Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

COUNTY:

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Honolulu

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 1. NAME COMMON: WAIKANE TARO FLATS AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 1 - MI W of We bone In upper Waikane Valley behind Kaneohe Bay, Oahu CITY OR TOWN: Waikone STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE 15 03 Hawaii Honolulu 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY **ACCESSIBLE** OWNERSHIP **STATUS** TO THE PUBLIC (Check One) Public Yes: X District Public Acquisition: Occupied Building X Restricted X Private ☐ In Process Site ☐ Structure ▼ Unoccupied Unrestricted Both Being Considered Object Preservation work □ No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Transportation Agricultural Government Park Comments Industrial Commercial Private Residence Other (Specify) Military ☐ Educational Unused Religious Entertainment Museum Scientific 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY Elizabeth L. Marks et al. STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 649 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE Honolulu 15 Hawaii 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Bureau of Coveyances, Department of Land & Natural Resources STREET AND NUMBER: 465 S. King Street STATE CODE Honolulu Hawaii 15 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: ENTRY Statewide Inventory DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal X State County Local NUMBER DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of State Parks USE STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 621 CITY OR TOWN: CODE Honolulu 15 Hawaii

	DESCRIPTION	.							
1		(Check One)							
	CONDITION	Excellent	∑ Good	Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed		
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The upper reaches of Waikane Valley contains an area where numerous old Hawaiian taro terraces are found. These terraces are flat bottomed areas near the stream beds, each with a low stone retaining wall about .5 meter high on the downstream side. The average size of the taro flats is about 6 by 12 meters.

The general area is a valley bottom covered with lush tropical vegetation which precludes photographs. The vegetation consists of guava, mango, honohono grass, wild taro, and hau.

Associated with the wet taro beds (lo'i) are several enclosures, habitation areas, and one large pit. Scattered throughout the area are a few rock alignments of unknown function. In one area, remains of the old auwai, or irrigation ditch, could be seen, which fed water from the nearby stream into the lo'i in succession.

Especially interesting is the presence of taro <u>lo'i</u> with numerous low earthen mounds within. These mounds were known in the literature, but this is the only place where physical remains of them have been found. The mounds were used in a specialized technique of taro raising. Other crops, such as sweet potatoes, may have been grown in rock circules on the hillsides above the taro lo'i.

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GNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as .	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	x Pre-1778
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicabl	le and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropria	te)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	
⊠ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape .	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Jransportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These taro flats at Waikane are of significance for they are excellently preserved examples of old Hawaiian wet taro lo'i. They contain the only known examples of taro lo'i with interior mounds, used in a specialized taro growing technique. Associated habitation areas, and some indication of agriculture on the talus valley slopes, lend additional importance to this complex, particularly in the breadth of possible interpretation.

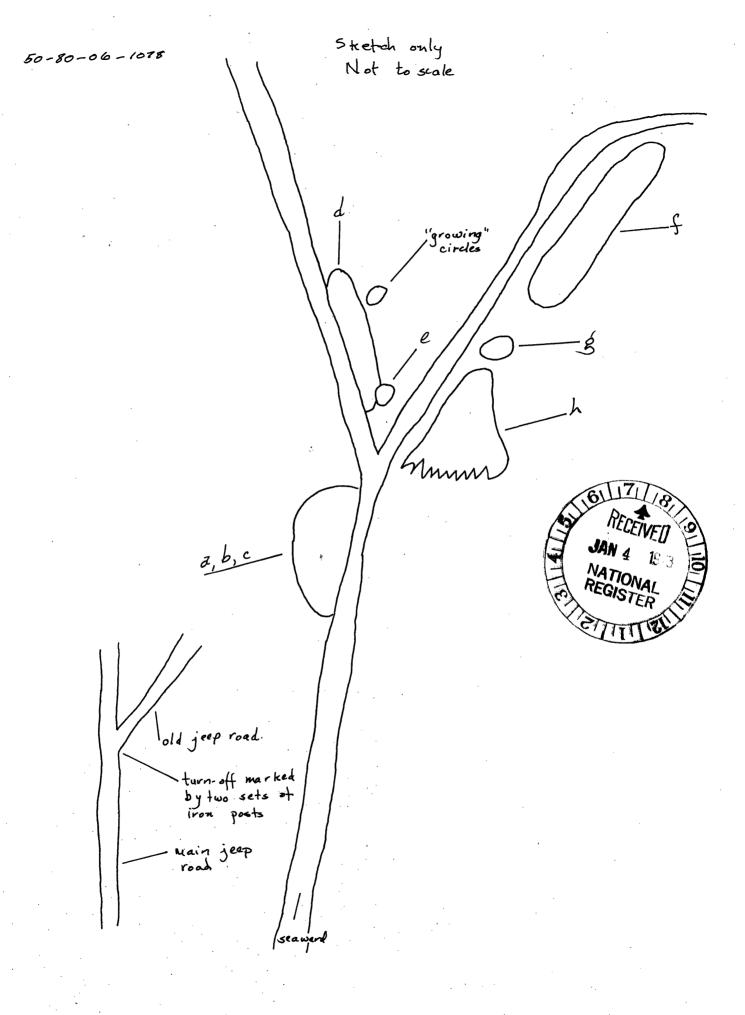
Since taro was one of the basic plant crops of the ancient Hawaiians, no thorough understanding of Hawaiian culture is possible without knowing something of taro raising. The Hawaiians developed dozens varieties of taro, and numerous techniques for its raising, including irrigated fields like these, as well as dry land areas such as are found on Hawaii Island.

The scenic beauty of Waikane in the site area is outstanding and it would be a beautiful park. The only drawback would be the presence of mosquitoes and its distance from the major highway.

Of all the known taro $\underline{10'i}$ on Oahu, this is the second most important, exceeded only by the great taro $\underline{10'i}$ at Kahaluu, some miles to the south. This complex certainly is worthy of preserving this important aspect of ancient Hawaiian agricultural proficiency.



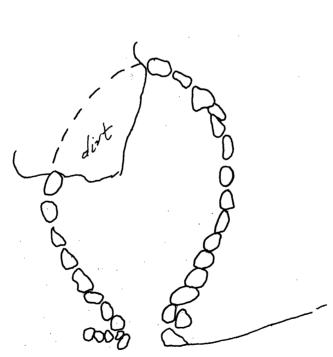
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