

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

TMK: 17002, 17003, & 17004 plats

Historic Status: **Listed on National Register, Site No. 80-14-9986**

Portion of Alignment: **Koko Head portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Chinatown Historic District**

Sector: **23 Chinatown Station Sector**

Location: **Roughly bounded by Nuuanu Stream, Beretania St., Nu'uanu Ave., & Honolulu Harbor**

Owner: **Multiple public/ private**

Station Block: **Chinatown Station Block**

Date-Original: **ca. 1900 – ca. 1968**

Source: **Tax Records**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Various commercial, residential & public uses**

History/ Description of District:

The district has an abundance of architecturally notable buildings of varied ages which combine with plainer, vernacular ones to yield a distinct streetscape. This is unified by the use of sidewalk canopies and storefront entries with either wide opening doors for maximum shop exposure or with recessed doorways with splayed shopfront windows. The makai areas of the district still enjoy some unobstructed views of Honolulu Harbor, from Maunakea Street (Fox 1971, NR Property Photography Form, SHPD files) and other mauka/ makai streets.

This historic district, covering about 36 acres, was listed on the National Register on January 17, 1973. The district boundaries, as mapped and described in the National Register nomination form, run in a line 50' Ewa (north) of Nuuanu Stream, along the mauka (east) side of Beretania Street, 50' Diamond Head (south) of Nuuanu Avenue, and extend into the waters of Honolulu Harbor, 50' makai (west) of the longest pier.

Significance:

The makai boundary of the district expresses the importance of Chinatown's connection with the harbor and its historic ties to the waterfront, a factor of great importance in its origin and evolution. "The major reason for its [Chinatown's] early development and continuous history as a commercial area was due to the close proximity to Honolulu Harbor" (Riconda 1973, National Register Nomination form for Chinatown Historic District, SHPD files).

The district is also considered significant as traditional cultural property, according to the National Register Bulletin on that topic. It is recognized as a place of cultural importance to the city's Asian community, which retains its distinctive cultural surroundings and architectural character.

In the Chinatown Historic District buildings from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century are combined with later, mid-century construction (often in International Style) to yield a significant concentration of buildings that are united historically and aesthetically by physical development.

Integrity:

The district retains levels of integrity which qualify it for inclusion in the National Register. Alterations have included changes to streets, new high-rise construction and other non-contributing buildings, and alteration of waterfront elements, including walls and piers.

NOTE: Dashed line shows the district boundaries as indicated on NR nomination form, within the makai portion of the Chinatown Historic District which is traversed by the proposed rail line.

