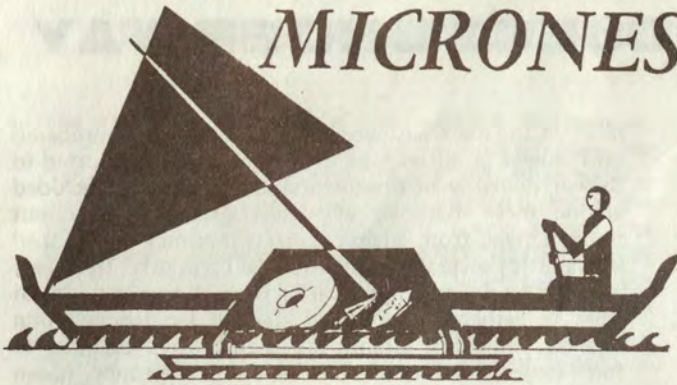


MICRONESIAN PRESERVATION

A NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL
PRESERVATION IN MICRONESIA

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950



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TRUK AIRPORT. IRAS VILLAGE REDISCOVERED

In the early 1940s, the people of Iras Village on Moen Island, in Truk Lagoon, were removed by the Japanese, and an airfield was built on the long beach where their village had stood. Although the people of Iras returned in 1947, they now live on the slopes of Mt. Tonnaachau and in what once was the taro swamp at its base. Where the Japanese airfield and the old village were, Air Micronesia planes now land and take off at Truk International Airport.

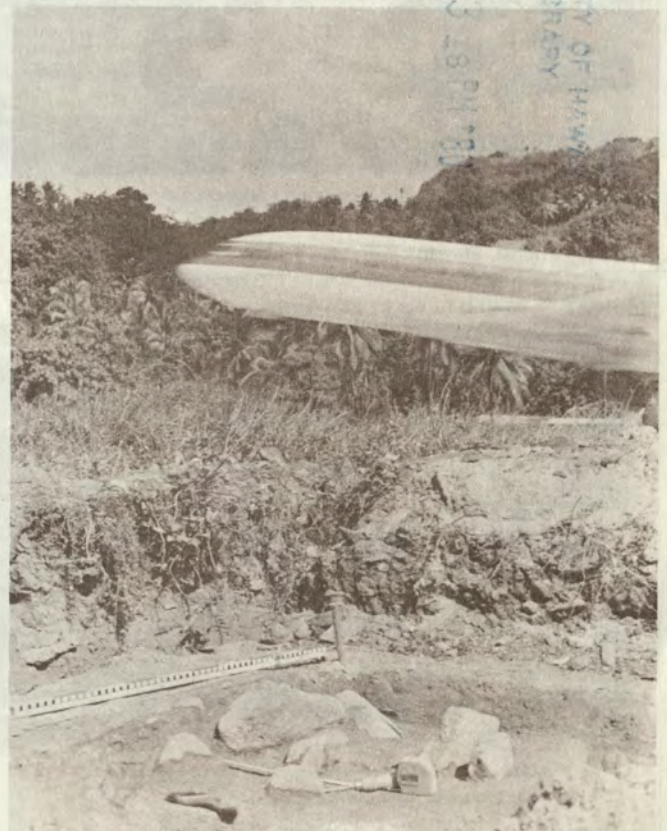
Expansion of Truk Airport is among the Trust Territory's highest-priority Capital Improvement Projects. Unfortunately, planning had progressed on the project until construction was almost ready to begin before it was discovered that the project would have adverse effects on historic properties.

The properties in question were parts of the Mt. Tonnaachau Historical Area. The mountain is the place where Soukachaw, who traditionally brought law to Truk in ancient times, had his wuut or meetinghouse as did his son Souwoniiras. The villages of Iras and Mechitiw are associated with Souwoniiras and Soukachaw, and important battles were fought at the foot of the mountain and on the adjacent reef in ancient times and during the German administration.

Discovery that historic properties were involved in the project area resulted in a great deal of activity for the Historic Preservation Office, which had to make sure that the project proceeded in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act on extremely short notice. An archeological survey was conducted by Tom King and Ramon Kapileo, in cooperation with the villages of Iras and Mechitiw and their Chiefs, Camillo Noket and Chutaro William. Consultation with the villages led to preparation of a Memorandum of Agreement specifying how the Government would take steps to reduce the damage done to the historic places. This Memorandum had to be signed by the TTPI, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and Advisory Council On Historic Preservation before the project could proceed.

Archeological salvage work was then undertaken at Truk Airport and at the nearby quarry site, with funds provided by the TTPI through the Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC), U.S. Navy. Tom King directed the salvage work, assisted by Patricia Parker and Katin Nikichinap of Iras, Ramon Kapileo from Headquarters, and two teams of fieldworkers from Iras. At the quarry, clearing of the jungle revealed an extensive complex of World War II Japanese fortifications and a small,

Airport archeology: the rocks in the foreground, under excavation, are the remains of an ancient hearth.



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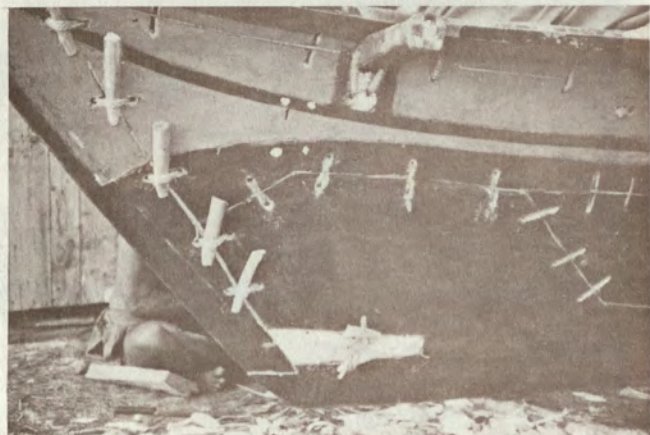
WAHERAK MAIHAR PROJECT UNDERWAY

Seven traditional craftsmen from Puluwat Atoll in Truk District, led by Chief Manupi Rapung and navigator Ikefai Onopei, have arrived on Saipan and begun work on restoring the Waherak Maihar, a traditional outrigger canoe. The project, made possible by a \$ 13,000 grant-in-aid from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and the donated services of the Puluwat craftsmen, is designed to restore the 26 foot canoe to its original seaworthy condition.

The project has been underway for nearly three weeks and according to Scott Russell of the Historic Preservation Office, a great deal of work has been accomplished. The canoe was disassembled and moved by flatbed trailer to the beachside residence of Lino Olopai in Chalan Kanoa, where the craftsmen began replacing the caulking and lashings on the hull. Coconut fiber cemented with sticky breadfruit sap was used to seat the individual hull pieces. After the sap had dried, the pieces were tightly lashed together with coconut rope.



Sia Aiman and Pailug measure a replacement part for the lee platform.



Portion of hull after replacement of caulking showing temporary holding pegs.

Most of the materials needed in the repairs were prepared on Puluwat in advance of the project and transported to Saipan, courtesy of Continental Air Micronesia. Included among these materials were several bales of coconut fibers derived from green coconuts that had been soaked in water for several months to make them soft. The fibers are used by the men in preparing rope. A small amount of fiber is gathered and rolled on the leg forming thin strands. Individual strands are then twisted together to form larger diameter rope. In repairing the canoe, it will be necessary for the men to prepare hundreds of yards of rope in various diameters to replace the intricate lashings that hold the canoe together.

Repairs are scheduled to continue for several more weeks culminating in launching the canoe for a series of test sails. The Historic Preservation Office is currently investigating the possibility of displaying the finished canoe at the Saipan International Airport.



Ikefai Onopei (seated) lashes outrigger boom with assistance from Joash Uruo and Luis Richo.



Chief Manupi Rapung making coconut fiber rope.

TRUK continued

well-preserved archeological site. These were recorded in detail, and mapped by surveyors from the District Land Commission working with Kapileo and Nikichinap. At the airport, Parker and Nikichinap with the help of many older residents, identified old house sites, wuut sites, and other parts of the villages as it had been before the relocation. King directed excavations under the old Japanese airfield, northwest of the present runway. These revealed the remains of the old village -- dark "midden" zones of deeply discolored soil with shellfish remains, bones, and artifacts. Cooking hearths and a human



Above the quarry, this 12-centimeter dual-purpose Japanese gun was found, up-ended and almost completely buried. The scale is 1 meter long. U.S. Intelligence reports from World War II, inspected at the Micronesian Area Research Center, suggest that it was put in by the Japanese in about March of 1944.



Joanes Billy of Iras carefully trowels in one of the test-pits, while Nesema Nikichinap and Kenenter Shirai wait to screen the sand.

skeleton were also found; the skeleton was carefully recorded, removed, and reburied on land belonging to a family thought to be related to the man whose skeleton it was. Consultation is continuing with the villages to find ways of avoiding historic places on the reef, where dredging will take place. Analysis of the information recovered during the archeological project is also underway, directed by King and Parker. A report of the archeological project is expected to be ready during the spring of 1979; it will include texts in both Trukese and English. In the meantime, King has prepared a summary article for Micronesian Reporter, which should appear in the next issue. Watch for it!



Nesema and Mwiren wash and sort shells from the excavations, watched by younger people of Iras. All the shells, bones, and other debris from each 10-centimeter level in each test pit was put in a labelled bag, and then sorted and identified by the older women, who still remember the names of the shellfish, where they were found, and what they were used for.

The only grave found was this one, but many more are said to lie under the present run-way. The body, that of a man, is lying on his back, stretched out flat, with his head to the west so that, if he sat up, he would face the morning sun.



MICRONESIAN ARCH

CIPS SURVEYED IN YAP, TRUK, AND KOSRAE

Under contract with the Historic Preservation Office, Pacific Studies Institute has completed archeological surveys of proposed Capital Improvement Project (CIP) areas in Yap, Truk, and Kosrae. Dr. Samuel Price was in overall charge of the project, and personally directed the work on Yap; Mr. John Craib was field director of the Truk and Kosrae surveys.

On Yap, six archeological sites of various kinds were found on a power line right of way running through the interior highlands from the Colonia area into Map. All of these sites are being avoided by making small changes in the placement of posts and the alignment of the power lines. In Truk, a number of prehistoric sites and several Japanese bunkers were found in the path of road, sewer, water, and electric construction around Moen, but proposed construction areas on Tonowas (Dublon) were found to be clear. Minor salvage excavations may be necessary at the Moen sites. On Kosrae, most CIPs were found to be clear, but two sites were found on the right-of-way of a road construction project. One is a shell midden, the other, a complex of rectangular stone structures. Both are proposed for salvage excavation after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

POSSIBLE CONTRACT ARCHEOLOGY: KOSRAE

Pending completion of compliance with the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and award of a contract for construction, the Trust Territory Historic Preservation Office is considering issuing a contract for archeological data recovery at the Okat Jungle Road Site and the Tafunsak Shell Midden, both of which will be affected by Capital Improvement Program road construction on Kosrae. Fieldwork would probably be required in early 1979.

Persons interested in receiving a request for proposals, should the project be undertaken, should contact the Historic Preservation Office.



AYRES RETURNS TO PONAPE

Dr. William Ayres of the University of Oregon is back on Ponape continuing his comprehensive archeological survey in cooperation with the Ponape Historic Preservation Committee. Ayres and his 5-person staff are working under a grant-in-aid from the Historic Preservation Office. Ayres' work is aimed not only at firmly identifying significant historic properties, but at accounting for the development of Ponape's social organization. This year, Ayres is assisted by Dr. Craig Severance of the University of Hawaii, Hilo, a cultural anthropologist who is studying the use of marine resources.

NAN MADOL LARGER THAN ANTICIPATED

Dr. Arthur Saxe of Ohio University has been in charge of a re-study of the famous site of Nan Madol, in Ponape. Fieldwork at Nan Madol went on from February through April, 1978, and a report is now in preparation. Dr. Saxe's work, conducted in cooperation with the Ponape District Historic Preservation Committee, included both on-land and underwater surveys around the site at the mouth of Madolenihmw Harbor, as well as extensive interviews with knowledgeable local historians.

Before he left Ponape, Saxe reported that Nan Madol, as a residential and administrative center, is much larger than had previously been thought. In addition to the well-known walled complex of artificial islets off Temwen Island, there are numerous structures on Temwen Island itself, additional artificial islets elsewhere around the mouth of the harbor, and artificial walls on the edge of the reef offshore.

Underwater in the channel off NanDouwas, one of the largest of Nan Madol's artificial islets, an intriguing complex of standing stones was reported. These are very heavily encrusted with coral, but appear to be artificial. Alan Burdick of Micronesian Legal Services Corp., who volunteered his time as a diver on the project, is continuing to dive on the columns to make an adequate photographic record; earlier photography was severely hampered by murky water conditions.

Saxe and his party, assisted by Melody Actuoka of the Northern Marianas Archeological Society, also helped the Ponape Historic Preservation Committee with surveys of road rights-of-way, a quarry site, and other areas subject to disturbance by future construction activities.

EOLOGICAL SURVEY

RADIOCARBON DATES ANNOUNCED

Seventeen new radiocarbon dates on Micronesian materials have been reported recently. The University of California at Riverside, has processed two samples from the deeper (but not deepest) levels of the Laulau Beach Site on the windward side of Saipan, excavated in 1977 by the Northern Marianas Archeological Society. One sample was determined to have originated about 940 B.C., the other about 960 B.C.

Meanwhile on Ponape, Dr. William Ayres has obtained three radiocarbon dates. One, a date of 750 AD, is associated with architectural remains in the interior of the Awak valley system. This date is significant because it is the earliest dated Ponapean occupation and is one of the earliest Micronesian dates. The date should help establish architectural stratigraphic relationships covering the last 1200 years. The other two dates, 150 AD derived from soil cores in Len en Luke and 4050 B.C., associated with coastal mangrove swamp, should aid in understanding environmental changes on Ponape.

Dr. Jun Takayama has reported 12 radiocarbon dates from the Chukienu Shell Midden on Tol in Truk Lagoon which he tested in 1976. These dates range from 1465 A.D. to modern times and help confirm earlier assumptions, based on excavations at Fauba and Ulibot on Tol, that high-elevation, often fortified sites in Truk represent relatively recent occupation. Dr. Takayama's dates are reported in a manuscript just received by the Historic Preservation Office, which is in preparation for publication.

AIRPORT SURVEYS REPORTED

Dr. Patrick Kirch of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum has submitted two reports of archeological surveys, at Babeldaub and Yap Airports. The former was prepared for the Ralph M. Parsons Company, the latter for the Federal Aviation Administration, in order to allow the FAA to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

At Babeldaub, Kirch found a large number of archeological sites and a scatter of World War II material. Most of the sites will not be damaged by airport construction if care is taken, but two terraced hills will be completely leveled. The ancient terraces of Palau are an archeological mystery, and it is expected that salvage excavations at the two hills at Babeldaub Airport will help show what the terraces were used for and when they were built.

At Yap, Kirch was able to complete only a preliminary reconnaissance, because of uncertainty about just where the new runway will be built. However, he reports at least 200 graves within the potential construction area. These graves are represented by stone platforms and low pyramids on the surface of the ground; some are identified with known persons who died in relatively recent times, while others cover bodies whose names have long been forgotten. A more detailed survey is planned to firmly identify the graves; if the airport is constructed on the site, very extensive archeological work will be necessary, and the skeletons will have to be re-located to a safe place. Kirch also found World War II gun emplacements that will have to be fully recorded before construction begins.

PONAPE COMMITTEE SURVEYS HOMESTEADS

The Ponape District Historic Preservation Committee has completed an on-site inspection of the Pohndollap area, atop Sokehs Mountain. The Pohndollap area, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, both because of its association with the Sokehs Revolt and because of its extensive Japanese military works, is presently being homesteaded.

The Committee, which submitted its report to the District Administrator and T.T. Historic Preservation Officer on May 15, found no evidence of the fortifications used by the Sokehs rebels, despite a close inspection of all areas reported to have been used during the revolt. It is surmized that the fortifications were scavenged by the Japanese during construction of their own gun emplacements and other facilities during World War II. The World War II features were found to be very extensive, and very well-preserved. These include roads, bunkers, water tanks, several large guns, a searchlight, roads, and the foundation of barracks and other buildings.

The Committee also discovered an area containing a very large concentration of stones suitable for pounding sakau, which, while not historically significant, is regarded as culturally valuable.

In negotiation with the potential homesteaders, arrangements were made for the protection of all of the historical features, and for continued access by those interested in viewing or studying them. These arrangements were developed as recommendations to the District Administrator, and are now under consideration.

THE UNITED NATIONS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The TTPI Historic Preservation Program is conducted under the authority of the U.S. National Historic Preservation Act. This Act, however, is consistent with several recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This is one way in which the U.S. fulfills its obligation to . . . "apply . . . the provisions of any international . . . recommendations which . . . would be conducive to the achievement of the basic objectives of Article 6" of the Trusteeship Agreement, which charges the U.S. among other things with giving "due recognition to the customs of the inhabitants", protecting them "against the loss of their lands and resources", protecting fundamental rights and freedoms, and facilitating cultural advancement and education.

Among the most important UNESCO Recommendations is the "Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works", adopted in Paris on November 19, 1968. This Recommendation calls for measures to protect "cultural property", by which is meant all types of historical and archeological sites, structures, buildings, and objects, and says that such measures should "extend to the whole territory of the State and should not be confined to certain monuments and sites". It calls for protective inventories, evaluations of the significance of cultural properties, and measures to protect such properties from urban expansion, "injudicious modifications and repair", construction of highways, construction of water systems, construction of power facilities, agriculture, and industrial expansion. It promotes preservation of cultural properties in place, but says that:

When overriding economic or social conditions require that cultural property be transferred, abandoned, or destroyed, the salvage or rescue operations should always include careful study of the cultural property involved and the preparation of detailed records".

The Recommendation goes on to assert that member States should enact Preservation legislation on both the National and local levels, and ensure that adequate funds are available for preservation activities. It also says that States should encourage preservation by private parties. It sets forth a preferred administrative framework, holding that there should be a national-level "coordinating or consultative body" and also preservation services available to "provincial, municipal, or other forms of local government". These services should be adequately staffed with specialists.

The Recommendation calls for "thorough surveys" in advance of construction projects, leading to preservation through zoning, establishment of historical districts, salvage work, or acquisition and development by government. It says it should be "obligatory for persons finding archeological remains in the course of public or private works to declare them". If the site is important, construction should be deferred to permit thorough excavation. . . . It also calls for programs to make repairs to cultural properties, for awards for preservation projects, and for educational programs in historic preservation.

As can be seen, the program called for by this Recommendation is very similar to the one now in operation in the Trust Territory.

Another important Recommendation is the "Recommendation Concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas", adopted in Nairobi on November 26, 1976. This Recommendation calls for consideration of historic areas in regional and local planning. This Recommendation is beginning to be implemented in the Trust Territory by some of the more active District Committees, and by the Office of Planning and Statistics as part of its general land use planning.

The most general Recommendation is the "Recommendation Concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage". This Recommendation, adopted on November 16, 1972 in Paris, is very broad, calling for programs to recognize and preserve all sorts of cultural and natural areas of value, because:

"each item of the cultural and natural heritage is unique and . . . the disappearance of any one item constitutes a definite loss and an irreversible impairment . . . of a nation's heritage".

BAI PROJECTS

The Palau Historic Preservation Committee reports that work is continuing on the Bai Melekeok Project in Melekeok Village on Babeldaub. Supported by CETA and Office of Aging Programs funds, the project involves clearing and repairing traditional stone roads and the platforms on which the large Bai stood before World War II, and then reconstructing the Bai itself. Work has been completed on the roads and platform, the Committee reports, and is now beginning on the big wooden structure. Meanwhile, the Bai Ra Irai, a National Register property in Irai Village, Babeldaub, has been re-painted and treated with traditional wood preservative by the people of the village. This project was supported by the historic preservation grant-in-aid, matched by contributed labor and materials.

WE HAVE A NEW SPONSOR

The Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, which provides our grants-in-aid and administers the National Register of Historic Places and other historic preservation programs, has been removed from the National Park Service and placed in a new agency, the HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE. HCRS is a part of the Department of the Interior, and includes, in addition to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, the National Natural Landmarks Program and the former Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

HCRS has nine regional offices, but at the present time, most of these lack historic preservation staff. Plans are still being worked out for regionalizing the historic preservation program.

The change in location does not mean any change in personnel or services, but correspondence with our sponsor should now be addressed to:

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington D.C. 20240

GRANT AWARDED FOR PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Douglas Osborne has notified the Historic Preservation Office that he has received a grant of \$6,900 from the National Science Foundation, to support publications of the results of his 1968 archeological work in Palau. Dr. Osborne expressed gratitude to the Historic Preservation Office, which supported his application. Dr. Osborne's work will be a major contribution to our understanding of Palauan prehistory.

PALAU PASSES HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Palau District Administrator Thomas O Remengesau has signed into law Bill No. 916, establishing the Palau Historical and Cultural Preservation Commission and the Palau Register of Historic Sites. The Commission is responsible for making surveys to identify and designate historic sites, acquiring and administering such sites where appropriate, restoring and reconstructing historic sites where necessary, developing education programs, and advising public agencies about steps to take to protect historic sites. The bill forbids modifications of an historic site without approval of the Commission, and establishes a procedure for consultation between the Commission and the Distad before a public project can be allowed to disturb such a site. The Legislature also appropriated \$10,000 for use by the Commission.

Although most districts have some sort of historic sites legislation, Palau is the first to pass a truly comprehensive historic preservation act providing for a complete district-level historic preservation program.

PRESERVATION BRIEFS

WOODWORTH, DENONCOUR DEPART

Steve Woodworth, Peace Corps Volunteer working with the Headquarter's Historic Preservation Office, has completed his service and returned to the U.S. with his wife, Chris. Steve has been admitted to the graduate program in anthropology at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Mark Denoncour, who has been working with the Ponape District Historic Preservation Committee, has also completed his Peace Corps tour of duty and returned home. Mark's place as advisor to the Committee is being filled by Dave Hanlin of the Social Science Department, Community College of Micronesia.

Steve and Mark were both tireless workers for the historic preservation program, and will be sorely missed. Steve's bibliography of works relevant to Micronesian historic preservation is scheduled for publication soon by the Historic Preservation Office.

PONAPE COMMITTEE SURVEYS HOMESTEADS

Having successfully documented non-federal contributions to historic preservation in accordance with HCRS policies, the Historic Preservation Committees in Palau and Ponape have received grants-in-aid from the Historic Preservation Office. Ponape's grant totals \$22,525.30, while Palau's is \$ 40,177.59. Both are using their funds to support coordinative staff salaries and the costs of survey and planning. Palau is also allocating funds to a series of "Village Seminars" designed to introduce people in Palau's villages to historic preservation.

PALAU COMMITTEE COMPLETES CIP SURVEYS

The Palau Historic Preservation Committee has completed and reported its inspections of this year's Capital Improvement Project areas. Although no major historic properties were found to be in danger of damage by construction, several areas were identified where caution will have to be exercised. The Committee will continue to work with project planners and construction teams as the work begins.

MARIANAS NAMES HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Dr. Carlos Camacho, Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands, has named Mr. Dennis Vander Tuig to be the NMI's Historic Preservation Officer. Mr. Vander Tuig has served as the staff historic preservationist for the NMI Government for the last year, and worked with the historic preservation program as a Peace Corps Volunteer for several years.

Searching for Micronesia's Past



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONTACT YOUR
DISTRICT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE c/o DISTAD
OR TTPI HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER c/o HICOM

The Headquarters Historic Preservation Office has produced a poster advertizing historic preservation, and has distributed copies to the District Committees. Anyone desiring a poster or posters should contact Headquarters. The poster shows a traditional central Carolines canoe preparing to leave shore, juxtposed

against a scene of archeological excavations, and carries the legend: "SEARCHING FOR MICRONESIA'S PAST". For information on Historic Preservation, contact your District Historic Preservation Committee, c/o Distad, or TT Historic Preservation Officer, c/o HiCom.



MICRONESIAN PRESERVATION

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Scott Russell - Editor



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