

PH0855191

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Hawaii	
COUNTY: Honolulu	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 2 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Aliiolani Hale (the Judiciary Building)

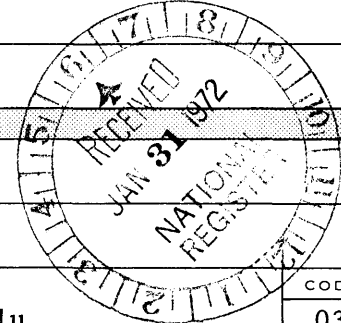
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
King Street (between Mililani and Punchbowl)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Honolulu

STATE Hawaii	CODE 15	COUNTY: Honolulu	CODE 03
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Hawaii

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Judiciary Department, Aliiolani Hale

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu	STATE: Hawaii	CODE 15
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Bureau of Conveyances

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tax Office Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu	STATE: Hawaii	CODE 15
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 08
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The architectural style of Aliiolani Hale has been called an "English inspired ideal of Italian Renaissance" architecture. Historically, it is an important structure in that it demonstrates one of the earliest uses of concrete block masonry in the United States. The blocks were cast and fitted to resemble cut stone details.

The building is two stories in height measuring 35' 5 1/2" with a four story central tower rise of 81' 4 1/2". The plan is a symmetrical N-shape which measures 173' 8" across the front by 118' 4" in depth.

The coral foundation supports concrete block bearing walls varying in thickness from 17" to 22". On the first floor, the walls are articulated by a rhythm of large piers framing arched window openings. The piers terminate in a moulded capital from which the arches of the openings spring. The sill of the windows on the second floor is continued as a belt course. The wall terminates in a cornice and a cast concrete balustrade set between paneled pedestals.

Porches:

The lanais (porches) on the mauka (King Street) elevation are treated with coupled Ionic columns to form three major bays each, the extreme columns being engaged to the abutting walls. The axial entrance is located at the base of the tower. Here, the quoins of the tower frame a large arched opening which is flanked by double engaged Ionic columns. Cast concrete balustrades are set between the colonnade of the lanais. On the first floor, the balustrade pedestals are smooth, while on the second floor, they are located with a recessed panel horizontally disposed.

The first floor was enclosed by a colonnade similar to the existing first floor lanai on King Street prior to the 1941 addition.

Openings - Doorways and Doors:

The single existing arched exterior doorway on King Street is the main entrance to the building.

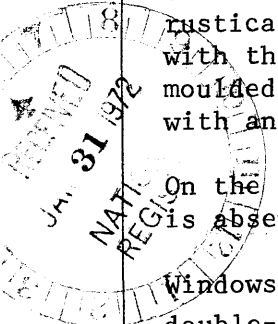
Windows:

On the first floor, the arched window openings are recessed within larger rusticated arches and piers. The window surround is stucco, 9" wide, with the joints visible but not rusticated. The spandrel between the moulded sill and the base course of the wall consists of a recessed panel with an elongated pyramidal motif in smooth stucco relief.

On the second floor, identical sash are used although the stucco surround is absent.

Windows on the fourth floor in the tower are narrow arched 4/4 wood double-hung.

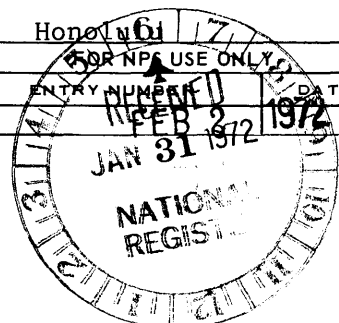
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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STATE	Hawaii
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DATE	JAN 31 1972



(Number all entries)

7. Aliiolani Hale (cont.)

Roof:

The existing roof has a slight slope with a modern built-up roofing. Various mechanical penthouses and skylights have been installed on it.

Cornice, Caves:

The crowning cornice below the balustrade roof consists of classical profiles in cast concrete, below which is a large-scaled band of dentils over a band of egg and dart decoration. The cornice continues as part of the entablature of the Ionic columns on the second floor and as a belt course across the face of the tower. The frieze and architrave of the entablature are undecorated.

The entablature of the columns on the first floor is similar except that the dentils are of much smaller scale.

Towers:

The axial clock tower over the entrance is articulated in four stages. At the first level there is the entrance arch described above. At the second level three pairs of engaged Ionic columns define two bays, each containing an arched vertical window opening with spandels consisting of concrete balustrades. At the third level, the composition of engaged columns and window openings repeats. Details, however, are different. The spandrel consists of a smooth surfaced center panel flanked by two side panels decorated with a band of quatre-foils inset within diamonds. Also, the frieze above the engaged column has the following carved inscription: "KAMEHAMEHA ELIMA, KA MOI" (Kamehameha V, the King). The cornice above contains a large-scaled band of dentils corresponding to the major cornice. The clock-face on all four sides at the fourth level is 6' 0" in diameter enclosed within a moulded frame. A spandrel panel decorated with a band of interlocking circles (guilloche) extends horizontally between the framing quoins of the tower. Just below the crowning cornice of the tower is a frieze inscribed "UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO" ("The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness."). The cornice contains the heavy dentils and egg and dart motifs of the main structure. The tower terminates in a cast concrete balustrade set between four pedestals, with an urn and ball set on each of the four corners. On the King Street facade, inset panels in the pedestals contain the date 1-8-7-4, one numeral for each pedestal.

The interior has been extensively altered during the years but still retains some elements that reflect the original beauty and gracefulness. A two story open rotunda with a balcony surrounding it on all sides.

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STATE	Hawaii
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7. Aliiolani Hale (cont.)

The rotunda intersects the crossing of a major and minor corridor consisting of a two story octagonal space supported at the angles by large piers. Paired columns and arches, in a Palladian design are inserted between the supporting piers. On the first floor, the two which are on each side of the entrance arch enclose doorways leading to existing offices. The four remaining axial arches lead to wide corridors. Arches between piers are repeated on the balcony.

Combination straight and curved stairways connect the first and second floors. The ornamental cast iron railing terminates in a cast iron newel post capped with a pineapple urn. Decorative wrought iron work further enhances the stairway.

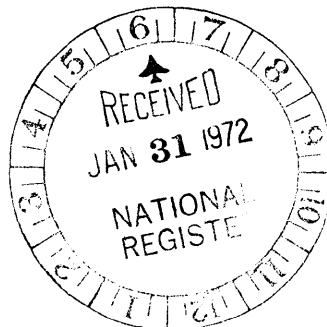
Principal decoration is achieved in the rotunda and the entrance corridor. A barrel vaulted ceiling springs from a projected flat soffit and is defined by a simple border of flat bands of molding in the entrance corridor. A flat octagonal shaped skylight in colored glass is set in the coved ceiling of the rotunda.

Other interior areas are obscured and hidden by modern use of plaster partitions, acoustical tile ceilings and other such devices.

An addition was constructed in 1942 as a copy of, but inferior to the original building, has all but destroyed the makai (seaward) elevation of the building.

The grounds feature an imposing gilt trimmed statue of Kamehameha I located on a lawn within a circular drive in front of the building. Plenty of asphalt surrounds the building but is shaded by a number of large trees common to Hawaii.

The building is in structurally sound condition and receiving above standard maintenance.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

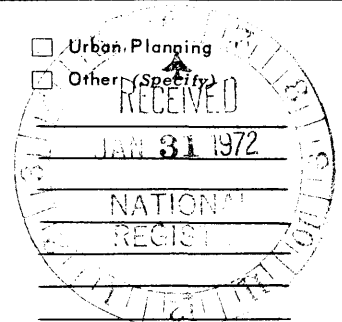
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aliiolani Hale is important in the history of Hawaii as the place of the reading of the declaration of the Provisional Government of the Hawaiian Islands during the Revolution of 1893. This declaration marked the overthrow of the traditional Hawaiian monarchy and the beginning of government by American interests that eventually led to statehood for Hawaii. Besides this, Aliiolani Hale is of considerable architectural value as it is a fine example of monarchy period architecture. King Kamehameha V was responsible for initiating the building of many government office buildings during his reign. Aliiolani Hale and the Kamehameha V Post Office are the two most outstanding and representative of the style of the time.

King Kamehameha V (1863-1872) commissioned two architects from Sydney, Australia, to submit plans to him for a new royal palace. Kamehameha V felt that Australians would have a better grasp of architectural designs suitable to the Hawaiian climate and atmosphere than either Americans or Europeans. By the time a plan was submitted by Thomas Rowe of Sydney, it was decided that Hawaii needed a new government office building much more than a new royal palace, so the plan was modified by the Superintendent of Public Works, Robert Stirling, and construction was begun. Stirling's changes involved the removal of the veranda from around the entire building and renovations in the plan of the wings, but so many other persons were involved in the design and construction of the building that it is impossible to credit any one person with the design.

Ground was broken for the building at the end of 1871 and the cornerstone was ceremoniously laid on February 19, 1872. The building was constructed of concrete block, a technique first used in the construction of the Kamehameha V Post Office in 1870. The building was officially opened by the Legislature of 1874 (during the reign of King Kalakaua, known as the Merry Monarch). Its cost was approximately \$120,000. Public opinion was against using it as a public office building (it was thought to be too grand and too large), but it served in this capacity until the overthrow of the monarchy in 1893. King Kalakaua saw the value in its breezy, open spaces, though, and used the building for balls and entertainments at night.

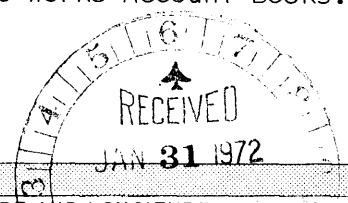
After the overthrow of the Monarchy in 1893, the government executive offices were moved to Iolani Palace and Aliiolani Hale was taken over by the Judiciary Branch of the government. The Supreme Court of Hawaii has been housed here ever since.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Numerous references to Aliiolani Hale are made in the Advertiser, Hawaiian Gazette, and Thrum's Hawaiian Annual for 1874. The Archives of Hawaii also contains information about Aliiolani Hale in the Interior Department Books and the Public Works Account Books.

HR  
NO  
UTM



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	21°	18'	31"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	157°	51'	46"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dorothy Riconda, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Hawaii Register of Historic Places DATE: Jan. 7, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 621

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii CODE: 15

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: SUNAO KIDO  
 Title: Chairman, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

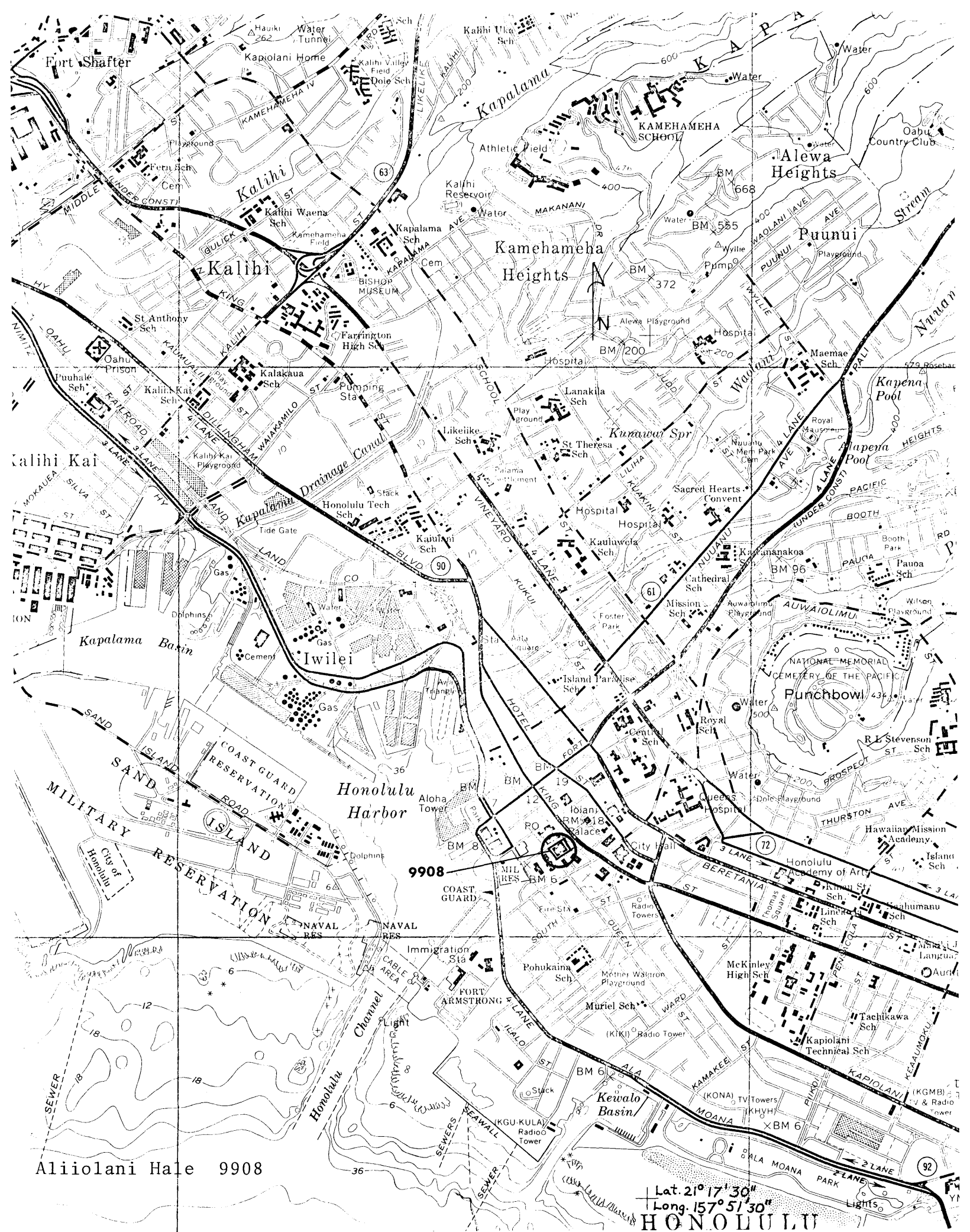
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 FEB 2 1972

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: William M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 FEB 1 1972

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Aliiolani Hale 9908

Lat. 21° 17' 30"  
Long. 157° 51' 30"  
HONOLULU