

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 6 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 31 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Kohala District Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Government Road

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kapaau

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

--- VICINITY OF

Hawaii County

STATE

Hawaii

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

---DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

---AGRICULTURE

---MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

---PRIVATE

---UNOCCUPIED

---COMMERCIAL

---PARK

---STRUCTURE

---BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

---EDUCATIONAL

---PRIVATE RESIDENCE

---SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

---ENTERTAINMENT

---RELIGIOUS

---OBJECT

---IN PROCESS

---YES: RESTRICTED

---GOVERNMENT

---SCIENTIFIC

---BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

---INDUSTRIAL

---TRANSPORTATION

---NO

---MILITARY

OTHER community center

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Hawaii

STREET & NUMBER

25 Aupuni Street

CITY, TOWN

Hilo

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Hawaii

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Taxation Department

STREET & NUMBER

75 Aupuni Street

CITY, TOWN

Hilo

STATE

Hawaii

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

#10-02-7127

TITLE

North Kohala Preservation of Historical Resources, Kohala, Keia

DATE

1972, 1977

---FEDERAL STATE ---COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Parks Service

Local Community Association

CITY, TOWN

Honolulu, Hawaii

STATE

Kapaau, Hawaii

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kohala District Courthouse stands on a prominent rise overlooking the plantation town of Kapaau. It is a modest, one-story frame structure with a lateral running gable roof of corrugated iron. An eight-foot wide lanai, with a hipped roof of similar material, runs the length of the facade and wraps around both sides. Several additions have been placed on the rear of the original 56'X 32' rectangular building.

The original structure has shiplap siding. A double doorway to the left of center provides access to the original courtroom. Part of this room remains intact. The interior walls are of 3/4"X6" beaded tongue and groove, as is the twelve foot high ceiling. In the middle of the ceiling is a wood, octagonal-shaped, rosette fixture; from which some sort of light was originally suspended. The only fixed furniture in the room are the judge's bench and witness stand. An end post of an earlier railing, which separated the gallery from the bench, remains attached to one of the walls.

The lanai's chamfered posts are spaced ten feet apart. The elliptical arches, which connect the posts at the top, display inscribed ornamentation. Originally, the lanai roof was flush with these arches. The present overhanging roof and the three-foot high railing were placed on the lanai at an unknown, but more recent time. Three sets of steps, one on each side, provide access to the lanai. Lattice work ornaments the bottom of the lanai.

All windows in the original building are framed, 6X6, double-hung sash. Framed louvers decorate the gable ends.

Additions have been placed on the two rear corners. These employ vertical siding, which readily distinguishes them from the original structure. These additions do not detract from the integrity of the original building in any obtrusive manner.

The original bronze Kamehameha I statue stands on a pedestal in front of the courthouse grounds. It was placed here in 1912, having stood at Ainakea in Halawa since 1883. The 8½-foot high statue depicts the king in his ahuula (feather cape), malo (loin cloth), and mahiolo (feather helmet), with one arm outstretched and the other holding a spear.

Several tall Albesia trees grow on the west side of the courthouse. Under these trees are three large papamu stones, carved by early Hawaiians for a checker-like game, konane.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Public Works Dept. of Interior

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kohala District Courthouse is significant as a good example of late-nineteenth century plantation architecture applied to a public building. Built in 1889, under King Kalakaua, the building is one of less than a half dozen monarchy period district courthouses listed in the state inventory. Although the inventory is not complete, the Kohala District Courthouse appears to be a rare surviving building type.

The building's simple design, corrugated iron roof, wide lanai, and single wall construction, is typical of plantation architecture. The building's size, siting and modest embellishments elevate it above the less pretentious historic structures which make up Kapaau. As such, it is a local landmark.

The building is further significant for its associations with the Kohala District's judicial history. The building, which served as a courthouse until 1975, was a focal point for the legal definition of the relationship between the dominant plantation and the multi-racial immigrant groups that worked the fields. The events of August 14, 1891 well document this position, as three hundred Chinese walked off their plantation jobs and occupied the courthouse grounds to protest the planters' contracts and to state their claims.

The King Kamehameha statue further enhances the significance of the courthouse grounds. In 1878, the Hawaiian legislature commissioned Boston Sculptor Thomas R. Gould to make the bronze statue for \$10,000. After making preliminary studies, Gould moved to Florence, Italy, where he completed the statue, having it cast in Paris. The G. F. Haendel, while transporting the statue to Honolulu, sank on November 15, 1880 at the Falkland Islands, and the 9½-ton case containing the statue was lost. The \$12,000 insurance money paid to produce a replica, which now stands in front of Aliiolani Hale, the intended site of the original statue. While the second statue was being made, Captain Jervis brought the original statue to Honolulu, having discovered it ornamenting the streets of Port Stanley. A new arm was ordered, to replace the damaged one, and once repaired, the statue was unveiled in North Kohala where Kamehameha I was born and spent his childhood. Here it stands to remind tourist and local, alike, of Kohala's early Hawaiian history and its associations with Kamehameha I.

The papamu stones, which originally were located at Kapanai Bay, near Kamehameha's boyhood home, further embellish these early Hawaiian associations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jacob Adler, "The Kamehameha Statue", Hawaiian Journal of History, v.3, 1969, pp.87-100

Jeffrey Melrose letter, 12-26-78

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES 207360 2239610

A 0,5 2,2,3 97,0 0,5 2,0 7,3,3

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes all property within Tax Map Key: 5-4-05:1

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nathan E. Napoka - Historian
Don Hibbard - Architectural/Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1151 Punchbowl Street

TELEPHONE

548-7460

CITY OR TOWN

Honolulu

STATE

Hawaii

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Susan Ono

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Shull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8-31-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 8-29-79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

KOHALA DISTRICT COURTHOUSE

