

### 67 Honokaa Hongwanji Mission

Although substantial Japanese immigration dates from 1885, the first Buddhist clergy did not arrive until 1889. Initially services were held in private homes by itinerant ministers. In 1905, the Reverend Kagetsu Shibata of the Jodo Shinshu Sect (Hongwanji) took up residency in Honokaa and was able to erect a permanent temple building. Before WWII, the grounds included a judo hall and Japanese language school. During WWII, the Reverend Giko Tsuge (the longest serving sensei from 1934-1959) was interned on the mainland. After he returned he oversaw the present sanctuary building (1951) designed in an international style to reflect the universality of Buddhism. The temple sanctuary is usually open, so walk inside and reflect.



Yamasa Collection, NHERC

### 68 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

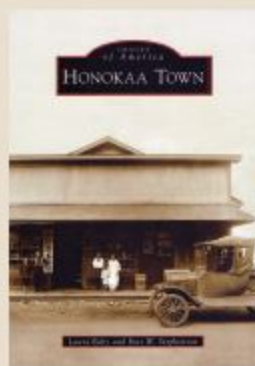
The first permanent Catholic Church in Honokaa was known as St. Georges. Father Paul Raulin, who arrived in 1882 and remained at Honokaa for 36 years, was fluent in both Hawaiian and Portuguese in order to converse with his parishioners. After the turn of the century, a larger parcel was acquired on the Waipio-side of Lehua for a new church. This second building was a wooden, yet Gothic inspired, structure with buttresses and named the Church of the Immaculate Conception. In 1927 the present Our Lady of Lourdes church was constructed further *makai*, copying the arched window and tower details of its immediate predecessor. The church is usually open, so walk inside and be bathed in the serene blue light.

### 72 St. Georges Cemetery

The original Catholic Church and Cemetery, St. Georges, was part of a much larger land grant from the Royal Hawaiian Government to George Hardy. Hardy, a ship carpenter born in Cornwall, England, had traveled to the European continent, Middle East, Mexico, New Orleans, and California, before settling in Hawaii. Before his passing, Hardy built his own mausoleum and coffin. Buried near him are other early Catholic pioneers, including a contingent of Portuguese. Walk past the gate, along the short gravel pathway, to this peaceful, quiet cemetery and view of the town and ocean.

### 73 North Hawaii Education and Research Center (NHERC) Heritage Center

The Heritage Center contains photographs, documents, artifacts, musical recordings, oral histories and theme displays illustrating Honokaa's history.



Historic Honokaa Town Project

Book: *Honokaa Town* (available at stores in Honokaa)

Website: [www.historichonokaatownproject.com](http://www.historichonokaatownproject.com)

Also: 38 South Judd Street, Unit 24B

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# HISTORIC HONOKAA TOWN Map



Honokaa People's Theatre, c. 1930  
Ruis/Botelho Collection, NHERC



## Historic Honokaa Town, Hawaii

Walk down Mamanē Street, the heart of Honokaa Town, and step back into the late 19th and early 20th century. Honokaa's single-wall, wooden plantation-era buildings are as much a symbol of Hawaii to local people as Diamond Head is to tourists. The commercial buildings have their emblematic false fronts and *totan* (corrugated iron) cladding. They contained, and still contain, mom-and-pop businesses that were founded upon personal relationships, required the labor of whole families, and provided for the education of the next generation. The small size of the town encouraged cross-pollination of peoples. Sugar workers, *paniolo* (cowboys), coffee farmers, and homesteaders all came to Honokaa.

### MAKAI SIDE OF MAMANE STREET

#### 5 Katsu Goto Memorial

Katsu Goto arrived on the *City of Tokio* in 1885, working first for Paahau Plantation before organizing his own business in Honokaa. As immigrants tended to patronize retail firms operated by their own ethnic group, the establishment of a Japanese store was very popular with the large numbers of Japanese plantation laborers then arriving. Goto's English language skills and knowledge of Western business and labor practices made him a leader in dealing with plantation management. In 1889, Goto was kidnapped and then murdered on his way back from a nocturnal meeting with immigrant laborers; his body was found the next morning hanging from a telephone pole. This Memorial marks the approximate spot where he was found.



Kenji Kobayashi, 1961, Jodo Mission

#### 8 Fujino Building

Matsujiro Fujino emigrated from Hiroshima, Japan, in 1906. His wife, Kise, arrived in 1907. By 1923, he was dealing in general merchandise, including dry goods, groceries, tobacco and cold drinks. In 1925, he purchased this parcel from entrepreneur and Honokaa Theatre owner Man'ki Harunaga. Three structures were built on the property: a front commercial building, a residence with basement, and a *totan* carport. Daughter Takeko opened Takeko's Beauty Salon in the Fujino Building in 1939. The Fujino Store closed in 1957, its space first occupied by Margaret's Kitchen and then C.C. Jon's Restaurant. There is a small pond in the courtyard, a luxury in the early 20th century. And, if the *makai* (to the seaward) room is open, view the *tokonoma* (a focal-point alcove featuring seasonal flower arrangement and scroll).



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#### 10 Dr. Okada Hospital

Although the plantation suffered free medical care to

employees, language and cultural barriers led to the establishment of at least 11 Japanese hospitals throughout the islands during the early Territorial period. Dr. Okada's 12-bed hospital contained an operating room, laboratory, x-ray room and nursery. Here patrons could converse in their native tongue, expect traditional Japanese fare, and family members could remain overnight with the patient. Over time, the Okada Hospital took in patients from all ethnic groups. The hospital was in operation until 1956. Note the rounded reception window in the lanai entrance.

#### 14 Ujiki Building

Four generations of Ujiki have lived on this property. Masajiro Ujiki arrived in 1898, married Momoyo Ninaidani, also from Japan, and established the store. Sons Takeshi and Masao inherited the business and operated it with the aid of their wives and children. Increasingly, however, offspring opted for more academically advanced careers, and the store closed in 1989. The property contains five buildings from three different periods, reflecting the increasing prosperity of the Ujiki family. The Waipio-side commercial structure and carriage date from 1915; the Hilo-side commercial structure, "feed-room," and house from 1934; and the *totan* carport from 1955.



Ujiki Family Collection

#### 17 Hotel Honokaa Club

Originating in 1912, this was one of the last of many Japanese family-owned and operated hotels in the islands. It received its unusual name because it was both a place to stay and a place to play. The complex served as a home to bachelor plantation workers, a temporary headquarters for "drummers" (traveling salesmen), and reasonable-cost lodging for visitors. Laurence Rockefeller, developer of the Kona-side Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, was known to drive down from Waimea to Honokaa to enjoy its famous lobster dinners. Enter the hotel and see the enclosed courtyard and further *makai* the spectacular view of the ocean.

#### 18 First Bank of Hilo

Small towns were usually capital-short for expansion. In 1910, the First Bank of Hilo established a branch in this building, then located on leased land from the estate of *alii* (chiefly-class) and Sheriff of Hawaii, John T. Baker (the man who was the model for the statue of Kamehameha I in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Hall of Statues in Washington D.C.). When the Bank of Hawaii acquired First Bank of Hilo in 1922, it began planning a more formidable structure. The original wooden bank building was moved in 1927 by Manuel Botelho to the present site, which since then has housed apartments and numerous retail businesses.

#### 19 M.S. Botelho Building

Manuel Botelho had received a legal education on the U.S. mainland and returned home to Hawaii. An entrepreneur, he recognized in the 1920s that the automobile



Ujiki Family Collection

would bring prosperity; after opening a small garage in Honokaa, he erected this two-story complex in 1927 to house a larger garage and an automobile dealership. While the garage and dealership eventually closed, Botelho went on to become a judge. His building has since held a USO dance hall, beauty salons, an appliance store, insurance agencies, art galleries, the post office, draft board, gift and collectibles, and once even a psychiatric Stop in the Honokaa Trading Company and see the overhead pulley that moved the automobiles in the garage. Also notice the very wide planks that make up the floorboards.

#### 21 Bank of Hawaii

Chartered in 1897 on Oahu, the Bank of Hawaii entered Big Island markets in 1922, acquiring branches in Hilo, Honokaa, Kohala, Kealahou and Kau through a merger with First Bank of Hilo. The present 1927 structure typifies the Mediterranean/California influenced architecture of substantial public buildings of the Territorial period, such as the Armed Forces YMCA, Hawaiian Electric Company, and Federal Building in Honolulu.

#### 22 Honokaa People's Theatre

Constructed in 1930 by Hasezo Tanimoto, a Japanese-American entrepreneur who established four other theaters in the Hamakua District. At the height of the silver screen era, the theater was packed regularly with Hollywood, Japanese, Portuguese, Filipino and Spanish language films. The theatre has also added a strong lineup of live Hawaiian music and hula along with performances by well-known mainland artists. Walk inside the lobby and poke your head through the curtains to see the theater in all its grandeur.



Kenji Kobayashi Collection, North Hawaii Education Board of Geology

#### 24 Honokaa Marketplace/former Honokaa, Kuramitsu, Paiva Garages

One of the oldest buildings in Honokaa, it appears on the 1914 Sanborn Insurance Company map as a Japanese theater. Japanese community leader B.U. Kuramitsu was proprietor of the Honokaa Garage in this building in 1923. He was responsible for a monument ironically erected a few months prior to the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor at the Japanese Cemetery in memory of "unknown pioneers" and President of the Honokaa Hongwanji Mission Kyodan from 1948-52. Kuramitsu sold the garage to Portuguese descendent Alfred Paiva, in 1958. Walk partway down the driveway and discover the old metal buggy spring recycled as rebar in the foundation of the building.

#### 25 Yamatsuka Building

Teiji Yamatsuka immigrated to Hawaii from Japan in 1908. Initially employed as a salesman in a dry-goods store, he eventually became vice president of the large general merchandiser Hamakua Shokwai. Teiji Yamatsuka also branched into real estate, purchasing and subdividing former sugar cane lands *makai* of Mamanē Street. In 1936 he opened his own Yamatsuka Store selling dry goods, candies, and hardware.



### 27 Awong Store (Credit Union)

This is arguably the oldest building in Honokaa and has housed a long line of general store proprietors. Originally the W.H. Holmes Store, property records show a lease dated February 13, 1882.



Russ/Bonnie Family Collection; inset, NHERC

Subsequent store operators included A.I. Moses, W.G. Lawson and Alfred Awong. Portions of the building were also used as a horse stable until the 1920s and a bar for Marines from nearby Camp Tarawa during WWII. The building was acquired by the Honokaa Community Credit Union in 1968.

### 30 Kotake Building

Kamekichi Kotake found initial employment on the Hamakua Ditch in Kohala and the railroad in Laupahoehoe before moving with wife Mika Chayama Kotake in 1907 to Honokaa. He did carpentry work and she both took in laundry and operated a noodle shop. In 1930 they were able to purchase the present Kotake Building, where they operated a general retail store. Goods sold included basic dry goods, groceries, some Japanese wares (primarily kimono and fabric prints), and pastries. The store was known for their exceptional shave ice. Go *makai* on the wood walkway and see how the residences were constructed on the *makai* side of Mamane Street.

### 31 Andrade Building

John Jose Andrade owned a cattle ranch, slaughter house, and meat market. His building, erected in 1924, has housed the Honokaa Café, the Andrade Hotel, dance hall, Fernandez tailor shop and the Ohia Lanai. The Ohia Lanai was the birthplace of the Hawaii Saddle Club. Today, horse racing and other rodeo activities are held at the nearby Rose Andrade Correia Stadium, named for a member of the family.

### 32 B. Ikeuchi and Sons (True Value Hardware)

This is the oldest continually run family business in Honokaa. Hidekichi Ikeuchi immigrated from Japan in 1906 and his son Bunso in 1912. Both worked on this site for the Chinese-owned Kwong Yee Chock Company. Bunso subsequently was employed by Lam Chew Moon, who got the lease from Chock. Bunso bought the business himself "lock, stock and barrel" at the Lam Chew estate sale in 1926. Bunso was listed in the census under "tinsmith," "plumber," and "hardware."

Ikeuchi's retains the feel of an old fashioned hardware store. Stop in and look at the special nuts and bolts drawers.



Ikeuchi Family Collection

### 55 Lower Hamakua Ditch

Since sugar is a "thirsty" crop, irrigation is a necessity. In 1904, two irrigation systems were proposed from the Kohala Mountains to the sugar cane fields—the Upper and Lower Hamakua Ditches, 23 and 24

miles in length, respectively. The Upper Ditch was completed in 1907, the Lower Ditch in 1910. Each Ditch required extensive tunneling, as well as ditch digging undertaken by crews of Japanese, Native Hawaiians, Koreans, and Chinese. Only the Lower Ditch remains in operation. Walk or drive down Lehua Street, Maile Street, or Honokaa-Waipio Road-Mamane Street at Kia Manu to see this refreshing sight.

### 62 ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union) Hall

During the Territorial Era, five large local companies gained control of Hawaii's lucrative sugar industry and with that, economic, social, and political control of the islands. This set the stage for plantation labor unrest. While strikes were originally organized by individual ethnic groups, it became increasingly apparent that only island-wide, multi-ethnic labor organizing would effect change. Simultaneously, labor organizers began coordinating their efforts on both the plantations and harbors. Violent clashes occurred at Hanapepe, Kauai in 1924 and Hilo in 1938. Strike actions were undertaken between 1946-49 before success led to improvements in medical programs, sick leave, wages, and housing. The union building is named for well-known labor leader Jack Wayne Hall. This is one of the largest remaining World War II era Quonset Huts in Hawaii. Look through the windows and see the full-size basketball court.



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### MAUKA SIDE OF MAMANE STREET

#### 33 Antone Luce Ferreira Building

This was the site of a country store owned by A.S. Cleghorn, the father of Princess Kaiulani, heir to the Hawaiian throne at the time of the overthrow in 1893. Japanese carpenter Kiyochi Irie erected the present building in 1927. Irie's friend, Antone Luce Ferreira, purchased the building in 1929 and it has remained in the family since, housing generations of small businesses.



Sara Historic Preservation Division; inset, LR

#### 38 Hasegawa Building

Seishiro Hasegawa, a confectioner from Japan, immigrated in 1907. Hasegawa began his business in Hawaii working for others before purchasing a horse he appropriately named Candy Girl to take him to distant plantation camps where he could sell his candy. (Candy Girl also won a number of the community horse races regularly held just outside the store.) By 1926, Seishiro was financially able to rent space in the Holmes Building, where he expanded his line of candies and treats and added other retail products. By 1937, he had constructed the new Hasegawa Store building, expanding it further in subsequent years. Always an entrepreneur, Hasegawa was known for his determination to meet customer requests even for items not in his regular stock of goods. Looking at the outside of the

building from either driveway see if you can discern the four levels for commercial activities and for residence.

#### 39 Sakata Building

This parcel is historically significant in three ways. The front building is one of the oldest commercial structures in town, appearing on the 1914 Sanborn Insurance Company map. It has housed numerous small retail operations including sewing machine sales, soda fountains, pool halls, and general stores. The *mauka* (to the mountains) middle building was the site of the Sakata Art Studio, where generations of school children and families in the community came to record themselves. Until 1921, the back of the property accommodated Dr. Koshiro Tofukuji's Hospital. The property was seized by the United States Government as war reparations after WWII as Dr. Tofukuji was a Japanese national. The commercial building conforms to the bend in the street to make maximum use of the space.



Miyoko Hasegawa Mausu Collection; inset, SHPD

#### 43 Methodist/Congregational Church

Religious conversion is a long-standing tradition in Hawaii, starting with the arrival of Congregational missionaries in 1820. Evangelism was similarly directed at the thousands of immigrant laborers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century living in plantation camps. This chapel/meeting hall/library was erected by the Congregationalists in 1927. As population shifted again, the size of the congregation was reduced; local Methodists acquired this "carpenter gothic" structure designed by noted architect Hawaii Frank Arakawa in 1950. If open, go inside and experience the homey atmosphere especially the library complete with fireplace.



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#### 48 Former Rickard Residence and Hotel

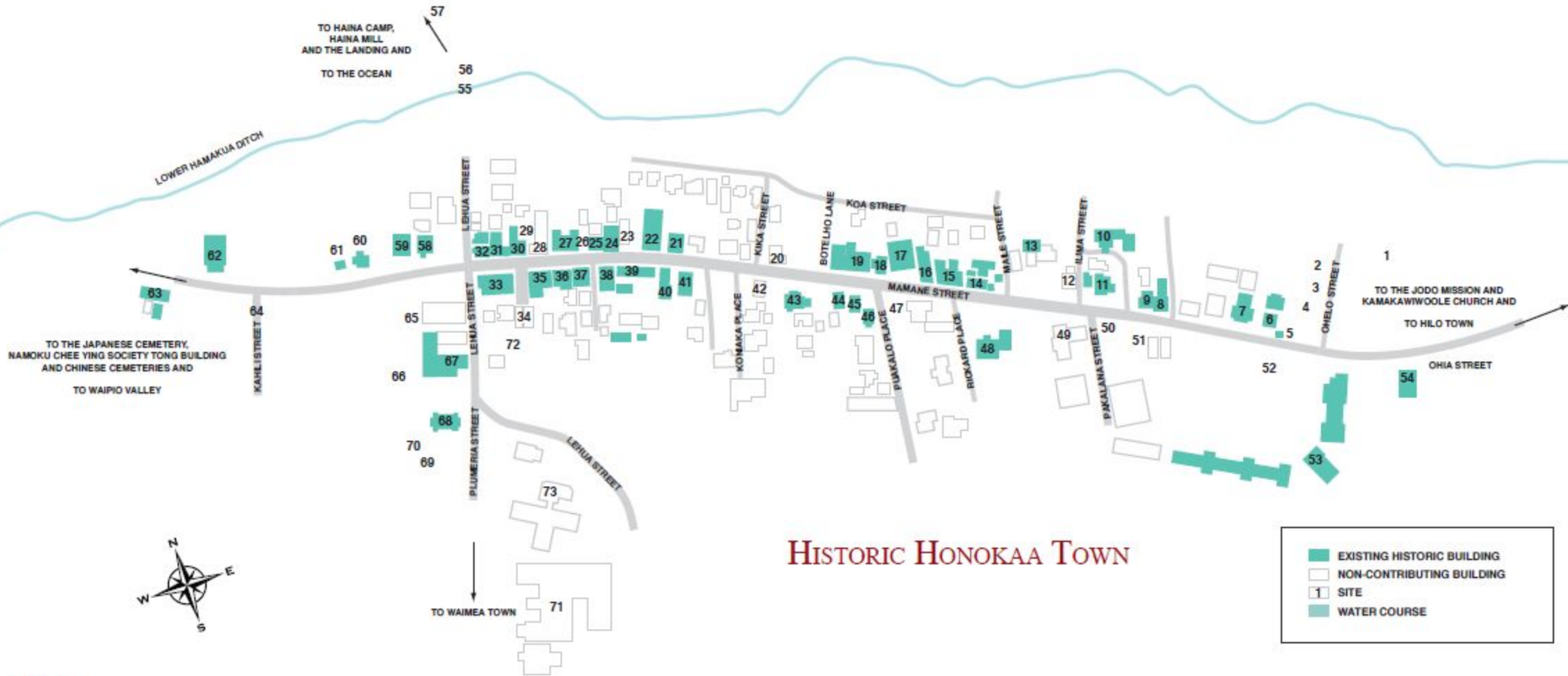
William H. Rickard arrived on the Big Island in 1869. He served as manager of the Honokaa Sugar Company, moving into this house in 1893. In 1895, Rickard was one of the leaders of an armed Counterrevolution to restore Queen Liliuokalani to the throne. The effort failed, Rickard was imprisoned on Oahu where he contracted tuberculosis. He died in 1899. The house became a "first class" hotel operated by Rickard's widow Nora until her death in 1944 at the age of 96, then by daughter Nellie Rickard Walker, until purchased by the Salvation Army in 1958.



NHERC



**Honokaa Town** is located on the Hamakua Coast of the Island of Hawaii in a *moku* (district) of the same name. Honokaa fronts two sides of an old government route to Waipio Valley known as Mamane Street. The town developed linearly along the arterial since it was first settled as a stage stop in the nineteenth century and its limits gradually extended across the *ahupuaa* (Hawaiian land divisions) of Koloaha, Kulihai, Lauka, Nienic, Papuaa, Namoku, Haina, Papanui, Paalaea, and Kalua. Honokaa takes its name from the sound of the sea nearby which, translated from the Hawaiian, means "rolling [as stones] bay."



## HISTORIC HONOKAA TOWN

### LEGEND

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overend Camp</li> <li>2. School grounds (1889)</li> <li>3. Anglican Cemetery (1886)</li> <li>4. Site of old Anglican Church</li> <li>5. Katsu Goto Memorial</li> <li>6. State Department of Health, mauka/Rat Laboratory/makai</li> <li>7. Hawaii State Library Honokaa Branch/District Court</li> <li>8. Fujino Building and residence</li> <li>9. Nakashima Building</li> <li>10. Dr. Okada Hospital and residence</li> <li>11. Dr. Akioka, D.D.S. Office and residence</li> <li>12. Site of Hawaiian Telephone Company exchange</li> <li>13. Shingon Mission</li> <li>14. Ujiki Store, Feed Store, two residences, and garage</li> <li>15. Yamato Department Store</li> <li>16. Harris Sanitary Laundry</li> <li>17. Hotel Honokaa Club</li> <li>18. Original First Bank of Hilo Ltd./Old Bank of Hawaii</li> <li>19. Botelho Building and Garage</li> <li>20. Site of Dairy Queen/site of Silva Dentist's office</li> <li>21. Bank of Hawaii</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Honokaa People's Theatre</li> <li>23. Site of Onomura Bar</li> <li>24. Honokaa Marketplace/former Honokaa, Kuramitsu, Paiva Garages</li> <li>25. T. Yamatsuka Building</li> <li>26. Original B. Ikeuchi Store</li> <li>27. HFS Federal Credit Union/Old Holmes, Lawson's, Awong Stores</li> <li>28. Site of Doc Hill Theatre</li> <li>29. Hirata Building</li> <li>30. Kotake Building</li> <li>31. Andrade Building</li> <li>32. B. Ikeuchi and Sons Hardware</li> <li>33. Ferreira Building</li> <li>34. Oshima/Nakamura Hotel</li> <li>35. Rice Building</li> <li>36. Souza Building</li> <li>37. Jesus Building</li> <li>38. Hasegawa Building</li> <li>39. Sakata Building</li> <li>40. Takata Building</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. Old Tanimoto Theatre/Harunaga, Honokaa Theatres</li> <li>42. Site of Honokaa Shokwai/site of Lindsey Store</li> <li>43. Methodist Church/former Congregationalist Church/site of Lindsey residence</li> <li>44. Paiva residence</li> <li>45. Rezentes residence</li> <li>46. Sakata residence</li> <li>47. Site of Bank of Hawaii cashier's home</li> <li>48. The Salvation Army/former Rickard Hotel and residence</li> <li>49. Honokaa High/Middle School/former site of Teacher's Cottages/Honokaa Elementary School/former site of Japanese School</li> <li>50. Pool/site of Japanese School</li> <li>51. Site of Courthouse, makai/Jail, mauka</li> <li>52. Site of Lyceum</li> <li>53. Honokaa High/Middle/Elementary Schools</li> <li>54. Paiva Woodworking Shop/former The Country Store/former Kato Store</li> <li>55. The Lower Hamakua Ditch</li> <li>56. Macadamia Nut Factory/Plantation Store</li> <li>57. Haina Camp/Haina Mill/Honokaa Landing</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>58. Fujimoto Flying A Super Service</li> <li>59. Nagao Coastline</li> <li>60. Kitagawa residence</li> <li>61. Igarashi residence</li> <li>62. International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Jack Wayne Hall</li> <li>63. K. Kaneshiro Store</li> <li>64. Site of Camp 8</li> <li>65. Site of Methodist Church</li> <li>66. Site of Shingon Buddhist Mission</li> <li>67. Honokaa Hongwanji Mission</li> <li>68. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church</li> <li>69. Catholic Cemetery</li> <li>70. Site of the Church of the Immaculate Conception</li> <li>71. Honokaa Hospital</li> <li>72. St. Georges Catholic and Botelho Family Cemeteries/site of St. Georges Church</li> <li>73. NHERC Heritage Center</li> </ul> |
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