
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2009



Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor
Center
Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

**Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscapes Inventory**

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park
Visitor Center**

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the CLI, including the management category and condition assessment as identified below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **B: Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Good**

Superintendent, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

9/23/09

Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
KAKUHIHEWA BUILDING, ROOM 555
801 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707

GILBERT S. GOLDMAN-AGARAN, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DEPUTIES
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MANAGEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
LAND
STATE PARKS

October 2, 2002

Ms. Geraldine Bell
Pu`uhonua o Honaunau
National Historical Park
P.O. Box 129
Honaunau, Hawaii 96726

LOG NO: 30809
DOC NO: 0209tm07
Architecture

Dear Ms. Bell:

SUBJECT: Pu`uhonua o Honaunau Visitor Center
Placement on the National Register of Historic Places

Thank you for transmitting the nomination for the Visitor Center buildings at Puuhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park. We concur with your determination that these structures meet the significance criteria of the NPS initiative "Mission 66." We are returning the nomination form with a few corrections. Generally, the National Register program would like to see the nomination go through the state Review Board, but this is not necessary for federal property. We would like a copy of the corrected nomination form if you choose to go directly to the National Register. If you choose to go through the state register process, please return the corrected nomination with a note indicating so and we will process the nomination form.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have further questions, please feel free to call Tonia Moy at (808)692-8030.

Aloha,

DON HIBBARD, Administrator
State Historic Preservation Division

TM:jk

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages 1
To Robin		From Tonia	
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone # 808 692-8030	
Fax # 510-817 1484		Fax #	

OCT - 3 2002

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

CLI General Information:

The Cultural Landscape Inventory Program

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

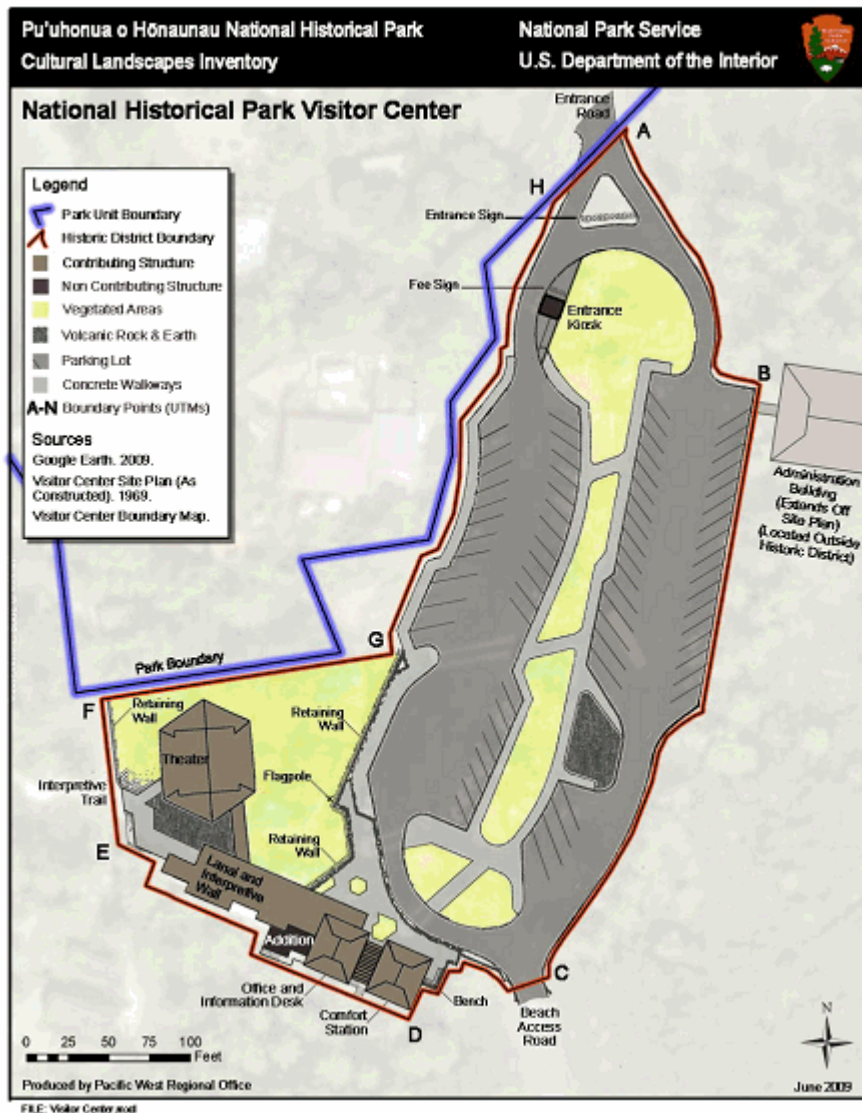
Inventory Unit Description:

The Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center (visitor center complex) is a mid-twentieth-century modern cluster of buildings and structures constructed primarily of wood frame and concrete, which were completed in 1968. The visitor center complex is located on the northern edge of the park boundary, which is on the western slope of Mauna Loa, where the 13,680-foot volcano flattens out in a westerly direction and passes beneath the sea. Located off of Highway 160, the visitor center complex includes a 84-vehicle parking lot with landscaped islands, a comfort station, office and information desk, lanai and interpretive wall, and a theater, which are all connected by a series of walkways, planters and benches. The visitor center complex assists the park in the interpretation of the ancient setting of Hōnaunau Bay and the Hawaiians' adaptation to their environment. Until 1819, vanquished Hawaiian warriors, noncombatants, and kapu breakers could escape death by reaching this sacred ground. The park includes ancient house sites, royal fishponds, coconut groves, and spectacular shore scenery.

In 2002, the visitor center complex was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the national level. It was determined eligible under Criterion A because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history under the National Park Service's Mission 66 program. Additionally, it was determined eligible under Criterion C because the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction under the National Park Service's use of modern architecture. The property is less than fifty years old, but it is eligible under Criterion Consideration G. The period of significance is 1967-1968. The SHPO concurred with this determination of eligibility on October 2, 2002.

The visitor center complex retains its integrity and conveys its historical significance as a planned development that displays the characteristics of Mission-66 era planning, design, and construction. The district has four contributing buildings and structures that date to the period of significance, as well as many landscape characteristics that contribute to the district's overall setting, feeling, and association. The historic character of the proposed district is reflected in the following landscape characteristics: natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, buildings and structures, circulation, and small-scale features. In addition to the buildings, other major contributing features include the parking lot, walkways, planters, vegetation, benches, and lava-rock retaining walls. While two small additions have been added to the back of the office building in order to accommodate the expanding needs of the park, the alterations are non-intrusive. The key characteristics that historically define the visitor center complex remain intact. Together, the landscape characteristics and associated features help to convey the design intent and aesthetic character of the property.

Site Plan



Existing Conditions Site Plan (2009)

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center

Produced by CLI Program, Pacific West Regional Office, Oakland.

(For a larger version see the Supplemental Information section.)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975502

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park -PUHO
Park Organization Code:	8280
Park Administrative Unit:	Puuhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI builds off of the 2002 SHPO consensus determination of eligibility (DOE) for the park's Visitor Center. In May of 2009, field work was conducted by Jason Biscombe and Vida Germano (PWR-Oakland) to update the existing conditions of the property. At the same time, Vida and Jason conducted archival research at the park to find documentation of the original vegetation for the Visitor Center. The CLI's findings were the same as the 2002 DOE, and as a result, the CLI did not require additional SHPO review and concurrence.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/23/2009
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	10/02/2002

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundary, as established in the 2002 Determination of Eligibility, is defined by the outer edges of the parking lot and walkways, and visitor center buildings. Beginning at the point where the park boundary intersects the eastern edge of the entrance road, the boundary follows the eastern edge of the parking lot. The boundary then crosses the beach access road at the gate and heads west to the edge of the paved walkway east of the comfort station. Then the boundary heads west along the southern edge of the visitor center complex of buildings. At the western end of the lanai, the boundary follows the outer edge of the walls enclosing the pedestrian rampway. Next, the boundary heads northward along the bottom of the ramp, continuing northward along the outer edge of the retaining wall until abutting the park boundary. The historic district boundary then heads east along the park boundary continuing in a straight line until intersecting the outer edge of the walkway along the outside of the western edge of the parking lot. From there, the district boundary heads northward along the outer edge of the walkway and then the outer edge of the entrance road until intersecting the park boundary. At the point of intersection, the historic district boundary heads northeast following the park boundary until reaching the starting point at the eastern edge of the entrance road.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the developed and landscaped areas associated with the visitor center complex construction in 1967-68. This Hawaii SHPO concurred with this boundary in the 2002 Determination of Eligibility.

State and County:

State: HI

County: Hawaii County

Size (Acres): 2.40

Boundary UTMS:

Source: GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 83
UTM Zone: 5
UTM Easting: 194,418
UTM Northing: 2,150,198
Boundary Datum Other: A

Source: GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 83
UTM Zone: 5
UTM Easting: 194,442
UTM Northing: 2,150,147
Boundary Datum Other: B

Source: GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 83
UTM Zone: 5
UTM Easting: 194,398
UTM Northing: 2,150,034
Boundary Datum Other: C

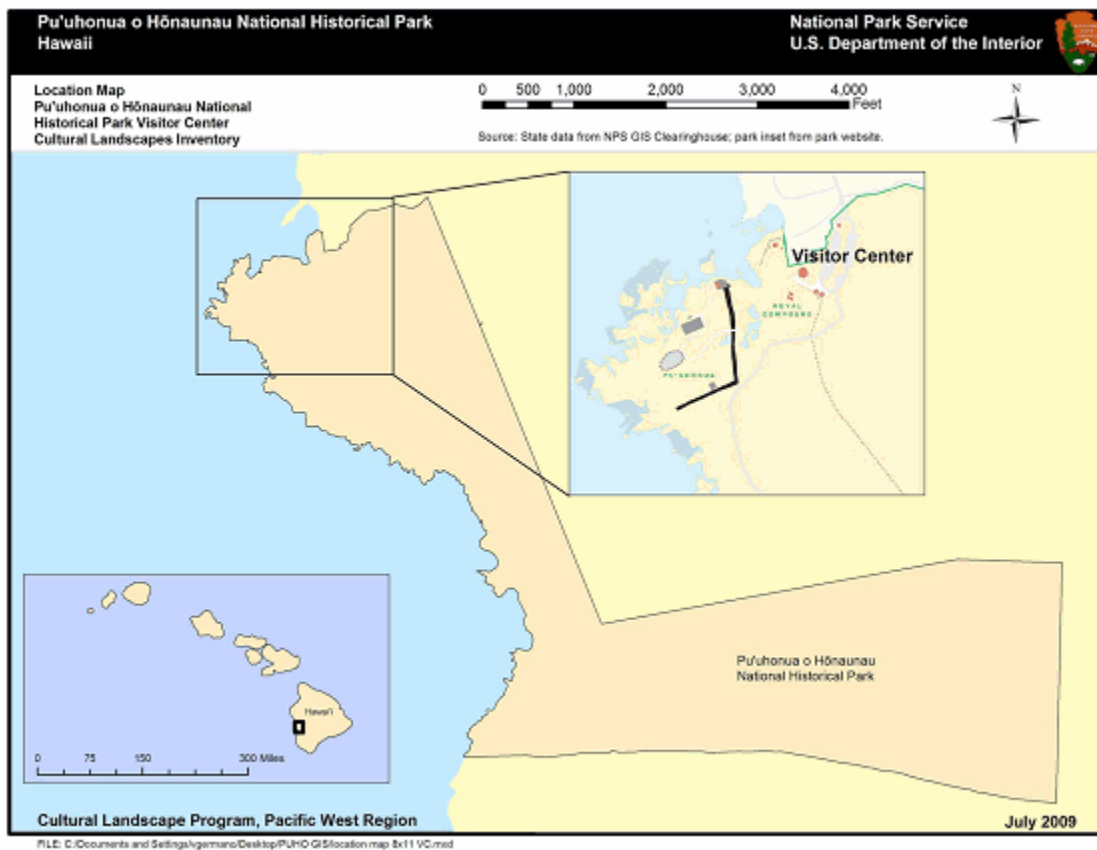
Source: GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point: Area
Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone:	5
UTM Easting:	194,371
UTM Northing:	2,150,025
Boundary Datum Other:	D
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	5
UTM Easting:	194,314
UTM Northing:	2,150,061
Boundary Datum Other:	E
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	5
UTM Easting:	194,316
UTM Northing:	2,150,087
Boundary Datum Other:	F
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	5
UTM Easting:	194,370
UTM Northing:	2,150,095
Boundary Datum Other:	G

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center
Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Area
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	5
UTM Easting:	194,407
UTM Northing:	2,150,092
Boundary Datum Other:	H

Location Map:



The Visitor Center is located in the northern section of the park.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 06/24/2009

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The National Historical Park Visitor Center falls under Category B: Should be Preserved and Maintained. The National Historical Park Visitor Center is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. This historic property is compatible with the park's legislative significance ("for the benefit and inspiration of the people"), and has a continuing purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center is located within the Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park National Register District (66000104). The district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 7, 1974. This documentation provided information on the full range of pre-contact and historic properties within the park. The documentation includes important features of the Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau which was the original seat of the chiefdom of Kona. Here the ruling chief and his court occupied the best dwelling areas at the head of Hōnaunau Bay. Other important resources are the City of Refuge itself, adjacent Palace Grounds, Royal Fishponds, holua slides, and the Hale o Keawe Heiau.

Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center was determined eligible for the National Register on October 2, 2002. The landscape was not fully documented in this determination of eligibility.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Contributing/Individual: Individual

National Register Classification: District

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criteria: C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Criteria Considerations: G -- A property less than 50 years of age

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Community Planning and Deve

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Statement of Significance:

The following is excerpted from the 2002 Determination of Eligibility:

The Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (the Mission 66 program) and Criterion C because the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction (National Park Service's use of modern architecture) [1]. The property is less than 50 years of age and is eligible under Criterion Consideration G because of it is an extraordinary example of a modern style visitor center in Hawaii.

The Polynesian inspired, open-air complex is oriented southeast to northwest on its site. The visitor center consists of three main pavilion-like buildings (comfort station, office/information desk, and theater) that are connected visually by the horizontal planes created by the uniformity of the buildings' height and rooflines. The three buildings are joined by a covered lanai that serves as the complex's main spine and its roof, together with an interpretive wall and dry moat, functions as a distinct structure. The theater is diagonally offset from the rest of the complex and is accessed by a covered bridge. The complex is built on compacted fill, and a raised lava rock and concrete foundation provides for recessed open spaces between the structures. Planting areas in the concrete terrace, as well as around the theater, were integrated into the complex's circulation system. Small-scale features such as retaining walls, curbs, built-in benches and a flagpole provide detail and diversity for both the functional needs and aesthetic concerns of the complex's design. The buildings are all painted a medium blue color and the interiors with a sky blue accent. The visitor center is notable for its clearly expressed design program, characterized by public spaces common to the Mission 66 (Parkscape) model for visitor centers, and for the simple forms developed by the National Park Service as a mid-century interpretation of local island architectural influences.

Criterion A

Under Criterion A, the property is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of American history. Specifically, the property is the physical embodiment of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program, which transformed the American National Park System to meet postwar conditions. A ten-year revitalization that began in 1956, the goal of the program was to restore and protect the nation's parks and monuments. To accomplish this goal, all services were centralized in a new multi-use facility, coined the visitor center. The only Mission 66 Visitor Center on the island of Hawai'i, the complex at Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park exemplifies the Mission 66 program objectives. This visitor center was a high profile project for the park, in part because it was associated with Hawaii's premier cultural park. Constructed in 1968-1969, the visitor center is the focal point of the park experience. The park visitor center was the central planning and design element of the Mission 66 program. The visitor center was the most significant architectural expression of National Park Service development in the postwar period and subsequently became the centerpiece of park planning of all types both nationally and abroad. The building was designed using newly established standards for visitor center design, and became an example of site design that drew inspiration from the park's resources.

Criterion C

Under NRHP Criterion C, the property also embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type. The Mission 66 Visitor Center constructed at Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is an example of modern architecture used in parks through the National Park Service. Architects drew upon regional influences and adapted modern architecture to each location using local materials. On the island of Hawai'i, they created a one-story complex that subtly conveyed the feeling of island architecture and blended harmoniously with the tropical setting of the Park. The interpretive exhibit represented a departure in concept and technique from previous NPS productions and was the result of collaborative efforts in exhibit and architectural planning [2]. The visitor center, at the same time, provided all of the visitor services essential to the Mission 66 program. The many significant, contributing site and landscape features of this complex include: the parking area and circulation, concrete terrace and walkways, the flagpole, raised planting beds and all of the associated lava rock walls.

The Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is a well-preserved example of a modern visitor center that fit into the Mission 66 planning for the park, and exhibits the following list of significant features that are characteristic of the modern style visitor center:

- The building is sited in relation to an overall plan of “visitor flow” in the park, near the park entrance and enroute to the main attractions of the Park.
- The building makes use of the formal vocabulary and materials of modern architecture, including flat roofs, exposed steel supports, concrete and concrete block construction.
- The building elevation create a low profile, horizontal effect.
- The circulation through the complex emphasizes “visitor flow” in terms of spatial organization—the covered walkway guides the visitor to various functions of the visitor center.
- The complex provides a central area to house many Park Service functions, including an information desk, interpretive exhibits and auditorium, administrative offices and public restrooms.
- The interiors and exteriors are closely integrated through the use of open walkways, terrace, lanai, and planters that connects each area within the complex.
- The buildings harmonize with their surroundings through their spatial arrangement, native/local materials, massing, color, and the incorporation of native and Polynesian vegetation in the planting beds.
- Native and non-native plantings were integrated into the plan of the complex via raised and recessed beds constructed of native materials in order to blend the interior and exterior of the buildings.
- Naturalistic planting are used to partially screen building, utility areas, and parking, as well as to repair areas disturbed in construction. Planter boxes are used to define entrances.
- Outdoor spaces and site work are used, including parking lots, paths, amphitheaters, terraces, and patios.

Historic Context

The following is excerpted from Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, DC: GPO, 2000):

The Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center is one of 107 visitor centers designed and built by the National Park Service under the Mission 66 program. Conrad Wirth, Director of the Park Service from 1951 to 1964, proposed the ten-year project to regenerate and modernize the National Parks in preparation for the fiftieth anniversary of the agency in 1966. The concept of the visitor center as a building type developed during Mission 66, as park administrators sought to re-conceptualize the form and function of outdated facilities from the 1930s, to better serve and educate the public. The new visitor center not only provided spaces for interpretive programs, offices and visitor services, it also symbolized a renaissance in the stewardship of the National Parks.

The development of the visitor center concept under Mission 66 changed the nature of public buildings in the National Parks. The forward-looking spirit of the program encompassed new interpretive goals and increased focus on public service. It also embraced a different aesthetic expression than the reserved, historicizing character favored during the previous building period in the parks. Mission 66 buildings conveyed a bolder, modernist aesthetic to entice visitors. Prominently sited at a major entry or other strategic point, the buildings became an instantly recognized feature of the parks, signifying public service and affording a range of amenities. Modern materials and design characterized the new park architecture, with open interior spaces and expansive areas of glazing to provide views of nearby natural and cultural resources. The strikingly contemporary buildings in the parks symbolized, for the visiting public and the agency itself, the achievements of the Mission 66 program and a new era for the National Park Service.

Although the Mission 66 program was initiated by the National Park Service in 1956 and was to be completed by the 50th Anniversary of the agency in 1966, there were earlier planning and development projects that set important precedents for the program and determined much of the character of its planning and architectural development. Therefore, the Mission 66 era, in the broadest sense, began in 1945, when the postwar phase of park planning and design was begun at the National Park Service.

Conrad Wirth, who initiated the program as National Park Service Director, stepped down in 1964. His successor, George B. Hartzog, Jr., continued Mission 66 and initiated a successor program, "Parkscape," intended to be finished in time for the Yellowstone centennial in 1972. Therefore, the Mission 66 era did not end in 1966, since this year did not mark a significant termination or change in park planning and design policy. Change did arrive, but a few years later, as the National Park Service planning and design functions were centralized in Denver (1971) and environmental laws were enacted and implemented (especially the National Environment Policy Act in 1969). The Parkscape program ended (1972) and the political context of National Park Service leadership changed with the appointment of a politician with no park management experience, Ronald H. Walker, as National Park Service Director (January 1973). The general period of significance for this historical context therefore includes the years from 1945 to 1972.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) requires that property less than 50 years old possess "exceptional importance" if they are to be determined eligible for the register (Criteria Consideration G). The visitor center complex was central to the development of the Park, is the only Mission 66

visitor center built on the island of Hawai'i, and possesses substantial integrity from its period of significance, which makes it exceptionally important as a local example of the Mission 66 Program.

Endnotes

1. The text from the 2002 Determination of Eligibility uses the term "Park Service Modern." The use of the term "Park Service Modern" has been removed from the text because it is not an accurate term to describe the modern style incorporated into the design of the buildings and landscapes within the National Parks.

2. Visitor Center Counter Exhibit Plan, City of Refuge National Historical Park, March 1967.

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)

Primary Current Use: Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
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Entrance Station (Guardhouse)	Current
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Interpretation Facility	Both Current And Historic
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Comfort Station (Latrine)	Both Current And Historic
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Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Associated Group:

Name of Group: Native Hawaiian

Type of Association: Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Significance Description:

There are ethnographic values associated with the vegetation that was planted within the visitor center complex. The native and Polynesian plants within the planters are used as interpretive plantings and are utilized for demonstrations of traditional Hawaiian crafts.

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1945 - 1949	Planned	Planning for aquisition of land to create the National Park began in the late 1940s.
AD 1956	Planned	Planning for the NPS Mission 66 program started.
AD 1961	Established	Enabling legislation was signed on July 1 for the City of Refuge National Historical Park.
AD 1961 - 1965	Built	In the early 1960s, temporary buildings were constructed for park use.
AD 1964	Planned	A draft master planned was prepared for the park.
AD 1965	Built	A 61-space parking lot and road was constructed. Grading of the site took place.
	Built	The parking lot was opened in June.
AD 1967	Planned	NPS San Francisco Planning and Service Center architect, Pack Hunter, completed the visitor center plans in September.
AD 1968	Built	Construction started on the visitor center.
AD 1969	Built	The visitor center was completed and dedicated on August 18.
AD 1974	Developed	The park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
AD 1974 - 1975	Designed	The interpretive wall tile murals were redesigned and 92 ceramic tiles were replaced.
AD 1978	Developed	The park's name was changed to Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park.

AD 1981	Altered	Pull-down windbreakers, or screens, were installed at the roof edge of the theatre in order to limit the amount of wind in the interior of the theater while allowing the theater to maintain its open design.
AD 1991	Built	The entrance kiosk was constructed.
AD 1996	Altered	An office addition was added next to the existing office, located behind the interpretive wall.
AD 2001	Altered	Wood shingles were replaced on the visitor center buildings.
AD 2008	Rehabilitated	The Office and Information Desk portion of the Visitor Center were renovated. Interior modifications included removal of the kitchen sink, modifications to the floor, the addition of a closet, and central air conditioning. The exterior was modified by the relocation of the information desk and the installation of bookcases.
AD 2009	Maintained	The parking lot was restriped to include 77 regular parking stalls, while the existing 3 bus stalls and 4 handicap stalls remained in place.
	Altered	A second office addition was added to the back of the main complex, behind the interpretive wall, just west of the first addition.
	Built	Photovoltaic panels were installed on the roof of the interpretive wall.

Physical History:

Background

The following is excerpted from the 2002 Determination of Eligibility:

Planning for the acquisition of land in the area and the setting aside of the Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau as a National Park began as early as the late 1940s. The City of Refuge National Historical Park was established on July 1, 1961. The area set aside contains the ruins of the ancient Pu'u'honua and the village of Ki'ilae. It was originally referred to as the City of Refuge in accordance with the name bestowed by English Missionary William Ellis who developed an early written form of the Hawaiian language. The park's name was changed to Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park in 1978, to reference its original, Hawaiian name.

Most visible and impressive of the cultural resources is the Pu'u'honua, enclosed on two sides by a massive stone wall, one of the largest stone constructions in the islands. The primary visitor attraction is the reconstructed Hale-O-Keawe which was the last temple constructed at the Pu'u'honua. In addition there are palace grounds, royal fishponds, stone platforms for the chief's houses, ancient trails and roads, canoe landings, burial caves, heiau temple platforms, house sites, cave shelters, holua (a rock lined slope used for competitive sledding), stone walls, and other typical aboriginal Hawaiian structures representing an extended time span.

Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is considered one of the most significant archeological and historical complexes in the islands. [1] The adjoining village of Hōnaunau served as the cultural and religious center of the Kona District and eventually of the entire island until the chief (ali'i) moved it to Kealahou Bay.

Within the park's 420 acres are archeological and historical structures and features dating from pre-contact times to the early 1920s, representing almost all phases of early Hawaiian religious, social, economic, and political culture. The park is especially dedicated to the protection of archeological structures and features associated with the ancient Polynesian practice of refuge or sanctuary. The park's significance stems from the fact that the archeological remains document various aspects of ancient Hawaiian culture which gave rise to a sophisticated and elaborate socio-political-religious system long before Captain James Cook rediscovered these islands in 1778-1779. The lands around Hōnaunau illustrate a now-extinct way of life, the highly-structured society of aboriginal Hawaii that began disappearing with Cook's "discovery" of Hawaii and whose demise was accelerated by the abolition of the kapu (taboo) system. That lifeway included the concept and practice of refuge as well as a belief in the god-like status of chiefs and kings, a belief that reached its climax on the Kona Coast as an extension of an earlier Polynesian culture.

The park's cultural landscape reflects the Hawaiian society as depicted by early European visitors, retaining much of the flavor of its ancient setting and purpose.

The Design of the Park Visitor Center

In August 1964, the park's draft master plan referred to the complex as a pared down visitor center that would serve as an "interpretive center." The plan proposed a Polynesian-inspired building that would resemble a chief's long house, consisting mainly of a roof and open sided. The building's program was to include facilities for interpretive talks with seating, rest rooms, drinking fountains, small storage room and a reception desk. The visitor center would not have a museum in order to increase the use of the on-site exhibits. It was felt that the visitor center without a museum would prepare the visitor for a tour of the park's structures and scene without duplicating the material covered in the orientation talks. [2]

The 1964 Master Plan for City of Refuge National Historical Park stated that any new structures built in the park should be as unobtrusive as possible and benefit from the existing native vegetation. The new architecture was to adhere to the best principles of design built in the style of the Pacific Islands and constructed of indigenous materials. [3] The island's mild climate allowed for an open-air design that took full advantage of the site's vegetation and ocean breezes. The plan proposed a complex that would eliminate the formal museum and add wayside exhibits.. A separate administrative and maintenance structure was to be placed away from the prehistoric structures. At some point, the locations of the two facilities was switched, placing the visitor center where it was constructed closer to the parking area. The new administrative-maintenance facilities were never built and the park continues to use the temporary structures constructed in the early 1960s. [4]

In 1965, the first major facility built for visitors was the 84-vehicle asphalt parking lot and entrance road. Construction Equipment Co., Inc. built the road and parking lot for \$82,724. In addition to the construction of the parking lot, the contract included: the clearing, grubbing and obliteration of a relocated road, the construction of native stone masonry headwalls; and reinforced concrete drop inlets; and the construction of lava stone and asphalt curbs. The site was also excavated, blasted and compacted. The parking lot was opened in June 1965 and resulted in doubling park visitation. [5]

NPS architect Pack Hunter, as well as other various architect/draftsmen from the San Francisco Planning and Service Center, drafted the schematic architectural drawings and principle design for the Visitor Center in September 1967. The final plans and working drawings were prepared by the same office and approved by project manager F.D. Newcomb. The contractor to win the bid was Corps Construction, Ltd., of Kailua-Kona Hawaii, at a cost of \$244,392.

Construction began in the middle of 1968 and the contract was officially completed on August 19, 1969. The completion of the complex was delayed one month due to shortages of materials and labor but was finally opened to the public by February 1969. NPS project manager F. D. Newcomb questioned the extent of the complex's Hawaiian design influences. In a newspaper article, he explained the attempt to sensitively place the complex into the park and "make it Hawaiian." After all was said and done, the only aspect that was truly Hawaiian was the lava rock that was used in the foundations and walls. [6]

Since the complex's completion there have been minor alterations to the buildings. Pull down windbreaks were installed in 1981 along the edge of the theater roof. In 1988, an entrance kiosk was constructed at the parking lot island. In 1996, a new office addition was constructed behind the interpretive wall, next to the existing office. The roof shingles were replaced in 2001. In 2007, a new administration building was constructed outside of the boundary of the historic district but connects to the parking lot within the historic district. This building is compatible in style, scale, massing, color, and texture with the buildings in the historic district.



*Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park
Visitor Center
Hawai'i County, Hawai'i
Photo by Gil Tanaka
February, 1970
Park Archives, Photo Records, Buildings & Grounds, Negative No. 3239
View of visitor center, looking west.*



*Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park
Visitor Center*

Hawai'i County, Hawai'i

Photo by Gil Tanaka

October, 1969

Park Archives, Photo Records, Buildings & Grounds, Negative No. 3173

View of visitor center and parking lot, looking southwest.

Interpretive Wall

Exhibit plans for the visitor center were reviewed and finalized in early 1967. The plan was a collaborative effort amongst planner-designers Dave Ichelson and Ray Price and architect Pack Hunter. The three-man team worked jointly to insure compatibility between exhibit concepts and architectural concepts. The City of Refuge NHP superintendent, Russell Apple, also worked closely with the team. This effort resulted in the mindful blending of the architectural design and interpretive graphics with the interpretive message given by a recorded voice. The stylized graphics were considered significant to the visitor center's overall design and described as "idea images" as opposed to carefully rendered images. The designers' believed that the bold and distinctive renderings were realistic and appropriate to convey the

intensity of the history of Hawaiian culture.

The interpretive wall was designed to supplement the live talks given by an NPS interpretive ranger. It was also designed to be informative and stimulate interest when a ranger led talk was not available. The open-air exhibit was a departure in concept and technique from previous NPS productions.

There was a separate contract for the design, production and installation supervision of the tiles. The \$15,160 contract was awarded to International Pipe and Ceramics Corporation of Los Angeles. [7] The scope of the contract included the production of the five tile murals (Polynesian Immigration; Hawaiian King and Polynesian Plants; Kapu Breaking; Place of Refuge; the Island). The Island mural included only the background for a sculpted relief of the Island of Hawaii that was to be supplied by the NPS.

Soon after the visitor center was completed in 1969, fiberglass panels were installed over the wall's louvered roof. [8] The panels were intended to protect the wall from sun and rain damage.

After the installation of the murals, various contractors were involved in revising and repairing parts of it. In 1974, contractor Jones-Bause & Company and NPS Harpers Ferry Center redesigned parts of the tile mural as well as resurfaced the fiberglass island map. [9] In 1975, NPS, Denver Service Center supervised the replacement of 92 ceramic tiles for the murals. The work was done to correct the factual errors in the murals, which were criticized by the local people. [10] When comparing the mural's original design renderings to what exists now, only minor changes can be detected in the Polynesian Plant and Immigration murals. Clothing articles worn in the depictions have been corrected to those worn by polynesians, and the large fish below the canoe has been changed to portray a shark rather than a whale. Also, the coconut tree and other plant murals now differ from the original drawings. Within the Immigration mural the female figure in the center of the boat was originally cooking over a fire. Traditionally, the Hawaiian women did not do the cooking, so now the figure is simply holding a bowl.

Landscape

The overall landscape design for the visitor center was created as part of the design of the entire complex. The landscape design for this Mission 66 Visitor Center, and for other projects throughout the Mission 66 Program, was deemed a significant facet of the complex as a whole. The circulation systems, parking areas, and selections of plant material were all equally important in conveying the ideals of the Park Service Modern movement. Allaback attests: "As the location of park services, visitor centers symbolize new attitudes towards resource conservation, visitor responsibility and Park Service stewardship. Cecil Doty, NPS Washington DC architect, alluded to such associations at a visitor center planning conference, noting that the 'parking area, walks, terraces and everything in and around the building are part of the visitor center ensemble, and are on exhibit as something constructed by the National Park Service. They can be more important than the exhibits themselves.' In its form and its content, the visitor center was designed to represent the Park Service's modern image." [11]

The design of the visitor center complex is indicative of contemporary, post-World War II trends in the field of landscape architecture. The uses of the rectilinear grid forms offset with curvilinear elements, the blending of interior and exterior spaces, and the use of native plantings are all reminiscent of the work of several landscape designers that were internationally prominent at that time, including Thomas Church, Garrett Eckbo and Lawrence Halprin.

The following information supplements the landscape text that was provided in the 2002 DOE:

A suggested planting list was created during or shortly after the completion of the visitor center complex and included a variety of vegetation of various heights to be used in the planters. The focus was on the integration of native and Polynesian plants that could be used for interpretive purposes while also blending the visitor center complex into the surrounding landscape. The 1964 Master Plan states that the goal of park management is to remove non-native vegetation and replant natives throughout the park. The following plants were suggested:

Endemic (Native and unique to the Hawaiian Islands):

'Iliahi (*Santalum ellipticum*)

Loulu (*Pritchardia* sp.)

Indigenous (Native to the Hawaiian Islands and other lands):

Hau (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*)

Pili (*Heteropogon contortus*)

'Ala'alawainui (*Plectranthus parviflorus*)

'Ilima (*Sida fallax* Walp.)

Milo (*Thespesia populnea*)

'Akulikuli (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*)

Kolomona (*Cassia gaudichaudii*)

Hinahina (*Heliotropium anomalum*)

'Awa (*Piper methysticum*)

Kou (*Cordia subcordata*)

Polynesian (Polynesian Introduction prior to 1778):

'Auhuhu (*Tephrosia purpurea*)

Ipu nui (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

Kukui (*Aleurites moluccana*)

Niu (*Cocos nucifera*)

Ki (*Cordyline terminalis*)

Ko or sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*)

'Uala or sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*)

Noni (*Morinda citrifolia*)

Kamani (*Calophyllum inophyllum*)

'Ohia 'ai (*Eugenia malaccensis*)

Puhala, Hala (*Pandanus tectorius*)

Alien (Introduced to Hawaii after 1778, non-indigenous, exotic):

Laua'e (*Phymatosorus grossus*)

Pakalana (*Telosma cordata*)

Honohono kukui (*Oplismenus hirtellus*)

As-built construction plans have not been located to establish how closely this suggested planting list was followed. However, it appears from historic photographs taken in 1969 that the beds were planted with native Hawaiian plants such as lauhala, ferns, kukui tree, loulu palm, and uli uli tree, soon after the building was completed. Since the focus of the visitor center complex was to provide interpretive exhibits for the public, it makes sense that native and Polynesian vegetation was planted within the planting beds for their interpretive value.



*Pu'uhoŋua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park
Visitor Center*

Hawai'i County, Hawai'i

Photo by Gil Tanaka

December, 1969

Park Archives, Photo Records Box 9, Buildings & Grounds, Negative No. 3205

View between lanai and theater, looking west.

Endnotes

1. Kirch, Patrick Vinton, Feathered Gods and Fishhooks: An Introduction to Hawaiian Archaeology and Prehistory (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1985) 161.
2. Visit to Western Regional Office July 9 and 10, 1964, File A60, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau NHP.
3. General Development, General Utilities, Master Plan, Drawing NHP_CR 3000-B, page 6.
4. Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Report, 1/1/64 to 12/31/64, File A 2615, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau NHP.
5. Superintendent's Monthly Report, 01/10/65 to 12/31/65, File A2615, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau NHP.
6. Hawaii Tribune-Herald, December 29, 1968.
7. Contract No. 14-10-7-971-178, September 20, 1968.
8. PUHO Drawing NO. 41001.
9. City of Refuge NHP Tile Mural, August 16, 1974, File D52 Tile Mural, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau NHP.
10. Superintendent's Monthly Report for Calendar Year 1975, File A2621, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau NHP.
11. Allaback, Sarah, Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type (Washington, DC: GPO, 2000):22

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The following evaluation builds off of the 2002 Determination of Eligibility:

The Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center (visitor center complex) is historically significant as an excellent example of Mission 66 Visitor Center design which retains its historic character with no significant alterations. The complex maintains a high level of integrity. The minor alterations that have occurred include a small addition to and reconfiguration of the interior of the office building.

The most architecturally significant features of the visitor center include its low, horizontal profile, the use of concrete block, covered walkways and the interpretive wall. Additionally, the entrance terrace together with the covered lanai serve to encourage visitor flow as well as provide a unifying architectural element to the individual building masses. The building's design successfully incorporates the interpretive exhibit as part of the architecture.

While the visitor center is not a bold modernist architectural statement designed by an internationally renowned architect (such as Dinosaur National Monument Visitor Center or the Cyclorama Center at Gettysburg National Military Park) its significance resides in the fact that it is understated and subordinate to the landscape of the park. The building is also unique for its open-air design and its applications of local materials. Its cohesive modern design is striking in its simplicity while concurrently meeting the distinct functional requirements of the Mission 66 building program.

The visitor center complex is an outstanding example of Mission 66 planning and design. In determining the level of historic integrity of this visitor center, the seven qualities that were considered to assess the authenticity of the building's materials, design features and aspects of construction included: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The historic location of the visitor center has not changed since its construction, and the original design has not been significantly altered. The relationship of the complex to its physical setting has not changed, and the original materials have been retained except for changes in roof shingle material and minor changes in the interior spaces and plant species. The original workmanship of the modern architecture and landscape architecture is still evident, the historic feeling of the complex is still strongly conveyed by the architecture and planting scheme, and the direct association of the visitor center with Park Service Modern and Mission 66 planning and design is very prominent.

The visitor center complex possesses a high degree of integrity. The buildings are largely in their original conditions, with no significant alterations or additions to the buildings' uses, materials, or site since they were dedicated in 1968. A minor addition has been made to the north elevation of the office to accommodate the need for additional administrative space. A large piece of mechanical equipment was installed in the men's room. The planting areas maintain a high level of integrity, with only a few plants missing from the interior planting area. These changes are reversible and do not compromise the integrity of the building or its site.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape. Among other aspects, it can include topography, climate, geology, hydrology, soils, and native vegetation.

The natural systems and features that most influenced the development and historic character of the visitor center complex area are topography, vegetation, geology, and climate. The natural topography and vegetation of this area creates a generally open, sloped landscape with views of the Royal Grounds to the west. Existing topography was taken into consideration during the master planning efforts of the park to carefully separate functions within the visitor center complex, as evidenced by the ramped walkways that lead down from the parking area through the visitor center to the bay access trail. The buildings and structures were designed with horizontal lines, deep eaves, open walls, and low-lying planters that emphasize outward views and a connection of the interior with the exterior spaces and to take advantage of the mild year-round climate. The natural systems and features that influenced the design of the visitor center complex remain intact and provide a setting similar to that during the construction of the complex.

The visitor center complex is located on the northern edge of the park boundary which lies on the western slope of Mauna Loa, where the 13,680-foot volcano flattens out in a westerly direction and passes beneath the sea. For many miles north and south, the west slope of Mauna Loa is a gentle incline of pahoehoe and a'a lava flows. Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau lies in the middle of Hōnaunau Bay as a lobate point, composed of pahoehoe lava flow. The visitor center complex is situated on a gentle slope that ranges from twenty-five feet to the east, and down to eight feet to the west. Little grading was done to level the sloping terrain because the complex was designed to have a light footprint on the land within minimal disturbance to both the topography and archeological features located in the area's lava flows, as evidenced by notes included in the 1966/67 working drawings that specify areas not to be disturbed. The natural bench within the gradual slope provided a place to construct a parking lot with little contouring of the natural topography needed and as a result few retaining walls were required within the complex. One retaining wall was constructed in order to contain the fill brought in for the parking lot. A small amount of drainage was required in order to funnel water away from the buildings.

Naturally-occurring Vegetation

The visitor center complex is located in a coastal area dominated by exotic vegetation. By the time of the construction of the visitor center, the naturally-occurring vegetation within the visitor complex had been altered by human land use practices. The introduction of grazing goats and cattle in the 1800s reduced the native vegetation and allowed invasive exotic vegetation to flourish. The predominant native vegetation is located to the east of the east of the parking lot and is characterized as ekoa (*Leucaena leucocephala*) shrubland with Guinea grass (*Panicum*

maximum) and mixed alien herbs. The Royal Grounds area immediately to the west of the visitor center complex is kept clear of vegetation through the use of herbicides and manually uprooting vegetation. A grove of coconuts, trees, and shrubs are located in this sandy area. The ground cover in the Royal Grounds consists of grasses, including native sedge (*Fimbristylis cymosa*) and non-natives such as Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and St. Augustine grass (*Stemmatophyllum secundatum*). No other areas of native vegetation are adjacent to the visitor center complex.

Geology

The park is composed of pahoehoe lava from multiple lava flows from Mauna Loa. The lava is generally rough, with areas of lava tubes, pockets, cracks, and loose rock. The area along the shore is composed of sand, gravel, and/or soil. The visitor center complex is located on top of lava rock. The western edge of the complex butts up to the area where the land transitions from lava to sand. Due to the terrain and the cultural resources among the lava rocks in the area, the visitor center complex is built above grade and in some areas, such as the at the parking lot, sand and soil was used as fill to create a flat surface to build on. The buildings are constructed on concrete piers well above the original grade in order to avoid the uneven terrain. In this way, the design of the complex responded to the geology of the area and is an important influence on the overall feeling of the buildings.

Climate

The temperature varies little during the year, with mild temperatures ranging between 65 and 88 degrees Fahrenheit and average annual rainfall of twenty inches. Typically, the onshore and offshore breezes help maintain a comfortable climate. These conditions influence the way buildings are constructed, as buildings do not need conventional heating or cooling to maintain a comfortable interior temperature and instead are designed as open air buildings with wide eaves that provide shade and protection from the rain but allow the breeze to flow through. The climate greatly influenced the design of the visitor center buildings and lanai.

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is defined as the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

The visitor center complex was the first major visitor service development within the park. The comfort station, office, interpretive wall and theater together serve as a central facility that includes multiple visitor and administrative functions within a single complex. The complex is sited adjacent to the historic site and serves the public by interpreting the ancient Hawaiian royal grounds and place of refuge. The plan of the complex emphasizes the centralized visitor experience by utilizing a spatial procession that leads the visitor to multiple functions. Within the complex's floor plan the visitor can access restrooms, the information desk, an interpretive display, and the theater. This sequence of functions and spaces serves the visitor by interpreting the historic significance of Pu'u'honua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park. From

the visitor center, visitors can proceed down the ramp at the west end of the complex to a trail that leads to the historic area. The geometric open spaces between the terrace, lanai, and theater contain native plantings that are used to interpret how the native Hawaiian's adapted to their environment. The complex is built on compacted fill, and a raised lava rock and concrete foundation provides for recessed open spaces between the structures. Small-scale features such as retaining walls, curbs, built-in benches and a flagpole provide detail and diversity for both the functional needs and aesthetic concerns of the complex's design.

The visitor center is notable for its clearly expressed design program, characterized by public spaces common to the Mission 66 (Parkscape) model for visitor centers, and for the simple forms developed by the National Park Service as a mid-century interpretation of local island architectural influences. The Polynesian inspired, open-air complex is oriented southeast to northwest on its site. The visitor center consists of three main pavilion-like buildings (comfort station, office/information desk, and theater) that are connected visually by the horizontal planes created by the uniformity of the buildings' height and rooflines. The buildings are connected by a common paint scheme in which the buildings are all painted a medium blue color and the interiors with a sky blue accent. The three buildings are joined by a covered lanai that serves as the complex's main spine and its roof, together with an interpretive wall and dry moat, functions as a distinct structure. The theater is diagonally offset from the rest of the complex and is accessed by a covered bridge. The comfort station and office/information desk are similar in size and shape, and the theater is the most massive building of the complex.

In order to maintain the connection between the interior and exterior spaces, the visitor center complex is designed to take in natural views and vegetation. Although not located on the top of a prominent slope that provided sweeping view, the visitor center complex is sited in a way that maximizes the views toward the ocean. The theater is oriented so that when seated, the audience has an unobstructed view of the Royal Grounds and the ocean beyond. Vegetation is confined to a small planter adjacent to the walkway in order to maintain this open view. Additionally, the 1964 master plan notes that utilities, both power and water, would need to be underground or camouflaged at ground level rather than aerial in order to minimize effects to the views that the visitors would experience at the visitor complex and adjacent grounds.

Accessed by the park entrance road and located close to the park's entrance kiosk, the visitor center complex is a major point of visitor arrival, orientation and service. The entrance road leads visitors directly to the parking area north of the complex. Visitors enter the visitor center by crossing an exposed aggregate terrace that directs them to the various functions of the complex. A flat wooden roof extends over the entire length of the complex covering the lanai. The interior and exterior public spaces are integrated by the complex's circulation system. A bituminous paved sidewalk bordered with a low lava rock retaining wall leads the visitor from the parking lot to the terrace at the east end of the visitor centers. The terrace is detailed with geometrically shaped planting beds that contain native Hawaiian flora. The lava-rock walls and planters provide a means of keeping the visitors on the walkways as well as serving as transitional elements to the rugged pahoehoe lava terrain. Metal railing and seating areas

furnished with wooden benches also serve to define the edges of the complex. Planting areas in the concrete terrace, as well as around the theater, are integrated into the complex's circulation system.

The layout of the visitor center complex reflects the modern design principals that characterized Mission 66 design with open, interconnected spaces and simple building forms that relate to the surrounding landscape through the use of local materials and styles. The buildings within the complex are oriented around an open space off of an axis that runs perpendicular to the ocean. The buildings are not set in ridged geometric spacing but rather are located in areas that take into account their impact to existing natural and cultural resources as well as to how visitors would use the space. Because the visitor contact function has stayed the same since its construction, the visitor center complex's spatial organization has been maintained.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Spatial Organization #1: View from theater to the Royal Grounds to the west (PWRO, May 2009).

Vegetation

Vegetation is defined as deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

The vegetation used in the design of the visitor center complex is intended to serve as an interpretive exhibit for visitors, and aid in blending the complex into the surrounding environment. This has been accomplished through a limited plant palette of native and Polynesian vegetation of differing heights and massing. Vegetation chosen for inclusion in the planting areas adjacent to the walkways includes low-growing species that do not obstruct views. Plantings with height and massing (multi-stemmed) are chosen for the sunken areas between the lanai and the theater in order to fill the deep void created by having the buildings raised above grade. The grasses and single-stemmed palms planted in the parking islands also do not obstruct views. Plantings are arranged naturalistically in an attempt to be compatible with the surrounding vegetation. No irrigation is installed to water these planting areas.

The present vegetation still reflects the landscape that blends the interior and exterior into the surrounding environment (see photo at end of this subsection). Today there are nineteen species of plants that are located within the planting beds within the visitor center complex. The majority of this vegetation is native or Polynesian and is used for interpretive purposes. Eight of these nineteen plant species were identified in the Mission-66 planting list provided to the park. The nineteen landscape plants currently located in the historic district include:

Endemic (Native and unique to the Hawaiian Islands):
Loulou (Pritchardia affinis)

Indigenous (Native to the Hawaiian Islands and other lands):
Pohinahina (Beach Vitex) (*Vitex rotundifolia*)
Naupaka-Kahakai (Beach Naupaka) (*Scaevola sericea*)
'A'ali'i (*Dodonaea viscosa*)
Pili (Tanglehead) (*Heteropogon contortus*)
Kou (*Cordia subcordata*)

Polynesian (Introduced by Polynesians prior to 1778):
Noni (Indian Mulberry) (*Morinda citrifolia*)
Kukui (Candlenut Tree) (*Aleurites moluccana*)
Wauke (Paper Mulberry) (*Broussonetia papyrifera*)
Kamani (Alexander Laurel) (*Calophyllum inophyllum*)
Kô (Sugar Cane) (*Saccharum officinarum*)
Mai'a (Banana) (*Musa paradisiaca*)
Kî (Ti) (*Cordyline terminalis*)
Kalo (Taro) (*Colocasia esculanta*)
U'ala (sweet potato) (*Ipomoea batatas*)
Niu (coconut palm) (*Cocos nucifera*)
Hala (*Pandanus* sp.)

There are no non-native exotic species of vegetation within the visitor center complex.

A majority of the original vegetation within the visitor center complex planters survives, and although many species were not specifically called out for planting in the Mission 66 period, they serve the dual purpose of blending the buildings into the landscape and functioning as specimens for interpretation. While it is impossible to know exactly what species was planted where within the visitor center complex due to a lack of historical information on the planting plans, it is clear that these native and Polynesian plants were utilized for their interpretive value in addition to their aesthetic value. It is unclear which plants survive from the period of significance, but regardless of their age, each plant within the visitor center complex functions as it would have historically. Although degraded soil and lack of irrigation has resulted in several plantings dying in recent years, most of the vegetation remains in place or has been recently replanted. The current vegetation effectively blends the built environment into the surrounding landscape and retains interpretive value.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Vegetation #1: Central planting bed, view looking east from walkway between lanai and theater (PWRO, May 2009).



Vegetation #2: Central planting bed with gourd plantings, view looking east from west end of lanai walkway (PUHO, September 2009).

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are defined as those features that are built primarily for sheltering any form of human activity. Structures are defined as features constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activities.

The majority of buildings and structures located within the visitor center complex were constructed during initial building period in the 1960s. Two room additions were recently added to the back of the office/information desk section of the complex. The buildings remain intact with their original materials, design, and configuration. The visitor center complex consists of three buildings: 1) comfort station; 2) office/information desk; and 3) theater. All three buildings contribute to the historic property. The entrance kiosk, added in 1991, is the only non-contributing building or structure, but it compatible in design and purpose.

Typical of Hawaiian-influenced design, the buildings and structures take advantage of the mild climate and are open to the environment. In addition, local materials are utilized where possible. The comfort station and office building are similar in size and shape. The open-walled theater structure is irregularly shaped with no supporting walls. The comfort

station and office building are constructed of wood frame, are sided with wood, and sit on the same raised concrete and lava foundation. Each of the buildings possess ventilated hip roofs with large overhangs that are finished with large cedar shingles. The roofs are distinguished by their exposed framing elements that are painted a darker shade of blue than the rest of the roof. Virtually all elements of the roof structure are visible from the interior of the buildings. The wood shingles were replaced in 2001 with new wood shingles.

The style of the buildings and structures reflect the Mission-66 design philosophy that emphasized functionality and the use of inexpensive yet durable materials. Straightforward and unassuming in its appearance, the visitor center is comprised of relatively simple and inexpensive materials such as lava, wood and concrete block. This was a requirement of the Mission 66 program, which emphasized efficiency in all aspects of planning and construction, and sought to exploit the availability of less costly materials and labor saving construction techniques. The interiors of the comfort station and office building are simple and somewhat minimalist with built-in features for storage and office functions. The visitor center complex reflects this Mission 66-design through each of its three buildings and associated structures that link the buildings together to function as a visitor services center.

Comfort Station (contributing)

The comfort station is the easternmost building within the visitor center complex and measures approximately 22'x25'. The exterior of the comfort station features a simple redwood façade with a concrete block screen wall that encloses the southwest elevation and partially encloses the southeast and northwest elevations. The low-pitched hip roof dominates the building's profile. The building sits on a concrete pier foundation that rests on an exposed aggregate concrete slab foundation. The building's interior is open to the roof. The building is partitioned into two areas that contain the men's and women's restrooms. Mounted to the exterior of the building are two drinking fountains, canister lighting, and restroom signs. The wall behind the drinking fountains is sided with a waterproof material that is different in color and texture than the redwood siding. Immediately outside the women's restroom, a covered rest area connects the comfort station with the adjacent office/information desk building. The open space is covered with a wooden trellis roof that is supported by glulam beams attached to the two buildings.

Office and Information Desk (contributing)

The office building is sited northwest of the adjacent comfort station. Similar in size and shape to the comfort station, the office building measures approximately 18'x22'. The exterior of the office features an open-air information desk. The low-pitched hip roof contains a wooden louvered gable at its peak and overhangs the building six feet on all four sides. The roof is open with exposed framing. The area behind the information desk consists of a single room with built-in cabinets. There are two glass louvered windows on the south elevation and the exterior is sided with tongue and groove siding. Like the comfort station, the office building sits on a

concrete pier foundation that rests on an exposed aggregate concrete slab foundation. In 1996, a new office addition was constructed next to the existing office, behind the interpretive wall. Framing and lava rock veneer from the original office has been removed. A door was constructed, the jalousie window was moved and an elevated walkway was constructed in the original office area to connect the two structures. The single room addition measures 12'x16', is constructed of wood frame with tongue and groove siding and sits on a concrete pier foundation that is faced with lava rock. Two horizontal wood beams echo the fascia and lava rock wall of the original office building. Single aluminum frame windows were placed on the east and west elevations, and two windows are on the south elevation. A second room addition was added to the office building in 2009. This addition is small in scale and is located behind the interpretive wall, just west of the first addition. It is built in the same style and materials as the first addition.

Lanai and Interpretive Wall (contributing)

The lanai extends the entire length of the complex, starting at the eastern end of the complex in front of the comfort station, proceeding past the information desk, along the interpretive wall, and terminating with a ramp that joins a trail to the historic site. The lanai is constructed with exposed aggregate (local 'ili 'ili stones) concrete that rests on concrete piers. 'Ili 'ili are small water worn lava stones. The lanai is open-air in front of the comfort station, the area between the comfort station and office structures, as well as at the west end at the exit ramp. The lanai's flat roof commences at the eastern edge of the office/information desk building and continues the length of the interpretive wall. The lanai roof is supported on its north side by seven sets of double wooden columns with concrete block bases. These columns continue below the lanai's concrete slab surface into the compacted fill that the building rests on. The areas between the concrete piers are infilled with mortared lava rock walls. Extending beyond the roof on alternating beams are "canales." These short, three-sided channels allow rain water to drain off the roof. The portion directly over the lanai is covered with tongue and groove siding. Canister lights for lighting the lanai and the interpretive wall are mounted on the ceiling. The north side of the covered lanai is enclosed with a wooden and metal railing. Adjacent to the lanai (on its south side) is a dry moat that is filled with 'ili 'ili and bordered by the interpretive wall. The portion of the roof over the moat and interpretive wall is louvered to illuminate the interpretive objects on the wall.

The interpretive wall is constructed of concrete block and faced with stucco. The 12' high wall consists of five segments (panels) that are separated by returns constructed of concrete blocks turned on end so that the voids are visible. The contents of the interpretive wall read from left to right and tell the story of the settlement and usage of the pu'uhonua. All of the murals are composed of custom manufactured tiles with a semi-vitreous facing material, glazed and unglazed, and measure 11-11/16" x 11-11/16" x 1/2". The first wall panel (A), which is approximately 91 square feet, contains a ceramic tile mural that depicts Polynesian immigration. The next panel (B) depicts two subjects: Polynesian plants and the Hawaiian King. The plant mural measures approximately 41 square feet of tile. Panel C depicts Kapu Breaking and is

approximately 39 square feet of tile. Panel D illustrates the Place of Refuge and is composed of approximately 115 square feet of tile. Panel E is approximately 16' long and is covered completely with glazed blue tiles. The simplest of the panels contains a large fiberglass relief map of the Island of Hawai'i and an intricately carved figure of a king.

Theater (contributing)

The theater structure lies to the northwest of the lanai and is connected by a footbridge. The bridge is surfaced with exposed aggregate concrete and is covered with a thin flat roof that is discreet from the other structures' roofs. The bridge's roof is supported by a series of 4"x4" wooden posts and two concrete piers that are tied to the concrete slab structure. The theater has a distinct architectural form and it features a tall, large hip roof with 10' overhanging eaves. Double columns and posts with concrete bases support the roof. The roof's interior is exposed to reveal its structure. The plantation style structure contains no interior or exterior walls. A small projection booth (7'4"x10'8") with storage below anchors the east elevation. The interior is furnished with seating constructed of Port Orford cedar. In the front center is a platform that contains vertical sliding chalkboards and their housing.

Entrance kiosk (non-contributing)

The entrance kiosk is a small, square building that is enclosed on the west half. The wood-frame building has a poured concrete slab foundation with walls clad in plywood paneling with corner boards. The enclosed section of the building has a watertable (a ledge to divert rainwater from the building) and a wide fascia board. The aluminum-frame windows include fixed panes and one vertical sliding window on the west elevation. A single fix-pane aluminum window is located on the south and north elevations. A single door and wall air conditioning unit are located on the east elevation. The pavilion roof is clad with wood shingles. A rain gutter is attached to the fascia board.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Comfort Station

Feature Identification Number: 136452

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Office and Information Desk

Feature Identification Number: 136454

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lanai and Interpretive Wall

Feature Identification Number: 136456

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Theater

Feature Identification Number: 136458

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entrance Kiosk

Feature Identification Number: 136460

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Buildings and Structures #1: Comfort Station, view looking southwest. (PWRO May 2009)



Buildings and Structures #2: Lanai and interpretive wall, with information desk in the background. View looking east. (PWRO May 2009)



Buildings and Structures #3: Theater, view looking northeast. (PWRO May 2009)



Buildings and Structures #4: Entrance kiosk, view looking south. (PWRO May 2009)

Circulation

Circulation is defined as spaces and features which constitute systems of movement within a landscape.

The visitor center complex is located immediately adjacent to Keala o Keawe Road (State Route 160) located just outside of the park boundary through a two-lane road, Hōnaunau Beach Road, that branches off of State Route 160. This is the only public road entrance into the park. The Hōnaunau Beach Road funnels visitors to a entrance kiosk where visitors pay the entrance fee for access to the parking lot. Although the road extends from the parking lot to the highway and an unpaved section extends to the picnic grounds, the Mission-66 plan did not include this road for formal access beyond the parking lot. For this reason, the road is not included in the historic property boundary.

Once parked, visitors are a short walk from visitor center complex that provides all visitor services within a central location. A series of asphalt paved pathways are located along the edge of the parking lot island and connect via curbcuts to the concrete sidewalks between the parking lot and the visitor center buildings. The series of concrete sidewalks and ramps provide a seamless connection between each building within the visitor center and ultimately funnel

visitors to the Royal Grounds on the west side of the visitor center complex.

The vehicle and pedestrian circulation system located within the visitor center complex remains intact and retains its original Mission-66 design. All of the circulation within the historic district boundary contributes to the historic property.

Parking Lot (contributing)

The parking lot was constructed on top of the road that connected the highway to the Royal Grounds and pu'u'honua. The shape of the parking lot curves to follow the natural topography and avoid private land. There are unpaved-notches around the exterior of the parking lot located to avoid damaging archeological resources. The shape of the parking lot loop allows for entry and exit through the main entrance, with a connection to an interior access road at the opposite end. In this way, the parking lot provides easy access to the visitor center from the highway and ample parking for convenient access to the park's main interpretive resources.

The parking lot consists of a one lane asphalt-paved road with asphalt-paved parking spaces on either side of the road. Along the entire outer and inner edges of the parking lot is a single row of mortared lava block curbing. The curbing consists of a single row of lava rock stone with thick unstained mortar that is flush with the stone. This is a distinctive feature of the visitor center complex because local materials were applied to a common feature of parking lot design. This lava rock application further unifies the complex and contributes to the historic property.

In the center of the parking lot is a traffic island that fans out at the north and south ends. The north end contains the parking kiosk and information sign as well as a non-vegetated section of earth in front of the sign. The traffic island is largely unpaved and is landscaped with native grass, palms, and trees. A small triangle-shaped traffic island located at the north end of the parking lot is covered in loose lava rocks and contains a recently constructed mortared lava park sign.

Asphalt-paved and gravel sidewalks (contributing)

Along the west edge of the parking lot, adjacent to the lava-block curbing, is an asphalt paved sidewalk with sections of gravel sidewalk toward the north end. At the west and east edges of the traffic island is an asphalt-paved sidewalk and four asphalt-paved sidewalks that connect the west and east sidewalks within the island. The asphalt-paved sidewalks do not have edging and are not scored.

Concrete walkways (contributing)

Once parked, the visitor walks through the parking lot and is led to an expansive concrete sidewalk in the area between the parking lot and the buildings. The visitor is directed to the information desk, where the visitor can then take concrete sidewalks to either the comfort station, or through the lanai adjacent to the interpretive wall and from there on to the theater and the Royal Grounds exhibit. The structures are connected by a circulation system that

consists of the concrete terrace, lanai, and elevated bridge. The lanai is central to the visitor center's circulation system and serves as the primary access through the complex. The access ramp on the theater's west side meets the ramp that exits the lanai. The covered lanai has an expansive roof that serves the central spine of the complex and provides for efficient visitor flow through the building.

The expansive concrete sidewalk located in front of the comfort station is scored in parallelogram shapes with triangular shapes adjacent to geometric planters in front of the comfort station. The sidewalks located at the lanai, the bridge to the theater, and the ramp to the Royal Grounds are scored into rectangles. All of the scoring is filled with an epoxy moisture barrier. The concrete is surfaced with exposed pebble aggregate.

Concrete ramp (non-contributing)

A smooth-finish concrete ramp with a small concrete sidewalk terminus connects the parking lot to the contemporary administration building. This concrete sidewalk was installed recently, and does not contribute to the historic property.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Parking lot and curbing

Feature Identification Number: 136462

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Asphalt-paved and gravel sidewalks

Feature Identification Number: 136760

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Concrete walkways

Feature Identification Number: 136464

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Concrete ramp

Feature Identification Number: 136762

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Circulation #1: Parking lot, view looking north (PWRO May 2009).



Circulation #2: Ramped concrete walkway adjacent to lanai (PWRO, May 2009).

Small Scale Features

Small scale features are defined as the elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Small scale features play a role in defining the character of the Mission 66 design within the visitor center complex.

Lava Rock Masonry (contributing)

Lava rock masonry is a predominate feature throughout the visitor center complex. Three main lava rock features exist in the visitor center complex, including retaining walls, planters, and guardwalls.

The retaining walls located at the parking lot adjacent to the planting bed and at the planting bed adjacent to the Royal Grounds blend with the footings, foundations, and planters within the complex because they are all composed of reinforced concrete that is faced with flush lava rock masonry with recessed unstained mortar. This same flush lava rock with recessed mortar veneer is used to face the piers and wall footings, and is set between the footings of the buildings and raised sidewalks giving a unifying material and style to the entire complex.

The lava rock faced planters are important design elements that provide a protected area for

vegetation to grow in a location that is close to the visitors' circulation through the complex. These planters also allow for interpretation of vegetation. Low, lava rock walls that are topped with planting beds in places define the structure's form. The surrounding rock walls and plantings unify the structure and blend into the environment. A triangular planting bed and handrails prohibit access to the lower open space between the structures. The lava rock planters border the western edge of the complex and allow for a gradual transition to the historic site.

Guardwalls are located along the concrete walkways and serve to block pedestrian access to only those areas designated for pedestrian use.

Wood Guardrails (contributing)

The wood guardrails along the raised walkways are also original and provide for visitor safety while utilizing local materials.

Benches (contributing)

Additionally, the wood benches adjacent to the concrete walkways around the comfort station, and within the lanai are a part of the original design and continue to provide an important function in serving the visitor. Two large benches without backs, constructed of large wooden planks supported on concrete piers, are located between three columns near the lanai railing. Additional benches with backs are located near the comfort station.

Flagpole (contributing)

The 25-foot-tall aluminum flagpole was part of the original design of the complex, and is an important feature of any park visitor center.

Non contributing

Non-contributing features include the garbage cans, ash trays, drinking fountain, entrance sign, parking information sign, standpipe, and lava rock faced wall near the administration building because they are not original. These non contributing features are minimal and do not degrade the overall integrity of the visitor center complex.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Lava Rock Masonry

Feature Identification Number: 136622

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wood Guardrails

Feature Identification Number: 136468

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Benches

Feature Identification Number: 136470

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Flagpole

Feature Identification Number: 136472

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entrance sign

Feature Identification Number: 136498

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Parking information sign

Feature Identification Number: 136640

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Standpipe

Feature Identification Number: 136636

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Administration building lava-rock wall

Feature Identification Number: 136642

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 06/16/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape associated with the National Historical Park Visitor Center has been assessed in good condition. The visitor center, theater, office and information desk, comfort station, entrance kiosk, interpretive wall, planters, and parking lot were all assessed in good condition. The vegetation in the planters is in good condition due to recent maintenance work. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Supplemental Information

Title: Bibliography

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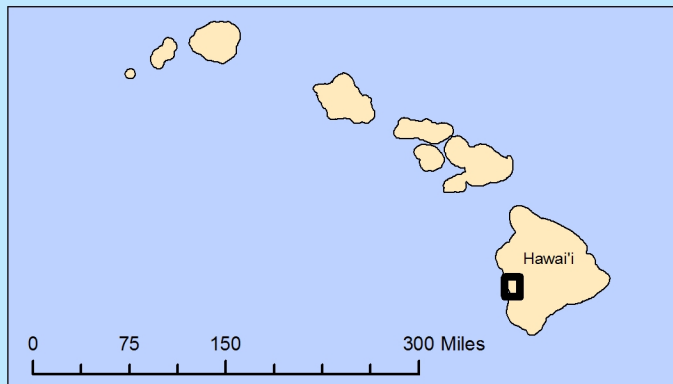
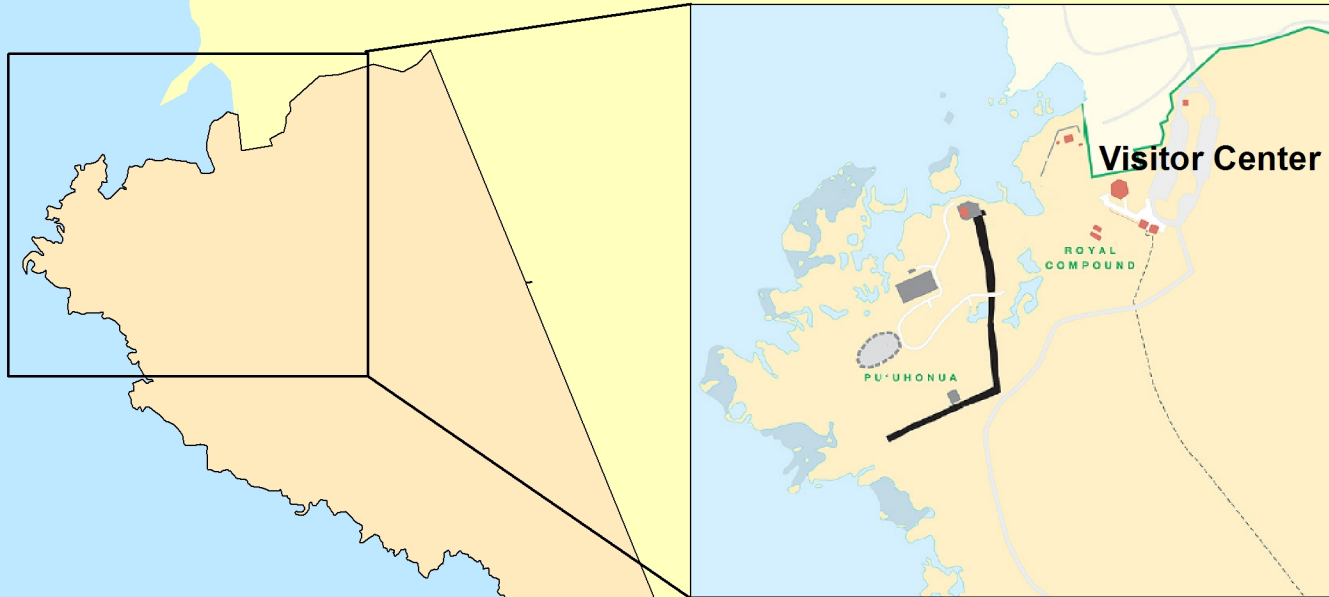
National Park Service. Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park, Visit to
Western Regional Office July 9 and 10, 1964 (File A60).



Location Map
Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National
Historical Park Visitor Center
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000
Feet

Source: State data from NPS GIS Clearinghouse; park inset from park website.





National Historical Park Visitor Center

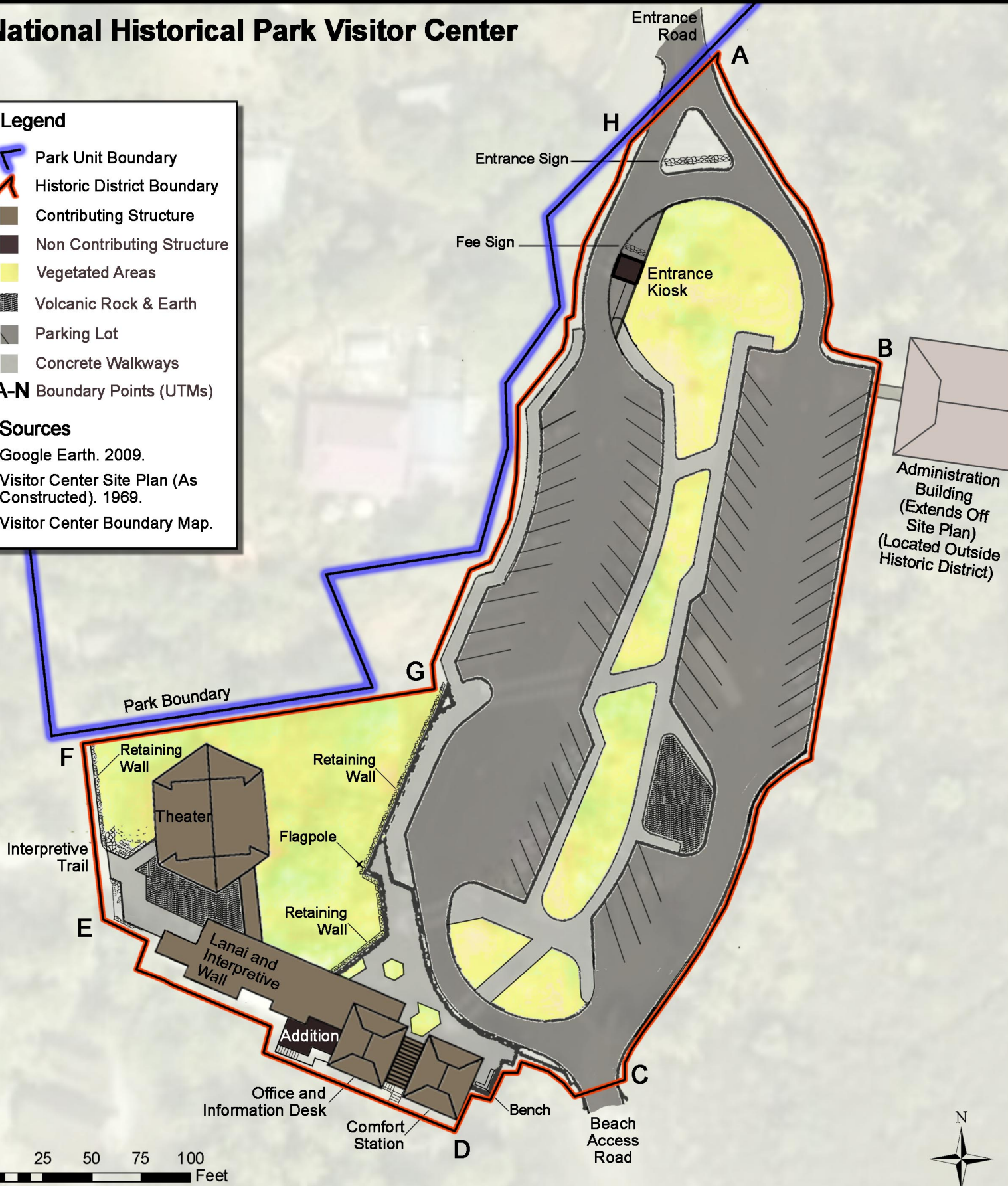
Legend

- Park Unit Boundary
- Historic District Boundary
- Contributing Structure
- Non Contributing Structure
- Vegetated Areas
- Volcanic Rock & Earth
- Parking Lot
- Concrete Walkways

A-N Boundary Points (UTMs)

Sources

- Google Earth. 2009.
- Visitor Center Site Plan (As Constructed). 1969.
- Visitor Center Boundary Map.



0 25 50 75 100 Feet

