HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common Name: Halepohaku Comfort Station
2. Historic Name, if known: Comfort Station
3. Street or rural address: Mauna Kea Access Road
   City: NA Zip: NA County: Hawaii
4. Present Owner, if known: State of Hawaii DLNR / Managed by the University of Hawaii
   Address if different from above:
5. Ownership is: Public
6. Present Use: Vacant Original Use: Comfort Station
   Other Past Uses:

DESCRIPTION

7. Physical Appearance:
   Style: Rustic
   Primary Exterior Building Material: Stone Stucco Adobe Other
   Wood: Clapboard Shiplap Vertical Board Board and Batten
   Roof: Side - Gable Hipped Other Special features
   Roof Trim: Closed Eaves Overhanging Eaves Brackets Fascia
   Dormers: Gabled Hipped Shed Eyelid None
   Porch: Inset outset Open Enclosed Facade length Wraparound Centered Offset
   Door: Centered Offset Transom Side Panels
   Windows: Double-Hung Sliding Casement Awning Jalousies Plate glass Other
   Number of panes:
   Chimney: Brick Concrete Rock Other
   Interior features: Vault toilets / Urinal
   Other Features: Vent System

8. Approximate Property Size: Frontage Depth or approximate acreage


10. Surroundings: Open Land Scattered Buildings Densely Built-up
    Residential Commercial Industrial Other
    Historic Landscaping (describe in back)

11. Is the structure on its original site moved unknown

12. Year of initial construction 1950 This date is factual estimated.

13. Architect (if known) Unknown

14. Builder (if known) Department of Forestry

15. Related features: Barn Carriage House Outhouse Shed(s)
    Formal Garden(s) Windmill Water tank
    Garage Servants' or Guest House Other
16. Date of attached photograph October 15, 2009

Photo 1: Halepohaku Comfort Station

SIGNIFICANCE

17. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance, including dates, events, and persons associated with the site, when and what alterations have been made (if known), note historic landscaping, if any:

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HALEPOHAKU COMFORT STATION - 1950**

The Halepohaku Comfort Station is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and Hawaii’s State Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and Criterion C. This historic property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, thus fulfilling Criterion A. This historic property also embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, thus fulfilling Criterion C.

This building was constructed by the Territory of Hawai‘i’s Division of Forestry in 1950 and is significant for its association with the development of public recreational Territorial parks. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was instrumental in opening up the M auna Kea Forest Reserve to increased tourist traffic through the construction of two Rest Houses at Halepohaku. In 1950, the Division of Forestry of the Territory of Hawaii coordinated further recreational development of the Halepohaku Rest Camp area through the construction of a the Halepohaku Comfort Station (see site map).

The Halepohaku Rest Houses are representative of a Rustic / Regionalism style of architecture. Although the Halepohaku Comfort Station was not constructed by the CCC, it conforms to the architectural style of the CCC-era Halepohaku Rest Houses. Rustic design reflects the objective of maintaining a close, organic relationship with the natural setting. Recreational facilities constructed by the CCC blended man-made structures with natural settings by the use of local materials. The Regionalism architectural style had an emphasis on climate, landscape and culture that reflects U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service philosophy of the 1933-1942 era.

**THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAI‘I**

On Hawai‘i Island, the CCC was instrumental in opening up the M auna Kea Forest Reserve to increased tourist traffic. After the dissolution of the CCC in 1942 at the onset of World War II, the Division of Forestry of the Territory of Hawai‘i continued to develop the Halepohaku Rest Camp area as a recreational tourism locale. According to the Report of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry of the Territory of Hawaii for the biennial period ending June 30,1950, a stone comfort station was constructed in that year at Halepohaku by the Division of Forestry.

In 1954, in a biennial Report of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry of the Territory of Hawaii, Halepohaku is identified as an officially established Territorial Park (1954:77,79). At this time, the significance of the facility is described as follows – it enabled “several parties at a time to visit
this high timberline area, hunt sheep and, during the winter months, have access to the snow area” (Board of Agriculture and Forestry 1954:79).

**Architectural Design**

From 1933 to 1942, the CCC constructed buildings under the recommendations and guidelines of the USDA Forest Service. Ellis Groben served as the national consulting architect at this time. Groben stated:

> No matter how well buildings may be designed, with but few exceptions, they seldom enhance the beauty of their natural settings (Otis 1986:Appendix E).

Groben preferred regional style promoting the idea of building within the climate and environment. Hawai‘i Regionalism’s distinctive features are the use of basalt, the metal clad gable / hip roof, wide eaves, and a large number of windows. This philosophy is similar to the rustic style defined here:

> The nonintrusive concept was carried out through the use of horizontal lines, low silhouette, organic forms and scale, proportion, and texture of the building materials. Attention was paid to many details on these structures, assuring its harmony with the surroundings. Plans by the National Park Service required attention be paid to the details of all aspects of the park development, including culvert design and trail and road patterns. The quality of craftsmanship in these structures was high, as the CCC standards for work were high (Smith n.d.:13).

The Halepohaku Comfort Station is located roughly 27.0 m. east of the Mauna Kea Access Road. It is a one story, two unit, rectangular-shaped stone building with L-shaped core-filled rock walls on both the east and west façades. Construction consists of cut irregular courses of vesicular basalt, reflecting the Rustic / Regionalism style of architecture described above. The building is situated on a leveled section of cinder land, the surrounding landscape consists of various exotic grasses and Mamane trees. This building measures 34’ in length and 13’ in width. The Comfort Station has a low pitch, side-gabled metal-clad roof, a roof framing system of principal rafters with common purlins, and a closed rake with semi-open eaves.

There are two offset wooden entry doors situated on the east and west inner façades that lead to separate men’s and women’s restroom areas. The inset east entryway leads to the women’s restroom area, which consists of an interior with a poured cement floor and three wooden stalls each containing a vault toilet, which are located along the southern wall. A metal sign reading “WOMEN” extends from the southern extent of the L-shaped core-filled rock wall on the east façade. The inset west entryway leads to the men’s restroom area, which consists of an interior with a poured cement floor and an urinal and two wooden stalls containing a vault toilet, which are located along the southern wall. A metal sign reading “MEN” extends from the southern extent of the L-shaped core-filled rock wall on the west façade. The interior restroom units measure 7’3” in height with ceilings constructed of canec. The southwest corner of the men’s restroom ceiling has collapsed above the urinal. A vent system is located on the southern and northern façades of the building, constructed of wood and screen. Exterior and interior measurements of the Comfort Station have been documented to scale (attached).

There are no visible or known alterations at this building.
DIGITAL PHOTO LOG

Property: Halepohaku Comfort Station
Location: Hawaii, Hawaii
Photographers: Valerie Park / Jackie Walden
Date: October 15, 2009
Digital Photos located: Pacific Consulting Services Inc., 720 Iwilei Road Ste. 424, Honolulu, HI 96817

Photo 1, South Façade - Camera facing North
Photo 2, West Façade - Camera facing East
Photo 3, North Façade - Camera facing South
Photo 4, Northeast Corner - Camera facing South Southwest
Photo 5, Top Surface of West Rockwall - Camera facing Southwest
Photo 6, Women’s Restroom Doorway - Camera facing Northwest
Photo 7, Vent System, North Façade - Camera facing South Southwest
Photo 8, Men’s Restroom Doorway - Camera facing South
Photo 9, Men’s Vault Toilet, Interior - Camera facing South
Photo 10, Women’s Metal Sign, Exterior - Camera facing North Northwest

18. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:

Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry
1950 Report of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry of the Territory of Hawaiʻi, Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1950. Division of State Parks, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaiʻi, Honolulu, HI.
1954 Report of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry of the Territory of Hawaiʻi, Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1954. Division of State Parks, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaiʻi, Honolulu, HI.

McAlester, Lee, Virginia McAlester

Otis, Alison T., William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, and Kimberly K. Lakin

Smith, Sandra Taylor
N.D. The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942. Published by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR.

CREDITS

Date form prepared: December 17, 2009 By (name): Valerie Park & Jacqueline Pamerleau - Walden
Address: 720 Iwilei Rd. Ste. 424 City: Honolulu, Zip: 96817
Phone: 808-546-5557 Organization: Pacific Consulting Services Hawaii, Inc.

STATE USE ONLY:
Comfort Station
Plan View