UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Puna-Ka'u Historic District, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

CITY OR TOWN:

Volcanoes

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Hawaii 96718

COUNTY:

001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

( Check One )

District [X] Building

Site [ ] Structure

Object [ ]

OWNERSHIP

[ ] Public

[ ] Private

[ ] Both

STATUS

Public Acquisition:

[ ] In Process

[ ] Being Considered

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

[ ] Occupied

[ ] Unoccupied

[ ] Restricted

[ ] Unrestricted

[ ] Partial

PRESENT USE ( Check One or More As Appropriate )

[ ] Agricultural

[ ] Commercial

[ ] Educational

[ ] Military

[ ] Entertainment

[ ] Government

[ ] Industrial

[ ] Museum

[ ] Scientific

[ ] Transportation

[ ] Religious

[ ] Museum

[ ] Other ( Specify )

[ ] Comments

Hiking and

Camping

4. AGENCY

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: ( If applicable )

Western Region

CITY OR TOWN:

San Francisco

STATE:

California 94102

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

State Tax Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

State Office Building, 75 Aupuni Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Hilo

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

[ ] Federal

[ ] State

[ ] County

[ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

RECEIVED

FEB 12

NATIONAL
REGISTER
Established on August 1, 1916, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is a scientific and scenic park. The dominant features are the volcanoes of Mauna Loa and Kilauea—the most active volcanoes in the world. Scenic values include nearly 30 miles of coastline with its spectacular seascapes and many ancient habitation sites.

Archeological sites, although not limited to the coastline, are more concentrated along the rugged Puna-Ka'ū shoreline within the park. These include a number of historic and prehistoric village sites, temples, canoe landings, petroglyph fields, house sites and trails. The main archeological themes relate to the marine oriented Polynesian coastal village culture, with its little known and understood ties with upland areas, and the complex socio-political-religious structures of the ancient Hawaiian society, as reflected in village forms, patterns and religious architecture. Subsidiary themes include the "cattle and goat culture" of the late historic period. At the villages of Kamoamoa and Kealakomo (the latter now under 20 feet of new lava), the Hawaiian coastal ocean oriented culture reflects the major changing patterns from the prehistoric to the historic period. With the introduction of cattle, horses and goats, and the establishment of churches, great changes came about in the living patterns.

The natural ecology of the dry, windy and hot coastal region demands a reliance on in and offshore fishing, shellfish collecting, manufacture of salt by evaporation of sea water, and relatively small villages with seasonal or at least what appears to be seasonal, upland oriented farming economy. The locations and relationships of the habitation sites relative to the natural resources reveals the versatility and ingenuity of the Hawaiians who eked out an existence from this harsh and inhospitable region. There is no doubt that habitation of the Puna-Ka'ū district required special adaptation to severe environmental conditions for which the Hawaiian life style of the period was well suited, but it could not withstand the impact of Western culture; even the cattle and goat culture of the late historic period succumbed to the forces of nature and cultural change, but not until it left its imprint on the cultural landscape.

From the eastern boundary to the western limits of the park, mainly along the coastline, are the following major archeological regions or zones. The following is a list of known, not necessarily researched, archeological regions or zones. Because most are clusters or groups of individual ruins or features, they are not numbered. Where known archeological site numbers are listed, a list of archeological sites are on file at Hawaii Volcanoes NP, and at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu.
1. Poupou-Kauka village complex (consisting of site numbers HV 250-275)
   This village complex adjoins the Wahaula temple site to the east. It is
   hidden in the jungle-like forest back from the ocean. Portions of the site
   were surveyed and mapped by the Bishop Museum in 1959. The village (act-
   ually two villages) was probably abandoned shortly before Rev. William
   Ellis visited the Wahaula temple and vicinity in 1823. Ellis makes no
   mention of a village in his account of his tour through Hawaii.

   Order of Significance: Second
   Acreage: Less than 2
   Location: 19° 19' 56" N. LAT.
   155° 01' 32" W. Long. Kalapana Sheet
   Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Intensive mapping required)
   Preliminary cost estimate for above: $20,000

2. Wahaula Heiau (Red mouth temple consists of site numbers HV 276-283,
   284-289)
   This is one of the best known temple sites in the Puna district. It is the
   focus of at least two major village complexes and consists of not one, but
   two massive stone walled enclosures. According to tradition, one of these
   temple sites was constructed by the foreign chief Pa'a'o, who came from
   Kahiki (Tahiti) in about A.D. 1275. The heiau site is most significant as
   it is important to the Pa'a'o story and the introduction of a new or special
   class of temple for the worship of the major gods of Hawaii. The construc-
   tion and ceremonial worship in this type of temple required human sacrifice;
   it is called a luakini kaua, a war temple.

   Order of Significance: First
   Acreage: Less than 4
   Location: 19° 19' 40" N. LAT.
   155° 01' 38" W. Long. Kalapana Sheet
   Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (maintenance) The site is
   stabilized as a ruin.
   Preliminary cost estimate for above: $1,500 annually

3. Kailili village (Site numbers HV 288-294)
   This village adjoins the Wahaula temple on the west. Kailili village and
   Poupou - Kauka probably gave support to the temple and were probably aban-
   doned shortly before Rev. William Ellis visited the heiau site in 1823. Ka-
   iliili has the distinction of being the only place along this portion of the

cont'd
Puna coast where ili-ili, small water-worn pebbles, used in paving the temple and house floors are found, and it derives its name for the same reason. The village complex includes house enclosures and sites, bait cups on the shore and the Hawaiian checker board (papamu).

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Less than 2
Location: 19° 19' 37" N. Lat. 155° 02' 01" W. Long. Kalapana Sheet
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation-stabilization (The site was cleared and mapped in 1967)
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $10,000

4. Fishermen's Cave (Cave Site 911 - HV 228)
This is a small cave shelter just west of Kailiili near the shore. It had been used by ancient Hawaiians as a shelter from rain and heat and occasionally as an over-night sleeping shelter, from ca. 1300 A.D. into modern times. The cave was excavated as part of the Chain-of-Craters salvage project in 1965.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Less than ½
Location: 19° 19' 19" N. Lat. 155° 02' 58" W. Long. Kalapana Sheet
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Maintenance)
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $500 annually

5. Kamoamoa Village (HV 242, 300-322)
At this site (now a camp-picnic site), two periods of time appear to be superimposed; the ancient village appears to be further back from the shore, with the recent historic development more toward the ocean. There is a windmill tower, a modern house site, possible old school house used as a meeting hall in 1847, and some very high walled enclosures. The latter are probably associated with the "goat period" at Kamoamoa. At the west end of the complex are some petroglyphs on the exposed pahoehoe surface. Moa temple site was stabilized in about 1966 and several grave sites were salvaged when the picnic-camp grounds road was constructed.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Less than 3
Location: 19° 19' 18" N. Long 155° 03' 26" W. Long. Kalapana Sheet
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Excavation, Stabilization and Intensive mapping-Interpretive program)
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $30,000

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6. Lae'apuki Village (HV 323-332)
This village is located about three quarters of a mile ka'u (west) of Kamao-
moa and consists of at least seven fairly well preserved house sites, a number
of walled enclosures and a "well" near the shore. During the "goat and
cattle" period, a windmill was constructed over the brackish water pool, of
which some of the timbers were remaining in 1964. Rev. William Ellis passed
Lae'apuki and Kamoamoa in 1823, but did not stop.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Less than 2
Location: 19° 18' 58" N. Lat.
155° 04' 05" W. Long. Kalapana Sheet
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Maintain as ruin to be mapped
in the future)
Preliminary cost estimates for above: $500 annually

7. Puuloa Petroglyph field (HV 225)
This is the largest concentration of petroglyphs found in the park. The
field covers nearly 2,000 square feet. It is located on an ancient trail
between Lae'apuki and Keaiakoma (the latter now under 20 feet of new lava).
Many of the petroglyphs are undoubtedly very ancient, as they have been
almost completely obliterated by successive drawings and by natural erosion.
The forms are mainly dots with rings, human figures, sails, fish and circles
with attached lines.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Less than 1
Location: 19° 17' 44" N. Lat.
155° 07' 28" W. Long. Kalapana Sheet
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Bishop Museum made a study of
the field in about 1962-63. A professor at Hilo Campus, U. of
Hawaii has entire study collection of photos. Steps are being
taken to secure copies or a completed map)
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $500 annually (for maintenance only.
Estimate for production of maps being requested from Mr. William
Bonk, U. of Hawaii, Hilo Campus)

8. Puna-Ka'u coastal trail
This and other trails that once connected the village and towns along the
coast, as well as the mauka-makai (from the shore to the mountain) trails,
have not been completely studied.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: See U.S.G.S. Sheets
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Maintenance)
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $500 annually

9. Keahou Landing (village complex) HV 75-78-82
This region, although of most significance for the historic period (in connection with Pulu factory and ranching), has prehistoric components in the form of old house sites, shelter caves, stepping stone trails, stone platforms and petroglyphs. The main village compound is scattered with recent artifacts, mainly metal and glass.

A portion of the village was cleared and mapped by the YCC in 1972.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Less than 2
Location: 19°16'05" N. Lat. 155°14'15" W. Long. Makaopuhi Sheet
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (excavation & stabilization)
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $30,000

10. Kuee Ruins
This is the most isolated ruins in the park. It is located near the western most corner of the park boundary in the district of Ka'u. It consists mainly of shelter sites used by the opihi (limpet) pickers, both ancient and modern, and shell mounds. There are a number of small surface structures that apparently served as wind-breaks for the fishermen and opihi pickers. Two major trails converge near the village; one, the Puna-Ka'u coastal trail and the other, the mauka-makai trail.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Less than 3
Location: 19°12'09" N. Lat. 155°21'13" W. Long. (Pahala sheet)
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (maintenance)
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $500 annually

11. Pulu factory (HV 377, 378, 379)
Pulu is the soft yellowish "wool" that covers the trunks and frond-buds of the large Hawaiian tree fern (Cibotium splendens), that was once collected for commercial purposes; mainly for stuffing mattresses, pillows, and furniture upholstery. Hawaiians employed by various entrepreneurs maintained a camp near Napau Crater. Ruins of the shelter sites, corrals...
and other features are hidden in the dense rain forest. The ruins have been subject to frequent earthquakes, and some of the ruins are probably covered by recent lava flows. The Pulu factory site was in use from about 1850 to about 1884. The pulu was collected, dried, baled and packed for export to San Francisco; British Columbia; Canada; Portland, Oregon; and Australia.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: Camp-site only, (approximately 3 acres)
Location: Near Napau and Makaopuhi Craters; all above 2000 feet elevation
19° 16' 05" N. Lat.
155° 14' 15" W. Long. Makaopuhi Sheet
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation (Survey and mapping needed)
Stabilization and Maintenance required
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $5,000 ($500 annually-maintenance)

12. The District
Within the Puna-Ka'ū Historic District, there are recorded over 300 sites, the above 11 zones are the outstanding elements for which there is a measure of protection and some on-going research. This entry is for archeo-historical surface and sub-surface investigations and/or excavations of known and unknown (unrecorded) archeo-historical resources, excluding classified structures separately identified within the district.

Order of Significance: Second
Acreage: 129,665 acres
Location: See Geographical Data, Section 10, this report
Recommended level of treatment: Preservation
Preliminary cost estimate for above: I-$40,000, II-$40,000, III $40,000 $120,000

8 Cont'd

economic patterns of this coastal life zone. The human histories of these ruins are important for their proper management and interpretation.

7 Cont'd

PROPERTY BOUNDARY
At time of nomination, actual district boundary is shown on the maps. However, it is not the intention to permanently classify all land within that boundary as Class VI land. Boundaries will be redefined after historical and archeological surveys have been completed. Until such surveys, criteria "(D)" must be applied; land within the nominated boundary has yielded, and is likely to yield, information important in prehistory and history.
The human occupation of the Puna-Ka'u district, as nearly as can be determined, covers a span of nearly 600 years and is represented by a variety of archeological-historical remains, from the prehistoric fishing-farming, the goat-cattle ranching, through the pulu harvesting periods. Each story lies buried underground, covered with lava, or overgrown with exotic island vegetation. Therein lies the major significance of the district; each site has its own unique story to tell, few of which are briefly discussed above under section 7.

The archeological resources in the district representing various aspects of ancient and historic Polynesian culture were, until recently, almost totally neglected. However, with the completion of the Chain of Craters road into the Puna district (cut off by lava flows in 1972), many of the sites hitherto accessible only by long and arduous hiking or bridle trails, have been made available for public use. These sites, situated in sheltered areas along the rugged Puna-Ka'u coast, were occupied from prehistoric times until the middle and late 1800's by the indigenous people. The district includes portions of two ancient districts; Puna and Ka'u and a number of ahupua'a, the ancient land divisions.

Archeological field work was not conducted until 1959, when the Bishop Museum, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth P. Emory, made the first survey, and in the period 1962-68, several small sites were salvaged as part of the Chain of Craters road project. Because there is little to no archeological field data, other than limited inventory, survey and some salvage, the major significance of many sites cannot be determined, except that some have been identified as ancient habitation sites. There are a number of sites however, that played an important role in the prehistory of the district which is recorded in the oral traditions that were collected by early visitors, the first of whom was the Rev. William Ellis in 1823.

Additional archeological studies are needed to provide management with information and recommendations for the management and interpretation of the archeological resources. With the available survey and inventory data, research must be continued to gain further knowledge regarding the changing life patterns; the effects of western civilization on settlement &
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2. Coan, Titus  
3. Ellis, William  

4. Emory, Kenneth, Halley J. Cox, William J. Bonk, Yoshiko H. Sinoto & Dorothy B. Barrere  

5. Hillebrand, William  

6. Ii, John Papa  
1959 Fragments of Hawaiian History. Bishop Museum special publication, Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii.

7. Kamakau, Samuel Manaikalani  

8. Ladd, Edmund J.  


12. Malo, David  

cont'd
13. National Park Service
   1962 The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. Theme
   XVI, Hawaiian Aboriginal Culture, A.D. 750-A.D. 1778.

14. Neal, Marie C.
   1965 In Gardens of Hawaii. Bishop Museum Special Publication
   No. 50, Honolulu, Hawaii.

15. Smart, Colin D.
   1965(Ms) The Archeological Resources of Hawaii Volcanoes National
   Park, Part I; An Archeological Survey of parts of Hawaii
   Volcanoes National Park, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolu­
   lulu, Hawaii.

16. Thrum, Thomas C.
   1928 Pulu, its rise and decline. In Hawaiian Annual for 1929,
   Honolulu, Hawaii.