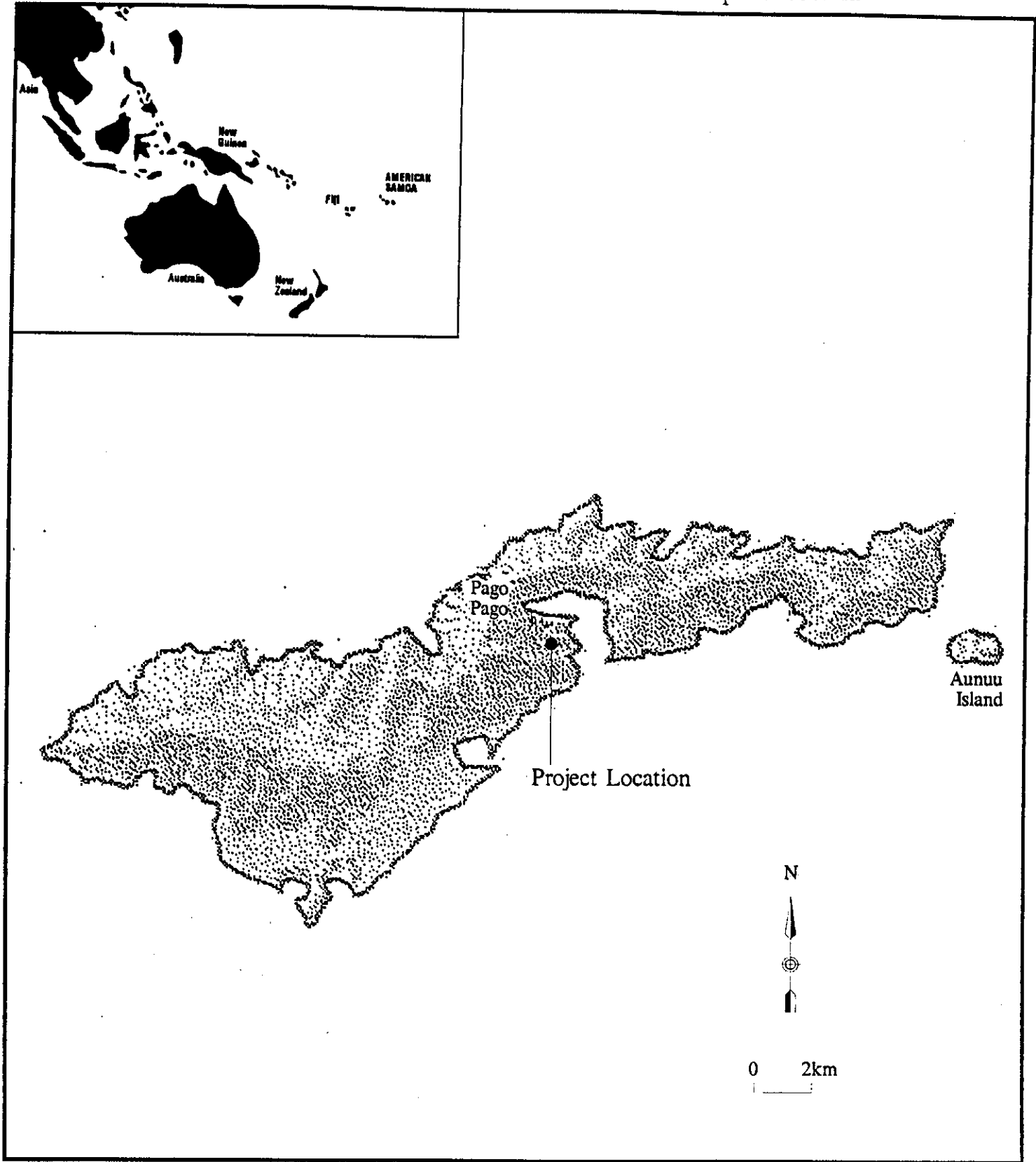
A description of the subject area and field investigations is presented below. No further recommendations concerning archaeological investigations are necessary.

**Location and Description of Subject Property**

The subject area is the current location of a steep mountain spur projecting from the nearby ridgeline at the current Faga'alu Quarry (see Figures 1-3). This property is located at geographical grid coordinates 14°13'35''S and 170°41'25''N (UTM coordinates 8419810mN and 533334mE). The property is approximately one kilometer west from the coast where Faga'alu Village is located in Ma'oputasi County, Central Tutuila, American Samoa. The subject property is further located on the north side of the Faga'alu Stream. The maximum dimensions of the subject property are approximately 150 x 200m (30,000 square meters) although the surveyed area was more extensive.

The geology of the area (Atlas 1981) is classified as 'Aunu'u Tuff, Lithic-Vitric Tuff of a Late Quaternary formation. Slope ranges from 30 degrees (60%) and higher. Most of the subject property is composed of steep cliffs with

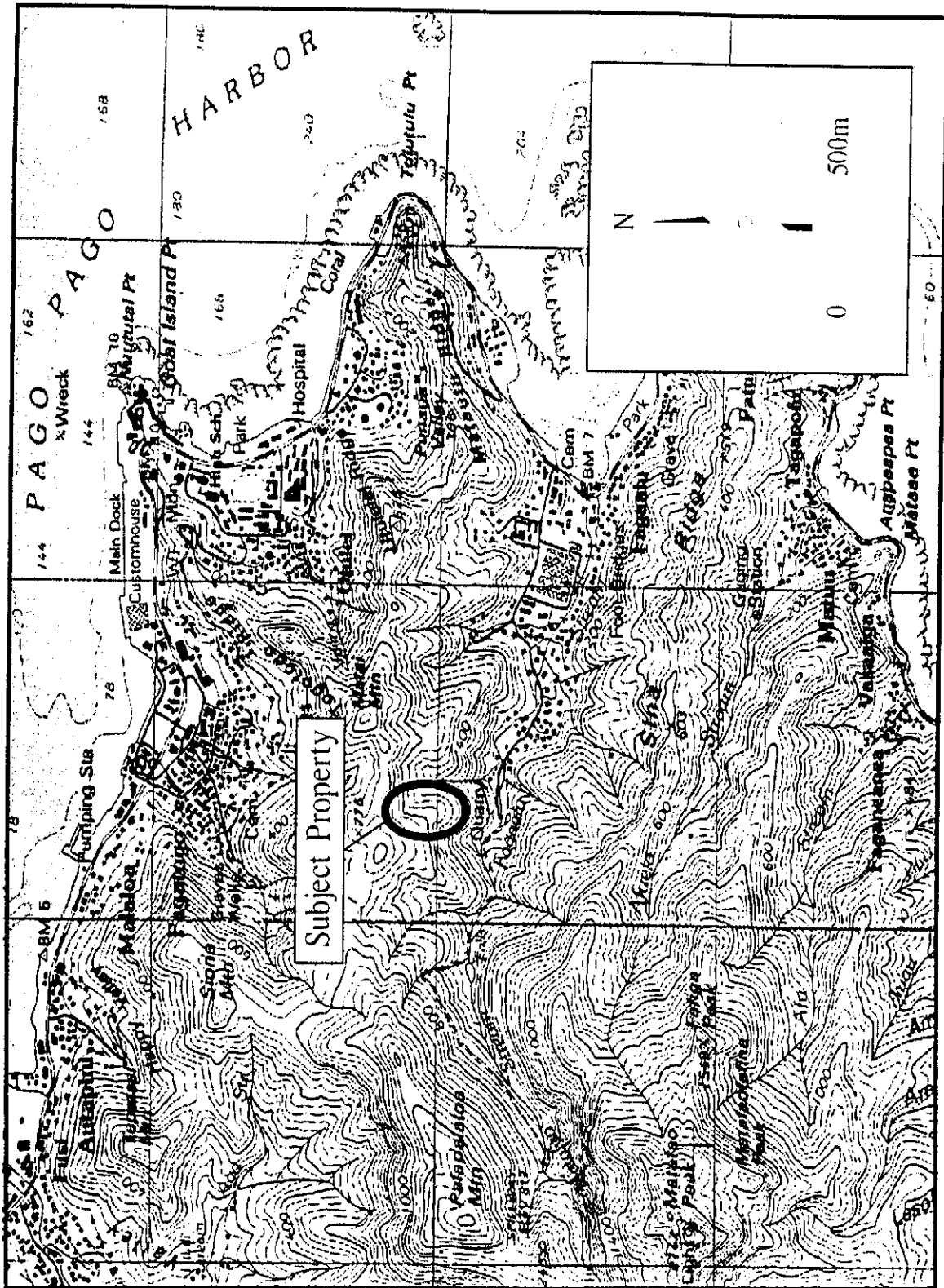
Figure 1: Project Location on an Island Map of Tutuila



Faga'alu Quarry

source: University of Hawaii Press 1980

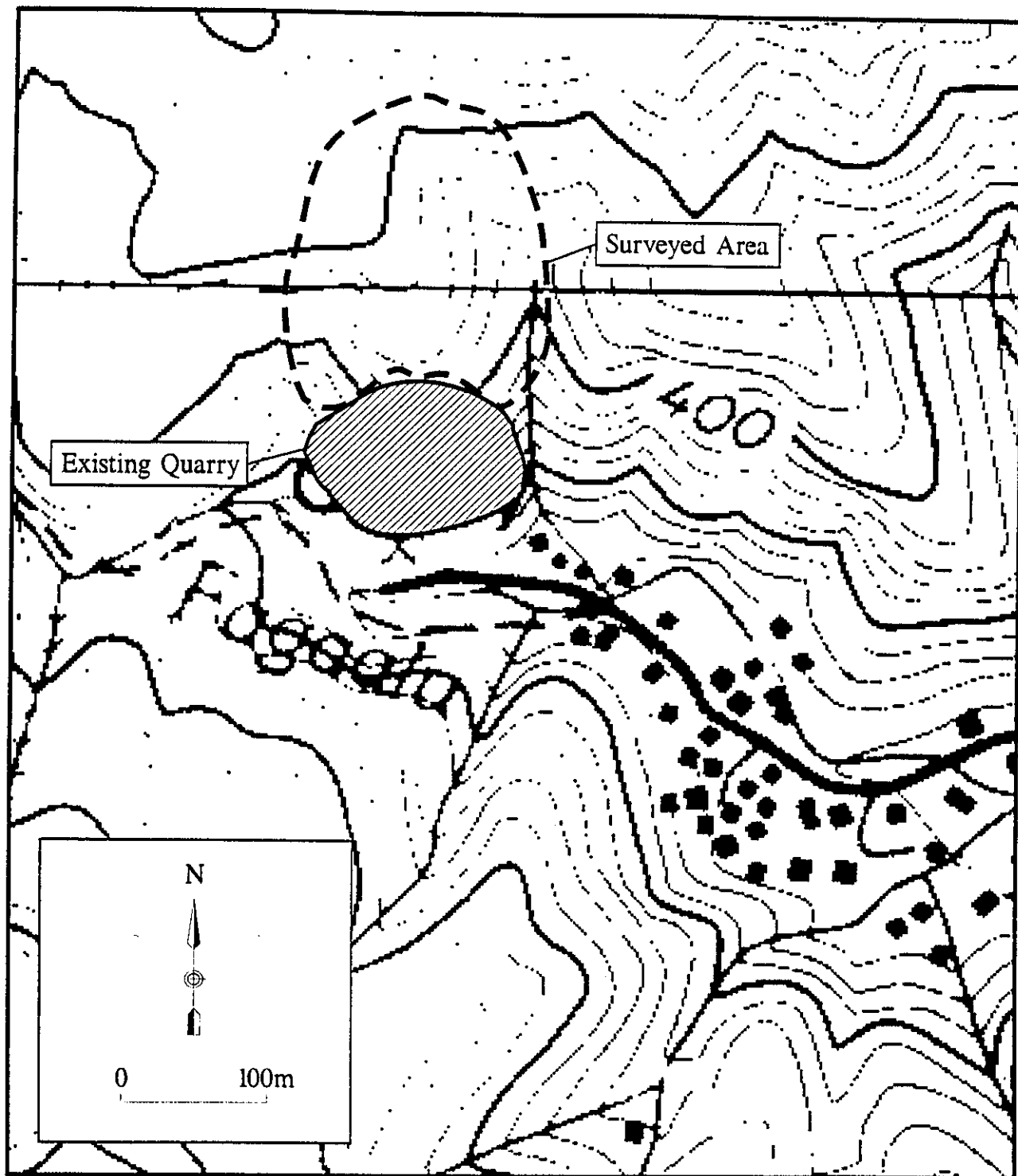
Figure 2: Subject Property on a U.S.G.S. Topographic Map



Faga'alu Quarry

source: U.S.G.S Topographic Map of Tutuila Island 1989

Figure 3: Surveyed Area



Faga'alu Quarry

source: U.S.G.S Topographic Map of Tutuila Island 1989

slopes ranging from 75-90 degrees. Elevation ranges from approximately 60-180m AMSL (above mean sea level).

The soils are composed of the Fagasa family-Lithic Hapludolls-rock outcrop association. These are found on ridges, mountainsides and steep sideslopes. These soils are moderately well drained with a moderately rapid permeability and moderate to low water capacity. Runoff is rapid and there is danger of soil erosion in exposed areas. Surface layers are a very dark grayish brown silty clay or clay which extend to a maximum of 30cmbs (centimeters below surface). Underlying material is a dark brown silty clay mixed with weathered rock. The soil is cobbly and rock outcrops are frequent. Weathered bedrock ranges from 50-155cmbs.

Vegetation is composed of woodland, tropical rain forest and disturbed forest, harboring occasional pigs, bats and birds. Some fruit trees are located in neighboring areas consisting of scatters of coconut (Cocos nucifera), papaya (Carica papaya), breadfruit (Artocarpus communis), and banana (Musa sp.). However, these are relatively sparse and widely dispersed, and furthermore, well outside of the subject property.

The nearest coastal area is approximately one kilometer to the east. A few intermittent streams feed the Faga'alu Stream located in the valley below the subject property. Further west is the location of a spillway from the Matafao Stream which feeds into the Vaianoa Pool which subsequently feeds into the Faga'alu Stream. The area receives about 3800-6400mm of rainfall annually. Mean temperature is approximately 23 degrees Celsius.

#### Previous Land Use and Archaeology

Central Tutuila has been the location of many compliance and research oriented archaeological investigations in the past. Many archaeological and historic sites are located in Central Tutuila. However, only the existence of previously documented, small, scattered historic U.S. military facilities and a pipeline extending along the ridgeline well outside of the subject property were noted during survey. No known archaeological sites exist in the immediate area surrounding the subject property. The description of archaeological and historic sites located in the surrounding areas of Central Tutuila need not be detailed in this report.

The only present land use at higher elevations along the ridges and slopes in this area is the location of widely dispersed and small fruit tree plots. However, it is known that similar areas are known to have previously supported a variety of land uses and a dispersed population with known fortifications on mountain tops, star mounds situated on ridges, and scattered habitation areas. The summit of

Matafao, located at some distance from the subject property but connected along the same ridgeline system, likely contains fortifications and other modified sites. This information, however, is based on secondary informant commentary. Verification is needed along with assessments concerning the extent, location and dispersal of such sites as well as the relationship these have to ridge extensions such as the current subject property.

The topography of most of the area above the valley floor prevents any extensive land use. Areas along the ridgeline provide a more suitable environment for land use and are more probable locations of any existing historical properties. However, these are well outside of the subject property. Most arable land is located further east and south of the subject property where the current village of Faga'alu is located along either side of the Faga'alu Stream extending to the coast.

#### Methodology

Pedestrian survey was conducted within the subject property in order to identify and assess any historic properties encountered. Due to the topography of the subject property, evenly spaced transects following a grid system could not be surveyed. Therefore, a series of radial sweeps spaced at approximately 10m intervals were surveyed in order to provide an approximate 100% surface survey.

Any features encountered were to be photographed and sketch mapped in the field. Surface scatters and artifactual remains encountered during survey were to be collected for further analyses at the ACP laboratory facilities located at 59-624 Pupukea Road, Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712.

Following field survey and analyses, assessments were to be made concerning recommendations for further investigation of historic properties, features, etc. and their subsequent treatment in regards to impacts of continued quarrying activities.

Due to the steep topography of the subject property, preventing extensive land use or the construction of large stone-works, few historic or archaeological remains were expected. Also, due to the nature of soil formation, being extremely shallow throughout most of the subject property, subsurface remains would be extremely rare. However, sites expected in this type of area would likely be star mounds, fortifications and house foundations. Perhaps, if quality lithic resources are available, one might also expect to locate a quarry or chipping station. Locating and identifying these type of sites would contribute to the body of knowledge concerning the distribution of such sites as



well as past land use and resource extraction along steep ridgeline 'off-shoot' areas.

### Archaeological Findings

No archaeological or historic properties, features or remains were encountered during the course of the investigation. Topography and land use also accorded with field predictions. Most of the area shows limited disturbance and no evidence of current or past land use, although we know former land use was likely much more extensive than present land use in similar areas. The area is currently utilized for occasional hunting. This information is based on the presence of the occasional expended shotgun shell and informant testimony.

Therefore, in accordance with Federal and Territorial regulations, a "no historic properties" determination is given for the subject property.

### Conclusion

Archaeological investigations were conducted by ACP at the request of Mr. George Poysky, Sr. of Samoa Maritime for properties located at the Faga'alu Quarry, near Faga'alu Village, Ma'oputasi County, Tutuila, American Samoa. This consisted of field survey and assessment to identify and assess any historic properties located within the subject property. No historic properties were encountered during the course of fieldwork. Therefore, a "no historic properties" designation is given in accordance with Territorial and Federal regulations: Advisory Council Regulation (Section 106), 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties (800.4 (d)).

### References

#### Atlas

- 1981 Atlas of American Samoa. U.S. Office of Coastal Zone Management, The American Samoa Government, and the Department of Geography of the University of Hawaii.

### Special Note

Ma'oputasi County is spelled Mauputasi in some reference sources.