

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

[553 South King Street, Honolulu HI 96813](#)

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives preserves the heritage and interprets the stories of the American Protestant Missionaries, their descendants, and their relationships with the people and cultures of Hawai'i. The site includes three of the oldest buildings in the Hawaiian Islands: the Frame Houses (1821), Chamberlain House (1831) and the Printing Office (1841). The site is part of the Kawaiaha'o Church and Mission Houses National Historic Landmark, which was designated in 1962.

Check current hours, admission fees and café information at <http://missionhouses.org/>

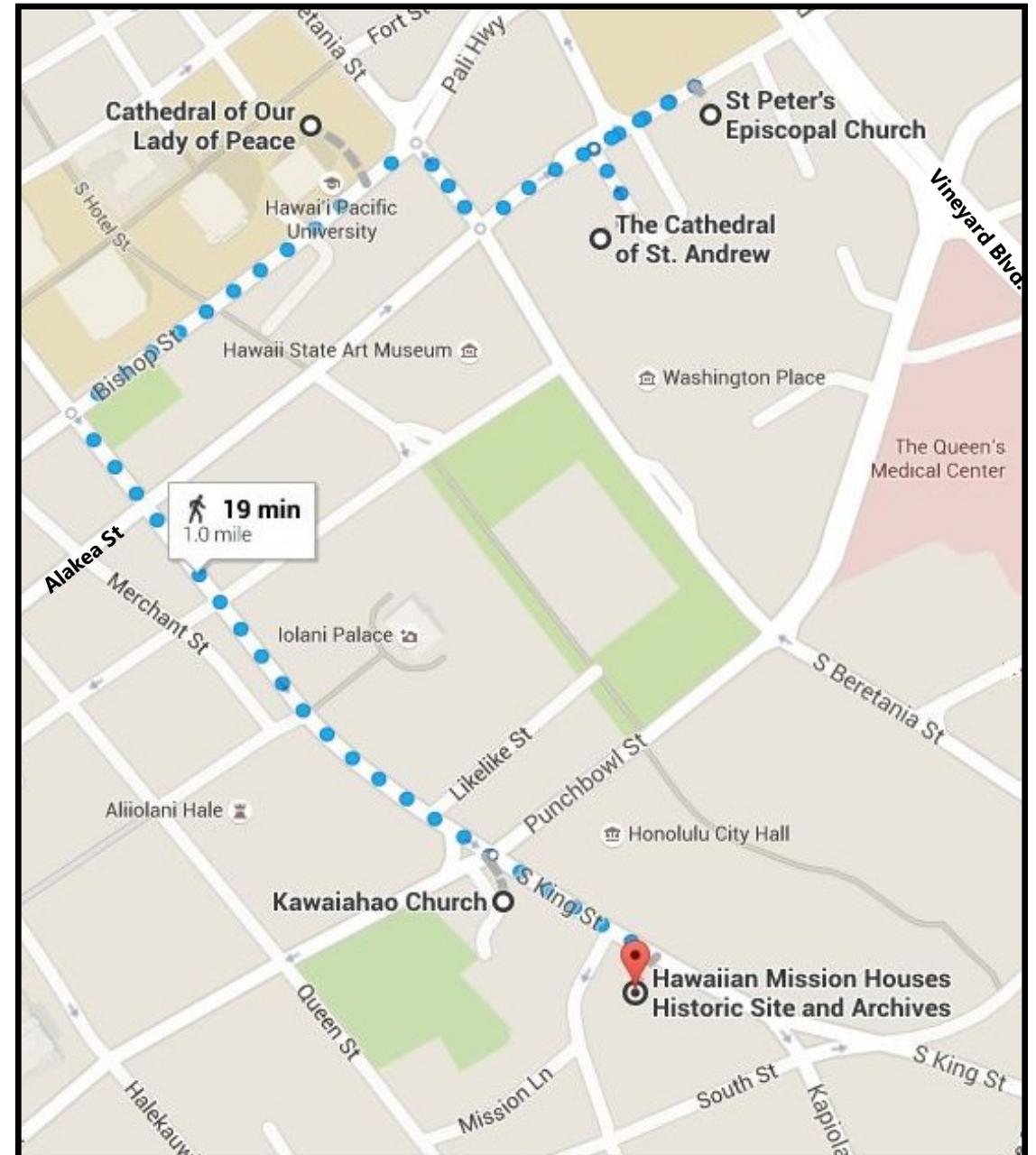


**HISTORIC
HAWAII
FOUNDATION**
www.HistoricHawaii.org

Downtown Honolulu Historic Churches Walking Tour

- ◆ The Cathedral of Saint Andrew
- ◆ Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
- ◆ Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace
- ◆ Kawaiaha'o Church

MAP



The Cathedral of Saint Andrew

224 Queen Emma Square, Honolulu

King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma were responsible for bringing the Anglican Church to Hawai'i. The King and Queen founded the Cathedral grounds on part of their royal garden. The first services of the church were held on October 12, 1862, amidst a time

of mourning for the King and Queen's only son, Prince Albert Edward Kauikeaouli Kaleiopapa a Kamehameha.

Built in the French Gothic architectural style, the Cathedral was shipped in several pre-fabricated pieces from England. The Cathedral contains a rusticated stone cathedral covered by a gable roof with intersecting shed roofs that has Gothic arch clerestory windows, stained glass windows with steel mullions, and a tower with four octagonal columns, as well as a cloistered hall containing associated vestry and meeting rooms. The interior features a central main aisle, two side aisles, a vaulted arch ceiling, stone columns decorated with classical and Hawaiian design motifs, and a bell tower.

In 2013 Davies Hall and adjacent Cloister received a Preservation Award for its restoration and repair.



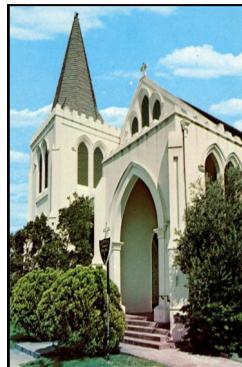
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

1317 Queen Emma Street, Honolulu

Built in 1914, the church is a masonry building rendered in the Gothic Revival style with subtle design modifications which reflect its Chinese congregation's heritage. It is characterized by its balanced but asymmetrical facade of three bays with a crenelated entry to the right, lanai and doorway in the center, and bell tower on the left. All openings are Gothic arched with drip stones. The interior of the church is basilica in plan.

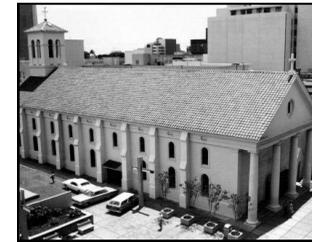
The church has an unusual entry. The center right entry steps do not lead directly to the doorway of the church, but instead to a wall. This may be reflective of traditional Chinese belief in feng shui, and the need for a spirit screen to avoid direct entry to a building by evil spirits.

St. Peter's is also significant for its associations with the Chinese in Hawai'i, and reflects their acculturation to western influences in Hawai'i. The beginnings of St. Peter's Church go back to the establishment of St. Paul's Church on Hawai'i Island in 1884. This was the first of Hawai'i's Anglican missions, and it was established to meet the needs of Christian Chinese sugar plantation workers in Kohala. A number of these workers migrated to Honolulu, and on September 19, 1886, they gathered in a store on Liliha Street to hold Sunday services. This was the start of Saint Peter's Church.



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

1183 Fort Street, Honolulu



Our Lady of Peace Cathedral is a simple rectangular plan. Construction began in 1840 and was

completed in 1843. The street front is divided into three bays by large Doric columns, accentuating the Roman design of the building. The foundations of the building are coral rock, as are the exterior walls of the entire building. Volunteers harvested blocks of coral from the same reef used in the construction of Kawaiaha'o Church the previous year.

The Cathedral is also a symbol of the Catholic Church's final acceptance in Hawai'i. The American Protestant missionaries arrived in Hawai'i in 1820, but the French Catholic priests did not come until 1828. Upon their arrival, they were granted "a piece of land in the neighborhood of the port" in Honolulu by King Kamehameha III. A chapel was built, but before more elaborate plans could be made, the Catholics were driven out of Honolulu at the insistence of the Protestant missionaries. In 1839, Kamehameha III declared religious toleration in Hawai'i and the Catholic priests returned soon after with plans for a larger church.

Our Lady of Peace is one of the oldest remaining buildings in Hawai'i and is a reminder of the religious struggles that took place in the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Kawaiaha'o Church

553 South King Street, Honolulu

Kawaiaha'o Church symbolizes the work of the Protestant missionaries in the Islands and stands as the first Christian church built on O'ahu. In 1820, the first missionaries arrived in Hawai'i. Reverend Hiram Bingham and his missionary party were granted land at Kawaiaha'o for the purpose of establishing their residence, and thatched houses were erected by local labor on orders of King Kamehameha III. Made of native materials, a thatched structure lined with mats was the first sanctuary and could seat 300 people.

In 1838, the digging of Kawaiaha'o's foundation began. It was no minuscule task. As many as a thousand people assembled on the grounds of Kawaiaha'o to dig down to bedrock to ensure the best footing for their cathedral. The "Stone Church," as it came to be known, was in fact not built of stone, but of giant slabs of coral hewn from ocean reefs. These slabs were not easily accessible and had to be quarried from under water and transported. Each weighed more than 1,000 pounds.

The Church also serves as the scene for a number of important state events, and it was for a number of years the place of the annual meetings of the American mission.

