

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

TMK: **98016047**

Historic Status: **Evaluated Eligible**

Portion of Alignment: **Ewa portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Sumida Watercress Farm**

Sector: **13 Pearlridge Station Sector**

Location: **98-160 KAMEHAMEHA HWY**

Owner: **B P BISHOP TRUST ESTATE**

Station Block: **Pearlridge Station Block**

Date-Original: **1928**

Source: **Interview with owner**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Farm**

Architectural Description:

This approximately 10.7-acre property includes TMK 98016046 also. This large property is partitioned by low walls of concrete masonry units (CMU) into over a hundred patches for growing watercress. A natural artesian spring, Kalauao, percolates through the entire property. The low walls enable the diversion of the flow into the graded patches (approx 6" slope per 100'), allowing water to reach all areas of the property and permitting watercress cultivation, which requires a flowing depth of 3" of spring water. All parking areas on the properties which surround the farm are graded to prevent their water from draining into the farm. The daily flow from Kalauao Spring is about 5 million gallons. After this water is diverted through the watercress patches it is emptied into a drainage canal on the east edge of the farm. This canal empties into Pearl Harbor just west of the mouth of Kalauao Stream. A typical watercress patch measures about 40' x 80'. Patches at the edges of the property have varying dimensions to allow for the irregular shape of the parcel. The farm produces about six tons of watercress weekly, about 75% of the Hawai'i crop. Several buildings are on the lot: a large gable-roofed building with a shed-roofed section that has CMU walls, and gable-roofed buildings with vertical tongue & groove walls and jalousie windows.

Integrity:

Integrity of setting has been compromised by the land use changes around the farm, from agricultural use to shopping center. However, the overall level of integrity remains acceptable, because other aspects of integrity (location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association) retain high levels.



Significance:

This property is eligible as a rural historic landscape site under Criterion "A" - for its association with the history of diversified agriculture in the Pearl City area, and under Criterion "C" - for its distinctive method of construction of a watercress farm, innovatively applying a naturally flowing artesian system to watercress farming. This site is significant as a rural historic landscape reflecting the occupational activities of wetland agriculture, which was an important historical activity.