Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
American Samo	oa
COUNTY:	
Western 🥯	11 11 C
FOR NPS U	SE ONLY
PENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Type all entries — complete applicable sections)	MAR 1 6 197	2
I. NAME COMMON:		
Atauloma Girls School		
AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
^		
CITY OR TOWN: ON WESLEY Sage		
Near Afao Village		
American Samoa code COUNTY	v: Western	CODE
	Med cet II	
		ACCESSIBLE
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	TO THE PUBLIC
□ District Txt Building □ Public Public Acquisition:	C 0 :-I	Yes:
Site Structure X Private In Process	Occupied Munoccupied	▼ Restricted
□ Object □ Both □ Being Consider		Unrestricted
	in progress	□ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		
Agricultural Government Park	☐ Transportation	Comments
Commercial Industrial Private Residence	Other (Specify)	_ comments
☑ Educational		
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	-	
OWNER'S NAME:		
Congregational Christian Church of Samoa		
STREET AND NUMBER:	١	1
(under lease to Government of American Samoa)	xxx: Nation:	CODE
Apia	Western Samoa	CODE
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	HODOUTH DAMES	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:		
(Land system does not conform to U. S. system	m)	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
, ,		
CITY OR TOWN:	ATE	CODE
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS		
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TITLE OF SURVEY:	State County	Local Ca
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7.	DESCRIPTION								
					(Chec	k One)			
	COMPUTION	Excellent	Good	🗶 Fair	☐ Dete	eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
	CONDITION		(Check O	ne)			(Che	ck One)	
		∑x Altei	red	Unaltered				Original Site	
	DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND ORI	GINAL (if kn	own) PHYSICAL	APPEA	RANCE			

Atauloma Girls School: The major structure is designated Building No. 10 on the Atauloma plans of the Government of American Samoa, to which it is under lease from the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, with head-

quarters in Apia, Western Samoa, an independent nation.

The two-story (with attic) concrete structure has first story walls approximately 2 feet thick, and second story walls approximately 18 inches thick. These walls may contain some mortared rocks, but the porch pillars, porch railings, and all steps are of reinforced concrete with fine cast concrete decorations and details. The basic U-shaped building sits within a rectangle approximately 60 feet by 106 feet. Its ridge is approximately 40 feet above the first floor level. First floor ceilings are approximately 20 feet high, and second floor ceilings about 10. Original roof probably covered only the U-shaped portion, but subsequent alterations have covered the entire area. The building is recessed into the hillside. The basic building was built in 1900 by the London Missionary Society, with funds supplied by the Samoans of Tutuila and the Manua islands, and was the second secondary school and the first for girls in Eastern (now American) Samoa. It contained dormitory and classrooms.

The center of the "U", now included under the new roof, has been floored over with wooden joints and boards on both floors. This may have been done as late as 1963 or 1965 for use by the Government of American Samoa. In 1970, the building was idle, but was being considered for renovation for use as part of a community college system.

Building 11 is an adjacent empty residence structure, probably built at the same time as the Girl's school, with massive concrete walls, one story high, about 40 feet by 50 feet in plan. It has been re-roofed with corrugated iron and maintained until recently. Wooden portions of both structures have been replaced over time, but their shells are original.

Building 10 and 11 are (in 1970) in a standing status.

Plan and Map References:

In Architectural Planning Division, Government of American Samoa-Site Plan, 4-22-65 Alterations and Additions to Bldg. 10, 4/22/63 GAS Topo Quad T65, Tutuila Island

**	Appropriate)	*	•
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	•
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
Abor iginal	🔀 Education	🕱 Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	🕱 Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
🔀 Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	,
Communications	Military	Theater	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Conservation	Music	Transportation	
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Short Statement: At			
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Samoan culture was transmitted generation to generation as learned and acceptable behavior when youths associated with adults of the same sex in the daily and seasonal rounds of family and village affairs. The process continues into the 1970's.

Christianity was absorbed into the Samoan culture starting in the 1830's, and introduced a measure of formal education for a limited number of selected boys and girls. Unitl after 1900 and public schools made a small start in a few localities, village parochial schools provided the only education available in addition to the traditional informal Samoan system.

Village pastors, with few exceptions, were Polynesians. The first few were from other island groups, but after the London Missionary Society seminary at Malua, Upolo Island, Western Samoa started in 1844, Sampan pastors prevailed. The goal, never quite met, was a London Missionary Society pastor in each village.

Each village pastor conducted a formal elementary school for boys; many of the pastors' wives conducted elementary schools for girls in the stratified Samoan class system, usually the boys and girls selected for the schools were children of the higher chiefs. There Girls tublic schools in what is now American Samoa until after 1900. A few public schools were started, with help from the religious schools, in the first years of Naval administration. The number and location of public schools were limited until well into the 20th century. Parochial schools continue in Samoa today under several religious bodies as parallel educational systems to the public schools.

Until recently, Samoan parochial schools were oriented toward providing a supply of pastors and/or pastors' wives. Schools were conducted in the Samoan language and stressed religion, but some secular subjects were included. (Con't. on 10-300a)

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Keeper of The National Register MAR 16 1972

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
American	Samoa
COUNTY	
Western	TIBITA
FOR	NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY	WMBER PA WOAT

MAR 16

(Number all entries) 8 p 2

Boys also learned some Western manual arts, and girls also studies hygiene and domestic arts.

The London Missionary Society, most frequently called LMS, was first into Samoa and had a system of village schools, secondary schools, and a seminary established by 1844. Other organized religious groups which followed into Samoa never reached the coverage in adherents or schools achieved by the LMS. Tutuila, the main island of what is now American Samoa, had resident Roman Catholic priests in 1867. Missionaries of the Latter Day Saints came in 1888 and Wesleyan in 1901.

In the dominate IMS system, before 1855 for boys, and 1900 for girls, graduates of village elementary schools chosen for higher education usually as pastors or pastors' wives left their home villages or islands for secondary and/or seminary training at LMS schools on Upolu Island, Western Samoa. Disruption of close Samoan family ties during the absence of students was a factor in opening secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, on Tutuila Island.

Fagalele Boys School opened in 1855, and was the first secondary school (and the only one until 1900) in what is now American Samoa.

Girls who graduated from village schools and who were considered to be good potential for pastors' wives, and who usually were daughters of the higher chiefs, continued to be sent to Western Samoa, to attend Papauta School, near Apia, on the island of Upolu.

Two factors appear to have led to the establishment of a girls' school on Tutuila in 1900. They were the disruption of close family ties by the long absences of daughters on another island; and the danger these girls were in under the growing international rivalry centered at Upolu, the principal place of commerce, government and international politics in Samoa. By 1900, villages on Upolu had been under occasional bombardment for a decade or so. Teenage Samoan girls clustered in a school dormitory were feared to be in danger of sexual attack during the occasional rioting in and the takeovers of the Apia port vicinity by foreign sailors. Germany and England supported rival claimants to the Samoan kingship and vied for control of Western Samoa. The United States was involved to a lesser extent on Upolu Island. Chiefs of Eastern Samoa wanted their girls safe on Tutuila, where some stewardship and protection by the United States prevailed.

Of the two inter-village organizations on Tutuila Island, the matai-chiefs overhead organization and the LMS, only the LMS had the capability to institute and operate Western oriented secondary schools. It already operated one for boys at Fagalele, and it now provided the channels to add one for girls. The LMS used the existing political situation for its own purposes -- the spread of the gospel and some social reform, especially in public health. It should also be noted that in addition to supplying pastors and their wives for the Samoan villages, the/higher education (over)

schools in Samoa supplied them as missionaries to other Pacific islands. Niue, Tokelau, Ellice, Gilberts, New Hebrides, Solomons and parts of New Guinea were Christianized by Samoan LMS pastors and their wives.

On December 7, 1899, Commander Ben F. Tilley, USN, who was to be the first commandant of the Naval Station, Tutuila, wrote from his warship in Pago Pago harbor, Tutuila Island:

"A large number of natives are today holding a religious meeting for the purpose of raising funds to establish a school for native girls near Leone, Tutuila. The Reverend E. Cooper, who is in charge of the work of the London Missionary Society on the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a, informed me today that over \$7,000 had already been contributed by the natives of these two islands. This is more than \$1.00 per capita for the entire population, . . "
(Bryan 1926: pp. 128-129)

Cooper was, in 1900, principal of the Fagalele Boys School near the Atauloma school site, and died in 1902. "He had gotten malaria from exposure while superintending the building of the Atauloma School" (Bryan 1926: p. 263). When Tilly himself laid the cornerstone late in 1899, he noted that \$10,000 had been collected.

While the school was under construction, Miss Moore and Miss French, the non-Samoan principals, "gathered together a few girls in Amanave and gave daily instruction." The year 1900 is the accepted date for the beginning of the school, and the building was probably completed and used the same year.

Girls enrolled in the boarding school had passed the 5th or 6th grade in their village schools, were about 14 when they entered, and were usually daughters of village pastors or the higher chiefs.

In 1926, girls studied in the Samoan language: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Scripture, Geography, the English language, Drawing, Sewing, Singing, House-keeping and Cooking. Seniors also took Physiology and Hygiene. On one morning a week, the girls worked on the associated farm lands. Tuition was \$3.50 per year. It should be noted that the Fagalele Boys Schools was in reasonable walking distance and there were probably some authorized joint social affairs, and some unauthorized ones. Atauloma's staff in 1926 was two women non-Samoan missionaries, two or three Samoan "junior" teachers, and the Samoan plantation/farm overseers.

After the Samoan Nurses Training School opened at the Navy Hospital, Fagotogo, Pago Pago bay in 1913, student nurses were obtained from the LMS school for girls at Atauloma, the public schools, the Catholic schools of the Marist Sisters, and from the Mormon school at Mapusaga.

The one-story concrete residence (Building 11) on the hill behind the school may be contemporary with the dormitory-classroom building and probably was the quarters of the non-Samoan staff.

Detailed information on Atauloma is believed to be in the files of Malua College, Upolu, Western Samoa. A document search there by a historian proficient in the Samoan language is needed.



