

PH00555841

STATE: Hawaii	
COUNTY: Hawaii	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	12 1973

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: Kealakekua Bay Historical District	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Vicinity of Kealakekua Bay, Hawaii Island			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE: Hawaii		CODE: 15	COUNTY: Hawaii
		CODE: 001	

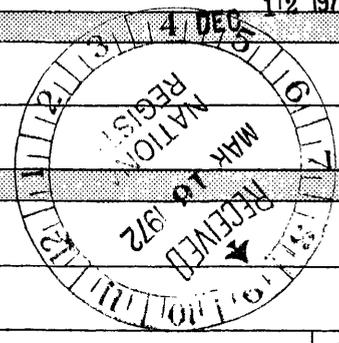
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<b>STATUS</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Unused</u> <u>Pasture</u>			

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>	
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple private ownership and State of Hawaii	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:    CODE:

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Bureau of Conveyances, Department of Land and Natural Resources	
STREET AND NUMBER: 465 South King Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu	STATE: Hawaii    CODE: 15

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory by Hawaii Register of Historic Places	
DATE OF SURVEY: ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Hawaii Register of Historic Places, Division of State Parks	
STREET AND NUMBER: 465 South King Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu	STATE: Hawaii    CODE: 15

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kealakekua Bay is located in about the middle of the Kona Coast on the western side of Hawaii Island. This sheltered bay lies at the foot of a steep cliff and is bordered by flat shelves of vegetation covered lava at each end. The northern shelf, Kaawaloa, contains the major concentration of archaeological and historical sites for it was abandoned in the 19th century. The southern shelf now supports the small town of Napoopoo and most of the sites have been destroyed except for Hikiau heiau. The attached aerial photograph provides the best introduction to the topography of the Kealakekua Bay area. It is significant that this bay is the most sheltered of all areas on Hawaii Island and this provides the basic reason why it was the center of contact and later commerce between the Hawaiians and Europeans.

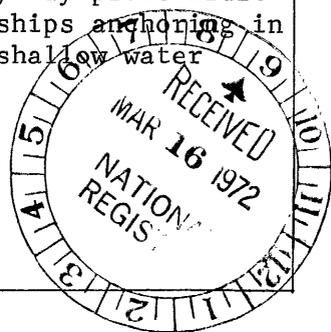
Kaawaloa today contains a multitude of remains of this contact period, undoubtedly overlying pre-contact structures and deposits. Preliminary mapping work has been accomplished for about one half of this area and shows a virtual maze of standing walls, platforms, historic house foundations, refuse pits and religious structures such as heiau and shrines. Most of these features are in good condition and promise to have some of the highest research potential in all of Hawaii, particularly when the wealth of descriptive material is considered.

Lying behind Kaawaloa is the sloping tableland of the Kona Coast and the extensive Kona field system. This field system is only partially within the native land divisions in which coastal Kealakekua Bay is located, for it extends for a total of some 18 miles along the Kona coast. It is about three miles in width, running from just back of the coast up to about the 2,500 foot elevation. The field system is composed of a series of interlocking earthen and rock field boundaries, presenting the appearance of a giant network from the air. This field system has been extensively studied and archaeological and historical data are available to interpret its significance and function in relation to coastal sites, although more should be done to specifically treat the interpretation of Kealakekua Bay.

The southern side of Kealakekua Bay was the scene of a major part of early contact, particularly that by the crew of Captain Cook. The heiau (Hikiau) where elaborate ceremonies took place in honor of Captain Cook is still in existence, although altered by "reconstruction" a few decades ago. However, sufficient graphic material exists to enable its proper reconstruction in the future.

The bay itself has been designated as a marine preserve owing to its extensive and pristine marine resources. Underwater archaeology may prove fruitful here for certainly debris and equipment from the many ships anchoring in the bay could be found if they were deposited in the more shallow water surrounding the edges of the bay.

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**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

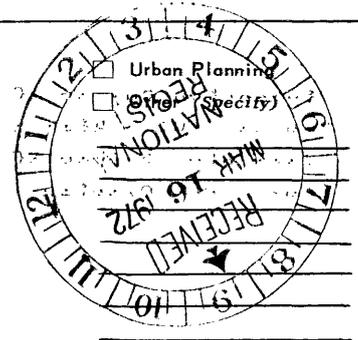
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (x) pre-contact |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kealakekua Bay is one of the most important historical and archaeological areas in Hawaii. Besides its notoriety as the place of the landing and death of Captain Cook in 1779, the bay offers a cultural continuity not found in other areas of the Hawaiian chain.

The significance of Kealakekua Bay can be summed up in four general areas: (1) preservation of material remains, (2) abundance of written sources, (3) continuity of cultural tradition through time, and (4) occurrence of significant cultural and historical events. Kealakekua Bay's isolated position has allowed much in the way of material remains to be preserved to the present day. These remains consist of portable artifacts, such as tools or fishhooks, non-portable archaeological artifacts, such as ancient house platforms and heiau (religious temples), historical buildings and other cultural debris.

That we know so much about the material remains and what they signify is due to the fact that Kealakekua Bay is the area in which first lengthy contacts were made with the native Hawaiians and much was written about the people, culture, and towns by men in Cook's expedition. (Journals of Cook, Clerke, King, Ledyard, Samwell and Surgeon Ellis). Kealakekua Bay is unique in that it contains archaeological remains--structures and artifacts built in Hawaii before the influence of Western Man--but, these remains have historical information describing and outlining them written by the first group of Western men to have contact with these islands.

It is presently unknown exactly when the area was first settled, as is the sequence of pre-contact Hawaiian culture history at Kealakekua Bay. It is known, however, that by the time the Europeans arrived in 1779, large villages existed at Kaawaloa and Kekua on the shores of Kealakekua Bay. These were supported by extensive agricultural fields lying behind the bay as well as by the bountiful sea. The villages around Kealakekua Bay were major centers of political and religious power in the Kona District at the time of European contact, and this power extended into the post-contact period. These settlements were subjected to the most intense acculturation forces in all of Hawaii prior to the turn of the 19th century and still contain the keys to enlarge our understanding of the extent and nature of the changes wrought in both European and

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

HR  
NO  
UTM

The Historical Significance of Kealakekua Bay--a Brief Resume. MS., Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks. 1968.  
 The Archaeology of Kealakekua Bay. Soehren and Newman. Department of Anthropology, Bishop Museum and Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii. 1968.  
 An Intensive Survey of the Northern Portion of Kaawaloa, Kona, Hawaii. Hommon. MS., Bishop Museum. 1969.  
 An Intensive Survey of the Southern Portion of Kaawaloa, Kona, Hawaii. Hommon and Crozier. MS., Bishop Museum. 1970.

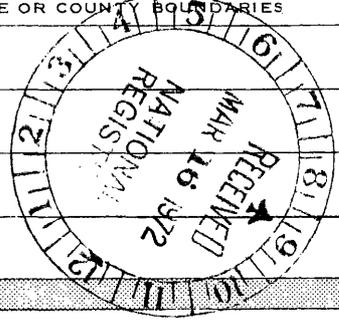
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 19° 29' 00"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 155° 56' 47"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	19° 29' 57"	155° 55' 40"				
SE	19° 27' 54"	155° 53' 54"				
SW	19° 27' 12"	155° 55' 40"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **375 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**B. Jean Martin, Archaeologist**

ORGANIZATION: **Hawaii Register of Historic Places**      DATE: **Sept. 30, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**465 S. King Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Honolulu**      STATE: **Hawaii**      CODE: **15**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

Name: *Sunao Kido*      Title: Chairman and Member

Date: March 3, 1972

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

*Ernest A. Connally*  
~~Chairman of the National Historic Preservation Board~~  
 Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: DEC 12 1973

ATTEST:

*Wm J. Smith*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12.11.73



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Hawaii	
COUNTY	Kealakekua Bay	
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(Number all entries)

8.

Hawaiian cultures by their initial extended contact with one another.

In later decades, missionaries and whalers brought more far-reaching changes in the life of the people, though they apparently remained more Hawaiian than did those in most other areas of early intensive contact. In the latter half of the 19th century, kuleana (small land parcels) properties were established and non-Hawaiians moved into the area as elements of the old culture were slowly left behind. During the first half of the present century, Kaawaloa was abandoned and Napoopoo (the area of the original village of Kekua) became a small modern town. In these two 20th century trends, as in other features of the entire cultural sequence, Kealakekua is a representative example of the course of Hawaiian history as a whole.

Set against the background of this continuous culture tradition are historical events and culture patterns that are unique to Kealakekua Bay yet serve to illuminate overall Hawaiian history. In this respect, the importance of the bay area lies not only in its stature as an island capital but also in the relative completeness of the evidence of the pre- and post- contact patterns of the economic, social, political and religious systems of the settlements around the bay. These patterns are evident in both the material remains and the abundant ethnohistoric literature.

The written history of Kealakekua Bay begins scarcely a year after that of the Hawaiian group as a whole. The historical events that include the worship of Cook as Lono, a Hawaiian god, and later his death at Kaawaloa ensure for Kealakekua Bay a place in the history of the Pacific. It was here also that Cook and his men became acquainted with Kalaniopuu, the last of the old ruling chiefs of Hawaii Island, and with Kamehameha, who was to become the first King of all the islands. During the following fifty years, Kealakekua was the scene of important events in the war of succession between the forces of Kamehameha and those of the sons of Kalaniopuu, such as the important battle of Mokuohai. It was also the scene of the departure of Opukahaia, a young Hawaiian boy, on his journey to America which was the beginning of missionary interest in Hawaii, early contact with whaleships, and the establishment of the first mission house in the South Kona District at Kaawaloa.

The State of Hawaii also recognizes the value of Kealakekua Bay and has been acquiring the lands around the bay to protect it from further encroachments by modern society. The Department of Land and Natural Resources contracted for a study of the Kealakekua Bay area in 1968. The results of the study were published in 1969 in the South Kona Coast Historic and Recreation Area, Island of Hawaii by Thomas Creighton and George Walters.