

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received 10-16
date entered 8-21-85

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

1. Name

historic FRANCIS H. LI BROWN RESIDENCE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number KEAWAIKI BAY not for publication

city, town vicinity of NORTH KONA DISTRICT

state HAWAII code county HAWAII code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name SEE ATTACHED LIST FOR NAMES OF FOUR OWNERS

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

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 STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY has this property been determined eligible? yes no
#10-19-7498

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

city, town HONOLULU state HAWAII

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Francis Hyde Ii Brown Beach Residence is a 15 acre beachfront parcel at Keawaiki Bay in the North Kona district of the island of Hawaii. An oasis of greenery surrounded by fields of barren lava, the property is mostly rocky pahoehoe lava with beach sand fill in some spots, and is characterized by a large grove of an estimated 700 coconut palms. Also on the property are a large fishpond and a smaller natural pool, fed by brackish springs. The compound consists of 4 main structures, 10 smaller buildings spread over the area in various groupings, and ruins of other historic and prehistoric structures.

All the extant structures are built in a similar, straight-forward manner, with walls approximately one foot thick made of lava rock, quarried on the site. Inset windows consist of 1) exterior screens, and 2) double-hung sash windows. Doors are similarly constructed with 1) an exterior wooden door with screened window, and 2) a solid wooden panel interior door. The low-pitched hip roofs are of corrugated metal, painted red, and all buildings sit on cement slabs.

The four major houses are used as living quarters. (1) The main house contains two bedrooms with bathrooms, covered lanai, living room, kitchen/dining room, and pantry. (2) The back guest house (formerly servants' quarters) has three bedrooms and bathrooms with a small front lanai. (3) The caretaker's house consists of a kitchen and two other rooms with a covered front lanai. All of these buildings face the ocean. (4) The front guest house has two bedrooms and bathrooms with dressing rooms. A boathouse is attached to this structure.

A number of smaller buildings is also present. These are all rectangular in shape and are used for storage and machinery, although two are outhouses that are no longer in use, and two others contain shower facilities that utilize brackish water pumped from the larger pond. An additional structure is a pergola built of four lava-rock pillars supporting a flat corrugated metal roof, set on a cement base, situated near the beach between the front guest house and the other three houses.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) SPORTS
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				
Specific dates	1926–1931	Builder/Architect	N/A	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Francis H. Ii Brown beach residence is significant as an excellent example of a Kona coast beach cottage complex of the 1920s. It is also significant for its potential to yield information about Hawaii's past, and its associations with Francis H. Ii Brown, a prominent sportsman and politician.

The Francis H. Ii Brown beach residence is a compound of a size and type probably not found anywhere else in Hawaii. Present on the site are archaeological remains of ancient Hawaiians, specimens of rare native flora, natural ponds supporting a variety of fish, and buildings constructed of local lava rock, quarried at the site.

The presence of water, in the form of springs and fishponds, at Keawaiki Bay made it an area where pre-contact Hawaiians could live along an otherwise arid Kona coast. Still visible today are various remnants of these ancient people, including part of a heiau that Dr. Kenneth Emory of the Bishop Museum conjectures to be Lono-kai, most of which was destroyed by the lava flow of 1859. Study of these sites is likely to yield more information human inhabitation of this area during pre-contact times.

Keawaiki's modern development is due to Francis H. Ii Brown [1892–1976]. Francis Brown was one-half Hawaiian and one-half Caucasian, and a well known personality for many decades in Hawaii. The grandson of the Kingdom of Hawaii's Supreme Court Judge John Ii, Brown was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and over a million dollars in his pocket. During World War I he served as an ambulance driver in France, and won the Croix de Guere. He was an avid sportsman, he was "a legend in the annals of Hawaii's sports history." Proficient in swimming, tennis, baseball and polo, he excelled at golf. Nine times he won the Hawaiian Amateur championship (the Manoa Cup). He also won the Japan Amateur championship in 1929 and the California Amateur championship in 1930. In 1924 he shot a 67 at Scotland's St. Andrews, setting a course record. He also established a course record at Pebble Beach, shooting a 64 in 1927.

Besides his athletic accomplishments, Brown, a lifelong Republican, also had a long distinguished career in Hawaii's legislature. In 1924 he was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives, and in 1927 he was elected to the Territorial Senate. He continuously held his Oahu seat in the Senate until the conclusion of the 1947 session, with the exception of the 1935–36 session, when an automobile accident hampered his activity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

INTERVIEW WITH FAMILY MEMBERS, 1985
STAR BULLETIN AND HONOLULU ADVERTISER, AUGUST 7 and 26, 1976

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15

Quadrangle name ANAEHOOMALU

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

0	5	1	9	5	5	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	8	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

0	5	1	9	5	6	5	0	2	2	0	2	0	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

0	5	1	9	5	5	0	0	2	2	0	1	8	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

0	5	1	9	5	3	2	0	2	2	0	1	9	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

THE NOMINATION INCLUDES ALL THE PROPERTY DESIGNATED BY
TMK: 7-1-03: 3, 12 AND 13 IN 1985.

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 DAVID T. BROWN

organization

date JUNE 10, 1985

street & number 3533 ALOHEA AVENUE

telephone 734-3595

city or town HONOLULU

state HAWAII 96816

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 JUNE 30, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Keoper of the National Register

date 8/21/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Item number 4

Page 2

OWNERS:

ZADOC W. BROWN, JR.
379 HOOPALUA DRIVE
PUKALANI, MAUI 96788

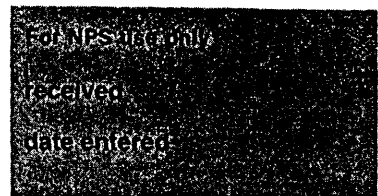
ALAN L. BROWN
P. O. BOX 2047
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743

CYNTHIA BROWN QUISENBERRY
895 W. KUIAHA ROAD
HAIKU, MAUI 96708

DAVID T. BROWN
3533 ALOHEA AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

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Continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

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Francis H. li Brown originally kept a number of animals on the property (hogs, ducks, chickens, nene, peacocks, and so on) and these were housed in large pens in various locations. Four of these were located near the beach and were destroyed by the tidal wave of April 1, 1946; however, some remains of these pens can still be seen.

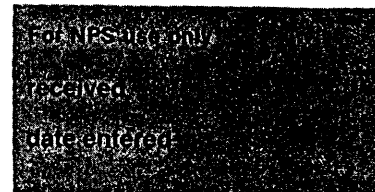
Two cement paths lead from the main house and the front guest house to the natural swimming pool, and another goes from near the front guest house to the beach. The older portions of these were constructed by Duke Kahanamoku, a frequent guest during the 1930's, who honeymooned in the front guest house.

Also situated on the property is a fishpond and possible heiau, which have been partially covered by historic lava flows.

There have been no significant alterations or additions to the original structures on the property.

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Continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

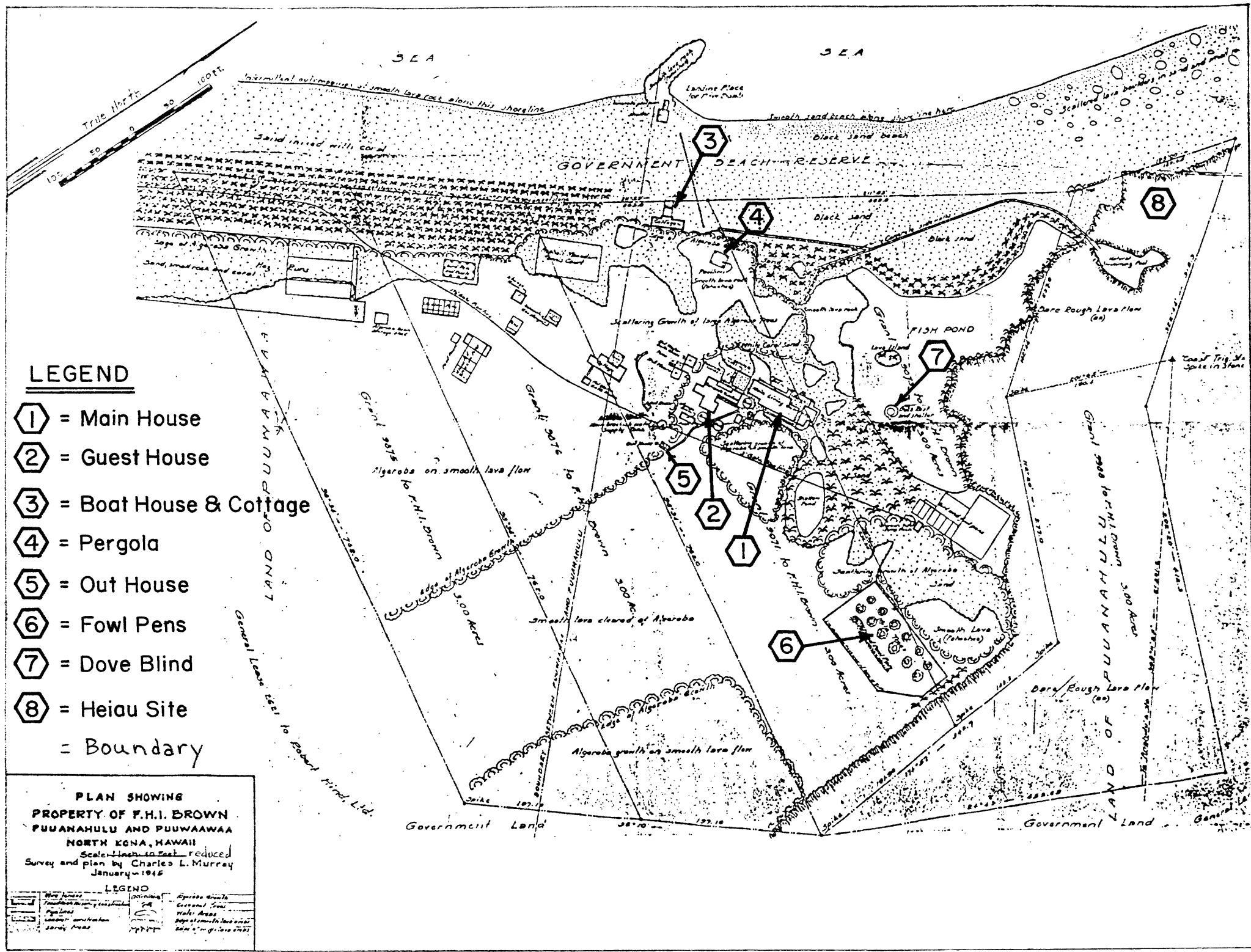
Item number 8

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Brown primarily lived on Oahu, but spent much of his time at this beach retreat at Keawaiki. He built a number of homes on Oahu, of which one 1920 Spanish Mission style house on Pacific Heights still remains. Brown purchased the five parcels of land that make up Keawaiki from the Territory of Hawaii, between 1926 and 1931. The buildings were constructed in the late 1920s. Their masonry exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship, and is the product of local stone masons, most likely of Japanese ancestry. The remoteness of the site, which could only be reached by boat until 1974, made the transportation of building materials difficult, and probably contributed to the decision to use lava rock which was quarried on the property.

The Brown beach residence, once completed, functioned as a vacation home for Francis and his guests. During the 1920s and 1930s it was the scene of many festive parties, with numerous members of Hawaii's high society in attendance. A large staff lived on the property to attend to the Browns' needs and to care for the many animals that were kept in large pens on the property. The compound functioned in this manner until 1941, when World War II forced its abandonment. Brown then turned his attention to other properties, and after World War II relocated to the Mainland.

Both the naturally occurring features of the location and the size and construction of the compound, as well as its associations with a famous personality of the 1920s and 1930s, make this property a significant site.



LEGEND

- ① = Main House
- ② = Guest House
- ③ = Boat House & Cottage
- ④ = Pergola
- ⑤ = Out House
- ⑥ = Fowl Pens
- ⑦ = Dove Blind
- ⑧ = Heiau Site
- = Boundary

**PLAN SHOWING
PROPERTY OF F.H.I. BROWN
PUUANAHULU AND PUUWAAWA
NORTH KONA, HAWAII**
Scale: 1 inch to 100 feet - reduced
Survey and plan by Charles L. Murray
January, 1945

LEGEND

Wavy lines	Algeroba growth
Stippled area	Government Land
Diagonal lines	Heiau Site
Circle with cross	Coast Trig. Sta. Spike in Stone
Circle with dot	Government Beach Reserve
Circle with cross-hatch	Government Land
Circle with dot and cross-hatch	Government Land