Hawaii Settlement

Honokahau Bay, North Kona District, Island of Hawaii

State of Hawaii; Frank B. Greenwell; and Thelma K. Springer, Nancy E. Oliver and
Mary S. Holt Trust

The fishponds of the area were responsible for much of its importance to the ancient Hawaiians and reflect their ingenuity in adapting themselves to their environment. As very few fishponds exist on Hawaii and as it is now the common practice to fill in such ponds to add land, they are rapidly disappearing from the Hawaiian scene. It is to be hoped, therefore, that these can be preserved to retain the original character of the area.

The heiau, Puucina, is the finest example of a platform type of heiau in Kona. It stands with its original divisions almost intact in a commanding position on the south shore of Honokohau Bay. The great water-worn boulders neatly laid up in the facing of its walls give an impressive appearance to this heiau. All this designates this heiau as one which must be preserved.

Around the point to the west of Puucina heiau at Alaula cove is a fisherman's heiau, remarkable for two great upright stone slabs which rise above the height of the pavement in its seaward retaining wall. These slabs served as fishermen's gods. It lies in a most picturesque setting of clear, emerald-green bathing pools at the rear, is surrounded by ancient house sites, and is adjacent to a coral-sand beach at the head of a protected cove. The area from this cove over to and including the heiau of Puucina seems to have the potential for a superb and unique park which could at the same time preserve the most characteristic features of ancient Hawaiian coastal settlement. We strongly recommend, therefore, that this stretch of coast be set aside and developed for this purpose.

In Honokohau Nui, the holua slide and heiau inland are the sites to be preserved. This is one of the five holua slides which have survived in Kona. Besides the great slide at Honokohau, there is a small practice slide and a long slide at Honaunau, a practice


9. REPORTS AND STUDIES ( Mention brief report and studies, etc., NPS survey, HABS, etc.)

Hawaii Archeological Site Survey-50-IHA-D1-1 thru 27
" " " D2-1 thru 29
" " " " D3-1 thru 16

10. PHOTOGRAPHS

ATTACHED: YES ☑ NO ☐

11. CONDITION

Excellent

Fishponds, Ranch Land

12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)

March 1962

13. DATE OF VISIT

15. TITLE

Regional Archaeologist

16. DATE

June 27, 1962

* ANY MOUNT ON AN 8 1/2 X 11 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317c, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)
This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont’d), as,

6. Description and Importance (cont’d) . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>NAME(S) OF SITE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Honokohau Settlement</td>
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7. Importance and Description (continued)

The ancient heiau ruins on the pahoehoe plain is not in the way of any likely development and as an interesting structure which could easily be required, should be preserved. A few yards from it are groups of petroglyphs which constitute an additional attraction.

If it could be avoided, the house sites and tombs at the base of the hill bearing the ho'oluia should not be destroyed. Two of the tombs have in the construction of their facing large slabs set on edge, or on end, a character of the ancient stone masonry of the area, and the house sites were well designed and placed from the Hawaiian point of view.

The scattered petroglyphs throughout the area have a drawing interest. Clearing of the land other than by bulldozer would result in the finds of other petroglyphs than those we have reported. The only hope of preserving these petroglyphs is for them to be pointed out and known to those who develop, occupy, or visit the area.

It is beyond the scope of this report and the training of Bishop Museum field parties to judge what areas would best serve for recreational parks, but it is obvious that the pond and shore areas have great possibilities for beautification and enjoyment simply by clearing and replacing the foreign vegetation by the thornless and attractive native trees and plants. The great pond at Honokohau is at present functioning for preserving wild life. Upon our last visit flocks of the Hawaiian duck were settled on its surface and mother ducks were seen circulating with their newly hatched broods. We would recommend that this area be preserved to serve this function.

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