

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 13 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Fort Ruger Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Diamond Head Road. _____ not for publication

city, town Honolulu _____ vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Hawaii code 15 county Honolulu code 03

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	_____ agriculture
_____ building(s)	_____ private	_____ unoccupied	_____ commercial
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ work in progress	_____ educational
_____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
_____ object	_____ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
	_____ being considered	_____ yes: unrestricted	_____ private residence
	N/A	_____ no	_____ religious
			_____ scientific
			_____ transportation
			_____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Hawaii

street & number 1151 Punchbowl 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

title State Historic Sites Inventory 80-14-1350 has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1979 _____ 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 Fort Ruger Historic District is a noncontiguous district which includes structures located in and on Diamond Head and on lands situated adjacent to the crater. Including five batteries, seven fire control stations, two tunnels, and one building, the district encompasses a portion of the remnants of Oahu's earliest U.S. Army coastal defense fortification.

Located within a primarily residential area, Fort Ruger is a distinct entity located behind and within Diamond Head. The Fort has lost much of its original fabric as numerous buildings have been demolished in preparation of developing the area as a park and community college. The structures included in this nomination are those immediately associated with the coastal defense fortification. A number of buildings have been excluded from this nomination, including a late 1930s chapel and theater, several NCO quarters, a parade grounds and several officers' quarters which are isolated from the defense works in the district, and a number of modest utilitarian warehouses which minimally contribute to the sense of the fort's historic presence in the area.

The fortifications within the district are all made of reinforced concrete and vary in size from the massive Battery Harlow (9) and the four-story fire control station at the top of Leahi (15) to a dozen more modest six pound gun emplacements along the rim of the crater (12). None of these structures presently perform their original functions and most are abandoned, although Batteries Birkhimer, Harlow and 407 are still being used by the State Department of Defense for offices and storage. These fortifications are all within or on Diamond Head, a National Natural Landmark which primarily is used for park purposes.

The inventory:

1. The guardhouse is a single-story, Neo-Classical stucco building. It features a rectangular floor plan, a flat roof and an inset porch with a pair of Doric columns. Presently unoccupied, State Parks Division hopes to eventually use this structure as an interpretation center for Diamond Head State Park.

The fortifications:

2. Battery Harlow is a massive reinforced concrete structure imbedded into the rear of Diamond Head. Built in 1910, it has three large bunkers which are separated by "courtyards" that served as platforms from which eight 12-inch mortars were fired. The central bunker has a command post on top. The entire structure is made of reinforced concrete and many of its openings have metal doors or barred windows. The command post is abandoned, but the bunkers are used by the National Guard and State Department of Defense for storage purposes.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" 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 1909-1921 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The structures included in the Fort Ruger historic district are significant as tangible reminders of the U. S. Army's presence at Diamond Head crater. These structures are associated with the role of the coast artillery system on Oahu.

Fort Ruger is significant in the history of the military in Hawaii as the first coastal defense fortification established by the United States Army in the Islands. Between 1909-1921, Fort Ruger served as the headquarters for the Coast Defenses of Oahu. Of the forts which comprised the Artillery District of Honolulu, it remains the most intact. As such, it is the best reflection of this aspect of the military's presence in Hawaii.

Following the United States' annexation of Hawaii, Guam and the Philippine, a question arose as to what the nation's defense strategy would be for the Pacific. During the opening years of the twentieth century two major viewpoints developed; the one favored a close-in naval defense system with Pearl Harbor as the major Pacific base, while the other advocated a forward naval defense strategy with Manila as the hub of operations. President Theodore Roosevelt, in his 1905 address to Congress, settled this issue by designating Hawaii, "the most important point in the Pacific to fortify in order to conserve the interests of this country."¹ This proclamation was based upon the fact that the effective range of a naval fleet was approximately 1500 miles, making the occupation of Hawaii a prerequisite for any enemy invasion of the west coast of America.

The Secretary of War's Report for 1906 provided the basis for the establishment of coast artillery units in Hawaii to protect both Honolulu and Pearl Harbor, the only significant deep water ports in the territory, and in 1909 War Department Government Order No. 74 established the Artillery District of Honolulu which consisted of Fort Ruger, DeRussy, Kamehameha, and Armstrong. Fort Ruger, named in honor of Major General Thomas H. Ruger, a Civil War veteran and former superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy and Commandant of the Command and General Staff College, was until 1913 the only coastal artillery fort garrisoned, and until 1921 served as the headquarters for the Coast Defenses of Oahu.

The 105th and 159th Coastal Artillery Companies occupied Fort Ruger on August 14, 1909, living in tents and temporary quarters. On March 17, 1910, Battery Harlow, which the companies from Fort Ruger manned, was turned over to the Coast Artillery. It was the first of the coast defense works to be completed by the Honolulu Resident Engineer. The construction

¹ A History of Fort Shafter 1898-1974, p. 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Manuscripts at Fort Ruger:

A History of the Hawaiian Department 1898-1933

A History of Fort Shafter 1898-1974

History of the United States Army in Hawaii 1849-1939

Erwin Thompson's unpublished manuscript on the history of the Army Corps of Engineers in Hawaii.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 287.5 acres

Quadrangle name Honolulu

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

0	4
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6	2	4	0	1	0
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2	3	5	2	7	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

0	4
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6	2	4	2	3	0
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2	3	5	1	9	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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6	2	3	6	0	0
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2	3	5	1	3	2	0
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D

0	4
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6	2	3	0	1	0
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2	3	5	1	7	2	0
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E

0	4
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6	2	3	1	7	0
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2	3	5	2	5	3	0
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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 a portion of the lands designated by TMK 3-1-42: 6 and 20 as indicated by the enclosed map labeled "Fort Ruger 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 Don Hibbard and Nathan Napoka, architectural historian and historian

organization Department of Land and Natural Resources date March 20, 1980

street & number 1151 Punchbowl Street telephone (808) 548-6408

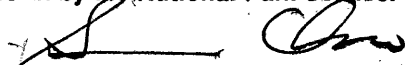
city or town Honolulu state Hawaii

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

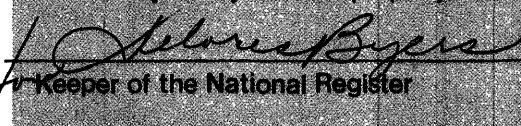
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  JUN -2 1983

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

 Entered in the National Register date 7/14/83

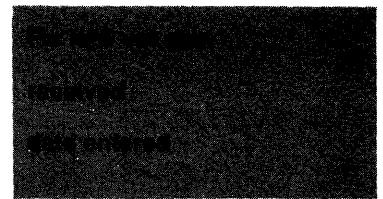
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

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3-4. Also located on the rear of Diamond Head, near the rim of the crater are Batteries Hulings and Dodge, which were completed in October 1915. These reinforced concrete structures tunnel through the wall of the crater and each contains one small room. The gun platforms are on the exterior wall of the crater. Originally these batteries were armed with 4.7 inch guns. They are no longer in use and their interior passageways have iron gates in front of them. The rear platforms have been sealed off on the exterior with hollow tile blocks.

5. Also dating from 1915 are a dozen 6 pound gun emplacements which are located along the rim of the crater. These are simple concrete slabs with eye rings which helped keep the weapons in place. These were installed to protect the batteries against ground attack.

6. Battery Birkhimer is located on the floor of the crater, near the rear. It also is made of reinforced concrete and primarily lies beneath the ground. Only its concrete portals are visible from the surface. This battery has been recycled and presently serves as office space for the State Department of Defense. Completed in 1916, this battery originally was armed with four 12-inch motars.

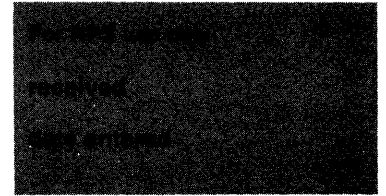
7. Battery 407 was started in 1943 and completed near the end of World War II. Located on the front of Diamond Head, it has tunnels which go through the walls of the crater. Originally armed with two 8-inch guns, this battery is now sealed by large iron doors and used by the Civil Defense Division for storage.

8. The four-story fire control tower located at the top of Leahi was built between 1908-1910. It is reached by a trail which terminates at the 560 foot elevation. Here a forty foot concrete stairway leads to a 225 foot long tunnel. At the tunnel's upper portal a long concrete staircase of 99 steps leads to another tunnel which opens out on the south face of Diamond Head. At the outer end this tunnel widens to form the lowest of four levels of fire control stations. From this floor a vertical shaft with a helical iron staircase allows for further vertical circulation. The four levels are reinforced with I-beams and the interiors are lined with concrete. Each station has 12-inch high observation slots, which originally were protected by moveable steel shutters. Some of these shutters are still intact. The exterior of this complex is camouflaged with rubble embedded in concrete, paint and rock dust.

From this elaborate fire control station all the guns along the leeward coast could be commanded. The lowest level was for Battery Randolph at Fort DeRussy. The next station above served both Randolph and Dudley at DeRussy. The third level commanded Battery Harlow at Fort Ruger and the top level was the battle commander's station. From this vantage point, 761 feet above sea level, the battle commander could view the coast from Koko Head to Waianae.

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Besides this major fire control tower, three smaller concrete stations were constructed along the front rim of Diamond Head.

Other structures which are included within this district because of their associations with the fortifications include:

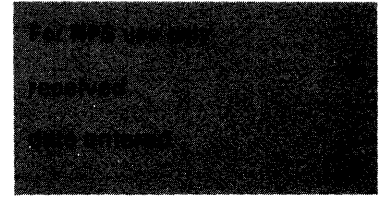
9. A winch and cable which sit on a concrete platform along the trail to the fire control stations. This was used to transport materials in the construction of the fire control stations.

10. A tunnel through the rear wall of the crater near Battery Harlow. Originally this tunnel was 580 feet in length, eight feet in width and seven feet high. It allowed a mule-pulled train to transport materials into the crater for the construction of the fire control tower. This tunnel has been expanded several times, and is still considered significant for its associations with the construction of the fire control tower despite its loss of physical integrity.

Another tunnel also penetrates Diamond Head's walls. It presently provides vehicular access to the crater. It is not included in this district nomination because it was built during World War II.

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Continuation sheet

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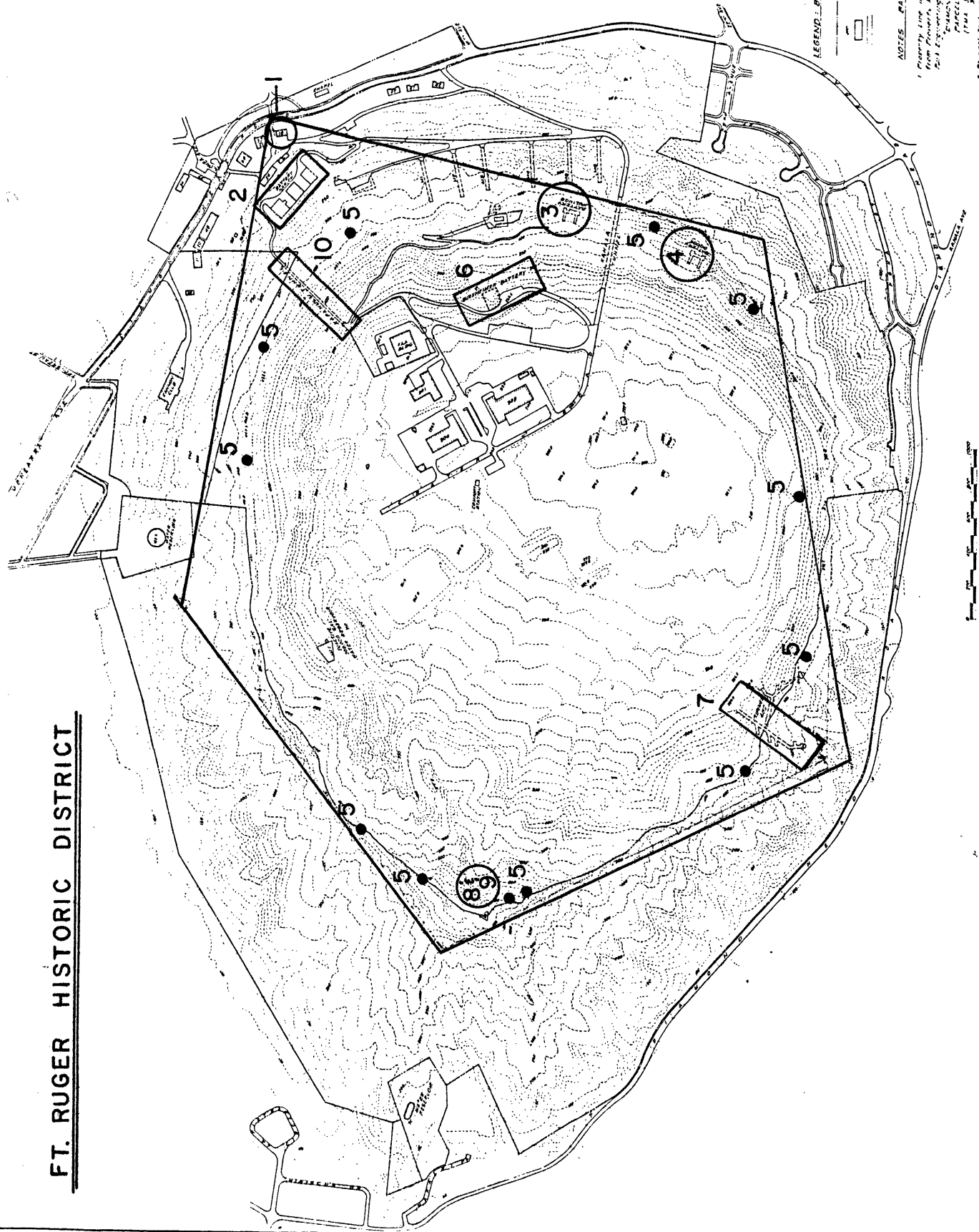
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of permanent buildings at the fort was commenced on April 1, 1911 and additional buildings were erected during and immediately following World War I. The conclusion of World War II and the advent of nuclear and missile warfare made the coastal batteries obsolete. Thus in December 1955 the majority of the land was turned Over to the State of Hawaii.

The four-story fire control station at the peak of Leahi is of special importance. It is the most elaborate structure of its kind in the United States as most fire control stations are simple free-standing towers built of metal. Major E. E. Winslow, who graduated first in West Point's class of 1889, was responsible for its design and construction.

FT. RUGER HISTORIC DISTRICT

FIGURE 1
Existing Crater Improvements



LEGEND: BASE MAP

- Property Line
- Contour Line
- Building
- A.C. Paved

NOTES: BASE MAP

- 1 Property line information obtained from Property Map.
- 2 All Engineering Work is the work of the Engineer.
- 3 CRATER HEAD CRATER
- 4 CRATER HEAD CRATER
- 5 CRATER HEAD CRATER
- 6 CRATER HEAD CRATER
- 7 Physical data was obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 8 Contour lines obtained from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 9 All other data was obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

