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: ____________________________________________
   State of Hawaii DLNR / Managed by the University of Hawaii
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 X Board and Batten
   _____ Shingle _________ Other
   Roof: X Side - Gable ___ Hipped ______________ Other ________________ Special features
   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 1939 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 Water tank
    ____ Garage ____ Servants or Guest House X Other
16. Date of attached photograph October 15, 2009

**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 - 1939**

The Halepohaku Rest Camp comprises two buildings as shown on the site map and the picture 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 2 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 1939 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 2 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 United 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 Māuna 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 Wai‘au and the Māuna Kea summit. Bryan commented on the significance of the CCC efforts in the Māuna 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 Wa‘iki to Hookomo and on to the summit. Due to their efforts Māuna 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 2 was constructed by members of the CCC in Hawai`i in 1939. 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.

Two photographs from the L. W. Bryan Forestry Photograph Collection, which is housed at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum Library and Archives, depict Rest House 2. The first photograph dated August 1939 illustrates Rest House 2 in an early stage of construction. The other photograph dated December 1939 shows a group of six men standing in front of the completed Rest House 2. Bryan identified this group as “Foreman Hada and Boys.”
According to the Halepohaku Register Log, Rest House 2 was constructed by Foreman Y. Hada and the following CCC "boys" – William Hussey, Roy Y asutake, Joseph Nobriga, Eddie K. Akana, Thomas Ohashi, Edwin Hacisenritter, William K ekakuaa (Truck Driver), Walter A. Hing (Cook), and Hereniao Palacato (Cook). Presumably some of these "boys" are depicted in the December photograph. On October 30, 1939, Foreman Hada wrote on behalf of himself and the "boys" that:

The building here is almost complete and we are about to leave for Waimea Base Camp. We like this place so much that we hate to leave but duty calls us for project elsewhere. ... We say with tears in our eyes by[e] but not for good (Halepohaku Register Log 1939:12).

It is of note that within the 1939 Register Log, Foreman Hada describes the construction of a "very beautiful library" within Rest House 2, noting that “all around the wall the floor was smooth with sandpaper and finish with shellack.” Because the education of enrollees was a CCC goal, it is possible to infer that this library was used to house forestry and conservation-oriented publications and other general education materials.

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).

Grobens 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 2 is a one story, three 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. A retaining terrace is built along the eastern and southern façades. Rest House 2 measures 62’ in length and 18’ 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 north and south façades have fascia and board and batten construction. Three offset presumably original wooden entry doors, numbered 1 to 3, are situated on the western façade and each door is covered with a metal panel. The inset entrance consists of a single cement slab. The interior of each unit consists of a poured cement floor, with a stone / brick stove located in the southeast corner of each unit and a metal chimney that extends from the stove to the exterior of the east façade. Each unit has a centered single six-pane casement pivot window located on the east wall with a barrel-hinged iron shutter located on the exterior of the window. Each room has an interior 8’ height. The interior stone walls are painted. A shelf suspended from the ceiling is located on the southern wall of each unit, but it is unconfirmed if these shelves are original. Exterior and interior measurements of Rest House 2 have been documented to scale (attached).

A wooden water tank is located at the southwest corner of the building. It measures 34’ in diameter. Water catchment is enabled by a metal gutter system that runs along the east and west façades of the building to the southern end where the gutter drains into the west side of the water tank. The gutter system is supported by three primary 2” x 4” wooden beams that extend outward from the board and batten along the southern façade and and three secondary 1” x 0.5” wooden beams that extend from the eaves.
Visible alterations include retouched mortar in various locations on the exterior of the building and on the retaining wall. A single six-pane casement pivot window in unit 2 has been replaced with a double pane sliding casement window. On the north wall of each unit an additional wooden wall abuts the original stone wall. Evidence of electrical updates are visible in each unit. Abutting the north end of the building, a sidewalk and a light have been installed. Dates of these alterations are unknown.

**DIGITAL PHOTO LOG**

**Property:** Halepohaku Rest House 2  
**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, West Façade - Camera facing Northeast  
Photo 2, North Façade - Camera facing South  
Photo 3, East Façade - Camera facing Southwest  
Photo 4, South Façade - Camera facing North Northwest  
Photo 5, Water Tank & Gutter - Camera facing West  
Photo 6, Window & Metal Shutter - Camera facing West  
Photo 7, Unit, 1 Newer Window - Camera facing Northeast  
Photo 8, Unit 3, Doorway, Exterior - Camera facing Southeast  
Photo 9, Stove, Interior - Camera facing East  
Photo 10, Chimney, Exterior - Camera facing Northwest  
Photo 11, Terrace, Southeast Corner - Camera facing Northwest  
Photo 12, Shelf, Interior - Camera facing Southeast  
Photo 13, Northeast Corner - Camera facing Southwest

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 COM 2, Box 12, Hawaii State Archives, Honolulu, HI.

Maher, Neil M.

McAlester, Lee, Virginia 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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12/20/14
NEW
5-14-24
2-16-24 Recap
3-16-24 Need to be Recap
Rest House 2 - Plan View
Rest House 2
North Facade
Rest House 2 - Unit 2

East Facade

Scale in Feet

0  6"  1'

Window Sill
South Profile