

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 4 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kahikolu Church

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number N/A *E of Napo* not for publication

city, town Napo *opo* vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Hawaii code 015 county Hawaii code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Kahikolu Congregational Church

street & number R.R. 1 Box 146-C

city, town Captain Cook vicinity of state Hawaii 96704

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bureau of Conveyances

street & number 1151 Punchbowl Street

city, town Honolulu state Hawaii

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

#10-47-7215

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Land and Natural Resources

city, town Honolulu state Hawaii

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	X <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	X <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	X <input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Kahikolu Church, a 56' x 62' lava rock building stands conspicuously on an isolated, level area of lava surrounded by dense kiawe groves. It is characterized by its masonry walls and gable roof of corrugated iron with a tall steeple perched at the peak of the west (entry) end. The church has been abandoned since 1953 and is in poor condition. However, plans are underway to restore it to its former splendor, and this past Easter five hundred people attended services in the church.

The 35" thick walls are of lava rock with coral lime mortar. They feature large quoins which pleasantly contrast with the random masonry walls. Originally the gable ends were also masonry, but these were removed following a 1929 earthquake which caused one of the gable ends to tumble through the ceiling and onto the pulpit. Horizontal wood strips, which are still in use, replaced the stone gable ends.

All windows are double hung sash. There are four on each side, a centered one to the rear, and on the front two to the left of the right-of-center doorway. Besides the front entry, two rear portals allow entry and egress. All the church doors are missing; some of the windows remain intact, although they are in need of repair.

The corrugated iron roof replaced an earlier koa shingle roof. The steeple consists of a rectangular wooden base with Gothic arched louvers on the north and south sides. Above the base sits a metal roof and needle spire which is capped by a ball finial.

The interior walls are covered with a coral lime plaster over which a skim coat was applied in 1925. Also in this year James Acia painted stencil designs on the walls at the ceiling and over the windows. The flooring consists of 1" x 6" planks on 2" x 6" sleepers laid directly on sand fill. A 1" x 6" ceiling is nailed directly to the existing truss system. The ceiling and floor date from the 1925 remodeling. Approximately 25" of the ceiling has collapsed, the result of earthquakes in 1951, 1952 and 1953. Seven king post trusses of hand hewn ohia with a clear span of 57' support the corrugated iron roof.

There are no recent alterations or additions to the church.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1852-1855 **Builder/Architect** John D. Paris

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Kahikolu Church is significant both historically and architecturally. Historically it represents one of the earliest Protestant missions established in the Kona area on the island of Hawaii. It is one of two nineteenth century stone churches standing on the Big Island (the other, Mokuaikaia Church in Kailua-Kona, is already listed in the National Register), and is one of the oldest stone church building remaining in the State.

Kahikolu means three in one, or the trinity. As is common in many Hawaiian words, this one carries two meaning. The one refers to the traditional Christian connotation of the father, son and holy ghost trinity, which the other relates to the fact that this was the congregation's third house of worship.

In February 1824, Chiefs Kapi'olani, Naihe and Kamakau built the first church in South Kona at Ka'awaloa, near the site of Captain Cook's demise. They offered this thatched church and parsonage to the Reverend James Ely and his family. This action signified the changed attitudes of the Hawaiian alii to the missionaries. Up until that time no missionary had ever been called to serve an area where a church and parsonage had been especially built for them. The Ely family accepted the call and arrived in April 1824. Fourteen years and three missionaries later, the Ka'awaloa Church was moved to Kepulu in order to increase its accessibility. In 1839 missionary Cochran Forbes, with the aid of Kapi'olani began constructing a church of stone. It took two years to build this massive 120' x 57' structure. When completed, this church became the center of worship for Kona, and was named Kealakekua Church.

After 1846 South Kona was without a missionary for six years, until the arrival of John D. Paris in 1852. The giant Kealakekua Church building had fallen into ruin, and Reverend Paris set to work building a new church on the foundations of the old. The width of the old church became the length of the new, which measured 57' x 62'. This stone church took three years to

9. Major Bibliographical References

Station and Church reports from Kaawaloa, Kealakekua and Kahikolu
Hawaiian Evangelical Association's Kahikolu File
Reverend John D. Paris, Fragments of Real Missionary Life (Honolulu: The Friend, 1928)

Albertine Loomis, To All People (Honolulu: 1973)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2.58

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

0	15	1	9	16	1	12	10	2	1	5	14	3	18	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

This nomination includes all the property described by TMK 8-2-07:6 in 1982.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Lois M. Humphrey, Scribe

organization Kahikolu Restoration Committee date May 26, 1982

street & number R.P. #1 Box 146-C telephone 328-2529

city or town Captain Cook state Hawaii 96704

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 1, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

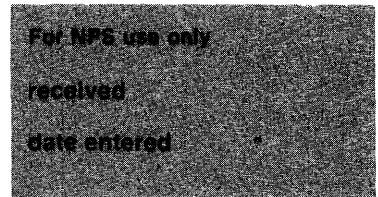
 date 11/15/82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The church stands on a two and one half acre parcel, most of which is overgrown. However the area immediately surrounding the church is cleared and features lava rock walls and a cemetery. The walls run along the north and east sides of the church. The east wall is approximately twenty feet from the rear of the church and the north wall is approximately two hundred feet from the north side of the church. The north wall is broken in one area to allow for an entry to the grounds. Concrete entry posts are located on either side of this opening. Gravesites are located behind the church and on both the north and south sides of the building. Many of these are presently overgrown.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

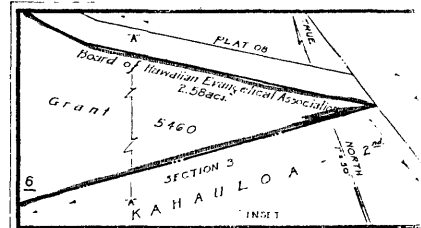
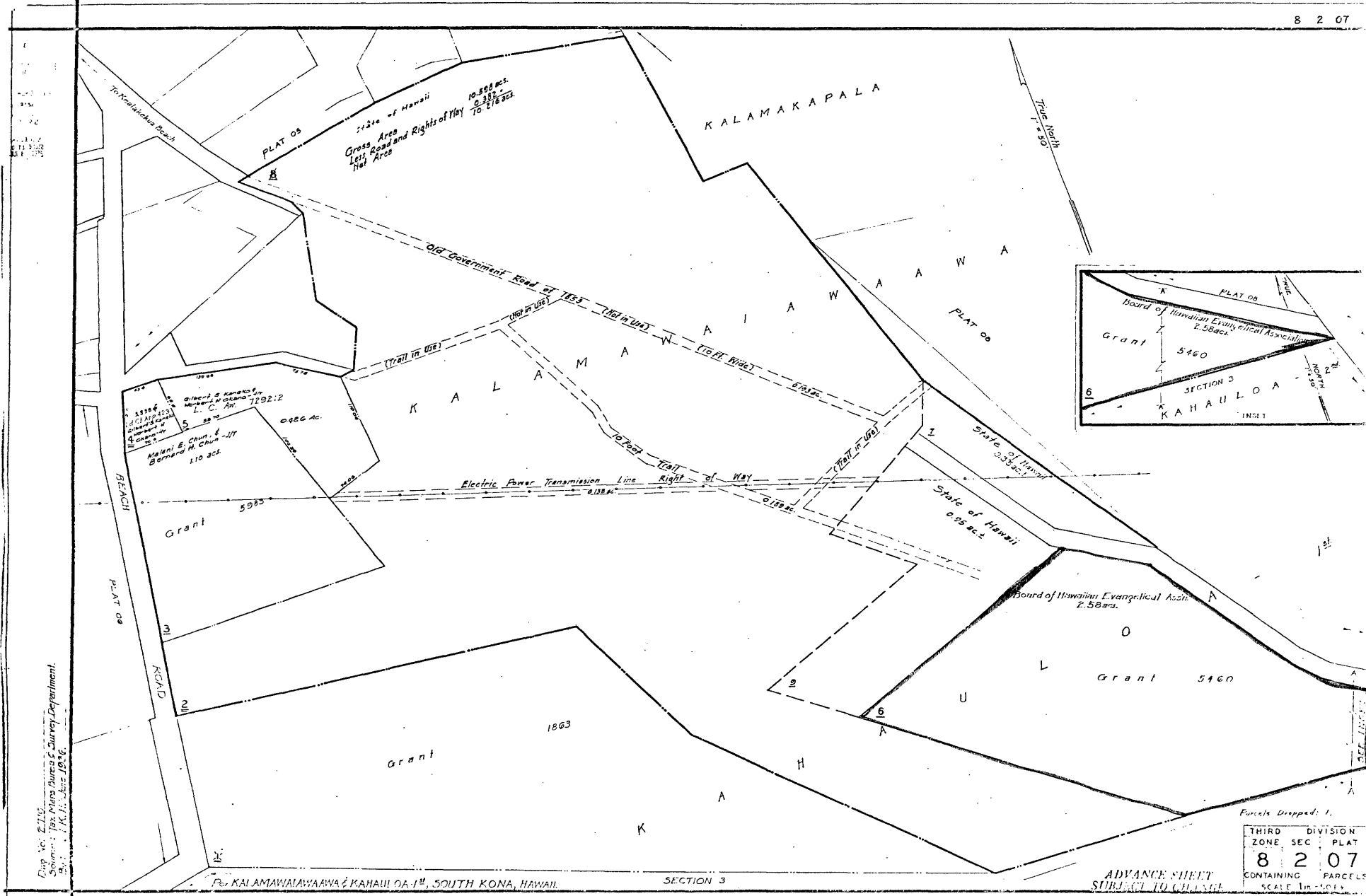
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complete and featured a bell donated by Mrs. William E. Dodge of New York. This is the church which still stands today. The foundations of the earlier Kealakekua Church also are still visible adjacent to the present structure.

Kahikolu was the first church in Hawaii built by Reverend Paris. He went on to build eight other churches in the kingdom, making him one of the most prolific builders of his time.

Kahikolu Church was the Mother Church for the South Kona area; however, with the passage of time its significance declined as branch churches grew larger and the population of the Kealakekua Bay area dwindled. The church was abandoned in 1953 following a series of earthquakes. The congregation still exists and is interested in restoring this building.

Architecturally the church is significant as one of two stone churches still extant on the island of Hawaii. The construction of stone churches by the Protestant missionaries during the 1840's and 1850's was common; however, most of these structures have fallen into complete ruin. Kahikolu, as one of two surviving stone churches on Hawaii, well reflects its period's church architecture, with its reliance upon local materials for construction. An imposing and substantial structure, this church well bespoke the permanence and position of the Protestant mission in Hawaiian society during the period 1835-1860.



Map No. 2119
 Scale: 1/2" = 100' (approx.)
 Date: 1/11/1916

Part of KALAMAWALAWAWA & KAHAULO A-1st, SOUTH KONA, HAWAII.

SECTION 3

ADVANCE SHEET
 SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Parcels Drapped: 1.

THIRD ZONE	DIVISION SEC	PLAT
8	2	07

CONTAINING PARCELS
SCALE 1" = 100'