

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Hawaii</b>		2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>Theme XVI - Indigenous People and Cultures</b>	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Keauhou Holua Slide</b>			4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>10</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>On west coast of the Island of Hawaii, in North District, at Keauhou, to east of the coast Highway (State 18)</b>			
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Probably owned by the Bishop Estate.</b>			
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)			

Significance

The Keauhou Holua (Toboggan) Slide (HASS-50-HA-D3-2) is the largest and best preserved slide in the State of Hawaii. This slide, extremely long (1290 feet), steep, and wide, served as the "Olympic Games" holua of the Hawaiian people.

Certain pastimes were restricted to the chiefs, the most spectacular being holua sledding. A track of rock, layered with earth and made slippery with grass, was made for tobogganing on a narrow sled. The sled or papa consisted of two narrow and highly polished runners, from seven to 18 feet in length, and from two to three inches deep. The two runners were fastened together by a number of short pieces of woods varying in length from two to five inches, laid horizontally across the runners. The contestants grasped the sled, ran a few yards to the brow of the hill or starting place, and throwing themselves forward, fell flat on the sled, and slid rapidly down the hill. Those who rode the farthest were considered the victors. This sport was extremely dangerous and only experts participated.

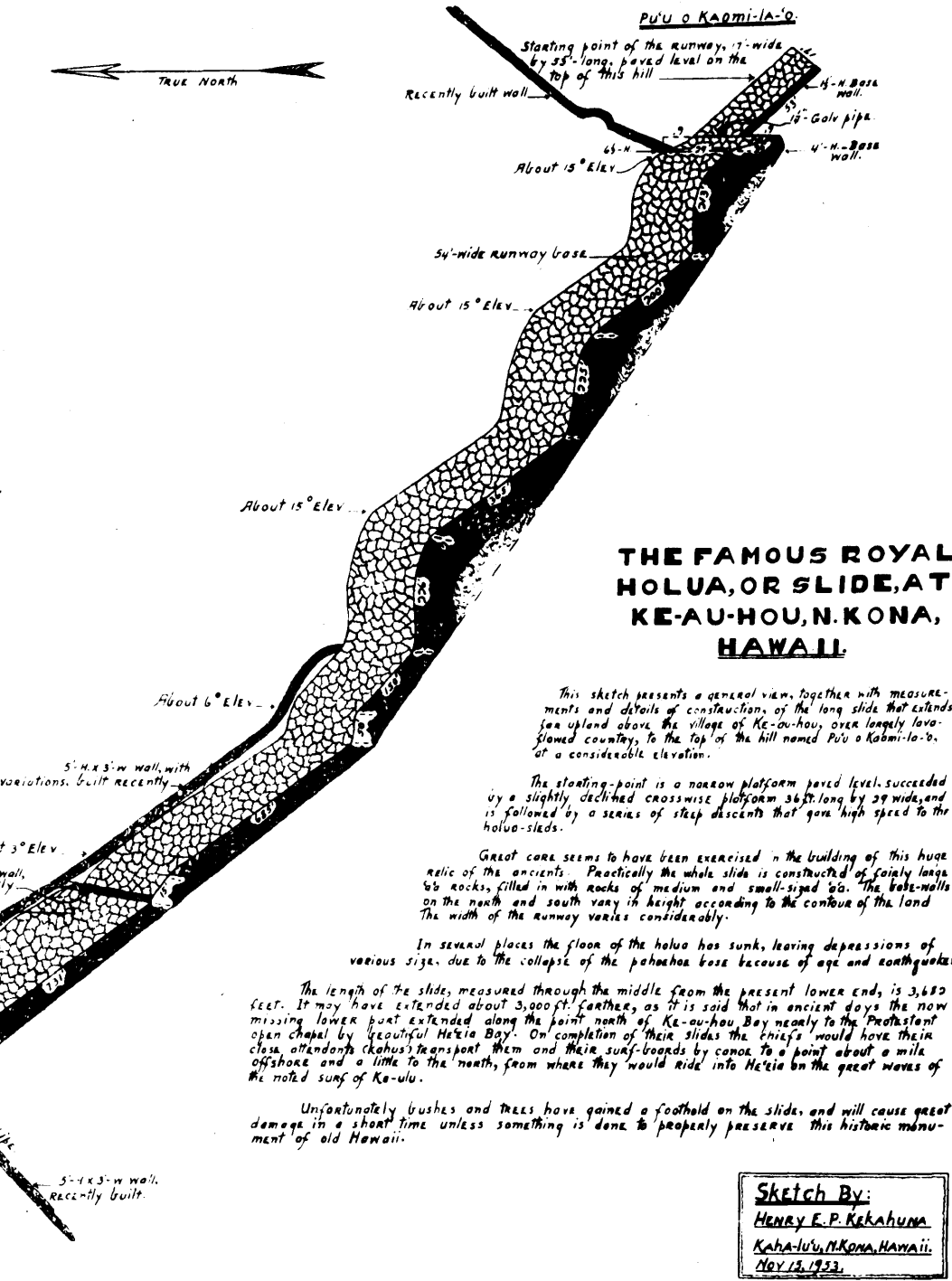
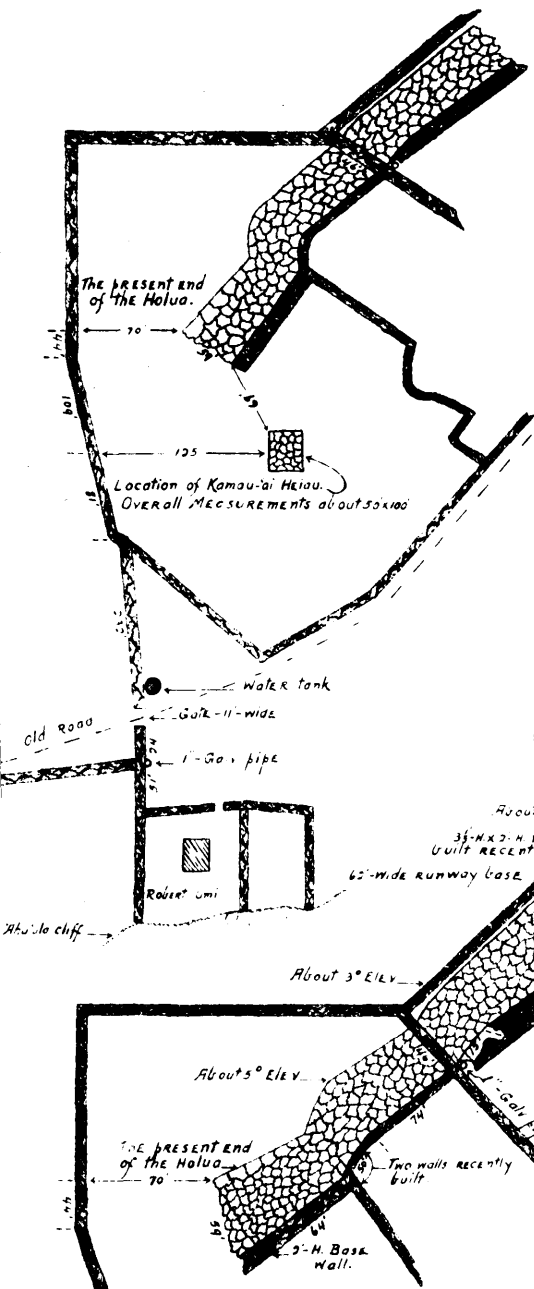
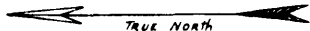
8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IABS, etc.) **Dorothy B. Barrere, "Hawaiian Aboriginal Culture" (Bishop Museum, 1961, NPS typescript), 64; K.P. Emory, J.F.G. Stokes, D.B. Barrere, "The National and Cultural History of Honaunau, Kona, Hawaii," (Bishop Museum, 1957 typescript, 2 vols.), Vol II, 229-230**

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Excellent</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Uncultivated land</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>March 1962</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <b>Paul J. F. Schumacher</b>	(Sgd.) <b>Paul J. F. Schumacher</b>	15. TITLE <b>Regional Archeologist</b>	16. DATE <b>June 28, 1962</b>

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)



## THE FAMOUS ROYAL HOLUA, OR SLIDE, AT KE-AU-HOU, N. KONA, HAWAII.

This sketch presents a general view, together with measurements and details of construction, of the long slide that extends far upland above the village of Ke-au-hou, over largely lava-flowed country, to the top of the hill named Puu o Kadmila-o, at a considerable elevation.

The starting-point is a narrow platform paved level, succeeded by a slightly declined crosswise platform 36 ft. long by 29 wide, and is followed by a series of steep descents that gave high speed to the holua-slides.

Great care seems to have been exercised in the building of this huge relic of the ancients. Practically the whole slide is constructed of fairly large 'a'a' rocks, filled in with medium and small-sized 'a'a'. The base-walls on the north and south vary in height according to the contour of the land. The width of the runway varies considerably.

In several places the floor of the holua has sunk, leaving depressions of various size, due to the collapse of the pahoehoe base because of age and earthquakes.

The length of the slide, measured through the middle from the present lower end, is 3,680 feet. It may have extended about 3,000 ft. farther, as it is said that in ancient days the now missing lower part extended along the point north of Ke-au-hou Bay nearly to the Protestant open chapel by beautiful He'ia Bay. On completion of their slides the chiefs would have their class attendants (kahus) transport them and their surf-boards by canoe to a point about a mile offshore and a little to the north, from where they would ride into He'ia on the great waves of the noted surf of Ke-ulu.

Unfortunately bushes and trees have gained a foothold on the slide, and will cause great damage in a short time unless something is done to properly preserve this historic monument of old Hawaii.

Sketch By:  
 Henry F. P. Kekahuna  
 Kaha-luu, N. Kona, Hawaii.  
 Nov. 18, 1952.