

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Waiakea Mission Station, Hilo Station

other names/site number Haili Church (preferred), HRHP 7417

2. Location

street & number 211 Haili Street not for publication

city or town Hilo vicinity

state Hawaii code HI county Hawaii code 001 zip code 96720

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

5/1/02
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the

 National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the

 National Register

 removed from the National

 Register

 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> objects
	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the
National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: religious facility, church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: religious facility, church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY – Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood posts on block/rock wall
roof corrugated metal
walls wood – clapboard
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Haili Congregational Church
name of property

Hawaii County, Hawaii
county and State

The Haili Congregational Church is a wood frame building of double wall construction, measuring 50 x 75 feet, with a simple, corrugated metal gable roof and a square central tower at the north end of the building and sits prominently on the corner of Haili and Ululani Streets in Hilo. The building is constructed in a simplified interpretation of the Greek Revival style, in a form used extensively for churches and meeting houses in New England from about 1800 until 1850. The building is characterized by a formal, bilateral symmetry, a roof ridge running front to back, and a simple but nonetheless classical order including simplified pediments at the gable ends, and equally spaced pilasters, reminiscent of a Greek temple.

The foundation consists of a stone masonry wall around the perimeter of the building, and stone footings supporting wood posts. A concrete terrace stretches across the front of the building and serves as steps leading up to the doors at the northeast and northwest sides of the facade. A concrete ramp leading up to the entrance is located at the northeast corner of the terrace. Both the concrete terrace and ramp are more recent additions.

The exterior of the building is sheathed with horizontal bevel siding. The facade of the structure, at the north gable end, consists of a pediment which is visually supported by four panelled pilasters which rise from the sole plate (plinth) up to the simple architrave, frieze and cornice directly below the pediment. The four engaged pilasters define three bays. The two side bays contain the entrance doorways while the center bay is a solid wall. The four-paneled double doors on the left and right of the facade, are framed by pilasters of the same height and capped with cornices. The two double doors served as separate entrances for men and women.

The other gable end, as well as the east and west side walls, have evenly spaced pilasters at the immediate corners of the building as well as in the central wall sections. The pilasters abut at the corners of the building, and finish the corners visually besides following in the proper tradition of the Greek Revival. The side elevations feature four large wood framed, twelve-over-twelve double hung windows, many with the original wavy glass, centered between the pilasters. The two windows at the south end of the building, to the left and right of the lectern were replaced with stained glass windows in 1908. The stained glass windows from Tiffany Galleries in New York, depict "Moses, the Law Giver" and "Jesus, the Good Shepherd."

The gable roof, originally finished with zinc, is covered with corrugated iron, probably applied during the repair work done in 1929-30. The low-pitch roof spans the 50 feet with trusses. The tower is divided into three progressively smaller tiers, all finished with horizontal siding and edged with corner boards. The uppermost section of the tower is ventilated with four tall louvers, one on each side of the square tower. The set of louvers is topped with a simple pediment. Directly below the upper cornice of the tower are paired block modillions. The tower was completely rebuilt in 1929-1930.

The interior of the church consists of a large open space, with a 20 foot ceiling finished with plank siding. Interior walls are vertical plank siding with a wainscot approximately 3 feet above the floor. A small gallery runs the length of the north end of the building. The pipe organ, bought in 1929 from Hillyer and Land of Alliance, Ohio, is located

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Haili Congregational Church
name of property

Hawaii County, Hawaii
county and State

behind the large lectern and the choir platform at the south end of the building. The electric light fixtures (chandeliers and wall appliances) are not the original and seem to be turn-of-the-century vintage.

The rounded koa (Acacia koa) pews are set in a semicircular pattern divided into three sections in front of the lectern. The pews were installed in 1900 to replace the box pews which had been used until then.

The building is in fair condition and changes have been in keeping with the historic character. In 1979, a fire destroyed a portion of the steeple and interior, but replacements were made with the same material and original material was kept while "sistering" framing and structural members. Within the nominated area are a rock wall and a very large False Kumana tree at the corner of Haili and Ululani Streets. The recreation hall ten feet to the rear (southeast) of the church and the Haili Christian school buildings are newer additions to the property and are not included in the nominated area.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- ☐ # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1824-1950

Significant Dates

1824 - church established

Nov. 14, 1857, cornerstone laid

April 8, 1859, church dedicated

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Haili Congregational Church
name of property

Hawaii County, Hawaii
county and State

Statement of Significance

The Haili Congregational Church is significant under Criterion A as an intact example of an early missionary church in Hawaii. The advent of the missionaries in this area drastically altered the Hawaiian culture. With the establishment of the mission and the subsequent development, which included a church, a school, and several houses, the growth of Hilo proper centered around this area. The church is further significant for its architecture. The structure of the largest remaining wood frame church built during the missionary period in Hawaii. The building is constructed in a simplified Greek Revival style, in a form brought in directly from New England with the missionaries.

In terms of architecture, the building is comparable to contemporary New England churches and meeting houses since the missionaries hailed from New England and the church reflected its colonial roots. The simple Greek Revival building form, with the central tower, pilasters evenly spaced, pedimented front and the lateral running ridge was used in many of the mission churches in Hawaii as well as throughout the United States during this period. Many thought the Greek temple was the most perfect of building forms and it became an accepted building form for many different building types, most notably public buildings, as the Greek temple represented classic beauty and permanence. Whether the design was adapted from a building pattern book or whether one person is directly responsible is not known.

Historical Background

Three years after the 1820 arrival in Hawaii of Christian missionaries four from the Mission Station at Honolulu toured the island of Hawaii to recommend where new missions should be opened. The tour of Asa Thurston, Artemis Bishop, Joseph Goodrich and William Ellis resulted in a report of six locations, with the priority given to Kailua in the Kona District and Waiakea in the Hilo District. The missionaries erected two houses and a church within two months after their arrival in the Waiakea area. The first church at this site was of pole and thatch construction. At the time of the dedication of the Waiakea Mission Station on May 19, 1824, there were only two other churches in the Islands, one at Honolulu, Oahu and one at Waimea, Kauai. The corner stone of the fifth and current church building was laid on November 14, 1857. It was dedicated on April 8, 1859.

From 1820 until 1850, further development of Hilo Proper was focused in this area around the mission. Constructed there were the Hilo Boarding School started by the missionaries, the missionary homes and government buildings including the royal cottages. Prior to this, the Hawaiian community development had centered one and one-half miles to the east, southeast in the Waiakea section of Hilo. Because of the missionary development, the present commercial and governmental district of Hilo still is located one block east of Haili Church.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1 Haili Congregational Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

During the late 1830's, Reverend Titus Coan increased the size of his congregation scattered along the east coast of the Big Island to 7,000 people in what was termed the "great Awakening". Churches were constructed throughout the Hilo and Puna Districts to meet the needs of the people in those locations. The needs of the home congregation also increased. A larger building was required as well as one that could weather the climate for a longer period of time. The first churches for the Waiakea Mission Station were of Hawaiian thatch construction and were replaced, as they deteriorated. In March of 1840, plans were underway for the fourth church, this time its foundation was to be of solid stone. It was a frame building with a thatched roof, lasting for fifteen years on the present site of Foodland-McDonald. When the first frame church, the fourth church building, became unsuitable, construction of a new building was necessary.

Plans were undertaken for the current church in 1854 and 1855 once the smallpox epidemic was abated. "King's Days," the custom of two-and-a-half days per week of free service for public projects was still in practice so thus the labor was at hand. The construction of Haili Church as well as a bit of the religious philosophy of Rev. Titus Coan, is depicted in the following quotation from his autobiography:

When our first framed church building became old and dilapidated, we decided on replacing it with an edifice of stone and mortar. But after a years hard toil in bringing stones on men's shoulders and after having dug a trench some six feet deep for the foundations without coming to bed-rock, we by amicable agreement dismissed our mason and engaged two carpenters. The cornerstone was laid November 14, 1857, and the building was dedicated on the 8th, of April, 1859. The material was good and the workmanship faithful and satisfactory. The whole cost was \$13,000.00.

In 1868, an awful earthquake tore in pieces stone walls and stone houses and rent the earth in various parts of Hilo, Puna and Kau. Had we built according to our original plan and agreement with the mason, "our hole and beautiful house would have become a heap of rubbish, and our hearts would have sunk within us with sorrow. How true that a man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps."¹

The name of the church derived from the forest, Haili Kulamanu, (Paradise of the Birds) from which most of the *ohia* wood was cut, located 6 to 8 miles southwest of the church. The Hawaiians hewed the wood in the forest, then hauled it to the mission with drag ropes. It was the first Hilo church to be entirely of wood. In 1979, a fire damaged the bell tower, ceiling and choir loft. This area was repaired. The original bell that was cast in 1859 cracked and now sits at the entrance of the church, an electronic bell installed in its place.

Still regarded as a "Hawaiian" church famous for its Hawaiian choirs recently inducted into the Hawaii Music Hall of Fame. Members include most ethnic groups. Haili Church has had distinguished pastors and continues its service to an active congregation.

¹ Titus Coan, "Life in Hawaii, an Autobiographic Sketch" New York: 1882, p 85-87

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9,10 Page 1 Haili Congregational Church Hawaii County, Hawaii
name of property county and State

Bibliography

- Baldado, S., Baldado, E., and Kaupiko, H., "In the Beginning," manuscript, privately published.
- Coan, Titus, "Life in Hawaii, An Autobiographic Sketch", New York: Randol 1882.
- George, Milton, "The Development of Hilo, Hawaii, T.H.", Ann Arbor:Edward 1948.
- Loomis, Albertine, "Haili Church", Hilo, 1974.
- Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge:Massachussetts Institute of Technology 1969.
- "History of Haili Church, 1824-1974," privately published, 1974.
- Interview with Reverend David Kaapu, June 1, 1977.

Boundary description

The boundary follows the property line at the front of the church, including the front lawn, turns the corner of Haili and Ululani Streets and goes around the church at the walkways between the Recreational Hall and the School.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property and features associated with the original church.

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 74 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	05	280755	2182483	3	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Renee Von Elsner, President, Board of Trustees
organization Haili Congregational Church date 8/2/2001
street & number 211 Haili Street telephone (808)935-4847
city or town Hilo state Hawaii zip code 96720

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

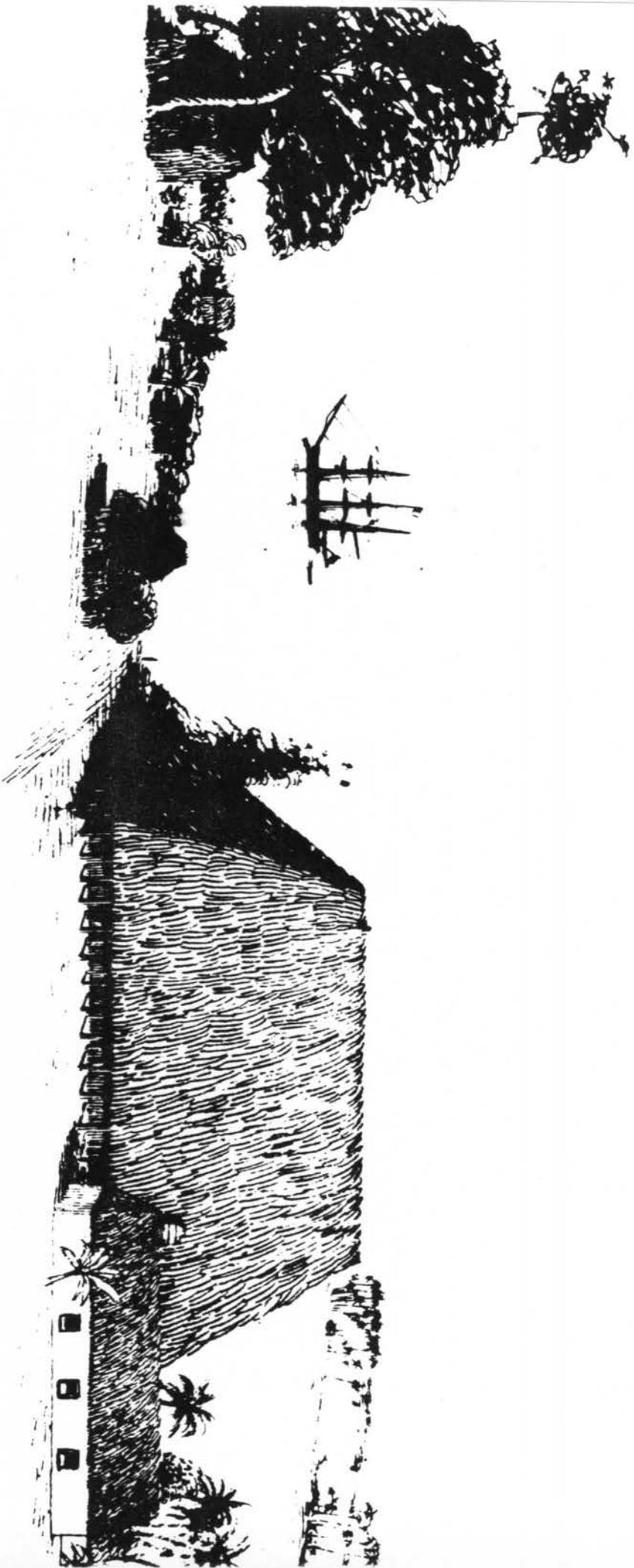
Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Haili Congregational Church
street & number 211 Haili Street telephone _____
city or town Hilo state HI zip code 96720

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



HAILI CHURCH & MISSION HOUSE IN 1849
REDRAWN FROM SKETCH BY W.D. ALEXANDER
BY S. HIRONAKA - 1926



THE HAILI CHURCH

Ua Laa No Iehova

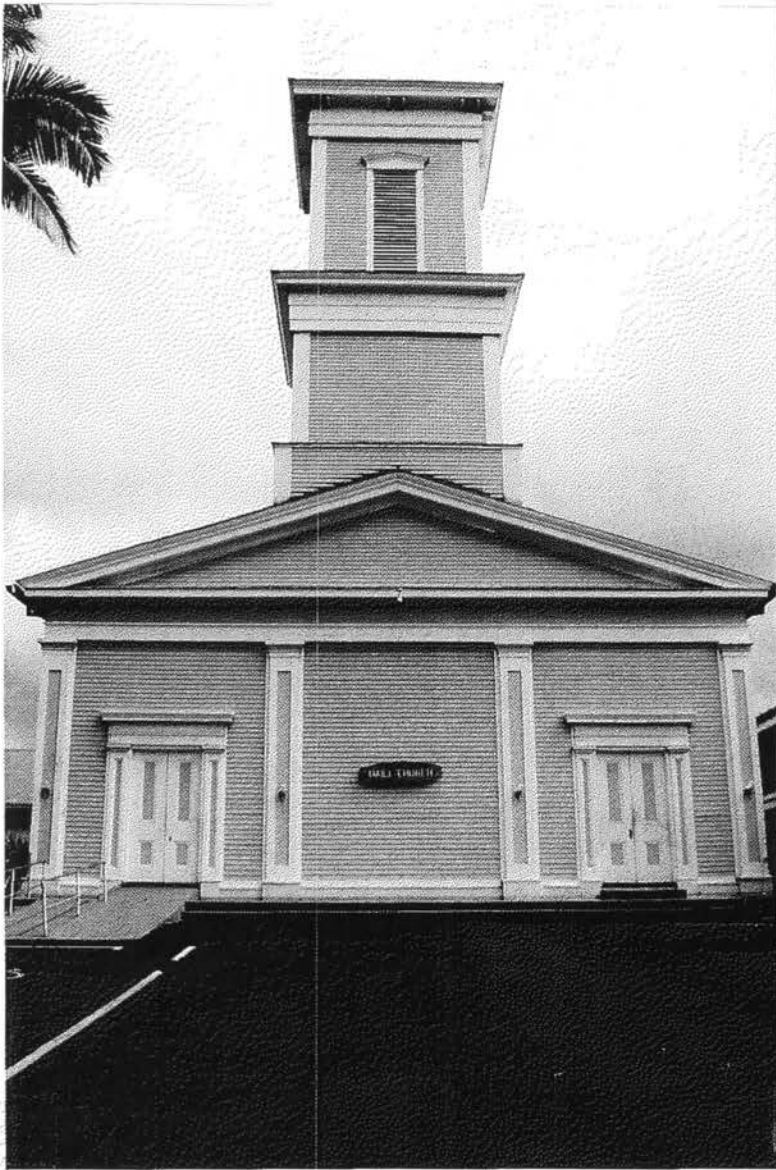
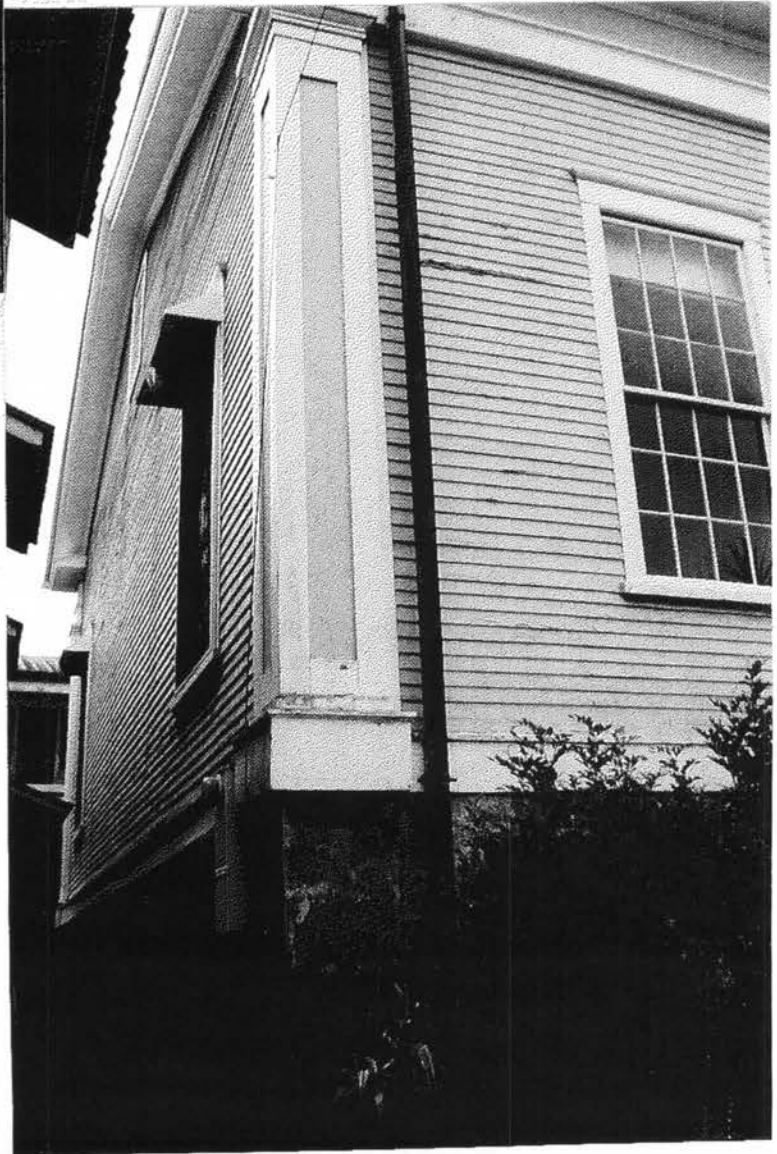


PHOTO OF HAILI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
TAKEN LAST WEEK

REAR OF HAILI CHURCH



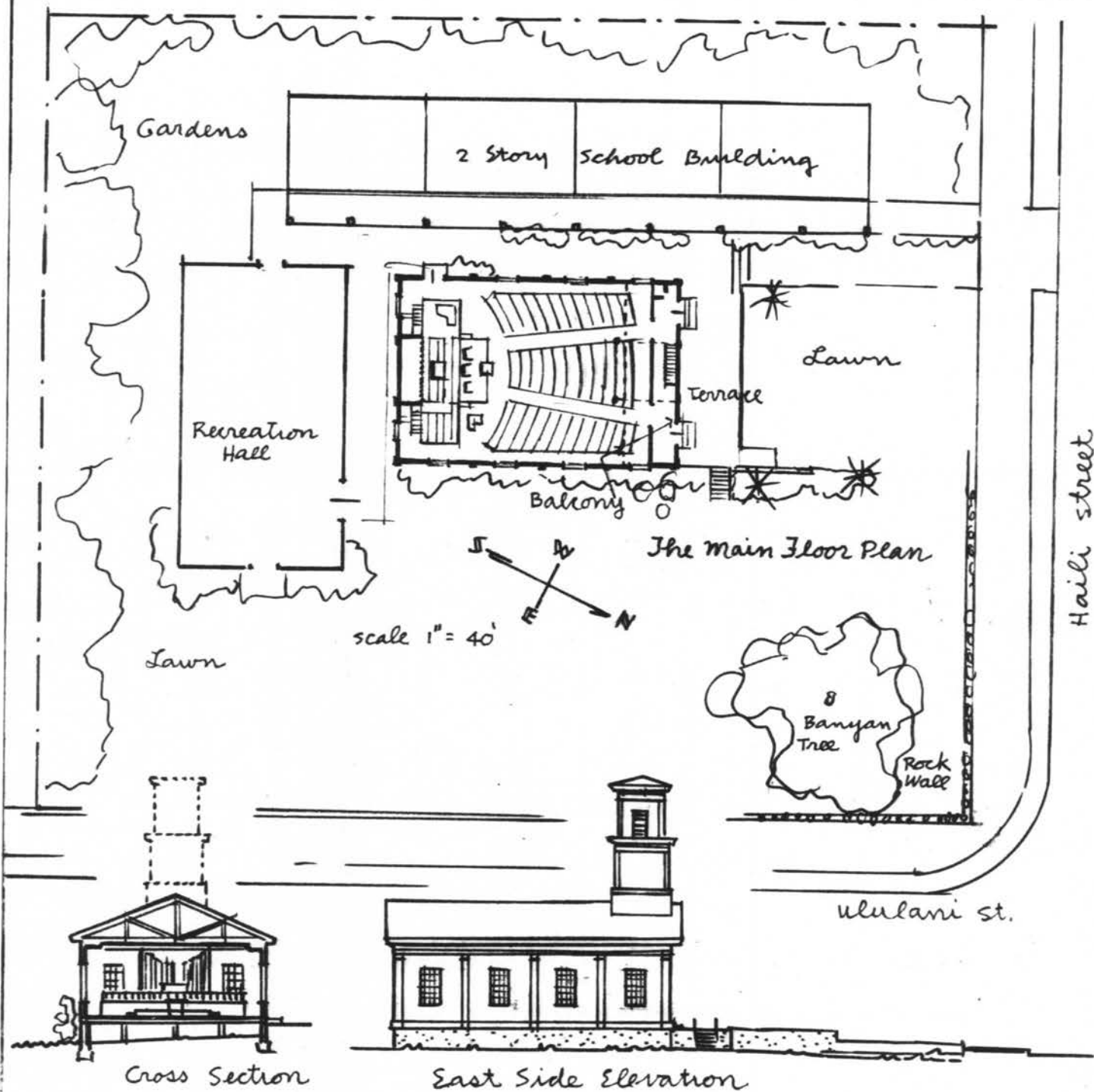
UNVEILED
JUNE 28, 1908
IN MEMORY OF
TITUS COAN
BY CHURCH
MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS
OF CHURCH
SELECTED BY
TIFFANY
GALLERIES
IN NEW YORK



HAWAII REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

HISTORICAL SITES INFORMATION AND REVIEW FORM---CONTINUATION SHEET

Please note subject heading (Statement of Significance, etc.; use separate sheet for each heading).



• HAILI CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH •
HILO • HAWAII.

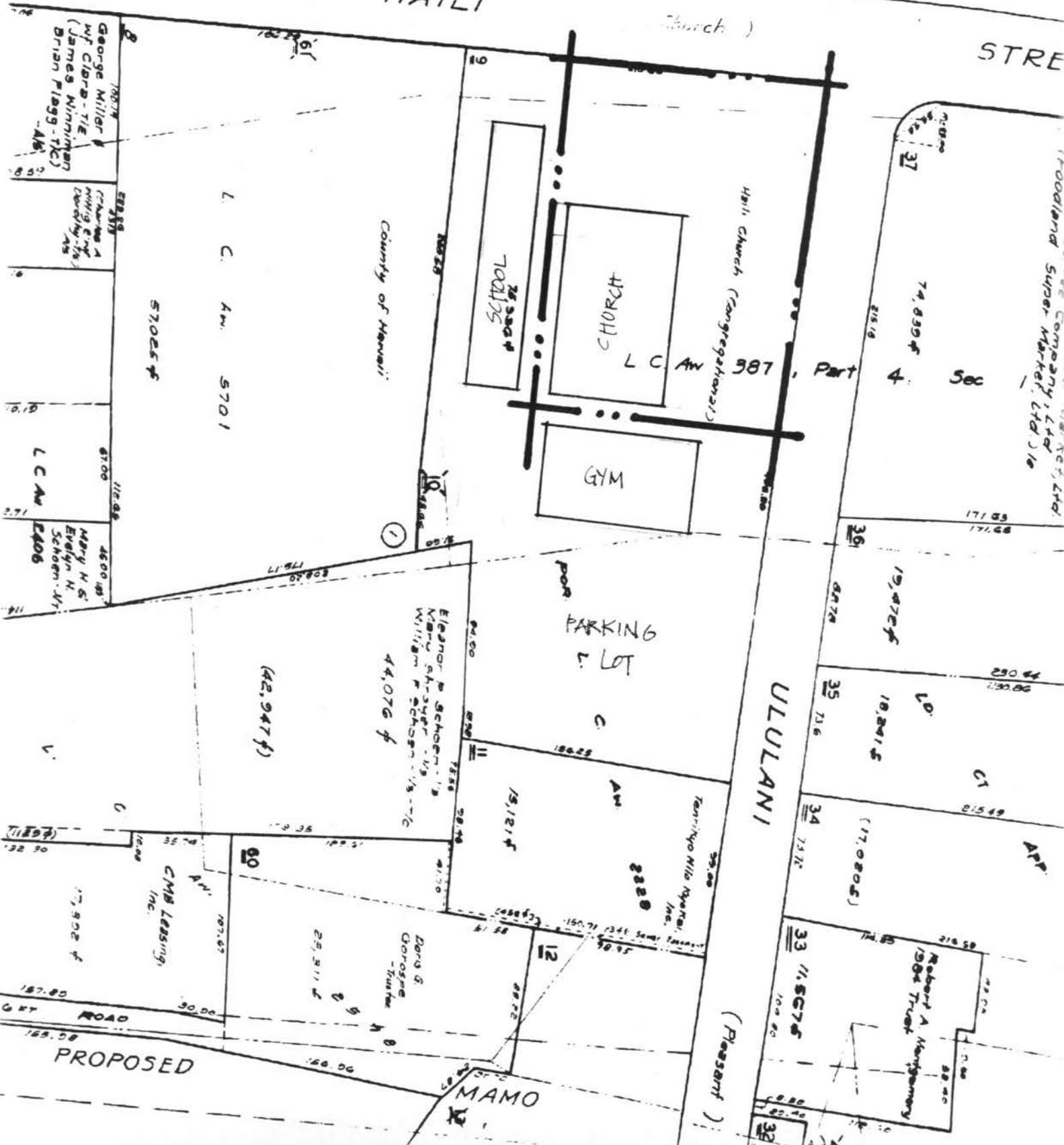
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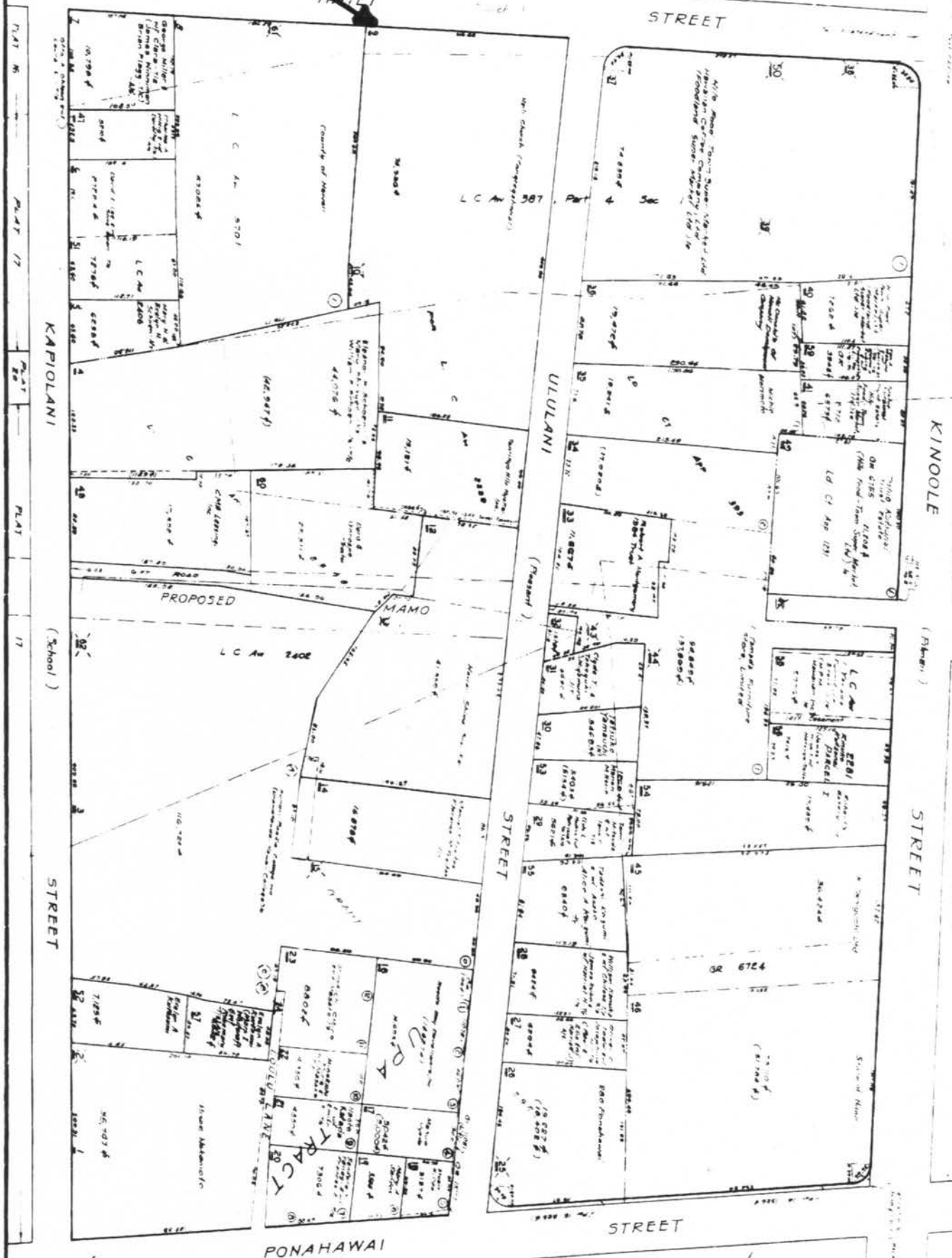
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Bureau
Dpt

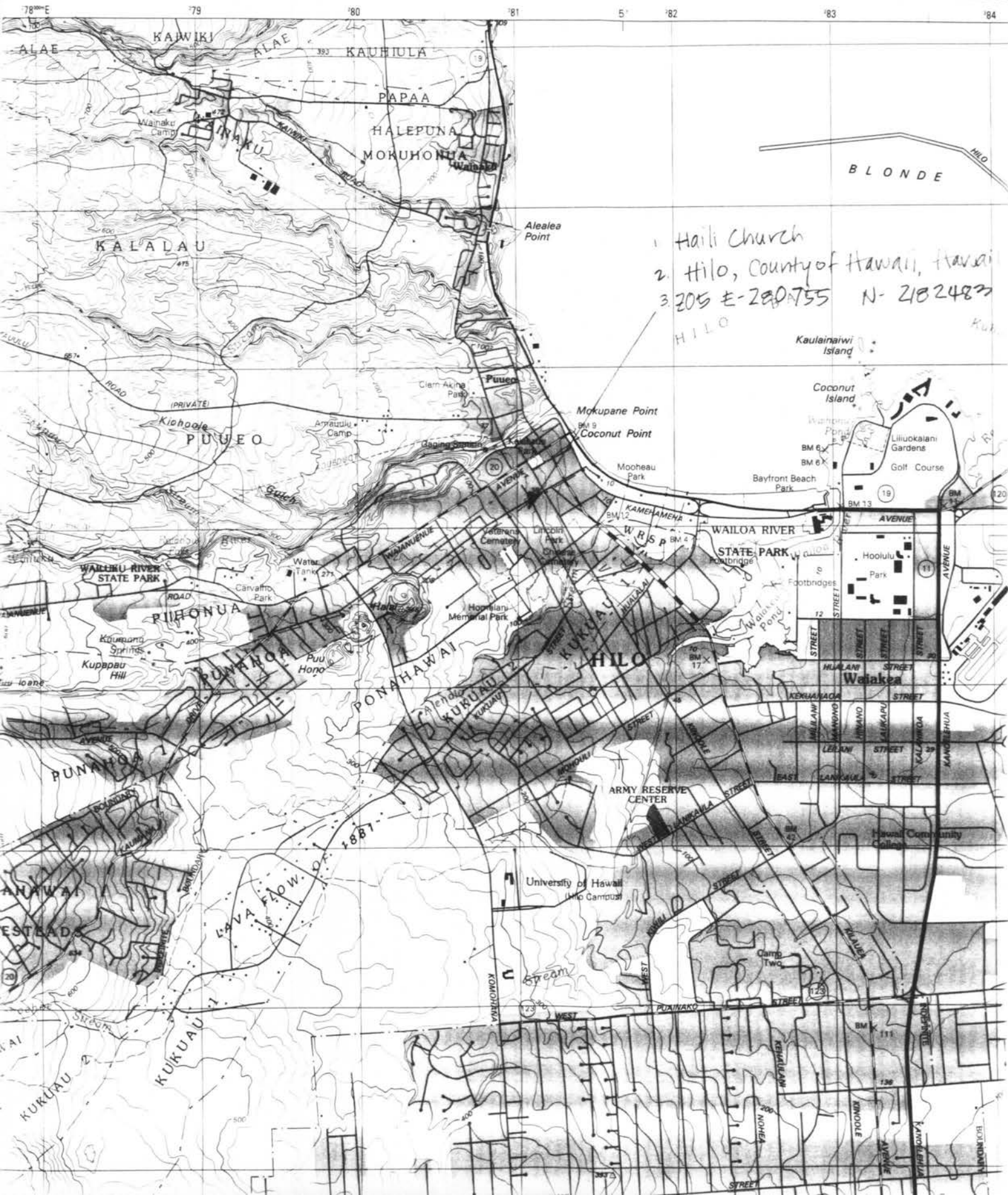
PLATE 13

HAILI

STRE







1. Haili Church
 2. Hilo, County of Hawaii, Hawaii
 3. 205 E-280-755 N-2182483
 HILLO

