

Sumay Village

GHPI 66-03-1038

Location: Naval Base Guam

Difficulty Level: Easy (Roadside accessible)

Access (Tier 2): Naval Base access is required. Site is roadside accessible and is open for visitors with granted access.

Site Description:

Before World War II, Sumay Village occupied the area on either side of the road leading to Orote Point. In what was once a tiny fishing village, by the mid-1800s, Sumay transformed into a refuel station for various ships. By the 1920s, Sumay Village became economically fruitful due to its proximity to the Trans-Pacific Cable Station, Marine Corps Aviation Squadron, the Marine Corps barracks, and the Pan American seaplane landing site. With the demand and growth of the population in the village by 1941, Sumay would naturally become Guam's capital; until the 1941 Japanese invasion, which forced the villagers out.

In 1944, the American pre-liberation attack destroyed Sumay and other neighboring west coast villages. Its close proximity to Apra Harbor and the Orote Airfield made Sumay Village a desirable war point for the United States. As a result of the overtaking, Sumay ruins were removed, and the land became part of the new Navy Operating Base essential to the ongoing Pacific Campaign. As a result, Sumay residents resettled in the neighboring village of Santa Rita. In 1974, the Sumay Cemetery became listed in the Guam Register of Sumay Places. In 1997, the village area received the recommendation to become a listing on the National Register as a Historic District. Although no longer a village, former residents and their descendants may return to their previous village with permission from Naval Base Guam.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST ACCESS EMAIL:
M-GU-NAVFAC-APC-GS@FE.NAVY.MIL