

PH0675741

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 25 1979  
DATE ENTERED MAY 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 *William K. Allen Building*  
(Kaua'i Museum)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: 4420 Rice Street  
CITY, TOWN: Lihue 96766 VICINITY OF: 2  
STATE: HI CODE: 15 COUNTY: Kauai CODE: 007

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME: Kaua'i Library and Museum Association  
STREET & NUMBER: 4420 Rice Street  
CITY, TOWN: Lihue, Kauai VICINITY OF: Hawaii

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bureau of Conveyances  
STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 621, Kalanimoku Building  
CITY, TOWN: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE: State Historic Preservation Office (Site #30-11-9344)  
DATE: January, 1977  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historic Preservation Office  
CITY, TOWN: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Albert Spencer Wilcox Building of the Kaua'i Museum complex was designed by Hart Wood, one of Hawaii's foremost architects, and construction started in 1922. This building was designed as a single storied structure of beige concrete and native black and brown lava rock with a half basement and a high pitched blue tile roof. It is a typical Hawaiian design of Hart Wood who emphasized the use of native lava rock and the adaptation of the steep Hawaiian grass roof to contemporary architecture.

The entrance lanai is a frontispiece rectilinear projection of concrete scored to look like cut stone, with three arched openings. Each arch is flanked by four Roman Ionic columns from which the arches spring. Between each of the columns is a small recessed half round display niche in a semidome form with a concrete frame. Above these are smaller niches with pediment projections and urns with square bases in the niches. Above the arches a molded belt-course surrounds the entry portico. Above the beltcourse is a simple arch capped with a small molded cornice. Over the center arch is a broken pediment which projects above the parapet roof line. Entrance to the lanai is gained by eight brick risers.

The rear of the building has a projection of concrete and native lava rock which forms what was the reading lanai of the library. The roof of this projection stops at the wall intersection to create a clerestory and admit light at the upper area of the main room. The gable end walls and rear wall are rock veneer on concrete of native lava rock set at horizontal bands divided with concrete strips.

All windows in this building are steel framed paned windows, hinged at the top, with concrete lintel and sill and splayed on the interior space. In the center of each gabled end wall of the building is a palladian window with a concrete voisoir. Corresponding to the three arches of the entry lanai were three sets of double doors each with steel frames and glass windows.

The interior of the main area was a two story space with a barrel vaulted ceiling. In 1957 the small staff room constructed of cement bricks and flat roof were added to the rear of the building. The original architectural plans allowed for the addition of mezzanines. In 1958 there two mezzanine balconies designed by Wood, Weed and Kubala were added to provide additional library space. In 1969, the Kaua'i Museum added the long connecting balcony designed by Geoffrey W. Fairfax, A.I.A., across the rear wall for display space. Also at this time the center doors of the entrance lanai were converted into a large display case.

(Continued)

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      Built in 1922      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Hart Wood

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaua'i Museum was originally the first library on Kaua'i island. Designed by prominent Honolulu architect Hart Wood the building housed the Kaua'i Library until Statehood was achieved. After implementation of a new statewide library system in 1969 the old building became the home of the Kaua'i Museum. Currently, the building is in excellent condition and is receiving excellent care.

Before its construction, a library was located in the Sunday School rooms of the Lihu'e Union Church and a surrey carried books around the island, a service started by Reverend J. M. Lydgate in 1900. The library was begun with Reverend Lydgate's personal book collection.

In 1921, he led a group of citizens in their efforts to secure a separate library building and service. Mrs. Albert Spencer Wilcox responded with a \$75,000 donation as a memorial to her husband.

Prominent Honolulu architect Hart Wood was chosen to design the building and Lihu'e Plantation sold the needed building site to the Kaua'i Public Library Association Limited for one dollar. The building contract went to John Hansen of Honolulu for \$62,960.

Also during 1921, the territorial legislature passed the County Library Law which provided additional funds for the Lihu'e service.

The "first sod" was cut to begin the new library by Miss Alice Wilcox, the granddaughter of the benefactress, on Founders Day, 1922.

The beautiful new building of lava rock and concrete with its Hawaiian roof was dedicated on May 24, 1924, the birthday of Albert Spencer Wilcox.

Besides serving its traditional role, the library became a center of information exchange on subjects and activities concerning Kaua'i.

When Hawai'i became a state, the library was placed under the statewide system and a new building was constructed in 1969. Since that time, the old library building has been the home of the Kaua'i Museum and has been renovated to house galleries for loan exhibits, school art shows, ethnic and heritage displays, the director's office, a gift shop, and archives. The museum was opened to the public in December, 1970.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Garden Island Newspaper:

Mrs. Wilcox donated to build library; 2/7/22.

Public Library; 4/18/22.

Opening of Kaua'i Library; 5/30/22.

Hart Wood, Architect of library; 6/20/22.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 22,110 square feet *less than one*

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A	0,4	4,6,0	7,8,2	2,4	3,0	4,8,8	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C		4,6,1					D			
E							F			
G							H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Kaua'i Museum is bounded by Rice Street on the southern side and Fiwa Street on the eastern side. Its boundaries on the northern and western sides is the Rice Shopping Center parking lot. The Tax Map Key No. for this parcel is : 3-6-05:05.

## 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

ORGANIZATION

State Historic Preservation Office

DATE

548-7460

STREET & NUMBER

1151 Punchbowl Street, Kalanimoku Bldg.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Honolulu, Hawaii

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

*Jane L. Silverman*

DATE

*April 11, 1979*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles A. Brown*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*5-31-79*

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

*5-31-79*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Albert Spencer Wilcox Building is a particularly fine example of a truly indigenous style of architecture, completely original to Hawaii with no counterpart anywhere else. It is the finest example of architecture in the downtown Lihue area. It is one of the few surviving Hart Wood designed buildings in the State of Hawaii.