1. Name of Property
   Historic name: __Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
   Other names/site number: __TMK (3) 4-5-016:020; Kotake Store
   Name of related multiple property listing: Historical and Architectural Resources of Honoka’a Town, Hāmākua, Hawai‘i Island Hawai‘i
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: __45-3620 Māmane Street
   City or town: __Honoka’a___ State: __Hawai‘i___ County: __Hawai‘i___
   Not For Publication: __________ Vicinity: __________

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this __nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the
documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places
and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:
   ___national ___statewide ___local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___A ___B ___C ___D

_______________
Signature of certifying official/Title:

_______________
Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property  
Hawai‘i Hawai‘i  
Name of Property  County and State

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<td><strong>Title:</strong></td>
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4. **National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- _entered in the National Register_
- _determined eligible for the National Register_
- _determined not eligible for the National Register_
- _removed from the National Register_
- _other (explain:)_ _____________________

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<th><strong>Date of Action</strong></th>
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</table>

5. **Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:  
- X

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
Name of Property County and State

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- Building(s) X
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
<th>buildings</th>
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<td>1 (Residence)</td>
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<td>objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

= 1

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _________

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/department store/general store

_____________________  
_____________________  
_____________________  
_____________________  
_____________________  

Sections 1-6 page 3
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty stores
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Other: Plantation

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Store Building Foundation: The building has a partial basement, the foundation is both concrete and post and pier/Floor: concrete in the basement and wood on the street level/Walls: single wood/Roof: corrugated iron (totan)

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property is located on a street lined with commercial buildings and contributes to the retail-office character of the town’s downtown core. The street-front Store Building appears to be a one story structure; however, the building actually has two levels, as the down sloping terrain of the 3,823 square foot lot allowed the builders to create storage space below the street level retail area. (The lower level is reached via a wooden walkway on the Waipi’o side of the structure and stairs on the makai side between the commercial structure and a [non-contributing] residence behind.) The Kotake Store Building’s foundation is concrete within the partially excavated lower floor and post and pier in the forward crawl space. Concrete retaining walls on the mauka side of the lower floor are capped by tongue and groove walls; otherwise all walls are tongue and groove. The two existing retail shops are accessed from the street through a recessed shared entranceway, with doors to each shop on the left or right of the concave space. On either side of the common entranceway are large display
windows with kick plates below and transom windows above. The top street-front façade is characterized by a cornice with modillion-like brackets, horizontal siding and a corrugated metal pent roofed awning. While the store building itself follows a roughly rectangular plan, the corrugated iron roof has differing sections, with the mauka-most portion a shed structure sloping away from the parapet and the makai section having a hipped design perpendicular to the street. The 909 square foot store building retains its integrity of location, design, materials, setting, craftsmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

The Kotake Store Building is set back from the street curb by a six-foot sidewalk. It has a 25-foot road frontage. The building is a contributing element to an approximately one mile long, predominantly “plantation-western” style of false front buildings that face both sides of Māmane Street. The town is relatively isolated such that new commercial enterprises and development have not intruded here. Most of the buildings were built in the 1920s and are still intact, allowing the town to retain a high degree of integrity.

At some time before 1929, the Kotake Store and adjacent Hirata Store Building (on the immediate Hilo side) apparently had a common tenant, as the two buildings share a common façade along Māmane Street and a short common interior wall along the front-most portion of their joint property line. The joint façade is eight bays long. Viewed from the Waipiʻo direction, the first bay leads to an open walkway, the next three the Kotake Building retail spaces, and the last four the Hirata Building retail space. Above is a joint totan pedestrian awning. The common parapet is covered with horizontal vinyl siding topped with a cornice with modillion-like brackets.

Within the Kotake Store Building, the Waipiʻo-most bay has an approximately 5 feet wide by eight foot high opening with a picket gate which penetrates the façade and opens onto a wooden walkway leading to the rear of the building. The alleyway runs along the Waipiʻo-side property line and is open to the sky. It has a tongue and groove floor and its sides are defined by the sidewall of the neighboring Andrade Building and the sidewall of the Kotake Store Building itself. A detached two-story, non-contributing dwelling is located immediately behind the commercial building. The non-contributing dwelling has a concrete foundation, vinyl siding, aluminum jalousies, and sliding windows and does not contribute to the historic character of the property.

The Kotake Building contains two rectangular retail spaces, which share a common recessed entry that has been modified to accommodate both establishments. The doors to the two shops are in the canted sides of the entry bay and the space where the original door was located is now a common display window. The two front entry doors feature a lower panel with two windows above. A single panel kick plate is below all the windows, with the non-original window at the makai back of the Waipiʻo recessed entry having a different style kick plate, thus fulfilling the
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property  Hawai‘i Hawai‘i  
Name of Property  County and State  
Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for rehabilitation by allowing the trained eye to more readily discern the alteration. A continuous line of transom windows runs across the façade above the windows and entries. The transom space above the alley gate is paneled and breaks the continuous line of the other windows by being slightly lower.

The exposed Waipi‘o side of the Kotake Building consists of tongue and groove walls. The first thirty feet of this wall is solid, except for where a now-removed air conditioner penetrated the surface and was supported by two braces. The remainder of the Waipi‘o wall is recessed six inches, but parallel to the first. Moving makai, apertures in this portion of the wall are a three-foot door, an original window aperture covered by three vertical wooden boards, and an original wooden door consisting of six vertical boards (with hinges) that has been nailed shut.

The exterior rear makai side of the street level of the Kotake Store Building is again constructed of vertical tongue and groove walls. Apertures, looking from left to right (Hilo to Waipi‘o sides) are a recent small window of three glass louvers; three double hung windows with two-over-two glass panels, and another small window of three glass louvers. The three double hung windows are partially sheltered by a wooden awning. The last small louvered window is located above a plywood panel covering the original tongue and groove wall.

The interior of the main floor of the building consists of three main spaces: the two rectangular retail areas accessed from the Māmane Street, and a third common area that is accessible through separate doors from each of the retail units. The walls within all three spaces have been extensively remodeled using plasterboard. The common room prominently features the three double hung windows on the makai side and has a door access to the Waipi‘o exterior walkway. The Hilo side of the common room is irregular, with separate doors leading to a bathroom on the mauka side and a storage room with sink and built-in shelves on the makai side.

While the one front entry of the Kotake Store Building has been reworked to accommodate two, rather than one, retail spaces, its front façade reflects the plantation era architecture of the early twentieth century. The rear, common area addition is hidden from the street, and as it is over fifty years old, means that it has achieved historic significance in its own right. Alterations to the interior spaces have been made to meet tenant requirements, retain the economic viability of the structure, and yet are not visually disturbing from the street. The Kotake Store Building retains ample integrity to be considered an important element contributing to the historic character of Honoka‘a. It retains its massing, scale, and such character defining elements as the front elevation’s cornice and shed roof awning, as well as its original wall materials and store fronts.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Name of Property                   County and State

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Asian
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1914–1958

Significant Dates
Pre-1914–Construction of Kotake Store Building
1930-Property acquisition by Kamekichi and Mika Kotake
1943-1945–Camp Tarawa soldier influx
1949-Kamekichi Kotake died
1958-Closure of Kotake Store
1960-Mika Kotake died
1962-Sale of property by the Kotake family to Douglas Matsuda

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property  Hawaiʻi Hawaiʻi
Name of Property  County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties on the State level under Criteria A (Events/History) and C (Architecture).

The Kotake retail firm and building together are significant under Criteria A as they represent economic advancement for generations of Big Island residents, in this case Japanese. Kamekichi Kotake began his employment in Hawaiʻi as a plantation ditch digger. After his plantation service, he became a carpenter and his wife Mika Kotake a retailer. They were financially successful enough in their retail operations to buy the building and raise their large family. The Kotake children were instrumental in the successful store operations. But the store closed in 1958. The children went on to successful careers in the fields of education, health, travel, manufacturing, accounting, construction and the military.

The Kotake building is significant under Criterion C, illustrating the vernacular “Plantation Style” of single-wall wood construction that predominated throughout Hawaiʻi in the early 20th century. Plantation style architecture reflected a unique combination of factors: the difficulty of transporting building materials in rural environments where roads and ports were poor or non-existent, standardization of metal and lumber components imported from the Pacific Northwest, Hawaiʻi Sugar Planters’ Association building plans for improved “sanitary” residential and company buildings, and carpentry training brought from the plantations to the towns.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A (Events/History):**

**Background**

By the mid 1800s, the opening up of the islands to the world economy made it clear to the Hawaiian government that the islands needed to develop goods for international trade. While aromatic sandalwood and whaling stores had been successful, declining wood stocks and the introduction of petroleum after 1859 put those industries into decline. Agriculture showed promise, and a series of fundamental changes in land tenure were undertaken by King Kamehameha III in order to attract outside investment. Private property was recognized, foreigners allowed to own land, and increasingly large populations of foreign laborers were imported.
King Kalakaua was successful in gaining Hawai‘i access to the important sugar market of the United States. The King also continued the policies of his antecedents, providing generous low priced land grants to individuals working in sugar. Sugar quickly became Hawai‘i’s new cash crop. The development of sugar plantations in previously little utilized areas such as the slopes of Hāmākua led to the construction of new villages and towns.

The impetus for the development of Honoka‘a town rested with the influx of early immigrant workers (1860-1900) brought in as laborers on the sugar plantations. When their plantation contracts expired, successive waves of immigrants from China, Portugal (Madeira and the Azores), Japan, Korea, Philippines, and other countries began to set up businesses and restaurants in town. As buildings did not have formal addresses, locations were and still are commonly known by each historic building owner’s name or historic business owner’s names. Thus surnames such as Hirata, Kotake, Yamatsuka, Kaneshiro, Sakata, Tanimoto, Tanaka, and Hasegawa reflect on the Japanese cultural component as well as individual buildings. Portuguese names such as Ferreira, Andrade, Garcia, and Botelho reflect similar histories.

The people who established small, independent, businesses in Honoka‘a, often referred to as “mom and pops,” were very familiar with the harshness of plantation life and saw their stores as vehicles toward financial independence from the plantations and a means to improve the future lives of their children. Offspring were required to work in the family business, learning discipline, business and language skills while furthering their education. The result of this “litmus test” of success in such struggles was the gainful employment of many in the second and third generations securing government and professional work.

**Land Use and Property Ownership**

The Kotake Store property, located in the Haina ahupua‘a, likely was originally used for agriculture (Beers, William. “The Life of W. H. Rickard, Hilo Tribune Herald [1944, np.]). One of the early sugar entrepreneurs who bought a land grant from King Kalakaua was William H. Rickard, a Cornwalian who in 1876, purchased a 67.5 acre grant in Honoka‘a for $128.61 (Bureau of Conveyances, Grant Book #15, p. 377). William Rickard planted the Lahaina variety of cane on his property. Nine years later he sold his brother Richard and Richard’s wife Keohonui (sometimes spelled Keohonue or Keohonui) .58 acres (25,264 sq. ft.) of land with commercial potential along the Government Road, now Māmane Street, for $20 (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 87, p. 274).

In 1902, Richard Rickard and Keohonui sold the parcel for $3,000 to 58-year-old Joseph Burkinshaw, but retained the lease rights (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 362, 291). Burkinshaw was both a carpenter and an entrepreneur. In Honoka‘a, Burkinshaw had previously operated a novelties store and billiard hall (The Hawaiian Kingdom Statistical and Commercial Directory and Tourist Guide, 1882, p. 260) and was a member of the Honoka‘a Knights of Pythias (Commercial Daily Advertiser, January 21, 1892, np.). Burkinshaw also ran the Honoka‘a Saloon and a retail liquor store in Honoka‘a (Husted’s Classified Business Directory of Honolulu).
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

and the Hawaiian Islands., Honolulu and Oahu first and Other Islands Following, 1902, p.679; 1903, p. 411; Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 362, p. 292). In 1912, at the age of 68, Burkinshaw sold the property back to the widow Keohonui for $6,000 (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 362, p. 292).

1914 Historic Honoka’a Town Sanborn Fire Insurance map with the location of the Kotake Property demarked in red.

In 1916, Keohonui put this property and others into trust to the First Trust Company of Hilo. At this time, allocation of the Rickard land assets was under dispute by their descendants. (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 458, pp. 382-384)."

On April 30, 1930, Keohonui sold a 7,700 sq. ft. parcel to John Fujii. John K. Fujii was originally from Kukuihaele, and became the deputy County Auditor for Hawai‘i County, a position he held at the time of the sale (Newton, L. C. 1939). The parcel sold by Keohonui to Fujii went for $2,000. Fujii subsequently split his acquisition into two 3,800 sq. ft. parcels (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 1061, p. 365).
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Name of Property: Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
County and State: Hawai‘i Hawai‘i

Nine days later, on May 9, 1930, Kamekichi and Mika Kotake bought the present Kotake Store property for $1,000 from John Fujii (Liber 1065, page 107).” (The building itself dates from at least 1914 as it was demarked on the 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance map as “storage.”)

In 1953, Mika Kotake conveyed the property to sons Mamoru and Jitsuo for $1 as tenants in common; Mika retained a half interest (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 1873, p. 474; Liber 2768, p. 260).

The Kotake Store was closed in 1958 and remained vacant until 1962 (Janet Murakami). In that year the property was sold for an unknown price to Douglas and Janet Matsuda (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 4293, p. 111). The Matsudas operated their “Radio Electronic Service and Supply” business there until the 1970s. The Matsudas then moved their business to the Hilo side of town to Rickard Place before permanently closing in 1997 (Hawaiian Telephone Company, GTE Hawaiian Tel Telephone Directory Hawaii. June 1996-1997, White Pages p. 199).

In 1987, the Matsudas sold the Kotake Store property to David Robinson and wife Gervacia for $80,000 (Bureau of Conveyances, Liber 21381, p. 157). Ten years later, in 1997, David Robinson divested himself of the parcel to Frederick Price for $111,000 (Bureau of Conveyances, Doc#1997-00081678). In 2003 Elizabeth and Douglas Glenn bought the property for $250,000 (Bureau of Conveyances Doc # 2003-110243).

**The Kotake Family Store**

According to the entries in the County of Hawai‘i Field Book building description, the Kotake Store was a first-floor frame building used for business and also a kitchen and D/room. At the same time the two-story dwelling was rebuilt and the Japanese bath and storage added.

To get from the store to the makai Kotake residence, the family members went outside the Waipi‘o-side of the store and down the stairs to the back then into the family home. The furo was also downstairs, and it was stoked with scrap wood. Later Kamekichi Kotake built a wooden walkway that extended straight from the Store’s retail level into the (non-contributing) upper level of the residence.
Inside the Kotake Store. From left: Mika, Janet, and Ai and son Russell. Note the refrigerated display case on the right of the photo and Ai has her hand on the freezer further beyond.

Kotake Store was truly a general retail operation. Janet Kotake Murakami recalled that the shop was open from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm seven days a week. Canned goods, candies, and ice cream were offered. Mika sold pastries from Fuji Bakery that were delivered via Victorine’s Bus Service from Hilo, and also obtained baked goods from the Yoshikami Bakery in Honokaʻa where daughter Tomie had married into the family.
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Perishables were originally stored in an “ice box” in which ice was placed to keep things cold before refrigerators became available. The kids would wait for the ice man so that they could pick up and enjoy the ice chips. The store also carried pharmaceuticals and dry goods, including ready-made clothing (shirts and underwear) and Japanese wares (primarily kimono and fabric prints). Ed Castillo, a long-time Honoka‘a resident, reminisced in a 2014 interview that the Kotakes also carried sundry items such as doilies and knickknacks. As was the custom, the Kotakes offered free delivery of goods to their customers’ homes. When Janet was older she helped her mother with daily bookkeeping and accounting. As was the custom in town, patrons charged goods and then once a month the Kotake Store would send bills.

Mika was known for her excellent sushi which she made on the weekends and for special festivities at the town park. Janet remembered that Mr. Cushnie from Honoka‘a Sugar Company used to come every Saturday. The night before the festivities, all the family especially the sisters, had to help out making the futomaki and inari cone sushi. A testament to the sushi’s excellence was that it always sold out. The children also enjoyed these festivals as there were games and races and Janet even received some prizes. (Janet Murakami, personal communication, January 13 and February 16, 2016).
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Name of Property: Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
County and State: Hawai‘i Hawai‘i

HONOKAA

Ando Barber
Andrade Cafe and Bus Service
Asahi Bakery
Awong Brothers
Botelho Garage
Business Protective Bureau
Castillo Music Store
Dr. Silva
Fujino Store
Fukuhara Barber (Expatriation Office)
Galinato Store
Hagiwara Dairy
Hamakua Shokwai
Hamasaki Jewelry
Hamakua Fountain Service
Hilo Electric Light Company
Honokaa Club Hotel
Honokaa Dressmaker
Honokaa Plantation Store
Honokaa Transportation
Ikeuchi Store
Isa Art Studio
Kotake Store
K. Kaneshiro Store
Kuwaye Service Station
Lions Club
Meyer's Meat Market
My Service Station
Nagao Transportation
Okamoto Fountain Service
Oshima Hotel
Pauhau Plantation Store
Paradise Restaurant
People's Theatre
Ujiki Store
Vanity Shop
Victorine's Bus Service
Mr. Waasmann
Yamato Store and Garage

Advertisement for Kotake Store in the 1939 Honoka’a High School Annual

Section 8 page 16
People

William H. Rickard

William H. Rickard was born in Cornwall, England in 1846, and traveled to Hawai‘i at the behest of his uncle, George Hardy. Hardy had purchased a land grant on the mauka side of Government Road (Māmāne Street). William Rickard arrived on the Big Island through Kawaihae in 1867, first helping construct the Kukuihaele Landing before acquiring a grant similar to that of his uncle in 1876, but on the makai side of Government Road. William Rickard planted sugar cane on his land and was successful enough in sugar that he served as Manager of the Honoka’a Sugar Company from 1880-1892. He was active in the Honoka’a area, helping to establish the local community center (known as the “Honoka’a Lyceum”), school, and Anglican cemetery. Active in politics, he participated in the attempted restoration of Queen Liliuokalani in 1895, and as a result was imprisoned, where he contacted tuberculosis. Upon his release, William Rickard remained active in the sugar industry until his death in 1899 (“Honoka’a Sugar Company.” Hawaiian Sugar Plantation Archives, University of Hawai‘i Hawaiian Collection, www2.hawai.edu.)

In 1944 the Hawai‘i Island engineer and architect Frank Arakawa’s 1927 Honokaa School Auditorium was named in Rickard’s honor.
Kamekichi Kotake

Kamekichi Kotake was born on August 30, 1875 in Hiroshima Ken, Takata Gun, Japan. He immigrated to Hawai‘i in 1900 at the age of twenty-five (*World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*).
Kamekichi Kotake’s 1918 Draft Registration Card, showing personal information

By 1910, the 35-year-old Kamekichi was employed as a ditch laborer for the Honoka‘a Sugar Company plantation, and had married wife Mika, 12 years his junior (Bureau of the Census, 1910).

In 1918, Kamekichi’s draft card listed him as a carpenter. The 1920 Census and the 1924 through 1931 commercial directories also listed Kamekichi as a carpenter. His employer was Kiyachi Irie, a local carpenter and contractor who constructed the Ferriera Building on the mauka corner of Māmane and Lehua (which in the 1870s and 1880s had been the site of the A.S. Cleghorn/Joseph R. Mills store). [The Hawaiian Kingdom Statistical and Commercial Directory and Tourist Guide. 1884, p. 303]. Irie would also be Honoka‘a Hongwanji Mission Kyodan President from 1923-1928.

**COMMEMORATION HONOKA‘A HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE KYODAN PRESIDENTS 1904-2014**

Section 8 page 19
Kamekichi Kotake’s auspicious age of 61 was a time for yakudoshi fellowship with family and friends, a turning point in his life. See ADDENDUM C, p. 75, for additional information on their family mon/kamon (crests.)

According to daughter Janet, her father retired from full-time carpentry because of diabetes and high blood pressure; instead he helped her mother run the store. He built small furniture, tables, chairs, stools, shelves, and chests of drawers during his retirement to sell in the shop. Besides doing cabinetry, Kamekichi enjoyed going to see Western movies, “shooting” billiards at the billiard parlor next door, and fishing. He used to sit in the basement “under the house” and clean all the fish (Janet Kotake Murakami, personal communication, January 13, 2016). Daughter Doris recounted, “Although he did not formally work, Mika always treated him as the head of the household and made sure that we respected and consulted him whenever we wanted anything, to do anything or go anywhere. He always had the final say” (Doris Mitsue Yoshikama, Kotake Family History). Kamekichi died on March 25, 1949.
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Name of Property

Hawai'i Hawai'i

County and State

KOTE TAKE FAMILY COLLECTION

Table constructed by Kamekichi Kotake
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Mika Kotake

In 1907 Mika Chayama Kokate immigrated at the age of 20 to Hawai‘i (Doris Mitsue Yoshikami, Kotake Family History; Bureau of the Census, 1910).

According to the family history, the first three offspring sons died (Doris Mitsue Yoshikami, Kotake Family History). The three boys are buried in the Honoka‘a Japanese Cemetery (Janet Kotake Murakami, personal communication, January 13, 2016). High infant mortality rates were not uncommon in families at the beginning of the 20th century.
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Hawai‘i  Hawai‘i
Name of Property  County and State

In the 1920 Census, Mika is listed as a baker and candy maker. At that time the Kotakes had four living children: (Doris), Hisao, Shizue and Tomie (Bureau of the Census, 1920).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900     OMB No. 1024-0018

Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900     OMB No. 1024-0018

Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Section 8 page 24

Between 1920 and 1930, the Kotakes had two more children, bringing the total number of
Kotake children to eight: 17-year-old daughter Mitsue (Doris), 15-year-old son Hisao (Bully),
13-year-old daughter Shizue (May), 11-year-old daughter Tomie, 8-year-old daughter Ai, 5-year-
old son Jitsuo (Porky), 2-year-old son Tatsuo, and 1-year-old daughter Kinue (Janet) (Bureau of
the Census, 1930, 1940). Tatsuo (born February 25, 1928) was adopted by the carpenter Okura
family who then moved the family to Japan. Later, after the Okuras has passed away and as sister
Shizue was returning home from her studies in Japan, she brought Tatsuo with her. Kinue was

1923 Polk-Husted Directory, showing Mika Kotake as retailer
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Name of Property: Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
County and State: Hawai‘i

Born exactly one year later on February 25, 1929 (Janet Kinue Kotake Murakami, personal communication, January 13, 2016).

1929 Classified Business Directory listed Mika as “Druggist–Retail”
In the 1930 Census Kamekichi is listed as age 54 and a carpenter, but by 1935, he was running/managing the Kotake general store and continued to do so through 1943. Mika did not declare her employment for the 1930 Census, but the 1930 and 1931 business directories list her name (Polk-Husted’s Directory Co.’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawaii. 1935-36, Vol. XLII, p. 536; 1938-1939, Vol. XLV, p. 687; 1939-1940, Vol. XLVI, p. 704; 1941-1942, Vol. XLVIII, p. 834).
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Hawai‘i Hawaiian
County and State

The 1940 Census documented that 63 year-old Kamekichi and 51 year-old Mika continued to work in the Kotake Store. He was listed in the census as the proprietor and she in sales. (She worked 70 hours during the Census-taking week.) Other members of the family living with Kamekichi and Mika included Mitsue (Doris), her husband, Francis Yoshikami, and their daughter Marsha; eldest son Hisao; daughters Ai and Kinue (Janet); and sons Jitsuo, Tatsuo and Mamoru. Shizue and Tomie had left.

The Kotake Store on the extreme left during the war years. Note “blackout” headlights on cars.

During the war years many prominent Japanese-born issei Hawai‘i residents were incarcerated in relocation camps, and long-time Honoka‘a Hongwanji Mission sensei Reverend Giko Tsuge was also interned. At that time Mrs. Tsuge was alone. Mika a devoted Buddhist and good friend of Mrs. Tsuge, went to the parsonage every night to keep Mrs. Tsuge company.
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Kotake grandparents and grandchildren behind the store: Bottom row: Muriel, Alvin, Alan, Norman and May; top row: Kamekichi, Marsha, Russell and Mika.

Kamekichi Kotake died of a massive stroke on March 25, 1949 at the age of 73 (Honoka’a Hongwanji Kotake Family records).
Kamakichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Name of Property

County and State

KOTAKE FAMILY COLLECTION

Grandma Yoshikama (Honoka’a Bakery) and Grandmother Kotake (Kotake Store): Honoka’a families knew each other from early adulthood; their nisei children intermarried and they traded and shopped at each others establishments, n.d.

Mika Kotake died February 2, 1960 at the age of 71 (Honoka’a Hongwanji Kotake family records). Both Kotakes were inurned in niches at the Honoka’a Hongwanji Mission columbarium (Doris (Mitsue) Yoshikami, Kotake Family History).
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900     OMB No. 1024-0018

Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

KOTAKE FAMILY COLLECTION

Left to right: bottom—Grandma Mika, Mamoru (on Mika’s lap), Janet Kinue (on chair arm), Jitsuo, and Hisao; top—Shizue Kageyama, Tomie Yoshikami, Doris Mitsue Yoshikami, Ai (Ai) Seiki, (son, Tatsuo, had been adopted by the Okuras), ca 1934.

The Cultural Importance of Education and Professional Attainment

The Kotake family is a prime example of successful Japanese immigrant economic struggle in the plantation era in Hawai‘i. Most issei moved from farming in Japan to unskilled labor on the sugar plantations of Hawai‘i, then in true entrepreneurial spirit, into commercial pursuits, with the desire to better themselves and their children’s lives. The issei’s persistent effort allowed their nisei offspring opportunities for education, and success and acceptance in Hawaii’s culture. Kamekichi and Mika truly emphasized the importance of education.

Mitsue Doris Kotake Yoshikami

Doris Yoshikami was born on April 25, 1913 (Janet Kotake Murakami, personal communication, January 13, 2016). Like brother Hisao, Doris left Honoka‘a after completing the 10th grade and finished high school at McKinley High School on O‘ahu. She attended the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UH) where she belonged to the honor societies Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Gamma Mu, the Wakaba Kai social sorority (Ka Palapala Yearbook, 1933, p. 235) and the Japanese Students Association of Hawai‘i. She was also interested in the arts and attended numerous plays and
concerts (Joyce Kotake-Seo, personal communication, January 25, 2016). While at UH she worked as a live-in housekeeper for a naval officer. She was bound for a teaching career spanning 42 years. She taught at Kohala Elementary from 1935 to 1937, and from 1937 to 1948 at Honoka’a High and Elementary. Doris and husband Francis Yoshikami moved to Oahu in 1949, where she taught school at Benjamin Parker Elementary School in Kāne‘ohe and then Pearl Harbor Intermediate until 1951. In 1951 she became the Health Coordinator and a counselor at Kūhō Elementary School, where she served until 1960. She entered school administration in 1960. From that year through 1962 was vice principal at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary, in 1962 at Alvah Scott Elementary, then Liholiho Elementary from 1963 to 1966, Jefferson Elementary from 1970 to 1972, Ali‘i‘olani Elementary and finally Fern Elementary from 1972 until her retirement in 1977 (Doris’ daughter, Marsha Yoshikami Azuma, January 6, 2016). According to her sister Janet, she chose never to become a principal (Janet Murakami, personal communication, January 13, 2016). Doris undertook the difficult task of caregiver to her husband after he suffered a major stroke in 1957 until his passing in 1997. Francis and Doris are inurned at the Honpa Hongwanji on Pali Highway in Nuuanu. The Yoshikami’s had one daughter Marsha Azuma and two sons Rodney and Rogers (Marsha Azuma, January 6, 2016).

Hisao “Bully” Kotake

Hisao Kotake is born on September 26, 1915. He received his nickname because of his interest in martial arts. The senior Kotakes sent him to school in Honolulu, where he graduated from McKinley High School in 1933 (The Black and Gold, McKinley High School Yearbook, 1933, p. 44). He left for Japan on July 25, 1933 to further his education. (Passenger Lists of Vessels Departing from Honolulu, Hawaii, compiled 06/1900–11/1954; He attended Momoyama Chugaku in Kyoto to improve his Japanese language skills before being accepted by Keio University in Tokyo. He graduated in 1938 with a degree in economics (Doris Yoshikami, Kotake Family History; Joyce Kotake-Seo, personal communication, January 25, 2016). Hisao returned to Honoka’a in 1938 to work in the store and also taught at the Japanese language school. He married Betty Matsue Kinoshita on June 7, 1941 at the Hilo Hongwanji (Sue Kotake-Hollars, personal communication, January 17, 2016; Joyce Kotake-Seo, personal communication, January 25, 2016). In 1943 at the age of 28, he enlisted in the U.S. Army’s 442 Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and was subsequently stationed at Camp Savage in Minnesota teaching Japanese to soldiers (U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946; http://www.discovernikkei.org). He separated from the service in 1945 and moved to Honolulu in 1946 (Joyce Kotake-Seo, personal communication, January 25, 2016). Hisao received training in electronics and radio repair, worked for Sears for a time, then Eagle Macaroni (Joyce Kotake-Seo, personal communication, January 25, 2016). Hisao was listed as an employee for S R & Company (Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1949, p. 538). By 1955 he had become a clerk at Hawaiian Bakery Supply Company (Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1955, p. 487). Hawaiian Bakery and Supply changed its name to Edsung Food Service the same year, remembered Joyce Kotake-Seo. Hisao rose to manager by 1966 (Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1965-66, p. 568) (Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1970 p. 773). He retired in 1980 (Honolulu City
Shizue Kotake Kageyama

Shizue Kotake Kageyama was born on October 12, 1917 in Honokaʻa (U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014). Like her brother Hisao, Shizue was a kibei, furthering her education in Japan. She wrote:

July 24, 1934 (age 16): Left for Japan on the Tatsuta Maru. I remember vividly that on this day President Roosevelt was scheduled to visit Hawaiʻi. Reverend Araki who was the presiding minister of Honokaʻa was instrumental in changing the course of my education. After I finished schooling in Honokaʻa (10th grade), I would have preferred to enter Hilo High School, but like an obedient child I followed the course my mother and Reverend Araka recommended.

She attended Higashiyama Gakuen in Kyoto and found other Nisei from Hawaiʻi there. Besides studying together in the dormitory they went shopping and to movies on weekends. After completing high school in two years she entered Joshi Daigaku. There she majored in Gigeika (sewing [kimono, hakama (loose Japanese trousers)], knitting, embroidery, and a few academic subjects. In her last year in college she and a fellow Nisei rented a nearby room, cooking their own meals. During a visit to her aunt and uncle outside Hiroshima she looked out at her uncle’s rice fields and thought, "How grateful I was to my parents for having immigrated to America. Otherwise I’d be a farmer’s daughter with little knowledge of the outside world." (Janet Murakami, personal communication, January 13, 2016).

Shizue Kotake photographed in Japan during her college days, ca. 1930s.
Shizue returned to Hawai‘i on August 7, 1939 aboard the Asama Maru (Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels and Airplanes Arriving at Honolulu, Hawai‘i, compiled 01/1954 - 12/1981). Accompanying her was her brother Tatsuo Okura, whose adopted parents had died in Japan, and who was returning to his birth parents (Doris Yoshikami, Forward in Kotake Family History).

Shizue also told of her arranged marriage to Robert Yoshito Kageyama. The marriage was orchestrated through Mrs. Shioti, Mika’s best friend and a housekeeper for Frank Fraser, the Bank of Hawai‘i’s Honoka‘a Branch manager (Janet Murakami, personal communications, January 13, 2016). Robert Kageyama was a Honoka‘a Nisei (his brother Richard had been her classmate) who had graduated in 1933 from the University of Hawai‘i (Ka Palapala Yearbook, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI: 1932, p. 67). Through correspondence she finally wrote a letter of consent and accepted the marriage proposal. By 1947, Robert Kageyama had become a supervisor for the Board of Health in Honolulu (Polk’s Directory of City and County of Honolulu. Volume XLIX 1947-1948. R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, p. 449).

In the commercial directories of 1962-63 Robert Kageyama was listed as a supervisor with the Department of Health in Honolulu. Shizue was employed as a waitress at the Kaimuki Luncheonette (Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1962-63, p. 606). By 1969, Shizue worked as a travel consultant for Sus Tours and Travel Service (Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1969, p.605). Both she and Robert retired by 1981 (Honolulu City and County Directory. 1981, p. 448). Shizue died on March 11, 2009 at the age of 91 (U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014). She and Robert are buried in O‘ahu Cemetery (http://www.findagrave.com). The Kageyamas sons were Milton and Paul and daughter Sandra.

Tomie Kotake Yoshikami

Tomie Kotake Yoshikami was born in Honokaa on October 15, 1919 (Alan Yoshikami, personal communication, January 22, 2016).

Tomie married Matsuo Yoshikami in June 1936 and thereafter assisted in the operation of the Asahi Bakery, which was located at the street-level of the Holmes/Rice building. (The Honoka‘a Art Studio was located upstairs. The bakery name, Asahi, was changed at the beginning of World War II to Honoka‘a Bakery. The bakery was initially managed by Matsuo’s older brother Francis, then later by Matsuo after Francis and his family moved to Honolulu. Tomie fully ran the bakery after Matsuo's allergies prevented him from continuing with the bakery in the early 1950s. Matsuo (who, on September 26, 1951 changed his name to Marco Matsuo Yoshikami) then opened and ran a sporting goods store next to the bakery.

In late 1955, Tomie and her family moved to Honolulu. Tomie was listed in the commercial directory in 1957 as both a receptionist for A. Leslie Vasconcellos and a cake decorator at Leonard’s Bakery (Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1957, p. 1944). Marco
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property                    Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
Name of Property                                          County and State

was a salesman with furniture company C. S. Wo & Sons (*Polk’s Directory of the City and County of Honolulu, 1957*, p. 1944). By the early 1960s, she and Marco were resident managers at the Pagoda Terrace at the Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu. (Alan Yoshikami, personal communication, January 22 2016). By 1976 Marco was working at Kaimuki Optical. (Joyce Kotake-Seo, personal communication, January 25, 2016). In 1976, Marco and Tomie moved to Huntington Beach, California to assist in the administration of their son-in-law’s electronics business. They returned in the early 1980s; Marco retired but Tomie became a clerk at Discovery Bay Condominium (Alan Yoshikami, personal communication, January 22, 2016; *Honolulu City and County Directory*, 1984, p. 1266). Tomie continued to work at Discovery Bay until her retirement in 1991 (*Honolulu City and County Directory*, 1991, p. 1269). Tomie died on July 22, 2013 at the age of 93 (*U.S., Social Security Death Index*, 1935-2014). The Yoshikamis had daughters Muriel and May and sons Norman and Alan.

Ai Kotake Fujii Seiki

According to Janet Kotake Marukami, Ai was born February 14, 1922. She did not finish high school. Her first husband’s name was Fujii. She was widowed early in the marriage.

Ai’s second husband, Toshio Seiki, was initially an electrician with the Hilo Electric Light Company. The couple lived in Hilo (Janet Murakami, personal communication, January 13, 2016). However, by 1973, the Hawai‘i Island commercial directory listed Toshio as the head electrician for the Hāmākua Mill. The couple had moved to Pa‘auilo (*Polk’s Directory of the Islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai (Hawaii) Including Lanai and Molokai, 1973*, p. 678). Ai became employed at the Hāmākua Plantation Industrial Relations Office. The couple retained ownership of their Hilo residence (Janet Murakami, January 5, 2016). Ai was listed as “retired” in the 1982 commercial directory (*Polk’s Directory of the Islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai (Hawaii), Including Lanai and Molokai, 1982* p. 789). She died on June 19, 2015 at the age of 93 on Maui. The couple had two sons, Russell and Don.

Jitsuo “Porky” Kotake

Jitsuo Kotake stated that his official birthday was September 7, 1925, as it took a while to get births recorded in those days (Honoka‘a Hongwanji Kotake family records).

Ed Castillo, a long-time Honoka‘a resident, reminisced in a 2014 interview that he played baseball with Jitsuo, but everyone called Jitsuo “Porky” because he liked to eat pork and beans. Sometimes nicknames from childhood carried into adulthood, as other interviewees with Ed said, remembering, “Porky,” rather than his formal name.

A war-time labor shortage and increased business from the Marines and Navy members from nearby Camp Tarawa in Waimea, encouraged Jitsuo to work for his sister’s and brother-in-law’s Honoka‘a Bakery. Post-war he was employed by the Honoka‘a Sugar Company as an office clerk (personal communication Janet Murakami, January 4, 2016). By 1957, at the age of 32, he
worked as a clerk at the Honoka’a Hospital (*Polk’s Directory of the Islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai (Territory of Hawaii). Including Lanai and Molokai, 1957*, p. 457). In 1964 he was listed as an accounting clerk, still working at Honoka’a Hospital (*Polk’s Directory of the Islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai (Hawaii), Including Lanai and Molokai, 1964* p. 470). By 1972 he had risen to Superintendent of Honoka’a Hospital.

Over the years, Jitsuo was active in the Honoka’a community. He was the president of the Hāmākua Country Club (*Polk’s Directory of the Islands of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai (Hawaii), Including Lanai and Molokai, 1972*, p. 343). Jitsuo coached Little League and high school baseball. He was a member of Honoka’a Hongwanji Mission and served as Kyodan president from 1993-1994. His last big community project was helping to secure funds for the Katsu Goto Memorial. A roast was held in his honor at the Honoka’a Hongwanji Hall and funds raised went towards the building of the Katsu Goto Memorial (Joyce Kotake-Seo, personal communication, January 25, 2016).

Jitsuo died on August 8, 1994 in Honoka’a at the age of 68 (*U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014*). Both Jitsuo and his wife Akiko Fujino Kotake (born December 11, 1925 and died June 28, 1996) were inurned at the Honoka’a Hongwanji Mission. Daughter Joyce Kotake-Seo and sons Craig and Brian were the Kotake children (*U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014*).
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Kinue (Janet) Kotake Murakami

Born on February 25, 1929, Janet attended Honoka‘a High School, and attended the University of Hawai‘i, but for only one semester. She had to return home to Honoka‘a to assist her ailing mother in running the Kotake Store.

Janet married local Hāmākua Company electrician Kiyoshi Murakami on January 21, 1951, interestingly enough in the Quonset hut that for a short time served as the sanctuary on the Honoka‘a Honogwanji Mission property as the congregation was preparing to build the present-day temple. They have two children, Wesley and Wendy. Kiyoshi later became an electrical inspector for the county. After the store closed in 1958, Janet was employed as a secretary at Kukuihaele School for two years. She then became an admitting clerk at Honoka‘a Hospital. She says “though I was an admitting clerk, back in those days, you did whatever needed to be done!” Janet retired on March 4, 1984, and Kiyoshi on December 31, 1989. She and her husband live in Honoka‘a and remain active in community affairs.

Throughout her life Janet has been a dedicated member of the Honoka‘a Hongwanji Mission wholeheartedly serving as Buddhist Women’s Association President from 2005 to 2015, organizing and participating in the many temple activities among them the annual obon festival, garage sale, arranging flowers and visiting patients at the hospital, helping with the Peace Parade and Lion’s Pancake Breakfast, making chili for Western Week, and preparing and selling Okinawan pork, nishime (vegetables in broth), sukimon (meat and vegetables in broth), andagi (Okinawan donuts), and barazushi (rice with vegetables on top) for the Plantation Days festivities.

Janet Kotake Murakami honored as the 2015 Outstanding Older American Female for Hawai‘i County Award.
Janet received the 2015 Outstanding Older American Female Award for the Big Island of Hawai‘i, for her “tireless efforts to feed, comfort, and provide guidance to all Big Islanders regardless of religious preference, ethnicity, and birthplace.” Continuing, her certificate reads, “A very peaceful person herself, Janet Murakami’s dedication to world peace is shown by her involvement in collecting 199,000 origami cranes in memory of Sadako Sasaki’s dedication to peace.”

Tatsuo Kotake/Okura

Tatsuo was born on February 25, 1928. During his early years he was adopted by a childless couple, the Okuras, and lived in Japan. After the Okuras’ deaths, Tatsuo returned to Hawai‘i with his sister Shizue in 1939. When he entered Honoka‘a High School he found out that he had to catch up on his English, so stayed back one year and quickly learned English (Family notes, Shizue Kotake Kageyama, April 6, 2001). He served in the military and is interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). He had five children, sons Royden, Lance, Elton, and Michael, and daughter Beverly.

Mamoru Kotake

Mamoru Kotake was born June 10, 1932. He entered Lahainaluna High School (Maui) technical school training program for his 10th and 11th grades. He was asked to return to Honoka‘a in his senior year to help in the store. Upon graduating from Honoka‘a High School, he moved to Honolulu and worked for a year as a service station attendant. Then in March 1953 he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Shafter, O‘ahu. In March of 1955 he was discharged and moved to Los Angeles, California. He then worked for McDonald Douglas Aircraft Company and attended night school at Long Beach State College, attaining his AA degree in engineering. He retired in 1992 and currently lives in Torrance, California. He has a son Steven and daughter Lori. (Janet Murakami, January 4, 2016).
In summation, the Kotakes illustrate the importance issei placed upon education to provide economic advancement. Doris and Hisao completed their high school educations at McKinley High School in Honolulu. Doris then matriculated at the University of Hawai‘i. Hisao went on to college in Japan and Shizue completed her high school and college education there. Hisao and Shizue both returned before the onset of WWII. Kamekichi and Mika’s children became clerks, a hospital administrator, teacher, and travel agent. Three joined the military to patriotically serve their country. Today, Janet Murakami is the only member of the Kotake nisei generation living in Honoka‘a. All the third generation has left Honoka‘a for further opportunities elsewhere—thus with the passing of the Kotake nisei generation, the only evidence of Kamekichi and Mika’s struggle to give their children the American Dream in Honoka‘a will be evidenced in the Kotake Store building.
Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i

Criteria C (Architecture)

The Kotake Building is significant at the local level under criterion C as a good example of a wood commercial building constructed in Hawai‘i during the opening decades of the twentieth century. It is typical of its period in its use of materials, method of construction, craftsmanship, and design.

Outside of areas with fire safety ordinances, wood was the most common material used to construct commercial buildings in Hawai‘i in the first four decades of the twentieth century. Honolulu passed fire district ordinances commencing in 1888, and Hilo in 1913. As a result, the preponderance of wood commercial buildings is found in Hawai‘i’s small towns and pre-date World War II. The wood buildings were usually one to two stories in height and often sat on concrete foundations. A number featured false fronts and often-Italianate inspired cornices with modillion shaped brackets cap the buildings. The buildings were constructed primarily with vertical tongue and groove walls, although some of the earlier examples have shiplap siding. Frequently, pent roofed awnings sheltered the sidewalks in front of the buildings. The facades contained doors to each store in the building and display windows. These openings were often arranged in a symmetric manner. Most of the display windows were single pane from 1910 onward. Two-story buildings usually contained offices or residential units on the second story, which were illuminated and ventilated by double hung sash windows.

The Kotake Building, with its vertical tongue and groove construction, bracketed cornice and façade-length pent roofed awning is typical of the wood commercial buildings of its period. The use of transoms above the doors and display windows was another common feature of these small commercial buildings, as was the use of paneled kick plates below the windows. It is a good single story example of the form, and is immediately recognizable as a part of the early twentieth century genre of wood commercial buildings which almost exclusively graced the streets of Hawai‘i’s rural and plantation communities.

The Kotake Building represents a form once common in the Islands, which with the passage of time is becoming more and more difficult to find. Honokaʻa presents the best conglomeration of such buildings on the island of Hawai‘i, making the Kotake Building even more important for its contribution to this cohesive streetscape. Other examples of such wood commercial buildings do exist on the island of Hawai‘i, although outside of Honoka‘a, less than approximately forty examples of this building type can be found on the island and only two are listed in the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places and none on the National Register. In Hilo the Burns Block of 1913 and the Spreckels Block of 1900 still stand, as do several building in Pāhoa. Along the forty-mile stretch from Hilo to Honoka‘a, only three or four such buildings still remain in Honomu, and one or two in Wailea, Pāpa‘ikou, and Pa‘auilo. On the Kona coast about a dozen small stores are scattered along the Māmalahoa Highway, including the Tomikawa Store in Hōualoa which is listed in the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places. In North Kohala, several buildings still stand in Hāwī and Kapa‘au, including the Nanbu Hotel, which is listed in the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places.
Conclusion

The Kamekichi and Mika Kotake Store Building is eligible for the Hawai‘i and National Registers of Historic Places at the State Level under Criteria A and C due to its continuous significance in small town commerce and its period architecture.

Criterion A (History/Events)

The Kotake Building is historically important as a represents the development of small businesses outside the plantation hegemony. Here, small “Mom and Pop” businesses and specialty services were developed and operated. Customers benefited from the increased range of goods available. While ethnic customs were honored, the policy of “all comers welcomed” facilitated social integration. Proprietors were able to improve their own standard of living and support the education (and upward mobility) of their children.

Criteria C (Architecture)

The Kotake Building retains its integrity and so is an excellent example of plantation era architecture. The Kotake Building is a structure erected purely for business purposes (it appears on the 1914 Sanborn Map). It is placed right up to the front property line and takes advantage of the sloping terrain by the creation of storage space beneath the makai section. The building is post and pier, single wall, with sliding wood framed windows and totan roof–standard components that plantation-trained carpenters were familiar with. The façade also reflects period commercial design with large display windows and an entrance alcove.
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Kotake Store Property  
Hawaiʻi Hawaiʻi

Name of Property  County and State


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*U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA.


Year: 1910; Census Place: Hāmākua, Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Territory; Roll: T624-1751; Page: 22A; Enumeration District: 0131; FHL microfilm: 1375764, Enumeration District: 0131; Description: All of Hāmākua from Kaumōali gulch to Hā‘upu Gulch, being the boundaries of Pa‘auhau Plantation.

Year: 1920; Census Place: Honoka’a Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Territory; Roll: T625_2033; Page: 18A; Enumeration District: 132; Image: 229. Enumeration District: 0132; Description: H Hāmākua District, all of Hāmākua District from Hā‘upu Gulch to Kapulena Gulch, being the boundaries of Honoka’a Plantation.

Year: 1930; Census Place: Honoka’a Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Territory; Roll 2631; Page 4A; Enumeration District: 0005; Image: 79.0; FHL microfilm: 342365. Enumeration District 5; Description: Hāmākua District, Precinct 15 (part), Honoka’a Village.

Year: 1940; Census Place: Honolulu, Honolulu, Hawai‘i; Roll: T627_4587; Page: 11B; Enumeration District: 2-163 Enumeration District: 2-163.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property: Kotake Store Property
County and State: Hawaiʻi Hawaiʻi

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #__________
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #__________
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #__________

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency (Hawaiʻi State Archives/Hawaiʻi State Bureau of Conveyances/North Hawaiʻi Education and Research Center Heritage Center)
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University (of Hawaiʻi at Manoa)
___ Other
  Name of repository: ____________________________________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ______________
1. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.084940312213039

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:__________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: Longitude:
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

° AD 1927 or ° X NAD 1983

1. Zone: 5 Easting: 241791.33 Northing: 2222194.29
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Section 8 page 48
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The Kotake Store property is shaped like a rectangle, with the shortest lengths on the mauka and makai sides. The street frontage (mauka) is 25 feet, the Waipiʻo (north-west) side 154 feet, the mauka (north) side 25 feet, and the Hilo (south-east) side 154 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
Hawaiʻi State Bureau of Conveyances records show this lot was sold to Kamekichi and Mika Kotake in 1930. The property has been designated a single parcel by the County of Hawaiʻi since the 1930s. Its official designation is Tax Map Key (3) 4-5-006:020.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property
Hawai‘i Hawai‘i

2. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ross W. Stephenson, PhD
organization: Historic Honoka‘a Town Project
street & number: 38 South Judd Street, Unit 24B
city or town: Honolulu state: Hawai‘i zip code: 96817
e-mail rwaylands808@aol.com
telephone: (808) 679-9060-cell
date: January 21, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

• Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
## MAPS

### Kotake Property Map Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ca.1906</td>
<td>Island of Hawai‘i map: Honoka‘a area of significance demarked by the red rectangle—Walter E. Wall, Surveyor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>USGS Honoka‘a Quad Honoka‘a Quad showing Honoka‘a Town on the Hāmākua Coast of the Island of Hawai‘i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>USGS Honoka‘a Quad showing the Kotake Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Honoka‘a street map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Reg0335 HGS map– Hāmākua Hawai‘i–Honoka‘a Section demarking Grant 3156 in yellow to William Rickard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Reg0335 HGS map– Hāmākua Hawai‘i–Honoka‘a Section demarking Grant 3156 in yellow to William Rickard (detail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Historic Honoka‘a area map (Reg2267WIDE)–Charles Dove C.E.–red rectangle showing the location of the Kotake property demarked by a red rectangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Historic Honoka‘a Town Sanborn Fire Insurance map with the location of the Kotake Property demarked in red.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>(3) 4-5 Tax Map showing the whole Historic Honoka‘a Town with the Kotake Property in color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>4-5-016 Historic County tax map showing the Kotake Property in color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1925 to 1941</td>
<td>1925 to 1941 Historic Honoka‘a Town map (sheet 2) created by Toshio Harunaga demarking the Kotake Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Composite Historic Honoka‘a Town map (sheet 2) created by Eric Paiva demarking the Kotake Property with a red rectangle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Historic Honoka‘a Town Map building map with the Kotake Property in contrasting color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Honoka‘a, HI 96727—Kotake Property on Google Map.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Island of Hawai‘i map: Honoka‘a area of significance demarked by the red rectangle—Walter E. Wall, Surveyor, ca. 1906.
2. 1995 USGS Honoka‘a Quad Honoka‘a Quad showing Honoka‘a Town on the Hāmākua Coast of the Island of Hawai‘i.
3. 1995 USGS Honoka‘a Quad showing the Kotake Property.
4. 2014 Honoka’a street map.
5. 1879 Reg0335 HGS map– Hāmākua Hawaiʻi–Honokaʻa Section demarking Grant 3156 in yellow to William Rickard.
6. 1879 Reg0335 HGS map– Hāmākua Hawaiʻi–Honokaʻa Section demarking Grant 3156 in yellow to William Rickard. (detail)
7. 1904 Historic Honokaʻa area map (Reg2267WIDE–HGS)–Charles Dove C.E.–red rectangle showing the location of the Kotake property demarked by a red rectangle.
8. 1914 Historic Honoka’a Town Sanborn Fire Insurance map with the location of the Kotake Property demarked in red.
9. 1932 (3) 4-5 Tax Map showing the whole Historic Honoka‘a Town with the Kotake Property in color.
10. 1949 4-5-016 Historic County tax map showing the Kotake Property in color.
11. 1925 to 1941 Historic Honokaʻa Town map (sheet 2) created by Toshio Harunaga demarking the Kotake Property.
12. 2012 Composite Historic Honokaʻa Town map (sheet 2) created by Eric Paiva demarking the Kotake Property with a red rectangle.
13. 2015 Historic Honoka‘a Town Map building map with the Kotake Property in contrasting color.
14. 2015 Honokaʻa, HI 96727—Kotake Property on Google Map.

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property
Name of Property
County and State

Photo Sketch

Section 8 page 66
PHOTO LOG

Name of Property: Kotake Store Property
City or Vicinity: Honoka’a
County: Hawai‘i State: HI
Photographers: Laura Ruby and Carol Stephenson
Dates Photographed: 2013 and 2014
Location of Original Digital Files: Ross W. Stephenson, 38 Judd Street, 24B, Honolulu HI 96817
Job# Historic and Architectural Resources of Honoka’a

Photo #1 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0001)
Māmane Street façade, (makai side), camera facing north-northeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #2 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0002)
Waipio side façade, (makai side), camera facing north-northeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #3 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0003)
Hilo side façade, camera facing north
Photographer: Carol Stephenson

Photo #4 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0004)
Rear façade, camera facing east-southeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #5 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0005)
Rear façade, camera facing east-southeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #6 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0006)

Section 8 page 67
External easement detail between Kotake and Hirata buildings, camera facing south-southwest
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #7 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0007)
External entrance bay detail, camera facing north-northeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #8 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0008)
External oblique Māmane Street façade showing pedestrian awning detail, camera facing west-northwest
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #9 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0009)
Interior: Waipio side store, camera facing northeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #10 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0010)
Interior: Hilo side store, camera facing northeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #11 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0011)
Interior: Rear workroom, camera facing east-northeast
Photographer: Laura Ruby

Photo #12 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0012)
Interior: basement and crawl space storage, camera facing southwest
Photographer: Laura Ruby
PHOTO LOG
Name of Property: Kotake Store Property
City or Vicinity: Honoka‘a
County: Hawai‘i State: HI
Photographers: Laura Ruby and Carol Stephenson
Dates Photographed: 2013 and 2014
Location of Original Digital Files: Ross W. Stephenson
38 Judd Street, 24B
Honolulu, HI 96817
Job# Historic and Architectural Resources of Honoka‘a

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_(0001)
Māmane Street façade, (makai side), camera facing north-northeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Name of Property

Waipio side façade, (makai side), camera facing north-northeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property
Hawaii  Hawaii

Name of Property
County and State

Photo #3 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0003)
Hilo side façade, camera facing north

Photographer: Carol Stephenson
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property

Name of Property

County and State

Hawaiʻi  Hawaiʻi

Photo #4 (HI_HawaiʻiCounty_ Kotake Store Property _0004)
Rear façade, camera facing east-southeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property

Name of Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Photo #5 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0005)
Rear façade, camera facing east-southeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Name of Property

Photo #6 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0006)
External easement detail between Kotake and Hirata buildings, camera facing south-southwest
Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

County and State
Hawai‘i  Hawai‘i

Photo #7 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0007)
External entrance bay detail, camera facing north-northeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property
Name of Property

Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Photo #8 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0008)
External oblique Māmane Street façade showing pedestrian awning detail, camera facing west-northwest

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property  
Name of Property

Hawai‘i  Hawai‘i  
County and State

Photo #9 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0009)
Interior: Waipio side store, camera facing northeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property

Name of Property: Hawai‘i Hawai‘i

County and State: Hawai‘i Hawai‘i

Photo #10 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0010)
Interior: Hilo side store, camera facing northeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Kotake Store Property
Name of Property
Hawai‘i Hawai‘i
County and State

Photo #11 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0011)
Interior: Rear workroom, camera facing east-northeast

Photographer: Laura Ruby
Photo #12 (HI_Hawai‘iCounty_Kotake Store Property_0012)
Interior: basement and crawl space/storage, camera facing southwest

Photographer: Laura Ruby
ADDENDUM A
KOTAKE PROPERTY TIMELINE

1875  Kamekichi Kotake born in Hiroshima Japan.

1876  William Rickard bought 67.5 acres from Kalakaua (R.P. Grant 3156) in Haina ahupua‘a.

1885  Richard Rickard (and wife Keahonui) bought .58 acres from his brother William.

1888  Mika/Omika Chayama born in Hiroshima Japan.

1900  Kamekichi Kotake immigrated to Hawai‘i.

1902  Joseph Burkinshaw bought the .58 acres (location of the Kotake, Hirata, and Andrade buildings).

1904  Reg2267WIDE Hawai‘i Government Survey Office map (Dove) shows one building on the property.

1907  Mika Kotake immigrated to Hawai‘i.

1912  Keahonui Rickard bought back the property.

1914  Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows two narrow buildings located on the property.

1916  First Trust of Hilo became trustee of the property.

1930 April 9  John K. Fujii bought the whole 7,700 sq. ft property [including both Kotake and Hirata buildings] from Keahonui Rickard 7,700 sq ft.

1930 May 9  Kamekichi and Mika Kotake bought the Waipi‘o side of the property—3,800 sq ft.

1943-1945 buildings served as boardinghouse and dance hall during war years (according to current owner Elizabeth Glenn.

1949  Kamekichi Kotake died.

1953  Mika conveyed property to sons Mamoru and Jitsuo—tenants in common. Mamoru and Jitsuo were deeded the 3,800 sq foot property.
1958  Kotake Store Closed

1958  Mamoru and Jitsuo were deeded ½ of the property as tenants in common by Mika.

1960  Mika Kotake died

1962  Douglas and Janet M. Matsuda were deeded tenants in entirety by Mika and sons Mamoru and Jitsuo.

1987  David and Gervacia Robinson bought property.

1993-1994  Jitsuo Kotake served as President of the Honoka’a Honogwanji Mission Kyodan.

1997  Frederick Price purchased the property from David Robinson.

2003  Douglas and Elizabeth Glenn purchased the 3,800 square foot property from Frederick Price.

2005-present  Janet Murakami serves as president of the Buddhist Women’s Association.
# ADDENDUM B

**KOTAKE PROPERTY TRANSFERS TABLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LIBER</th>
<th>TRANSACTION</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/5/1885</td>
<td>87/274</td>
<td>Deed</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>.58 acres</td>
<td>From W. H. Rickard to brother Richard Rickard (and husband of Keahonui).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*5/29/1902</td>
<td>362/291</td>
<td>Deed (with Option Rights)</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>.58 acres (25,264 sq. ft.)</td>
<td>From Richard Rickard and wife to Joseph Burkinshaw: Sold the acreage where the Kotake/Hirata Building, the Andrade Building are located.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3/1912</td>
<td>362/292</td>
<td>Deed</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>.58 acres (25,264 sq. ft.)</td>
<td>From Joseph Burkinshaw to Keahonui Rickard: Sold the property back to the Rickard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/22/1916</td>
<td>458/382-384</td>
<td>Trust Deed</td>
<td>$1</td>
<td>.58 acres (25,264 sq. ft.)</td>
<td>From Keahonui Rickard to the First Trust Company of Hilo: Bank took over as trustee to continue lease options and to satisfy a mortgage encumbered by Manuel Branco for $2,500.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/30/1930</td>
<td>1061/365</td>
<td>Deed</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>7,700 sq. ft.</td>
<td>From Keahonui Rickard to John K. Fujii: (Both buildings, Kotake and Hirata.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**5/9/1930</td>
<td>1065/107</td>
<td>Deed</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>3,800 sq. ft.</td>
<td>From John Fujii to Kamekichi Kotake and wife: the portion of the property on the Hilo side.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***2/10/1958</td>
<td>2768/260</td>
<td>Deed</td>
<td>$1</td>
<td>3,800 sq. ft.</td>
<td>From Mika Kotake to sons Mamoru and Jitsuo Kotake: ½ interest as tenants in common.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/18/1987</td>
<td>21381/157</td>
<td>Warranty Deed</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>3,800 sq. ft.</td>
<td>From Douglas and Janet Matsuda to David Robinson and wife, Gervacia: Matsuda held the mortgage to the Kotake building.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* J. Burkinshaw was a liquor purveyor, and according to the 1914 Sanborn map, the two buildings that make up the Kotake/Hirata buildings are extant on the map.

**Fujii “split” the property and sold the buildings separately.

***Kamekichi Kotake died in 1949 and the widow inherited.
ADDENDUM A
KOTAKE AND CHAYAMA FAMiLY KAMON (CRESTS/EMBLEMS)

A mon/kamon (family crest) is a stylized design, usually rounded and often contains an image from the plant, animal, or human world. For example, the Japanese Emperor’s kamon is a chrysanthemum. By the twelfth century kamon identified clans were shown on such items as clothing and battle flags.
Kamon (apart from the Emperor's) were little regulated so many Hawai‘i emigrants adopted them. The kamon have been used as logos by guilds and merchants as well as by samurai families.

Both Kamekichi Kotake (b.1875) and Mika/Omika Chayama Kotake (b. 1888) were from Hiroshima prefecture. Though there is no information on Kamekichi’s family’s standing in Hiroshima.

The kanji are essential to sorting out family names. There are two common ways to write Kotake: 小竹('little bamboo'), a fairly common surname or placename, or 古武('old samurai/warrior'), usually read Kobu, but also Kodake or Furutake. The latter is obviously more likely to trace back to a samurai clan.

The kamon visual variants for Kotake are corner standing square, four squares corner-standing, and four squares lying-flat.
Mika’s family name, Chayama, is associated with the kamon nadeshiko. In English this translates into the genus *Dianthus* commonly called Pinks (which include Carnations), of which one species (*D. barbatus*) called "Sweet William" in English and "Amerika Nadeshiko" in Japanese. (Personal communication with Joel Bradshaw, Japanese linguist, 2015)