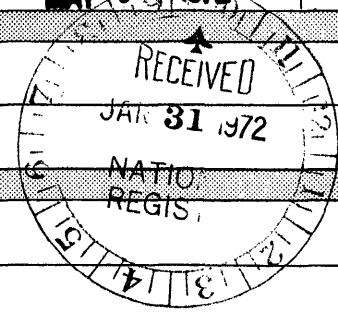


PH 0055336

**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
	MAY 5 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Kamehameha V Post Office

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner of Merchant and Bethel Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Honolulu

STATE: Hawaii CODE: 15 COUNTY: Honolulu CODE: 03

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<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) _____ _____ _____
			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Hawaii (under the control of the Judiciary Branch)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Judiciary Building

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii CODE: 15

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Hawaii	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Honolulu	
ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 5 1972	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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		

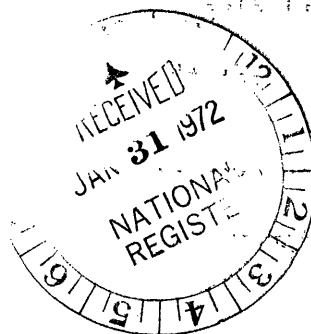
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rectangular

The Kamehameha V Post Office is basically a two story ~~rectangular~~ concrete block structure with the blocks (each measuring 12" x 14" x 24") scored to resemble cut stone. The overall dimensions of the original structure are approximately 55' by 55'. Structural and non-structural embellishments include excellent examples of classical design elements. The original Tuscan portico entry is now enclosed, however, the columns of the original structure are still visible. The balcony above the portico is enclosed by a concrete balustrade also used on the roof to create a fenestrated parapet. The wall of the Merchant Street portico was originally filled with postal lock boxes reached through a series of structural arched openings. In the 1920's, the wall of the building was moved out to the outer edge of the arched openings and steel columns were put up in place of the original wall.

A 33' x 60' addition was put up in 1900. The exterior walls of this addition are of brick with a cement plaster finish to match the cut stone form of the original. The balustrade of the addition is made of sheet metal and is badly corroded. Over the years, non-permanent canopies have appeared on various parts of the exterior, the most noticeable being over the second floor balcony.

The interior of the building in no way represents the original floor plan or decoration. The building has been used for many things in its one hundred years of service and each new use dictated a new interior layout and design. Presently, a portion of the 1900 addition is in a state of great disrepair although basically, the building is in sound structural condition.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

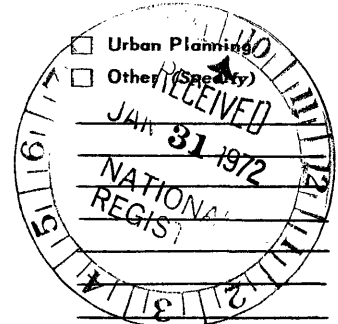
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Kamehameha V Post Office is of historical and architectural value to Hawaii. At the time of its erection (1870-71) it was one of the outstanding public buildings in the Hawaiian Kingdom, significant for its early use of concrete blocks and iron bars for reinforcement of formed structural concrete.

The use of concrete for buildings was not common in Hawaii at this time and to construct a building entirely of this material was unheard of. It is possible that the Kamehameha V Post Office in Honolulu may be the oldest building in the United States constructed of concrete blocks and reinforced formed structural concrete. It certainly was the first use of this type of construction in Hawaii.

The Kamehameha V Post Office (so named because it was built during the reign of Kamehameha V who was also responsible for the building of several other important public buildings) was the first post office building in Hawaii. For many years, it also housed the publishing and printing offices of the Hawaiian Gazette and other small companies and organizations needing office space. In 1894, the post office finally took over the entire building. By 1900, it was necessary to build an addition to accommodate the growing volume of mail transactions. On June 14, 1900, the Kamehameha V Post Office officially became a unit of the United States Post Office as this was the year that Hawaii officially became a Territory of the United States. In 1922, the United States Post Office was moved to the Federal building and control of the old building was returned to the Territory of Hawaii. It was remodeled as a postal substation and for use as the Territorial Tax office. Since this time, the postal substation has been closed and the building has been used for a variety of purposes. Today, it houses the driver education program of the Honolulu District Courts. The rear addition to the building is vacant and the upper floor is condemned as unsafe.

As one of the oldest remaining public buildings in Hawaii, unique in its construction and history, the Kamehameha V Post Office contributes significantly to the atmosphere of downtown Honolulu.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Merchant Street Notes" by Richard Greer in Hawaii Historical Review,
Volume I, No. 2, p. 23-24.

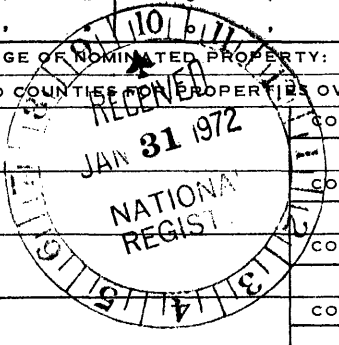
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		21° 18' 45 "	157° 51' 48 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

43
20
HTM

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dorothy Riconda, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Hawaii Register of Historic Places DATE: Nov. 10, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 621

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii CODE: 15

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Sunao Kido</u> <u>SUNAO KIDO, Chairman</u> <u>Dept. of Land & Natural Resources</u></p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> <u>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>Date: <u>5/5/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William Sturtevant</u> <u>Keeper of The National Register</u></p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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