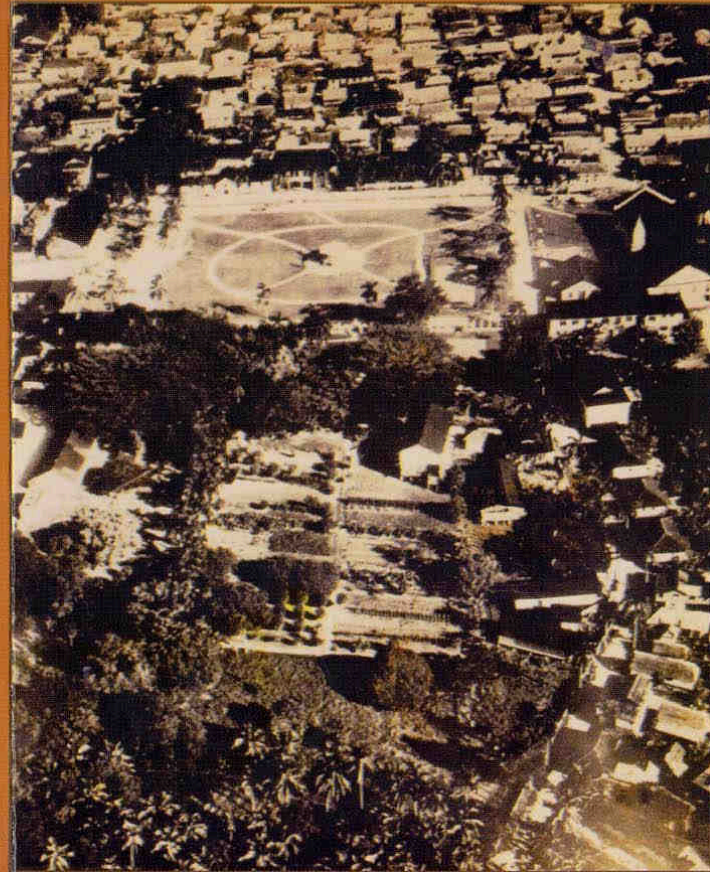


# HAGÁTÑA HISTORIC DISTRICT

Series 1



Plaza de España circa 1929

Department of Parks and  
Recreation

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## SKINNER PLAZA

Skinner Plaza was dedicated July 4, 1961 in honor of Carlton F. Skinner, the first civilian Governor of Guam (1949 - 1953). He was appointed by President Harry S. Truman. On August 1, 1950 President Truman signed the Organic Act of Guam, which conferred U.S. citizenship on the Chamorros. The law was retroactively made effective July 21, 1950, the sixth anniversary of Liberation Day. Skinner Plaza includes other historic monuments dedicated to World War II, Korean War and the sidewalk plaques of Chamorro Masters of Tradition. Traditional Christmas events are held every year at Skinner Plaza.



Governor Skinner monument and Pietra at the Skinner Plaza



## HAGÁTÑA JAPANESE PILLBOX

Located on the western shore of Paseo de Susanna, the Pillbox is one of several Japanese coastal defense fortifications located along the coast of Guam. The Pillbox was listed in 1991 on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1988 on the Guam Register.



A view of the Hagåtña as it appeared from the cliffline circa 1929.



United States military bombardment of Hagåtña, July 1944. The ruins of the city were bulldozed and used as backfill to bury the Hagåtña River and to create an artificial peninsula (Paseo de Susana). The city of Hagåtña was forever changed.

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Dulce Nombre de Maria Church circa 1900 (top) and Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica (below) as we see it today.

## DULCE NOMBRE DE MARIA CATHEDRAL-BASILICA

In 1668, Chief Kepuha, the principal chief of Hagåtña, allowed the use of the land where the first Roman Catholic Mission was established. On February 2, 1669, Father Diego Luis de San Vitores and Father Luis de Medina dedicated the first wooden thatched chapel in honor of Dulce Nombre de Maria (Sweet Name of Mary). In 1912, the Iglesia de Dulce Nombre de Maria was designated a Cathedral. In 1958 the present Cathedral was completed. In 1981, Pope John Paul II elevated the Cathedral to a minor Basilica.

One of the principal features of the Cathedral Basilica is the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen. In the late 17th century, the statue was recovered by a fisherman off Cocos Reef, Malesso. By mid 1800s, the statue was transferred and permanently housed at the Iglesia de Dulce Nombre de Maria. The Santa Marian Kamalen statue is situated above the Archbishop's cove in the Cathedral-Basilica. In 1998, the Cathedral-Basilica was renovated. The renovation included a museum gallery featuring exhibits of Guam history and culture.



1899



1929



2004

## KIOSKO

Originally located in front of the Spanish Palace in the late 1800s, the Kiosko was used as a rest place. It was made of wood and thatch roof. The Kiosko was rebuilt during the first Naval Government administration in the location where it is today. It once served as the Naval Governor's review stand and a bandstand. It stands today as the central landmark of the Plaza.



## SAN ANTONIO BRIDGE

The San Antonio Bridge was built in 1800 under the governorship of Don Manuel Muro. One of three known Spanish stone bridges, the bridge was dedicated to San Antonio de Padua; it spanned across the prewar Hagåtña River, which was at the time parallel to the ocean. A carved greenstone image of San Antonio was mounted on the keystone facing east. The bridge connected the two prewar barrios of San Ignacio and Bilibik. The Chamorros refer to the bridge as Tollaí Acho, which means the "stone bridge."



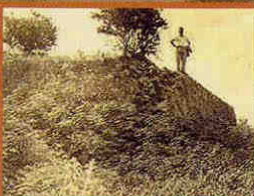
**FORT SANTA AGUEDA**

It was during the administration of Spanish Governor Manuel Muro that Fort Santa Agueda was built. The year was 1800. Commonly known as Fort Apugan, the Fort was one of several forts built during the Spanish Period to protect the ciudad de Hagåtña.

The fort, overlooking Hagåtña, was used as an outpost. The cannons were used primarily for ceremonial purpose - religious and social. In 1802, William Haswell indicated that the fort had seven guns and ten men. He recorded the guns being fired to greet the Governor, saluting his arrival and entry to the Dulce Nombre de Maria Church.

In 1817 the Russian Kotzebue Expedition to Guam described the fort having only two guns and no powder. Kotzebue deduced that the fort was built to control "civil disobedience." By 1887, the fort was in ruins.

The first American administration used the fort as a signal station and a Naval Government Park. When the Japanese Imperial Army invaded Guam, they mounted a gun emplacement on the fort. Today, it is one of the most visited historic park on Guam.



Fort Santa Agueda 2004 and in c. 1917 below

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

In 1952, Carlton F. Skinner, the first civilian Governor of Guam, hired architects Richard J. Neutra (internationally - recognized architect) and Robert E. Alexander to design Government House. On October 13, 1954, Governor Elvidge (1953-54), the second appointed civilian governor, officially opened the "Government House" to the public. Government House was used as a central gathering place for various social events and functions. In 1976, Typhoon Pamela severely damaged Government House. In 1978, Government House was reconstructed to incorporate a Spanish style motif. Government House is also referred to as "Guma" i Taotao" (House of the People).



Eight latte made from basalt was once located in the front of the prewar Guam Museum. (photo right)



**SENATOR ANGEL L.G. SANTOS LATTE MEMORIAL PARK**

Formerly known as Latte Stone Park, the park was renamed in 2003 "Senator Angel Leon Guerrero Santos Latte Memorial Park" in honor of Senator Santos and his service to the people of Guam. Senator Santos is noted for his advocacy of indigenous rights; he is remembered most especially for pursuing the implementation of the Chamorro Land Trust Act.

The eight latte" at the Park were removed in 1956 from the pre-contact village of Mepo. Mepo is located near the Fena Lake Reservoir on federal (Navy) land. The eight latte" were used as foundations of ancient structures. One of the historical periods on Guam, the Latte Period dates from 900 A.D. to 1700 A.D.



**HAGÁTÑA JAPANESE FORTIFICATION**

This cliffside Fortification was built in 1944. Built partially by Chamorro forced labor during the Japanese Occupation Period from 1941 to 1944, the Fortification was used by the Japanese Imperial Forces as air-raid shelters and ammunition storage. After the naval aerial bombardment of Hagåtña, U.S. Marines discovered that the city was abandoned and unprotected. After WWII, and during the Cold War, the Fortification was designated as a nuclear bomb shelter. In 1991, the Fortification was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



The Plaza de España: The Almacén Arches (left) and the Azotea (right)

**PLAZA DE ESPAÑA**

The Plaza de España was originally named Plaza Principal (Principal Park). In the 1800s, the park's name was changed to Plaza de Magallanes (Magellan's Park). Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese navigator, was commissioned by Spain to discover the Spice Islands by traveling west. In March of 1521, Magellan reached Guam. In 1899, the park was renamed Plaza de España (Spain's Park). The Plaza was the focal point of life on Guam, and is the oldest Spanish colonial city in Micronesia. The Plaza contained the El Palacio, the Spanish Palace. The Palace was destroyed during the U.S. military bombardment to recapture Guam in 1944.

Today, the historic structures that have survived include the Garden House, the Azotea, the Chocolate House, the Almacén Arches, the Kiosko, the Plaza garden fountain, the walls and columns, Almacén flagstone floors, and three Spanish Coat of Arms. In 1974, the Plaza was listed on the Guam and National Registers of Historic Places. The arches, parts of the columns and walls are made of cut coral limestone.



View of Government House and Almacén circa 1918



Front facade of Government House circa 1925

**EL PALACIO (THE SPANISH PALACE)**

The Palace was the residence and seat of government for both Spanish and the first U.S. Naval Government administrations. Destroyed in 1944, residence for future Governors was replaced by the construction of the Government House, located west of Fort Santa Agueda. In 1984, an archaeological excavation of the foundation of the El Palacio was conducted. In the excavations, the foundation was exposed partially intact. Artifacts were discovered from the Pre-Latte Period (1500 B.C. - 9th century). Ceramics from China and Austria were also discovered. Today, the Azotea and the inner court are the only visible structures of El Palacio. Formerly, the Azotea was an open terrace. In 1933, the U.S. Naval government built a tiered tin roof over the Azotea.



**THE GARDEN HOUSE**

The "Garden House" is one of the oldest Spanish structures on Guam. It was built circa 1736. The building originally had a low vaulted tiled roof. Prior to WWII, it was used as a storage shed for the garden tools to maintain the Plaza gardens and lawns. The three foot thick mamposteria walls are of Spanish architectural design. The thick walls control the humidity and temperature. In 1954, the Garden House was used as a temporary exhibit facility known as the Guam Museum.

Photography and Design William L. Hamandaz



Spanish Coat of Arms

**ALMACÉN ARCHES**

The three stone arches were formally the principal entrance of the Almacén (arsenal) of the Plaza. During the Spanish era, it served as a military arsenal. The U.S. Naval Administration converted the structure into a school. In the 1930s, an earthquake severely damaged the Almacén. It was declared unsafe and later demolished. The arches were left intact and became the garden entrance to the Governor's residence. Captain Willis E. Bradley, Naval Governor of Guam from 1929-1930, signed the first Chamorro Bill of Rights in the garden



**CHOCOLATE HOUSE**

In the interior walls of the "Chocolate House" are two of the oldest Spanish Coat of Arms on Guam. One Coat of Arms, carved from soft greenstone, is dated 1879. The other Coat of Arms, made of marble, is dated at 1895. Both Coat of Arms were once located in Spanish government buildings. The "Chocolate House" functioned as a "merienda" place where the Spanish and American administrators of Guam and their families entertained - serving morning and afternoon beverages and pastries.

