



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Honolulu District

Public Notice No.
POH-2006-484

Date:
December 21, 2006

Reply to:
Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R)
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

Respond by:
January 20, 2007

POH-2006-484

**AFTER-THE-FACT APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT
FOR FALEASAO BOAT RAMP PROJECT,
MANU'A, AMERICAN SAMOA**

- 1. APPLICANT:** Department of Port Administration, American Samoa Government;
P.O. Box 639; Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
- 2. AGENT:** Environmental Branch, CEPOH-EC-E; Attn: Mark Arakaki; U.S. Army Engineer
District Honolulu; Building 230; Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440
- 3. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of
1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)
- 4. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The project site is located adjacent to the
existing dock at Faleasao Harbor, Ta'u Island, Manu'a, American Samoa (Figures 1, 2).
- 5. PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:**

The purpose of the project is to construct a new boat ramp at Faleasao Harbor which will be suitable for berthing of the *MV Sili*, a 157 foot supply ship owned and operated by the American Samoa Government. The old ramp is located in an area that is exposed to wave action and it is too low to match the ramp height on the *MV Sili*. The new ramp is intended to provide the necessary height and location to ensure safe loading and unloading of the vessel. Construction of the project has been completed.

The design of the new ramp, which is approximately 32 feet in length and 27 feet in width, is shown in the attached drawings (Figures 3-4). The new ramp incorporates portions of an existing rock revetment and the previously dredged harbor basin. Materials discharged below the high tide line for the project include: concrete and steel for the retaining wall, indicated as sheet piles on the drawing (35 cubic yards); base course aggregate (5.1 cy); 500-pound armor stones (90 cy); and backfill, (284 cy). The total amount of fill discharged into waters of the United States for the

project is approximately 414 cubic yards and the area of harbor waters filled is approximately 560 square feet.

6. IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IF AUTHORIZED:

The substrate at the project site has been disturbed by previous harbor construction activities and consists primarily of silt, sand and rock, including a portion of an existing rock revetment. It does not include any special aquatic sites. The proposed activity is located in the inner harbor area, separated from the adjacent undeveloped portions of the fringing reef by existing harbor structures, including a jetty and breakwater. Disruption of the benthos at the project site is expected to be mitigated by occupation of intertidal and subtidal portions of the completed structure by other marine organisms. The project is not expected to have any significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on water quality or air quality. The new ramp is expected to improve the safety and efficiency of docking activities due to its location away from strong waves. It would not increase the harbor's size and there are no plans to construct additional similar projects. Cumulative effects of the activity are not considered to be significant.

7. IMPACT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The latest on-line version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) does not list any historic buildings or other historic properties within or in the immediate vicinity of the area of potential effect (APE) for the project, which consists of a previously disturbed portion of the existing harbor. The applicant indicates that previous verbal communication with the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) confirmed that there is no historic site at the location of the project. Based on the location of the work, it appears that there are "no historic properties affected" by the proposed undertaking. This notice has been sent to the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO). Any comments ASHPO may have concerning archaeological or historic resources will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit application.

8. IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Federally protected sea turtles, including the hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*) and loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), are known to occur in waters surrounding American Samoa. However, the project site is located within the innermost, developed portion of Faleasao Harbor and abuts previously constructed shoreline structures and the landward end of the dredged harbor basin. In addition, the project area is separated from the adjacent, undeveloped portions of the Faleasao fringing reef flat and beachfront by an existing jetty and breakwater. The project site does not include any beach area suitable for sea turtle nesting. Based on its location and limited scope, the project will not affect any federally listed species or designated critical habitat.

This notice has been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Any comments they have on endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

9. IMPACT ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:

The project is not expected to adversely affect any Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) identified pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Management Act (MSFCMA). This notice has been sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to coordination requirements of the MSFCMA. Any conservation recommendations they make concerning EFH will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

10. OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:

The project received American Samoa Coastal Management Program federal consistency certification issued by the Department of Commerce on July 19, 2006. A Section 401 Water Quality Certification was issued by the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency on December 14, 2006.

11. EVALUATION FACTORS:

The decision whether to issue the requested permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof: among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

12. COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES:

Interested parties may submit in writing any comments that they have on the proposed permit. Comments should be forwarded so as to reach this District no later than the response date indicated on the first page of this notice. Mailed comments should cite this notice and should be sent to: Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway); U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu; Building 230; Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440. Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via e-mail to CEPOH-EC-R@usace.army.mil or faxed to (808) 438-4060. If needed, further information may be obtained from Peter Galloway via telephone at (808) 438-8416. This notice is also available at the Honolulu District web site (www.poh.usace.army.mil).

13. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the proposed permit. Requests for public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Attachments:

Figure 1. Location map

Figure 2. Site plan

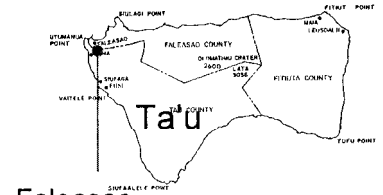
Figure 3. Project layout (As Built)

Figure 4. Plan view and typical section

Faleasao Harbor
Ta'u Island, American Samoa

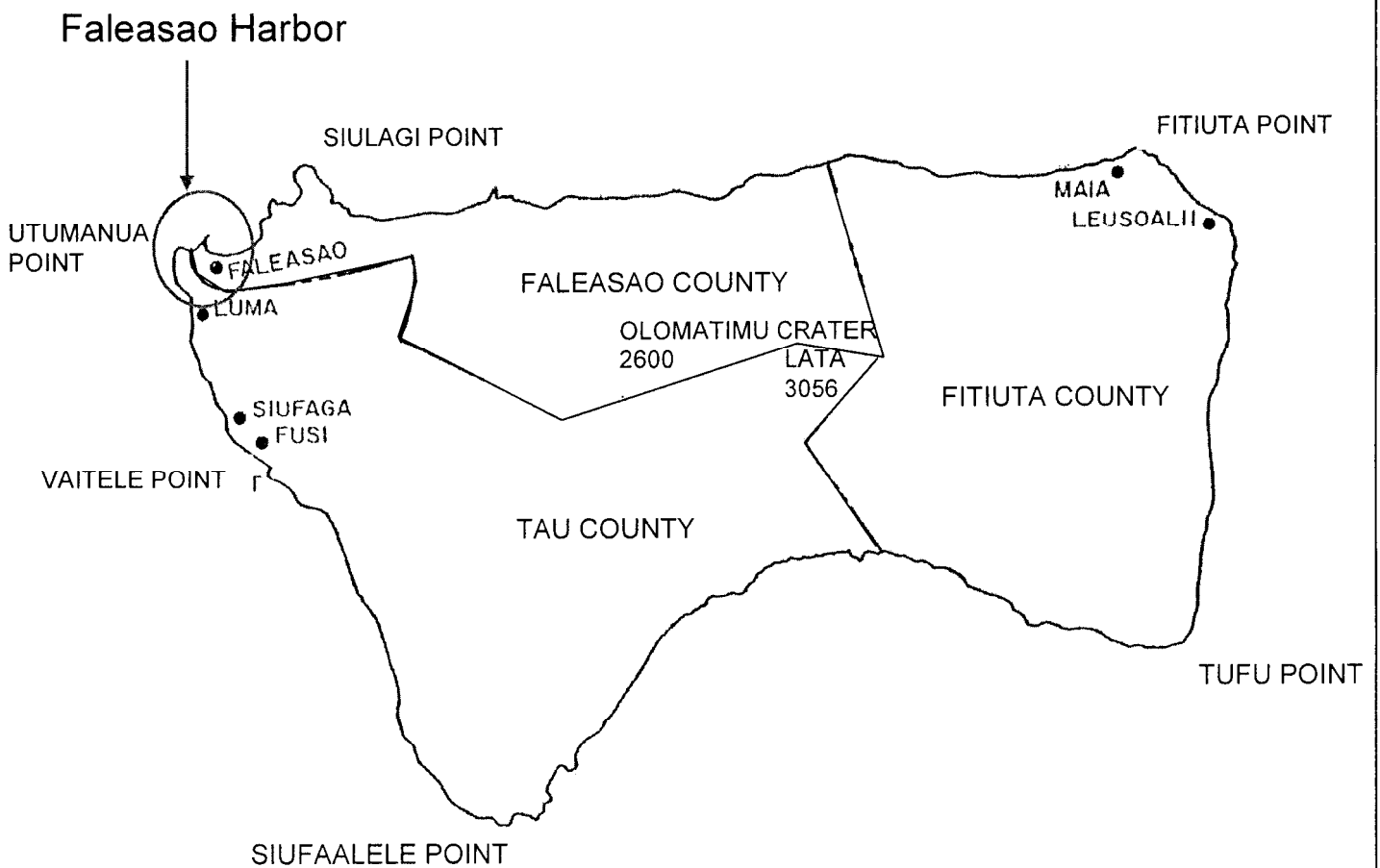
LOCATION MAP

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
HONOLULU



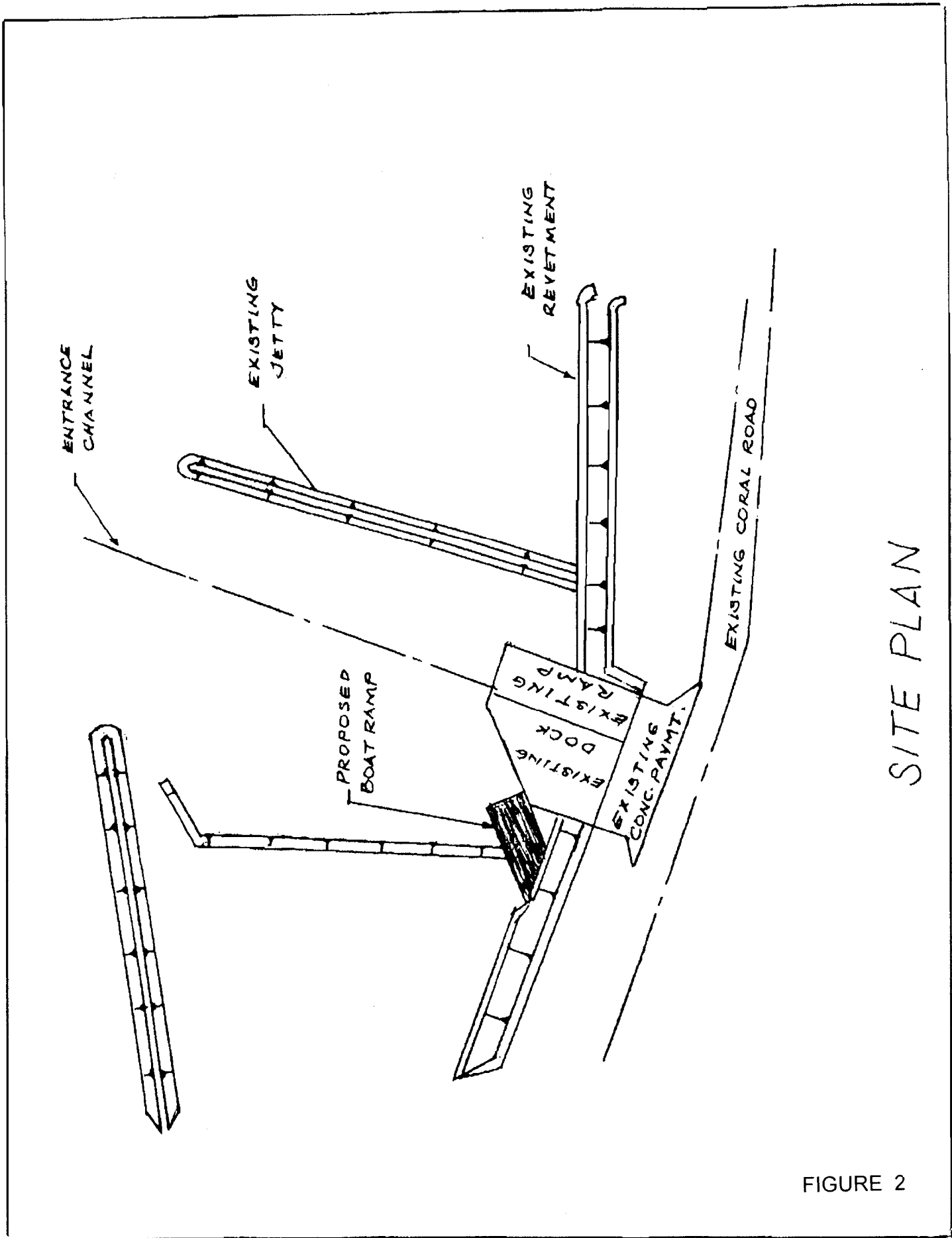
Faleasao
Harbor

Location Map



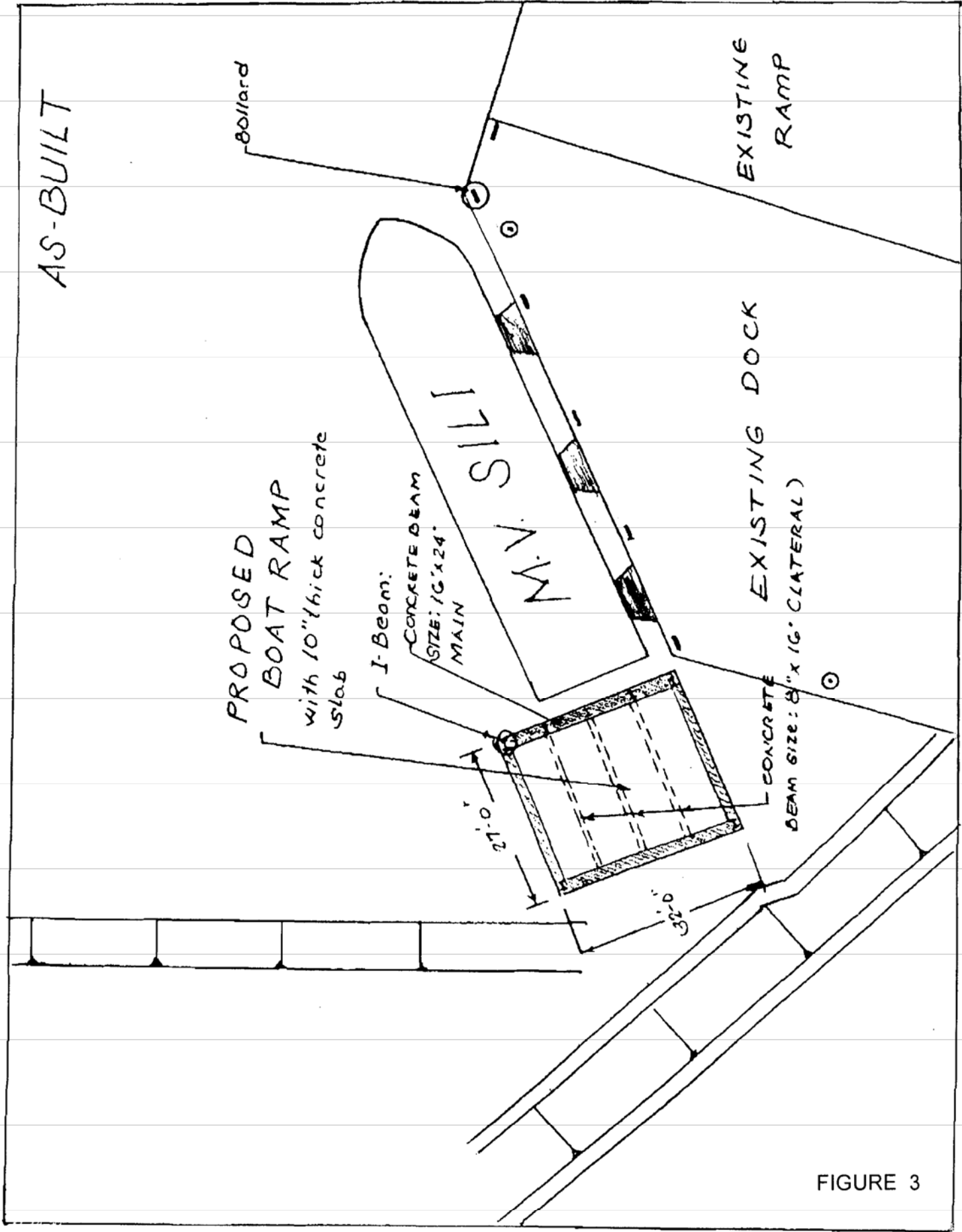
Location Map – Not to Scale

FIGURE 1



SITE PLAN

FIGURE 2



AS-BUILT

PROPOSED
BOAT RAMP
with 10" thick concrete
slab

I-Beam:
CONCRETE BEAM
SIZE: 16" x 24"
MAIN

M.V. SILL

EXISTING
RAMP

EXISTING DOCK
BEAM SIZE: 8" x 16" (LATERAL)

Bollard

27'-0"

1'-0"

FIGURE 3

