

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 5 1980
DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1980

**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 War Memorial Natatorium

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Kalakaua Avenue

CITY, TOWN Honolulu

STATE Hawaii

___ VICINITY OF
CODE 15

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

COUNTY CODE
Honolulu 03

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 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 Hawaii Register of Historic Places 80-14-9701

DATE 1973 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The War Memorial Natatorium is a reinforced concrete structure which contains an open air 100 meter by 50 foot swimming pool which is fed by ocean water through a series of coffered locks.

The pool is surrounded on four sides by a twenty-foot wide deck which is enclosed on the three ocean sides by a three-foot high wall. On the fourth, mauka (mountain) side, concrete bleachers rise thirteen levels in height and provide seating for approximately 2,500 people. The bleachers are divided into two parts, each with four sections, with a central entry space separating the two parts.

The Beaux-Arts inspired main entry, with its triumphal arch flanked by two lesser round arches, is the major architectural feature of the Natatorium. A pair of Ionic pilasters support the triumphal arch's entablature which has the words, "The War Memorial" inscribed in its frieze. An elaborate sculpture rises from the entablature. It consists of a garlanded base with an American eagle perched at each corner and the Hawaiian motto and seal in the center. The triumphal arch itself, has a paneled ceiling decorated with hexagonal floral designs. Flanking the triumphal arch, and above the two lower arches, is a medallion with floral patterns and a woman's face in the center in relief. The ocean and mountain sides of the entry are similar.

To either side of the main entrance, the bleacher's rear walls extend approximately 100 feet. Locker rooms are below the bleachers and inset behind centered round arched arcades of seven bays each. Round arched windows, which correspond to the arcade openings, provide the locker rooms with ventilation and illumination. A pair of simple pilasters flank the arcade and support large concrete urns, which project above the bleacher walls and demarcate the end sections of each bleacher. A flagpole with a ball finial is located above the second and sixth openings of each arcade. The bays on either side of the arcade contain office and restroom spaces and are distinguished by rectangular windows with grills.

A ramp leads to the main entry; to either side of this ramp are a volleyball and basketball court. A concrete wall with an incised diamond pattern, encloses these courts. The end walls are stepped, and two bays long at the main entry end and three bays long at the other end. The front walls are five bays long and a tapered concrete column, which originally supported a light globe, is at each pier. At the corners of the entry ramp, these columns are fluted metal and support spotlights which illuminated the triumphal arch entry. A hau arbor, supported by pipes, is adjacent to the front walls.

The War Memorial is situated on the ocean in Kapiolani Park and is surrounded by expansive lawns with a large number of tall coconut trees, a few banyans and other varieties of vegetation.

The basic structure is in poor condition and presently is officially closed, although people still use the facility. There have been no additions, and the only alterations have been the removal of a free-standing clock and diving platform from the deck area, and the removal of several light fixtures.

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/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 1927

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lewis P. Hobart

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The War Memorial Natatorium is significant as a major landmark along the Kapiolani Park stretch of Kalakaua Avenue. Rendered in a Beaux-Arts style, which is typical of its period, it presents a striking image of monumentality within its setting of open lawn, beach and ocean.

In 1921, the Territorial Legislature authorized the issuance of bonds to produce \$250,000 for the construction, on the former Irwin property, of a memorial dedicated to the men and women of Hawaii who served in World War I. The legislature further provided for the appointment of a Territorial War Memorial Commission to decide upon the form the memorial was to take. The legislature stipulated that a swimming pool of at least 100 meter length be included and a competition be held to determine the most appropriate design. The competition was held under the general rules of the American Institute of Architects. Three architects, Bernard Maybeck of San Francisco, Ellis F. Lawrence of Portland, and W.R.B. Willcox of Seattle, were selected to judge the competition, and Louis P. Hobart of San Francisco won the first prize. Hobart's plans, however, had to be twice modified before they could be implemented in accordance with the budgetary parameters. Thus it was not until 1927 that Mr. T.L. Cliff started construction.

The Natatorium was completed in the summer of 1927, the first "living" war memorial in the United States. The opening ceremonies were held on August 24, and were the major social event of the year. The feelings of the populace were expressed in an editorial appearing in the Advertiser that day: "Tonight the Hawaii War Memorial Opens. It is highly appropriate that this Memorial to the heroes of the World War should be a public natatorium. America went to war to assure safety and independence and the privileges and rights of a free people to all her citizens, and a part of the birthright of a free people is sound health and the opportunity for wholesome recreation. The Natatorium epitomizes Hawaii's prominence in one of the world's great sports. Situated at Waikiki, it looks upon and is part of the ocean, whereof Hawaii is the "crossroad"... No such galaxy of swimming stars has ever been gathered together since the last Olympic Games. The opening of the natatorium will be signaled by the greatest competitive swimming ever seen anywhere in the Pacific, once more giving Hawaii a place of honor and distinction."

The actual ceremonies were colorful and dignified. "Duke" Kahanamoku--who traveled from Los Angeles to open the pool on his birthday--made the first swim, emerging at the end of the 100 meters to a thunderous ovation. It was an unforgettable moment--the man who symbolized the Hawaiian people to the rest of the world opening a memorial whose design captured so well the character of the Territory and its relationship to the sea.

An AAU National championship swimming meet, with swimmers from Japan and South America participating, capped the opening activities. Olympic champion, Johnny Weissmuller, was

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ralph S. Kuykendall and Lorin Tarr Gill, Hawaii in the World War, Honolulu, 1928, pp. 447 - 454.
Honolulu Advertiser, August 24 - 29, 1927.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.347
 UTM REFERENCES

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A 0,4 6,2,1 8,8,5 2,3,5,2 2,5,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the War Memorial Natatorium and Memorial Park which is designated in 1979 by the Tax Map Key: 3:1:31:3

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 Gary Cummins, architectural historian and historian

ORGANIZATION
 State Historic Preservation Office

DATE
 November 1, 1979

STREET & NUMBER
 1151 Punchbowl Street

TELEPHONE
 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 X 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 *Seamus O'no*

TITLE _____ DATE May 28, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 8/11/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE 8-4-80

KEEP COPIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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in excellent form, managing to break the world's record for the 100-meter freestyle swim, and in the following three days of competition, set new world's records for the 440 and 880-meter freestyles, cutting more than ten seconds off the previous world marks for these events. Clarence "Buster" Crabbe, a local swimmer, who was later to replace Weissmuller in the famous "Tarzan" series, won the 1500-meter contest.

The natatorium became a social-recreational center for local people immediately, and many important international and national swimming meets were held there. It became a factor in moves toward a "Pan-Pacific" philosophy, at least in the area of athletics.

There were, however, problems. Maintenance gradually became less and less efficient. The job of superintendent of the natatorium was awarded by the Territorial government more on the basis of political loyalty than expertise. Gradually, deterioration set in.

After Pearl Harbor, the natatorium was taken over by the army until 1943, and used for training purposes. Its physical condition continued to deteriorate, and began to take on the proportions of a scandal. In 1949, the natatorium was rehabilitated by the Territorial government at a cost of \$82,000 and subsequently turned over to the City and County of Honolulu on July 1. The sporadic and inefficient maintenance of the memorial continued, however, and today, the natatorium is once again in need of extensive rehabilitation, if it is to continue to serve as a major social-recreational center. Although officially closed, the pool still attracts its share of visitors: local swimmers, people seeking to experience the ocean-park-beach scene from a unique space, and spectators who gather nightly to view a serene sunset.

KAPIOLANI PARK

KALAKAUA AVENUE

State of Hawaii
(City & County of Honolulu)
(Board of Public Parks & Recreation)

5.347 AC.

NATATORIUM

FOR EXEC. ORD. 1996

State of Hawaii
(Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
-- Div. of State Parks)
Exec. Ord. No. 2465
STATE PARK

McHenry Foundation
State Trust Co., Ltd.
Shigeo Shigenaga & Mt. Akino - Jrs., Is.
(Hotel Fairmont, Inc.)
-Sub-1a

PLAT 32

43,007 sq. ft. or 0.987 ac.

28,206 sq. ft.
Mor. L.C. AN
5031.1

TRIUMPHAL ARCH

BLEACHERS

BLEACHERS

Swimming Pool

Sea Wall

True North
1" = 60'

WAR MEMORIAL NATATORIUM WAIKIKI, HAWAII

1 756

Parcels Dropped: 2

FIRST DIVISION		
ZONE	SEC.	PLAT
3	1	31
CONTAINING		PARCELS
Scale: 1 in = 60 ft.		