

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

TMK: **98006024**

Historic Status: **Evaluated Eligible**

Portion of Alignment: **`Ewa portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Nishi Service**

Sector: **13 Pearlridge Station Sector**

Location: **98-402 KAMEHAMEHA HWY**

Owner: **KAMEYO CO. PARTNERSHIP**

Station Block:

Date-Original: **1950**

Source: **Tax Office Records, City Directory**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Automobile Body and Fender/Automobile Service Station**

Architectural Description:

A modest single story masonry building, the Nishi Service Station is distinguished by the 17' long rounded canopy that extends from its office space to protect the former gasoline service area. The small, 21' x 24', rectangular building housed the station attendant's office space, with a separate, corrugated metal building with repair service bays located to the right and rear of the office. The office building has a low pitched gable roof and a window with six steel-framed awning windows on its right side. The canopy has a large "Nishi" sign in blue letters on a white background rising from its flat roof, and the name "Nishi Service" also appears on the two sides of the canopy's frieze, in blue letters on an orange field. The office has a reinforced-concrete frame infilled with concrete blocks.

Integrity:

Retains integrity, although the gasoline pumps are no longer extant and the door to the office area has been modified. The character defining plan, massing, and profile of the building remain intact, including the canopy protecting the gasoline service area.

Significance:

Criterion "C" – as a good example of an automobile service station constructed in Hawaii during the 1950s. It is typical of its period in its design, use of materials, craftsmanship, and methods of construction. Its rounded canopy provides the building with a streamlined sensibility, which was popular in roadside architecture of the period and sets it apart from several other surviving service stations of the period. The overall design of the station is typical of the period for gasoline stations with a small office made grander by a canopy extending out to protect the service area. The Nishi Service Station differs from a number of stations of the period as its garage area was separate from the office, a configuration more common in an earlier era. As early as 1948 Ralph Kamitaro Uehira was operating Nishi Service, a Union Oil station, at this location, with his son Yoshiaki Uehira working as a mechanic. Yoshiaki took over the business and subsequently made body and fender work the station's primary service. Russell Uehira, Yoshiaki's son, now operates the body and fender business. The station was named after Ralph Uehira's step father.

