

Research Report for the 2018 Archaeological Studies at San Dionisios (GHPI site 66-02-1024) and Palasyo (GHPI Site 66-02-1116), Humatak, Guam

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Abstract

This report summarizes the results of archaeological excavations that were conducted in 2018 at the church and cemetery of San Dionisio, and at Palasyo (Humatak, Guam). San Dionisio consists of a colonial Jesuit church, San Dionisio Areopagita, and a colonial cemetery of the same name. The excavation of these sites is part of the project ABERIGUA, aimed at understanding the processes of identity, change and continuity related to the incorporation of the Marianas Islands by the colonial network of the Spanish empire. The 2018 archaeological investigation has: 1) documented the foundation structures of the Jesuit church; 2) yielded more details on the sequence of its construction; 3) elucidated mortuary practices at the cemetery near the church; and 4) provided preliminary insights on the structures and material culture from the residence of the Governor of the Marianas at Humatak (Palasyo).

Our field season, therefore, has provided new information about the colonial period in Guam as well as new questions that we would like to investigate in the near future. We have worked within the framework of community archeology by integrating Humatak students and staff of the Guam Preservation Trust in the field and laboratory research. Moreover, we instigated interest in the Humatak study area among the students and volunteers from the Pompeu Fabra University of Barcelona as well as the University of Guam.

Introduction

In 2018 (April 24-May 25), we conducted the second archaeological field season at Humatak (figure 1) within the framework of the ABERIGUA project. *Archeology of Iberian colonialism in Guam and the Marianas Islands (Western Pacific)*. The archaeological field research focused on the preserved remnants the church of San Dionisio Areopagita and its associated cemetery (figure 2), as well as remains of the Palasyo site that once served as a governor's palace. The major aim of the study was to understand processes of identity, change, and continuity that related to Spanish colonialism on the native population (i.e., Chamorro) in the Mariana Islands (see Bayman and Peterson 2016).



Figure 1. Umatac Bay and San Dionisios. Courtesy of Richard Schaefer y Cardno GS Inc.

Specific goals included the following:

1. To archaeologically document the sequence of the Jesuit mission from its construction to its abandonment. We were especially interested in finding out the initial moment of its construction, its constructive technology and the relationship between the entrance and the interior of the church.
2. To document potentially preserved remnants of the governor's palace and its associated material culture.

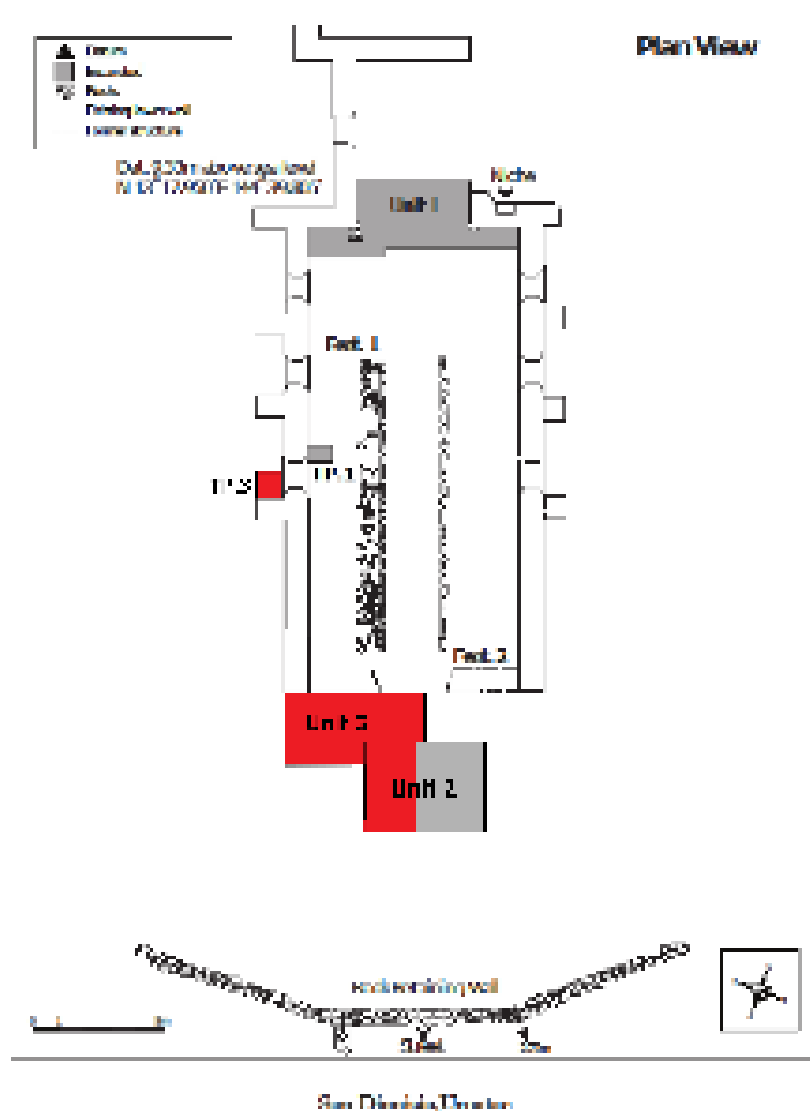


Figure 2. Plan view San Dionisio with 2017 excavations (grey) and 2018 excavations (red). Courtesy of Richard Schaefer y Cardno GS Inc.

The 2018 (and 2017) excavations at the San Dionisios church and the cemetery were conducted within the framework of "community archeology" by involving the current residents of Humatak as active partners and collaborators to support and honor their interest in the history and archaeology of their heritage. With a commitment to work in partnership with the community, the archaeological excavations were undertaken in consultation with Humatak's residents.

Although the colonial cemetery is undocumented in the historical documentary sources, its existence is known through oral tradition.

Key personnel for the archaeological investigation has included Dr. Sandra Montón Subías (ICREA Research Professor, Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Dr. James M. Bayman (Professor of Anthropology, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa) and Dr. Natalia Moragas Segura (University of Barcelona). These personnel directly supervised the various fieldworkers, students, and volunteers who have participated in the field effort and laboratory analysis. Dr. Laura Trelliso Carreño, Pompeu Fabra University, assumed responsibility for the excavation and osteoarchaeological study of human remains. Dr. Lourdes Prados Torreira, from the Complutense University of Madrid, also participated in the 2018 excavations.

The field research has also been undertaken in consultation with faculty and collaborating researchers at the University of Guam and the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) including Dr. Omaira Brunal-Perry and Dr. David Atienza. Likewise, we have solicited and received instructive advice from Dr Boyd Dixon, Ms. Darlene Moore, Ms. Judy Amesbury, Ms. Sandy Yee and Dr. Justin Maxwell. The fieldwork was conducted in partnership with archaeologists Enrique Moral, Verónica Peña, Carolina Jiménez and school children, Xavier Quinata, Samaria Quinata, Ben Quinata, Detra Santiago, Gabriella Topasna, Michaela Aguon, Tyler Aguon, Kiana Siguenza, Jaren Aguon and Troy Cruz. Mr. Joe Quinata coordinated the participation of the Humatak community in the excavation. Humatak residents Kara Santiago, Nick Roberto, Glenn Quinata and Shirley Brooks also participated in the project. The excavations have been conducted in partnership with (and oversight by) the SHIPO (*State Historic Preservation Office de Guam Historic Resources Division*) and GPT (*Guam Preservation Trust*).

Marianas, Guam and Humatak in historical perspective

European exploration of the Mariana Islands began in 1521, with the first Magellan-El Cano circumnavigation of the world, and contact was initiated between the local Chamorro of Guam and the crew of Magallanes. Due to a cultural misunderstanding, the island received the unfavorable title of *Islas de los Ladrones* (Islands of the Thieves). However, it was not until 1565 that Miguel López de Legazpi claimed the islands for the Crown of Castile, and not until 1668 when permanent colonization begun with Diego Luis de San Vitores' establishment of the first

Jesuit mission. To honor Queen Regent Doña Mariana de Austria, the islands were renamed *Islas Marianas* (Mariana Islands). The islands remained in Spanish hands until 1898 when they became a US colony after the Spanish-American war.

Spanish colonization of the Mariana Islands was connected to the Manila Galleon trade route that linked Acapulco (Mexico) with Manila (the Philippines) between 1565 and 1815 (Schurtz 1959; Spate 1979). Because Guam was a necessary stop in the Galeón *tornaviaje*, it became a nexus of colonial administration and economic exchange in the Western Pacific.

Needless to say, human settlement in Marianas and Guam had begun much earlier, around 1500 BC according to archaeological evidence (e.g., Carson 2012; Kurashina & Clyshulte 1983). Like many other places in the world that witnessed European colonization, conventional periodizations end prehistory around the first contact with the European world. In the Marianas, two main temporal periods have been adopted: a Pre-Latte period (1500 BC-900/1000 AD) and a Latte period (900/1000 AD-1521 AD). The point of inflection between these two periods was signified by the appearance of latte structures. Recently, however, some writers have proposed that the Latte period should be extended to 1700 AD, since it was at that time that most Latte settlements were forcibly abandoned due to the *Reducción* (Brunal-Perry 2009; Hezel 1989).

Humatak offers a privileged enclave for the long-term study of colonial processes. Together with Agaña, it was the most important city of the Spanish colonial administration in the Pacific Islands. In addition, Humatak is one of the most emblematic places of Guam. It is considered by some to be the place where Magellan's crew stopped in 1521. In 1565 Miguel López de Legazpi took possession of the island in this same place. Because Humatak offers a welcoming bay with fresh water sources it became an important "way station" for the Manila Galleon transoceanic trade (Bjork 1998: 25; Brunal-Perry 2004; Van der Porten 2005; Yuste 2007). Consequently, contact between the native populations of Guam and the travelers of the Galeón were particularly intense at Humatak. Such contact is evident in the presence of numerous latte settlements and material culture indicative of contact in the Humatak area.

With the advent of the *Reducción* in the 1670s, Governor Quiroga established his official residence in the town of Humatak, which led to the construction of a series of fortifications to defend the bay, especially during the berthing and disembarkation of the Galleon products when

it visited Guam on its transatlantic route (Delgadillo et al., 1979, Driver and Perry 1994). The installation of the battery of Nuestra Señora del Carmen, was followed by construction of Fort Saint Angel, Fort San José, and Fort of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad. Although the excavations we have carried out have been the first at San Dionisio, archeological work was previously carried out at the fort of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, Fort San José (Moore and McNerney 1984), and some pre-Spanish settlements (Moore 1989, Brown 1990).

The 2018 archaeological excavations of San Dionisios (GHPI site 66-02-1024)

To place the colonization of Guam in a global perspective, we need to frame it within the worldwide expansion of the Jesuit mission system (Banchoff & Casanova 2016; Clossey 2008; Coello et al. 2012; Molina 2013; Prosperi 1992). San Dionisios Areopagita was one such missions. In fact, it is one of the first Jesuit missions that was built in Guam and the Mariana Islands.

Information related to the Jesuit mission of San Dionisio is present in documentary sources (Annual Letters and Relations) and old engravings and paintings that were produced during a series of European expeditions to Guam in the nineteenth century. Like other buildings on the island, we know that the mission was affected by a series of natural disasters, as well as by the passage of time after its abandonment in 1909. From the historical documentary sources, we know that the mission was rebuilt on at least three occasions. The first building was constructed of wood and other perishable plant materials, and it was rebuilt in 1680 following a devastating typhoon. We also know that re-using building stones (possibly from its foundations) carried out, this initial reconstruction at least partly. After its destruction by yet another typhoon, the church was again rebuilt in 1693, this time with walls that were made entirely of stone and covered by a thatched roof. In 1848, an earthquake destroyed the church once again. In 1887, Governor Olive mentioned this particular instance of rebuilding in his written report: “Islas Marianas. Ligeros Apuntes acerca de las mismas, Porvenir al que pueden y deben aspirar, y ayuda que ha de prestar la administración para conseguirlo”. He noted that the church was made of stone and that the roof was constructed of jigay or nete. Although the early engravings of the church are useful, they only provide idealized images of the exterior of the church. Neither the old engravings nor the documentary sources provided, offer any indications of a cemetery.

During 2018 archaeological fieldwork at San Dionisios, we resumed the 2017 excavation of Unit 2, we opened Unit 3 and Test Pit 3, and we initiated excavations in the Palasyo. Throughout the excavation, we adhered to the natural archaeological stratigraphy of the area as well as the different construction phases of the buildings. All of the sediments were screened and unscreened samples of sediment were collected for flotation and phytolith analyses. Standardized field forms and field journals were also completed, and planview maps and section profiles and photographs were produced throughout the excavations. We also used a Total Station TRIMBLE 5503 DR STD to make some of the maps and to maintain provenience.

Concurrent with the archaeological excavation we established a laboratory facility at the Humatak Cultural Centre for the preliminary processing of the archaeological materials (e.g., pottery, lithics, bone, faunal remains, human skeletal remains, malacological remains, metal artifacts, and construction materials). Tasks in the laboratory included the washing and drying of those materials that required it, their labeling, an initial inventory, and the preparation of cultural materials for eventual detailed analyses and curation.

Below are summary descriptions of the unit excavations:

TEST PIT 3 (TP3)

Test Pit 3 was designed to investigate whether or not the church of San Dionisio had a foundation system. Accordingly, a 1 x 1 meter unit was opened in the exterior of the church, alongside and parallel (i.e., 230° N) to the west wall and one of its buttresses.

Four layers and 5 construction units were encountered and documented prior to reaching the sterile layer (figure 3).

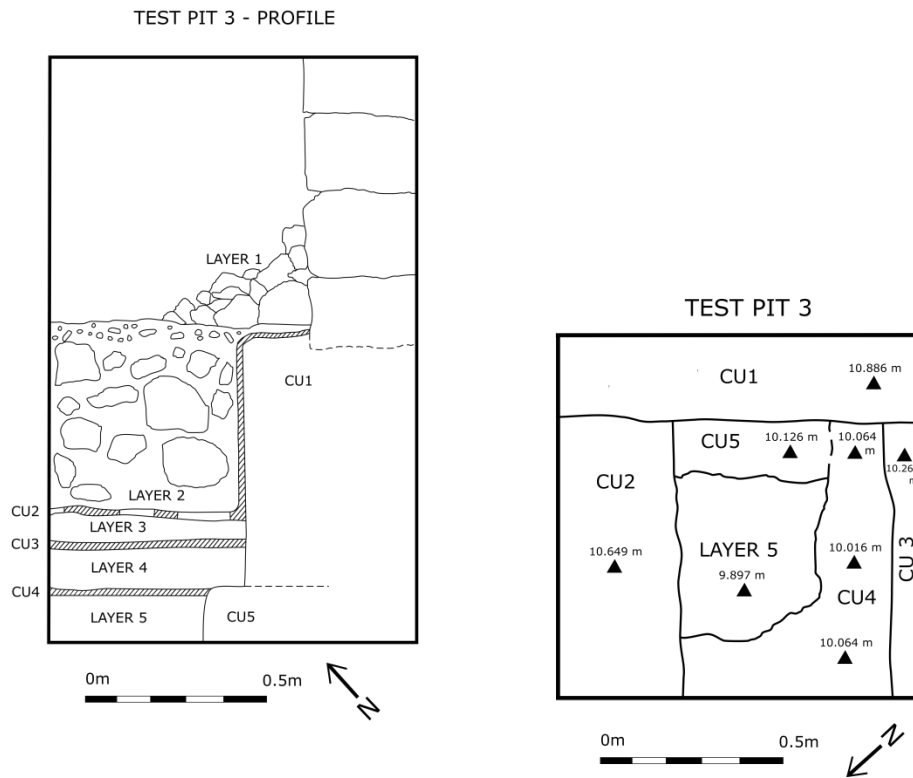


Figure 3. Section and plan view TP 3.

Layer 1

Initial depths: NE: 11,30 msnm; SE: 11,28- msnm.

Terminal depths: NE: 10,98 msnm; NW: 10,95 msnm; SE: 10,97 msnm; SW: 10,93 msnm.

This layer embodies the most recent collapse of the church and it spans the entire area of the unit.

Layer 2

Initial depths: NE: 10,98 msnm; NW: 10,95 msnm; SE: 10,97 msnm; SW: 10,93 msnm.

Final depths: NE: 10,47 msnm; Centre: 10,47 msnm; SE: 10,56 msnm.

This layer also comprises a collapse (albeit minor in nature). Stones are mixed with a dark brown sediment (2/2 10YR).

The construction surface of structure 1 (CU1) was encountered only a few centimeters into the layer and it was attached to the wall, which served as both a foundation and a sidewalk.

This layer comprises a relatively recent collapse, as indicated by the material culture that was recovered (e.g., beer cans, marbles or plastic). A coin that was minted by the United States dates to 1964, confirming that the collapse happened no earlier. Modern material culture and other debris was encountered and recovered to a depth of 25cm below the top of the layer.

Construction Unit 1(CU1)

Initial depths: NE: 10,96 msnm; Centre: 10,92 msnm; SE: 10,88 msnm.

Terminal depths: Centre-E: 10,06 msnm; S-E: 10, 01 msnm.

This unit includes a flat surface that was prepared with broken stones; it apparently functioned as a sidewalk (figure 4). It was partially covered by construction unit 4.



Figure 4. Beginning of CU1, covered by CU2.

Construction Unit 2 (CU2)

Initial depths: UE2 - NE: 10,96 msnm; Centre: 10,92msnm; SE: 10,88 msnm.

Terminal depths: UE2 - SW: 10,34 msnm; SE: 10,40 msnm.

Construction unit 2 (CU2) also serves as a pavement (8/4 2.5 Y) that attaches to CU1, in addition to covering it as a plaster. In the N-W profile, a large well-preserved fragment of this prepared pavement appears, while in the rest of the test pit it only appears a highly fragmented and degraded condition (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Construction Unit 2 (CU2).

Layer 3

Initial depths: SE: 10,40 msnm; SW: 10,34 msnm.

Terminal depths: SE: 10,26 msnm; SW: 10,25 msnm; Centre-E: 10,29 msnm.

Hard sediment, reddish-grey (3/2 10 YR), with fragments of degraded pavement (from CU2, and possibly CU3). Subsequent excavations below this level focused only in the south half of the test pit so that CU2 could be preserved.

Construction Unit 3

Initial depths: SE: 10,26 msnm; SW: 10,25 msnm; Centre-E: 10,29 msnm.

Terminal depths: SE: 10,22 msnm; SW: 10,21 msnm; Centre-E: 10,24 msnm.

This gray pavement (10YR 6/1) is very degraded, and it is 4.5 cm thick (Figure 6). The pavement contains small fragments of coral.



Figure 6. Pavement CU 3.

Layer 4

Initial depths: SE: 10,22 msnm; SW: 10,21 msnm; Centre-E: 10,24 msnm.

Terminal depths: SE: 10,03 msnm; SW: 10,06 msnm; Centre: 9,89 msnm.

This layer is comprised of sediment below its overlying pavement (in Layer 3). It includes small fragments of stone and coral that possibly originated in the upper weathered pavement. It consists mainly of reddish clay (3/3 5YR) and small fragments of coral.

Construction Unit 4 (CU4)

Initial depths: SE: 10,03 msnm; SW: 10,06 msnm; Centre-S: 10,01 msnm.

Terminal depths: 9,89 msnm.

This construction unit is comprised of a pavement of whitish color (8/1 10YR) and it is somewhat degraded, and it reaches a depth of 8cm. It adjoins to the buttress of the wall.

Construction Unit 5 (CU5)

Initial depths: Centre: 10,06 msnm.

Terminal depths: 9,89 msnm.

This feature is comprised of coral rocks and a light gray mortar (7/1 10YR) (figure 7). CU1 rests on top of it. Below is the sterile layer and it is 12 cm thick. It is the first foundation of the church.

Layer 5

Initial depths: 9,89 msnm.

Terminal depths: -

This layer is comprised of sterile sediments that are dark reddish clay (3/2 5YR) in color. We excavated in only a small area of the unit (figure 7) to preserve this record of the various construction events.



Figure 7. TP3 with its different construction units. The metro bar stays directly over CU5.

Archaeological Materials

SD TP3	Ceramics		Shell		Metal		Flat tile	
Layer 2	-	-	NR=1	148,8	NR=13	242g	NR=5	149,6g
UC1	NR=2	86g	NR=2	46g	-	-	NR=7	233g
UC2	NR=1	33,2g	-	-	-	-	-	-

SD TP3	Brick		Pavement		Glass		Coin	
Layer 2	NR=2	298,1g	NR=2	332,5g	NR=4	23,7g	NR=1	4,8g
UC1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UC2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

UNIT 2

Unit 2 was first opened in 2017 (figure 2). In 2018, we expanded it to the west. We have not yet reached the sterile layer since we encountered burials that require detailed documentation. Such documentation is a necessary but time-consuming effort. Thus far, we have documented 4 layers, a construction unit, three burials and four clusters of bones that may (or may not) be burials.

We refer to burials as skeletons that are totally or partially articulated and that correspond to what we believe would have been primary depositions. We refer to "bone sets" the rest of the bone packages that were recovered from this same unit. We believe that the sets of bones can respond to different reasons. In most cases, they are secondary depositions whose nature we are still investigating to determine their significance. In some cases, the sets of bones are directly above one or more primary burials, as in the case of burial 5 and set of bones 4 (figure 8). In other cases, sets of bones seem to correspond to particular primary burials, although we have only documented a single skeletal element that was still articulated (figure 9).

Different questions need to be sorted out regarding the burials. For example: why do we find an isolated part of the skeleton, such as the feet, or the coxal, articulated? Why are there parts that seem to have been cut in skeletons that are deposited in anatomical connection? What do the bones that are deposited on top of the articulated skeletons signify from a behavioral standpoint? What is the chronology of the internment of the various burials? Are they only colonial period burials or is it possible that some of the earliest burials that were interred correspond to moments

prior to colonization? These and other questions should be investigated and potentially resolved during future seasons of fieldwork.



Figure 8. Primary burial 5 and bones set 4 atop.



Figure 9. Bones set 5: articulated feet.

Layer 1

Initial depths: NE: 9,33 msnm; NW: 9,27 msnm; Centre: 9,04 msnm; SE: 8,87 msnm; SW: 8,87 msnm

Terminal depths: NE: 9,26 msnm; NW: 9,26 msnm; Centre: 9,03 msnm; SE: 8,86 msnm; SW: 8,86 msnm

This layer consists of organic sediments that are dark brown colour (2/2 10YR).

Layer 2

Initial depths: NE: 9,26 msnm; NW: 9,26 msnm; Centre: 9.03 msnm; SE: 8,86 msnm; SW: 8,86 msnm.

Terminal depths: NE: 9, 11 msnm; NW: 9.09 msnm; Centre: 8.87 msnm; SE: 8.80 msnm; SW: 8.83 msnm.

This layer is comprised of sandstone sediments that are dark brownish-gray color (3/2 10YR).

Modern cultural materials such as marbles and coins from the 1940s were recovered from this layer.

Layer 3

Initial depths: NE: 9, 11 msnm; NW: 9.09 msnm, Centre 8.87 msnm; SE: 8.80 msnm; SW: 8.83 msnm.

Terminal depths: NE:8.88 msnm; NW: 8.86 msnm; Centre: 8,80 msmn; SE: 8.65 msmn, SW: 8.69 msnm.

This layer consists of unconsolidated sandy sediments that are dark brown in color (4/2 7.5 YR), and they possibly correspond to a specific interment episode. Artifacts (especially remains of building materials such as tiles) and bones are scattered throughout the unit.

The southern part of this unit (at this layer) is greatly altered by the presence of recently excavated post holes that were installed to support a hut that was constructed for a festival in 2006, according to people of the Humatak community. It seems that sand was also placed on the ground to simulate the environment of a settlement with Latte.

Construction Unit 1 (CU1)

This pavement (figure 10) was originally encountered during excavations during the 2017 season. In the 2018 season we recovered additional stone slabs. Their original placement had apparently been disturbed at some point in the past (i.e., before 2017).

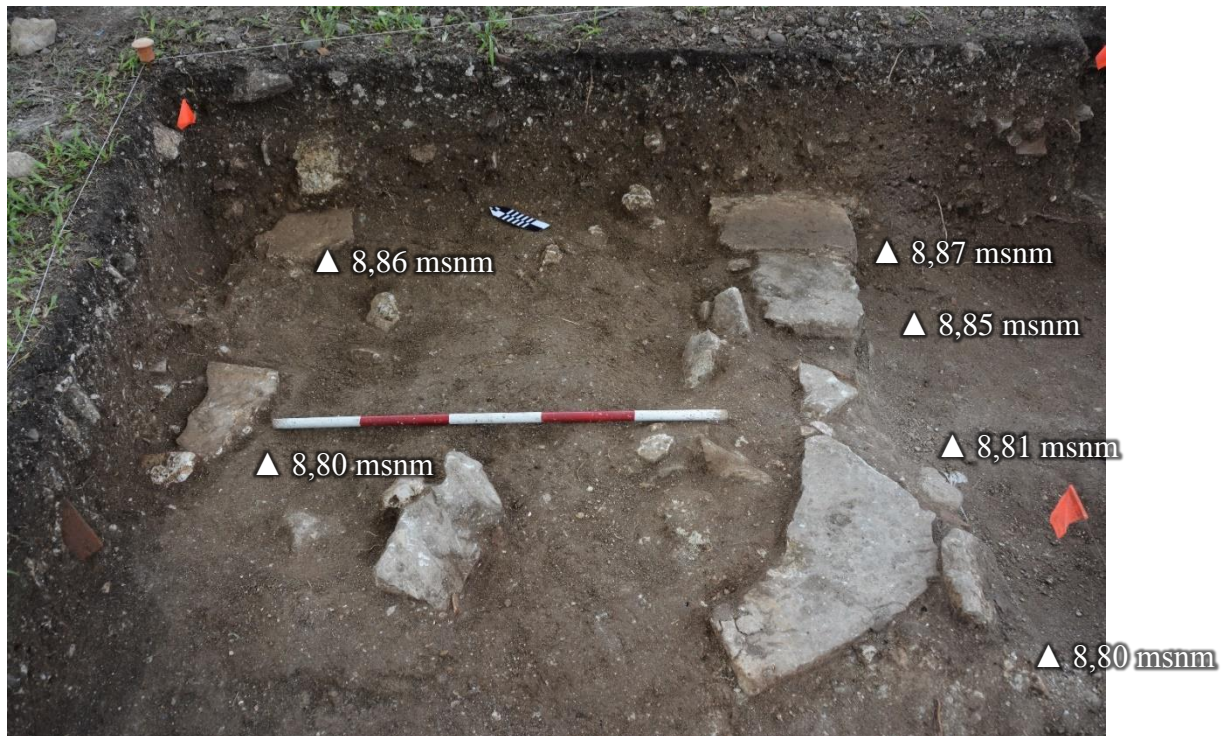


Figure 10. Remains of pavement in Unit 2 (CU1).

Layer 4

Initial depths: NE:8.85 msnm; NW: 8.83 msnm; Centre: 8,75 msnm; SE: 8.60 msnm, SW: 8.60 msnm.

Layer 4 is below the terminal depths of Construction Unit 1. It has the same texture and color as layer 3, but we did not fully excavate it. However, it yielded most of the burials and set of bones that we encountered in 2018.

Burials

Below is a brief summary of the human skeletal remains that we encountered and documented:

Burial 1.Articulated torso found in. Orientation N-S.

Burial 5. Adult individual, supine decubitus, found mostly in anatomical articulation and below bones set 4 (figure 8). Orientation S-N.

Bones set 4: Bone remains that mostly correspond to lower limbs that were deposited just above Burial 5, which is a primary burial (Figure 8).

Bones set 5: Articulated feet (figure 9). Orientation S-N.

Bones set 6: Crushed child skull remains.

Bones set 8: Remains of a pelvis, including left coxal, sacrum and part of the lumbar vertebrae.

Burial 7: Remains of an adult/juvenile individual.

The analysis of the osteoarchaeological remains is still underway, and we will summarize the findings of this study in a separate report.

Archaeological Materials

SD U2	Ceramics		Shell		Metal		Flat tile		Brick		Concave tile	
Layer1	NR=2	19,9g	NR=4	34,4g	NR=12	1,2g	NR=9	238,6g	-	-	NR=4	207g
Layer 2	NR=2	25,3g	NR=19	1000g	NR=94	553,8g	NR=160	5750g	NR=6	1250g	NR=107	5000g
Layer 3	NR=33	807,4g	NR=7	121,1g	NR=32	218,3g	NR=238	7500g	NR=4	1000g	NR=100	5250g
Burial 5	-	-	-	-	NR=16	28,9g	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burial 7	NR=2	3,6g	NR=1	-	NR=7	5,3g	-	-	-	-	-	-

SD U2	Glass		Coin		Ham		Pavement		Lithins		Bead/Button	
Layer1	NR=2	39,8g	NR=2	12,3g	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Layer 2	NR=8	21,2g	NR=3	8,9g	-	-	-	-	NR=2	0,9g	-	-
Lauer 3	-	-	NR=1	1,2g	NR=1	5,2g	NR=1	2,8g	NR=3	125	NR=1	3,3g
Burial 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NR=1	2,8g
Burial 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

UNIT 3

Unit 3 was designed to better understand the architectural structure of the exterior facade of the church: both the relationship with the access to its interior as well as the relationship with Unit 2. Likewise, we wanted to compare the architectural behaviour of this area with that of Unit 1, which was excavated in 2017. Originally, we intended for Unit 3 to include the main façade of the church and what would have been the access stairway to it. After an initial surface cleaning of the area we decide to focus on the northwestern area of the facade (figure 2) so that we would not obstruct the excavations in Unit 2.

It is necessary to keep in mind that our excavation of this unit was determined by the architectural structures and their partial collapse that we observed on its surface That is why the dimensions of the unit are determined by the surface architecture. In this area, a significant

amount of construction features (figure 11) and burials appeared and their temporal relationships warrant further investigation in 2019.

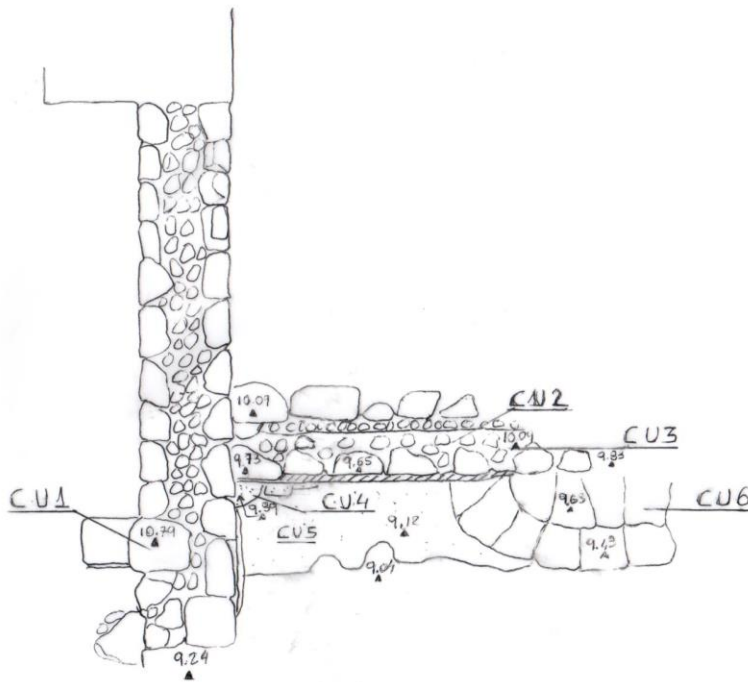


Figura 11. Plan view with different constructive units in UNIT 2 (U2)

Construction Unit 1 (CU1)

Initial depth (encima muro): 10,79 msnm;

Terminal depth: 9,24 msnm.

It corresponds to a wall (figure 12) that adjoins to the main façade, and that follows the same orientation to the west wall of the church. This wall limits U3 on its western side. The wall was constructed of stones of regular size with an average of about 0.40 meters to 0.50 x 0.25 to 0.20 meters x 0.20 to 0.15 meters. The stones appear to be from the local area.



Figura 12. Construction unit 1 (CU1) with mortar remains.

Layer 1

Initial depths: 10,88 msnm (at contact with west wall).

Terminal depths: 10,30 msnm (at contact with staircase).

Stone collapse. It is higher on the side of the west wall (figure 12) and it slopes downward to ground level along the middle axis of the church at the staircase entrance. Contemporary material culture is present on the surface. Because the volume of stone does not correspond to what should be expected from the collapse of the larger structure, we assume that some of them had been extracted for reuse elsewhere in the Humatak area.

Construction Unit 2 (CU2)

Initial depths: 10,44 msnm

Terminal depths: 10,09 msnm

West façade wall (figure 13).

It is very much affected by the collapse and perhaps it was partially dismantled at some point in the past. Its highest level corresponds to the point of contact with the west wall. It follows the slope until it reaches level 2 at 9.63 meters above sea level. Basically, its construction is similar to that of the west wall although with smaller stones and with a matrix that contains a greater amount of mortar.

The main façade is covered by a mortar plaster that is 2-3 cm thick. It is also preserved irregularly and it disappears in certain areas on the wall (figure 13).



Figure 13. Construction Unit 2.

Layer 2

Initial depths: 9,08 msnm

Terminal depths: 8,89 msnm

The deposits in the unit consist of organic sediments with a dark brown color (2/2 10YR) and only a few items of material culture (and most of it quite recent). It was only identified in the southern part of the unit, where it is in contact with Construction Unit 2 and the main staircase.

Layer 3

Initial depths: 10,44 msnm

Terminal depths: 9,04 msnm

Previous layer 2 is mixed with a kind of yellowish mortar matrix (7/3 2.5Y) crushed by the impact of collapse. Very scarce and contemporary archaeological material, the latter mostly from the 1970s. Within the relevant archaeological material are fragments of tiles and bricks.

Construction Unit 3 (CU3)

Initial depths: 9,73 msnm.

Terminal depths: 9,65 msnm.

This unit corresponds to a paved sidewalk (figure 14). It is composed of well-crafted and well-arranged stones. There are remains of mortar with which stones were joined. It is not clear if it had some kind of plaster or other finish although some of its fragments were apparently displaced sometime after the pavement was constructed and use. Aesthetically, it is similar to the construction of the wall and its adjoining façade. It may related to an as-yet undocumented structure.

Construction unit 3 partially adjoins Construction Unit 4 (floor). Moreover, it is also covered by layer 3. However, in areas where there is no floor it appears to slope downwards.



Figure 14. Construction Unit 3 (CU3)

Construction Unit 4 (CU4)

Initial depths: 9.39 msnm

Terminal depths: 9,34 msnm

This area corresponds to a poorly-preserved floor in the west corner (figure 11). It is also attached to the west wall and the paved sidewalk. If we would theoretically extend this floor, it would be attached to the level of the first step of the access stairway. It is currently covered by layer 3.

Based on current evidence, it appears that this floor is posterior to the sidewalk and that it is at least partially contemporary to the staircase.

Construction Unit 5 (CU5)

Initial depths: 9, 12 msns

Terminal depths: 9,04 msns

This unit corresponds to a poorly preserved pavement that had been cut (at a later time) to inter burials (figure 15).



Figura 15. Pavement CU5 cut to place burials.

Layer 4

Initial depths: 9,17 msnm.

Terminal depths: not yet finished.

From a structural point of view, this layer has the same matrix as layer 3. However, we decided to distinguish this area because it lies directly over the trampled floor and so it is slightly more compact.

Construction Unit 6 (CU6)

This area comprises the main staircase into the church; it consists of three steps (figure 11).

First step. Initial depth: 10,09 msnm; Final depth: 9,63 msnm

Second step. Initial depth: 9,63msnm; Final depth: 9,41msnm

Third step. Initial Depth: 9,43msnm; Final Depth: 9,08 msnm

Since this structure has not yet been fully excavated entirely, we just recorded it as a construction unit and cleaned it for mapping and photographs. Its surface remains was apparently affected by the installations of the nearby fence that was constructed in the second half of the 20th century.

Burials

Below are concise summaries of each of the burials that we encountered:

Burial 2. Is a perinatal individual that was buried by the staircase and is close to the facade wall in layer 3 (figure 16). Orientation N-S.



Figure. 16. Burial 2

Burial 3. This is a perinatal individual that had been buried in a pit that was excavated in the pavement (figure 17). Orientation S-N.



Figure 17. Burial 3.

Burial 4. This is a child that had been buried in layer 4. Orientation S-N.

Burial 6. The remains of this child are poorly preserved and were located in layer 4. Orientation W-E.

Bones set 7. This bone set consists of unarticulated skeletal remains in a disturbed area in layer 4.

The osteoarchaeological analyses are underway and their study will be documented in a subsequent report.

Archaeological Materials

SD U3	Ceramics		Shell		Metal		Flat tile		Brick	
Layer1	-	-	-	-	NR=2	14g	NR=20	1000g	-	-
Layer 2	NR=7	154,7g	-	-	NR=6	34,8g	NR=32	1126,4g	NR=14	2750g
Layer 3	NR=17	782,7g	NR=7	1047,9g	NR=6	29,1g	NR=57	5188,2g	NR=2	311,4g
Burial 4	-	-	-	-	NR=1	10g	-	-	-	-

SD U3	Concave tile	Glass	Coin	Bone button	Stone
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Layer1	NR=15	500g	NR=7	128,4g	-	NR=15	500g	NR=7	128,4g	-
Layer 2	NR=43	4082,7g	NR=10	65,1g	NR=1	NR=43	4082,7g	NR=10	65,1g	NR=1
Layer 3	NR=59	4661,9g	NR=2	79,3g	-	NR=59	4661,9g	NR=2	79,3g	-
Burial 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PALASYO (GHPI Site 66-02-1116)

During the 2018 field season, we initiated archaeological fieldwork at the Palasyo. Documentary records and historical maps indicate that it served as a residence for the Marianas governor. As we have previously noted, following the inception of the Reducción in the 1680s, Governor Quiroga located his official residence in Humatak and he commissioned the construction of the Palace that was the object of our excavation. However, related information in written documents is quite scarce. For the most part, it comes from the drawings and descriptions made by expeditions to Guam in the 19th century (Figure 18). In 1884, an earthquake destroyed both San Dionisio and Palasyo. In his 1887 Relation *Islas Marianas. Ligeros Apuntes acerca de las mismas, Porvenir al que pueden y deben aspirar, y ayuda que ha de prestar la administración para conseguirlo*, Governor Olive noticed that the palace was already in ruins. A little earlier, in 1870, Governor Felipe de la Corte had written in his *Memoria* that the Palace was a masonry structure covered with tiles and that the palace had been rebuilt on a smaller scale after an earthquake. The plans of the expedition of Malaspina (1972) and Freycinet (1819) show that the palace was comprised of three structures that could correspond to the residence of the governor and administrative buildings or warehouses. In either case, archaeological excavations are necessary to verify its construction and potential preservation in the archaeological record. Unfortunately, the current San Dionisio church (which was built in the 1950s) in the same location where the Palace had previously been constructed, thereby causing much damage to the remains of the Palace.

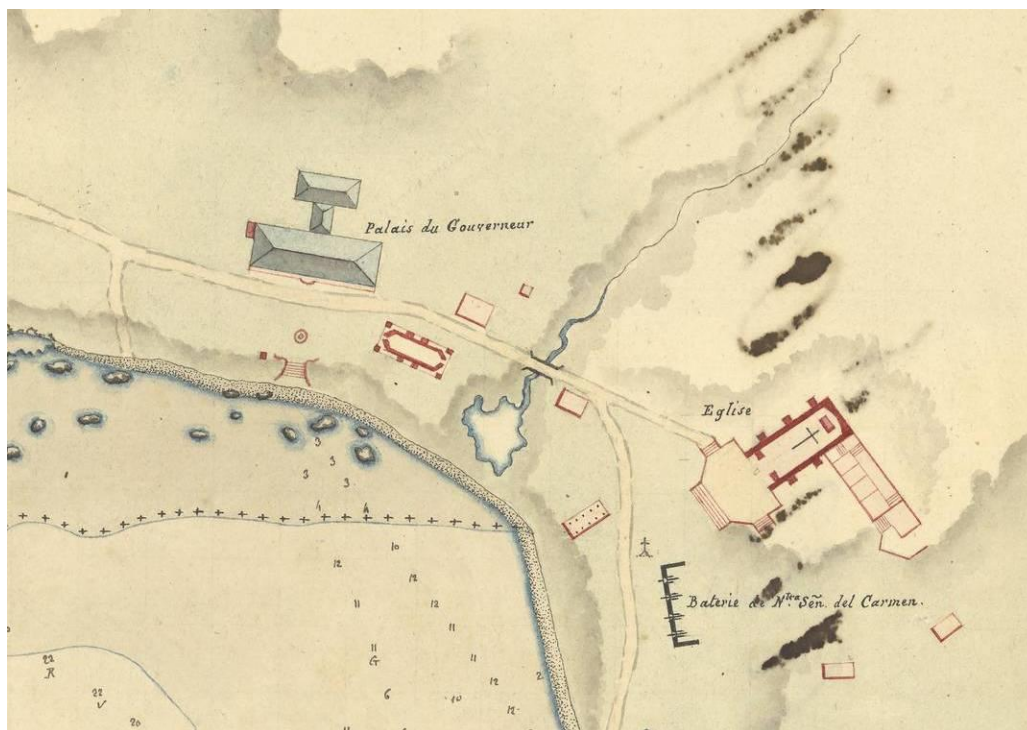


Figure 18. plan view of Umatc colonial structures. Duperrey, 1819.

Today, remains of a masonry wall are visible behind the current church of San Dinosio (Figure 19). Therefore, we decided to focus our archaeological work on this area by following this wall (Figure 20).



Fig. 19. Remains of the Wall before 2018 excavation.



Figure 20. Palasyo's Wall after cleaning.

After cleaning the wall to enhance its visibility we were able to document its southeast angle where it turns towards the (figure 21). It remains to be clarified, however, if this closure corresponds to the first or second room of the palace. For this reason, future archaeological work will be necessary in the area immediately behind this wall. However, we already opened a test pit to see if there were intact levels attached to the palace wall. Unfortunately, we found that all the levels had been altered by the construction of the new church of San Dionisio, since modern materials were found up to the point where the wall started. However, we recovered a relatively large assemblage of historical ceramics and porcelains (Figure 22) that are quite different than those at the old church of San Dionisio.



Figura 21. Palasyo's southeast angle.



Figure 22. Historicals ceramics from Palasyo.

Conclusions and Future Actions

Excavations carried out by the ABERIGUA team in April-May 2018 made considerable progress in the San Dionisio church and cemetery and archaeological work has begun in another enclave of colonialism on the island of Guam: the building that corresponded to the residence of the governor of Guam, called Palasyo. The recovered materials are still under study and analysis, and so the results we have offered in this report are preliminary.

However, the fieldwork has already permitted us to answer some of the questions that we asked when we resumed the excavations that we initiated in 2017. We have been able to confirm that the church of San Dionisio had massive stone foundations (TP3) and that the church had indeed been reconstructed following earthquakes and other events that are mentioned in historical documentary sources. We have also been able to better define the entrance area to the church. It is here where we located U3. Our original intention was to better understand the relationship between this access area and the interior of the church. However, because the children's skeletons appeared just in front of what would have been the façade of the church, we had to concentrate on the excavation of them, leaving this and other questions for later field seasons.

Likewise, we have been able to demonstrate that the patio outside the church was used as a burial area, although we still have to elucidate the different chronological phases that formed it. During the 2018 field season we have been able to verify the anatomical connection of many of the remains. For this reason, we conclude that the area was used as a burial ground during the Spanish colonial period. We are currently awaiting the results of C14 dating of the bone. Likewise, we have been able to verify that many of the skeletons that initially appeared to be "in situ" have apparently been cut or otherwise altered by various taphonomic and/or cultural factors.

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