HONOLULU IN 1810

Explanation of Map

Source of Map. This reconstructed map, a reasonably accurate presentation of Honolulu in 1810, is based on three documents. John Papa Lii recorded the location of trails and various sites in Honolulu between 1810 and 1812 in his "Fragments of Hawaiian History" which was written in Hawaiian for the newspaper Kaaua in 1869. Research on this document has provided most of the data regarding houses, trails, playing fields, and similar sites. Two base maps were used for shore and reef lines, for stream locations, and for verification of the trails. The first of these was a sketch map made by Lieutenant Charles Malden of HBMS Blonde in 1825. Malden's map marked the trails, and since there was a lapse of only fifteen years between 1810 and the time of Malden's map, these trails were probably much the same in Lii's time. The second base map was a government survey map of 1870 which showed the streets as they were at the time of John Lii's actual writing. It used these streets to locate formerly existing sites, as shown on the reconstructed 1810 map. Some sites were further verified from other sources.

Points of Interest. Kamehameha I, who had been living at Waikiki since 1804, moved his court to Honolulu in 1809. His immediate court consisted of high-ranking chiefs and their retainers, but in the area also lived those who contributed to the welfare and enjoyment of court members, from fishermen and warriors to whites and the chiefs of lesser rank. In those days, the area was not called Honolulu. Instead, each land section had its own name. The map bears the names of the sections as they were known at that time, and in red are shown the streets mentioned by John Lii as they existed in 1869.

Beginning near the mouth of Nuuanu Stream, maka'i of King street was Kapukukolo, "where white men and such dwell." Among them were Francisco de Paula Marin, the Spaniard who introduced horticulture to Hawaii, and Isaac Davis, friend and co-advisor with John Young to Kamehameha. Here too lived Kuihelani, a relative of Lii and an important chief who had charge of many of the king's lands. Near his place was the home of Keliimaikai, full brother of Kamehameha, on the coral point "where the first customs were established" by were a gods' house and houses for the king's stewards, as well as a temporary house for the lopa wrestlers. Mauka of this area was "a cluster of houses" and another loka site "at Merchant and Alakea streets." Beyond, along the shoreline, was the home of Kekumano, uncle of Kamehameha, "on the south side of Richards street." Next came the establishment of Kekuiwa—a son of Kamehameha by Kaheihimeai—who died in young manhood. Farther along were the homes of kahunas, headed by Hewahewa, high priest of Kamehameha, and the same man who abetted in the overthrow of the kapu system after the king's death. At Kakaako were the homes of fishermen who, together with those who lived at Kapukukolo, supplied the needs of the court.

Mauka of Kakaako was the coconut grove of Honukaha, where Kinau, son of Kamehameha by Peleuli resided, and the home of Keouwuia, mother of Liholiho. Liholiho, then the heir apparent, lived nearby at his residence called Hookuku, where he was attended by chiefs under the supervision of Papa, medical kahunu and kahu to Kamehameha. Papa and his large household of relatives, which included the boy Lii, had his houses and medical heiau at Kakaako, later called Mililani after John Lii's home there. Only for a short while did Honolulu appear as is shown here, for in the latter part of 1812 Kamehameha and most of his court, including Liholiho and Lii, went to Hawaii, where he remained until his death in 1819.

The research upon which the data for the map are based was conducted by Dorothy B. Barrere. The map was drawn by Paul C. Rockwood.

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