INSTRUCTIONS

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Form 10-306 (Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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STATE:
Hawaii
COUNTY:
Hawaii
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
2 974

(Type all entries	- complete applica	able sections)		2 974
NAME COMMON:					
City of Refuge Nat	ional Histor	ical Par	k		
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
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LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER:					
Twenty miles south	of Kailua	Kona at	Honaunau	. 11	
CITY OR TOWN:	or marray	Rolla, ac		NAL DISTRICT:	
Honaunau, Kona, Ha	waii				
STATE:		COD			CODE
Hawaii CLASSIFICATION		115	Hawaii		
CATEGORY					ACCESSIBLE
(Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBLIC
X District Building	X Public	Public Acqu	sition:	X Occupied	Yes:
Site Structure	Private	∑ In Pi		Unoccupied	Restricted
Object	Both	☐ Bein	g Considered	Preservation work	
				in progress	□ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or M					
] Park] Private Resi		Transportation Other (Specify)	Comments
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7. I	DESCRIPTION								
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l	CONDITION	Excellent	Good	Fair	Deteriorate	d 🗶 Ru	ins	Unexposed	
Ì	CONDITION		(Check One	·)		(CI	neck One	•)	
		X Alt	ered • 🗀	Unaltered		Moved	X 0r	riginal Site	
- [DESCRIBE THE P	RESENT AND OR	IGINAL (if kno	wn) PHYSICAL	APPEARANCE				

When first seen by Europeans, the district was composed of scattered coastal settlements of thatched houses with two nodes large enough to be called villages: Honaunau at the north end and Kiilae at the south. At Honaunau was the pu'uhonua, The Place of Refuge, termed the "City of Refuge" by Rev. William Ellis in 1823, with its adjoining chiefly residences. Beyond the boundaries of the "Palace Grounds", around the head of Honaunau Bay, lived the chiefly retainers and the commoners. South of the Place of Refuge were scattered settlements along the coast and inland under the The village of Kiilae at the south boundary of the cliffs of Keanaee. park was undoubtedly occupied in prehistoric times and survived into the modern period; the last known resident of Kiilae left the village in about This transition period is historically recorded and is reflected in the archeological data, i.e., early records describe grass houses with tin roofs and one test site yielded metal fishhooks styled in the shape and form of older bone hooks.

Through the eyes of Archibald Menzies, botanist with Vancouver in 1793, we see the landscape as barren lava fields from the dry coastal regions to about the 500 foot elevation. The dry coastal environment exhibited scattered stands of pili grass, noni, and coconut palms in the vicinity of habitations.

The district contains three of the ancient land divisions, the <u>ahupua'a</u>, which is an economically self sufficient unit based on a section of land extending from the ocean to the mountain--all economic activities were conducted up and down but seldom, if ever, across. From north to south, these are: Honaunau, Keokea, and Kiilae <u>ahupua'a</u>.

The village sites, temples, walls and trails are in ruins now and the vegetation is a thick growth of non-native shrubs and trees over the entire dry coastal plain. The park is attempting to control exotic plant growth within the Place of Refuge and the main visitor use areas of the Palace Grounds.

A modern highway curves through the northeast end of the district with two side roads servicing the Honaunau village and the park. In the park is a modern visitor center and parking lot, with a poor road serving the headquarters building, south of the Place of Refuge, and the picnic areas between the Superintendent's residence and the Place of Refuge.

The historic district is construed not to confer any historical significance to, nor to include, roads, buildings, or other features constructed within the boundaries since 1926. Exceptions to this exclusion are restorations or stabilizations of pre-existing structures and features developed for the interpretive programs, including the modern sites of Kiilae village where the transition period is reflected in ancient architecture.

The following 15 major archeological and/or historical structures and features, found in the district, require special comment and consideration. This is not an exhaustive inventory: a partial inventory lists 321 sites.

Site identification numbers are from the archeological base maps--

PERIOD (Check One or More as A)	ppropriate)		
🏋 Pre-Columbian	X 16th Century	X 18th Century	20th Century
X 15th Century	💢 17th Century	💢 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec.	k One or More as Appropriat	e)	
. Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning .
🔀 Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
🔀 Historic	Industry	losophy	<u>Hawaiiana</u>
Agri culture	Invention	Science	Socio-Political-
Architecture	Lands cape	Sculpture	Religious system
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	Land use and lan
Commerce	Literature	itarian	use patterns
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	Polynesian arts
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the City of Refuge National Historical Park, Kona, Hawaii, are preserved and protected, archeological structures and features associated with the ancient Polynesian practices of asylum. Here was a sanctuary for the protection of individuals who broke any of the many religious laws punishable by death. Here, too, was a safe haven for vanquished warriors involved in the battles between various chiefs struggling for power over the land. And, it was a sanctuary for non-combatants--the older men, women and children who were inadvertently involved in the political struggles. The archeological remains document various aspects of ancient Hawaiian culture which gave rise to a sophisticated and elaborate socio-political-religious system long before Captain James Cook rediscovered these islands in 1778-79.

The archeological structures and features represent a time span of over 700 years; circa A.D. 1200 to 1926. These are in the form of temple, house, grave, midden and cave shelter sites. These, when excavated and studied, will add greatly to the parks interpretive programs as well as to regional studies in archeology and history.

From the archeological evidence, it is suggested that in prehistoric times, Honaunau and vicinity experienced a population increase and developed into the cultural and religious center of the Kona district and perhaps indeed, the whole island of Hawaii. Events, political and social, caused a decline of the "Capital", so that by the time Captain Cook arrived on the scene, the center had shifted four miles up the coast to Kealakekua Bay. It is, however, the ancestral home of the royal lineage that produced Hawaii's best known and loved King-Kamehameha I.

In 1819, shortly after the death of Kamehameha the Great, and about two years before the first missionaries arrived, the Hawaiian people gave up their ancient religion. There was nothing to replace the old religion and the effects of this abandonment was felt more in the port cities, whereas, in the "back country", the old religious system was still enforced. However, the socio-political and religious greatness of Honaunau was in prehistoric times, but because of its former status, it carried over into historic times. For example, in the general destruction of religious places after the abandonment of the ancient religion, the Hale-O-Keawe and associated stone structures in the Place of Refuge escaped unharmed. This was probably due to the respect or perhaps fear, maybe both, of the ancient

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drawing no. NHP-CR, sheets 1-21. Maps on file at City of Refuge and Denver Service Center.

1. Hale-O-Keawe (No. 6, also identified as A25 on base map)
The Hale-O-Keawe was erected around 1650 to serve as a temple mausoleum for the ruling chiefs of Kona. It served as the major temple for the "Place of Refuge" until 1819, when the religious laws (kapu) were abandoned. The temple fell into disuse and was later destroyed, but not until it was seen and sketched by Rev. William Ellis in 1823, four years after its abandonment. The limits of the original stone platform were re-established in 1967 and the temple house with its associated images were completely restored.

Order of Significance: First
Acreage: less than ½ acre
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation
155°54'52" W. Long; 19°25'29" N. Lat.
Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$1,500 annually
(Photograph enclosed)

2. Pa puuhonua (A1,A2 on base map--also called Great Wall)
The Great Wall marks the inland boundary of the "Place of Refuge". It is
over 1000 feet long, 12 feet high and 18 feet wide. It was reconstructed
in about 1902, and in 1963-64, after 61 years of neglect it was completely
stabilized. The wall is constructed of unmodified chunks of lava without
mortar and is reported to have been constructed originally in about 1550;
according to legend, it was constructed in five days.

Order of Significance: First
Acreage: Less than 1
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation
Location: Joins Hale-O-Keawe on the north
Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500 annually

(Photograph enclosed)

3. Alealea Heiau (A26)

The Alealea temple site was the first of its type and class to be excavated in Hawaii. It was excavated and stabilized in 1963. The archeological data added greatly to the parks interpretive program. Carron 14 dates from the site reflect an early occupation, construction and use. The first temple, there were six seperate structural modifications, was probably constructed around A.D. 1400.

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Order of Significance: First Acreage: less than 1 acre

Location: In the Puuhonya about 50 meters south of Hale-O-Keawe

155°54'55" W. Long., 19°25'25" N. Lat.

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500 annually

4. Ancient Heiau (A27)

The ancient temple site, sometimes called the "old heiau" is the most important archeological structure at the City of Refuge. It was reported by the Bishop Museum in 1957 that it was constructed circa 1475 and that when the nearby Alealea was built, this site was cannibalized. However, according to the C14 dates from Alealea, the Alealea was constructed some 75 years earlier. It is imperative that this site be excavated to determine, if possible, its age and its place in the chronology of structures and history of the Place of Refuge. The site, being less than 15 feet above sea level, is being eroded at an alarming rate. Portions of the site were excavated by Mr. Stokes, Bishop Museum, in 1919.

Order of Significance: First Acreage: Less than 1 acre

Location: In the puuhonua about 25 meters south of the Alealea

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Excavation & Stabilization)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$100,000

5. Chief's House Site (B108)

The Chief's house complex, sometimes called the "Thompson House Site", was excavated in 1968. This is one of two sites that are identified as chief's residences according to recorded accounts. The site is composed of several contiguous platforms that were the men and women's eating and sleeping houses, as well as the cooking house—apparently commoners did not have extensive dwelling units. Excavations revealed that the site was occupied from prehistoric to modern times. The site will have to be stabilized before reconstruction of the house complex.

Order of Significance: First

Acreage: Less than 1

Location: Southeast of puuhonua about 100 meters

Recommended level of treatment: Restoration and Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$44,000

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6. Keawe's house site (C23)

This site consists of several contiguous stone platforms with a low wall surrounding the entire ruin. The site is in a good state of preservation with many of the platforms intact. Evidence of later uses in the form of discarded shells from the limpets (opihi) are found scattered over the site. Associated with the site is a fishermen's shrine (kuula) and the coastal trail runs between the site and the ocean. A geological feature in the form of a tree mold is found just outside the enclosing wall at the southeast end. This site is associated with one of the high chiefs of Kona.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: Less than 1

Location: At Kii point northwest shore of Alahaka Bay

155°54'37" W. Long., 19°25'06" N. Lat.

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Excavation & Stabilization)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$35,000

7. 'Oma'o Heiau (B91)

This temple site is probably of the "Lono class", that is, a temple for the God of Agriculture. It is the only temple at the City of Refuge that makes use of a natural feature—it has a lava squeeze up at one end of the platform that was probably used as the a'nuu tower (prayer tower). It is constructed of lava chunks with rubble fill.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: Less than 1/2 acre

Location: Near the 1871 trail ½ mile southeast of visitor center

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Excavation & Stabilization)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$40,000

8. Keanaee Heiau (C38)

This temple site, sometimes also noted as Alahaka Temple, is located in the land of Keokea in the center of a village complex, consisting of surface dwellings and cave shelters. It measures 60 by 90 feet and averages about an eight feet height. It has some of the best stone work and at one time exhibited some surface features that might have been helpful in determining its function. It is classed as a Lono type, agricultural temple.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: Less than 1

Location: Between Keanaee cliffs and ocean ½ mi. southeast of visitor center Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Excavation & Stabilization) Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$40,000

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9. Honaunau Holua (B105)

Test excavations and stabilization were completed on this site in 1968. It is thought that these might have been used for sledding. According to the ethno-historical sources, it was a game played only by the <u>alii</u> (ruling chiefs). The information and background data at this point in time is inconclusive. Therefore, the recommended level of treatment; restoration must be contingent upon the results of future research.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: Less than 1

Location: About 100 meters southeast of Visitor Center on 1871 trail

Recommended level of treatment: Restoration (See above comment)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$13,000

10. Keokea Holua (C56)

This is the longest and best preserved of the sledding tracks. It is over 1000 feet long and varies in width from 5 to 12 feet.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: Less than 1

Location: North end of Keanaee cliffs and ½ mi. southeast of Visitor Center on 1871 trail

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (maintain as a ruin)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500 annually

11. Kiilae Holua (D186)

This sledding track is located in the ruins of a village that was occupied until 1926 and is a small one measuring 300 feet long and varies from 5 to 8 feet wide.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: Less than 1

Location: Kiilae village 25 meters north of southeast boundary corner

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (maintain as ruins)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500 annually

12. Alahaka Ramp (C57)

At this point of the Keanaee cliff, in prehistoric times, there was a ladder by which one gained the top of the cliff. According to legend there was a "gatekeeper" to assist people. A stone platform nearby is reported to be the gatekeepers house site. In about 1848, a ramp was built to accommodate horse back travel through the district. It was later modified in about 1871. The ramp and the cave shelter behind the ramp were excavated

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and stabilized in 1963.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: Less than 1

Location: 3/4 mile southeast of Visitor Center on 1871 trail

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500 annually

13. 1871 Trail (No number)

This trail, sometimes called the "King's Highway", was constructed in about 1871 for horseback travel. The portion in the Park has been reconstructed.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: About 1 acre

Location: From Visitor Center to Kiilae village

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (maintenance)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$500 annually

14. Kiilae Village (Zone D-Archeo-Hist. Base map)
Unfortunately, Rev. William Ellis in 1823 bypassed Kiilae village when he took to the ocean from the village of Keokea below the Alahaka Ramp. However, it was a thriving village in 1823 and was abandoned completely by 1926. Here was a village patterned after the old traditions, using in many cases "modern" methods and techniques; thatched houses with corrugated tin roofs and glass windows. Limited archeological testing revealed metal fishhooks made as copies of the traditional bone hooks. Several tested house sites, although appearing to be ancient, revealed only modern artifacts. There is a "cave of refuge" outside the Park boundary, which shows some deep deposits of midden material; and there is a famous "spring" of Queen Emma's mother, Kamehameha IV's mother-in-law. Select sites in the

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: About 3 acres

Location: South end of Park 155°54'20" W. Long., 19°24'17" N. Lat.

village are slated for additional research and reconstruction.

Recommended level of treatment: Restoration (Excavation & Stabilization be-

fore restoration)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$65,000

15. Keanaee Shelters (Zone C Archeo-Hist. Base map)

In 1823 Rev. William Ellis noted a number of the caves being used as dwelling and work areas. Salvage testing in two of these cave shelter sites re-

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vealed important archeological data. If an interpretive trail is developed along the base of the Keanaee pali, the shelter sites that are easily available must be salvaged before they are destroyed by visitors. Although the caves are an attraction, the interest that draws most visitors to the location is the "frozen waterfall". In ancient times a lava flow "dripped" over the cliffs and solidified to form a curtain over the face of the cliffit formed a tunnel behind the falls in which Rev. Ellis saw people living.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: About 2 acres

Location: Between Visitor Center and Kiilae village south end of Park Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Later salvage for interpretation)

Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$40,000

16. City of Refuge National Historical Park-District Within the boundaries of the district are recorded 321; the above 15 are the outstanding structures and features, for which there is a measure of protection and on-going research. This entry is for archeological-historical surface and sub-surface investigations and/or excavations of known and unknown (unrecorded) archeo-historical resources, excluding classified structures seperately identified within the district.

Order of Significance: Second

Acreage: 181.85

Location: Twenty miles south of Kailua, Kona, Hawaii

Recommended level of treatment: Preservation Preliminary cost estimate for above: \$40,000

PROPERTY BOUNDARY

Actual boundary coincides with park boundary. If park boundary changes, so does boundary of property.

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ways.

The archeological remains represent nearly every aspect of Polynesian culture and is the most important resource to be protected and preserved for future enjoyment.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) 9 Cont d

13. Menzies, Archibald

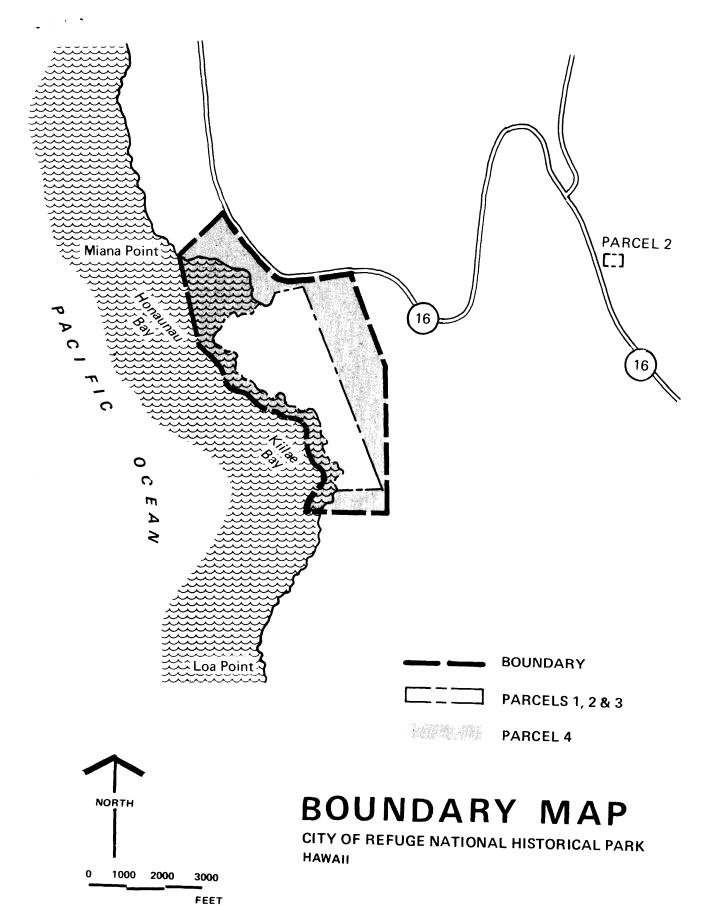
Hawaii Nei 128 Years Ago: Journal of Archibald Menzies, Kept

During His Three Visits to the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands

when Acting as Surgeon and Naturalist on Board HMS Discovery.

Honolulu.





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