

KAHULUI SCHOOL CLASSROOM ANNEX BUILDING  
(Building E)  
Vevau Street & School Street  
Kahului  
Maui County  
Hawaii

HABS HI-555  
*HABS HI-555*

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
**KAHULUI SCHOOL CLASSROOM ANNEX BUILDING**  
**(Building E)**

**HABS No. HI-555**

**Location:** Vevau Street and School Street  
Kahului  
Maui County, Hawaii  
U.S.G.S..  
7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) (Scale – 1:24,000) NAD83 datum.  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 04.763060.2311870

**Date of Construction:** 1939

**Designer:** Unknown

**Builder:** W. K. Fujita, contractor (Lahaina)

**Owner:** State of Hawaii

**Present Use:** Vacant

**Significance:** The Kahului School Classroom Annex Building is significant for its association with the development of public education on Maui from the time of its construction in 1939 through 1964 when the school campus was closed. When built, the three-classroom annex building was an important addition to the campus, which was leasing classroom space from a nearby Japanese school.

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**Date of Report:** November 2011

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Kahului School Classroom Annex Building (Building E) is a wooden single story classroom building with an irregular rectangle footprint with overall dimensions of 124' x 32', comprised of the original 100' x 32' building and a 24' x 14' addition at its north end. The building has a hip roof with overhanging eaves, is sided with horizontally oriented boards, and rests on a wood post and concrete pier foundation.

The building is located at the southeast corner of the lot (TMK 3-007-004:003). The area of the tmk lot around the building is open and used for bus parking for Maui Economic Opportunity Inc. (MEO). The neighboring lot to the east contains a large apartment building, the rear of which faces the classroom annex building.

The building's hip roof is sheathed with shiplap boards, covered with asphalt composition shingles, and has exposed rafters with fascia boards. Every other eave plate between the rafters has a screened rectangular vent. The eaves of the building overhang about 2'-8".

The exterior walls of the classroom annex building are approximately 12' high and are sheathed with 7" wide horizontal boards that are lap jointed with the bottom edge of each board over the top edge of the one below it. The building rests on a wood post and concrete pier foundation that typically elevates it about 3'-2" above grade. Horizontal wood slats screen the foundation. The 24' x 14' addition at the north end of the building has a shed roof and plywood siding.

The original building is constructed with an inset lanai 72' long and 8' wide that is centered on the main front façade (west side) and flanked by 14' wide sections of the building that contain restrooms. The lanai is covered by the main roof, which is supported by square wood posts (typically on 10' centers) and a beam at the lanai edge. At the lanai edge is a 3'-5" high solid panel railing made of plywood panels set between the posts. The lanai is accessed by an 11' wide wood stairway up from grade, a second stairway has been removed. The lanai has a ceiling of painted solid panels with battens, and a floor of painted plywood.

All entry doors to the original building are accessed from the lanai. The wood entry doors to the main classroom portion of Building E are five-panel with ball-tipped hinges, metal doorknobs with small escutcheon plates, deadbolts, and added hasps. The south restroom door is five-panel and the north restroom door is an added flush wood door. Single-light, awning sash transom windows are above the classroom entry doors in two sets of six and one set of three. All other windows in the original building are jalousie replacements in the original window openings. The long side of the building opposite the lanai (east side) has three large banks of windows, one bank for each of the classrooms. Each bank contains six, 6' high windows (jalousie). An additional paired jalousie is at the south end of this side, and paired jalousies are in the west walls of the restrooms.

The interior of Building E was originally separated into three classrooms. Each classroom is about 23'-2" wide. The north classroom and the center classroom are 28' long and the south classroom is 28' long with a 16' long stage area at the south end that is elevated about 2'-4" above the classroom floor. The stage has a wood rail at its edge and is accessed by a centered 5' wide stairway from the south classroom floor.

The three classrooms were separated by two foldable divider walls, constructed of eight panels hinged together. One divider wall has been removed and one is extant with only one panel removed. Each foldable divider is made up of six, 3'-2" wide panels with two narrow, 1'-6" wide panels, one at each side. Each individual folding panel is three-panel design.

The dividing wall between the north classroom and the center classroom has been removed and gypsum board wall partitions built to make two smaller office rooms within the north classroom space. A doorway added in the north wall leads to the 24' x 14' addition.

Typically, the interior of the classroom building has ceilings of large painted canec<sup>1</sup> panels with v-joints and walls of painted plywood. The center and south classroom have floors of plywood panels with the remnants of asphalt composition tiles. The storage closet off the north

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<sup>1</sup> Canec (in wide use in Hawaii from the mid 1920s) is pressed fiber board made from bagasse sugar cane fibers that are the by-product of sugar refining. Canec was originally the brand name for pressed fiber board made by Hawaiian Cane Products, Ltd., but it has become commonly used to refer to all pressed board of this type.

classroom and the portion of the north classroom not partitioned into office space shows original wood strip (tongue and groove pine or fir) flooring. Along the wall that separates the classrooms from the lanai are chalkboards that have had their writing surfaces covered by painted panels. Suspended rectangular fluorescent light fixtures illuminate the classrooms. Above the stage area, these fixtures are flush mounted.

Each restroom is only accessed by its doorway from the lanai. Each restroom has two small sinks and two stalls with toilet. The south restroom has a private restroom at its south end. At the north restroom, this space is not part of the restroom, but is used as a storage closet that is accessed from the north classroom.

## **HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

### The Early Campus at Kahului School

The Kahului School was established in 1900.<sup>2</sup> In 1906 it was a one room school. By the 1922-23 school year it had 275 students that were taught by five teachers.<sup>3</sup> By 1926, elementary schools on Maui were undergoing improvements to their physical plants. That year a concrete schoolhouse was built at Paia, and it was "the policy of the Maui Supervisors to erect permanent concrete buildings in large centers and to use the old wooden buildings...for reconstruction... in rural sections."<sup>4</sup>

In 1927 a concrete, two story, 15 classroom school building was built at the Kahului campus<sup>5</sup> for grades 1-8.<sup>6</sup> The building had classrooms that were 27' x 30' and it contained an office and two rest rooms.<sup>7</sup> Construction of the building began in mid-May and the building opened in September, about five days after the start of the new school year. The two story configuration was chosen over another design, with three single-story wings of five classrooms each arranged around a courtyard. Both designs were submitted to the Department of Public Instruction in January 1927 by architect William d'Esmond. The courtyard design (14,500 square feet) was projected to cost \$42,500 and the two-story design (12,500 square feet), which was chosen, was projected to cost \$39,000.<sup>8</sup> The 1927 building, of plastered concrete, was built by Robert Sano, and featured maple floors and stairs and was "attractive in appearance from without and should suffice for the needs of the town without addition for a considerable number of years to come."<sup>9</sup> At the start of the 1928 school year, Kahului School had an enrolment of 403 students and there was also a teacher's cottage on the campus. The two story building would provide the main classrooms for Kahului School for over 30 years, until a new campus was built in 1959 at another location. The building would be demolished ca. 1996.<sup>10</sup>

The 1927 two story building had a center section with a gable roof and side sections at the east and west that were lower, with parapeted gable roofs. Windows were typically paired six-over-six-light double-hung sash. Over the front door (facing Main St.) was the inscription "Hale

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<sup>2</sup> Territory of Hawaii. "Department of Public Instruction, Annual Report, Biennium 1927-1928." P. 21.

<sup>3</sup> Wells, H.M. "Maui Schools of Yesterday and of the Present." *Maui News*. October 10, 1922. P. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Territory of Hawaii. "Department of Public Instruction, Annual Report, Biennium 1925-1926. P. 20.

<sup>5</sup> "DPI Needs Old School in Kahului." *Maui News*. March 6, 1960. P. 1.

<sup>6</sup> "Kahului Has Fine School Building Now in Occupancy." *Maui News*. September 10, 1927. P. 1.

<sup>7</sup> Territory of Hawaii. "Department of Public Instruction, Annual Report, Biennium 1927-1928." P. 30.

<sup>8</sup> "Building Type Kahului School to Department." *Maui News*. January 19, 1927. P. 1.

<sup>9</sup> "Kahului Has Fine School." *Maui News*. " September 10, 1927.

<sup>10</sup> Hawaii Dept of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). "Site and Demolition Plan, Demolish Lihikai School. April 1996. In DAGS drawer/ folder J-21-2.

Imi."<sup>11</sup> The English translation of the Hawaiian word "hale" is house or building, and the translation of the verb "imi" is to look, hunt, seek, or search. The design of the 1927 two-story building was very similar to the design of Iao School (date of construction unknown) at Wailuku.<sup>12</sup>

The campus of Kahului School in early 1927 (before the two-story classroom building was built) consisted of three small buildings that were sited just northwest of the intersection of School and Third streets. The two-story building was built within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street right of way, just south of the three buildings. The old classroom building (one of the three), which the 1927 two-story building replaced, was wood frame and at the time stood "between the street [Main St. now Kaahumanu Ave.] and the new concrete structure."<sup>13</sup> The old wood frame classroom building was not slated to stand there long, "it [was] to be demolished and used for the Huelo School [sic], according to county plans."<sup>14</sup>

As of 1945, the Maui Vocational School was located on the same block as Kahului School, adjacent to the southwest.<sup>15</sup> Established in 1932 as the second trade school facility on Maui, the first being Lahainaluna High School, Maui Vocational School began with 5 instructors and 80 students.<sup>16</sup> By 1955 Maui Vocational School had moved off the block to a dedicated campus to the west on Kaahumanu Ave.

In the late 1930s the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Maui County constructed a low stone fence along the Main Street boundary of the campus. In 1939 the campus was landscaped with night blooming cereus and coconut trees, and the construction of concrete walkways between buildings. A young banyan tree was moved from one area of the campus to another.<sup>17</sup>

#### Kahului School Classroom Annex Building – Building E

This building was built in the spring of 1939 by the Lahaina construction contractor W. K. Fujita. On April 5, 1939 the Maui County Board of Supervisors announced that Fujita had been awarded the contract to construct the building for a low bid of \$5,350. Fujita stated in the bid that the construction of the building would be completed within 34 days. The classroom building was needed to meet the requirements of Kahului School, which at the time was leasing three classrooms from the Japanese School in Kahului,<sup>18</sup> which was located about 4 blocks east of the campus. "The new building will have accordion doors that will permit its conversion into a large meeting hall, and will have a small stage at one end. On the lanai there will be a dispensary for use of public health workers."<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Bishop Museum Photographic Archives. Photo "Kahului School, Hale Imi" in folder Education-schools-Maui, neg # H 107.346-6. Taken by John C. Wright, March 1974.

<sup>12</sup> Bishop Museum Photographic Archives. Photo "Iao School, Wailuku" in folder Education-schools-Maui, neg # H 107.347-49. Taken by John C. Wright, March 1974.

<sup>13</sup> "Kahului Has Fine School." *Maui News*. September 10, 1927.

<sup>14</sup> "Kahului Has Fine School." *Maui News*. September 10, 1927.

<sup>15</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Map "Kahului, 1945." Located at Hawaii State Library.

<sup>16</sup> Wist, Benjamin O. *A Century of Public Education in Hawaii*. Honolulu: Hawaii Educational Review. 1940. P. 186.

<sup>17</sup> "School Yard Beautified." *Maui News*. October 21, 1939. P. 6.

<sup>18</sup> "Fujita Gets School Job at Kahului," *Maui News*. April 5, 1939. P. 1.

<sup>19</sup> "Fujita." *Maui News*. April 5, 1939.

Maui County Engineer Joseph Matson, Jr. had estimated that the building would cost \$5,150. An amount of \$5,000 was set aside to finance construction. The additional money over that amount was obtained by deferring planned construction at Puukoolii School to a later date and transferring the funds to the Kahului project.<sup>20</sup> After the start of the 1939-40 school year it was reported in the Maui News that the "annex supplying additional classrooms was completed last spring."<sup>21</sup>

From about 1970 until the present, a portion of the former campus of Kahului School was used by Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) as administrative space and a base yard for their transportation buses. Under MEO, the classroom annex building was the site of a Headstart pre-school program from about 1985 to about 2004. It was then utilized as a second-hand resale shop, administrative space, and storage area until about 2007. The building has been vacant since then.<sup>22</sup> The date of the addition on the north side of the building is not known. By 2011 the classroom annex building was being referred to as Building E.<sup>23</sup>

### Post-War Campus at Kahului School

In 1953 a new, four-room, kindergarten building was built at the Kahului School campus by Y. Yoshimori Contractors for \$44,655. The construction included "toilets for each room, an outdoor equipment room, closet, sink, sliding doors, and an outdoor activity lanai" and covered an area of 24' x 176'.<sup>24</sup>

Growing enrollments through the 1930s, post war, and 1950s put increasing pressure on the buildings of the Kahului School campus at Main and South Kane streets.<sup>25</sup> In early 1958, Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S) gave Maui County 23 acres of land at Lono and Hina avenues for a new school. Groundbreaking for the construction of the new school was held on January 29, 1959 and construction was slated to be completed by the end of the year. Classes opened at the new school in early April 1960, it contained 32 classrooms and could accommodate about 1,000 students. At the time of the new school's construction, the existing campus at Main Street (Kaahumanu St.) had 31 classrooms and handled 989 students. The 1953 kindergarten building (at the Main St. campus) was moved to the new school and had one classroom added to it.<sup>26</sup> This gave (old) Kahului School 27 classrooms that could accommodate more than 900 students.<sup>27</sup>

Although the new school was a replacement for the old campus, the Maui District office of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) intended to retain the old school and grounds to provide future classroom space. This was because HC&S was scheduled to close some of its plantation villages. The students from these villages, then accommodated at Paia and Kaunoa

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<sup>20</sup> "Fujita." *Maui News*. April 5, 1939..

<sup>21</sup> "School Yard Beautified." *Maui News*. October 21, 1939. P. 6.

<sup>22</sup> David Victor & George Reioux. Interview w/ Mr. Victor & Mr. Reioux on August 9, 2011 by Dee Ruzicka, MAI.

<sup>23</sup> Spence, William. Memo "Kahului School, Demolition of former classroom building." April 6, 2011. Memo from Maui County Planning Director to DAGS David Victor.

<sup>24</sup> "Kindergarten at Kahului School." *Maui News*. April 11, 1953. P.1.

<sup>25</sup> "Schools Have More Pupils." *Maui News*. September 11, 1935. P. 1. and "Land Deal for School Approved." *Maui News*. June 26, 1957. P. 2.

<sup>26</sup> "New Kahului School." *Maui News*. May 9, 1959. P. 6.

<sup>27</sup> "DPI Needs." *Maui News*. April 6, 1960. P. 1.

schools, were expected to move to Kahului with their families.<sup>28</sup> It was anticipated that "several hundred" new students would be registered in the Kahului district for the 1961-62 term, the majority of new students coming from Paia, Puunene, and Kaunoa schools.<sup>29</sup>

The DPI predictions for the coming years were accurate. In March 1961, enrollment at the new school reached 1,204. On March 20 a new third grade class, taught by Mrs. Helen Hirose, was begun at the old campus. At that time there were 7 classes held at the old campus and 33 at the new campus.<sup>30</sup> Administrationally, the two campuses were still joined, they would split in April and the old campus would become Lihikai School.<sup>31</sup>

When Lihikai School (old campus of Kahului School) started the 1961-62 school year it had classes for grades 1-8 and kindergarten, plus instructors for remedial reading and adjustment, and a librarian. The school had undergone renovation of the cafeteria and kitchen, painting, and new fluorescent lighting of the classrooms in the main building. "Although the school plant is undeniably ancient, everything possible has and is being done to see that it is renovated to a point that Lihikai will be a school of pleasant surroundings."<sup>32</sup>

The 1961 revival of the campus into a grade school did not last for long. In April 1964, ground was broken for another new school campus at Papa Avenue and Maalo Street. Reed & Martin International was the contractor for the \$987,000 project, which was occupied by early June 1965 and named Lihikai School. Students from the former Lihikai School (old campus of Kahului School at Main St.) were moved into the new facility.<sup>33</sup> Two buildings were moved off the old campus; a four classroom building was moved to Waihee School and an office-library building was moved to Kihei School.<sup>34</sup>

In August 1968 the two story concrete school building (1927) at the old campus was slated to be converted into dormitory space for students of Maui Community College (MCC). The conversion would cost \$51,000 and include furnishings and was expected to be completed by the opening of the '69 Spring Semester to serve students from outlying areas of the county (Lanai, Molokai, Hana) on a priority basis. MCC enrollment for September 1968 was projected to reach 750, up from 565 from the previous year.<sup>35</sup>

The former campus of Kahului School began to be dismantled after 1996 when the 1927 two story classroom building and three small storage buildings were taken down.<sup>36</sup> From about 1970 to the present the former campus was used by Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. as a base yard for buses.

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<sup>28</sup> "New Kahului School." *Maui News*. May 9, 1959. P. 6. and "DPI Needs Old School in Kahului." *Maui News*. April 6, 1960. P. 1.

<sup>29</sup> "DPI Needs Old School in Kahului." *Maui News*. April 6, 1960. P. 1.

<sup>30</sup> "Enrollment at Kahului Hits 1,204." *Maui News*. March 18, 1961. P. 1.

<sup>31</sup> "Old School Designated as Lihikai." *Maui News*. April 29, 1961. P. 1.

<sup>32</sup> "Lihikai is New in More Than Name." *Maui News*. September 2, 1961. P. 1.

<sup>33</sup> "Groundbreaking Rites Saturday for New School." *Maui News*. April 15, 1964. P.1.

<sup>34</sup> "Moving Okayed for 4-Room School Unit." *Maui News*. June 9, 1965. P. 14.

<sup>35</sup> "Old Lihikai School to Become New Maui Community College Dormitory." *Maui News*. August 17, 1968. P. 7.

<sup>36</sup> Hawaii Dept of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). "Site and Demolition Plan, Demolish Lihikai School. April 1996. In DAGS drawer/ folder J-21-2.

## Sources

### A. Architectural Drawings:

No original drawings for the building were located.

Drawings showing the site plan of the Kahului School Classroom Annex Building are available in the Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) plan files archive on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu. These drawings are catalogued under:

Kahului School, file # 2-5-4

Kahului Civic Ctr. file # J-21-2 (drwgs: Demolish Lihikai School)

### B. Early Views:

No early views of the Kahului School Classroom Annex Building or the campus were located. Aerial photographs at the Hawaii State Archives from 1950 and 1965 are the only type located that show early views. Photographs in the Hawaii State Archives Aerial Photo collection were created by the Territorial or State governments and are considered in the public domain.

Hawaii State Archives, Folder PPA-33-2 aerial photo dated September 28, 1950.

Folder PPA-35-1 aerial photo dated January 4, 1965.

A photograph of the 1927 two-story building taken in 1974 is located in Bishop Museum Photographic Archives folder "Education-schools-Maui."

### C. Bibliography:

Bishop Museum Photographic Archives. Photo "Kahului School, Hale Imi" in folder Education-schools-Maui, neg # H 107.346-6. Taken by John C. Wright, March 1974.

DAGS (Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services. Drawings. Various dates.

### *Maui News*

Wells, H.M. "Maui Schools of Yesterday and of the Present." October 10, 1922. P. 1.

"Building Type Kahului School to Department." January 19, 1927. P. 1.

"Kahului Has Fine School Building; Now in Occupancy." September 10, 1927. P. 1.

"Wong Prepares Clever Volume County Schools." January 10, 1931. P. 1.

"Schools Have More Pupils." September 11, 1935. P. 1.

"Fujita Gets School Job at Kahului." April 5, 1939. P. 1.

"School Yard Beautified." October 21, 1939. P. 6.

"Kindergarten at Kahului School Opening Tuesday." April 11, 1953. P. 1.

"Sentimental Journey – 1937 Kahului School Teacher Visits Pupils." March 1, 1967. P. 8.

"Land Deal for School Approved." June 26, 1957. P. 2.

"HC&S Gives Away Land for Kahului School." Feb 8, 1958. P. 1.

- "New School for Kahului in 1 Year." January 31, 1959. P. 1.
- "New Kahului School." May 9, 1959. P. 6.
- "DPI Needs Old School in Kahului." April 6, 1960. P. 1.
- "Enrollment at Kahului Hits 1,204." March 18, 1961. P. 1.
- "Old School Designated as Lihikai." April 29, 1961. P. 1.
- "Lihikai is New in More Than Name." September 2, 1961. P. 1.
- "Groundbreaking Rites Saturday for New School." April 15, 1964. P. 1.
- "Kualapuu and Lihikai Chosen as School Names." October 3, 1964. P. 1.
- "Moving Okayed for 4-Room School Unit." June 9, 1965. P. 14.
- "Old Lihikai School to Become New Maui Community College Dorm." Aug. 17, 1968. P. 1.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Map "Kahului, 1927," and "Kahului 1945." Located at Hawaii State Library.

Territory of Hawaii. "Department of Public Instruction, Annual Report." Various Years. Located at Hawaii State Archives.

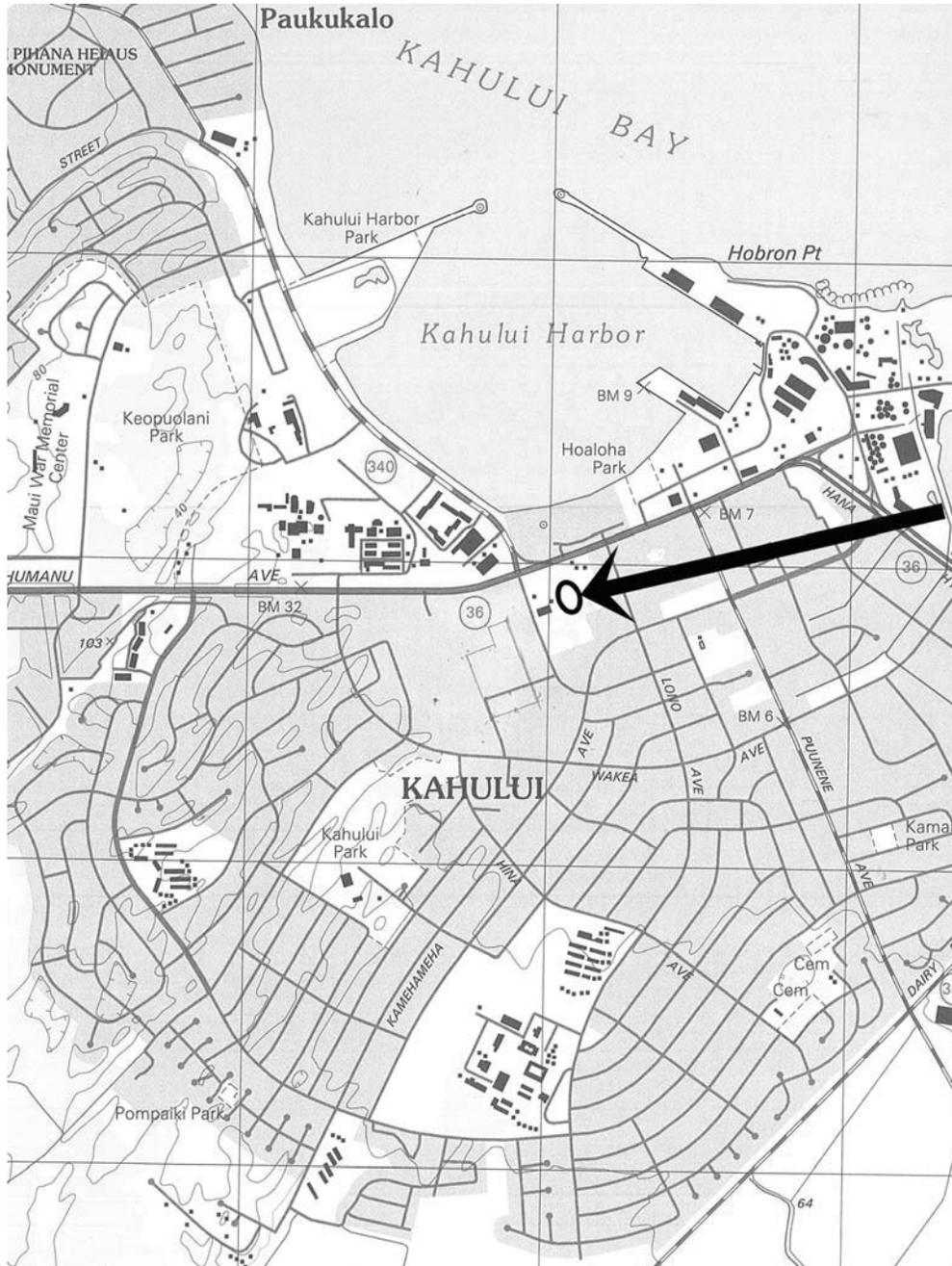
USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). Topographic map "Wailului Quardrangle." 1955. Historic topographic map in collection of Maui Historical Society archives.

Wist, Benjamin O. *A Century of Public Education in Hawaii*. Honolulu: Hawaii Educational Review. 1940.

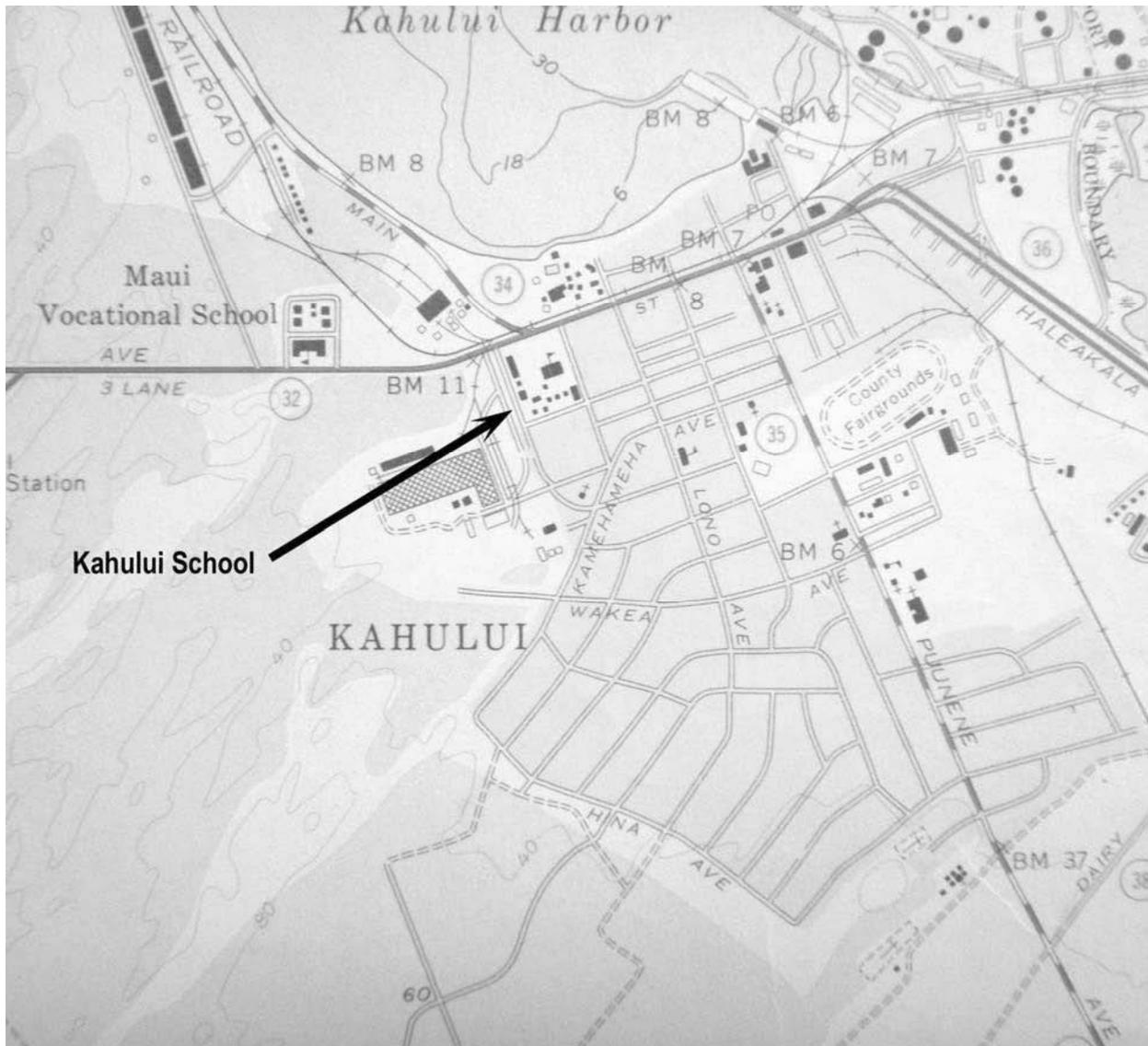
## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

This report is being written in advance of the demolition of Building E at the former campus of Kahului Elementary School. This demolition project is being done under Hawaii Department of Accounting And General Services (DAGS) job # 65-10-0632. Field work was undertaken in August 2011, and this report was researched and written in October and November 2011 by Dee Ruzicka of Mason Architects, Inc., Honolulu, HI. Archival photographs were taken in November 2011 by David Franzen of Franzen Photography, Kailua, HI.

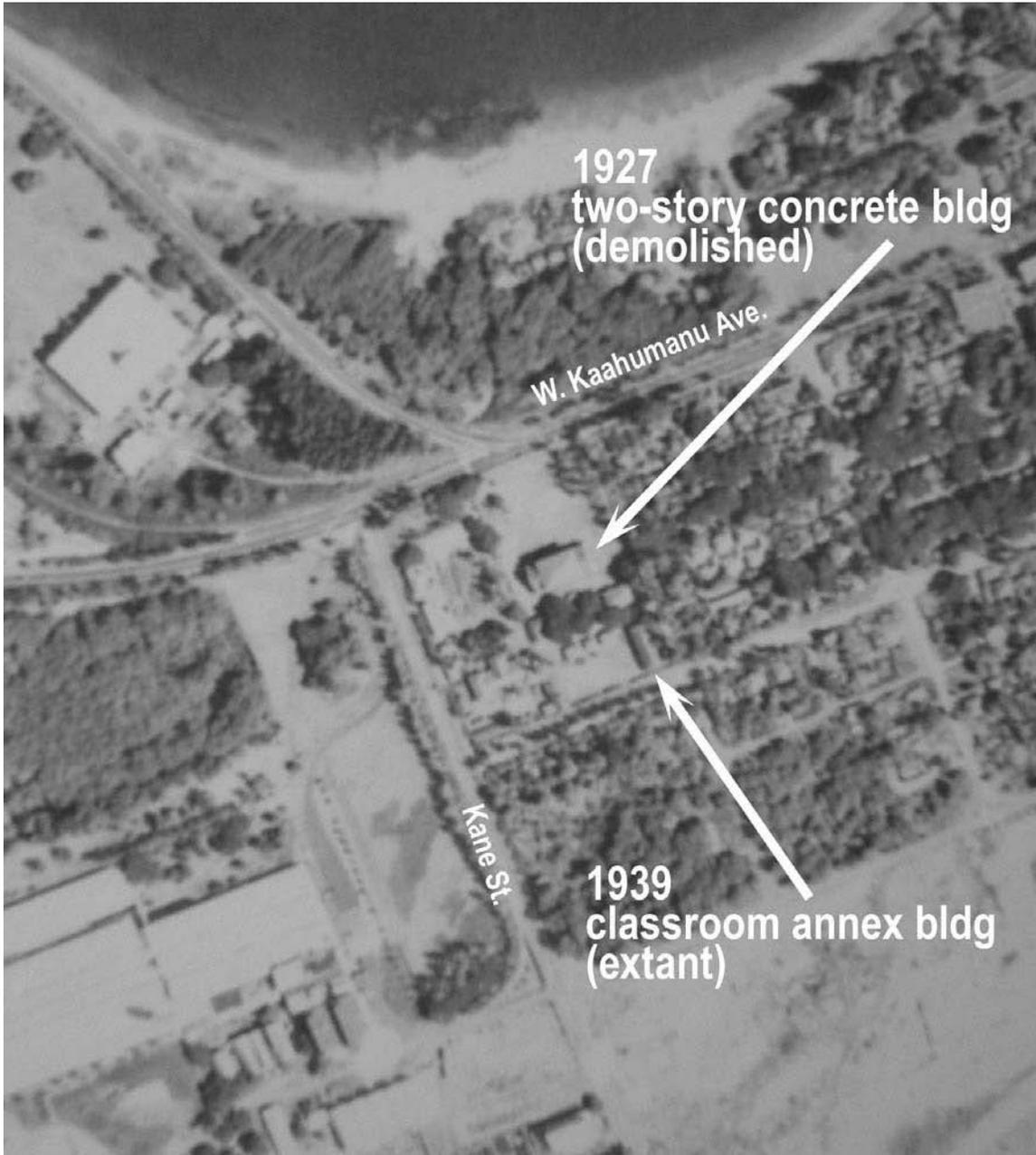
Location map, Kahului School Classroom Annex Building.



Portion of 1955 USGS topographic map of Wailuku quadrangle showing the Kahului School campus. (arrow and label added). Note that as of that year, Maui Vocation School has its own dedicated campus to the west. USGS map from collection of Maui Historical Society.



Portion of aerial photo dated September 28, 1950 showing the block of the campus of Kahului School. Aerial photo from the collection of Hawaii State Archives.

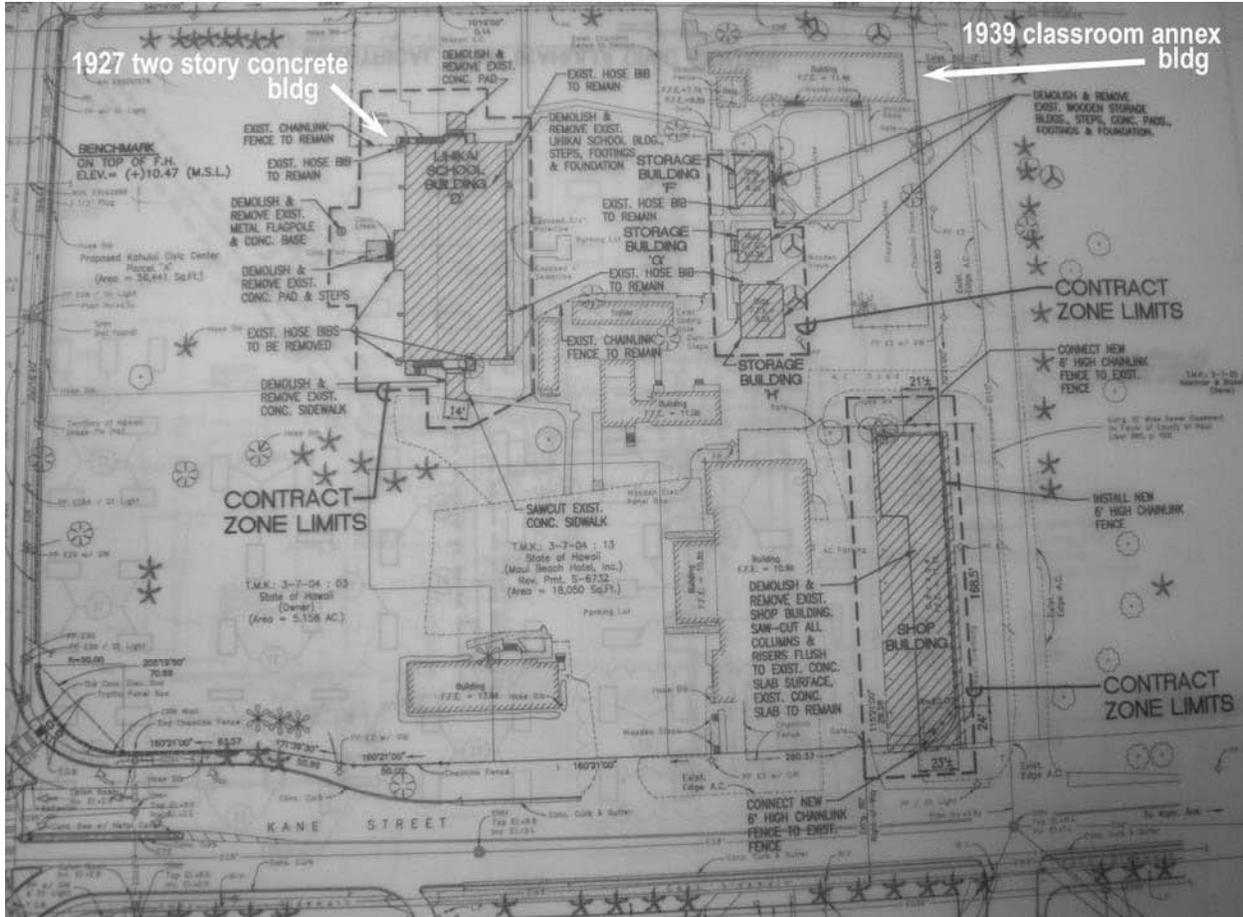


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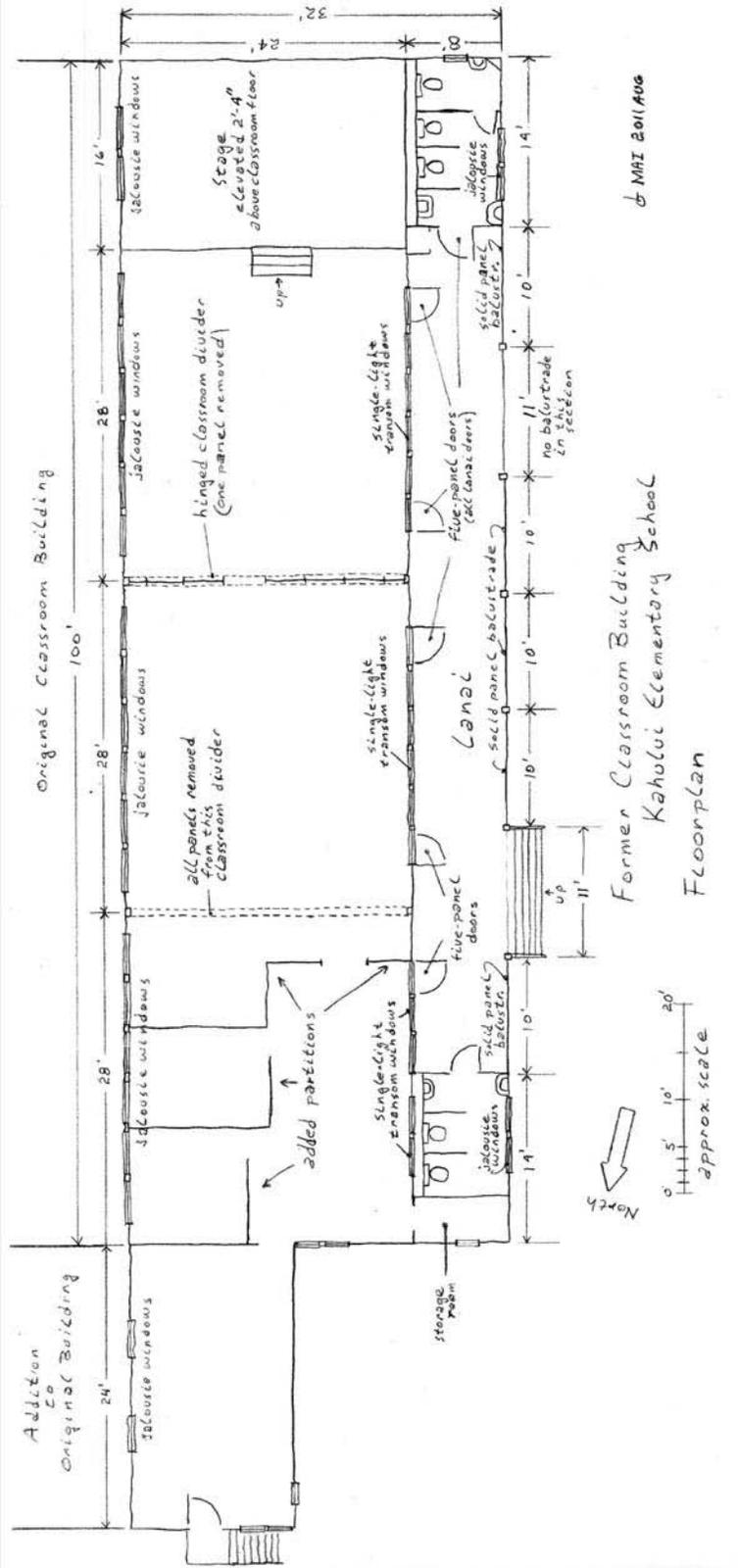
Portion of aerial photo dated January 4, 1965 showing the block of the campus of Kahului School. Aerial photo from the collection of Hawaii State Archives.



Portion of DAGS drawing dated April 1996 showing the plans for demolition of buildings at the Kahului School campus, including the 1927 two-story concrete classroom building. North at left. Drawing in DAGS file J-21-2, drwg #C-2 "Kahului Civic Center, Demolish Lihikai School."



Sketch plan of classroom annex building. Mason Architects, Inc.



Sketch elevations of classroom annex building. Mason Architects, Inc.

