

An Archaeological Phase I Pedestrian Survey of the
Ofu-Olosega Road Project

by

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This report is prepared for:

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American Samoa Government
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Phone Number: (684)644-2772
Contract Number: FHWA-541103
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and

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ABSTRACT

American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA)/Civil Highways Division of the Government of the Territory of American Samoa proposes to improve approximately 3600 ft. of existing roadway extending East/Northeast from the connecting causeway of Ofu-Olosega in the Manu'a Group of American Samoa. The purpose of this survey was to determine the presence or absence of culturally significant artifacts within the proposed survey area.

This study supplies the results of an archaeological investigation along the sides of the road. The study provides the conclusions of a literature search, the development of a research design and methods, findings, as well as recommendations based on site-significance evaluations, Section 106 compliance of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended and the National Register Criteria (National Register Bulletin #15). Finally, after a systematic pedestrian survey of the project area the results yielded no archaeologically significant sites, artifacts or features.

The relationship between this pedestrian survey and the next phase of the archaeological responsibility is discussed. Guidelines and recommendations are also suggested. The recommendations include subsurface activities, in order to minimize Constructor activity leading to potential Section 106 non-compliance. Methodology concerning test excavations are also discussed.

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Introduction

On October 28th and 29th an archaeological pedestrian survey was conducted by Kevin Donald M.A. (Principal Investigator) along adjacent (north and south) flanks of a 3600' section of road commencing at the eastern edge of Ofu at Asagatai Point, extending east for approximately 5/8ths of a mile, just shy of Mafafa. Both sides of the road for approximately 3600ft were systematically examined for sites, features and artifacts to satisfy Section 106 compliance and subsequently avoid any costly construction delays.

Ofu is a high relief volcanic island with it's tallest peak, Mt. Tumu, reaching approximately 1600 ft from sea level. Mt. Tumu and Sunuitao Peak rise rapidly from sea level resulting in narrow flat strips of land sandwiched between the inland cliffs and the sea. In the past as well as now, these narrow flat strips of land provided humans with habitable terrain. Similar circumstances govern the prevalent path of the road.

The construction project pertains to the improvement of the existing road. The graded road with a coral/sand/rock base runs along the northern costal plain of Ofu approximately 3600'. The final route of the proposed road, according to the present plans reviewed on-site, will deviate little from the existing road. The new paved surface will be 18' wide with culverts along the sides to aid with proper drainage. Following the contour of the project area, along the northern or costal side of the road, will be a shoreline revetment. Following the contour of the project area, along the southern or inland side of the road, will be a trench excavated for water and electric lines as well as the establishment of "pull boxes" at intervals not specified in the current plans. These areas of known impact were carefully assessed for prehistoric and historic cultural materials during the survey and will be discussed below.

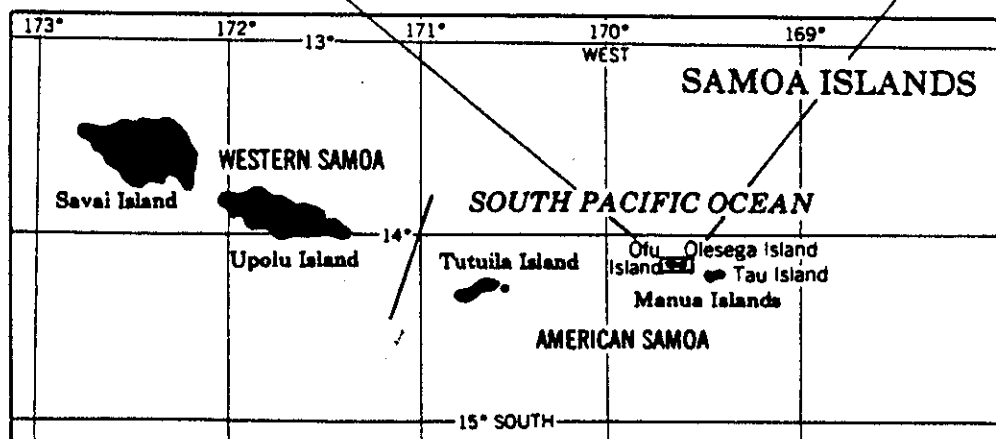
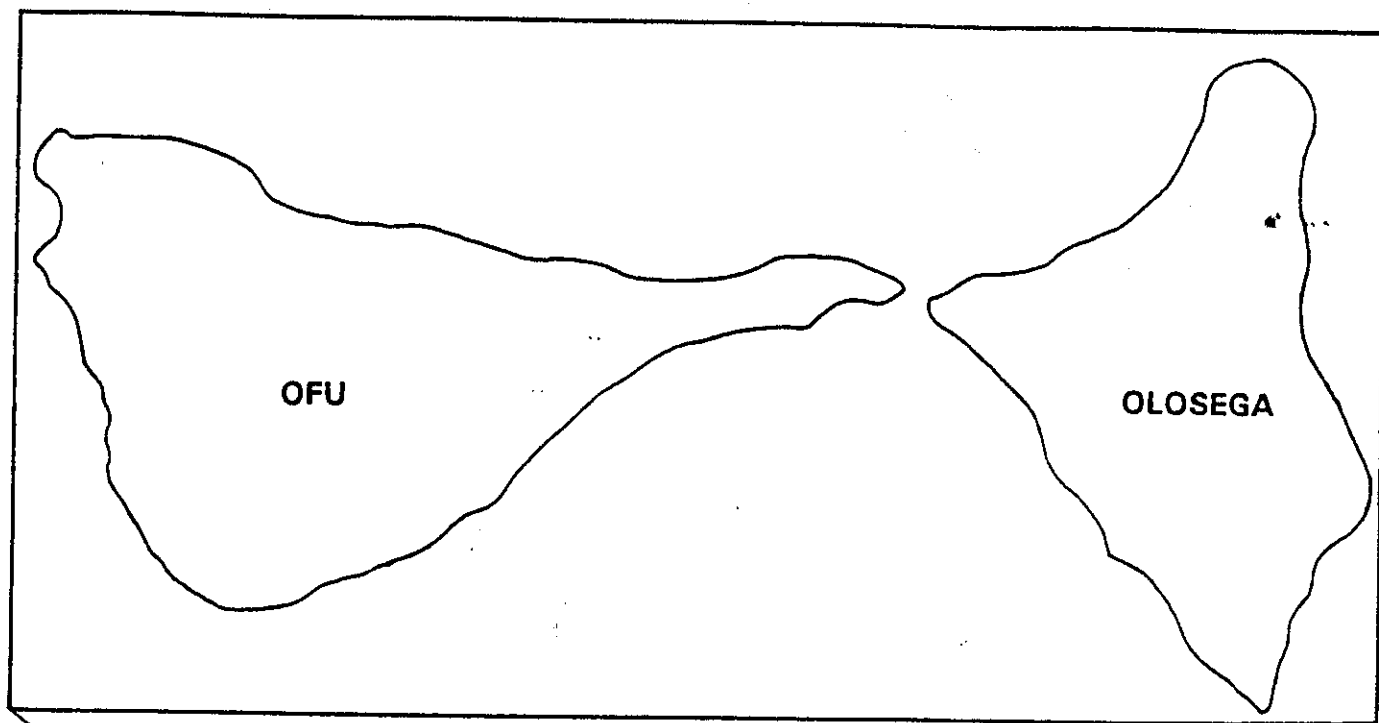
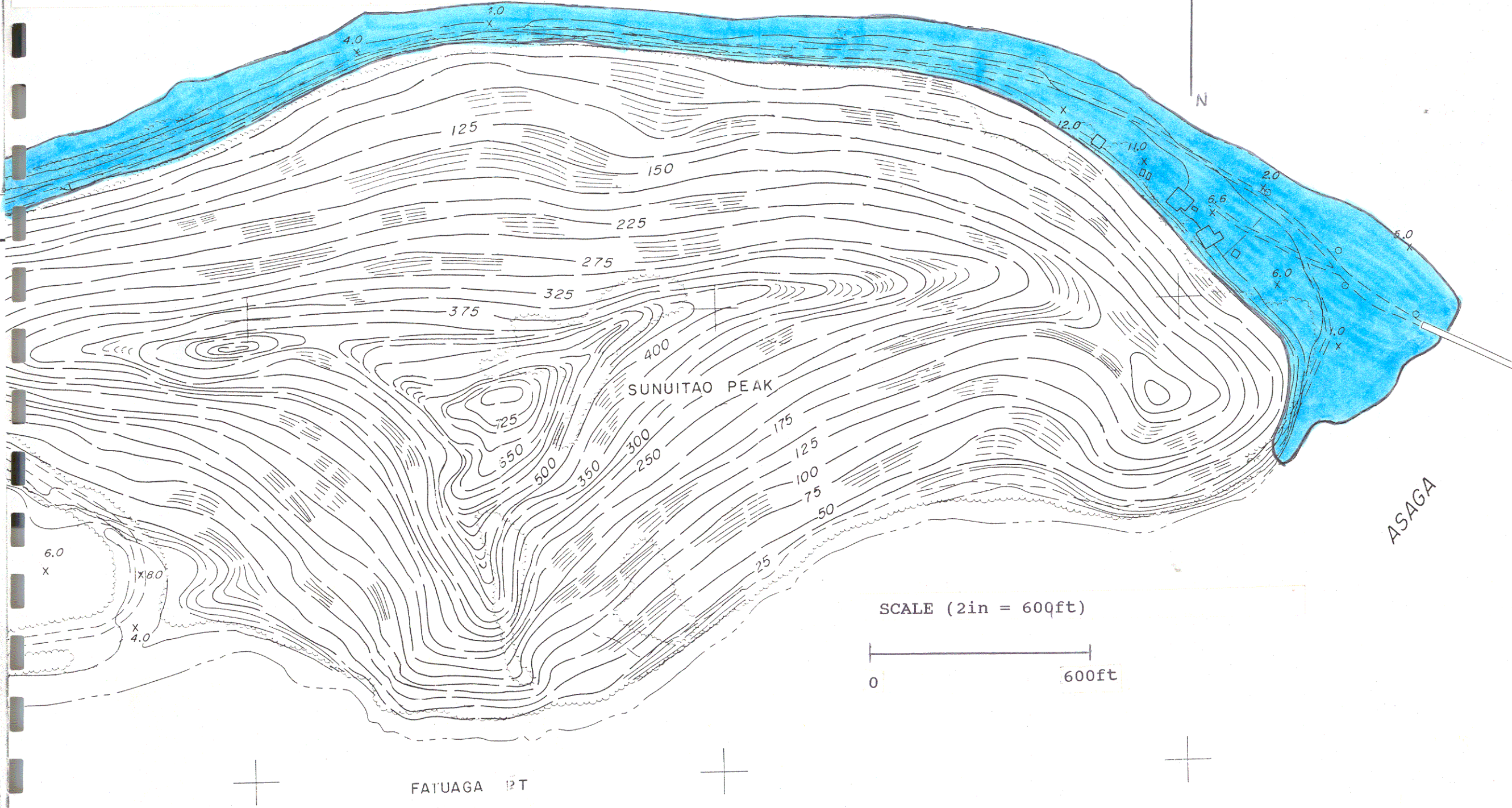


Figure 1. Location map of Ofu and Olosega islands, Manu'a Group, American Samoa.

PROJECT AREA MAP



SCALE (2in = 600ft)



FATUAGA PT

ASAGA

