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Form 504

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

....., *Director*

U. S. C. & G. SURVEY
L. & A.
APR 19 1928
Acc. No.

State: Hawaiian Is.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic / ~~*Hydrographic*~~ *Sheet No.* A-4343 B-4344

LOCALITY

W. Coast Hawaii - Kealakekua Bay

Keawekaheka Pt. to Palemano Pt.

1928

CHIEF OF PARTY

E. R. Hand

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to accompany topographic sheet "A", Keawekeheka Point to Palemano Point
and
sheet "B", Palemano Point to Alahaka Bay, Island of Hawaii.

Survey January - February, 1928., Eoline R.Hand, Chief of Party.

This report attempts to tell something of a coastal region of Hawaii rich in historical interest, teeming with thrilling legend: the very central name, "Kealakekua", with which one deals in a consideration of this intriguing locality has a meaning that must fire the most sluggish imagination; for "Ke Ala a Ke Akua" is "The Pathway of the Gods" , and harks back to a former day when grim-visaged priests, proud chiefs in gay feather cloaks, and humble retainers, with the sacred images borne aloft, seasonally wended their colorful way from the great heiau on the beach at Napoopoo up the steep pali trail and throughout the district which now bears that name, so good luck might come to all.

On the south side of Honaunau Bay is the "City of Refuge", justly famed in story and now the Mecca of the tourist. For there, in the days of the ancient chiefs, was sanctuary; did a harassed wretch but make those walls, and win within the sacred enclosure, such an one was safe under the protection of the high priests and his person strictly "tabu" against even the king. To-day we may view the two massive remaining walls, and marvel at the workmanship. High, straight, fifteen feet through, smooth surfaced of great flat irregular blocks, fitted adroitly - like a huge jig-saw puzzle - one wonders whence they came, those weighty blocks, and how they were placed. We have a very "Riddle of the Pyramids" on our own door step. At the north end of the great north and south wall, and separated from it by a narrow passage, is the main heiau, built up of the smaller stones arranged in terraces - a most interesting specimen of the ancient place of worship. And just west of the obtuse angle formed by the great walls is a smaller and more simple heiau, which was where the women were permitted to worship: for the first - mentioned heiau was "tabu" to them. And again west of this little heaiu, in the wall itself, will be seen a curious niche, opening inward. Though the great wall as seen from the south appears equally massive and without a break, here it is but a yard wide for several feet: and it was at this point the refugees from the south were enabled to squeeze through a small hole at the base. Also within the angle of the wall, but toward the north, is an immense stone platform precisely rectangular, and whose even and slightly sloping sides are similar to those of the great wall itself. On the south side of it access is had to the top by an impressive set of stone stairs, deep and wide. On its high and level floor the moonlight games were held, and here it was the priests pronounced their pardons. On its north side and paralleling it, close to lies a long, straight stone, naturally squared. This is the famous stone of Keoua, a powerful chief of oldentime. Tradition has it that the great leader slept upon this stone and that it measured precisely his length, but the awed excursionist should not be too credulous of this last statement, for the block measures thirteen feet. And off its southeast corner is an even more massive block, supported by waveworn rocks set on end - a miniature Stonehenge. This is the "Rock of Kaahumanu", and its story is one of the most fascinating of all Hawaiian legend. For Kaahumanu was the favorite wife of none other than Kamehameha the Great, proud precursor of a noble dynasty and contemporary of Washington, and who - like the Immortal George - brought his beloved strife-torn country into unity. Kaahumanu, for infraction of wifely duty, was forced to flee for her life from her enraged royal spouse. She fled the court at Kailua (some miles north of Kealakekua Bay) and travelled swiftly over the ancient trail (which still exists in great part)

to the settlement of Kaawaloa on the north side of Kealakekua Bay, her objective of course being the " City of Refuge" farther south. But hearing that the king's men were attempting to head her off she boldly struck out into the open sea and swam without rest through turbulent, shark-infested waters the entire distance from Kaawaloa to Puuhonua Point, whence she gained entrance to the "refuge" from the sea side. This five mile swim must stand in any age as a noteworthy test of female endurance. But arriving there it was feared that even the prestige of the Gods themselves, as represented by the high priests, would not hold inviolate against the dread and all- powerful Kamehameha: and so Kaahumanu was carefully concealed under this immense slab, pried up and propped, it is surmised, especially for this occasion. However, the tabu of the sacred enclosure held, the queen was pardoned and returned home to Kailua under priestly protection: and though history does not say she "lived happily ever afterward" she certainly outlived her noble spouse and became politically famous in her own right.

Directly east of the great wall of the "refuge" is a beautiful coconut grove (now a public park) in which are two fish ponds that were built by this same Kamehameha, the First. And jutting out from the straight wall of the northernmost pond may still be seen the semi-circular pier from which we may picture his majesty swinging the royal fishpole in wide, sweeping arcs. Another absorbing feature of this immediate locality is the fresh water spring in the east end of the bay, just off the crescent beach at the Chinese store. Herevat low tide one may perform the interesting experiment of dipping absolutely fresh water out of the salty sea. And yet another is the age-old mold of a prone coco palm impressed deeply into the smooth pahoehoe lava near the point that juts south into Alahaka Bay, a hundred yards or more from the ancient trail.

This ancient trail merits more than a passing glance. Running south from Honaunau ~~nau~~ through the woods, it makes a sharp turn at the top of rise at an angle that brings it out to the logical place for a roadway inside the low cliff shore of Alahaka bay, thence by skillfully chosen grade up the cliff of the arcuate fault close to where the fault cuts the shore cliff. The wonder is how that ancient people could run a survey straight through the bush: and the grade up the slope, with its carefully fitted paving blocks, is a marvel of engineering. It is not out of place here to speak of other roads and trails. There is a modern road up from Honaunau to the main road, and one north to Napoopoo, from where it also runs "mauka" to the main belt road. Those coming to Honaunau prefer this latter way which as far as Napoopoo follows the ancient trail: and again our wonderment is aroused at the accuracy of the old-time surveys, for it too runs straight, save where at times slight advantage was taken of the contour of the terrain. Where near its north end it crosses the barren lavaaflow that scars the velvet-green of the slope (dateless, though its forbidding field of blastfurnace-like slag seems as of yesterday) a road makes off southwest to a quaint little village behind Palemano point. Here stands the ruins of a Catholic school (a similar ruins stands at Honaunau), and in an adjoining stone enclosure are ruins of a tiny chapel which was only large enough to house on the Lord's Day the sacred implements of the Church, while the congregation sat in reverence beneath the majestic palms.

As has been stated the road at Napoopoo goes inland mauka to the main belt: meandering upward by easy grade we arrive at a crossroads, where to the right a short way is disclosed the dignified immensity of the old Hawaiian Church, built in 1851; while the road to the left speedily degenerates into a mere trail, but which in former days afforded ladies and gentlemen on horseback a quick and easy short cut to this church from the heights above. Passing the crossroads, a little further up on the left, are to be seen the ruins of an old mission house occupied by Ives and Forbes in former days.

There is no landway from Napoopoo across to Kaawaloa (the site of Capt. Cook's monument) but arriving there by native canoe or other water transportation we pick our ancient trail up again, running northwest from the shore a little over a hun-

dred yards south of Cook's Monument. But as it emerges from the jungle of algeroba, lantana and cactus it branches, one part holding steadfast up the pali (cliff) and making at the top a sharp turn eastnortheast and on up to the main road. This rather rugged path is a favorite round trip for the more ambitious of the Kona sightseeers. They start down the trail with early morning vigor, but on their jaded return are generally willing to concede the truth of the facetious report that it is "two miles down and four miles back". About four hundred yards up from that sharp turn at the top of pali will be seen on the left the heiau where - after the killing on the shore near where the commemorative shaft now stands - Captain Cook's body was dismembered, his bones cleaned and divided among the priests. This is now a stone enclosure about forty five feet square, inside of which is a stone platform from which rises an ohia pole. In 1825 this same pole was placed by Admiral Byron,R.N. (related to the poet) at the time he brought to Honolulu on the "Blonde" the remains of Kamehamaha II, or Liholiho, who had died in England. At the top of the pole was placed a copper plate setting forth these facts about Captain Cook, but this plate has recently been taken down, and for better security placed nearby under glass.

The other branch of the ancient trail that splits just outside of Kaawaloa continues northwest across the lava flats: but before it leaves this district it is worth our time and effort to study its construction, unspoiled as yet by the hand of modern man. The way is about nine feet wide, of small lava cinders, bordered on either side by a straight, double row of large, smooth stones contiguously placed. Though in some sections slabs of the even surfaced "pahoehoe" lava has been used, for the most part the border material is of water worn stones. And though the style of building is general throughout one seemingly can detect where thework superintended by one sub-chief ends, and another begins. These lining boulders must have been brought for great distances, for there are none in the vicinity. A consideration of this problem gives verisimilitude to the legend - which applied to way-making everywhere - that each male using a trail was compelled to carry his smooth, flat stone and lay it carefully at the end of the line, on pain of death.

Returning to Kaawaloa there are a number of interesting things to be seen. Captain Cook's Monument, directly on the shore, is chief in interest. It is a concrete pyramid in a grass plot forty five feet square, marked out by twelve red cannon linked by heavy chains, set upright in concrete, balls in muzzles. The legend upon this shaft is self-explanatory. "In memory of the great circumnavigator, Captain James Cook, R.N., who discovered these islands on the 18th. of January, A.D. 1778, and fell near this spot on the 14th. of February, A.D. 1779. This monument was erected in November, A.D. 1874 by some of his fellow countrymen." North of this monument, about a hundred and twenty five yards, and back from the water half this distance, is the famous Well of Umi. It dates from about the year fifteen hundred. But, passing down by its broad, timeworn steps, in the once-limpid pool where only the 'haut monde' of Kona were permitted to quench their thirst (it was strictly tabu to the common herd) we now view to-day's picnic rubbish. From the monument may beeseen, high up in the unscalable cliffs, the natural caves in which the calabash-enclosed relics of Hawaiian chiefs were interred: and it was not so long ago that protruding from some of these holes might be descried a vagrant thigh bone or a bit of fluttering tapa cloth. About a hundred yards west of the monument and close to the trail will be found the ruins of a Christian mission built nearly a century ago. Southeast from the lighthouse a few yards is a small "fish" heiau, similar to the mound that # stands on nearly every prominent point, and on which propitiative ceremonies to the Gods were held, that the catch might be good. Traces of an immense one of this class are to be seen at Palemano Point. The other way from the lighthouse possibly four hundred yards, close to the low cliff shore and in front of an ancient ruin, is a steep sided, circular, well-like hole down through the lava, into which from below the sea surges with terrific force. Tradition has it that this was an execution hole; into it the hapless wretch would be cast, to be ground to a pulp against its rasping sides.

A study of name meanings reveals much that is helpful. The poetic translation of the bay name has already been cited. "Puuhonua", the point south of Honaunau Bay, means literally "hill earth" or "hill resting", and designated that particular point as the place of refuge. "Napoopoo" means "the obscured", and derives its name from the fact that the village has always been low down, hidden among the trees. While across the bay "Kaawaloa", now the name designating that particular area, literally means "the long bay".

At Napoopoo, north past the lumber sheds and yards of American Factors, at the south end of that wonderful sand beach, is a tablet honoring the memory of that native from Kau, Henry Opukahaia, who went to a religious school in the eastern states and whose example - so the legend on the monument tells us - "Inspired the First American Board Mission to Hawaii in 1820". While directly east of this is the great heiau called "Hikiau", a spot second only in interest to the "city of refuge" itself. Here Captain Cook was actually held an object of veneration, being regarded for a time (certain ungodlike acts on the part of himself and crew led directly to his death) as the incarnation of their god Lono. This is a long, high, level platform made up of the surrounding rough "aa" lava rock, in the centre of which is a wall with inner rooms, resembling the foundations of a small modern house. Here the priests debated as to the victims to be chosen for sacrifice. And to the east of this is the place of sacrifice proper, a terraced platform of stone in which are two narrow and deep pits having to do with the sacrificial ceremony. Viewing this altar one should not draw a lurid picture of taut-held victim, of obsidian dagger plunged, of dripping heart held aloft by priestly hand: for the process was quite otherwise. The secretly chosen victim was killed by stealth, the 'coup de grace' delivered by a stone at the back of the neck. The dead body was then offered to the Gods upon this altar, next dismembered and the main bones prepared for sacred burial in the accustomed way.

Upon the death of royalty two victims were picked for sacrifice: and the uncertainty as to who were these elect is said to have caused most of the young men at such precarious times to take to the hills, till word was passed along that the dread Mu (priests' executive) had worked his will upon the chosen. The first was laid lifeless upon the altar, as has been shown: but the second had only to be lowered over those stupendous cliffs at Kealakekua Bay, with a calabash under his arm containing the royal bones. This he was admonished carefully to conceal: and when he would signal that all had been accomplished they at the top — cut the rope.

We must pause in admiration at the achievements of these ancient peoples. When we consider their navigation of the vast expanse of the southern sea, - they knew the stars, their places month by month - , when we think of the mighty armies moved by great war canoes between the islands of this group, the engineering of the road systems, the miles upon miles of stone walls, the "city of refuge" with its huge stones brought immense distances and placed - no one knows how - , we are forced to believe as in Genesis that truly "there were giants in the earth in those days".

Eoline R. Hand

Eoline R.Hand.

LIST OF POSITIONS. 4343
(Kealakekua Bay Survey)

To accompany topographic sheet "A", Keawekaheka Pt. to Palemano Pt. Hawaii.

February, 1928. Eoline R.Hand, C. of Party.

Name	Lat.	D.M.	Long.	D.P.	Description
Ult.	19°29'	1123	155°57'	247	w.w. on rock close to cliff edge 675 m. north Keawekaheka Point.
Spur	19°29'	227	155°56'	136	The sharp pinnacle of rock that i is directly over the natural arch in the narrow peninsula that juts out SW-toward Cook's Mon.
Ac	19°28'	780	155°55'	885	w.w. on cairn (and pole) on the flat lava point directly SW of Napoopoo wharf.
Ar	19°27'	1543	155°55'	1162	West gable of stone ruins (old Catholic school) on beach in cove NE of Palemano Pt.

Inspected and found adequate, except that the descriptive
* report is too meager.
General and specific instructions complied with.
Junctions with adjoining sheets are satisfactory.

E. P. Ellis
April, 1928

* Descriptive Report attached

4343

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4344

I. & A.
APR 10 1928
Acc. No.

(Kealakekua Bay Survey)

LIST OF POSITIONS.

To accompany topographic sheet "B", Palemano Point to Alahaka Bay, Hawai

February, 1928. Eoline R.Hand, C.of Party.

Name	Lat.	D.M.	Long.	D. P.	Description
Big	19°27'	281	155°55'	824	W.W. on large cairn, 25' high, that is on the rounded point 3/4 mi. SSE from Palemano Pt.
Daco	19°26'	216	155°55'	639	W.W. on a mound close to cliff edge, the highest point between Kealakekua and Honaunau bays.
Sin	19°25'	1024	155°54'	1417	Sign of general store, at the gate: at head Honaunau Bay.
Tur	19°25'	719	155°54'	1656	W.W. on large rock on Palemano Pt. at W. edge coconut grove.
Gab	19°24'	1708	155°54'	844	West gable yellow house SW of Alahaka Bay, about 200 m. south of where the trail mounts the cliffs from Honaunau.

* Inspected and found adequate, except that the descriptive report is too meager.
General and specific instructions complied with.
Junctions with adjoining sheets are satisfactory.

E. P. Ellis
April, 1928

*Descriptive Report attached.

Form 537a
11—5813

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

C. & G. SURVEY
L. & A.
APR 10 1928
Acc. No.

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

4343

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. "A" 4343

State . ~~Terr. of~~ Hawaiian Is. . . . . .

General locality . ~~West coast (Kealakekua Bay)~~ W. Coast of Hawaii-Kealakekua Bay . . . . . .

Locality ~~Keaweka Point to Palemano Point~~ Keawekaheka Pt. to Palemano Pt. . . . . .

Chief of party . Eoline R. Hand. . . . . .

Surveyed by . . . Eoline R. Hand . . . . . .

Date of survey . . January - February, 1928. . . . . .

Scale . . . . . 1:5000 . . . . . .

Heights in feet above mean high water . . . . . .

Contour interval . 20 . . feet.

Inked by Eoline R. Hand . Lettered by . Eoline R. Hand. . . . .

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs, List of Positions ✓ Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet . . . . . .

Remarks: The Descriptive Report will come later: it was not fully prepared at time sheet was mailed, and it is understood sheet was desired quickly. ERH

Form 537a
11—5813

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

4344

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
"B"
Register No. 4344

State ~~Terr. of~~ Hawaiian Is.

General locality West Coast Hawaii (Kealakekua Bay)

Locality Palemano Pt. to Alahaka Bay.

Chief of party Eoline R. Hand.

Surveyed by Eoline R. Hand

Date of survey February, 1928.

Scale 1:5000

Heights in feet above Mean high water

Contour interval 20 feet.

Inked by Eoline R. Hand Lettered by Eoline R. Hand

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,

Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,
List of Positions
Data from other sources affecting sheet

Remarks: Descriptive Report not complete: ~~will~~ be sent later, as it is desired not to hold up sheet waiting for it. ERH.