

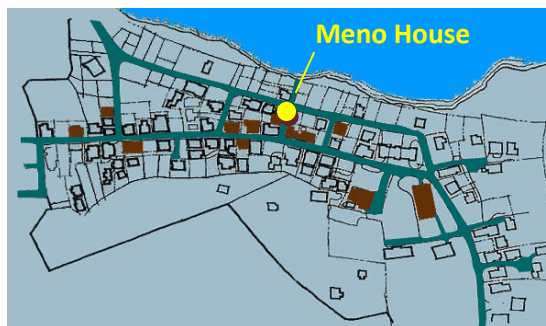


This project by the **Historic Inalahan Foundation, Inc.**, is the result of several years of collaboration with supporters and partners.

- The **Guam Preservation Trust** provided funds to purchase and ship the tropical hardwood, pre-cut and assembled in Indonesia, in addition to funding the locally-purchased roofing materials. The Trust provides technical assistance, such as building compliance, contract agreements, and advises on historical integrity as aligned with the vernacular architecture of the historic district.
- The **Guam Visitors Bureau** administers the Tourist Attraction Funds (TAF) awarded to Historic Inalahan Foundation by the Government of Guam. Funds appropriated by the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature completed the matching funds needed for this project.

The Meno House serves as a model of **tropical wood construction** that reflects the early-1900s architectural style of the Inalahan historic district. The second-floor wooden house was built in Indonesia of tropical hardwoods, including an *ifit* floor. It was dis-assembled and shipped to Guam, to be re-assembled over the ground-floor original *papa'satgi*, constructed of hand mixed board form concrete. It has been tested to withstand typhoon-strength winds, and **meets Guam's strict building codes.**

Traditional-style shutters protect the interior during stormy weather, but can be opened to catch the breezes during sunny days. Interior glass french doors allow the building to be closed for air conditioning. The thermal qualities of wood, along with the high ceilings, make the building **energy efficient.**



Architectural Historic District of Inalahan.

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Available online at:  
[www.guampreservationtrust.com](http://www.guampreservationtrust.com)  
[www.gefpagoguam.org](http://www.gefpagoguam.org)  
[www.visitguam.org](http://www.visitguam.org)

## Groundbreaking Ceremony February 1, 2011

### JUAN AND PATRONA C. MENO HOUSE (L 67, INALAHAN)



Complete Assembly of ifil wood upper floor, in Indonesia.



Upper floor balcony perspective.

GUAM  
INANGOKKON  
PRESERVATION  
IN ADAHI GUA'HAN  
TRUST



The heirs of Juan and Patrona C. Meno provide an important component to the project. Like many of the historic properties in Inalahan, the title is still in the name of their deceased parents. The cost of probate on such small lots discourages heirs from going through the process. By working with the five living heirs, a use agreement was forged whereby Historic Inalahan Foundation, Inc. (HI), a non-profit corporation, secured funding for construction and subsequent maintenance. In exchange, the Meno family have agreed to let HI use the house for 15 years, after which time the heirs will receive the property.

The Meno family is considering the idea of forming a family trust, so that future heirs will always have a share in profits from this inheritance. Such profits could fund scholarships for family members, determined by an elected board of family directors.

The legacy of Juan and Patrona Chargualaf Meno will live on through the stories told by family members. Floren Meno Paulino, born in 1924, tells about the house she lived in before World War II, which was a one-story wooden house, raised on poles about 3 feet from the ground. Her family job was to make corn titiyas every morning in their outside kitchen. The houses were so close together that she and neighboring girls made a contest out of being the first to finish their job, signified by the sound made by scraping off the burned areas of the titiyas. She

talked about playing a Chamorro version of Hide-and-Seek in the area now occupied by Gef Pa'go Park.



**Master weaver Tan Floren Meno Paulino, heir, working at Gef Pa'go.**

After the war, Prudencio Meno organized the building of a two-story house. The *papa'satgi* (lower floor) and stairs are the existing remains of that house. Serafin Meno tells of his job during the building of that house. As a teen-ager, he was tasked with hauling beach sand and mixing cement every Saturday. The cement was poured layer-by-layer between wooden forms until the *papa'satgi* walls were formed. Evidence of this layering of concrete can be seen in the *papa'satgi* wall where the plaster has weathered away.

Teresita Meno Paulino, youngest heir, reminisced about sitting on the stairs in the evenings, listening to the village sounds around her, or talking with neighbors.

The Meno House rehabilitation will be used as a tool to teach Inalahan's Youth "Building Brigade" valuable tools in historical preservation and adaptive re-use. The youths will take an active role in designing and constructing finishing elements, using methodologies appropriate to the time period. This training project is funded by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), U.S. DHSS.

This will be the 9th historic house the GPT has rehabilitated within the historic district, in addition to the 1939 St Joseph's Church restored in 1996. In March, GPT will be advertising an RFP for A/E services for the "Historic Structures Report and Stabilization Plans of the 1922 Baptist Church", located on the bay bordering Gef Pago. GPT will soon be working with Mayor Taitague towards the long envisioned reconstruction of the former Inalahan school now abandoned Inalahan Community Center, which is representative of typical Naval Administration period structures.

Through the development of houses, structures, sites and especially the unique cultural landscape that reflect Chamorro history and culture, it is hoped that Inarajan Historic District can be revitalized as a center of Chamorro heritage for its residents to live and work, sustained by visitors and educational activities.