

**A Restoration in Miniature  
Kawaiahao District of Honolulu in the 1850's**

Model and photograph  
Exhibited at the Mission Houses Museum

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The era of the 1850's was one of transition for the town of Honolulu. Adobe walls, built to protect property from the ravages of semi-wild cattle, were beginning to be replaced with wooden fences. Buildings of coral and adobe, with wood, slate or zinc roofs, were supplanting the former ubiquitous grass house. Piped water, still a thing of the future, but with wells, dug into the coral many feet below ground provided water which could be pumped or hauled to the surface. Trees and shrubbery previously stunted were starting to take hold and prosper. Grass and flowers were limited to areas close to the wells where they could more readily be encouraged to grow. Streets, still of bare earth, were dusty in dry weather and muddy when wet; sidewalks, few and far between. Ammenities for bathing, although primitive by today's standards, were becoming recognized by the populace as essential to community welfare. Urbanization of the city was taking place, even in the Kawaiahao District, which in the 1850's was still considered to be a long way out from "downtown" Honolulu.

This model, built at a scale of 1 to 160, is based on old maps and records, prints, sketches and early photographs, and on contemporary descriptions and comments by residents and visitors.

The view shown is looking mauka toward the central portion of the model. On the left (1) is the Great Stone Church. In the foreground, facing the angle of Kawaiahao St., (then called Mission Lane), is (2) the Adobe School House, which was the scene of so many Annual Meetings of the American Missionaries. On the Waikiki side of Kawaiahao St. is (3) the Mission Depository, where supplies were dispersed to the various stations throughout the Islands. When financial support from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions was withdrawn, it became the first home of Castle & Cooke. Next is the Chamberlain House (4) with its kitchen-bedroom wing. The coral bedroom annex (5), now

called the Printing House, was built as an addition to the Frame House (6) which was brought around the Horn for the Pioneer Group of Missionaries and erected in 1821. It is shown with its two separate kitchens and the Bingham wing, along with barns and native houses. At the far right is the Mission pasture.

Across King St., where the City Hall now stands, are (7) native houses and their appurtenances. The second road leads back to (8) thatched Mission Houses built in the 1830's and occupied by the Cookes before they took up their work at the Royal School. The gable house (9) was originally intended for the Loomis family, but they left before it was completed or repaired, as it was the structure whose collapse caused the Mission much consternation. The Judds lived there until Dr. Judd entered Government service. The Armstrongs added the second floor. Eventually the house was used by the Clarks during the Reverend Clark's ministry to the Great Stone Church. At long last, it became a part of the Kawaiahae Seminary, serving as residence for head mistress, Lydia Bingham, daughter of Pioneer Missionaries. The next building (10) was used as a Bindery. The two-story portion was formerly the second Printing House, and the one-story wing on the Ewa side, the original Printing House built in 1823. The larger building (11) in the rear, was the Third and final Printing House, which at the time depicted here, had been abandoned, since the Mission printing was being done "downtown". This building later became the dormitory for Kawaiahae Seminary. The road on the right, which angled around the Mission premises, joining Punchbowl about where Hotel Street now crosses, was known as Printers' Lane. The last house on the right is (12) the Castle house, the original core of which had been built by Mr. Clark. This old structure, although often remodeled and added to, survived until relatively recent times, finally being demolished to make way for Kapiolani Boulevard to extend to Beretania Street.



