HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common Name: Hale Pohaku
2. Historic Name, if known: Halepohaku Rest Camp
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: X Public ___ Private
6. Present Use: Vacant Original Use: Recreation - Rest House
   Other Past Uses:

DESCRIPTION

7. Physical Appearance:
   Style: Rustic
   Primary Exterior Building Material: X Stone ____ Stucco ____ Adobe ______ Other
   Wood: ____ Clapboard ____ Shiplap ____ Vertical Board ____ Board and Batten
   Shingle _______ Other
   Roof: X Side - Gable ____ Hipped _______ Other _____________ Special features
   Roofing Material Corrugated Metal Panels
   Roof Trim: ____ Closed Eaves X Overhanging Eaves ___ Brackets X Fascia
   Dormers: ____ Gabled ___ Hipped ___ Shed ___ Eyelid X None
   Porch: X Inset ____ Outset ____ Open ____ Enclosed ___ Facade length
   ___ Wraparound ___ Centered X Offset
   Door: ___ Centered X Offset X Inset ___ Transom ___ Side Panels
   ___ Sidelights ____ Window X Other
   Windows: ____ Double-Hung ____ Sliding X Casement ____ Awning ____ Jalousies
   ____ Plate glass X Other
   Number of panes: 6
   Chimney: ____ Brick ____ Concrete ____ Rock X Other
   Interior features: Brick / Stone Stove
   Other Features: Metal Window Shutter, Gutter / Water Catchment system

8. Approximate Property Size: Frontage ________________ Depth ________________
   or approximate acreage +/- 19


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

11. Is the structure X on its original site ____ moved ____ unknown

12. Year of initial construction 1936 This date is X factual ____ estimated.

13. Architect (if known) Unknown

14. Builder (if known) Civilian Conservation Corps

15. Related features: ____ Barn ____ Carriage House ____ Outhouse ____ Shed(s)
    ____ Formal Garden(s) ____ Windmill X Watertank
    ____ Garage ____ Servants' or Guest House _________________ Other
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 CCC HALEPOHAKU REST HOUSE - 1936

The Halepohaku Rest Camp comprises two buildings as shown on the site map and the photo below. The first unit, identified for inventory purposes as Rest House 1, was built in February 1936 and a second unit, or Rest House 2, was built in October 1939 (Halepohaku Register Log 1939).

Halepohaku Rest House 1 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 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1936 and is significant for its association with the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This period of history is marked by the unprecedented intervention of the federal government in the national economy and welfare of its citizens following the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing Great Depression. The federal government enacted legislation, commonly referred to as the New Deal, which brought about reforms to a bankrupted economic system and thereby economic relief to the citizenry. The results of the Civilian
Conservation Corps in its nine-year span were far reaching – the program effectively removed people from relief rolls and achieved major improvements to and conservation of public lands. The New Deal policies are generally considered to mark a turning point in American history.

Rest House 1 is also significant as a representation of the Rustic / Regionalism style of architecture typified by the CCC. Rustic design reflects the objective of maintaining a close, organic relationship with the natural setting, which was typical of early park planning between the years of 1933 – 1942. Recreational facilities constructed during this period blended man-made structures with natural settings by using local materials. The Regionalism architectural style had an emphasis on climate, landscape and culture reflecting U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service philosophy of this 1933-1942 era.

THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) IN THE TERRITORY OF HAWAI‘I

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was launched in 1933 as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal in the midst of the Great Depression. President Roosevelt proposed that the CCC “be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects” and argued that “this type of work is of definite, practical value, not only through the prevention of great present financial loss, but also as a means of creating future national wealth” (Williams and Shapiro 2008). On March 31, 1933, Congress passed a bill under the title “Emergency Conservation Work” (ECW) and on April 5, 1933, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6101 which officially established the ECW Program, administered under the auspices of the CCC (Williams and Shapiro 2008; National Park Service 2006).

The CCC had two main objectives – to employ hundreds of thousands of unemployed young men in conservation work and to provide vocational training, and later education training, for enrollees (Williams and Shapiro 2008). Nearly three million men were eventually enrolled in the CCC, working in National Forests throughout the United States and in U.S. Territories, including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Williams and Shapiro 2008; National Park Service 2006). In the course of nearly a decade, before Congress abolished the CCC on June 30, 1942 as a result of the Unites States’ entry into World War II, the CCC accomplished natural resource improvements that included reforestation, erosion control, invasive species eradication, firefighting, road and trail construction, telephone and electric line construction, and recreation facilities construction (Williams and Shapiro 2008; National Park Service 2006). The CCC was one of the most popular and successful of the New Deal programs (Williams and Shapiro 2008).

Enrollment periods lasted six months and enrollees could opt to re-enroll for additional six-month periods for up to two years. Four distinct enrollment categories existed – Junior enrollees; Local Experienced Men; World War I veterans; and American Indians and residents from U.S. Territories. Juniors comprised 85% of enrollees and were single men between the ages of 18 and 25, whose families were on relief aid. Two groups of older men, Local Experienced Men and Veterans of World War I each comprised 5% of enrollees. Territorial enrollees comprised 1% of total CCC enrollment and were not subject to age or marital status restrictions and were permitted to live at home and work on nearby projects (Williams and Shapiro 2008).

The CCC provided room, board, clothing, transportation, medical and dental care, and a monthly salary of $30 per enrollee. The majority of the enrollees’ salaries were sent home to their families, although the remainder could be spent on personal expenses (Williams and Shapiro 2008; National Park Service 2006). In the Territory of Hawaii, each enrollee was required to allot at least $22 of his monthly pay to needy relatives (Tillett 1937).

The CCC was officially inaugurated in 1933 in the Hawaiian Territory under the supervision of the Territorial Forestry Commission and the Hawaiian National Park, but the first Corps work projects were not begun until 1934 (Bryan 1938a; Otis et al. 1986). By 1942, when the CCC camps in Hawai‘i were closed in the wake of World War II, the following conservation works had been completed on the islands of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, Maui, Molokai, and Kauai – the planting of 12 million trees on 24,000 acres of land; the construction of 175 miles of new forest reserve fence and the repair of 222 miles of old fence; the construction of 488 miles of roads and trails and 42 miles of telephone lines; the creation of erosion control dams and the seeding and sodding of eroded areas; the elimination of destructive range animals (goats, sheep, pigs); the collection of tree seeds and eradication of exotic plant species; the reduction of fire hazards and the development of public campgrounds, trail cabins, and shelters (Bryan 1938a; Dwight 1942; Tillett 1938).
In addition to the substantial natural resource conservation-oriented benefits provided by the CCC program to the Territory of Hawai‘i and the economic benefit extended to the CCC enrollees’ families, Corps administrators maintained that the program fostered the qualities of good citizenship. Acting Territorial Forester, L. W. Bryan, reported that:

In addition to the good done to the youth of this Island through giving them an opportunity to earn money we have tried to teach them to live together, to work, to learn some useful trade, to continue their education, to improve their health and to become better citizens. We feel that a large number of these boys have left our camps in a much better condition to go out in the world and earn their living and be better citizens (Bryan 1938a:16).

Others maintained that the CCC program fostered improved working relations, particularly as it pertained to enrollees’ transition to employment in the local plantation economy. F. H. Locey, the President of the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, wrote that:

It appears to me that the CCC camp is a kindergarten in a way. They take young boys in, do not work them too hard but harden them for normal employment. That is why I call it a kindergarten or a stepping stone to future labor (Locey 1940).

Following his visit to Hawaii in 1938 to inspect the ECW program, Director Robert Fechner reflected on the relationship between the CCC and the local plantations, stating that:

…our method of feeding enrollees, our provision for organizing recreation and our effort to help enrollees carry on their education had been of distinct interest to the plantation managers and had resulted in these features of plantation life being substantially improved (Otis 1986:Chapter 11).

In his estimation, Fechner felt that plantation conditions improved and once their enrollment with the CCC ended, enrollees were willing to return to work on the plantations.

The CCC aimed to supplement on-the-job training with a formal educational program. Approximately half of the CCC enrollees had less than an eighth-grade education and suffered from illiteracy. To remedy this situation, evening instruction in the camps taught remedial reading and writing skills, general education courses, and specialized vocational classes (Williams and Shapiro 2008). Furthermore, Director Fechner authorized the establishment of libraries in the Corps camps, which were stocked with forestry and conservation work periodicals and books (Maher 2008).

On Hawai‘i Island, the CCC was instrumental in opening up the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve to increased tourist traffic. A number of CCC projects occurred in the Halepohaku vicinity, including the reconstruction of the Humu‘ula Trail and the creation of an access road from Ho’okomo Ranger Station to Halepohaku. The Humu‘ula Trail, reconstructed in 1936, extends from the Humu‘ula Sheep Station, past Ho‘okomo Ranger Station and Halepohaku to Lake Waiau and the Mauna Kea summit. Bryan commented on the significance of the CCC efforts in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve:

The ease with which it is now possible to ascend this mountain has been made possible by the road and trail building activities of the CCC boys and much credit is due to this organization for the secondary road and trail which they have constructed from Waiki to Hookomo and on to the summit. Due to their efforts Mauna Kea has become accessible and during the past two years has been visited by thousands of people. Last winter it was not uncommon for over one hundred people to climb up to the snow line and beyond in a single day. As time goes on it is hoped that the road will be continued so that cars may be taken up to the Rest House at Halepohaku (Bryan 1938b:38).
In 1938, Bryan wrote that automobile traffic could reach to the forest fence above Ho`okomo, but at that point the road ended and from that point to Halepohaku, it was a distance of two miles. The distance from Halepohaku to Lake Waiau was another 5 miles and an elevation gain of roughly 3,500 feet (Bryan 1938b). At some point in 1939, the CCC improved the road from Ho`okomo to Halepohaku.

From the point to the rest house at Halepohaku it is only two miles and from there to the lake an additional five miles, making a total distance of seven miles to hike, from the point where the cars are usually left, to the shores of the lake. Visitors usually remain overnight at Halepohaku. …From here to the lake and return by way of the summit is an easy day’s hike and one well worth taking (Bryan 1939:11).

Bryan’s reports and the Halepohaku Register Logs (1939, 1949) illustrate the tremendous tourist traffic resulting from the construction of the Halepohaku Rest Houses and the road. According to the register logs, Halepohaku was visited by ski enthusiasts, hikers, geologists, hunters, World War II servicemen, and local Boy Scout troops among others. Gary Cooper, a Hollywood film actor visited the rest house on March 5, 1939 (Halepohaku Register Log 1939:3).

**THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN**

Halepohaku Rest House 1 was constructed by members of the CCC in Hawai`i in 1936. Upon the first entry of the Halepohaku Register Log (1939), L. W. Bryan wrote that the “Halepohaku Rest Camp” was constructed by the CCC under the direction of the Territorial Division of Forestry by CCC Foreman Yoshinobu Hada.

A photograph from the L. W. Bryan Forestry Photograph Collection, which is housed at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum Library and Archives, illustrates Rest House 1 in an early stage of construction and is dated February 1936.

“L.W. Bryan, Bishop Museum”

The letters “Ha” and the date “1936” were inscribed into mortar near the doorway of Rest House 1 – presumably referring to Foreman Hada. In articles published in *Paradise of the Pacific*, Bryan physically describes Rest House 1 and identifies its’ early usage, writing that:

Halepohaku is well named for the stone rest-house located there. This house is within the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and is available for use by any one. It is located in a sheltered spot, near 9,500 feet, at the upper edge of the timber line. Fire wood is plentiful and a 2,000 gallon water tank, fed by gutters from the house roof, furnishes a supply of good clean water. A 3 x 5 foot built in stove furnishes ample warmth and a suitable place to cook and the size of the fire box is such that the cutting of fire wood is an easy matter. The house door is never locked
and the only charge made is that each occupant is requested to leave the place clean, not to waste the water and to prepare a small supply of fire wood for the next fellow (Bryan 1936:69).

...Aside from a stove, a table and benches, this building is unfurnished. ...Halepohaku is only two miles from where the car is left and makes an excellent stopping place for the night (Bryan 1938b:9-10).

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).

Halepohaku Rest House 1 is a one story, one unit, rectangular-shaped stone building constructed with uncut irregular courses of 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. Rest House 1 measures 23’ 4” in length and 19’4” in width. The building has a low pitch, side-gabled metal-clad roof, a roof framing system of principal rafters with common purlins, and an open rake with wide eaves. The east and west façades have fascia and board and batton construction. The offset wooden entry door is situated on the southern façade and is covered with a metal panel. A screen door is present in the doorway, it is unknown if this door is orginal. An inset cement porch with two stone and cement steps leads from the sidewalk to the entry. A single six-pane casement pivot window is located on the east façade, with a barrel-hinged iron shutter attached to the window’s exterior. A wooden water tank is located at the southwest corner of the building; water catchment is enabled by a metal gutter system that runs along the north and south façades of the building on the west end the gutters drain into the water tank. The gutter system supported by a 4”x4” wooden beam that extends along the west façade and into an a‘a lava outcrop. This building has an interior ceiling height of 8’2”, there is one shelf suspended from the ceiling situated on the west wall. The interior floor consists of poured cement. A stone / brick stove is located in the northwest corner of the building’s interior. A metal chimney extends from the stove at the northwest end of the building’s exterior, buttressed within an a‘a lava outcrop. Exterior and interior measurements of Rest House 1 have been documented to scale.

A second water tank is present west of the original water tank. The construction date of this second water tank is unknown but most likely post-dates that of the original. A cement sidewalk and light pole of recent construction are located roughly 1.5 m south of the building, along the building’s southern façade, but the exact date of their construction is unknown. Aside from the second water tank, the cement sidewalk, and the light pole there are no further additions known to the interior or exterior of the building.
DIGITAL PHOTO LOG

Property: Halepohaku Rest House 1
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, East Façade - Camera facing West
Photo 3, North Façade - Camera facing West Southwest
Photo 4, West Façade - Camera facing East Southeast
Photo 5, Water Tanks - Camera facing Southeast
Photo 6, Initials & Date - Camera facing North
Photo 7, Entry Steps - Camera facing North
Photo 8, Window, Exterior - Camera facing West
Photo 9, Window, Interior - Camera facing East
Photo 10, Stove, Interior - Camera facing Northwest
Photo 11, Door Knob, Interior - Camera facing West
Photo 12, Door Lock, Interior - Camera facing South
Photo 13, Chimney - Camera facing West Southwest
Photo 14, Gutter & Water Tank - Camera facing South Southeast

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

Bryan, L. W.

Dwight, J. L.
1942  Resolution Expressing Regret at the Closing of Activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Expression the Hope of a Re-establishment of its Activities After the War. Memo dated August 20, 1942, from J. L. Dwight, Executive Secretary, Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, Territory of Hawaii. Government Records, Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry: 1903-1959, Record Group COM2, Box 12, Hawai‘i State Archives, Honolulu, HI.

Halepohaku Register Log
1939  Halepohaku Register Log. Division of State Parks, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai‘i, Honolulu, HI.
1949  Halepohaku Register Log. Division of State Parks, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai‘i, Honolulu, HI.

Locey, F. H.
1940  Letter from F. H. Locey, President, Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, Territory of Hawaii, to Mr. C. S. Childs, Director, Alexander House Community Association, Wailuku, Maui.
Dated April 30, 1940. Government Records, Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry: 1903-1959, Record Group COM2, Box 12, Hawai‘i State Archives, Honolulu, HI.

Maher, Neil M.
McAlester, Lee, Virgina McAlester

National Park Service

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.

Tillett, Everett Edward

Williams, Gerald W. and Aaron Shapiro

CREDITS

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Rest House 1

East Facade

Scale in Feet

0  2  4
Rest House 1

Stove

Scale in Feet

Door East Profile