

KALAHEO SCHOOL, LIBRARY
Maka Road at Intersection with Puu Road
Kalaheo
Kauai County
Hawaii

HABS No. HI-282-A

HABS
HI
4-KALA,
IA-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

**Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107**

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
KALAHEO SCHOOL, LIBRARY

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Location: Maka Road at Intersection with Puu Road, Kalaheo, Kauai County, Hawaii

Significance: The significance of this building relates to developments in public education in the Territory of Hawaii, the architecture of Kauai's public schools, and the specific history of the settlement of the Kalaheo area.

The building displays the distinctive architectural materials and single-wall construction technique of the Kauai public schools of the 1900s.

Description: The Library building is T-shaped in plan, with an obvious addition on one arm of the T. There is an inset *lanai* (porch) at the center of the T arm. This *lanai* has paired posts with block-like decorative brackets and a railing of simple metal bars. The west end of the T arm appears to have been a *lanai* that was later enclosed, because chamfered posts are still evident. The overall dimensions of the building are approximately 88 feet by 75 feet.

The hip roof shapes are covered with corrugated sheet metal, and the rafters are exposed. The walls are tongue-and-groove boards with decorative battens. The battens are about an inch wide, with a center half circle and two quarter circles on the side. The *lanai* ceiling is plain tongue-and-groove boards. The stairs to the *lanai* are concrete, and the *lanai* floor is wood. The main facade of the building is obscured by the covered walkway which connects it to several classroom buildings. Horizontal lath screens the foundations of post on concrete block. Foundation bracing is visible. The ground slopes steeply in the rear, resulting in almost a full-story of storage space enclosed by the lath and reached through a plank door.

The main entry to the building is at the center of the inset *lanai* , through double doors 12 glass panes above single wood panels. There is another door, with five panels, opening onto the *lanai*. On the west end is a pair of double doors with a single pane of glass above three panels. The windows are almost all six over six double-hung type, paired in the main spine of the T. In most of the windows the lower panes have been painted white. The windows in one arm of the building have screens. The shape of the building allows for good cross ventilation of the main rooms.

The Building has a red roof, cream-colored walls with sand-dash paint, and brown window frames, *lanai* posts and floors.

In September 1992 during Hurricane Iniki, the Library Building lost its corrugated sheet metal roofing and parts of its wooden roof structure above the main room, which is the leg of the T. The whole east side of the building also was badly damaged, most window panes broken and window screens torn off. In the following years due to weather and lack of protection most of the remaining wooden roof structure in this area collapsed.

History: The library building dates from 1923, according to the Department of Education, Facilities Branch (DoE, FB) records, but it was not until the 1929-1930 biennium that a library was added to the school. This suggests the building was originally used for some other purpose. Its floor plan is closer to an assembly hall than a classroom building.

School building designs were the responsibility of the County architect, hired as an assistant to the County Engineer/Road Supervisor. John Waiamau was the first to hold this position, from 1921 until his death in 1931, and was followed by Tai Hing Leong during the rest of the 1930s and the 1940s.

Kalaheo School was established on this site in 1921,¹ but its predecessor was a school in the adjacent Lawai valley which was first built in 1903.² The present school site is reportedly the battlefield where George Humehume, son of Kaumualii, the last king of Kauai, led a revolt against the forces of the Kamehameha dynasty who had united the islands.²

The new school site was needed because the population of the area expanded greatly after 1907,³ when Mr. Walter McBryde started a pineapple cannery in the adjacent valley of Lawai. The McBryde family also owned the sugar mill at Eleele, and planted sugar as well as pineapple in the area. Mr. McBryde had encouraged homesteading by European settlers in the area and a good school was deemed essential to attracting these homesteaders.⁴ The idea of the homesteads in Kalaheo was to have the crops and livestock on the five-acre plots tended "by the family while the father and the larger boys are at work on the Sugar Plantation."⁴ A large number of Portuguese settlers were attracted by this homestead program. Homestead settlement in this area was successful because of the water system provided by the McBryde Sugar Company.⁴ Many other homestead areas had problems obtaining a satisfactory water system.

Sources:

Architectural drawings for the Library Building were not located.

Historian: Ann Yoklavich and Brigitte Hahn-Miller, Spencer Leineweber, Historic Architect, Principal in charge, Spencer Mason Architects, 1996.

¹ *Hawaii's Public Schools: Being the Biennial Report of the Department of Public Instruction: Territory of Hawaii, 1921-1922.* Published by the Department: Honolulu; p. 177.

² "History of Kalaheo School," anonymous, undated typed manuscript in files of Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division.

³ Tanimoto, Charles Katsumu (1982). *Return to Mahaulepu.* Fisher Printing, Co., Ltd.: Honolulu, p. 101.

⁴ "The Kalaheo Homesteads," *The Garden Island* (May 28, 1912), p. 6.

Figure 1. Map of Kauai

