

University of Hawai`i 1997 Summer Field School Kalaupapa, Moloka`i

Eleven students from as far away as Washington, DC, and Guam attended the 1997 Pacific Preservation Field School at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa. They represented the fields of architecture, anthropology, and American Studies. The goal of the field school was to survey the buildings in Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Moloka`i, draw the exterior of several noteworthy structures, and review the structural changes since the last survey published in 1979. Two field trips to Moloka`i totalling six days enabled the students to inventory the buildings and take measurements for drawings. This field school introduced the students to the documentation of historic vernacular architecture.

The 1997 field school focused on documenting the buildings of the town of Kalaupapa, one of the most interesting sites in the state. This is the area where hundreds of people suffering from Hansen's Disease, previously known to the world as leprosy, were exiled for life. For over 100 years patients lived and died in isolation, removed from family and friends.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park on Moloka`i is one of the most remote areas in Hawai`i. Originally accessible only by sea, there is now a walking trail down from "topside" over 2,000 feet above, and a small airstrip. It is still inaccessible by motor vehicle. When antibiotics were discovered to halt the spread of Hansen's Disease, the need for a quarantined area such as Kalaupapa disappeared. Residents were given the choice of returning to their families and leading lives outside the settlement, or staying and living out their lives at Kalaupapa. For many the peninsula was the only home they had ever known and they were uncomfortable with the idea of starting over in a new, possibly hostile environment. As long as they remain the area will continue to be restricted.

The Hawai`i Department of Health managed the settlement on behalf of the state until entering into an agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) for joint control. In 1980 the NPS established the Kalaupapa

National Historical Park. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places. The NPS maintains the park and ensures that the residents remain undisturbed. When the last resident leaves the settlement, either through death or relocation, the Department of Health will relinquish whatever remaining control it might have. The NPS must then deal only with the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

In 1976 a survey was conducted by the NPS to help facilitate their eventual administration of the area. All buildings within Kalaupapa were documented. At the time, over 200 structures were catalogued. The final report from 1979 indicates more than 400 buildings were extant at that time. This survey provided important information about the exact holdings of the Kalaupapa settlement, including the age of buildings, architectural type, distinguishing features, and historic significance. The survey was conducted to comply with the 1966 Historic Preservation Act passed by Congress that mandates all federal agencies create an inventory of potentially significant sites within their jurisdiction.

The 1997 survey built on the 1976 survey. Students used the previous inventory to locate and catalogue the buildings in Kalaupapa today. With information not available at the time of the previous survey, students were able to clarify some of the questions concerning certain buildings such as date of construction and original use. In addition, four structures were chosen for measured drawings: the pool hall; Plumeria House, an early resi-

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dence; the visitor's center; and a fishing cottage were chosen for their unique architectural design as well as their significance in the community.

The most significant changes between the previous survey and the 1997 survey occurred at sites where the structure was either missing, replaced, or its use had been changed. The local bar in 1976 is a storage shed in 1997. The dilapidated Quonset hut used for storage is replaced with a prefab metal building. Yet despite these changes, what struck the students most is the relative lack of change the entire peninsula has undergone since the 1930s. The integrity of many of the original buildings and communities is still intact. The public structures such as the post office and gas station are virtually unchanged since they were built. Most of the buildings documented in the 1976 survey still exist in some form today. There is a special quality found at Kalaupapa that occurs only because of its complete isolation from the outside world for so long.

The use of students to conduct the survey has proven to be an invaluable tool. The NPS would not have been able to conduct such a survey on its own at the present time, yet a survey was desperately needed. Students received hands-on



education with surveying and measured drawing. In return they know that their work is contributing to the future of Kalaupapa by providing information that will help determine further preservation techniques on the peninsula.

A 1990 transition study lists the buildings still in existence at the time. Coupled with the information from the 1976 survey and the 1997 survey it should provide valuable information about the history on the settlement in the past 20 years. A final report will be created to reflect the results of the 1997 field school. This report will be turned over to the administrators at Kalaupapa.

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*Photos by William
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Maritime Archaeology Certificate

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa now offers a Graduate Certificate in Maritime Archaeology and History. Completion of the certificate requires a minimum of 20 credits from a number of fields such as anthropology, oceanography, and history. This program is the first stage of what many hope to be a progressively intense development by the University of Hawai'i into underwater archeology in the Pacific region. The central location of the university, coupled with its excellent research facilities, makes UH an ideal location for this program and future work within the Pacific. Cooperating faculty from throughout the UH system are supplemented by faculty and professionals from agencies and institutions both nationally and internationally. The certificate program, run through the Marine Option Program, graduated its first group of students in May. A major highlight of the program is the

summer field school that allows students to incorporate their interest in diving with archeological experience in some of the most beautiful waters in the world. For more information contact the Marine Option Program at http://www2.hawaii.edu/mop/mop_GMAHCP.html.

The 1998 summer field school was offered from June 15 through July 17. Three out of the five weeks were spent in the field on the Big Island of Hawai'i. This year's field school was the shipwreck of the S.S. *Maui*, a steamer sunk in 1917 due to navigational error. The wreck lies in approximately 20 feet of water, within sight of a state park. Training included hands-on operation of remote sensing equipment, report writing, map completion and surveying. For more information contact the Marine Option program at email: mop@hawaii.edu or visit the web site at http://www2.hawaii.edu/mop/mop_mast.html.