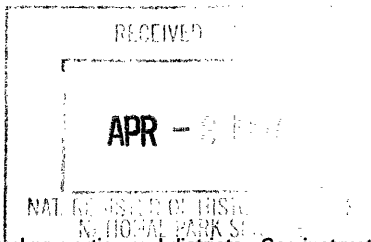


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Star of the Sea Church, Kalapana Painted Church

other names/site number Site #10-63-7380, TMK: 1-2-006:081

2. Location

street & number along Highway 130 to Kalapana not for publication

city or town Kaimu vicinity

state Hawaii code HI county Hawaii code 001 zip code 96778

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert A. Coleman 3/21/97
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Cal R. Lujan Date of Action 5/14/97

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

 Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Corrugated metal
walls wood - shiplap

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ART

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1931 to 1946

Significant Dates

1931, 1932, 1990, 1996

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Father Evarist

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Father Evarist

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Old Hawaiian Datum, Clarke 1866 Spheroid

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>05 293410</u>	<u>2143500</u>	3	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy Kern

organization Kalapana Ohana Association date September 14, 1996

street & number P.O. Box 1773 telephone _____

city or town Pahoa state Hawaii zip code 96778

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Hawaii - Land Division of DLNR/leased to Kalapana Ohana Association, Inc.

street & number _____ telephone (808)

city or town Honolulu state Hawaii zip code 96813

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Act as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Star of the Sea Painted Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

Description:

The Star of the Sea Painted Church at Kalapana is a simple, rectangular building approximately 22 feet by 36 feet, clapboard sided with a steep corrugated metal gable roof, a small gable extension to the rear of the church, and a square tower to the right side capped by a hipped roof. The square "bell" tower is vented by horizontal slats and does not extend much higher than the roof apex. The church sits on a concrete masonry unit foundation approximately 3 feet high although the original sat lower to the ground on blocks at the posts. The church is built utilizing double wall construction with a wood stud frame and a truss roof with steel tie rods to counteract the barrel-vaulted interior ceiling.

The double-door entrance is shaded by a gable roof with a barrel vaulted ceiling which is a reflection of the interior, supported by slender columns (though currently it is braced while the columns are replaced). The windows on the front are double hung with a glass arch above each. The side windows are arched one-over-one double hung windows that are paired with molded trim above that forming an arched lintel. The same window framing appears above the portico, but with no real window. The entry double-doors are tall and thin with a four panel pattern and an arch above it. A small vestry 5 X 12 feet is to the back with a shed roof. Turned wood rail framed by plaster angels on wood posts define the altar area and may have been added later.

The interior space is best described by Alfred Frankenstein:

There is no division into nave and side aisles, and by contrast to Honaunau, where every visible inch is covered with decorative or figurative painting and there is no free wall space at all, the effect here is of a white interior in which the paintings are superbly placed. The openness of the space at Kalapana inspired Father Evarist to designs of heroic proportions; the pictures on the ceiling are approximately eight feet wide and ten feet tall, while the Nativity scene in the lunette over the door reaches a width of twenty-two feet and is some fourteen feet high at its highest point, [the largest single painting in any of the painted churches in Hawaii].

The Kalapana church has three windows in its left-hand wall and two windows and a confessional in the wall opposite. The confessional "booth" is within the bottom of the tower. All the windows are double and take the traditional form of the tablets of the Ten Commandments; this form is echoed, somewhat larger, by the six paintings on the barrel-vaulted ceiling. The windows and the door of the confessional are framed with painted vine, leaf, and jewel motifs in gold and brown over blue, and this painting likewise finds an echo in the leafy adornment of the broad, black, wooden ribs which divide the ceiling into three large sections. Between each of the double windows stands a pair of Corinthian columns painted flat on the wall and seeming to support the thin moulding from which the barrel vault springs. Running the entire length of the wall is a red painted canopy from which hang five small scallops of drapery over each window and two large puffs behind the capital of each column.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Star of the Sea Painted Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

Each of the three grand sections of the ceiling is subdivided by a pair of narrow painted ribs which start from their corners and proceed diagonally to cross at the apex of the barrel vault, leaving a large triangular area on each side; within these triangular areas appear the six large pictures previously mentioned. There is also a pictorial composition on the arch over the recess of the sanctuary and another on the ceiling of the sanctuary itself . . .

All the pictures on the ceiling were painted on a light blue ground, which shows through the crackle and flake and has much to do with their generally cool tone. Starting at the right near the door, these pictures are: "The Death of Ahab," . . . "St. Cecilia," . . . [and the] "The Mocking of Christ." Starting at the door on the left-hand side of the church, the pictures appear in the following order: "The Death of a Sinner," . . . "The Guardian Angel" . . . "Christ the King."

On the arch over the recess containing the altar are four very lively angels bearing a ribbon inscribed "*Maria ka koku O ke kai e pale oe makou.*" This is translated into English along the lower edge of the arch: "Star of the Sea, pray for us." At the apex of the arch stands Mary holding the infant Jesus, . . . A large gold star appears behind this figure, and behind that is blue sea. . .

The barrel-vaulted ceiling over the altar is painted with crossed ribs and graceful leaf forms like those used elsewhere in the church, and in its free spaces appear four angels whose large wings, flowing drapery and extended gestures are the very essence of wind-whipped flight.¹

The 1961 document by Frankenstein indicates that the wall behind altar did not feature the trompe-l'oeil of the interior of a cathedral in perspective giving depth to this tiny building, although it mentions that Father Evarist stated he had painted an interior of a cathedral originally. In 1964, Father Joseph P. McGinn met George Heidler who painted additional scenes and in 1975, Father Evarist returned to repaint all his works in three months.

Like most examples of folk or vernacular architecture or anything of utilitarian nature there have been numerous alterations. It is unclear when colored glass was added to the windows, but it was prior to 1961 since it was mentioned in Frankenstein's article. In 1978-79 George Lorch added the following paintings in the formerly blank walls: Fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary written in Hawaiian; event of the "Miracle of the Sun" at Fatima; Pao, an ancient priest from Tahiti; Pele, the Fire Goddess; Kahapu`u the "Prophetess" of Puna; two of the Sacred Hearts Fathers. The etched windows were done by Stephen Engholm, a local artist and installed in 1984.

The newer paintings are distinctive from Father Evarist's paintings in that they do not have as much chiaroscuro and yet do not detract from the overall feeling of the church.

¹Alfred Frankenstein, *Angels Over the Altar*, U. of H. Press, Honolulu, 1961, pg. 30.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1 Star of the Sea Painted Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

Statement of Significance

The Star of the Sea Catholic Church at Kalapana is significant for the folk art paintings telling the stories of the Bible, one of only two surviving painted churches of Father Evarist. Alfred Frankenstein calls the Star of the Sea at Kalapana, Father Evarist's first effort, a masterpiece, a more complete plan than the only other surviving church done by him, St Theresa's in Mountain View. "At Kalapana, as at Honaunau, one is deeply impressed with the totality of the structure, its telling relationship of painting and architecture, and the clarity of the entire concept. Like Father John [artist and builder of St. Benedict's at Honaunau], Father Evarist here emphasizes the three and the twice three in his windows, pictures, and other divisions of the building although his plan is not so complex as the one at Honaunau."²

Since Father Evarist copied the paintings, it may be said that Star of the Sea lacks the creativity of St. Benedict's at Honaunau, however, it retains a high-level of folk art charm with great depth. "Father Evarist's powerful ripples, rhythms, and counter-rhythms cannot be found in the original. They arise in part from the fact that his figures are much flatter than those of the anonymous French artist; and his figures fill their space . . . monumental forms completely foreign to the more detailed, crowded, and illustrational concept of the original."³

The architecture of the church is typical of Catholic mission churches throughout the state, but it is the relationship of the paintings to the building that enhance the architecture that makes Star of the Sea Painted Church an outstanding example. The artwork expands the interior space, provides architectural detailing (through Corinthian columns and ribbed vaults) while also serving the crucial function of educating the congregation.

Historical Background

Father Evarist Gielen studied with Father John, the man who painted St. Benedict's at Honaunau, while in Belgium. He was born in Vlytingen, Belgium in 1897; was trained at the Sacred Hearts' Scholasticate in Father John's birthplace, Courtrai and was ordained at Liege in 1925. He next studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and consequently sent to Hawaii. From 1927 to 1941, he served in the Puna district of the Big Island. He built Catholic churches at Pahoehoe, Mountain View and Kalapana; and painted the interiors of the last two.

²Frankenstein, pg. 28.

³Frankenstein, pg. 33.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 Star of the Sea Painted Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

Father Evarist had explained that he painted to instruct his parishioners (many could not read), and that he did not have the time nor desire to indulge in originality. Three of his pictures and most of his decorative angels are derived from a publication called *Le catechisme en images*, he also drew from other painters. "Very little in the church is Father Evarist's own and yet everything in it is his own; he has utterly transformed every motif he has touched and in most cases he has enormously heightened its pictorial value."⁴

While Father Evarist was the builder of the current church, the history of this mission reaches back into 1857, when the first priest was sent to the area. Also worthy of note is that, Father Damien Joseph DeVeuster (the Father Damien) built the first place of worship for the Puna district, a small "house" of bamboo poles coconut fronds and pili grass probably in Kapa`ahu, about three miles southwest of Kalapana. Although he stayed only one year, it is believed he left behind a plan for the building of a more permanent church, a stone church at Kapa`ahu called St. Joseph's. Sometime in the early 1900s, Father Ulrich Taube, abandoned the stone church and built a wooden church in Kalapana, closer to the villagers and Father Evarist replaced that church, close to the beach and villagers and named it Star of the Sea.

In 1964, Father Joseph P. McGinn met George Heidler who painted additional scenes and in 1975, Father Evarist returned to repaint all his works in three months. In 1977 Kilauea eruption threatened, but stopped 3,400 feet

While it has served the community of Kalapana village for many years near the beach, in April of 1990, lava flows which had been actively flowing for years, were again moving toward the village of Kalapana and for days had been burning and inundating the homes of many people who lived just south of the church buildings. At that time, the church building was commissioned in the Roman Catholic Diocese of the State of Hawaii and the Bishop was the authority to decide if the building would be moved.

There were mixed feelings about moving the church. Hawaiians believe that a building occupied would not be inundated, as Pele the Goddess of the Volcano spares homes that are truly lived in and moving the church building would mean that nothing would stand in the way of the lava flows to completely cover Kalapana. The Bishop Joseph Ferrario left the decision to the parishioners. When the vote was taken, it was decided to move the building. Just hours after the move on May 4, 1990, Highway 137, the route of the church was covered.

⁴Frankenstein, pg. 30.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3 Star of the Sea Painted Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

The building was taken to a temporary, safe location along side Hwy. 130. The building sat at this location for the next six years. Kalapana Ohana Association, Inc., a 501-C3 non-profit organization (the caretakers of the grounds and the church previous to its move) has since purchased the building from the Diocese after it was decided the diocese had no funds to relocate and restore the church. KOA has taken over the reigns to move and restore the building. On May 5, 1996, the church was moved from the temporary location to a more permanent location on State land.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9,10 Page 1 Star of the Sea Painted Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

Bibliography

Frankenstein, Alfred, Angels Over the Altar, U. of H. Press: Honolulu, 1961.

Church records

Boundary description

The boundary includes the portion of T.M.K. 1-2-006:081 that immediately surrounds the church located in Kaimu, Puna on the Island of Hawaii owned by the State of Hawaii in September of 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

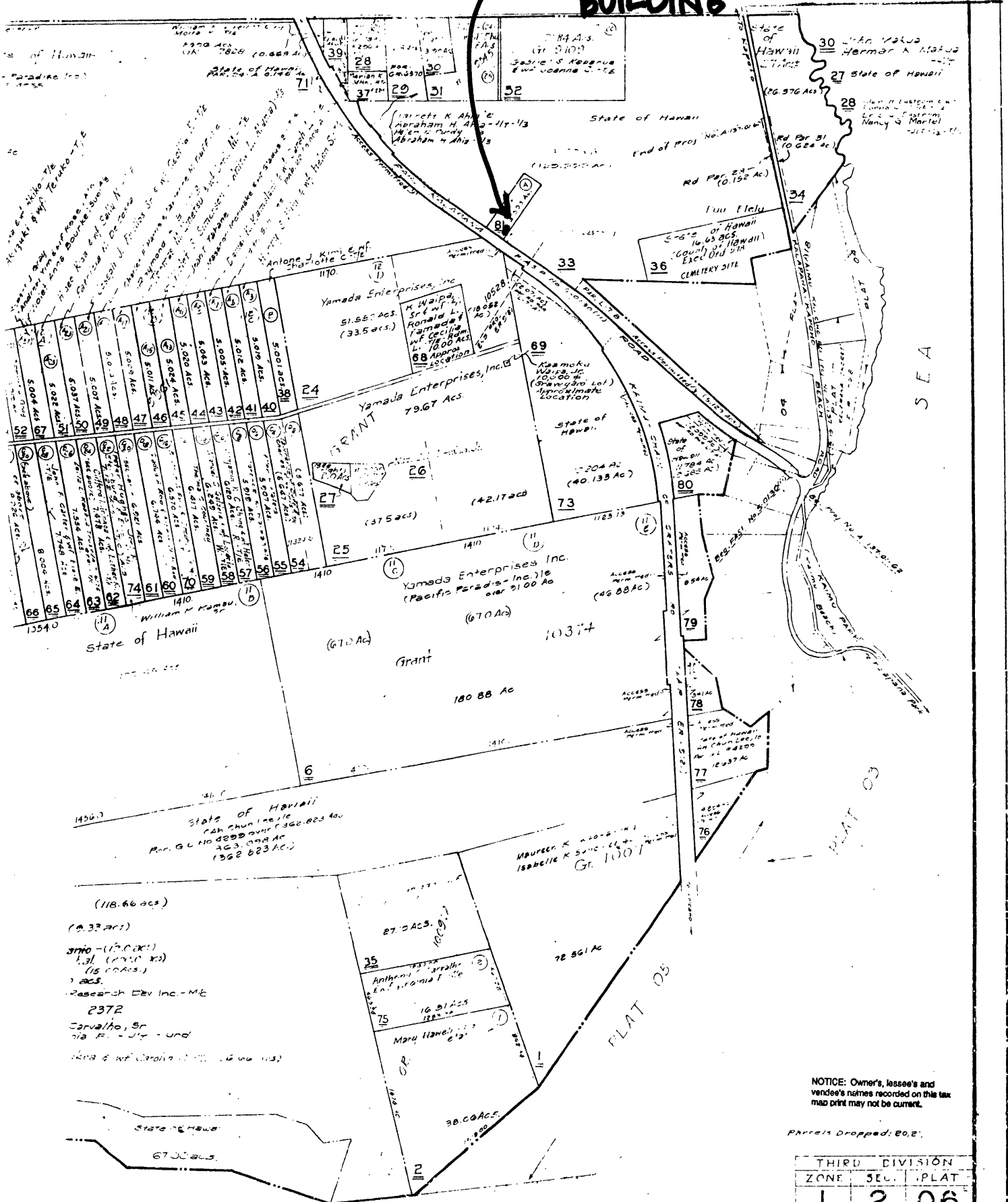
Section 11 Page 1 Star of the Sea Painted Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

1. Interior of church, view of the chancel area painted in perspective.
2. Exterior, back of the church, small addition.
3. Close-up of one of the painted panels showing Hawaiian themes.
4. Front facade of the church before front porch restored.
5. Interior walls of church showing relationship of painting to architecture.
6. Vaulted ceiling paintings.

All photographs were taken by Timothy Kern in May 1996. The negatives are at the SHPO.

TMK: 1-2-06:81

PORTION SURROUNDING BUILDING



NOTICE: Owner's, lessee's and vendee's names recorded on this tax map print may not be current.

Parcels Dropped: 802

THIRD DIVISION		
ZONE	SEC.	PLAT
1	2	06
CONTAINING PARCELS		
SCALE = 1 in. = 670 FT.		

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000407

Date Listed: 5/9/97

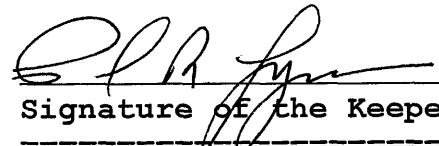
Star of the Sea Church-Kalapana
Property Name

Hawaii
County

HI
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

5/9/97
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The nomination is amended to remove Criteria A and B, the area of significance Religion, and the name of Fr. Evarist from the significant person blank.
[While Fr. Evarist is clearly an important figure, historic properties nominated as the work of artists, architects, or master craftsman are generally listed under Criterion C. In addition, the significance of the property in the area of Religion is not sufficiently justified at this time. Neither the role of this church in the development of local religious activity nor the specific role played by the artistic interior wall paintings in religious education are sufficiently developed to merit listing within the theme of Religion under Criterion A or B.]

The significant dates of 1990 and 1996 are removed since they are outside the period of significance.

This information was confirmed with Tonia Moi of the Hawaii SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Star of the Sea Church
name of property

Hawaii County, Hawaii
county and State

Site Considerations

The church was moved to an empty gravel lot further upland of the original church. It was moved to avoid its imminent destruction due to the lava flow that ultimately consumed the area. The area it was moved to is no longer near the ocean as the original was, however, it is in a flat, open area as was the original setting. Although the land is currently barren except for the brush that surrounds the parcel, the owners intend to landscape the area around the church much like the original.

