

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received JUL 20 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic Holy Ghost Catholic Church

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Lower Kula Road not for publication

city, town Kula vicinity of congressional district

state Hawaii code 15 county Maui code 009

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roman Catholic Church, Diocese of Honolulu

street & number 1184 Bishop Street

city, town Honolulu 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

#50-11-1553
title State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Land and 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 Holy Ghost Catholic Church is an octagonal shaped, frame building, approximately sixty feet in diameter. It has a steep hipped roof of corrugated metal which is interrupted by a mock-clerestory and terminates with an open steeple. The steeple features a turned balustrade, and an octagonal shaped, Tuscan columned, round arched arcade which is capped by a galvanized metal spire bearing a Latin cross.

The main walls are about eighteen feet high, and are composed of 1" x 6" vertical planks. Tuscan columns serve as corner posts, and each of the eight sides contains a round arched, 2 x 2, double-hung window with a two pane transom, with the exception of the sides with the entry and vestry.

The entry includes a set of narrow double doors, each with three panels, and a portico. The portico has a gabled roof of corrugated metal which is supported by two posts. The portico is decorated with trefoil arches and a blind arcade. The blind arcade motif is used extensively on this church, as it also appears at the eavelines of the body and the steeple, and in the mock-clerestory. This decorative element is again repeated on the interior, at the ceiling line, and at the base of the octagonal vault.

The vestry is a rectangular shaped wing projecting from the side opposite the entry. It has a corrugated metal gable roof, an entry door and two square windows of four panes.

The interior is one large octagonal space with the sanctuary at the north end, opposite the entry. Four central Tuscan columns carry a high pointed, octagonal rib vault, a major feature of the interior. Other features of significance include an elaborate, hand carved altar, hand carved stations of the cross, a second story choir loft with a round arched balustrade with Tuscan column balusters, an alter rail which repeats the choir loft balustrade's motifs, and a replica of the crown of Queen Elizabeth of Portugal. The walls of the church are horizontal planks.

The building sits in a terraced yard, conspicuously located on the northwest slopes of Haleakala. The property is landscaped with lawns, informal shrubbery and trees, and rock walls. A parking lot and a contemporary building are also located on the property, but these are not of historic significance.

No additions or alterations have been made to the church building.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) <i>Historic Building</i>

Specific dates c. 1894–1897 **Builder/Architect** Father James Beissel

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Holy Ghost Catholic Church is significant architecturally for its unique design. It is the only octagonally shaped building in Hawaii to date from the nineteenth century. The building is also significant for its close associations with the Portuguese community on Maui.

Portuguese began arriving in Hawaii in large numbers to work on plantations in 1879. Many continued to be employed by the plantations even after their contracts had been fulfilled. Others, however, sought to take up independent work and on Maui turned especially to farming and ranching. The middle slope of Haleakala is an exceptionally fertile region and many people of Portuguese ancestry settled here, some homesteading the land. Before long, this growing Catholic community felt the need for a priest. In 1882 James Beissel, a priest from Prussia, was assigned to Makawao, and his district extended from Ulupalakua around to Huelo. At some time between 1894–1897, he designed the Holy Ghost Church in Kula and supervised its construction.

The octagonal shape of the structure, according to local belief, derives from the fact that it corresponded with the shape of a replica of the crown of Queen Elizabeth of Portugal, which the church housed. The crown of St. Elizabeth plays an important role in the Portuguese community's Holy Ghost celebration, which transpires at Pentacost. At this time the church's congregation puts on a free luau for all people which commemorates the thirteenth century Queen's generosity with the poor and recalls her devotion to the Holy Ghost.

According to folk beliefs in the Azore Islands, from which many of Hawaii's Portuguese population immigrated, Queen Elizabeth (or Isabella, the Portuguese name for Elizabeth), gave the Catholic Church her crown after she had prayed to the Holy Ghost and her people were delivered from famine. Every year the feast of Pentacost celebrates this event. The replica of the crown plays an integral part in the festivities; it is used by the celebration's queen in the procession and afforded a place of honor at the feast. The Holy Ghost congregation in Kula continues to hold this feast every year, and use the crown for its intended purpose.

Besides the crown and the octagonal shaped building, the Holy Ghost Catholic Church is important for the very handsome altar it contains, which was hand carved in Austria. The altar exhibits very high craftsmanship, as do the hand carved and painted stations of the cross, which are quite unique in that they are inscribed in Portuguese rather than Latin or English.

The church is a major landmark in Kula and a very distinct architectural work in Hawaii.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fr. B. Yzendoorn, History of the Catholic Mission in Hawaii (Honolulu 1927)
Interviews with Sonny Tavares, and the Portuguese Heritage Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.8

Quadrangle name Kilohana, Hawaii

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

04	777000	2298600
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

This nomination includes the property described by Tax Map Key 2-3-37: 2 in 1983:

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph M. Souki and Don Hibbard

organization Maui Portuguese Chamber of Commerce date December 1982

street & number 189 Kaahumanu Avenue telephone (808) 548-6408

city or town Kahului state Hawaii

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 

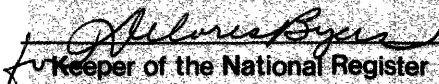
title _____ date JUL 15 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 8/18/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration