

HHF Completes Consultation on Military Housing Programmatic Agreements for Oahu Bases

HHF has completed consultation on proposed impacts to historic houses on Air Force, Navy and Marine facilities on Oahu through Programmatic Agreements (PAs) with these branches of the military.

As directed by federal law, all branches of the United States military are entering into partnerships with private development companies to fulfill their family housing needs. This national program is intended to provide for reinvestment in military housing, bring existing housing stock to current standards of living, build new housing units and upgrade infrastructure. The housing privatization program is intended to improve living conditions for military families and to increase retention rates among U.S. sailors and soldiers.

Because much of the existing housing is over fifty years old, any proposed changes are required to be reviewed under the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. Rather than have every individual project—whether routine repairs and maintenance or demolition of hundreds of houses—subject to individual review and consultation, the military proposed developing an agreement that would lay out the review standards, processes and expectations in advance. These include agreements on preservation and treatment of historic properties, locations and design of new construction and acceptable levels of demolition.

These Programmatic Agreements are signed by the military, the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The drafting and development of the programmatic agreements also involved local and national preservation partners, including Historic Hawaii Foundation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, National



Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. The agreements will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are having the desired effects of protecting historic resources while allowing for efficient and effective reinvestment in military housing. The PAs developed for the Hawai'i facilities are seen as national models for other military housing agreements throughout the country.

HHF fully participated in the discussions and negotiations for the PAs and has been asked to sign them as a concurring party, indicating our support for the processes they outline. Significant agreements in the PAs include retention of all historic housing located on Ford Island, in the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark, Hale Ali'i, Marine Barracks, the Hickam National Historic Landmark and Heleloa-Hilltop at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe.

Representative structures will be retained at Manana, Makalapa and Maloelap, although the majority of these neighborhoods will be cleared to create new building sites. Duplexes at Red Hill will be donated to the State to be relocated to another site. Because the parties failed to reach agreement, the PAs do not include historic properties at Fort Kamehameha on Hickam Air Force Base or the Navy's Little Makalapa neighborhood. These sites will be resolved under the usual Section 106 processes.



Venerable Walker Estate Home and Gardens Proposed for Demolition

The home, gardens and all buildings of the nationally-recognized Walker Estate in Nu‘uanu are threatened with demolition under a letter sent to the State Historic Preservation Division and a plan filed with the City and County of Honolulu (CCH). On September 5, the Historic Preservation Division received a notice stating that all buildings on the property would be demolished immediately. The letter follows a previous communication requesting that five acres of the Walker Estate be removed from the State Register of Historic Places. At the same time, CCH Department of Planning and Permitting received a request for a cluster development on the property that would add 20 houses where the grounds are currently. That plan showed that the historic home would be retained, although the letter to SHPD states that it will be demolished.

About the Walker Estate

The Walker Estate was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and on the State Register in 1982. The statement of significance for the listing specifically includes extensive discussion of the six acres of grounds, the garden design, plantings and objects, and the setting for the residence.

Its description noted that “the landscaping includes many plants and trees unique to Hawai‘i and some unique only to this garden. The various areas contain plants and trees from all over the world and are divided into the following gardens: corner garden, Japanese garden (reputed to be the oldest formal Japanese garden in Honolulu), pink garden, orchard gardens (2), rock garden, fern house, rainbow garden and entrance garden.”

Mrs. Una Walker was an avid and active member of the early historic preservation movement and served as a trustee to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She sup-

ported the historic designation of her home, as it was her desire to protect her historic property for all of Hawaii to share and enjoy. She was also a strong supporter of HHF. The first office of Historic Hawaii Foundation was housed in the Walker Estate carriage house in 1974 and many HHF events were held in the gardens.

HHF testimony to the State Historic Places Review Board opposing the de-listing noted that “removal of the grounds from the Registers would have a severe detrimental effect on the historic integrity of the residence and an understanding of the historic context.”

Comments on the proposed demolition and plan to subdivide the estate may be addressed to Mr. Henry Eng, Director, Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu, 650 S. King Street, 7th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Comments on the proposal to remove the gardens from the State and National Registers of Historic Places may be addressed to Dr. Kiyoshi Ikeda, Chairperson, Hawai‘i Historic Places Review Board, Department of Land and Natural Resources, 601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 555, Kapolei, HI 96707.



All structures and landscaping in the historic Walker estate would be destroyed under a development plan sent to the State and City.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAMELA BURNS



Mrs. Walker was an avid preservationist who provided the carriage house as Historic Hawaii Foundation’s first office in 1974.



Una and Alexander Walker made their home in the estate for over 50 years. It is one of few remaining estates in Nu‘uanu.

HHF Members Enjoy Preservation Tour of Fort Shafter



PHOTO FROM HHF ARCHIVES

Palm Circle National Historic Landmark is the oldest military installation on O'ahu. It was established in 1907. Officers quarters were added between 1909 and 1924.



HHF members convened at U.S. Army Pacific headquarters building in historic Richardson Hall on Palm Circle.

On August 25, some 40 members of Historic Hawaii Foundation had the rare opportunity of touring the historic Fort Shafter army post. Army Historian David Hilkert led the visit to Palm Circle National Historic Landmark, the Women's Air Raid Defense Tunnels and Richardson Hall. The visit to the WARD tunnels was supplemented by remembrances of two WARD veterans, Ellin Burkland and Kathy Cooper. The visit concluded with a tour of Quarters Five, the historic home on Palm Circle of the Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific, Lt. General John Brown III. Mrs. Elaine Brown conducted a tour of the home. The visit concluded with lunch hosted by Lt. General and Mrs. Brown.

Photos by Mo Radke



Lt. General John Brown addressed HHF members before lunch at Quarters Five.