DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FT. SHAFTER, HAWAII 96705-5040

February 7, 1991

Installation Support Branch
Military Division

Mr. Stan Sorensen
Historic Preservation Office
Department of Parks and Recreation
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division (POD), is proposing to repair the stone revetment protecting Poloa School, Poloa Village, Tutuila Island, American Samoa. This revetment was extensively disturbed by tropical storms during early 1990 and the repair is part of Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) activities in American Samoa. The revetment shall be restored to original condition without the need for extensive excavation and expansion (Enclosure 1).

As part of the environmental studies performed preparatory to the repair of the Poloa School revetment, the POD Senior Archaeologist, Mr. Charles Streck, performed a brief site visit and archaeological reconnaissance survey (Enclosure 2). An extensive probable prehistoric Samoan archaeological site and surface, with eroded artifacts were identified to the west of (outside) the proposed construction project. A very small portion in the extreme southwest of the eroded face of the revetment contained a dark colored sediment with charcoal flecking measuring approximately 10 by 2 feet situated under 2.5 feet of dredged coral and terrigenous fill. No probable artifacts were identified in this area. A bulk sediment sample procured from this deposit proved to contain insufficient charcoal for radiocarbon age determination following sample preparation.
It is the determination of the Corps Archaeologist that possible prehistoric cultural deposits may still remain beneath the present school structure at Poloa Village despite modern disturbances. Therefore, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, under implementing regulations 36CFR800, a determination of "No Adverse Effect" for the revetment repair appears to be warranted with the following conditions.

The Corps construction specification documents shall contain stipulations for the Construction Contractor including:

a. prohibition of temporary excavations deeper than 2 feet below present ground surface;

b. conditions for temporarily stopping work in the event of encountering unanticipated cultural remains and their proper documentation and retrieval;

c. limiting the movement of heavy equipment and construction activities in potential archaeologically sensitive portions of the project area including the upper beach west of the revetment. In addition, the concrete pillbox adjacent to, and outside of the work area shall be avoided;

d. allowing sufficient opportunity for an Archaeological Monitor to perform duties in the potential archaeological site areas; and

e. limiting the procurement of sufficient revetment rock and armor stone to existing quarries on Tutuila Island.

In order to properly mitigate any probable adverse effect to potentially significant cultural resources, POD shall ensure that an Archaeological Monitor shall be on-site during the establishment of the construction basecamp and that all activities with potential archaeological sensitivity as indicated on construction plans shall be observed. This shall be performed by the POD archaeologists. Monitoring shall include systematic archaeological sampling of the exposed sedimentary face containing the potential cultural deposit prior to construction. Thereafter, construction activities shall be visually monitored so as to ensure that any potentially significant cultural
resources shall be properly recorded and retrieved. Recordation shall be performed through videotape, still camera, and written methods. A primary goal of this mitigation shall be to retrieve a sufficient sample for reliable radiocarbon age determination so that a temporal context for the adjoining site area can be obtained. The appropriate portions of the construction contract specifications and plans shall be coordinated with your office prior to the start of the revetment repair.

If there are any questions or need for further details, please contact our Archaeologist, Mr. Charles Streck, at (808) 438-6934/1489. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Kisuk Cheung
Director of Engineering

Enclosures
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<td>&quot;E&quot;</td>
<td>STA 1+37 - STA 1+56</td>
<td>ARMOR STONES AT THE REVETMENT TOE HAVE BEEN DISLODGED AND LACK THE REQUIRED CONTACT WITH ADJACENT ARMOR STONES. REMOVE AND RESET THE ARMOR STONE LAYER (TWO-STONE THICK) FROM THE REVETMENT TOE TO CREST.</td>
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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey at the Poloa School Revetment Repair Project Site, Poloa Village, Tutuila Island, American Samoa, 26 September 1990

Introduction

1. A archaeological site visit/reconnaissance survey was performed at the Poloa School Revetment Repair project site, Poloa, Tutuila Island, American Samoa, by C.F. Streck, Jr., Archaeologist, CEPOD-ED-MI, and T. Lichte, Civil/Environmental Engineer, CEPOD-ED-DC, on 26 September 1990. This small revetment protecting the local school from storm wave damage, had nonetheless been extensively damaged during Hurricane Tusi in early 1990. Storm waves had completely over-topped the revetment causing extensive damage to the school interior and to the eastern and western anchors of the revetment. Large boulders and trees had been strewn over the entire property and small sections of the revetment had been completely destroyed, primarily along the western side.

2. Proposed construction activities at this site include the repair/reconstruction of portions of the revetment which were adversely impacted through tropical storm effects. Major reconstruction would be limited to the eastern and western anchoring legs of the revetment while the remainder would consist of replacement of boulders and armor stone. The longest single section of the revetment which shall be reconstructed is less than 10 meters (ca. 30 feet) in length. Some increase in the revetment height shall be included along the long axis facing the ocean to afford greater protection from future storm wave surge effects. In essence, the original revetment configuration shall be reconstructed with primary alterations being height of the structure.

Site Survey and Results

3. Archaeological investigations at the site included a 100% surface survey of the entire school property contained within the revetment as well as inspection of adjacent shoreline areas to the east and west.
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(more correctly the northeast-southwest, but here summarized as east-west). No indications of intact potentially significant cultural resources were identified within the school grounds. The area appears to consist mostly of highly compacted dredged coral fill material. A low erosional bench approximately 10 meters high parallels the shoreline, inland (south) of the present school buildings. Although this area is highly vegetated, the sedimentary substrata consists of very dark colored clayey loam, which may contain in situ cultural remains. Known prehistoric Samoan archaeological sites had been viewed by the undersigned at other similarly situated locales on Tutuila Island.

4. The eastern portion of the Poloa revetment, situated towards the main village settlement, had been less severely impacted by tropical storm waves than had the western. A drainage pipe was observed jutting from the base of a low escarpment adjacent to this portion of the revetment. The main access road to the school also traverses this area. The road is constructed upon compacted dredged coral fill material. No intact potentially significant cultural resources were identified in this area, which is not surprising. The cumulative disturbing effects of the revetment construction, installation of the drainage pipe, and road construction would have obliterated any potential remains along this narrow coastal strip.

5. Potentially significant (probable prehistoric) cultural resources were identified, however, along the western revetment alignment and along the upper beach edge extending west-southwest of the school facility. Intact cultural deposits including dense charcoal flecking and possible marine molluse shell midden were visible along an eroded portion of this revetment in the vicinity of a partially eroded cement pad/basketball court. This deposit, visible as a dark band, is situated between 90-125 cms below present ground surface. The uppermost sedimentary layer consists of a highly compacted dredged coral fill extending to 80-82 cms below ground surface. The erosional scarp stands to 140 cm in height. It is possible that further cultural deposit may extend beneath the beach sand to a greater depth below surface. All of the sediments in this profile were very
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highly compacted probably because of salt water induration/
cementation of the sandy clay matrix. The erosional scarp was
cleared of vegetation and cleaned with a hand trowel in order to
exhibit stratigraphic sequence. The cultural deposit slopes
oceanward (to the north), probably representing the oceanward edge
of the shoreline at the time of the revetment construction in the
1970’s. It is highly likely that the cultural deposits at this location
were adversely effected through the original revetment construction,
although there is no record of historic preservation surveys nor
identification of archaeological sites at this location. It is also likely
that the original site area would have extended further to the west
and to have been subsequently eroded through shoreline
degradation since the original construction.

6. A small bulk sediment sample was retrieved for further analysis
from the intact cultural deposit. This sample, weighing
approximately 200 grams, was submitted to Beta Analytic, Inc., for
radiocarbon age determination of constituent organic charcoal. The
sample proved to be too small for reliable age determination after
acid washes and removal of carbonates. A decision was made by the
undersigned not to pursue extended count analysis for it is
recommended that further sample retrieval and archaeological
research be performed at the site. This would elicit a larger more
firmly provenanced sample for age determination.

7. The entire area along the eroded western revetment included
within the proposed reconstruction effort linearly extends for around
5-7 meters (15-20 feet). The primary archaeological site at Poloa
appears, however, to be situated outside the proposed construction
area. This is along the base of the slopes of a low shoreline bench to
the west of Poloa school. The low erosional scarp along this area
contains evidence for in situ cultural deposits for a distance of 451.5
meters from the previously described cultural deposit along the
revetment alignment. Surface reconnaissance survey along the base
of this scarp and in adjacent upper beach areas resulted in the
identification of probable cultural sediments, charcoal flecks and
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chunks, probable marine mollusc shell midden remains, and the collection of a small sample of probable prehistoric Samoan artifacts.

8. The small surface collected artifact assemblage was all manufactured from dark grey, generally fine-grained basalt. The artifacts are indicative of the traditional, pre-modern, technology of the Samoa Islands. These include one whole awl preform; one whole micro-adze preform; 2 possible adze preform fragments; 2 flakes with polished surfaces; 3 probable artifact finishing flakes; and 5 probable artifact reduction flakes. One of the artifact reduction flakes appears to have several worn indentations along the long axis which may have resulted from use of the flake as a graver. In addition, one of the polished flakes is the shape of a small projectile point but this may have been an advantageous natural result from beach erosion. A total of 13 probable traditional Samoan artifacts were recovered from this area.

9. A small section of the upper beach/slope base was cleared of vegetation and vertically faced with hand trowel in order to exhibit sedimentary stratigraphy at that location. The resulting face, standing to 120 cms, included evidence for probable prehistoric cultural deposits separated by numerous white sand lenses indicative of major storm wave events at this location in the past. A cursory survey of the surrounding land surface including the lower slopes of the shoreline bench south of this stratigraphic face was performed. It is highly likely that the main premodern occupational zones may have been atop this relict physiographic feature. The deposits now visible along the shoreline would have been subsidiary to this settlement, particularly as indicated by the major effects of periodic storm wave intrusions in the past.

10. Archaeological investigations at the Poloa site were completed in one day. A complete photographic record of all activities and survey areas was compiled along with copious notes on physiographic, sedimentary, and cultural factors. The bulk sediment sample was retrieved as well as the surface collection of 13 probable traditional
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Samoan basalt artifacts. Descriptions of the artifacts is included with this report.

**Interpretation and Recommendations**

11. The cultural remains identified at Poloa revetment may be of potential significance under criterion "d" (may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history) for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. No prior archaeological site had been identified at this location, so therefore little is known of the premodern material cultural history of the area. It is highly likely that intact cultural deposits extend under at least portions of the present fill area contained within the Poloa school revetment. It is not likely, however, that these deposits would extend much further north towards the ocean than their present identified location. Therefore, the potential archaeologically sensitive portion of the proposed project would include the western portion of the revetment and the school yard from the southern edge of the present structure(s) inland.

12. The proposed construction activities at Poloa school may have little potential adverse impact on existing cultural resources if several measures are followed. Since no extensive excavations are proposed for the revetment alignments, their reconstruction through banking of boulders and armor stone should not adversely impact the cultural deposits. All stone stockpiling and heavy equipment movement should be restricted from the extreme southwestern portion of the revetment as well as in the upper beach zones west of the revetment. Since the most extensive, and potentially richest, portions of the archaeological site are situated along the upper beach west of the school, no potential adverse impact should be allowed in this area. In addition, it is recommended that any excavations for temporary construction basecamp facilities, e.g. fence posts, utility lines or grounds, etc., within the school compound should not extend to deeper than 2.5 feet below present ground surface thus concentrating these activities within the dredged coral fill sediments.
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An archaeological monitor is recommended for construction activities
along both the eastern and western alignments of the revetment.
The archaeological monitor shall perform a systematic monitoring
and sampling program ensuring that no potential adverse impact
occurs to subsurface cultural resources. The sampling to accompany
the monitoring shall be performed in areas where it is possible such
impact shall occur. In such a manner some of the salient
characteristics of the site can be discerned.

13. Following incorporation of the above measures into the proposed
construction activities at Poloa, a determination of "no adverse effect"
should be coordinated with the American Samoa Historic
Preservation Office and sufficient notification made with the
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in order to comply with
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as
amended, under implementing regulations 36CFR800. By employing
the above recommendations, sufficient protection and data sampling
of potentially significant cultural resources shall be performed while
ensuring that the great majority of the archaeological site remains
undisturbed at the location. It is recommended that completed
construction plans indicating zones of exclusion and other mitigation
factors be included with the Section 106 coordination.

[Signature]

CHARLES F. STRECK JR.
Archaeologist
CEPOD-ED-MI
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Photograph 1. Eastern portion of Poloa school revetment, to west. Note PVC piping in left foreground.

Photograph 2. Upper portion of Poloa revetment, looking east.
Photograph 3. Partially destroyed Poloa school building, looking south. Note exposed dredged coral fill in foreground.

Photograph 4. Western portion of Poloa revetment, to east. Intact cultural deposits situated in exposed escarpment behind disturbed revetment and along grassy area to the right.
Photograph 5. View of western portion of Poloa revetment, to southeast. Cultural deposits situated at center-right of background.

Photograph 6. Destroyed portion of western Poloa revetment, to southeast. Primary cultural deposit situated at base of low escarpment at left center.
Photograph 7. Erosional escarpment along western portion of Poloa revetment (Photo 6). Cultural deposit indicated by dark banding below dredged coral fill.

Photograph 8. Same location. Close-up of dark stained cultural deposit after hand cleaning of face. Note arrow is 30 cm in length.
Photograph 9. Same erosional escarpment as Photo 7 & 8. Location of bulk sediment sample from intact cultural deposit.

Photograph 10. View to west from Poloa school. Intact cultural deposits situated along lower edges of grass at top of beach.
Photograph 11. Small ephemeral gully situated inland from western end Poloa revetment. Intact cultural deposits present along base of slope from the high area to the right, west along upper beach.

Photograph 12. Highly vegetated low storm erosional escarpment to the west of Poloa revetment. Most of the artifacts were surface collected in darker sediment in this area.
Photograph 13. Cleared face showing stratigraphic profile situated within area of Photo 12. Multiple cultural deposits separated by white sand storm events. Note arrow to north and 30 cm length.

Photograph 14. Same location with close-up of natural and cultural stratigraphy at the site. Some marine mollusc shell midden visible in the face.
Photograph 15. Surface collected artifacts from Poloa, American Samoa (left to right: reduction flake, probable adze preform, reduction flake, 2 finishing flakes, and one polished flake)

Photograph 16. Surface collected artifacts from Poloa, American Samoa (left to right: awl preform, adze preform, flake with polished facet, finishing flake, and microadze preform)
Photograph 17. Surface collected artifacts, Poloa, American Samoa (left to right: reduction flake with possible graver facets and 2 large reduction flakes)