

Recent Training and Research Activities on Pohnpei Federated States of Micronesia

In July-August 2008, a project set up by William Ayres, Katherine Seikel and Maureece Levin through the Historic Preservation Office, Federated States of Micronesia, provided additional training to complement what had been done from 1998-2000 and 2002-2003 by Ayres and University of Oregon co-investigators. The most recent project, entitled "Identification and Mapping of Architectural Complexes at Nan Madol, With Supplemental Research at Ipwal, Sokehs, and Investigations on Temwen, Madolenihmw," was undertaken by the University of Oregon staff in collaboration with Augustine Kohler, Chief, Jason Lebehn, and Roseder Lemuel, all of the Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office, and with the encouragement of Isipahu, Nahmwarki en Madolenihmw. Support was provided by the US National Park Service through the FSM Historic Preservation Program (proj. no. 64-05-20456).

This project contributed to the mapping and documentation of early architecture at Nan Madol and the adjacent Temwen Island, Madolenihmw Municipality, Pohnpei State. The focus was on the recording and conservation stone architecture because of its importance to the Pohnpeian community as well as to international scientific concerns. In addition to Nan Madol, research was conducted in the Ipwal area, Sokehs, and in selected structures on Temwen Island, adjacent to Nan Madol, in Madolenihmw District. The documentation of these sites is valuable, and locating them and mapping them is an integral step in the ongoing discussion about how they should be protected and conserved. Ancient ritual sites, agricultural features, and historic sites were examined and mapped in this project. Artifact, faunal and other archaeological materials were observed in their distributions and provide evidence related to dating, site usage, and early Pohnpeian diet. Many aspects of the project in one way or another contribute to preservation of Pohnpei's archaeological past.