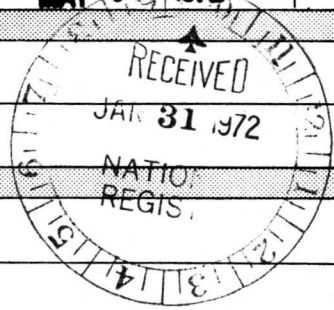


P4 0055336

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Hawaii	
COUNTY: Honolulu	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 5 1972	



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Kamehameha V Post Office

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of Merchant and Bethel Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Honolulu

STATE: Hawaii      CODE: 15      COUNTY: Honolulu      CODE: 03

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Hawaii (under the control of the Judiciary Branch)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Judiciary Building

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu      STATE: Hawaii      CODE: 15

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Bureau of Conveyances

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tax Office Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu      STATE: Hawaii      CODE: 15

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Hawaii	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Honolulu	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 5 1972	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

---

(Check One)

Altered   
  Unaltered

---

(Check One)

Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

*Rectangular*

The Kamehameha V Post Office is basically a two story ~~rectangular~~ concrete block structure with the blocks (each measuring 12" x 14" x 24") scored to resemble cut stone. The overall dimensions of the original structure are approximately 55' by 55'. Structural and non-structural embellishments include excellent examples of classical design elements. The original Tuscan portico entry is now enclosed, however, the columns of the original structure are still visible. The balcony above the portico is enclosed by a concrete balustrade also used on the roof to create a fenestrated parapet. The wall of the Merchant Street portico was originally filled with postal lock boxes reached through a series of structural arched openings. In the 1920's, the wall of the building was moved out to the outer edge of the arched openings and steel columns were put up in place of the original wall.

A 33' x 60' addition was put up in 1900. The exterior walls of this addition are of brick with a cement plaster finish to match the cut stone form of the original. The balustrade of the addition is made of sheet metal and is badly corroded. Over the years, non-permanent canopies have appeared on various parts of the exterior, the most noticeable being over the second floor balcony.

The interior of the building in no way represents the original floor plan or decoration. The building has been used for many things in its one hundred years of service and each new use dictated a new interior layout and design. Presently, a portion of the 1900 addition is in a state of great disrepair although basically, the building is in sound structural condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

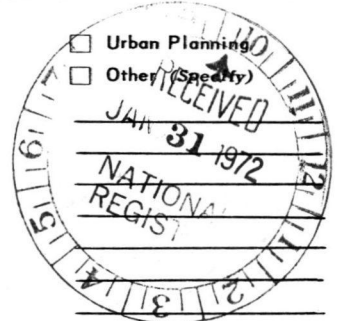
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kamehameha V Post Office is of historical and architectural value to Hawaii. At the time of its erection (1870-71) it was one of the outstanding public buildings in the Hawaiian Kingdom, significant for its early use of concrete blocks and iron bars for reinforcement of formed structural concrete.

The use of concrete for buildings was not common in Hawaii at this time and to construct a building entirely of this material was unheard of. It is possible that the Kamehameha V Post Office in Honolulu may be the oldest building in the United States constructed of concrete blocks and reinforced formed structural concrete. It certainly was the first use of this type of construction in Hawaii.

The Kamehameha V Post Office (so named because it was built during the reign of Kamehameha V who was also responsible for the building of several other important public buildings) was the first post office building in Hawaii. For many years, it also housed the publishing and printing offices of the Hawaiian Gazette and other small companies and organizations needing office space. In 1894, the post office finally took over the entire building. By 1900, it was necessary to build an addition to accommodate the growing volume of mail transactions. On June 14, 1900, the Kamehameha V Post Office officially became a unit of the United States Post Office as this was the year that Hawaii officially became a Territory of the United States. In 1922, the United States Post Office was moved to the Federal building and control of the old building was returned to the Territory of Hawaii. It was remodeled as a postal substation and for use as the Territorial Tax office. Since this time, the postal substation has been closed and the building has been used for a variety of purposes. Today, it houses the driver education program of the Honolulu District Courts. The rear addition to the building is vacant and the upper floor is condemned as unsafe.

As one of the oldest remaining public buildings in Hawaii, unique in its construction and history, the Kamehameha V Post Office contributes significantly to the atmosphere of downtown Honolulu.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Merchant Street Notes" by Richard Greer in Hawaii Historical Review, Volume I, No. 2, p. 23-24.

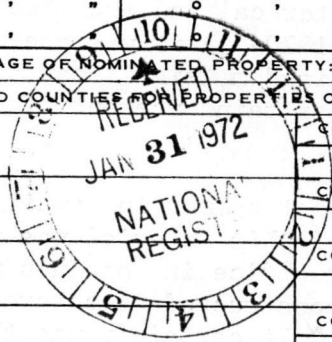
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		21°	18'	45"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		157°	51'	48"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
H3  
20  
HTM

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dorothy Riconda, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Hawaii Register of Historic Places DATE: Nov. 10, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 621

CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu STATE: Hawaii CODE: 15

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Sunao Kido  
SUNAO KIDO, Chairman  
Dept. of Land & Natural Resources

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/5/72

ATTEST:  
William M. [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

72000416

Kamehameha V Post Office

PROPERTY

Honolulu

STATE

HAWAII

DATE OF RECEIPT

1/31/72 YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER:

MAY 5 1972



DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

1/31/72

RESUBMIT

Check de 3/29/72 jls

OK memo 4/21/72

REVIEW

Okay. Same 4/25/72

HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

We've put pictures with wrong captions.

OK Chambers 4-19-72

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

Wm

WRITER/EDITOR

OK Maxine 4/26/72

CHIEF, OAHP

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

HABS, 1966

Federal Registry Entry

6-6-72

Annual Edition Entry

LOGGED

MAY 5 1972

CARD

MAY 5 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER

1.31.72.167

CONGRESSIONAL DIST.



NPS Number MAY 5, 1972

Title: Kamehameha V Post Ofc  
Honolulu Hawaii

(1)

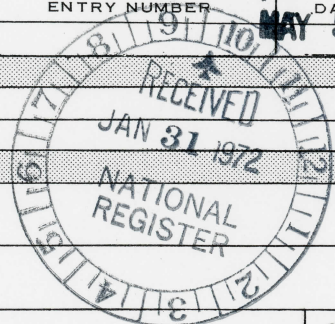
Loc. View fr. W. showing  
N + S facade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Hawaii
COUNTY	Honolulu
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 5 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Kamehameha V Post Office  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of Merchant and Betel Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Honolulu

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Hawaii	15	Honolulu	03

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: unknown  
DATE OF PHOTO: between 1884 and 1900  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Archives of Hawaii

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
  
view taken from the west showing the north and south facades.  
taken before the addition was added to the Bethel street side  
and before the awning was added to the second floor.



NPS Number May 5, 1972

Title: Kamehameha V Post Ofc.

②

Honolulu HAWAII

Loc. View fr. West of No. + So

elevation

Jack Brucher  
for HABS.  
July 1966

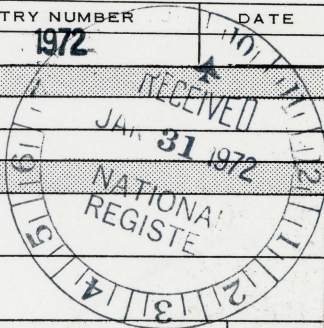
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Hawaii	
COUNTY Honolulu	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 5 1972	DATE MAY 5 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Kamehameha V Post Office			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Corner of Merchant and Bethel Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu			
STATE: Hawaii	CODE 15	COUNTY: Honolulu	CODE 03
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: J. Boucher, Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1966			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Archives of Hawaii Negative #17,332			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View from the West of the North and South elevations			

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

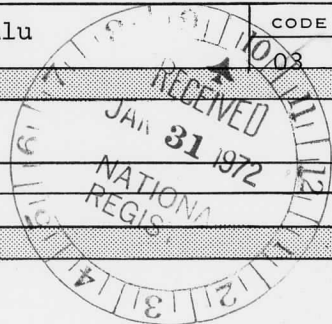
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

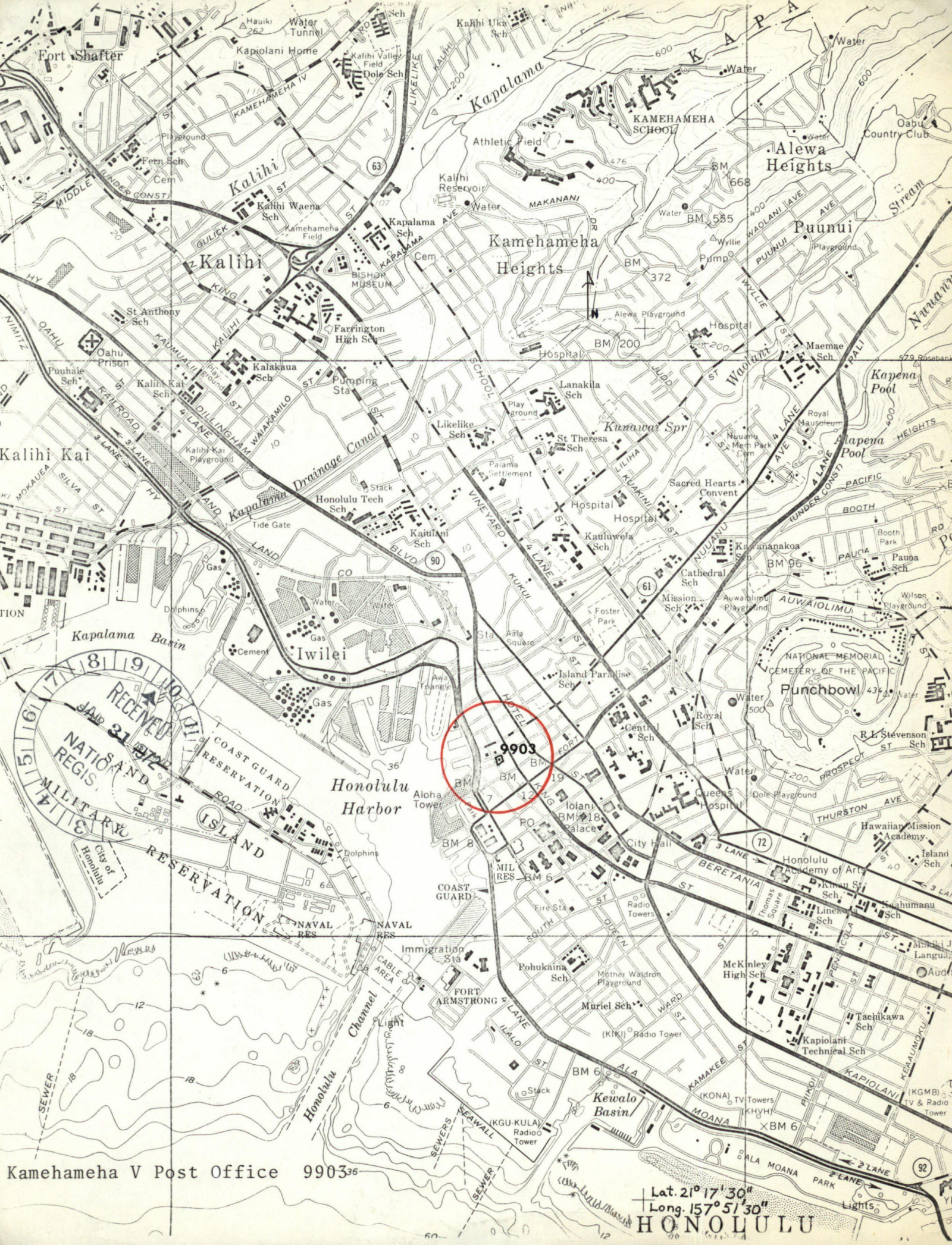
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Hawaii	
COUNTY Honolulu	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 5 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Kamehameha V Post Office			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Corner of Merchant and Bethel Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Honolulu			
STATE: Hawaii	CODE 15	COUNTY: Honolulu	CODE 1003
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: United States Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 24, 000			
DATE: 1959			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





9903

RECEIVED  
JAN 31 1972  
NATIONAL  
REGISTRY OF  
MILITARY  
RESERVATIONS

Kamehameha V Post Office 990336

Lat. 21° 17' 30"  
Long. 157° 51' 30"  
HONOLULU

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE HAWAII

Date Entered **MAY 5 1972**

Name

Location

✓ Kamehameha V Post Office

Honolulu  
Honolulu County

Also Notified

Hon. Hiram L. Fong  
Hon. Daniel K. Inouye  
Hon. Spark M. Matsunaga

Director, Western Region

HR NRowland:mm 5/5/72

State Liaison Officer  
Mr. Sunao Kido  
Chairman  
Department of Land & Natural  
Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809