

MAR 24 1964

H A W A I I H I S T O R I C A L R E V I E W

VOL. I, NO. 7

APRIL, 1964

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THE POINT OF LAHAINA

by

Frances Jackson

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The town of Lahaina continues to attract visitors. This short paper will explore a portion of the town as seen by some earlier voyagers.

During the pre-European period, the Lahaina district was a favored area for the Maui chiefs. It was also the scene of some furious battles, notably one between Alapainui of Hawaii and Peleioholani of Oahu in 1783.¹ Each was supporting a rival for the Maui domains, and the resulting struggle was notable for the great slaughter, piles of bones still are unearthed between Honokawai and Lahaina. Hawaiian chiefs espoused the scorched-earth policy so that, by the time Kamehameha I had finally quieted Maui, the land was in ruins. In 1793 Vancouver saw "Mowee, and its neighboring islands...reduced to great indigence by the wars, in which for many years they have been engaged."² The fields were "...lying waste, their fences partly or entirely broken down, and their little canals utterly destroyed."³

For his part, Kamehameha the Conqueror did not spend too much time at Lahaina. He came through in February of 1795 with a fleet of war canoes, plundered the town, and went on.⁴ According to Jarves, writing in 1843, "The nominal submission of the king of Kauai [1795] contented his ambition;...He remained at Hawaii four years [until 1801] and afterward spent much time at Lahaina, occupied in arranging his plans on a permanent basis."⁵ "In 1801, he returned to Oahu, to prepare a great armament for the conquest of Kauai. This occupied him two years."⁶ "Kamehameha resided at Kailua seven years....On the 8th of May, 1819, at the age of sixty-six, this great and good savage died."⁷ Cleveland notes, under date of June 21, 1803, that Kamehameha was again at Mowee.⁸ Kamehameha visited frequently but rarely resided at Lahaina.

While Kamehameha was arranging for single administration of the several islands, the sailing captains were beginning to stop off at some of the ports, usually Kailua and Kawaihae on the island of Hawaii, or at Honolulu on Oahu. Lahaina was not much of a trade town yet, and it was not until the whalers came that it became popular.

Lahaina Roads

The roadstead, of course, was the early claim to fame of this otherwise unremarkable village. Sea captains soon were writing enthusiastic reports of the protection from gales afforded by the nearby islands, the good bottom for holding, and the generally favorable anchorage.⁹ The major hazard was the channel¹⁰ in to shore, a narrow

break in the reef running from point to point of Lahaina "bay" which regularly dumped unskilled seamen into the surf. The natives just as regularly fished them out, rarely the worse for wear. The Hawaiians were considered wondrously skilled in the sea--few sailors could even swim--and it was a rare writer who could resist including the latest story of shark-hunting for fun, or a long passage on the sport of surf-riding.¹¹

Lahaina Town

The town itself made a fairly consistent first impression on the visitors: It was a pretty little town, nestled between the lovely, wide beach and the mountains rising a half mile inland, with smallish straw houses along one main road. And it was a veritable Eden of breadfruit, banana, coconut, kou, and kukui trees rising above orderly gardens of taro, yams, sugar cane, and cloth plants.¹² There were ponds of water both for taro plantings and for fish, contained within enclosures and watered by a regular system of ditches and canals leading from the streams. Naturally, a few writers found failures in this paradise, but most complaints were tempered with humor and a genuine delight in the place. This is typical:

Lahaina is one of those places which you like much better as you approach or recede from it, than when you are actually in it. A little way off it seems sweetly embosomed in breadfruit trees, and all fresh and lovely with sunshine and verdure, calmly enclosed seaward within a fence of foam, made by the sea breaking upon the coral reef. Ride over the rollers in a whale-boat or native canoe, get to the sun-burnt, dusty land, walk up a few rods, perhaps with white pantaloons, to the mission-houses, and make acquaintance on the way to your heart's content with Lahaina dust and caloric, and you will probably by that time be saying to yourself, 'Twas distance lent enchantment to the view'.

However, dirt, fleas, mosquitoes, and heat to the contrary notwithstanding, Lahaina has so salubrious and dry a climate, and advantages for healthful sunbathing all the year round, that one who is anything of an invalid like to be there....¹³

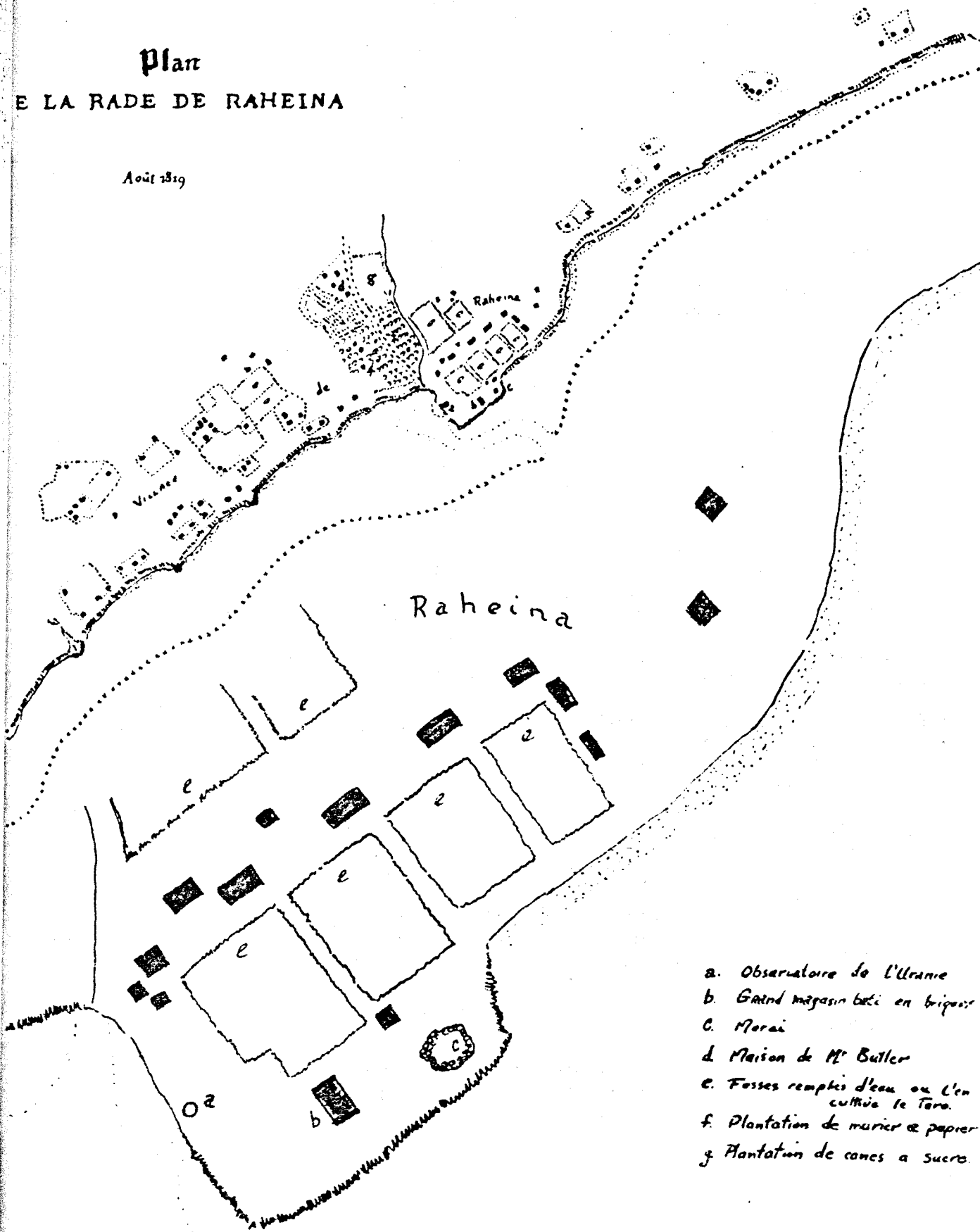
The Point

Lahaina had hosted vessels since the 1790's, but the earliest visitor to provide a map of the area was His French Majesty's Corvette L'Uranie, which arrived in 1819.¹⁴ The features shown in this map, when traced to more recent times, provide a capsule history of Lahaina life.

L'Uranie located the landing at the foot of what is now Dickenson Street where a stream emptied into the sea and had deposited a sandy beach. The main part of the village was to the north, toward Mala, but the taro patches, clearly shown, were on the Point itself, and just back of it, on property later given to the Mission for their houses and garden. The Point consisted of a promontory just south of

Plan DE LA RADE DE RAHEINA

Août 1819



- a. Observatoire de l'Uranne
- b. Grand magasin bâti en briques
- c. Morai
- d. Maison de M^r Butler
- e. Fosses remplies d'eau ou l'on cultive le Taro.
- f. Plantation de murier & papier
- g. Plantation de canes à sucre.

the Dickenson stream, faced with stones, which Gilman, a longtime Lahaina resident, dated as of ancient construction, designed to keep the seawater out. Then it was filled with earth to make a broad plateau.¹⁵ At the north it jutted nearly 300 feet, but the southern end, 400 feet distant, was barely fifty feet wide. At this point the shore was again a wide, sandy beach, stretching for nearly two miles south to another rocky point, deposited by another stream. These two projections, or points, enclosed the "bay" of Lahaina. On the Point proper were three features of interest to the mapmakers of L'Uranie: the brick house, the heiau, and their own observation pier.

This Point was already the center of town. It was to become the market place--both western and native--the town hall for the promulgation of new laws, and the part-time royal residence. Next door along the beach was the Fort, whose walls also served to confine law-breakers, and to the rear was the Mission establishment and the governor's residence.

The Taro Patch

Oldest of the features shown on the Uranie map was the taro patch. The most easterly patch survived well into the twentieth century, at least legally. It was known variously as "Apukakiao", "Kapukaiaio", the King's, or the Royal taro patch. Clearly in use in 1819, it figured in litigation between Pioneer Mill and the estate of Bernice P. Bishop as recently as 1911.¹⁶ A 1919 Fire Map of Lahaina¹⁷ shows the area bare of structures except for a garage in one corner, and pictures¹⁸ of the same period show the center sunken and devoid even of plants. The last known reference to its use as a taro patch was in 1892, when one Mahuka requested to be allowed to clear and plant it, "...as it is full of weeds,...and because I was sorry to see its condition."¹⁹ Late in 1896 Pioneer Mill was still aware of its use as a taro patch, offering \$500 for the "...old taro patch in Lahaina called 'Apukaiaio'" at public auction.²⁰ The government refused to sell.

The taro patch was across the street from the Richards and Baldwin houses and thus directly in view from their porches when looking toward the anchorage. Happily, the missionaries drew maps and sketches to send to the folks at home, and these provide us with a clue to the development of the patch and of various structures on the Point. A particularly fine sketch, dated 1853, from the Bishop letter book²¹ details the patch down to the mud walls surrounding it, the banana tree on the near bank, and the taro leaves sticking up above the water where they have not yet been harvested. The whole bank was blanketed with large trees, identified as kukui in another Bishop sketch of the same area.²² This latter sketch also shows what appears to be a small island in the center, with a lone coconut tree growing out of it. There is no doubt as to the lushness of the greenery on the Point.

The patch was under lease at various times; at others it was probably worked as a part of the royal domain. Perhaps it figured in this vignette of Kamehameha III:

Standing on the veranda of Nahaolelua's house one day I heard some voices chanting a Hawaiian oli-oli, and perceived, as the party drew near, the king and queen, John Young and

his wife, and other couples of the Young family, linked arm in arm, marching up the street in a most jolly way, singing. The rain was warm, the air soft, and the company needed but the scantiest clothing no shoes or stockings, but with sweet smelling maile wreaths for dress suits they were enjoying the free life of Lahaina which 'state' denied them at the Court in Honolulu.

It should be stated that the party had been following a custom of the old conqueror, Kamehameha I, which was to encourage his people to work by working with them. The royal party were returning from opening a kalo patch, where a part of the preparation was treading the bottom as the water was let in. There was no necessity for royal apparel, or silk, or satin, but labor was dignified when the head of the nation participated in it with his people.²³

The Brick House

The oldest non-Hawaiian structure on the Point, and probably the easiest to restore, was the Brick House, also known as the Kamehameha House, and, later, as the Storehouse. As shown on the 1819 map, it sat halfway down the seawall of the Point, directly seaward of the taro patch, and on the same longitude as the observatory pier. There are two sketches of the area, one by Bishop²⁴ showing the entire area of the Mission houses and the Point, but with structures on the Point only vaguely outlined and identified; and one in the Archives roughly drawn to show the extent of a lease, showing all the structures on the sea side of the Point clearly, but unfortunately out of scale at one end.²⁵ However, the precise location of this house would not be difficult to find today, using the map and a few hours of archaeological work.

Although Alexander uses a quote from the Rev. Richards describing the new Mission premises, "Directly in front of us are several taro gardens and fish ponds, surrounded with cocoanuts, hala and koa /kou? trees, in the midst of which stands the brick house erected by Kamehameha, and called by Vancouver 'the royal palace',"²⁶ our search produced a far different dwelling for the king as reported by Vancouver in March of 1793.²⁷ Perhaps during a later visit he saw and reported the newly constructed brick house. Just when it was built is not yet clear. It is reported unmistakably in 1809.²⁸ Macrae, with Lord Byron in 1825, says it was "built sixteen years ago"--in 1809,²⁹ but Thrum in the Annual for 1909 gives the date as 1816.³⁰ While the date may vary, the brick house is consistently reported to have been built at the order of Kamehameha, probably by some foreigners, for his favorite wife Kaahumahu, but rarely used by her, she "...choosing rather to live after the native fashion, in a thatched hut close beside the other."³¹ Apparently none of the royal ladies chose to live in it,³² and by the time a mission station was established at Lahaina in 1823, it was frankly a storehouse. The Rev. Mr. Ellis gives the best report of it during his visit in 1823:

After breakfast on the 8th [of August, 1823], I visited a neat strong brick house, which stands on the beach, about

in the middle of the district. It was erected by Tamehameha; appears well built, is forty feet by twenty, has two stories, and is divided into four rooms by strong boarded partitions. It was the occasional residence of the late king, but by the present is used only as a warehouse.

Several persons who appeared to have the charge of it, were living in one of the apartments, and having looked over the house, and made some inquiries about the native timber employed for the floor, beams...³³

Ellis sat down and lectured them on Christianity.

The brick house apparently continued to be used as a storehouse by various persons³⁴ until the 'sixties. One of these was, for a short time, a carpenter who illegally buried in its floor some 22 ten- or eleven-gallon kegs of gin, brandy, etc. during the height of a temperance flurry.³⁵ Thrum does not report it beyond the 'sixties,³⁶ and the last reference in the Archives of Hawaii is dated November 23, 1866.³⁷ The brick house does not appear on the S. E. Bishop map of the early 1880's.

There is one other mystery: of what was it constructed? Thrum,³⁸ writing in 1910, notes the construction of a unique brick building in 1853, the first of its kind, designed in, and the materials prepared in and shipped from, Boston. The year before he had listed the earliest successful brickmaking project as not undertaken until 1866.³⁹ Fired brick as a building material would not have received such public interest had it been popular before 1853. Nor does it seem likely that Kamehameha's workmen undertook to produce fired brick. Most writers clearly differentiated between brick and stone, thus eliminating the possibility of its being cut field stone, which certainly was used for building. The best guess would seem to indicate adobe as the building material. There are deposits of good adobe clay in the hills behind Lahaina town today; certainly it was used abundantly as fencing material if the photos, sketches and letters give any indication, and the Rev. Cheever, visiting in the 1850's, found adobe construction sufficiently common to give a recipe for its manufacture.⁴⁰ He cautioned that the finished building should be whitewashed to prevent water damage; Macrae had remarked that the brick house was whitewashed outside.⁴¹ And finally, although the common adjective for the house is "brick", the one use of "adobe" is in a translation from the Hawaiian.⁴² Interior features, of course, must be guessed. There were two stories, divided into compartments, with native timber for the beams and floors. Brandy could be buried in the floor, however. The number of windows, doors, and the overall height are probably dependent on the adobe material itself and so could probably be worked out today to conform fairly accurately to the original. The roof was doubtless thatch, the outside whitewashed. And that was Kamehameha's brick house.

Observatory Pier and Heiau

The other items appear on the map of 1819, the pier and a heiau. The pier is no longer in evidence, but was shown on a preliminary map by S. E. Bishop dated 1883. Today, if still standing, it would be

beneath the Power and Light building, but since this structure was not built until well after the turn of the century, the pier probably has been destroyed. What is sometimes called the observatory pier is more likely the Lahaina light tower, built in 1884,⁴³ which appears quite clearly in pictures taken in the early 1900's.⁴⁴

The heiau is shown in the approximate location of the present Coast Guard tower and light. Although quite possibly one of the heiau consecrated by Kamehameha I and his heir, Liholiho, in 1802,⁴⁵ it was completely destroyed by 1823, when the mission station was established. Fittingly enough, its stones were used to build a tomb for the queen mother, Keopuolani, the station's first convert, who died at Lahaina September 16, 1823. This little hut held her body until it was transferred to the new cemetery at Wainee some time after 1828. It had also served as a kind of defensive position during the riots of 1827 and is sometimes confused with the Fort, built in the early 1830's. After a while it was converted for use as a dwelling, part of Halekamani or Seaside Cottage, Gilman's home on the beach, just below the present Kamehameha III School.

Landing, Store and Custom House

After L'Uranie left, other vessels came, mainly whaling ships. They required water, ships' stores, and a general clearing house for parcels and payments of one kind or another. Thus developed three other features of the Point at Lahaina.

Lahaina was watered by a series of streams coming down out of the hills. One ran down Dickenson Street, and this had bridges over it at Front and Chapel Streets as late as 1884. There was also at this time a stream leading to a pond which at one time apparently emptied via the canal. How far back this waterway was brackish is not known. By 1884 it must have been unpleasant without any outlet to the sea for drainage. But the best water supply was a series of wells and pumps near the Richards' house. The 1858 Bishop sketch shows the well in their yard, and an earlier sketch of the Baldwin premises shows both a well back of the house and a pump back of the kitchen.⁴⁶ Another sketch indicates "water" at the top of Fort, now Hotel, Street.⁴⁷ And, writing in 1935, Alexander says: "Next to the Richards' house the ships had their watering place."⁴⁸

This water was somewhat brackish--the mission families dripped mountain stream water through stones, or stored up the infrequent rainwater for drinking purposes--but it was adequate for all other uses, and apparently seamen accepted it.⁴⁹ A mission daughter wrote of the process: "From the landing straight up to and across the main street now Front Street was a hand pump, and during the season, sailors were rolling constantly huge casks for water, and steadily on for weeks that hand pump worked night and day, the sound reaching our house."⁵⁰ In the course of an 1857 lease application for a corner of what is now the Court House Square, it was recommended that "...the north west front of the lot should be set back twelve or fifteen feet, so as to widen the passage to the landing. At present the passage, though an important thoroughfare, is narrow and dirty, & is often entirely obstructed by water casks, as it is in a direct line from the

watering place to the beach."⁵¹

The landing had been completely moved from the base of the sometimes flooded Dickenson Street stream, to the protected sandy spit just south of the Point. Besides being in a direct line with the water supply, it was also right next door to the store and the Custom House.

Gilman Store

Gorham Gilman arrived in the islands in 1841, clerked for a while, and then left to make his fortune in the California gold fields. Returning in 1849, he again clerked, this time in Lahaina, but soon had his own place, taking over the landing location from Sherman Peck, his former employer. He finally left Lahaina in 1861, selling his store to B. F. Bolles. Back in Massachusetts, he set up a drugstore with his brothers, ran for the state senate during the 1880's and 1890's, and served as Hawaiian consul to Boston from 1893 to 1901. He died in 1909, having returned to Hawaii for a brief visit at the turn of the century. He wrote lovingly of Lahaina, for publication and to his lifelong friend Dwight Baldwin. With the mission families, he is the primary source of information on Lahaina between 1841 and 1861.

His store was on the Point, forty feet back of the landing, occupying the site now covered by the Grog Shop of Pioneer Inn. He had a lease on the land all the way back to Front Street, on which were erected various storehouses. His applications for additional bits of land on the kalo patch banks are a prime source of information concerning the location of structures in this area, as he usually included a sketch to show precisely what was desired. He apparently got on very well with his royal neighbors--his store was in Pa Pelekane, part of the royal land of Paunau, and his home was on the beach near those of the premier Auhea, Paki and Konia, and various members of the Young family--and so impressed at least that individual that the American consul appointed him Acting Consul during the former's absence in 1853.

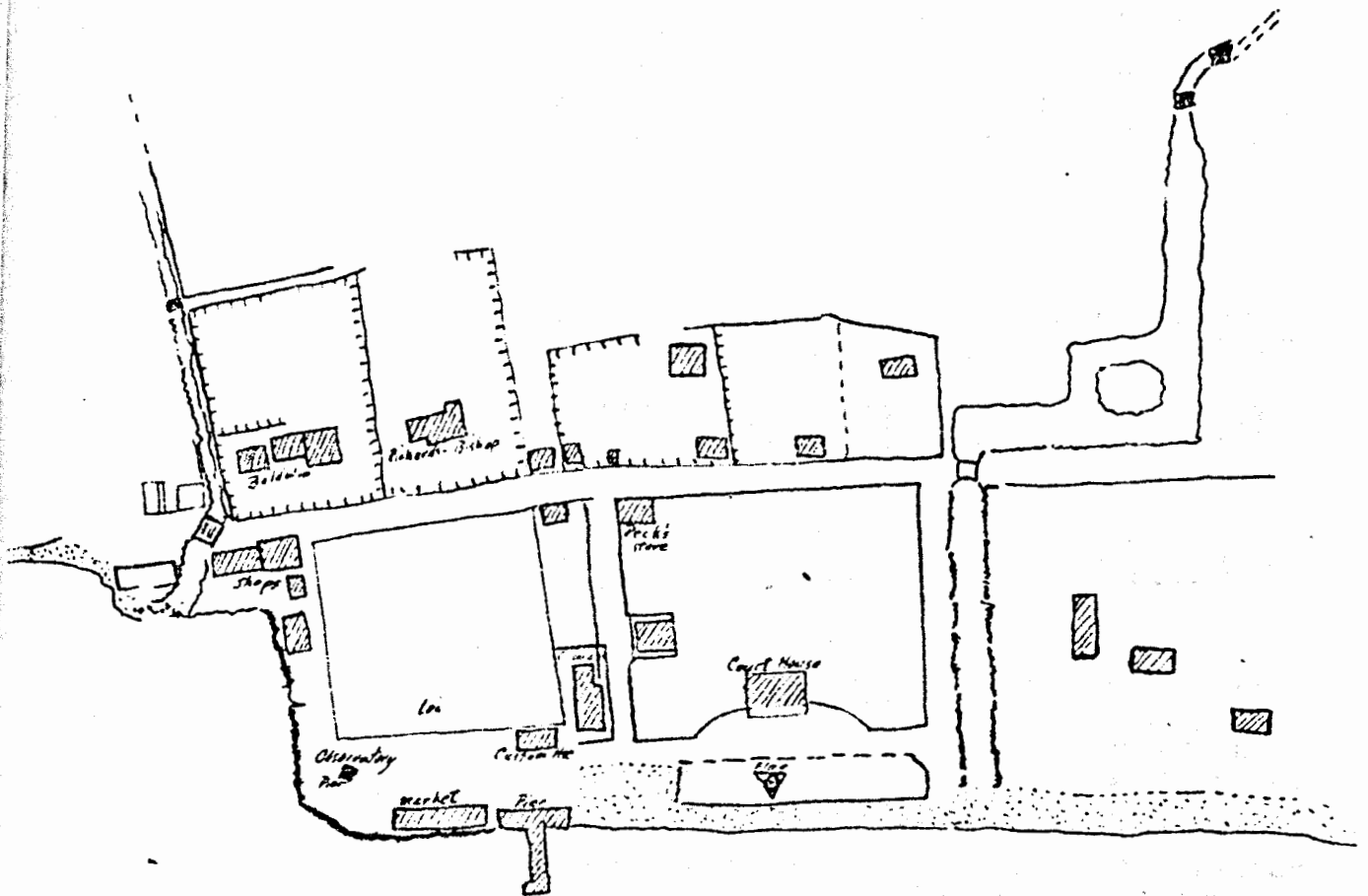
Gilman's is too big a story to fit into this brief survey, but his store was a money-maker, one of two whaler-outfitters in Lahaina still shown on the 1884 map, and its location should be kept open for restoration eventually.

Custom House

Next door to Gilman's store was the Custom House. Just when this was erected is not clear; the earliest sketch showing it is dated 1852,⁵² and it is still shown on the 1884 map by S. E. Bishop. The operation of the Custom House needs clarification, but it is known to have served as the Post Office⁵³ where the recipient of mail usually had to pay the postage--as well as headquarters for all forms, taxes and the like required of ships' captains.⁵⁴ The structure was about fifty feet long, with a verandah along the front, and barely fifteen feet from Gilman's, with the same setback from the sea. It shows quite clearly in the 1853 sketch,⁵⁵ with a door and two windows mauka, facing the taro patch. Also shown is what looks very much like a lua, and beyond is a grass house, probably belonging to the chiefs.

LAHAINA TOWN 1884

Surveyed and drawn by S. E. Bishop Scale: 1:2400



- Property lines
- ▤▤▤▤ Fences
- ▨▨▨▨ Structures

Market, Grass, Meeting, or Beretani House

The one cloudy feature on the Point is this set of grass houses. There are reports of the house Auhea lived in (instead of the brick house),⁵⁶ the long meeting house used for the preparation of the blue book of laws in the 1840's⁵⁷ the houses of the chiefs noted in the 1858 Bishop sketch,⁵⁸ and there is the market house mentioned in some reports.⁵⁹ How many structures there were, when they were constructed and when destroyed, and for what they were used and when, is far from clear. How long, for that matter, did a chief's grass house last? Bishop in 1858 vaguely shows four structures, one of which is the brick house. The 1861⁶⁰ sketch shows only one large structure between the Custom House and the brick house, called Beretani House, building material not specified. Then in an 1846 sketch by Baldwin,⁶¹ the market is located 40 rods away from his house; equally distant in the same direction are the canal and fort.

Obviously there were some grass structures along the sea wall in front of the taro patch. How many, when they were there, and for what they were used are questions that require clarification before any restoration is contemplated.

NOTES

1. "Some Noted Battles of Hawaiian History," Thrum's Hawaiian Almanac and Annual, 1889, pp. 58-59. Hereafter cited as THA, with appropriate year.
2. Captain George Vancouver, A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Round the World, 1790-1795 (London: 1801, six volumes), Vol. III, p. 295.
3. Ibid., pp. 332-33.
4. "The Battle of Nuuanu," THA, 1899, p. 108.
5. James Jackson Jarves, History of the Hawaiian or Sandwich Islands (Boston: Tappan and Dennet, 1843), p. 184.
6. Ibid., p. 206.
7. Ibid.
8. H. W. S. Cleveland, Voyage of a Merchant Navigator of the Days That Are Past (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1886), p. 97.
9. This typically glowing report is given by G. W. Bates in his Sandwich Island Notes (New York: 1854), p. 297: "The anchorage is accessible at any hour of the day or night. The master of a vessel need not wait the mere pleasure of a pilot...The best holding ground is between the fort and the native church. During the winter season, the winds blow strong from the south...The northeast trades blow during nine tenths of the year...A vessel has never been lost here, and both access to this port and egress from it are easily affected [sic] by day or night, and at any season of the year."
10. Not to be confused with the canal, apparently built in the 1840's, along what is now Canal Street. The channel has long since been destroyed by various navigational facilities.
11. The various surfs at Lahaina were named and some were quite famous, U-o among them. The precise location of these surfs must

still be worked out. The surfs themselves may already be destroyed by man-made changes in the bottom offshore.

12. An accurate landscaping plan of Lahaina can be worked out from these early reports, even to actual placement of species in some of the yards. These reports can also be used to date the introduction of the non-indigenous species.

13. Rev. Henry T. Cheever, Life in the Sandwich Islands (New York: 1851), p. 72. Missionary Cheever visited the Islands in the late 1840's, but read a report on the bug life as noted by fellow missionary Daniel Tyerman in his Journal (vol. 2, pp. 56-57), dated April 29, 1822: "There are no mosquitos here; neither are there any bugs. When the latter are brought on shore, in bedding or packages, from ship-board, they presently die."

14. Plan de la Rade de Raheina. Engraved on His Majesty's Corvette L'Uranie, August, 1819.

15. Gorham D. Gilman, "Lahaina in Early Days," THA, 1907, p. 169.

16. Archives of Hawaii. See various items under ahupuaa of Paunau, Lahaina. Also see Pacific Commercial Advertiser, August 29, 1911, p. 11, c. 2.

17. Archives of Hawaii. Sanborn Fire Map of Lahaina, 1914, and also map corrected to 1919.

18. Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum Library. Collection of photographs by Ray J. Baker.

19. Archives of Hawaii. Interior Department Letters, August 26, 1892. Translated from the Hawaiian. Hereafter cited as AH-Int. Dept. Letters.

20. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, December 22, 1896.

21. Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library. Bishop Letter Book (copy), p. 241, 1853. Society library hereafter cited as HMCS.

22. HMCS. Bishop Letter Book (copy), p. 156 insert, 1858.

23. G. D. Gilman, op. cit., p. 56.

24. HMCS. Bishop Letter Book (copy), p. 156 insert.

25. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, September 11, 1861.

26. Mary Charlotte Alexander, The Lahaina Mission Premises (Honolulu: 1935), p. 3.

27. Vancouver, op. cit., Vol. III, p. 332: "The king conducted us through the crowd, who made way for us, and behaved in a very orderly manner. We soon arrived at his residence. This consisted of two small shabby huts, situated in a pleasant grove of spreading trees, where we were served with cocoa nuts...."

28. Archibald Campbell, A Voyage Round the World, from 1806 to 1812... (Roxbury, Massachusetts: 1825), p. 125.

29. James Macrae, With Lord Byron at the Sandwich Islands in 1825 (Honolulu: 1922), p. 11.

30. "A Chapter on Firstlings," THA, 1909, p. 138.

31. J. Macrae, op. cit., p. 11.

32. HMCS. Chamberlain Journal II, May, 1838 and June, 1842.

33. Rev. William Ellis, A Narrative of a Tour through Hawaii...

(Honolulu: Hawaiian Gazette Co., Ltd., 1917), p. 64.

34. HMCS. Chamberlain Journal II, June, 1842.

35. Mary Charlotte Alexander, Dr. Baldwin of Lahaina (Berkeley, California: Stanford University Press, 1953, privately printed), p. 222.
36. "A Chapter on Firstlings," THA, 1909, p. 138.
37. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, November 23, 1866.
38. "Business Building Changes," THA, 1910, pp. 40-41.
39. "A Chapter on Firstlings," THA, 1909, p. 138.
40. Rev. Henry T. Cheever, The Island World of the Pacific (New York: 1851), p. 66.
41. J. Macrae, op. cit., p. 11.
42. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, April 5, 1852.
43. "Custom House Regulations, Port Charges, etc.," THA, 1884, p. 61.
44. Bernice P. Bishop Museum Library. Ray J. Baker photograph collection.
45. Thomas G. Thrum, "Tales from the Temples," Part III, THA, 1909, pp. 44-45.
46. HMCS. Baldwin Letters, December 14, 1846.
47. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, August 2, 1852.
48. M. C. Alexander, The Lahaina Mission Premises, pp. 19-20.
49. M. C. Alexander, Dr. Baldwin of Lahaina, p. 247.
50. Ibid., p. 250.
51. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, March 2, 1857.
52. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, March 25, 1852.
53. M. C. Alexander, Dr. Baldwin of Lahaina, pp. 212, 220, 250.
54. Ibid., p. 222 (letter of September 8, 1852).
55. HMCS. Bishop Letter Book (copy), p. 241.
56. HMCS. Chamberlain Journal, II, June, 1842.
57. G. Gilman, op. cit., p. 169.
58. HMCS. Bishop Letter Book (copy), insert, p. 156.
59. M. C. Alexander, The Lahaina Mission Premises, p p. 9, 10, 19-20; AH-Int. Dept. Letters, December 22, 1896.
60. AH-Int. Dept. Letters, September 11, 1861.
61. HMCS. Baldwin Letters, December 14, 1846.

COMMUNICATIONS

From a subscriber:

Several writers since annexation have claimed that, in the designing of the Hawaiian flag, Kamehameha's advisors suggested that he combine the British and American flags by retaining the Union Jack of the British flag and adding the stripes of the American flag. Since the stripes in the American flag included no blue stripe as does the Hawaiian, it has been suggested by other writers that the blue stripe in the Hawaiian flag was introduced as a gesture of friendship to France.

No early writing (before 1898) that I have been able to find, makes any mention of the above assertions; in fact, no

early writing makes any mention whatsoever of what Kamehameha I was advised to do concerning the design of the flag.

The two sources from which we might have gained this knowledge were Captain George Beckley and Captain Alexander Adams. The logbook of Captain Beckley has been lost, and the journal of Captain Adams (now in the Archives) has been mutilated. Pages during the year 1816 have been torn out of the journal. We have only the accounts as told by their descendants, and these stories conflict.

The question I should like answered is: What are the sources, other than hearsay, from which certain writers claim exactly what Kamehameha was advised to include in the design of the Hawaiian flag?

From Charles E. Peterson, F.A.I.A., 332-34 Spruce St., Society Hill, Philadelphia 6, Pa.:

The Palace was the focus of public interest during the last years of the Monarchy and was well covered by the American press. Very little descriptive material, however, has so far come to my attention. The factionalism that rocked Honolulu probably left bitter memories, but it should have resulted in a wealth of eye witness accounts.

Just how the Palace and its dependencies operated as a royal residence is not clear in many details. The appearance and use of the King's boathouse on the Harbor and his beach house at Waikiki are likewise obscure. Who got the idea of building in the Palace Yard an East Indian bungalow with its iron roof? Was it related in some way to Theodore Shillaber's Bungalow of 1847? Was it connected with the Anglicans and Queen Emma? What, exactly, was the Kinau Hale?

What about the design of the Palace itself? Andrew Farrell thought it very similar to the house of Archaeologist Schliemann in Athens. Everyone will recognize that the inspiration came from Third Empire France, but it must have been transmitted by way of illustrated publications. What were they?

THE BEAVERS' PEDIGREE

by

Richard A. Greer

Today, perched above the rush of traffic at the corner of Queen and Fort Streets, a sturdy little immigrant keeps watch. More than eighty years have passed since his vigil began. Carriages and sailing ships, creaking wagons and galloping horsemen came and went under his calm gaze; gas buggies and coal-burning steamers followed them; now his

eye falls with the same benign detachment on the trucks, passenger cars, freighters and liners that crowd Honolulu's waterfront.

He is a beaver, far from home, yet so long at his post that it seems his native habitat. He is a weathervane.

It was the far-ranging Hudson's Bay Company that brought the beaver to Hawaii. The Company opened its Honolulu agency in 1834; its store sat back from the ewa side of Nuuanu Street, between King and Merchant.¹

Twelve years later the HBC decided to move to the corner of Fort and Queen. Charles Kanaina, father of the future King Lunalilo, owned the site. The Company negotiated a 25-year lease at \$500 a year, beginning February 1, 1846.² After spending almost a year building new quarters, it moved into them about January, 1847.³ This business house was a two-story coral structure, roofed with slate. It was end-on to Queen Street, but some little way off the road.⁴

Here the Company conducted its affairs for some thirteen years. Then, late in 1859, it advertised the sale of its stock, interest in the premises, and goodwill. After winding up the business, the Company agent left Honolulu in August, 1860. The reason given for this liquidation was that the finding of gold along Canada's Fraser River furnished work for the capital nearer home.⁵

Other businesses took over the former HBC premises.⁶ Twenty years passed; during them Lunalilo ascended the throne and died a king in February, 1874. His father, Charles Kanaina, followed him to the grave in 1877. Lunalilo's holdings, organized into the Lunalilo Estate, passed under the control of a board of trustees. Their inventory listed under real estate:

Land on the north angle of Fort and Queen Streets, Honolulu, Oahu, known as the Hudson Bay premises: award 247 part 2 to C. Kanaina for W. C. Lunalilo, 22 June 1854; Royal Patent 5695, June 17, 1873, Area 619.9 square fathoms.

Leased to Dowsett and Co. and Lewers and Dickson by Kanaina and Bishop as guardians, for 10 years from February 1, 1871 by lease dated January 23, 1871 at a rent of \$1,000 per year, payable semi-annually.⁷

Seven years after Lunalilo's death--on April 7, 1881--the trustees sold the property at Queen and Fort to James Campbell, Honolulu businessman and capitalist.⁸ Campbell then began a two-story brick building on his new property, hiring G. Lucas as contractor.⁹ After work started the government widened Queen Street; this necessitated moving the foundation mauka.¹⁰ The building, occupied at the beginning of 1882, was called the Beaver Block; it still bears the name.¹¹ And the iron beaver weathervane of the Hudson's Bay Company took its stand on the roof.¹²

By 1930 the vane was falling apart. Its "S" had vanished. But the damage has been made good, and in 1964 the modest beaver appears ready to serve for another century, if need be.

There is another of the breed nearby; a wooden brother hangs on the back wall of the Beaver Grill, just under the electric clock, at 822 Fort Street. He too has a history.

In 1853 one Edward Burgess opened a coffee house on Nuuanu Street in a small building next door to Rice and Company.¹⁴ Thrum, writing

in the late 1890's, reported that it was "...said to have been the pioneer refreshment saloon of its kind in Honolulu."¹⁵ A reading glass applied to Burgess' sign as reproduced by Emmert in 1853 reveals the following legend:¹⁶

BURGESS' COFFEE ROOMS

and below, across the front of the house:

SODA WATER	HOT COFFEE
SEGAR STORE	& REFRESHMENTS

Burgess soon sold out to Jack Fox, a baker, who hired Heinrich Julius Nolte as his assistant.¹⁷ On Fox's retirement Nolte and a G. Wilhelm bought the business.¹⁸ Frank E. C. Kruger succeeded Wilhelm as Nolte's partner; the restaurant moved to the corner of Queen and Nuuanu where, known as the "Old Corners", it became a favorite Honolulu rendezvous.¹⁹ Kruger died in 1869, leaving Nolte to carry on alone.²⁰

The new Beaver Block, in the heart of Honolulu's business district, attracted the enterprising restaurateur. He rented space at what was then No. 7 Fort Street, and opened his "Beaver Saloon" on April 5, 1882.²¹

The day featured a free lunch for all comers. These included the chief justice and cabinet ministers of the kingdom, as well as Hawaiian stevedores from the wharves. Robert von Oelhaffen, a prominent caterer, supervised preparation of the victuals; his salads drew special praise.²²

The Pacific Commercial Advertiser of April 8, 1882, carried one of Nolte's original advertisements. It read:

THE BEAVER SALOON
No. 7 Fort Street
(Opposite Wilder & Co's)
H. J. NOLTE, Propr.
Open from 3 a.m. till 10 p.m.
First-Class Lunches, Tea, Coffee,
Soda Water, Ginger Ale, &c.
Cigars and Tobaccos
of Best Brands.

Plain and Fancy PIPES Personally Selected from the
Manufacturers, and a Large Variety of BEST QUALITY
SMOKERS' ARTICLES

Lovers of BILLIARDS will find an Elegant
BRUNSWICK & CO., BILLIARD TABLE
On the Premises.

The proprietor would be pleased to receive a call
from his FRIENDS and the Public Generally, who
may desire

A LUNCH, a SMOKE, or a game of BILLIARDS.

Nolte gave the restaurant constant personal supervision. It became the "...Most frequented noonday club in Honolulu...a favorite lunch resort for a large majority of the business element, the civil service, the factory and water front toilers, judges, lawyers, and doctors...a recognized exchange for public opinion and clearing house

for community gossip."²³

In 1905 Nolte, then seventy-two years old, sold the Beaver to his son-in-law, James W. L. McGuire.²⁴ McGuire presided over the business--advertised as the Beaver Lunch Room, a temperance coffee house²⁵ for some eighteen years; he sold out on March 17, 1923, to a trio from Sparta--John Roumanis and Peter and Demetrios Anastasopoulos.²⁶ These men operated the restaurant as the Merchants' Grill for a generation. Then on July 21, 1953, J. R. Bosuego, A. B. Bigornias, and H. G. Harrison announced their purchase of the business.²⁷ Another transfer of ownership came in less than two years. On February 10, 1955, Mr. G. M. Chrones opened his air-conditioned and refurnished Beaver Grill in the quarters occupied by Nolte in 1882.²⁸ He sold the grill to Messrs. George Kamiya and Roy Kiyabu, who took control on July 1, 1962.²⁹

Through all these years and changes the wooden beaver has supervised the dining room. It was James McGuire who, a third of a century ago, told how the two beavers--the weathervane and the maitre d'hotel--came to their posts of honor. Both, he said, were discovered in the old HBC warehouse.³⁰ Rescued from its dingy obscurity, they serve today as reminders of the Honolulu that was.

NOTES

1. R. S. Kuykendall, The Hawaiian Kingdom, 1778-1854 (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1957), p. 207. The location is shown on the Alexander Simpson map of 1843 (R. J. Baker, Sketches and Maps of Old Honolulu (Honolulu: R. J. Baker, 1950), Plate 10). When the map was drawn, Henry Skinner and Co. occupied the corner of Fort and Queen.
2. Thomas G. Thrum, "History of the Hudson's Bay Company's Agency in Honolulu," Eighteenth Annual Report of the Hawaiian Historical Society for the Year 1910 (Honolulu: Paradise of the Pacific Print, 1911), p. 45.
3. R. J. Baker, Honolulu in 1853 (Honolulu: R. J. Baker, 1950), p. 41; T. G. Thrum, op. cit., p. 46.
4. Robert Watson, "H. B. C. in the Hawaiian Islands," The Beaver, Outfit 261, No. 1 (June, 1930), p. 7. The location is shown on a survey map, dated about 1847, and on a map of early Honolulu by T. Metcalf (R. J. Baker, Sketches and Maps of Old Honolulu, Plates 11 and 12). The building itself is pictured in R. J. Baker, Honolulu in 1853, Plate 3, Cut. 15.
5. T. G. Thrum, op. cit., p. 49; Pacific Commercial Advertiser, December 1, 1859.
6. The Anthon Estate map, dated about 1862, shows Walker and Allen along Queen Street, and W. Hoffschlaeger Co. along Fort (R. J. Baker, Sketches and Maps of Old Honolulu, Plate 13).
7. Inventory of Trustees, Document 7, Dole Collection. Archives of Hawaii. On February 19, 1858, Kanaina had petitioned the court to put Lunaliilo under guardianship for all of his property. Lunaliilo consenting, the guardianship decree was granted the next day. This arrangement lasted until December 31, 1872 (Pacific Commercial Advertiser, March 14, 1874).
8. Letter, September 6, 1962, O. K. Stender to R. A. Greer.
9. Honolulu Advertiser, February 6, 1941, ed. p.; see advertisements of G. Lucas, contractor, in Pacific Commercial Advertiser, March

4, 1882.

10. Pacific Commercial Advertiser, March 4, 1882. Lucas got \$1,100 for this work, and Campbell \$650 for land taken. He actually received only \$10, however. At that time the government levied a charge for "betterment" against property owners whose holdings were improved by such projects. In 1882 this betterment value amounted to \$4 per foot of frontage on Queen Street; under this formula, \$640 of Campbell's compensation reverted to the government. The Fort and Queen property was inventoried at \$70,000 in 1900 (Hawaiian Gazette, September 25, 1900, p. 7).

11. "Retrospect of the Year 1883," Hawaiian Annual, 1884, p. 68; T. G. Thrum, *op. cit.*; letter, September 6, 1962, Stender to Greer.

12. There is little doubt that this was done at the time of construction. A photograph from the R. J. Baker Collection in the Archives of Hawaii, dated about 1885, clearly shows the weathervane.

13. Honolulu Advertiser, March 31, 1930, p. 5.

14. Warren Goodale and Thomas G. Thrum, "Honolulu in 1853," Hawaiian Annual, 1899, pp. 93-94.

15. Ibid.

16. R. J. Baker, Honolulu in 1853, Plate 4.

17. Goodale and Thrum, *op. cit.*, pp. 93-94.

18. Ibid.

19. Hawaiian Gazette, March 29, 1907, p. 7.

20. Ibid.; Friend, August, 1869, p. 72. Edward Burgess was born in London on April 22, 1820, and died in Honolulu on July 24, 1870. A member of the Stevenson Regiment, he stayed in California for a time, then came to Hawaii in 1847. He was among the four or five men who organized the first Honolulu fire company (Hawaiian Gazette, July 27, 1870, p. 3). Wilhelm moved to Hilo about 1870, and died there at the age of 59 in August, 1887 (Hawaiian Gazette, August 23, 1887, p. 8). Krugvr, a native of Hamburg, Germany, died in Honolulu on July 11, 1869, at the age of 36. He had lived in Honolulu for fifteen years (Friend, August, 1869, p. 72).

21. Pacific Commercial Advertiser, April 8, 1882.

22. Ibid. In September, 1876, Nolte had opened a new cigar store on Fort Street. The notice of this referred to Nolte's "...world known establishment on the corner of Nuuanu and Queen Streets, established many years ago, and grown with the growth of the city, until it has become the largest and best conducted establishment of its kind..." (Pacific Commercial Advertiser, September 23, 1876).

23. Hawaiian Gazette, March 29, 1907, p. 7.

24. Ibid. Nolte died in Honolulu in March, 1907. He was born in Hamburg, Germany, in September, 1833, came to Hawaii in the late 1840's, and settled in Honolulu in 1852. He married a Hawaiian lady; the couple had two children, a son and a daughter, Fredericka. The son was killed in an accident; Fredericka married McGuire.

25. Friend, March, 1907, p. 15.

26. Honolulu Star-Bulletin, November 17, 1939, p. 10; Honolulu Star-Bulletin, July 22, 1953, p. 26. McGuire was born at Kainaliu, Kona, Hawaii, and died on May 16, 1941, at the age of 79. He was a keen student of Hawaiian art and culture, a high bishop of the LDS church, and a one-time custodian of Iolani Palace. A close associate

of King Kalakaua, McGuire served as an attendant during a trip to Queen Victoria's jubilee at the close of the nineteenth century (Honolulu Advertiser, May 17, 1941, p. 3; Honolulu Star-Bulletin, May 16, 1941, p. 5).

27. Honolulu Star-Bulletin, July 22, 1953, p. 26.
28. Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 10, 1955, p. 24.
29. Telephone interview, R. A. Greer with G. M. Chrones, January 15, 1964; personal interview, R. A. Greer with George Kamiya, January 16, 1964.
30. Honolulu Advertiser, March 31, 1930, p. 5.

LA TETE FANTASTIQUE

This refers not to aberrant sanitary facilities, but to a grotesque horned head that hangs on the back wall of the Beaver Bar, adjoining the Grill. Report says that the ornament came from E. S. Cunha's Union Saloon, itself an ornament of early Honolulu (Honolulu Star-Bulletin, November 17, 1939, p. 10).

BRICK FACTORY IN HONOLULU

by

Manuel G. Jardin-----

Today few Honoluluans remember a large-scale brick factory that once operated in the city. The era was 1900-1905, the area was over four acres, and the location was upper Nuuanu Valley, in a district now known as Laimi.

Our family moved in 1902 to the newly-opened residential site, then known as the J. F. Schnack Tract. For lack of a better name, and because of the proximity of the already-operating brick factory, the district was generally referred to as "Brick Yard".

Laimi, the present name, came into being when an improvement club was organized some time in 1905. One of the club members, a native Hawaiian, stated that in earlier times, and more particularly at the battle of Nuuanu, when Kamehameha I and his invading army drove at the forces of Oahu over the Pali, the district was called Laimi. At this revelation, the club adopted the name, Laimi Improvement Club.

The brick factory stood on the present site of St. Stephen's Rectory at 2747 Pali Highway and Laimi Road. It was operated by a coal-burning steam engine, and the bricks were molded automatically. Delivery belts conveyed them to skips or pallets, which were then carted to the huge drying shed alongside. After several days in the drying shed, the bricks were hand-carted to the five kilns close by. These were heated by coal, also. At this time a Mr. M. L. Smith directed the entire operation. He lived with his family across the street, which bordered the present Park Road.

Clay for the brick-making came from a pit behind the drying shed,

close to the Nuuanu Stream. The material came up from the pit on chain conveyors. Before long it was discovered that the pit contained only a small deposit of clay, and it soon gave out. This necessitated the bringing in of clay from Palolo Valley and from Puunui.

From the beginning of the operation the quality of the clay was unsuited for brick-making. The finished bricks would often crumble when exposed to heavy rain. They lacked "body".

Many attempts were made to introduce other materials to prevent the crumbling, but they all failed. This disappointment, added to the fact that Honolulu was not then erecting many permanent buildings, hastened the doom of the venture.

As time went on, the storage yard became filled with bricks that were not being sold, and the plant shut down. Eventually the entire factory was dismantled and moved away. This last operation took place about 1905 and closed the chapter on brick manufacture in Honolulu.

NOTE

A comprehensive article about the brick-making venture appeared in the Pacific Commercial Advertiser of August 6, 1901. The business, called the Honolulu Clay Company, had been organized in 1900. Early output of the plant was 30,000 bricks a day; this could be increased to 40,000. F. L. Litherland, the first superintendent, was succeeded by M. L. Smith. F. J. Lowrey was the president; stockholders included Frank Hustace, C. H. Cooke, F. C. Atherton, F. B. Damon, and other prominent Honolulu businessmen.

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HAWAII HISTORICAL REVIEW Richard A. Greer, Editor

Published quarterly by Richard A. Greer at the Kamehameha School for Boys, Kapalama Heights, Honolulu, Hawaii. Telephone: 814-111. Months of issue are October, January, April, and July. By subscription only. No single copies for sale.

CONTRIBUTORS: Frances Jackson, formerly state parks historian, is now a resident of San Francisco.

Manuel G. Jardin, a retired printer, qualifies as an old-timer. He was born in Honolulu in August, 1890.

----- **ASSOCIATE EDITORS:**

For the Island of Maui: Mrs. Raymond R. Lyons, Makawao, Maui.
