

80-14-1389

377

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Foster Botanic Garden
other names/site number Foster Garden/Park and Lili'uokalani Garden/Park

2. Location

street & number 50 North Vineyard Boulevard
city, town Honolulu
state Hawai'i code HI county Honolulu code 003 zip code 96817

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal, building(s), district, site, structure, object, and resource counts.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: John G. Leppeler, Date: 3.25.93

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper: Date of Action: 5/13/93

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Agriculture/Horticultural Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Agriculture/Horticultural Facility
Education/Research Facility
Landscape/Garden and Park
Recreation and Culture/Outdoor
Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

No style

foundation N/A

walls

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Foster Botanic Garden is comprised of 21.02 acres of land adjoining Nu'uauu Stream in downtown Honolulu. The Garden can be divided into two sections. The southernmost section called Foster Garden is 13.545 acres in size. The remaining northern section called Lili'uokalani Garden is 7.475 acres in size.

Although there are no major architectural features within the garden, the historic landscaping which includes a large number of historic trees (see included inventory sheet with map) makes this area significant to the history of Hawai'i.

In 1855, William F. Hillebrand, a German physician and botanist, then resident in Hawai'i, settled on approximately 6 acres of purchased and leased land, west of Nu'uauu Avenue and east of Nu'uauu Stream where he propagated trees and cultivated a botanical garden.

After Dr. Hillebrand returned to Germany, his property was purchased in 1880 by ship owner Thomas R. Foster and his part Hawaiian wife, Mary E. Foster. Mrs. Foster expanded the existing garden increasing the acreage of the property and planting additional trees. In 1919, she leased two of her acres to the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association for its experiment station.

Meanwhile, in 1884, the land which now comprises the Lili'uokalani Garden was purchased by Princess Lili'uokalani from the estate of Queen Kalama, the wife of Kamehameha III. During most of her adult life Lili'uokalani kept a small house on this property just above the falls.

In 1912 just five years prior to her death the newly established Lili'uokalani Trust transferred the Queen's land to the Civic Federation of Honolulu as a park and recreation ground. The Civic Federation then acquired additional lots in the area and in 1916, turned over to the City of Honolulu 2 3/4 acres of land to be known as Lili'uokalani Garden. The City has subsequently added 4 3/4 acres to the Garden. Lili'uokalani Garden remains undeveloped, more rural in nature and closer in atmosphere to the O'ahu of two centuries ago, an ideal spot for outdoor recreation activities.

In 1930, Mary E. Foster bequeathed her home and garden, comprising 5 acres, to the City of Honolulu. An additional 8 1/2 acres has since been added to her bequest by the City of Honolulu. Today, Foster Garden is the core of a botanical garden system considered to contain one of the largest in number of species and probably the most significant tropical plant collection in the United States.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Conservation

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1855-1939

Significant Dates

1855-1930

1884-1916

1919-1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Hillebrand, William F.

Architect/Builder

Lyon, Harold L.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Foster Botanic Garden which began in 1855 is a significant historic place for its association with the development of landscape architecture and horticultural research in Hawai'i. This property is also significant for its involvement with historically significant people in Hawaiian history. Dr. William F. Hillebrand, Queen Lili'uokalani, botanist Mary E. Foster and plant pathologist and botanist Harold L. Lyon were all involved with the development of this property. This property also is important to the historical conservation of the Hawaiian Islands through the preservation, care and management of the unique plants contained within.

Three periods of special significance stand out in the history of Foster Botanic Garden:

- (1) 1855 to 1930-During this period Dr. Hillebrand and then Mrs. Mary E. Foster cultivated the garden. They developed numerous varieties of trees and plants and furnished them to growers all over the Hawaiian Islands. Dr. Hillebrand introduced ornamental, shade and flowering trees, a vast number of useful fruit trees and selected birds. Although he was a medical doctor, he devoted a great deal of his time and effort to the improvement of agriculture and horticulture in Hawai'i. After he returned to Germany, he compiled a record of his years of botanical research and propagation in Hawai'i in a definitive book on the Flora of the Hawaiian Islands, published in 1886.

Although Mary E. Foster did not sustain to the same degree the work of Dr. Hillebrand, she acquired his garden and, indeed, continued to develop it. One exceptional tree still living is of special significance, a Ficus religiosa given to Mrs. Foster in 1913, which is alleged to have been grown from a cutting from the original Bo tree under which Buddha was enlightened. Mrs. Foster also leased part of her garden to the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association for their experiment station, thereby obtaining the interest and the services of the station's director, Dr. Harold Lyon, who also cared for and expanded her garden. In 1930, she bequeathed her garden to the City of Honolulu.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rhoda E. A. Hackler, "Foster Botanic Garden," Mss. prepared for the Friends of Foster Garden, December 1986.

William F. Hillebrand, Flora of the Hawaiian Islands (London, NY, Heidelberg: Williams & Morgate, 1988)

Harold L. Lyon, "Ten Years in Hawaiian Forestry," The Planters' Record, Vol. 33 (1929) pp. 60-66.

J. J. Rock "Preliminary List of Plants Growing in Mrs. Mary E. Foster's Grounds..."

The Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist, Vol. X11, No. 4 (1916) pp. 113-123.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
Bureau of Conveyances.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 21.02 acres

UTM References

A

0,4	6,1,8,1,8,0	2,3,5,7,5,9,5
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

0,4	6,1,8,1,9,0	2,3,5,7,9,9,0
-----	-------------	---------------

B

0,4	6,1,8,1,0,0	2,3,5,7,8,3,5
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

0,4	6,1,8,3,5,0	2,3,5,7,7,8,0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Foster Botanic Garden as described in Tax Map Key 1-7-07: 1, 2
1-7-20: 1, 2, 28, 45, 46

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Foster Botanic Garden

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William H. Follmer, President
 organization Friends of Foster Garden, Inc. date April 17, 1988
 street & number 50 North Vineyard Boulevard telephone 537-1708
 city or town Honolulu state Hawaii zip code 96817

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Historic Plant Inventory

FOSTER BOTANIC GARDEN

1. Bo Tree (*Ficus religiosa*), c.1910. This is the sacred tree of the Buddhists. This tree was propagated from the oldest historic tree in the world, which dates from 288 B.C..
2. Chinese Banyan Tree (*Ficus microcarpa*), c.1900.
3. Caribbean Royal Palm (*Roystonea oleracea*), c.1880
4. Pili Nut Tree (*Canarium vulgare*), c.1880
5. Giant Crape Myrtle Tree (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), c.1880
6. Elengi, Pagoda Tree (*Mimusops elengi*), c.1880
7. Guana Tree (*Lonchocarpus domingensis*), c.1880
11. Hog Plum (*Spondias mombin*), c.1850
12. False Olive Tree (*Elaeodendron orientale*), c.1850
13. Queensland Kauri Tree (*Agathis robusta*), c.1850
14. Earpod Tree (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*), c.1850
15. Travellers Tree (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), c.1880
16. Kapok Tree (*Ceiba pentandra*), c.1850
17. Tropical Almond Tree (*Terminalia catappa*), c.1850

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Historic Plant Inventory
Foster Botanic Gardens P.2

18. Hoop Pine Tree (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), c.1850
19. Double Coconut Palm (*Lodoicea maldivica*), c.1930
20. Loulu Palm (*Pritchardia macrocarpa*), c.1850
21. Wax Palm (*Copernicia prunifera*), c.1930
22. Sausage Tree (*Kigelia africana*), c.1920
23. Cannon-Ball Tree (*Couroupita guianensis*), c.1930
26. Cigar Box Tree (*Cedrela odorata*), c.1920
28. Baobab Tree (*Adansonia digitata*), c.1930
30. Chaulmoogra Tree (*Hydnocarpus anthelmintica*), c.1920
31. Yoke-Wood Tree (*Catalpa longissima*), c.1920.
34. Katanga Albizia Tree (*Albizia katangensis*), c.1920
36. Doum Palm (*Hyphaene thebaica*), c.1910
38. Bumelia Tree (*Bumelia* sp), c.1890
39. Chicle Tree (*Manilkara zapota*), c.1900
40. Quipo Tree (*Cavanillesia plantanifolia*), c.1930
43. Cupang Tree (*Parkia javanica*), c.1920

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Section number 8 Page 1

- (2) 1884 to 1916 -- This is the period during which Queen Lili'uokalani owned a portion of land along Nu'uaniu Stream. She bought the original section from the estate of Queen Kalama (wife of Kamehameha III) and added to it gradually so by 1906 she owned land on both sides of Nu'uaniu Stream, including Waikahalulu Falls. The Queen had a small house built just above the Falls and would frequently go there with her entourage to picnic and enjoy the water. Her retainers set out the garden of Hawaiian plants, recreating a rural Hawaiian landscape in miniature. The Queen also recognized her people's need for a park and recreation area, and although by 1912 she was no longer the ruler of the Hawaiian Islands, she instructed her administrators to turn her personal hide-away over to all of her people, by donating Lili'uokalani Garden to the City of Honolulu.
- (3) 1919 until 1939 -- During this period the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association managed an experiment station on a portion of Mrs. Foster's land under the direction of Dr. Harold L. Lyon, a botanist and plant pathologist. In 1920, Dr. Lyon reported to the Pan Pacific Science Congress that Dr. Hillebrand had established in Hawai'i one of the most remarkable gardens in the world, full of unique and rare plants.

Dr. Lyon proceeded to build on the work of plant conservation and landscape architecture which Dr. Hillebrand and Mrs. Foster had initiated. By 1925 he had developed what he considered the best equipped plant nursery in the Hawaiian Islands. In it had been produced over a million trees, most of them exceptional varieties which were not grown elsewhere. Hundreds of new species of trees and plants had been imported, cultivated and distributed throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

After Foster Garden was bequeathed to the City of Honolulu, Dr. Lyon remained as its director until 1957 during which time he designed and supervised the landscaping of the entire garden and, in addition to the already thriving trees and plants, established a world renown collection of orchids.

Foster Botanic Garden is a significant historic place because for over 130 years it has been the primary center for the introduction, propagation and dissemination of trees and plants throughout the Hawaiian Islands. The Garden has been the center of a constantly developing system of botanical collections. Foster Botanic Garden has been and continues to be a model for the State of Hawai'i and for large parts of the world on cultivating trees and plants and providing examples of the many facets of landscape architecture which have been successfully adapted to the local terrain and environment.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References (continued)

E 04 618240 2357995
F 04 618200 2358500
G 04 618270 2358130
H 04 618490 2358285
I 04 618550 2358220
J 04 618490 2358180
K 04 618500 2358150
L 04 618280 2358030

Verbal Boundary Description:

Foster Botanic Garden

Boundary of the nominated property comprises two contiguous sites depicted on the accompanying plat maps:

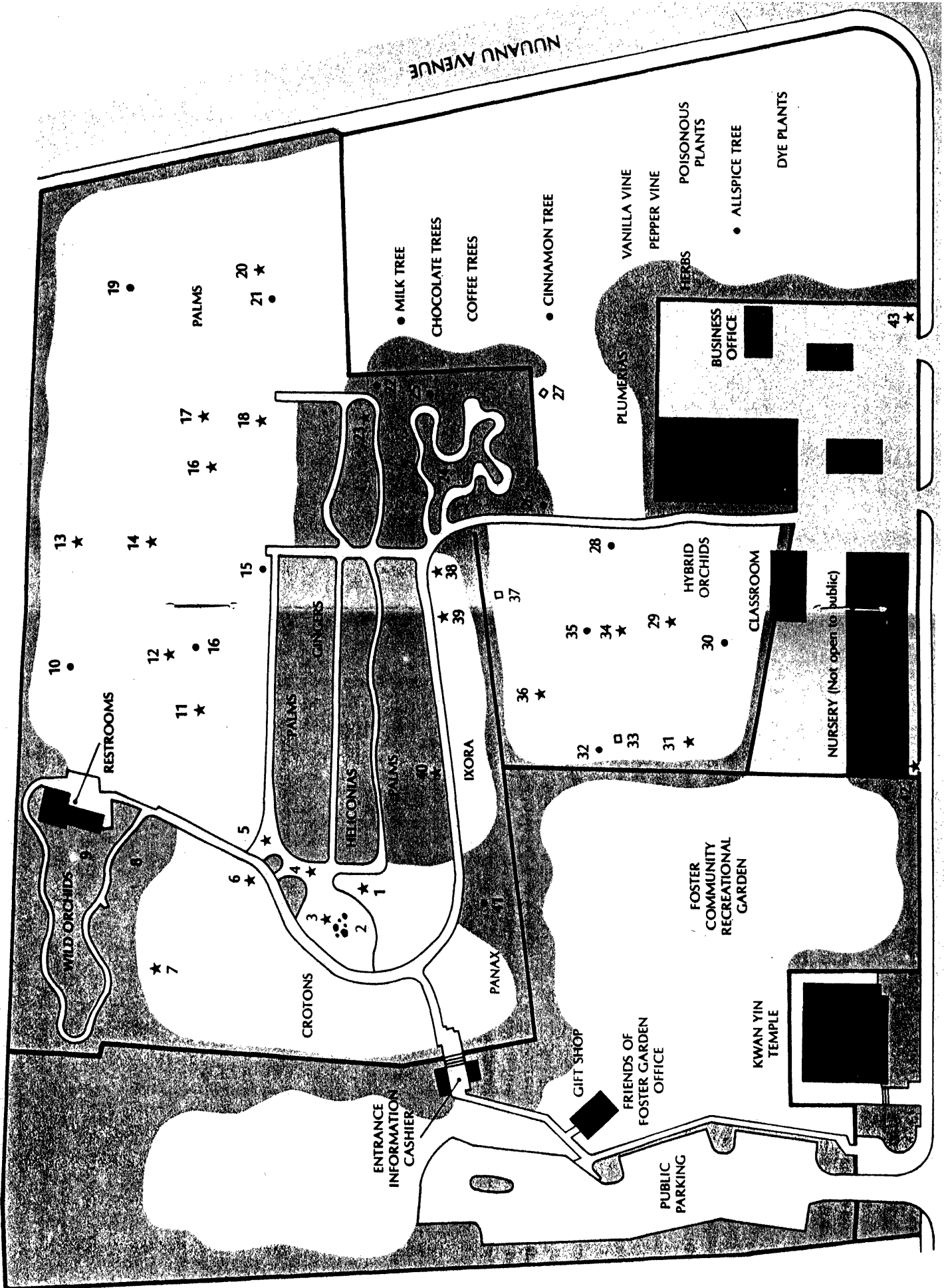
Foster Garden : - City and County of Honolulu property, 13.545 acres, bounded by Vineyard Boulevard, Nuuanu Avenue, Lunalilo Freeway, and Nuuanu Stream; and

Lili'uokalani Garden - City and County of Honolulu property, 7.475 acres, situated between Kuakini and School Streets on both sides of Nuuanu Stream.

Boundary Justification:

Foster Botanic Garden

Foster Botanic Garden, comprising 21.02 acres described above, is the property owned by the City and County of Honolulu.



NUUANU AVENUE

VINEYARD BOULEVARD

WILD ORCHIDS

RESTROOMS

CROTONS

PALMS

GINGERS

HELICONIAS

PALMS

IXORA

PANAX

ENTRANCE
INFORMATION
CASHIER

GIFT SHOP

FRIENDS OF
FOSTER GARDEN
OFFICE

PUBLIC
PARKING

FOSTER
COMMUNITY
RECREATIONAL
GARDEN

KWAN YIN
TEMPLE

CLASSROOM

NURSERY (Not open to public)

BUSINESS
OFFICE

PLUMETAS

VANILLA VINE

PEPPER VINE

HERBS
POISONOUS
PLANTS

• ALLSPICE TREE

DYE PLANTS

43

10

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

11

12

16

15

13

14

17

18

16

PALMS

20

21

• CINNAMON TREE

CHOCOLATE TREES

COFFEE TREES

35

28

36

32

33

34

HYBRID
ORCHIDS

30

31

29

38

39

37

39

40

38

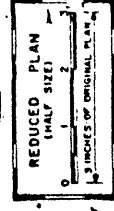
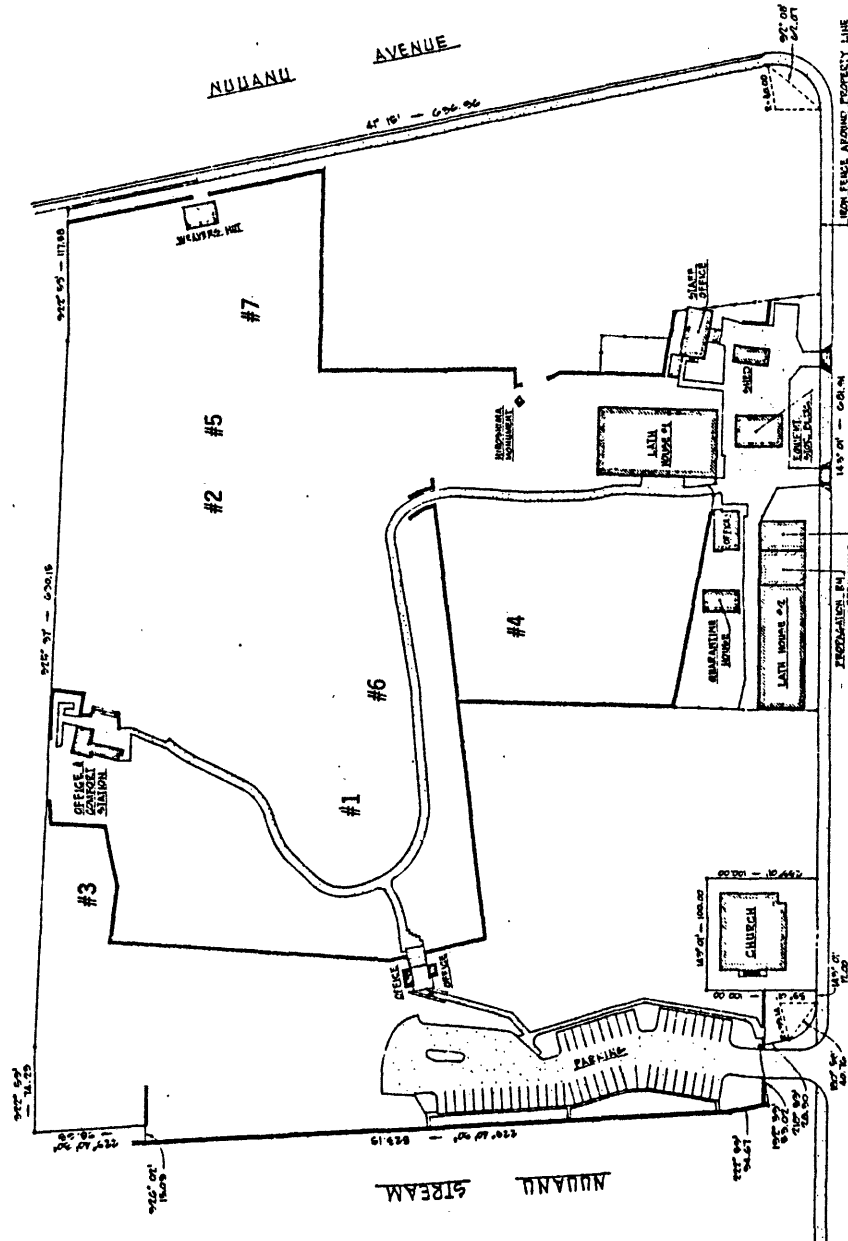
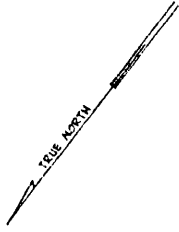
27

LUNALILO
FREEWAY

NUANU
AVENUE

NUANU
STREAM

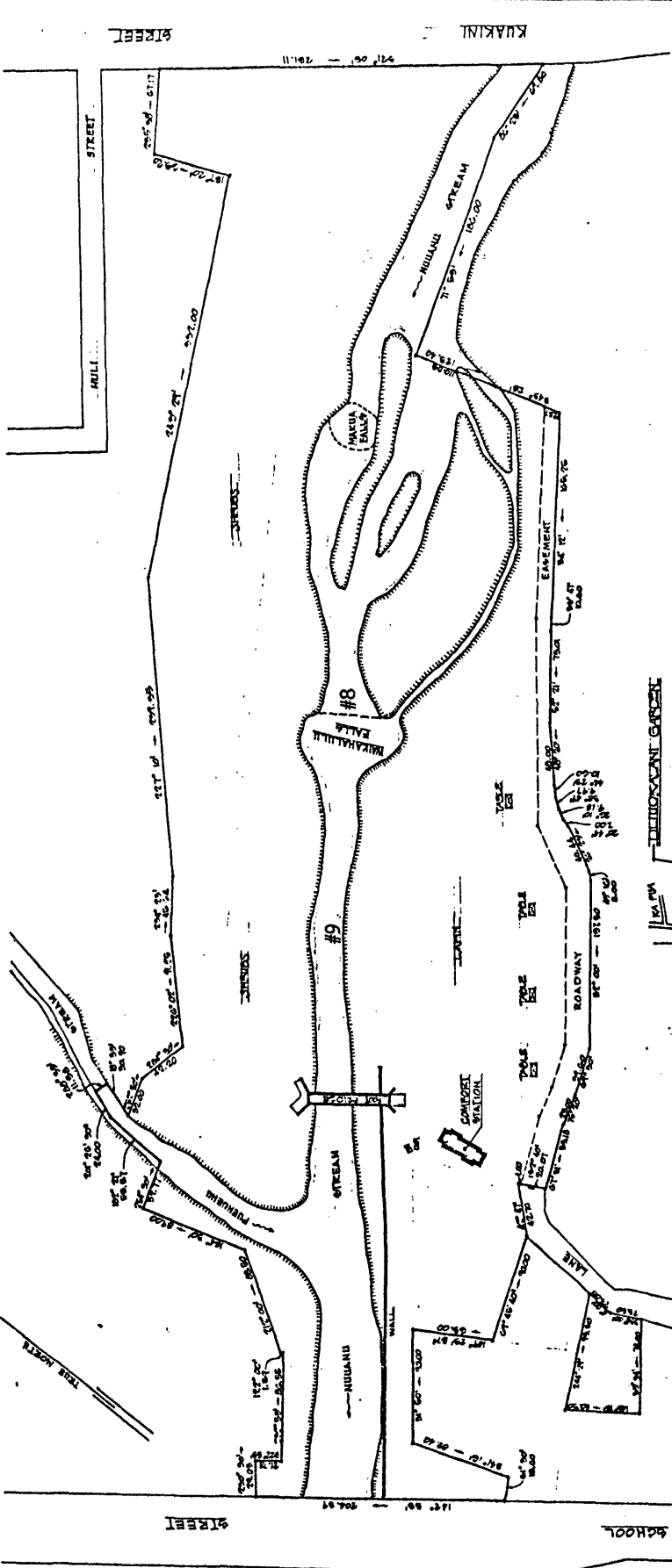
VINEYARD
THOROUGHFARE



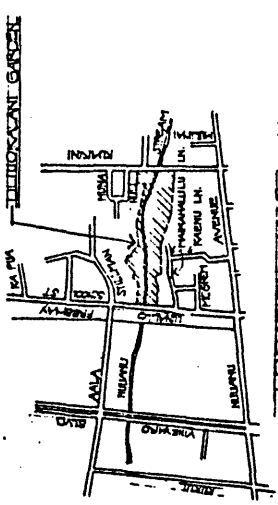
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU	
FOSTER BOTANIC GARDEN SITE IMPROVEMENT	
PROJECT NO. 127	DATE 11-1-55
DESIGNED BY	SCALE
DRAWN BY	DATE
CHECKED BY	DATE
APPROVED BY	DATE



AREA: 12,545 ACRES



LILIUOKALANI GARDEN SITE IMPROVEMENT	
DATE: 1-7-20	SCALE: 1" = 40'
PROJECT NO. 227	REVISIONS:
DESIGNED BY: [blank]	CHECKED BY: [blank]
DRAWN BY: [blank]	APPROVED BY: [blank]
DATE: [blank]	SCALE: [blank]



SCALE IN FEET
0 10 20 30 40

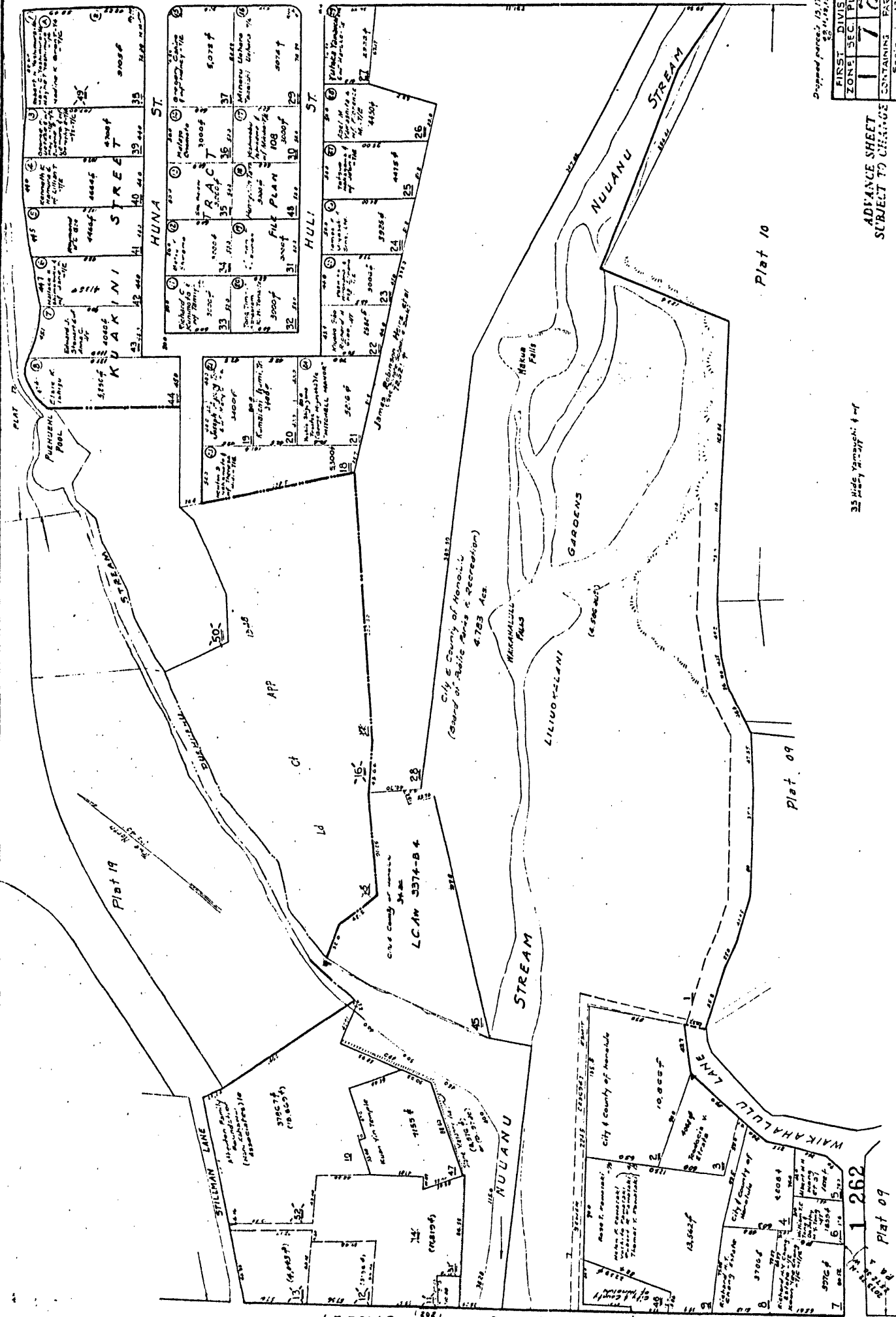
AREA: 1.071 Acres

Original parcel 15.17, 4.91, 4.2, 11.1, 11.82 &c.

FIRST DIVISION	PLAT
ZONE SEC.	PLAT
17	20
CONTAINING PARCELS	
SCALE 1" = 100'	

ADVANCE SHEET
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

35 HIDE YAMAGUCHI 4-17



1 262

Plat 09

STREET

SCHOOL

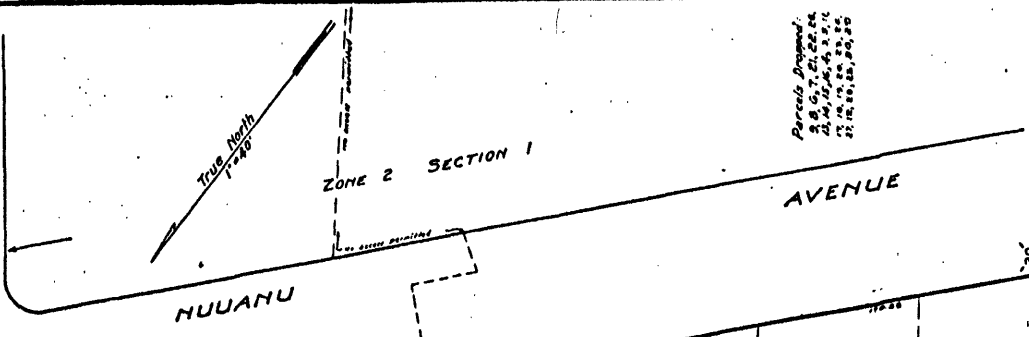
BRIDGE

MCDREW LN.

FLAT 09

WAKAHALUUA

Plat 20



ZONE 2 SECTION 1

AVENUE

HUUAHU

© 25 Mar.

NO. 25-11-1-103

FREEWAY

LUNALILO

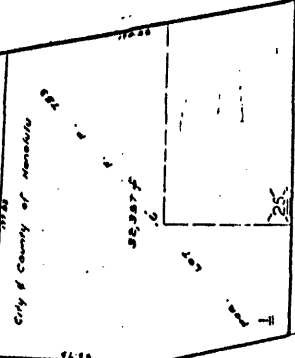
LUNALILO

P.L.P. No. 2-41-1-103
 Contain. Proj. No. P-072-1(1)

City of County of Honolulu
 (Board of Public Parks & Recreation)
 FOSTER PARK BOTANICAL GARDENS

100,000
 (100,000, 100,000)

EXCLUSION



City of County of Honolulu

FIRST DIVISION	11708
ZONE	2
SEC.	1
PLAT	1708
CONTAINING PARCELS	
Scale: 1 in = 40 ft	

ADVANCE SHEET
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLAT 07

1 250

STREAM

HUUAHU

PLAT 23

TRUE NORTH
Scale 1 in. = 20 ft.

ZONE 2 SECTION 1 PLAT 05

HUANU AVENUE

PLAT 06

30435
City & County of Honolulu
(Board of Public Parks & Recreation)
FOSTER PARK BOTANICAL GARDENS

City & County of Honolulu
30,000 sq ft
L.C. Am. Ct. App. 1984

EXCLUSION 1
(217,185 sq ft)
(22,704 sq ft)

AVENUE

L.C. Am. 11/21/82

EXCLUSION 2
(223,747 sq ft)

VINEYARD THOROUGHFARE

PLAT 06

HUANU STREAM

RIVER STREET

To Palms Settlement

To Pine St

1 249

Parcels dropped: 10, 4, 9, 4			
FIRST	DIVISION	PLAT	PARCELS
ZONE	SEC.	1707	CONTAINING
			Scale: 1 in. = 20 ft.

ADVANCE SHEET
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLAT 20

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000377 Date Listed: 5/13/93

Foster Botanic Garden
Property Name

Honolulu County HI State
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Antoinette Bee*
Signature of the Keeper

5/13/93
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The level of significance is statewide.

The applicable National Register criteria should include C, as well as A and B.

This information was confirmed with Daina Penkiunas.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ PHOTOGRAPHS _____ Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs listed below:

Foster Botanic Garden

Honolulu, Hawai'i

John Eveland

April 1988

Foster Botanic Garden

(Photos)	(Description)	(Camera Direction)
#1	Bo Tree	Southeast
#2	Kapok Trees/Terrace	Southeast
#3	Lyon Orchid Garden	South
#4	Doum Palms/Lawn	North
#5	Kapok Tree	East
#6	Quipo Tree	North
#7	Loulu Palm	Southeast
#8	Waikahalulu Falls	North
#9	Nuuanu Stream/Falls	Northeast