

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT  
SURVEYED PROPERTY CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

TMK: **21001013**

Historic Status: **NR & HR Site No. 80-14-9929**

Portion of Alignment: **Koko Head portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Aloha Tower**

Sector: **24 Downtown Station Sector**

Location: **Fort Street**

Owner: **State of Hawaii**

Station Block:

Date-Original: **1926**

Source: **Tax Office**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Observation deck and offices**

Architectural Description:

This 184' tower has an elongated eight-sided convex-curved spire for its main roof. This main spire is topped by a small, eight-sided deck with a thin railing and a "t"-shaped mast. Each of the cardinal faces of the main spire have an engaged elongated feature with a small gabled cap and narrow arched opening that appears to contain windows or vents. At the base of the main spire, at each of the building's four corners, is a convex-curved hip roof atop each of the vertical members that form the structure of the tower. Each spire has a gable-shaped decoration below its peak, and below that a narrow arched opening filled with awning windows. On each side of the tower, between the four spires, are the inset observation decks, with the word "Aloha" cut through the solid panel railings. Just above each observation deck opening is a narrow molded projection that is supported by two brackets. Below the observation-deck level are large clock faces, one on each side of the tower. On the nine floors of the tower below the clocks, between the four vertical corner members, are three vertical bands of alternating awning windows and solid panels. The base of the tower has a tall arched opening with molded imposts on each of its four sides. The top portion of these openings is filled with metal grilles and a sign with the word "Aloha."

Integrity:

Original 40' mast (with ornamental lightning rod ball) changed to a "t"-shaped mast. Not originally free-standing, the abutting building demolished in 1994 when Aloha Tower Marketplace was developed.

Significance:

Criterion "A" - for its association with the development of Hawaii as a tourist destination for travelers from the mainland, and for its role as a harbor-control tower during WWII. Criterion "C" - as an example of 1920s Art Deco architecture in Honolulu. Aloha Tower is probably the most famous architectural landmark in Honolulu. It was designed by Arthur Reynolds in Art Deco style.

