



***Conservation
Assessment of the
Joachim De Brum
House, Likiep Atoll,
Republic of the
Marshall Islands***

by
Jon O'Neill &
Dirk H.R. Spennemann



ALBURY 2000

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THE JOHNSTONE CENTRE
REPORT N° 151

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O'Neill, Jon—

Conservation Assessment of the Joachim De Brum House, Likiep Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands / by Jon O'Neill and Dirk H.R. Spennemann

Albury, NSW: Charles Sturt University, The Johnstone Centre, 2001.

1 v., - (Report / Johnstone Centre of Parks, Recreation & Heritage, no. 151)

ISBN 186467 085 1.

I. Dirk H.R. Spennemann (1958 –) II. Charles Sturt University. Johnstone Centre of Parks, Recreation & Heritage. III. Title. IV. Series.

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the current status of the Likiep Village Historic Site on Likiep Island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). It also describes and discusses the methods by which this highly significant site with its variety of tangible historic property has been managed.

From the point of view of historic preservation throughout Oceania, it is regrettable that so little historic property from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (whether it was of indigenous or European origin) remains. Several factors have combined to cause this. Great damage occurred from military operations during the Second World War, extreme weather conditions (tropical cyclones) have devastated some islands, and environmental decay is a continuous process. Development and human neglect are also taking a heavy toll.

Tangible and intangible cultural property will decay and disappear wherever it is not considered to have current value because processes for its preservation will not be managed effectively. The moist heat that is so typical of tropical regions frequently creates an environment that encourages decay processes to progress rapidly. When associated with other extreme conditions, decay can be even more rapid. Inevitably, much historic property that was highly significant no longer exists.

This general principle is just as true in the RMI as it is elsewhere. This emergent tropical nation of approximately 56,000 people comprises five islands and 29 atolls (figure 1). They are arranged in two linear groups trending north-west to north-east – the Ratak (Sunrise) Chain and the Ralik (Sunset) Chain. While encompassing almost two million Km² of ocean spread between latitude 4° – 19° North and longitude 160° – 175° East, the RMI has only 171 Km² of land and an average height of less than two metres above sea-level.

Previously designated a district of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, it became a republic in 1983 but elected to retain substantial links with the United States in a mutually agreed ‘Compact of Free Association’. A system of parliamentary government was developed that reflects Marshallese cultural preferences and some traditional social structures while incorporating selected elements of the American Republican and British Westminster systems.

Likiep Atoll (figure 2) is part of the Ratak Chain and is located approximately at 10° North and 169° East, about 450 kilometres northwest of the capital, Majuro. Likiep Island is at the eastern end of the atoll while the Likiep Village Historic Site is at the island’s northernmost extremity – the area least vulnerable to damage from tropical cyclones or typhoons.

While Likiep is undoubtedly Marshallese in character and origins, it has several elements that make it unique. This uniqueness rises from the apparently deliberate retention by its inhabitants of social, cultural and historical links to many late nineteenth and early twentieth century colonial and trading activities. Likiep’s great heritage value results directly from several factors. First, its history since European arrival on the atoll is intriguing. Second, the extent to which two European immigrants were absorbed into the local culture and the rapidity with which it occurred is remarkable. Third, the social changes they triggered have been widespread.

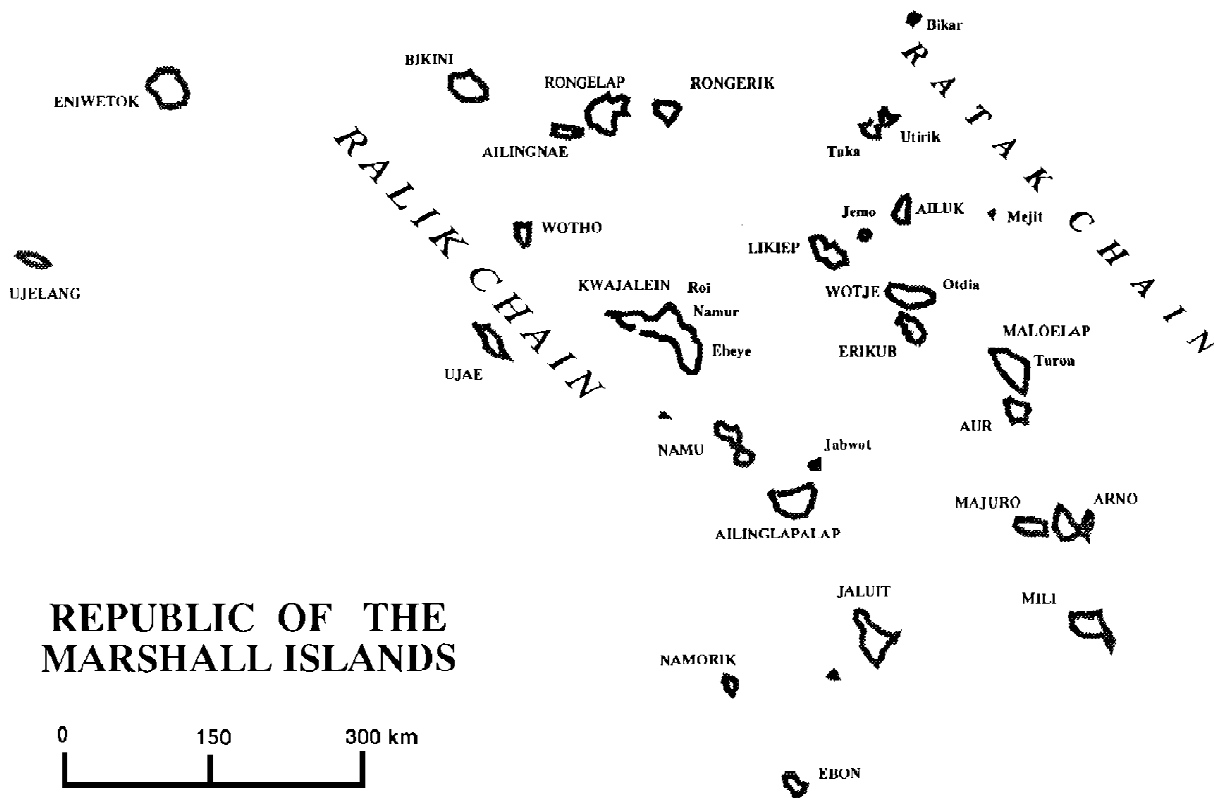


Figure 1 : Map of the Marshall Islands (From Adams 1997)

In the early twentieth century Germany administered the Marshall Islands as part of her colonial empire. By this time, Likiep Atoll had become an important cog in the commercial and social network. During this time (1904/05) an imposing house – considerably larger than any other on Likiep Island – was built in the small village at the northern end of the island. It was destined to become the social hub of Likiep and the administrative, economic and industrial centre of a very successful business empire. It is now the centre of the first Micronesian site to have been included on the Historic Site Register of the United States, and an important Marshallese cultural museum. This site has cultural and historical significance from local, national and international perspectives. Notwithstanding its international associations however, the cultural resources remaining are principally Marshallese in character and are highly valued as local and national Marshallese heritage.

HISTORY

Two expatriates, a German named Adolph Capelle and a Portuguese named José Anton De Brum - McGrath (1973) notes that he was from Pico in the Azores – played key roles in the development of present-day Likiep. Independently of each other, they decided to live in the Marshall Islands and married Marshallese women. Subsequently, they joined forces in what was to become a highly effective and enduring partnership that passed beyond merely commercial transactions. Mason (1947) shows that De Brum purchased Likiep Atoll in 1877 from his Maloelap wife's chief, Jortoka (the *Iroi* *laplap* of the Ratak chain). He paid with goods that were then valued at \$1,250 and transferred title to A. Capelle & Co. the next year for \$886.73. Mason (1947, pp. 170-171) suggests this latter figure was the wholesale value of the trade goods paid to Jortoka. Both men produced large and influential families that between them may almost be described as a modern Marshallese dynasty, and their social, political and commercial legacies remain highly significant in the RMI of today.

Mason (1947, p. 103) claims that in 1883, Capelle & Co went into bankruptcy following several business reversals and all assets and interests (except Likiep Atoll) were transferred to the *Deutsche Handels- und Plantagen-Gesellschaft der Südsee Inseln zu Hamburg*. However, with a third partner, Charles Ingalls, Capelle and De Brum continued to trade through the Ratak Chain from their base on Likiep. Ingalls died in Honolulu sometime in the 1890s and his share of the business was transferred to the *Jaluit Gesellschaft* because Capelle and De Brum were unable to fund its purchase (Mason 1947, pp. 171-173). Subsequently it was returned to them in a complicated long-term commercial arrangement involving trading operations in the Ratak Chain. In 1914, this debt was paid off and ownership transferred in full to the De Brum and Capelle families shortly before Japan declared war on Germany.

Adolph Capelle recognised that longer-term commercial success required guaranteed access to copra and a secure operational base (Hezel 1983). Foreign-based traders were too dependent: they depended on others for supplies of copra, they depended on the goodwill of colonial authorities, they depended on the goodwill of the Marshallese people, and they depended especially on the *Iroi*. These problems were overcome as both men married Marshallese women, raised their children as Marshallese, adopted the Marshall Islands as their homes, and obtained all land rights to Likiep Atoll. These four decisions were pivotal to the long-term success of the Capelle/De Brum partnership and the rapid development of the unique cultural identity of Likiep. Marshallese society is matriarchal, consequently the Capelle and De Brum children were considered *bona fide* Marshallese (particularly by the chiefs of other atolls). Their business was also considered a Marshallese enterprise. Consequently, it was able to continue operating even after Japan introduced colonial policies that first confiscated German property, and later forced all non-Japanese traders out of Japanese-controlled Micronesia (Peattie 1988, pp. 45, 119).

Many houses were built on Likiep Island between 1890 and 1920 that remain in use by descendants of those for whom they were originally built. Most drinking water comes from rainfall stored in cisterns, several of which remain from the early part of the 20th century. Many houses retain their original curtilage with the same wells, the same outbuildings, and

the same coral blocks bordering the same paths of crushed coral. Other structures on Likiep that are associated with the Capelle/De Brum business operations or Marshallese social activities remain in good condition. Without doubt however, the single most outstanding structure on Likiep is the Joachim De Brum house with its associated outbuildings. Although simple in concept and structure, it is several times larger than any other house on Likiep and its sheer size and height dominates the surrounding village. A not-for-profit organisation was formed specifically to preserve this highly significant cultural property – the Joachim De Brum Memorial Trust Corporation (Roberts 1984, p. 13).

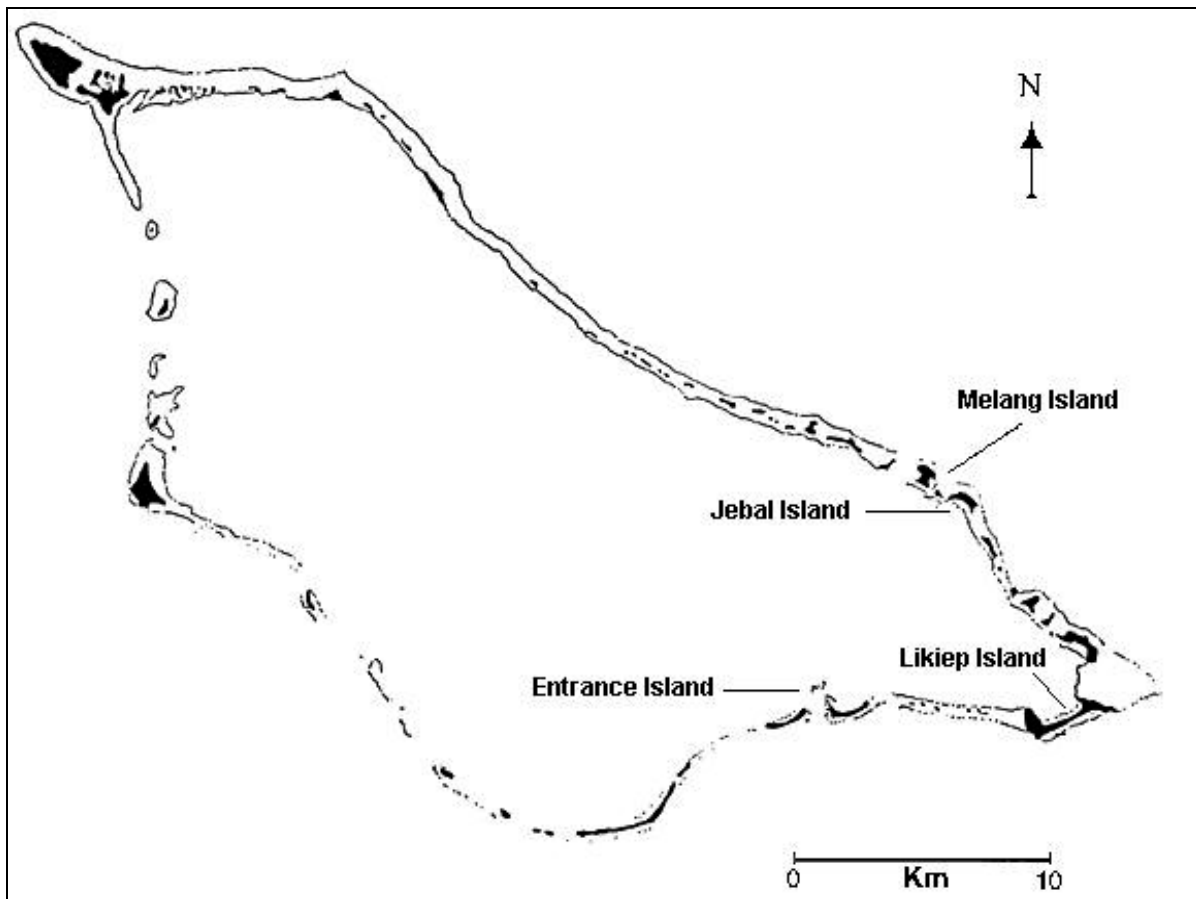


Figure 2 : Map - Likiep Atoll; Adapted from Office of Planning and Statistics (1989)

The physical environment of Likiep has contributed significantly to the type and extent of historical and cultural property remaining. Likiep Atoll is north of the main track of tropical cyclones and has consequently not suffered as much cyclone damage as have Majuro and Jaluit for example (Spennemann 1995). Its geomorphology is similar to that of other coral atolls having been formed from an extinct and submerged volcanic mountain with fringing coral reef. It comprises a number of islands of varying size that have been formed in dynamic processes of erosion and deposition and are composed of unconsolidated sand and coral rubble. Most of the islands are comparatively fertile, have sizeable fresh-water lenses and rainfall is generally reliable.

SURVEY METHODS

Likiep Island was briefly surveyed in October 1999, and the preservation status of the Likiep Village Historic Site and other extant cultural property was reviewed. A visual sweep of Likiep Island was conducted by vehicle, following which, selected areas and elements of cultural property were surveyed on foot. Entrance Island overlooks the main western entrance to Likiep lagoon and contains a small but historically significant cemetery that was also visited. Immovable property including significant buildings and foundations, and several examples of movable property were studied, measured, mapped, and photographed. Items surveyed are identified in Table 1.

Table 1 : Cultural Property Surveyed; Likiep Village, RMI

Joachim De Brum house
Joachim De Brum Storage Shed
Joachim De Brum Dining Room & Kitchen
Joachim De Brum Library
Raymond De Brum house foundations
Likomju De Brum House and curtilage
Business Books found in Likomju De Brum house
'Spanish' water cistern
'Spanish' wharf
Historical Graves

Apart from these specific examples, much other significant cultural property remains on Likiep. Some items continue in use, some are being used but adapted to other purposes, and some are in a state of disuse amounting almost to what Tiesdell *et al* (1996) describe as benign neglect. In this case however, it is not a deliberate attempt to destroy through disuse and accelerated decay. While these items may be surplus to requirement now, when community leaders agree that they are again needed by the community, they will be repaired as necessary and reused.

Jose De Brum's eldest son, Joachim, also acquired an extensive personal library. The books were stored in purpose-built bookcases in 1984 and were inventoried during this survey (Spennemann, O'Neill & O'Neill, in press). Other books, papers and manuscripts were placed in sea chests that are stored in the Joachim De Brum House. Together with other documents that have been reported elsewhere (U. S. National Park Service 1984, p. 6), they were excluded from this inventory.

A small cemetery located on the edge of the lagoon southwest of Likiep village is endangered by erosion and some graves close to the lagoon are subsiding. Evidence of oceanic inundation includes large coral boulders (Figure 3) that cover the southwestern section of the island in particular and a strand wall. Other surface features such as disused taro pits are reported

(Pers Comm. Joe De Brum 21 Oct, 1999) to have originally been part of the damage caused by a mid-nineteenth century typhoon. In their report of the 1907/1910 German expedition to the Pacific, Krämer & Nevermann (1938, p.81) state – "*Gegen 1850 große Sturmflut, die Land und Bewohner verdarb*" – indicating that around 1850 a great storm surge destroyed the land and its inhabitants. Mason (1947, pp. 171-172) shows the island was devastated by a typhoon that hit "...early in the nineteenth century".



Figure 3 : Approximately 50 cm in diameter, this coral boulder is one of thousands torn from the fringing reef (up to 150 metres off shore) and transported more than 100 metres inland by the mid-nineteenth century typhoon.

Each colonial authority has left its own impressions on the cultural landscape of Likiep. Historic cultural property remains from the German period and includes coconut plantations, concrete foundations, housing and industrial relics. Remains from the Japanese period include a brick sundial, foundations and other buildings. The more recent American period has contributed a corroded landing barge on the beach of Likiep cove, the rebuilt Catholic Church, Likiep airfield and a partially dismantled light passenger aircraft.



Figure 4 : Disused Taro Pit, Likiep Island; RMI

Local tradition holds that a large water cistern and a ship dock at the northern end of Likiep Cove were built by the Spanish¹. The remains of these constructions are commonly referred to as the ‘Spanish’ Dock or the ‘Spanish’ Water Cistern.

¹ At least two factors indicate that it is unlikely that either of these constructions were truly built by the Spanish. First, the Spanish never occupied Likiep. Second, both are reported to have been built in about 1886/87, which is after Germany annexed the Marshall Islands. No historical evidence has been found to support this popular tradition.

MANAGEMENT

After José De Brum and Adolph Capelle acquired the rights to Likiep Atoll from Jortoka in 1877, its development, use and management underwent a succession of significant changes. They can be categorised into six distinct periods of time extending from 1877 to the present.

Period One (1877 – c.1900)

This first period extends from the acquisition of Likiep Atoll to the transfer of business control to Joachim De Brum and William Capelle, sons of José and Adolph, and through their mothers, both bona fide Marshall Islanders. Figure 5 is one of several thousand photographs taken by Joachim De Brum. It shows neat coral pathways, A. Capelle & Co offices, the ‘Spanish’ cistern and dock, and other buildings that were constructed during this period as Likiep was transformed physically, economically and socially.



Figure 5 : Likiep Cove, c. 1910 looking east across the island to the open ocean; Photo: De Brum Collection, Alele Museum, Majuro; with permission Leonard De Brum

Copra plantations were rapidly established throughout the atoll with palms planted in rows approximately two to three metres apart to allow easy access for harvesting and maintenance. This method was adopted following its success on the German plantations in Samoa. Associated infrastructure was established, including homes, warehouses, stores, and water cisterns. Wide pathways were constructed using blocks of coral or beach rock as edging and crushed coral as fill. This period of rapid change resulted in highly significant social developments as Likiep was transformed into a single homogenous economic unit.

Likiep Cove is remarkably unchanged today and most of the coral paths and many buildings still exist. Figure 6, photographed almost 90 years after Joachim De Brum's photograph, shows one of the paths included in figure 5. Consideration of the two photographs illustrates a dramatic change in management practices that now permit grasses and other ground cover to grow freely on paths that were previously carefully raked and weeded.



Figure 6 : Coral Path; Likiep Village, RMI. Facing east.

Period Two (c.1900 – 1914)

This period lasted only until Japan took control of Germany's former colonies in the northern Pacific and enforced commercial dominance through military power. In 1904/05, Joachim De Brum built his house with its characteristic living area of three rooms surrounded by an extensive veranda. Unlike several other houses in the village, this comparatively large house was built on short concrete piers. Older houses on Likiep have similar foundations but there are some notable exceptions. For example, Likomju De Brum's house was built by Joachim in 1910 on a poured concrete slab.

Jelks reports that Joachim's house was raised on high wooden posts and the thatched roof replaced with corrugated iron in 1929 (Jelks & Jelks 1978, p. 6). However, photographs taken by Joachim De Brum between 1910 and 1915 indicate that the thatch roof was replaced with corrugated iron several years before the house was raised (Figure 10, Figure 11). When the house was lifted onto its existing wooden piers (thus increasing headroom beneath the house to approximately two metres), the ridge of the house rose to its current height of about 10 metres.

Maintenance and construction of shipping developed into a second industry, and one that drew heavily on Marshallese tradition and skills (Figure 7). Under Joachim's energetic management, it contributed much to the continuing development on Likiep of revolutionary economic and social change.



Figure 7 : Repairs to a Trading Vessel in Likiep Cove. Photo: De Brum Collection, Alele Museum, Majuro; with permission Leonard De Brum

Period Three (1914 – 1937)

This period lasted from the outbreak of World War I and Japan's annexation of Germany's Marshall Island colonies until Joachim's death in 1937. The sudden change in colonial administrations meant significant and rapid change. New political realities had to be faced and new commercial associations had to be made. These challenges were met so successfully that

he was invited to attend the investiture of the Emperor of Japan² in Kyoto in 1928. Further construction work on Likiep, successful copra production, operation and expansion of the shipyards and Joachim's continuing deep fascination with photography characterised this period.

Period Four (1937 – 1947)

The fourth period followed Joachim's death and lasted ten years, spanning the Pacific War of 1941-45. During this time the house, its contents and associations gradually became less a feature of life on Likiep. Joachim De Brum was held in the deepest of respect and everything associated with him was treated with the same respect. Nevertheless, things had changed. Nobody used the library so intensively as Joachim had and there was probably little further acquisition of books during this time. Villagers had been invited to attend regular dinners, dances and other entertainments that were hosted by Joachim. The festivities were illuminated by a series of gaslights fuelled by Joachim's own home-built acetylene gas generator. Music was provided from Joachim's large library of cylinder recordings that were played on his "gramophone". While he was alive, most social life on Likiep revolved around him, and with his passing, all of these previously popular activities became much less frequent.

Nevertheless, the house was used as the family home and was consequently maintained in a generally good condition. The Pacific War raged elsewhere, and other Marshall Islands atolls such as Wotje, Maloelap, Mili, Jaluit, Enewetok and Kwajalein were pounded by American naval and aerial bombardments. Apart from regular patrols by American aircraft and attacks on any Japanese forces found, Likiep was left alone. Gradually, it descended from its position as an important social, agricultural and industrial centre of the Marshall Islands, and became just another 'outer island' – one among many.

Undoubtedly, this process of 'de-development' contributed greatly to the preservation of Likiep's rich store of highly significant cultural property.

Period Five (1947 – 1976)

Another pivotal date in the history of the Joachim De Brum house occurred in 1947 when the family moved off-island, locking and securing the house and arranging for it to be protected by local caretakers. The major feature of its management during this period is progressive decay through disuse. Nobody lived in the house regularly although Leonard De Brum would usually stay there whenever he visited Likiep. After all, it was his home regardless of all other developments, and for him the house remains filled with living memories of real people and real events. Whether this same deep sense of association and attachment to the property will continue with following generations is of critical importance for the preservation of this unique heritage

In 1966, the United States of America enacted legislation (the *National Historic Preservation Act 1966*) that was to have considerable impact on historic preservation in America but also in the RMI, Likiep Island and Marshallese culture. Its pervasive affect throughout Micronesia illustrates how external administrations may influence the societies and cultures whose terri-

² This invitation is held by Leonard De Brum in his personal collection of family memorabilia.

tories they control. In the decade following 1966, the social significance of this legislation became clearer as the number of practical applications grew – firstly within the United States and later throughout its associated territories. This seminal legislative and social development leads directly into the current phase.

Period Six (1976 – Today)

Since 1976, several notable events that are closely associated with preservation management have affected the atoll, island and village of Likiep. In April 1976, ten years after the USA passed its Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Joachim De Brum House was nominated for inclusion on the US National Register of Historic Places. On September 30, 1976, it was approved for inclusion on the National Register, and on February 1, 1977, it was officially listed in the Supplemental Publication of the National Register of Historic Places. It thus became the first registered Historic Site in Micronesia (Jelks & Jelks 1978).

During this phase, active steps have been taken to preserve the house and curtilage and two major preservation projects have been undertaken. The first was in 1977 under the supervision of Professor Edward B. Jelks from the University of Illinois (Jelks & Jelks 1978). The second was in 1984 when, under the supervision of Gerald R. Knight, further preservation and maintenance of the site was completed (Roberts 1984).

Current Status

The Joachim De Brum Memorial Trust Corporation was formed and chartered by the Government of the RMI in September 1982 (Roberts 1984, p. 13), with Leonard De Brum as Chairman. This not-for-profit corporation is the legal entity owning the Joachim De Brum house, personal items and outbuildings including the storage building, cisterns and dining room/kitchen. It was formed specifically to manage preservation of this highly significant property.

A new hotel – the Likiep Plantation Haus (sic) – has been constructed about 75 metres northwest of Joachim De Brum's house and between it and the lagoon. Although it intrudes to an extent on the ambience of this historical site, the hotel is small and has been designed to harmonise with its surroundings. Consequently, its overall impact has been minimised. The Joachim De Brum House itself remains unoccupied and largely unused. This is a much more serious management issue as these two factors are very frequently associated with continued and sometimes accelerated deterioration of historic properties.

PROPERTY SURVEYED

Without doubt, the most significant cultural property extant on Likiep Island revolves around Joachim De Brum. It includes many items of tangible and intangible heritage. Movable property such as tools, furniture, books and manuscripts are stored on the site. Several collections of artefacts including photographs, books, furniture, household goods, shipwright tools, and general tools form part of those associations and are all highly significant.

Many examples of unmovable property including houses, buildings, cisterns and docks, remain in and near the village. Intangible heritage includes oral histories from pre-colonial times as well as those of José De Brum and Adolph Capelle, and especially Joachim De Brum.

Unmovable Items/Features

The Joachim De Brum house and curtilage includes remains of other constructions. Part of Joachim's original kitchen/dining room is there as are several water cisterns ranging in size from very large to small. A small cemetery is situated only a few metres from the house. Foundations of other houses, wells, Likomju De Brum's house, and remnants of several other buildings are also present (Figure 8).

Other historical property nearby is in various states of disrepair. Nevertheless, it has considerable significance because of the all-embracing nature of the influence that Adolph Capelle and José De Brum, with their descendants (particularly Joachim), have had on Likiep.

However, much other significant historic property is also present. For example, Protestant and Catholic Churches remain and are well maintained – these churches are possibly even more central to the social (and spiritual) life of Likiep today than they were when first built. Protestant missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) were active in the Marshall Islands from the late 1850s. Their Catholic counterparts did not arrive until the early 1900s and limited themselves to Likiep and Jaluit where their schools were particularly successful (Hezel 1991), and Arno. Christian religious services are now a regular and popular part of life on Likiep Island. They frequently consist of group bible study (formal and informal), prayer meetings and hymn singing, are usually organised by locals and attended by most of the population.

Other examples of historic property include a house built for the Catholic priest, a larger building used by the Catholic Church as a school, and a rusting American World War II landing barge. The house is no longer used full-time but is well maintained by the congregation.

As an historic site, Likiep is important from the viewpoint of its historic physical structures as well as its close associations with agricultural, industrial and social developments. Some originated from outside the Marshall Islands but all are historically and culturally significant. However, it may well be that the island's associations with Joachim De Brum are of even greater significance.

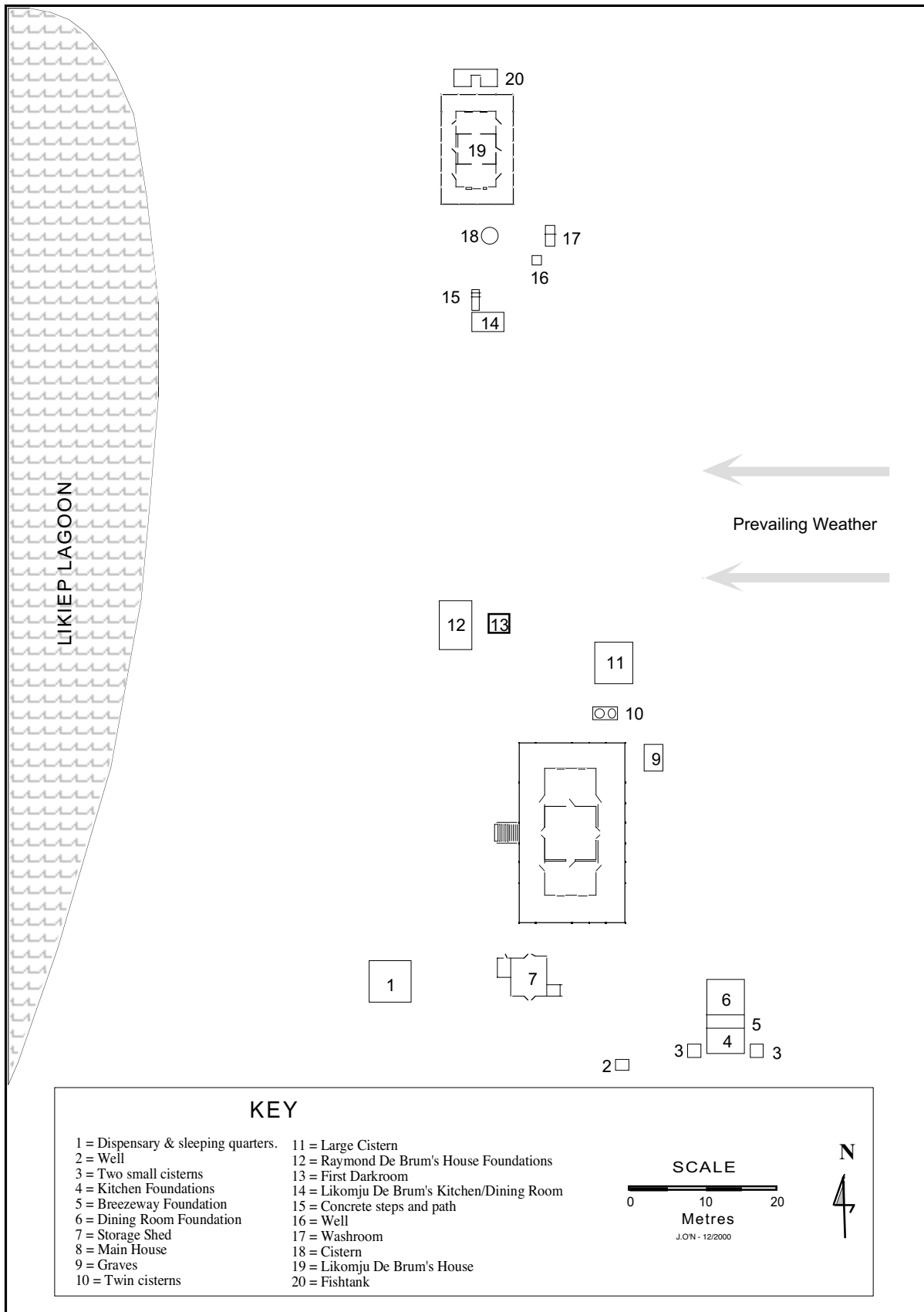


Figure 8 : Spatial Relationship of Joachim and Likomju De Brum Houses

Site Survey – Likiep Island, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Several collections of artefacts including photographs, books, furniture, household goods, shipwright tools, and general tools form part of those associations and are all highly significant. Although most cultural elements still extant are clearly associated with the German and Japanese colonial periods, their association with Likiep has become overwhelmingly Marshallese.

Joachim De Brum House

This house (Figure 9) was designed and constructed by Joachim De Brum from a mix of local and imported material. Californian redwood planks form the cladding and floor with bluegum and other local timbers used as piers and underfloor supports.

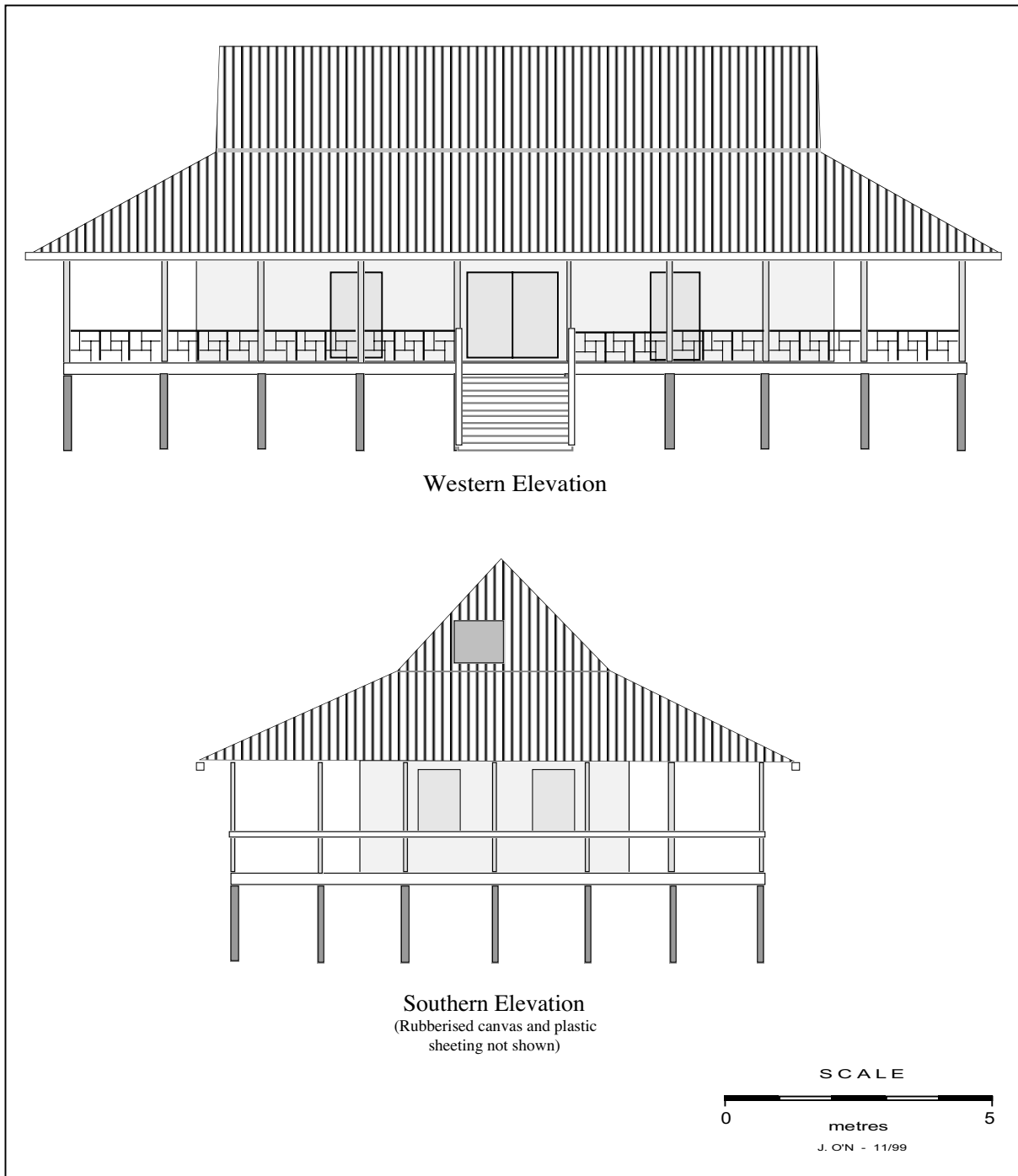


Figure 9 : Joachim De Brum House - Southern & Western Elevations

Associated cultural material includes: the remains of a separate dining room and kitchen with two small cisterns, a functioning well, a storage shed, larger twin cisterns and another even larger cistern, a small cemetery, and the remains of Joachim's original photographic workshop.

Figure 10 shows the house in its original state, with short concrete piers, high thatch roof, and wide verandahs. Figure 11 shows the house after the thatched roof was removed and replaced with corrugated iron, but still standing on short concrete piers. Figure 12 shows the house as it was in 1999 after it had been raised on high wooden piers. They all show the western or lagoon-side of the house and illustrate the main stages in its evolution.



Figure 10 : Main House with Thatched Roof; c. 1910; Photo: De Brum Collection, Alele Museum, Majuro; with permission Leonard De Brum



Figure 11 : Main House after Iron Roof Installed – c. 1915; Photo: De Brum Collection, Alele Museum, Majuro; with permission Leonard De Brum



Figure 12 : Joachim De Brum House, 1999: Likiep, RMI; Western veranda, facing north-east

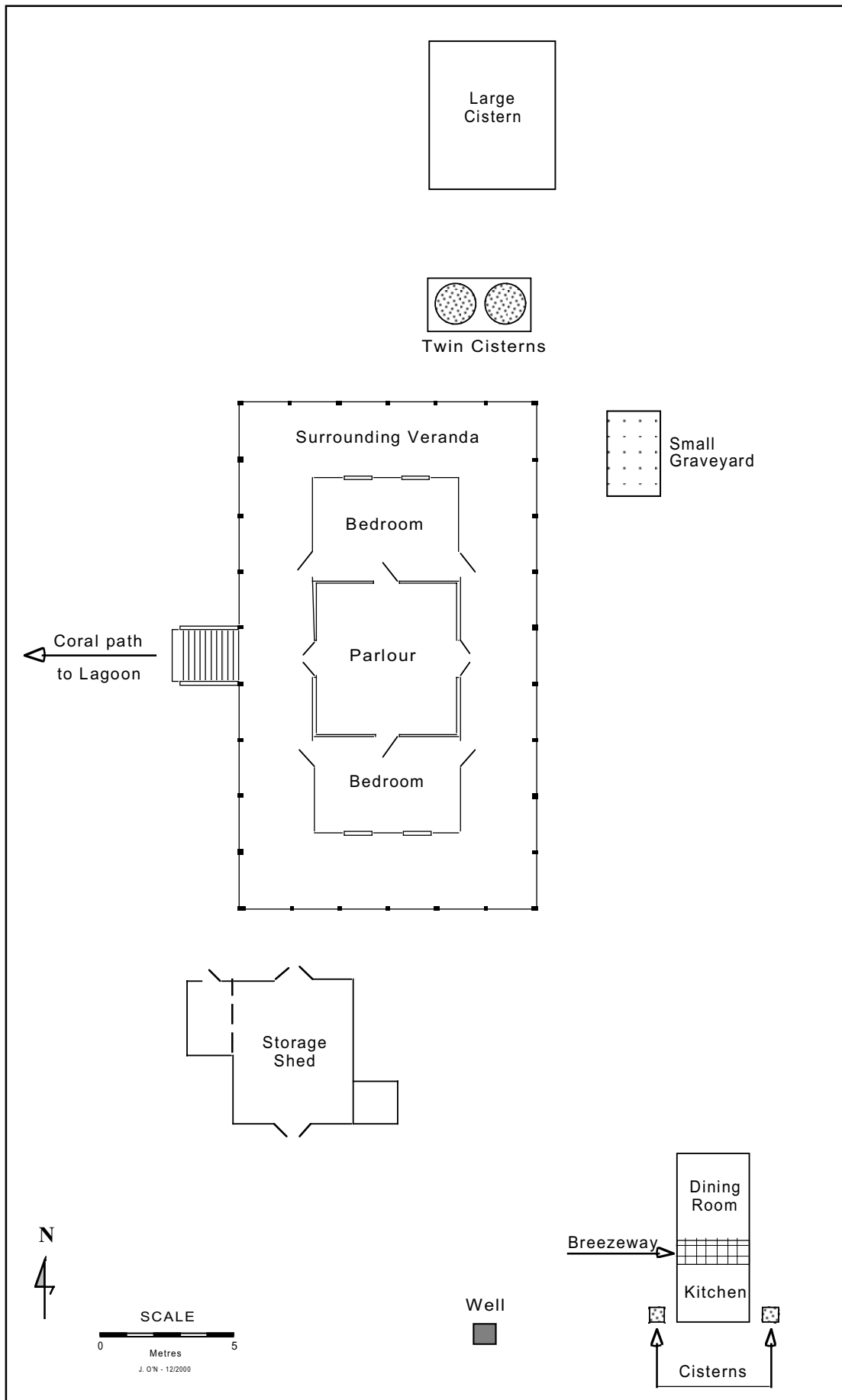


Figure 13 : Joachim De Brum House and Outbuildings

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The storage shed (Figure 14 & Figure 15) has large double doors at both the northern and southern end but no windows, and is situated several metres directly south of the main house. It contains many highly significant artefacts including shipwrights' tools, ships water barrels, lanterns, crockery and many other household items and tools of considerable historic and cultural value.



Figure 14 : Storage Shed; Likiep, RMI; facing northeast

Jelks reported that both the walls and roof of this storage shed were originally built from corrugated iron (Jelks & Jelks 1978, pp. 9 & 12). This construction is also illustrated in photographs (Plates III and IV – 18 Oct 1983) in an undated report titled “Proposal for the Marshall Islands Development Project: The Joachim de Brum House Restoration Project.” However, the shed was largely rebuilt during the 1984 stabilisation project (Roberts 1984) and the roof and siding completely replaced. Rather than using corrugated iron, the roof was replaced with an asphalt-based roofing material and the sides with new redwood planks. The planks were fastened to the frame in a vertical overlapping fashion, a style that is not evident elsewhere on the island. Why such unusual and seemingly inappropriate materials and methods were used instead of following the original style and material (thus maintaining historical accuracy) is unknown.

Despite its “25 year warranty” (Roberts 1984, p. 9) the new roofing material has been spectacularly unsuccessful (Figure 15). Of an asphalt composition, tropical conditions have softened it so that it now sags heavily between each roof support and several sections have torn or split under their own weight. Others have failed completely with several large holes permitting substantial water ingress. The timber walls have been damaged by termites, and floorboards and joists are substantially damaged by the combined effects of termites and rot.



Figure 15 : Storage Shed; Likiep, RMI; facing southeast and showing damaged roof.

Joachim De Brum's private sleeping quarters and dispensary were built southeast of the house but little now remains. Jelks and Jelks (1978) mention these remnants as foundations, but they are not mentioned at all in a report on the application for listing as an Historical Site (U.S. National Park Service 1984).

Ten metres northeast of the house are some remains of the foundations of a house built by Joachim for his eldest son Raymond (Figure 16). Unlike several other houses on Likiep, it was built on short concrete piers made from a mix of cement and crushed coral that now show the effects of salt induced decay. It is reported to have accidentally burned down in the 1920s (pers. comm. Leonard De Brum, October 1999). Elevation on short concrete piers was characteristic of Joachim De Brum's construction methods (US National Park Service 1984). The architectural style he usually employed was a combination of Germanic and Marshallese and incorporated a simple design of three rooms with surrounding verandas and an external kitchen and dining room. Decorated balusters, high ceilings and a high peaked roof were also characteristic.

Immediately behind these ruins to the west, and directly north of the northeastern corner of the main house are concrete foundations of Joachim's first photographic darkroom (Figure 16 & Figure 17).

At each corner of the darkroom, decayed remnants of the building's wooden corner posts are evident. It is reported that this darkroom was used for a short time only (Jelks & Jelks 1978) until a larger and cooler darkroom was constructed against the northern wall of the water cistern.



Figure 16 : Foundations of Raymond De Brum's House and Joachim's first Darkroom; Likiep, RMI; facing northwest



Figure 17 : Foundation of Joachim De Brum's First Dark Room; Likiep, RMI; facing north



Figure 18 : Twin Cisterns; Joachim De Brum House, Likiep, RMI; facing northeast



Figure 19 : Large Cistern; Joachim De Brum House, Likiep, RMI; facing northeast