

Trans-Pacific Cable Station

GHPI 66-02-1043

Location: Naval Base Guam

Difficulty Level: Easy

Access (Tier 2): Naval Base accessibility is required. The site is visible roadside and at ground level; however, much of it may be overgrown in foliage.

Site Description:

In 1903, the Commercial Pacific Company finished constructing their Sumay relay station on land leased from the U.S. government with the help of Sumay residents, who later became employed there.

The cable station was one link in the trans-oceanic undersea cable that provided telegraph communications between America and the Philippines, China, and Japan. The first cable message between San Francisco and Manila was sent on July 4, 1903.

The Cable Station was a prime target for the Japanese bombers on the 8th and 9th of December 1941. With the station out of commission, communication between the continental U.S. and its interests in Asia would be severely restricted. The Cable Station survived the Japanese invasion but was nearly destroyed by ground fighting between the Japanese Army and U.S. Marines during the recapture of Guam.

Trans-Pacific Cable Station Building

Initially, there were six or seven buildings on the property. Today, there are remnants of four remainings, water tank supports, and mounds of debris. The most intact of the buildings is the battle-scarred concrete wall of one of the station manager's homes. The Cable Station is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1979.



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