

These acreage figures are illustrated on the land tenure map (following text). However, there is no adequate cadastral map of the island and it appears that the exact location of some public and private land has not been fixed. There is no land registration system currently in use on Saipan, nor is there a land records system.

Saipanese Chamorros have long been familiar with the concepts of the individual ownership of property. Saipanese Carolinians still retain the clan or common ownership patterns of their native culture. They are accustomed to government protection of customary property rights. Both groups under Spanish, German, and Japanese domination became aware of western concepts of the value of private property and the value of land records and registration. The importance of and the need for a land recordation and registration system is apparent. The lack of such a system is an obstacle to any significant economic advancement or development on Saipan.

Even though the exact location of many government-owned parcels of land is in question, several areas now held by the government are important to Saipan's development (see map following text). They are:

1. Military retention of the entire south part of the island. This area now contains two airfields.
2. Military retention of the entire Saipan port area midway down the western coast of the island. Certain land in this area must be released before private development as envisioned by the plan can take place.
3. The huge area in the north, encompassing what is known as the Magpi area, and the Kagman Peninsula, at the mid-point on the eastern coast of the island, are in public ownership.

1. Saipan, Mariana Islands District

The Territory Division of Land Management reported public and private landholdings as of July 17, 1967 as:

Identification of Lands	Acres	Percentage of Total
Private Land	7,833	26.4
Public Land	21,991	73.6
Total	29,824	100.0

Considerable information concerning use of public lands is available in current Trust Territory records. A compilation of public land use statistics is shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Public Lands

	Area in Acres	% Total
In use by government (municipal and Trust Territory)	2,262	10.3
Micronesian Homestead (village and agricultural)	1,174	5.3
Lease to private individuals	2,229	10.1
Military Retention	4,963	22.5
Tanapag Harbor	640	
Loran Station	23	
Kobler	796	
Isley	1,189	
Naftan Obyan Bomb Dump	2,244	
Beach Road	38	
Wallace Road	33	
Public Land in Use	10,628	48.2
Public Land Vacant	11,363	51.8
Total	21,991	100.0

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