

PH0673196

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 24 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 21 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Palama Fire Station

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 879 North King Street

CITY, TOWN

Honolulu

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Hawaii

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Hawaii, Department of Education

STREET & NUMBER

1390 Miller Street, Queen Lilioukalanani Building

CITY, TOWN

Honolulu

STATE

Hawaii

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Land Management Division

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 621

CITY, TOWN

Honolulu

STATE

Hawaii

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Palama Fire Station was built in 1901. The basic structure is of English Bond brick and when it was built it boasted all of the most modern equipment of the time, including an electric door-opener and slide poles connecting the upper living quarters with the engine hose wagon; or horses in the feed room on the first floor. A '75 brick stucco fire hose drying tower immediately identifies the structure as a turn of the century fire station.

The basic plan is 65' X 45' rectangle with the length of the building facing North King Street and it is enclosed on the south and west sides by parking lots. The structure is detached and exerts a strong presence as a Palama landmark. Landscaping is minimal, a few palm trees and shrubbery along the east and south walls. The original main and tower roofs were tile surfaced and of hip design; they are now shingled. The building has two appendages: the drying tower, rising from the rear, with coupled brick-stilted-arched air vents; on the forward central slope of the hip roof is a corbie-stepped gable. The first story fenestration consists of four flat arched, exposed brick double-hung windows with voussiors, the upper story displays two plain double-hung windows on each end of a gallery consisting of three arches and a balustrade.

The major architectural features of the exterior are the four basket arched main service doors, two in the frontispiece where flemish bond brick string courses originate and wrap the entire second floor. The flemish bond string courses originate and terminate in the voussiors of the gallery arches. This brick masonry is an example of the work of Portuguese brick masons; a great deal of the brick masonry executed in Hawaii at the turn of the century; particularly the more decorative brick work, was masoned by Portuguese immigrants. It is interesting that each of the voussiors is of raised brick work and extends away from the entrados, (the inner most surface of the

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT O. G. Traphagen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Palama Fire Station is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under the National Register Category for structures that possess integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

The Palama Fire Station qualifies under this category for the following reasons:

1. The building designer O. G. Traphagen* was a turn of the century landmark architect.
2. The brickwork is a unique example of skilled masonry construction techniques.
3. The building exhibits unique design characteristics, ie: the combination of mediterranean and romanesque design elements.
4. Was the first example of mediterranean architecture in Hawaii.
5. The structure predated the major mediterranean movement in California by some six years.
6. Is the oldest public building still in existence constructed in Honolulu during the Territorial government period.
7. It was the first fire station in Hawaii to utilize modern firefighting equipment.
8. The building has not been significantly altered.

*The Architect.....

Oliver G. Traphagen immigrated to Hawaii in 1897 leaving his own well established architectural firm in Duluth, Minnesota. During Traphagen's ten years in Honolulu, he

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre (approx 1/4 acre) J.T.
 UTM REFERENCES telephone 4/19

A	Z, 4	6, 1, 7, 1, 2, 0	2, 3, 5, 8, 6, 4, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Dale M. Lanzone Historic Sites Specialist March 12, 1976
Hawaii Register of Historic Places

ORGANIZATION P.O. 621, Honolulu Hawaii 96809 808-548-7460
 DATE

STREET & NUMBER Honolulu, Hawaii TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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 Jane L. Silverman

TITLE

DATE March 12, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE 9/21/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE 4-20-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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arch) to either wrap the building or join corresponding voussoirs of the other gallery arches forming the geometry of the second story frontispiece. It must be understood that this masonry is not an applique but an intrical part of the brick masonry of the wall structure. This form of brick stucco originates within the vernacular of medieval Medeterranean architecture, primarily Spanish and Italian romanesque. There are no other known examples of this masonry application in the State of Hawaii.

The building gallery is also of medieval derivation. This type of gallery was first used on 10th Century Italian and German churches. The medieval character of this gallery is apparent in the blunt treatment of the balustrade with it's exposed brick dentils and ceillets (the rectangular holes). The original purpose of the ceillet was as a wall penetration through which arrows, spears, etc., could be hurled upon the enemy.

The south, west and north facades are marked by the second story string courses and fenestration similar to that of the frontispiece: plain double-hung windows in the upper story and flat arched double-hung windows on the ground floor. The only variations being the entry door in the east end of the south wall, the two basket arched service doors in the west rear wall and a second story entry door with open wood scaffold stair on the north wall.

Entry to the building is gained through the east wall door. The interior ground floor is a simple three bay space with three partitioned rooms at the rear. The

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central room giving access to the drying tower. The bays are defined by 8 tuscan style columns that support two beams running the length of the ground floor and support the second story. The upper floor, the old crew's quarters, is boarded and no access is available.

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became the most influential and sought after architect in the Islands. Before Traphagen's arrival in Hawaii, the expertise and technology for the construction of high-rise business blocks was locally unavailable. Traphagen brought with him a clear knowledge and understanding of the uses and potentials of the electric elevator and iron frame construction techniques. His influence on turn of the century Hawaiian architects and builders changed the course of local building history. Traphagen built many outstanding buildings including the Judd Block Building (National Register), the James B. Castle home at Waikiki (destroyed), the Moana Hotel (National Register), the Hackfeld Building (destroyed), and the Kakaako Pumping Station (National Register).