

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Honolulu Zoo Entrance

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 151 Kapahulu Avenue

City or town: Honolulu State: Hawaii County: Honolulu

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 **X** statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B **X**C ___D

| | |
|--|-------------|
| | |
| Signature of certifying official/Title: | Date |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

| | |
|---|--|
| In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. | |
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| Title : | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

Honolulu Zoo Entry
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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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation & Culture
Outdoor Recreation
Zoo

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation & Culture
Outdoor Recreation
Zoo

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern

Hawaiian

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: concrete block walls, sandstone walls, shake shingle roof, concrete slab foundation.

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 Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building is situated at the busy intersection of Kalakaua, Kapahulu, and Monsarrat avenues. It is set back approximately 100 to 200 yards from this intersection, with a large lawn in front of it. The single story building has a shallow V-shaped plan, and features a shake shingled, skewed gable, butterfly roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The ridge beam is clad in copper. The left wing of the V has walls of 12" hollow concrete block with extruded mortar joints, while the right wing has walls of sandstone. The building sits on a flat lot and has a concrete foundation. It appears to be vacant or used for storage, and remains in good condition. It retains its historic integrity of design, materials, craftsmanship, location, setting, feeling and associations.

Narrative Description

A scored concrete sidewalk approaches the building from Monsarrat Avenue. To the left of the sidewalk are two mature banyan trees. The sidewalk leads to a centered entry with four, wide, concrete steps. To either side of the steps and projecting out from

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them are rectangular shaped, sandstone planter boxes, with the approximately 15' long one to the left, extending twice as far as the one to the right. The entry opens on a foyer that is approximately 24' wide and equally as deep with a concrete floor. It is sheltered by the roof of the right wing, and both its front and rear are open. A retractable metal grille, at the front, can secure the area.

The right wing was originally designed for educational displays, and last served as a gift shop. Its windowed wall projects out into the foyer at an angle. Two sets of double doors enter into the store from the foyer. The store's ceiling is open beam, with its ceiling ranging from approximately 15' to 24' in height. The front and rear walls of the store are lined with indirect, cove lighting. The floor is concrete. Two store windows on its rear side look out into the zoo and the flamingo display area. The gable end of the left wing is finished in vertical redwood tongue and groove, and a distinctive, triangular shaped window of ten panes conforms to the slope of the roof.

The left wing of the zoo entrance building was devoted to office space. A concrete ramp runs parallel with its front, exterior wall and leads to the entry. Originally a bank of 1" x 2" redwood vertical slats, set 3" on center, formed a clerestory above the otherwise solid front wall. These are now covered by a decorative band. On the interior, the office wing includes a general office area, rest rooms and a storage room, as well as a director's office. At the end of the office spaces is a mechanical room. The rear wall of the offices has a set of four, single pane, canted fixed glass windows rising from a 3'-6" high wall of 12" hollow concrete blocks with extruded mortar joints. Above the windows is a vertical slat screen made of 1" x 2" redwood slats set 3" on center. A concrete block wall with extruded concrete joints runs perpendicular to the rear wall of the building, and demarcates the transition from the office area to the mechanical area. The rear wall of the mechanical area is solid, and a sandstone planter fronts on it.

The Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building, although somewhat modified to meet functional requirements on its interior, retains a high degree of integrity. The interior alterations do not detract from the distinctive and exceedingly strong modern design of the building's exterior, the face of the building seen by the public. Minimal alterations have transpired on its character defining exterior, with the only major change being the covering of the redwood slat clerestory in the left wing.

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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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

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Period of Significance

1963

Significant Dates

1963

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Alfred Preis

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 Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building is significant on the state level under criterion C, as a good example of a public building built in Honolulu during the 1960s in a modern Hawaiian style. The building includes a number of distinctive features and is typical of its period in its design, materials, workmanship and methods of construction. It is also the work of a master having been designed by Alfred Preis, and possesses high artistic values.

The 1963 period of significance was chosen as it is the date the building was completed.

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

The Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building is significant as a superb example of Honolulu architect Alfred Preis's work of the early 1960s. Rendered in a modern Hawaiian style the building is typical of Preis's work with its fine attention to detail, use of local materials, flowing indoor-outdoor relationships, and highly modern style.

Alfred Preis (1911-1993) came to Hawaii in 1939, from Vienna, fleeing the shadow of Adolph Hitler. Upon his arrival he was employed by Dahl & Conrad, and was known for his work in the modern style, with his early works including a number of apartments in Waikiki and also the Emerald Building (Hawaii Register) at the head of Union mall. With the start of World War II he was interned for four months as a foreign national from a hostile country. Following his release he worked for the Territorial Department of Public Works and then opened his own office. In the years immediately following World War II he associated himself with Vladimir Ossipoff, Johnson & Perkins, and Phil Fisk to work on larger projects under the name Associated Architects. He later became the head of the State's Planning Office and then the first executive director for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and was responsible for conceiving the highly successful "Artist in the Schools" program, which has been adapted nationwide, and also the set aside of one percent of the budgets of all State Capital Improvement Projects for the acquisition of public art. He designed many handsome modern residences as well as the Arizona Memorial (National Historic Landmark), the entrance to the Kapiolani Park Zoo, the Laupahoehoe School on the Island of Hawaii (Hawaii Register), the ILWU Union Halls in Honolulu, Lihue and Hilo, and the United Methodist Church on Beretania Street. At the present only three Alfred Preis houses are listed in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places, the Doctor Edwin Lau residence in Nuuanu, the Elizabeth W. Leong residence in Makiki Heights, and the Awana Lee residence behind Diamond Head. Two of his public buildings are listed in the Hawaii or National registers: the Arizona Memorial and the Laupahoehoe School.

The butterfly roof and the manner in which it is handled, each skewed when viewed in cross section, and the two wings converging at different angles and from different heights, contributes greatly to the zoo entrance's distinctive appearance. Preis had utilized this type of roof in a number of residences in the past, including the Ah Get Chang residence on Papu Circle (1955), the Daniel Stempel residence on Paty Drive (1954) and the Richard Takasaki residence on Melemele Place (c. 1955). In addition, Preis would use a modified version of the butterfly roof in the United Methodist Church, and he would use this roof form for his inspiration for the design of the Arizona Memorial. The latter he had on his drawing board at the same time he was working on the Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building.

The use of 12" hollow concrete block with extruded mortar joints was also a popular material used by Preis. It can be found in a number of his commissions, including: the Methodist Church on Beretania Street, the ILWU Hall on Atkinson, and numerous residences.

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The Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building stands as a superb example of Preis's work, remaining almost completely intact. The steep, asymmetric declivities and intersecting angles of the zoo entrance's roofs have a strong visual dynamic. The varied materials used in this structure--wood shingles, sandstone, and painted, concrete block with extruded mortar joints---add texture and visual delight. Preis was known for his meticulous designs in a highly modern style, rendering beautiful living environments which express Hawaii in a modern manner. The building stands as a outstanding example of this prominent architect's work and one of the icons of the modern movement in Hawaii with its emphasis on sleek lines, a multiplicity of textures, the use of red wood slat screens, the butterfly roof, the gable end windows, and the use of extruded mortar joints on the 12" hollow concrete block walls. The use of planter boxes was another common feature of the period. Preis's masterful handling of a multiplicity of materials and textures, as well as intersecting elements, resulted in a harmonious whole, which well bespeaks the exceptional high quality of this design.

The Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building also is significant as a good example of a public building constructed in Hawaii during the 1950s and 1960s and rendered in a modern style. During the two decades following World War II, all three levels of government in Hawaii, federal, state and county, turned to the modern style of architecture when erecting new buildings. More often than not, these efforts followed a more austere, form follows function, Bauhausian approach, with an emphasis on economy. This is evident in many of the projects developed by the Hawaii Housing Authority and the Department of Public Instruction. Similarly, such government office buildings as the Liliuokalani Building (1950) which housed the Territorial Welfare Department, the no longer extant Keelikolani Building (1951), and the State Department of Health's Hale Kinau (1961) all conformed to the stereo-typical modernist imagery of the concrete and glass box. The Department of Highways' Aliiainmoku Building (1959), with its vertically thrusting, sun screen fins ventured a small step beyond this norm.

The Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building is one of less than a dozen public buildings from the 1945 to 1966 to transcend the ordinary in their modern design. It stands among a group of government sponsored buildings which includes Hart Wood's Board of Water Supply Building, the public libraries of Stephen Oyakawa in Lihue, Aiea, and Liliha, Alfred Preis' Laupahoehoe School, Hideo Murakami's Benjamin Parker Elementary School in Kaneohe, several buildings at the University of Hawaii, Shizuo Oka's Hawaii County Building, the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall by Clifford Young, the Neal S. Blaisdell Arena and Concert Hall, and I.M. Pei's East West Center as representatives of outstanding public sector, modern design in Hawaii.

Devoid of ornament, the Honolulu Zoo Entrance Building stands as a superb example of the modern style of architecture applied to a public building. The steep, asymmetric declivities and intersecting angles of the zoo entrance's roofs have a strong visual dynamic. The varied materials used in this structure--wood shingles, red wood slat screens, sandstone, and painted, concrete block with extruded mortar joints---add

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texture and visual delight. With its emphasis on sleek lines, the use of a multiplicity of textures, the gable end windows, and its butterfly roof, the building stands as a modern gem. The use of planter boxes was another common feature of the period. Preis's masterful handling of a multiplicity of materials and textures, as well as intersecting elements, resulted in a harmonious whole, which well bespeaks the exceptional high quality of this design.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

original blue prints dated March 20, 1962

Honolulu Star Bulletin, "The New Entrance to the Honolulu Zoo," April 10, 1963, page 14.

Unpublished manuscript on Alfred Preis written by Jack Gillmar, Don Hibbard, and Jon Peter Preis

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

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 21.270682

Longitude: 157.821517

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property being nominated includes the property on which the zoo entrance stands and the land immediately in front of it within one hundred yards, which is owned by the City and County of Honolulu in 2016, a portion of Tax Map Key 3-1-043: 001, as indicated on the enclosed plot plan.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the parcel of land associated with this building since its construction.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jack Gillmar
organization: self
street & number: P. O. Box 2902
city or town: Honolulu state: Hawaii zip code: 96802
e-mail _____
telephone: (808)-732-1161
date: August 8, 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:** floor plan

- **Owner:**

Kapiolani Charitable Trust
c/o Ernest Y. Martin
City Council
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Guy Kaulukukui
Department of Enterprise Services
City and County of Honolulu
777 Ward Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Original Floor Plan

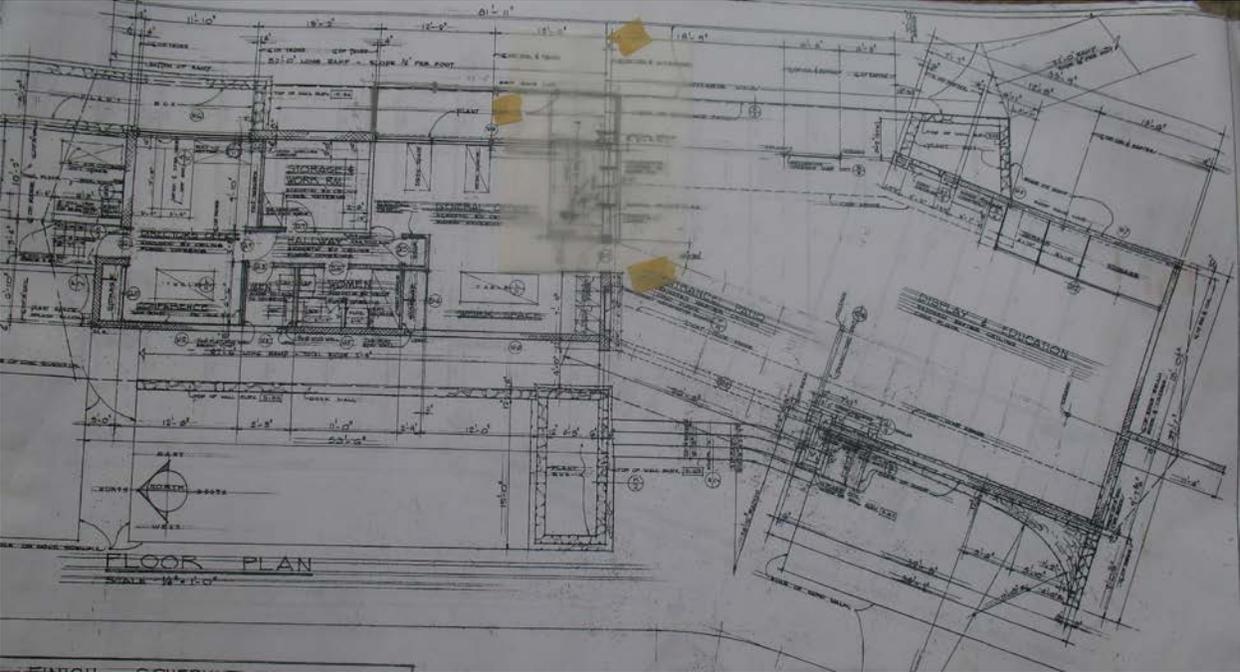


Photo Log

Name of Property: Honolulu Zoo Entry Building

City or Vicinity: Honolulu

County: Honolulu State: Hawaii

Photographer: David Franzen

Date Photographed: October 24, 2014

View of the facade from the southwest

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Honolulu Zoo Entry Building

City or Vicinity: Honolulu

County: Honolulu State: Hawaii

Photographer: David Franzen

Date Photographed: October 24, 2014

View of the front steps and left wing from the south

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Honolulu Zoo Entry Building

City or Vicinity: Honolulu

County: Honolulu State: Hawaii

Photographer: David Franzen

Date Photographed: October 24, 2014

View of the right wing's gable end from the south

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Honolulu Zoo Entry Building

City or Vicinity: Honolulu

County: Honolulu State: Hawaii

Photographer: Don Hibbard

Date Photographed: October 11, 2016

View of the former gift shop from the north

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Honolulu Zoo Entry Building

City or Vicinity: Honolulu

County: Honolulu State: Hawaii

Photographer: Don Hibbard

Date Photographed: October 11, 2016

View of the office area from the east

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