

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 3 1981  
DATE ENTERED DEC 17 1981

**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 Lihue Civic Center Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Off HI 50

CITY, TOWN Lihue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Second

STATE Hawaii

VICINITY OF CODE 15

COUNTY Kauai

CODE 007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State of Hawaii and County of Kauai

STREET & NUMBER 1151 Punchbowl Street and 4396 Rice Street

CITY, TOWN Honolulu and Lihue VICINITY OF

STATE Hawaii

**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 Historic Inventory for Kauai

DATE 1974  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Department of Land and Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN Honolulu STATE Hawaii

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lihue Civic Center Historic District is comprised of a park and three buildings, the County Building, the County Building Annex, and the County Courthouse. All features are located within one city block, a large open space in the heart of downtown Lihue, a town of 4,000 people. Surrounded by a shopping center, business and residential areas, and more recent government buildings, the district is one of several distinct elements contributing to Lihue's urban fabric, and represents the historic center of this major plantation town, Kauai's county seat.

The three buildings house county government offices and courts, and serve as a hub for government activities on the island of Kauai. Built within a twenty-five year period, they represent the architectural aspirations of their time, employing the popular neo-classical revival and Spanish Mission revival styles. The buildings are all of masonry construction and of one or two stories in height, which is in keeping with the scale of the city.

The oldest of the buildings is the County Building, erected in 1913. Designed by the Honolulu firm of Ripley & Davis, it is a two-story, concrete building rendered in a neo-classical revival style. This rectangular building is five bays wide with its design emphasis placed on the center, outset, entry bay. Approached by pyramiding steps, the two-story high pedimented entry is distinguished by its Ionic columns, wrought iron light fixtures and its frieze with the legend "County Building" in the center and abstracted Ionic designs above either pilaster. The building sits on a raised foundation and terminates with a simple parapet. Each bay contains a jalousie window on the first and second floor with an air conditioner in the transom space. The windows and the removal of a metal cornice, which was located below the parapet, are the only major exterior alterations.

The interior focuses upon a central two-story open foyer which features a concrete staircase. The stairway divides at the mid-height landing to give access to each side of the second floor. A square iron balustrade with wood handrailings surrounds the gallery on the second floor. These are all original features. The building faces a park with a large expanse of green lawn with palm trees. Originally the palms were located only on either side of a no longer extant walkway, which led to the county building.

To the right of the County Building is the County Building Annex, which was built in 1930 as the Territorial Office Building. Designed by Honolulu architect Hart Wood, this modest one-story reinforced

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1913-1938

BUILDER/ARCHITECT See description of individual buildings

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lihue Civic Center Historic District, as the center of government activity on the island of Kauai, is of local political and governmental significance. Located adjacent to the shopping center, the focal corner of the two main arterial strips which comprise downtown Lihue, the district stands as a distinct element within the cityscape and embodies the history of the development of county government on Kauai and all the events associated with it.

Lihue dates from the late 1830's when Kaikioewa, the governor of Kauai, moved his home from the traditional seat of government, Waimea, to the hilly lands overlooking Nawiliwili Bay. Here he established an early sugar cane plantation and supposedly called the area Lihue, the name of the place on Oahu from which he came. With Kaikioewa's death in 1839 the new plantation foundered, but in 1849 was revitalized as Lihue Plantation by Henry A. Peirce, Charles Reed Bishop, and William Little Lee. In 1851, a frame courthouse was built on lands east of the present civic center district, and in 1854, the Rice family, who eventually came to control Lihue Plantation, bought into this enterprise. During most of the nineteenth century, Lihue, with its courthouse and plantation store (located on the present shopping center lands), served as the center of island government, with Governor Paul Kanoa (1845-1876) and a number of his successors living in the area.

Following annexation, the Territorial government passed the County Act in 1905, establishing county governments on the four largest islands in the Hawaii chain. Lihue became the county seat of Kauai and the commissioners held monthly meetings in the 1851 courthouse. In 1913 the present County Building was erected, the first structure in the territory built expressly to house a county government. With its completion, the 1851 courthouse was razed, with Lihue High School eventually being built on that site. The area surrounding the County Building developed as the hub of government activities with the construction of the Territorial Office Building in 1930 and the County Courthouse in 1938. Originally the County Courthouse was to be built in the park in front of the County Building; however, public outcry against that location resulted in the construction of Umi Street and the Courthouse on its present site.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ethel M. Damon, Koamalu, Privately printed, Honolulu, 1931  
Garden Island, December 20, 1913, January 20, 1914, April 21, 1914,  
June 17, 1930, November 25, 1930, September 15, 1936, September 22,  
1936, December 1, 1936, and March 1, 1938.  
Original blueprints in State Design Office for Courthouse and  
Territorial Building.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres  
UTM REFERENCES

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

A	<u>04</u>	<u>461184.0</u>	<u>2413050.0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

This nomination includes a portion of the property designated by  
TMK 3-6-5: 1, 2, 3 in 1981, as indicated by the enclosed map labeled  
Lihue Civic Center Historic District.

**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  
Nathan Napoka, Historian and Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION  
Department of Land and Natural Resources

DATE  
February 24, 1981

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      LOCAL X

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 *[Signature]*

TITLE Historian DATE 10/26/81

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Beth Grosvenor* DATE 10/17/81  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST *Patrick Anselmus* DATE 12/9/81  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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concrete building is rendered in a Spanish Mission style. It features a red tiled, double pitched, hipped roof, stucco walls and a centered recessed lanai (porch) with a pair of Doric columns. Projected windows are located on the sides of the building.

To the rear of the Annex is the County Courthouse, fronting on Umi Street, which was built contemporaneously with the courthouse. The cruciform shaped, one-story, reinforced concrete building is rendered in a Spanish Mission style, with stucco walls and a red tiled, double pitched hipped roof with gablets. It is distinguished by an outset entry lanai (porch) with square columns. The building is eleven bays wide with projected windows in each bay, except the three center bays which feature a double door entry flanked by a pair of projected windows. The building sits on a raised foundation with herring bone designed concrete blocks providing ornamentation and ventilation. On the interior, the main entry opens into a central octagonal space with articulated low arched openings leading to three corridors, with offices off each. The central area's ceiling has intersecting beams creating a coffered effect. A boot scraper is located on either side of the steps leading to the entry lanai (porch).

There are no intrusions within the district. The remainder of the block, which is not included in the district, contains parking lots and a modern State office building.

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The buildings within the district are of architectural significance as examples of styles typical of their period. Both the County Building and the Annex were designed by major Honolulu architectural firms. The County Building and the no longer extant Lihue Store, both built in 1913, were the earliest buildings on Kauai constructed of concrete and presaged a new era in the development of Lihue. The County Courthouse, designed by State Department of Public Works architect Harry Stewart, is one of the better examples on Kauai of the local adaptation of the Spanish Mission style to island architecture in the 1930's. The only buildings on the island of similar style and comparable design merit are the Lihue Post Office (1938) and the Lihue Theater (1931). The construction of the courthouse solidified the concept of a municipal government center characterized by open space, a concept adhered to in recent years with the construction of the new police station and the State office building.

