X. KALAUPAPA SETTLEMENT REVITALIZATION, 1931-1938

A. Creation of Board of Hospitals and Settlement

By 1929 conditions at Kalaupapa were still considered unsatisfactory. Governor Lawrence M. Judd of the Territory of Hawaii appointed an Advisory Commission on Leprosy to investigate the situation, study the status of the leprosy control program in Hawaii, and make suggestions for improvement. The resulting report made several specific recommendations:

1. establishment of a hospital for the treatment of leprosy patients in or near a medical center;
2. no more compulsory segregation of patients at Kalaupapa (the effect of banning punitive segregation was to eliminate the stigma of the settlement as a penal institution);
3. more research on susceptibility to the disease; and most important,
4. development of a program of social welfare that would increase the happiness of the patients and their families.

The commission also offered a plan for the reorganization of leprosy affairs under the territorial government. Responsibility for the public health program for leprosy had rested with the Board of Health from 1865 to 1931. As a result of the Judd Commission findings that there was dissatisfaction with and misunderstanding of the administration of the leprosy program, the 1931 legislature created a separate Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement to function as a policy-making agency and established the position of General Superintendent as its administrative official. (The legislature transferred the program back to the Board of Health in 1949.)

The Board of Hospitals and Settlement, as it was later called, which administered the territory's leprosy program from 1931 to 1949, was a group of five citizens serving without pay, at least two of whom had to be doctors. They appointed their executive officer, referred to as the

1. "This is Kalaupapa," ca. 1950, V.A. 9, Kalaupapa, History and Description, M-420 (Judd Collection), Hawaii State Archives, Honolulu, p. 4.
superintendent. This position was held by Harry A. Kluegel. The administration of the settlement was handled independently by the resident superintendent.

The new board established specific policies regarding the leprosy program, and the necessary legislation was pushed through in a strongly worded resolution presented by the Public Health Committee of the Senate. The members of the 1931 legislature were told by Governor Judd that conditions at the leprosy settlement were deplorable and needed immediate attention and correction. Judd requested that a substantial amount of government money be earmarked for the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and development of both Kalihi Receiving Station and Kalaupapa Settlement. In May 1931 Senate Bill No. 70 was passed—"An Act to Provide for the Reorganization of the Territorial System for the Care and Treatment of Leprosy, the Rehabilitation and/or Expansion of the Leper Settlement at Kalaupapa and the Receiving Hospital . . ."—to take effect July 1, 1931. The territory was duly authorized, under the direction of the Board of Hospitals and Settlement, to prepare plans and specifications for a program of construction for the rehabilitation and improvement of the leprosy settlement at Kalaupapa and the Kalihi Receiving Station on O'ahu.

The Superintendent of Public Works was charged with the preparation of plans and specifications and the conducting of contracts for the building projects under the rehabilitation program at Kalaupapa. The Senate Committee on Health recommended that $400,000 be supplied in the 1931 biennium and $200,000 more be expended the following year. The first few years of this period in settlement history were dominated by the board's program of construction and improvement. Most of the buildings at Kalaupapa today are a result of this rehabilitation program. Major revitalization continued through 1938, providing more amenities and facilities than at any other time to date.
B. Rehabilitation Begins

1. Water and Power Distribution Systems

By the end of June 1930, plans and specifications had been prepared and a contract awarded for additions to the power plant, water system, and power distribution system at the settlement. Work involved making an addition twenty feet long and twelve feet wide to the power plant, installing an additional generating unit, and making some additions to the water and power distribution systems. By 1932 improvements had been made in terms of street lighting and installation of fire hydrants.

In April 1932 the "split phase, transformer" system of electrical distribution throughout the leprosarium was supplanted by the "four-wire" method of distributing light and power current. This new method, recommended by the engineering staff of the Hawaiian Electric Company, resulted in better service. On May 15, 1932, the Kalaupapa power plant began operating on a twenty-four-hour basis, supplying current for lighting and electrically-operated radio sets at all times as a comfort and convenience to patients and staff. In September 30, 1933, service was accepted from the Molokai Electric Company. Under this contract, using the company's generating plant at Kaunakakai and transmitting the power to Kalaupapa substation, the local power house was used for standby service. Distribution lines had been extended from the power house and the electric shop set up in the shops building with tools and equipment for maintenance of the system and of the electrical apparatus in service throughout the settlement.

2. McVeigh Home

In 1930 plans and specifications had also been prepared, and a contract awarded, for construction of two eleven-room dormitory
Illustration 91. Eleven-room dormitory, McVeigh Home, probably soon after construction.

Illustration 93. Patient cottages, McVeigh Home, similar to Buildings Nos. 1-2 and 5-6 on south side of home, finished in 1932-33.

buildings, seventy-nine feet long and fifty-two feet wide, and for one kitchen and dining room building of the same dimensions, all buildings to be of frame construction with shingle roofs. These buildings were completed to replace the facilities destroyed by fire in November 1928.\(^4\) It was recommended that a recreation pavilion makai of the dining hall and between the dormitories be erected.\(^5\)

Construction at McVeigh continued into the next year. By the end of 1931 several jobs were underway. Six cottages on the north side of the home were almost finished as were eight cottages on the south side. All had stained floors, one-by-three painted battens, and concrete walks. The pavilion was partly framed, with rafters and roof sheathing in place. A heating plant with a concrete floor was also being added.\(^6\)

Reports of work completed by fiscal year 1931/32 mentioned the completed construction of fourteen frame cottages to house one, two, or three persons, neatly spaced and conveniently located near the main kitchen and dining room and equipped with hot and cold water, toilets, showers, and partially furnished; a central frame recreation pavilion; a concrete boiler house and hot water distribution system serving all the buildings; and a complete system of roadways, fences, curbing, and


A small central laundry building had been authorized but not built. By mid-1934 a contract had been awarded for additions to cottages and garages of the McVeigh Home. Seven frame one-story, four-room cottages, for two patients each, sixteen by twenty-four feet, were constructed, and two frame open-front four-stall garages, eighteen by forty feet. Also completed were two one-story frame cottages, for five patients each, twenty-eight by thirty-two feet, and one L-shaped frame garage, forty-eight by fifty-eight feet, for seven cars. All cottages had baths and toilets, hot and cold water, and electric lights.

The legislature of 1935 appropriated $135,000 "for permanent improvements including new buildings, additions[,] repairs and improvements to buildings and grounds, furnishings and equipment, for--the settlement at Kalaupapa, the Kalihi Hospital, the Kapiolani Girls' Home and the Kalihi Boys' Home." This Act 24 became effective upon its approval April 10, 1935, and work started shortly thereafter on the continuation of the Improvement Program to July 1936.

At McVeigh Home a new cottage was built for non-patient cooks and one old cottage was moved and remodelled for two patients. New equipment was installed in the kitchen and a covered concrete platform was constructed at the kitchen entrance to accommodate garbage.

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Illustration 97. Kitchen-dining hall of Bay View Home to right, 1938, looking south toward Building No. 4, now gone.

BAY VIEW HOME
KALAUPAPA

1 Manager's Cottage  6 Dining Room
2 Dormitory     7 Kitchen
3 Dormitory     8 Heating Plant
4 Dormitory     9 Chapel
5 Dormitory    10 Laundry

Existing Buildings □
Proposed Buildings □

Governor's Advisory Committee on Leprosy
H. A. Klaugol, C.E.
August 1930.
can racks, vegetable bins, mop racks, and other utilities. The dressing station was remodelled, and in the dorms obscure glass was put in all doors to improve light in the halls. All driveways were paved and fruit and ornamental trees and shrubbery planted. 10

3. **Bay View Home**

In describing the Bay View Home for the Aged and Blind in 1930, H.A. Kluegel noted four twelve-room dormitories, a kitchen, dining room, heating plant, laundry, manager's cottage, and chapel, all under the direct supervision of a paid manager. In 1932 the home was caring for seven women and fifty-one men. Minor improvements, repairs, and painting were done during the year and the kitchen was remodelled and new equipment added. The meat and vegetable room was completely reconstructed and new equipment installed. Provision was also made for a new boiler and hot water circulating system to serve the four large dormitories. In 1934 all Bay View building units were painted inside and out, the central dining room was remodelled, plumbing and wiring overhauled, and a new medical dressing station established. 11

In fiscal year 1935/36 the old Kalele residence within the compound and its outbuildings were demolished, in addition to an old Japanese store building and various pig pens and chicken coops. The old laundry building was remodelled for the private store and small barber shop moved in from another location. The manager's cottage was overhauled and painted. A new, substantial platform was built adjoining the hot water plant to facilitate the handling of oil drums, and a similar platform was constructed along one side of the kitchen for supplies and garbage can racks. Painting was done on the interior and lānaīs of the dining room, and the dormitory interiors were painted. The dressing station was also remodelled and painted. The recently constructed paved driveway at Bay View was proving very useful and additional concrete walks were laid out with particular reference to the needs of the blind.


patients. Along the shoreline and makai of the driveway, numerous coconut trees were planted. 12

By fiscal year 1937/38, a serving kitchen and dining room, exclusively for the blind, had been added, as well as a new garage for patients' cars. Two storerooms had been built and additions made to the four dormitories and the main kitchen. All buildings had been screened and repainted. 13

4. Bishop Home

Several new construction projects were undertaken for the Bishop Home during the rehabilitation period. In November 1931 work in progress included a frame and concrete social hall, a dormitory, and a kitchen and dining room. 14 A month later a laundry and boiler room was also underway. In early 1932 Kluegel specified color selections for certain units at the settlement. The Bishop Home was to have light tan walls, gray trim, and "dust colored" floors. Inside, rooms were to be light gray with very light gray ceilings. 15

Reports for 1932 mentioned at the Bishop Home a new kitchen-dining room-store room unit, equipped for forty but designed for a capacity of about sixty-five; a new dormitory with nine bedrooms, lounge, etc., with new furnishings; a new social hall; and a new laundry and drying room.

BISHOP HOME FOR GIRLS
KALAUPAPA

1. Infirmary
2. Dispensary
3. Recreation Hall
4. Dormitory
5. Dormitory
6. Old Store House
7. Laundry
8. Old Store House
9. Wood Shed
10. Dining Hall & Kitchen
11. Provision Store House
12. Laundry
13. Laundry
14. Patient's Cottage
15. Patient's Cottage
16. Patient's Cottage
17. Patient's Cottage
18. Patient's Cottage
19. Sisters' Cottage

Governor's Advisory Committee on Leprosy
H. A. Kluegel, C.E.
August 1930

All were of frame construction with asphalt-shingle roofs. Also added was a reinforced concrete and tile central heating plant and a hot water circulating and distribution system to connect all new and old buildings. All buildings were connected by concrete walks and "telford base" roadways with concrete curbs. A new flagstaff would be added, and improvements to the infirmary were underway. In the course of all this work, twelve buildings had been demolished and removed from the group. 16 The unit was enclosed by a new fence with attractive entrance portals in 1932.

Further rehabilitation work was carried on with additional appropriations made by the 1933 legislature. Three one-story, four-room frame patient cottages with bath and toilet, hot and cold water, and electric lights were constructed in 1934. Also completed was a modern frame cottage for the sisters, measuring thirty-three feet four inches by eighty-five feet, a portion of which was two stories high. It replaced the old cottage and was built on the same spot. Plans were completed for the restoration and enlargement of the chapel that had previously adjoined the sisters' cottage. 17

During 1935/36, within the sisters' compound, the old store room cottage, chicken coops, and other small buildings were demolished, and a modern chicken unit, fernery, and tool house constructed, and the chapel screened. The side lānai of the kitchen building was enclosed for a vegetable and fruit storeroom, and a wash rack and drain were constructed for washing poi barrels in the rear of the building; the infirmary dressing station was improved by remodelling and the addition of new equipment. Paved driveways were completed and

16. Report to the Governor . . . by the Superintendent of Public Works for the Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 16. The old kitchen, dining hall, and storeroom at the Bishop Home were demolished in 1932, and the old social hall in 1934; Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 43.

further planting done. In 1937/38 three new patient cottages and a storehouse were built and all buildings were screened and repainted.

5. Patients' Cottages

In May 1932 a construction inspector wrote the Assistant Superintendent of Public Works giving him certain information and data on the cost of work done by the Board of Hospitals and Settlement. Under the heading "New Construction" was a list of cottages erected at Kalaupapa. They were built by outside carpenters and finished in December 1931. Their plot plan was the following:

![Typical Plot Plan of All 'A' Houses](image)

**Typical Plot Plan of All 'A' Houses**

**Scale:** 1" = 15 ft.

**Note:**

All new houses as 1-A; 2-A, etc., are of similar plan & overall size but some are flopped over to suit various conditions. Location of rear stoop varies as does length of front steps.


Illustration 103. House 2A, probably early 1930s.

COTTAGE FOR TWO

COTTAGE FOR THREE

CONVENIENCES:
- Hot & Cold Water
- Sewer Connection
- Electric Light
- Screened throughout

TYPICAL QUARTERS FOR PATIENTS
KALAUPAPA

DORMITORY

Governor's Advisory Committee on Leprosy
H.A. Klugel, C.E.
August 1930.
Locations of the structures were listed as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-A</td>
<td>McKinley Street near Damien Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-A</td>
<td>near junction of Kamehameha and Kilohana streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-A</td>
<td>Kapiolani and Haleakala streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-A</td>
<td>McKinley Street near Damien Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-A</td>
<td>Goodhue Street between Beretania and School streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-A</td>
<td>corner of McKinley and School streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-A</td>
<td>Kapiolani and Beretania streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-A</td>
<td>Kauluali near Haleakala Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-A</td>
<td>Kamehameha Street opposite Mormon Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-A</td>
<td>Kamehameha Street mauka of Catholic cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-A</td>
<td>Kamahele Street near Damien Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-A</td>
<td>Kilohana Street between Kamehameha Street and Damien Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The twelve new cottages had two bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, living room, and bath, with electric lights, running water, and patent toilets. They were connected to the street with concrete sidewalks. The construction work and painting were done by leeward Moloka'i Homestead carpenters and painters. Major repairs were performed on twenty-five residences and dormitories. Approximately twenty-four old buildings, no longer habitable, were demolished and removed.\(^{21}\)

In 1934 two replacement cottages for patients were constructed in the settlement in addition to the nine cottages built at McVeigh Home and the three at Bishop Home. One was a one-story frame structure with one bedroom, a kitchen, and a living room, measuring twenty-two by twenty-four feet overall, and the other was a one-story frame, twenty-six by thirty-one feet overall.\(^{22}\)

\[^{20}\] Earl J. Stephenson to B.F. Rush, May 12, 1932, file Kalaupapa General, Hawaii State Archives, Honolulu. The letter states that the specific locations of these structures had been placed on a blue line map at Kalaupapa.

\[^{21}\] Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 44, and R.L. Cooke's report in ibid., p. 7. The Board of Health Inaugurated a policy as of July 1, 1931, directing that toilet, bath tub, and sanitary sink be installed in each dwelling worthy of major repairs. Ibid.

\[^{22}\] Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Hospitals and Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1934, p. 3; Report to the Governor . . . for the Year Ending June 30, 1934, p. 13.
In 1935/36 two new cottages were built and twenty-three remodelled and reconditioned.

6. Hospital and Mental Ward

During the summer of 1930, a thirty-two bed hospital with a nursery, maternity ward, operating room, dining room, kitchen, nurses' cottage, and laundry was being built. It was suggested that a dispensary be incorporated in the new hospital and that the present dispensary site could be used for a new visitors' quarters. The present visitors' house could then be used as the general office. The color scheme inside and out for the new hospital and staff cottage was to be similar to that at the infirmary at Kalihi.

The hospital building opened on July 1, 1932. It was frame with mineral-surfaced shingle roofs. Dimensions of the hospital were 131 feet wide by 160 feet long, and of the dispensary, 30 feet wide by 74 feet long. In June 1932 the hospital was described as having a normal capacity of fifty beds, divided into four separate wards. There were also offices for the doctors and nurses, operating rooms, and an x-ray room and laboratory, all fully equipped; a dining room, kitchen, and store room; and a boiler room unit, incinerator, and disinfectors. The dispensary unit for the treatment of out-patients was connected to the hospital building and contained examination and treatment rooms, a drug room, a general store room, a mortuary, and offices for the doctor, dentist, nurses, and clerk.

In 1935/36 a mental ward accommodating four patients and an attendant was built north of the main building, connecting thereto with


24. Report to the Governor . . . for the Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 16; Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 43. A dentist was attached to Kalihi, which shared his professional services with Kalaupapa. The old dispensary burned in January 1932, and the dispensary work was then carried on in the Wilcox Memorial Building. Ibid., p. 2.

Illustration 107. Former mental ward building, 1983. Later used as fumigation room. NPS photo.
Illustration 108. General view toward pali of old general hospital buildings, no date, but possibly prior to 1935/36.

a concrete walk and a new entrance at the end of the main corridor. A
d four-stall garage for staff use was provided at this time, and the sun
porches and corridors were glassed in. Two platforms were built for sun
exposure for patients, an open lanai was converted to a storeroom, and
other minor alternations were done. The Wilcox Memorial Building in the
visitors' compound was remodelled as quarters for the hospital kitchen
help and other non-inmate personnel. During this time attendance
increased at the hospital, and more in the way of treatment was offered,
such as infra-red lamp and ultraviolet ray treatments, massage, sun
baths, hydrotherapy, and medicinal inhalations. The former morgue in
the dispensary wing was converted into an additional dressing room. In
October 1938 the operation of the hospital was placed in charge of the
Sisters of St. Francis.

A different hospital system prevailed at Kalaupapa than at
Kalihi and different techniques were necessary--at Kalaupapa,
hospitalization and treatment were voluntary rather than compulsory.
Because the majority of the residents needed hospital care, a
responsibility rested upon the hospital staff to create a good
understanding of and desire for the relief obtainable from hospitalization
and treatment, thus resulting in more complete use of the facilities.

7. New Baldwin Home

Provision in 1932 was made for the conversion of the old
Kalaupapa general hospital into a home for about thirty to thirty-five
patients and abandonment of the existing Baldwin Home at Kalawao.
This was a result not only of Dutton's death and of the general movement
to Kalaupapa, but also of the fact that the old home was in such a state
of disrepair that it was not economical to attempt repairs or
improvements.

In 1934 the patients' dining room-kitchen at the new home
was further remodelled, a two-stall garage was constructed, and the

25. Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1936, pp. 6,
22-23.

26. Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and
Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 45.

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grounds much improved. Plans were prepared for a small new chapel to be used jointly by the brothers and the patients. In August 1935 the old Baldwin Home unit at Kalawao of about thirty-six structures was demolished and burned. In 1935/36 a garage and shop building were constructed at the new home, the dressing station was remodelled, and an enclosed entrance to the kitchen was built. All building floors and exteriors were painted and the roofs stained. The new Baldwin Home became a group of red and white-trimmed buildings. There was also further planting of fruit trees. During fiscal year 1937/38, all the buildings were screened and repainted, and a chapel, recreation building, and garage were added. Patient cottages were clustered around the main building and near it also was the small house for the brothers. Next to it was a little chapel and nearby was a grotto on the grounds perfected by Brother Materne Laschet.

8. Staff Quarters

Staff quarters consisting of three houses—for the superintendent, resident physician, and assistant physician—were provided along what is today known as "Staff Row." Each was arranged to accommodate a family and each was supplied with servants’ quarters, garages, and other outbuildings. In the past the dentist had lived with the resident physician while at the settlement, and visitors were usually put in his house, which functioned as the staff guest cottage. (The visitors' house, or dentist's house, was later used for kūkuas.) In 1930 the resident physician's cottage had been recently rebuilt following a fire that destroyed all but the kitchen of the old house. A beach house was also available for the staff or their visitors. It was noted at the end of May 1932 that as soon as the old visitors' quarters building could be revised to provide a new office, the present office of Superintendent


George P. Cooke, just south of the superintendent's residence on Staff Row, would be removed. 31

The chronology of construction of these residences is unclear. The 1908 map of the settlement shows the presence of four structures along Staff Row plus the general office building on the corner. Data was found to the effect that a resident physician's cottage was built in 1901/02 and the assistant physician's house in 1905/06. In question are the construction dates of Buildings No. 5 (superintendent's residence) and No. 8 (dentist's cottage and visitor quarters). In 1890 a superintendent's house and office were built at Kalaupapa. In 1892 a new visitors' house was built near the superintendent's residence. Could these be Buildings No. 5 and No. 8? If so, the visitors' house shown in Illustration 30, labelled as a view taken in 1895, might instead be the visitors' house erected in 1906, because it was definitely located in the landing area (see Illustration 81, which appears to show a visiting corral surrounding the building). Although the present superintendent's residence/dining hall building does not appear very old, the structure was remodelled in 1934, as explained below.

In June 1932 a new frame guest house with mineral-surfaced shingle roof was placed in commission near the superintendent's residence and the old office building. It measured sixty-six feet wide by seventy-two feet long, with a kitchen fourteen feet wide and twenty feet long. It had a dining room and accommodations for ten persons—staff personnel not provided with other quarters and/or official guests. 32

In 1934 a new kitchen, laundry, and bathroom wing were constructed for the resident physician's cottage. At that time the


32. Report to the Governor ... for the Year Ending June 30, 1932, pp. 16-17; Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement ... for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 44, and R.L. Cooke's report in ibid., p. 3.
superintendent's residence was remodelled and being used as the nurses' cottage, and the superintendent was occupying an apartment in the new staff cottage.  

In 1935-36 at the staff cottage, two rooms and bath were added, two lānais glassed in, the lānais and exterior of the building were painted, the stone wall on the Beretania Street side was removed, and a new fence built. The superintendent's cottage was improved by a new roof, the addition of a toilet and lavatory, and interior painting. A two-stall garage was constructed, replacing an old single stall structure, the fern house was remodelled, the chicken yard reconstructed, new fences built, and old outbuildings demolished. In the resident physician's cottage, closets were built in the bedrooms, the office room was enclosed in glass, and a stone entrance was provided for the kitchen. The old adjoining dispensary building was moved to a new location on the premises, repaired, and put in use as a storeroom. New servants' quarters replaced a very old building that was demolished, and a new two-stall garage replaced the two old single garages formerly used by the doctors. At the assistant resident physician's cottage, the lānai was enclosed with glass and screen, and new servants' quarters were built. A drying yard was built for the laundry.  

9. Visitors' Cottage

By 1932 a new visitors' cottage was being completed as accommodations for visitors to patients. Two dormitories and a separate dining room-kitchen unit were constructed. The dormitory was a frame building, with asphalt mineral-surfaced roof, nineteen feet wide and forty-nine feet long. It had an ell nineteen feet wide and thirty-four feet long. The separate dining room building was fifteen feet wide and twenty-five feet long.


Illustration 111. Superintendent's residence on Staff Row, 1949. Courtesy Hawaii State Archives, Honolulu.

Illustration 112. Superintendent's house, present staff dining hall and central kitchen, 1983. NPS photo.
Illustration 113. Present Building No. 8, dentist's cottage, also staff visitors' house, no date. Courtesy Kalaupapa Historical Society, Kalaupapa.

Illustration 114. Building No. 8, 1983. The lānai has been enclosed. NPS photo.
Illustration 115. Staff quarters (Building No. 1) and old superintendent's office to right, ca. 1932?

Illustration 117. Resident physician's residence and garage and visitors' cottage, 1932.

Illustration 118. New servants' quarters, resident physician's house, probably mid-1930s. Photos courtesy Kalaupapa Historical Society, Kalaupapa.
Illustration 119. Assistant resident physician's house (Building No. 14), 1983. NPS photo.

Illustration 120. Staff Row laundry, 1938. Courtesy Kalaupapa Historical Society, Kalaupapa.
In 1935/36 the visitors' house, used by visitors to patients on periodic trips to Kalaupapa, comprised a dormitory with separate dressing room facilities for men and women, a kitchen-dining room building, and a visiting pavilion. The Wilcox Memorial Building, located within the area, was remodelled to be used for quarters for certain hospital and other personnel. The kitchen-dining room building was reconditioned and painted and screened throughout. The dormitory was painted and screened on the exterior, all floors and lānais were painted, and drinking fountains installed. A double fence had been built with a hedge growing between the two fence lines, and coconut trees were planted along the shore slope.  

The visiting cage in association with these quarters was discussed in 1937 and it was recommended that it be remodelled for comfort and to prevent the temptation to pass goods back and forth through the screen. It was suggested there be a double screen extending up to the ceiling of the cage. The current visitors' quarters, when released, was to be converted into the new office for the resident superintendent.

10. Community Hall

By June 1934 work was partially completed on remodelling this building. Two washrooms with patent toilets were added back of the stage, the balcony for non-patient spectators was enlarged and a separate entrance and stairway provided for it, and the stages were remodelled.

During 1935/36 the exterior of the recreation hall was painted, the roof stained, a new screen erected, and a canec (?) ceiling.


installed in the lānai. Concrete walks and curbs were laid and the grounds improved.  

11. Business Area  
   a. Post Office and Courthouse Building  

   In January 1932 the Superintendent of Public Works was requested to proceed with preliminary plans for a post office and courthouse building at Kalaupapa on the southwest corner of Beretania and Kamehameha streets. The post office would measure twenty-eight by twenty-two feet and the courthouse twenty-eight by thirty-six feet. The building would have concrete floors, painted concrete tile walls, and a wooden roof with asphalt shingles. A lānai, 8 by 164 feet, would go around the building. Work on the construction of a store building, post office-courtroom, and service station began in May 1934. The buildings were of semi-fireproof construction with concrete floors and concrete hollow tile walls. The tile was manufactured at the site using local black and white sands. The frame post office and courtroom building measured thirty-seven by forty-nine feet.

   In 1935/36, in the courtroom, a platform was added and shelving put in at the judge's office, and on the Beretania Street side a concrete walk was laid. Exterior walls were treated with a waterproof color coat.

   An informational memo in 1938 mentioned the procedure for processing mail in the post office at Kalaupapa. All four corners of envelopes mailed had to be cut off. The envelope was then placed in a prophylactic chamber that looked like a large, maroon ice box. The lid of the box lifted up on hinges. The floor was screen wire,

Illustration 121. Kalaupapa social hall, 1932.

Illustration 122. Social hall, side view, 1932, and milk issue room and lumber shed to right. Photos courtesy Kalaupapa Historical Society, Kalaupapa.
Illustration 123. Fumigation of mail, Kalaupapa. Courtesy Anwei V. Skinsnes.

Illustration 124. U.S. Post Office to left of structure, courthouse in right end, 1984. NPS photo.
about the mesh of window screens. Under the screen was a drawer which held a receptacle resembling a cup. Mail was placed on the screen and the lid dropped shut, making the box airtight. The drawer was then opened and the cup half-filled with potassium permanganate. Formaldehyde was poured into that and the drawer quickly closed. Mail was left in there for eighteen hours. Pouches were likewise treated by the postmaster. The few parcels mailed were deposited at a "branch" post office in the administrative quarters. This was not an official branch, but a separate unit of the regular post office. Mail there was handled by "clean" employees but was also placed in a smaller prophylactic tank just as a precaution. The tank at the main office was on the lānai at the rear of the workroom.42

b. Service Station

In January 1932 estimates were given for a public vehicle service station, twelve by sixteen feet, with a gas pump, compressor, and lubricating oil tanks. As with the other new reinforced concrete buildings, it had concrete floors, painted concrete tile walls, and fireproof roofing.43 It was finished in 1934.

12. Industrial Area

a. Laundry

One of the first new buildings in the rehabilitation of the industrial center was a new central laundry with a boiler plant, which opened to general service July 1, 1931. The structure was sixty feet long by thirty feet wide, and had concrete tile walls, a concrete floor, and a corrugated iron roof supported by steel roof trusses.44 It rendered free laundry service to the homes, the hospital, and out-patients.

42. File Board of Hospitals and Settlement, 1931-1941, Hansen's Disease, Department of Health Records, Hawaii State Archives, Honolulu.

43. Bigelow to Kluegel, January 20, 1932, p. 2. The building eventually measured fourteen by twenty-two feet.

h. **Ice Plant**

Under construction by the end of 1931 was an ice plant with concrete floors and concrete hollow tile walls. The reinforced concrete building was twenty-six feet wide by thirty-five feet long and housed ice-making machinery capable of manufacturing 1,200 pounds of ice every twelve hours. This ice plant and cold storage unit, placed in commission on January 31, 1932, was used to manufacture ice and store foodstuffs for patients, temporary release patients, and kōkuas. It had individual cooling compartments for meats; green vegetables; milk, cream, and butter; and fresh fish. A greater abundance of fresh milk, fruit, and vegetables would be available at the settlement because of the new facility plus the improved transportation of supplies resulting from the new breakwater at the steamer landing and the new airport. A better diet would hopefully be stimulated among the patients living independently in cottages. An average of five tons of ice per week was manufactured and consumed locally, thus eliminating all ice shipments from Honolulu. Homes and the hospital were supplied from the plant by truck delivery, while patients procured ice as desired through the Kalaupapa store where "ice tickets" were issued and charged against the regular weekly ration tickets. Ice tickets could also be purchased by cash if preferred. The refrigeration unit of the plant, containing the main beef room, cooling room, vegetable compartment, fish room, and ice entrance area stored enough dressed beef for a weekly ration issue.

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45. Report to the Governor . . . for the Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 17.
INDUSTRIAL CENTER
KALAUPAPA

1. Poi Factory & Provision Issue Room
2. Electrical Plant
3. Carpenter, Blacksmith & Plumbing Shops
4. Carpenter Shop
5. Paint Shop
6. Kalaupapa Store
7. Merchandise Warehouse
8. Boiler & Engine
9. Landing & Derrick

Existing Buildings □
Proposed Buildings □

Governor's Advisory Committee on Leprosy
H.A. Kluczel, C.E.
August, 1930.

Illustration 127. Interior of laundry, no date.

a new fireproof roof, cement floors throughout, sanitary drains, and screening and partitioning, and made the building conform in color and architectural design with the other buildings of the industrial center. 47

d. General Warehouse

In January 1932 the Board of Hospitals and Settlement approved erection of a general warehouse makai of the new visitors' cottage. 48 The reinforced concrete building measured thirty by sixty feet, with a concrete first floor, concrete tile walls, and corrugated asbestos roofing. It also had a concrete mezzanine floor and outside platform nineteen feet wide and fifty feet long. 49

e. Bakery

Preliminary plans for a bakery at Kalaupapa settlement were also approved by the board in early 1932. The structure would be on Damien Road between the shop building and the poi shop. 50 It would measure twenty-four by fifty feet and have a 140-loaf oven, an 80-quart mixer, a dough trough, and a small refrigerator. As with the other buildings in the industrial center, it would have concrete floors, concrete tile walls, and corrugated asbestos roofing. 51

The former women's clubhouse was remodelled as a bakery and painted during 1935/36, and new bathroom fixtures were installed. A concrete block addition for the oven and a new garage and

47. Ibid., p. 3.


50. Ibid.

laundry were added, and an oil-burning oven, an oil tank, and other bakery equipment were put in.  

f. **Store with Storage Room**

Also part of the industrial center was a thirty-by-sixty-foot store, with a lanai nine by sixty feet and a storage room thirty by thirty-five feet. It had a concrete floor, plastered concrete tile walls, and a wooden roof with asphalt shingles. It was completed in 1934. During 1935/36, a portion of the loading platform was enclosed for a feed room, a rubbish platform was constructed, and concrete walks and curbs were laid. The exterior walls were treated with a waterproof color coat.

g. **Shops Building**

The shop building was completed and accepted in October 1931. It was thirty feet wide by sixty feet long, with concrete tile walls and floor and corrugated asbestos roofing. This fireproof building housed the carpenters, painters, plumbers, blacksmith, and the battery-charging plant. Construction of this important unit made it possible to demolish three unsightly buildings formerly on the site of the new structure.

h. **Corporation Yard: Garage and Gas Pump Additions**

A two-stall extension was added to the garage and a gasoline tank, pump, and shed installed in the corporation yard.

i. **Industrial Center: General**

During 1935/36 the office building was painted on the exterior, one room was remodelled for the electrician's office, and

52. *Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1936*, p. 27.

53. Ibid.

54. Report to the Governor . . . for the Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 15; *Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932*, p. 44.

55. *Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932*, p. 44.
Illustration 131. Food department building, cold storage rooms to left, shops on right, 1949. The ice plant, general warehouse, and shops building were whitewashed by that year.

Illustration 133. Old Kalaupapa bakery, 1932.


concrete walks were laid. A washroom and toilet were provided for non-inmate workers, and cold storage compartments were overhauled. The poi shop and food building was painted inside and out.56

j. Landing and Breakwater

By the end of 1931 a landing dock had been completed and half of the breakwater stone was in place. A specified area around the boat landing was off-limits to patients and kōkuas and was marked off by a fence of iron posts and a steel cable. Work was delayed for some months because the original contractor who began the project in September 1931 failed to continue. The project was then taken over by the bondsmen. Construction was estimated to be finished by mid-July 1932.

13. Additions to Water System

In 1931 a 750,000-gallon steel water storage tank was erected, with pipe connections to the existing reservoir and distribution system.57

14. Aviation Field

By December 1931 the rock knolls on the tip of the peninsula were being leveled in preparation for installation of a landing strip. Framing for a rest house was being erected at the same time. By the end of May 1932, the airport was completed. The runway was 2,000 feet long by 200 to 500 feet wide. Throughout 1934 work on surfacing and sodding the runway was carried on and water pipes laid for irrigation of the grass cover. The frame three-room rest house, eighteen feet wide by twenty-six feet long, had an asphalt shingle roof. Wire fencing enclosed a sixteen-acre field. Although construction was complete, use of the landing field had to await settling and packing of the fills and

56. Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1936, p. 27.
The formal opening of the new Kalaupapa airport took place on August 2, 1933.

15. Church-Related Structures
   a. Catholic

   Plans and specifications had been drawn up and a contract awarded for construction of a one-story frame cottage forty-three feet long by thirty-two feet wide with an ell fifteen feet long by ten feet wide. The shingle-roofed cottage was to be used by the Catholic mission and was completed by June 1931. During fiscal year 1935/36, a laundry was established in one of the cottages on the mission premises to handle the laundry service of the brothers at Baldwin Home and of the resident priest.

   On July 1, 1935, the Damien chapel at Kalawao and its premises and graveyard were declared a public memorial to Father Damien. On January 27, 1936, the remains of Father Damien De Veuster were disinterred from the crypt at the Church of St. Philomena at Kalawao, where they had lain since 1889. King Leopold of Belgium had requested through President Franklin D. Roosevelt that Damien's remains be restored to his native land for enshrinement. Rites at graveside were conducted by Bishop Stephen P. Alencastre. A large gathering of government and church officials was in attendance. The members of the settlement were also present to pay their last respects to the memory of the priest who had labored so long on their behalf.

   b. Calvinist

   The Calvinist parsonage was completed by June 1932. It was a frame building of ell shape, measuring thirty-five feet long and twenty feet wide from one ell, and fourteen feet wide and eighteen feet wide.

58. Report to the Governor . . . for the Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 16; Annual Report of the Superintendent, Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement . . . for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 44.


long from the other ell. It also was covered with an asphalt mineral-surfaced roof. 60

At the Calvinist Church during 1935/36, a patent toilet and washroom were installed in the Sunday School building in a room partitioned off for that purpose. These conveniences replaced the old, unsanitary facilities in the yard that were eliminated. At the parsonage, the entrance lanai was enclosed with storm windows and other necessary repairs made. 61

c. Mormon

On the Mormon church premises a new parsonage was constructed during fiscal year 1935-36, complete with all services. An old cottage on the site was demolished.

16. Miscellaneous
   a. Telephone Line

During 1932 a connection was made from the settlement to the end of the new line of the telephone company, constructed during the year and terminating at the foot of the pali. According to Superintendent Cooke, the first telephone on the island was constructed by John Cassidy for the Territory of Hawai'i through the efforts of Superintendent Jack McVeigh of Kalaupapa settlement. The line extended from the settlement to the valleys of Waikolu, Pelekunu, and Wailau, crossing each of the gulches with a span of wire. It came up the pali through Kala'e and Kualapu'u to Kaunakakai and along the lee shore to Halawa Valley. The phone was necessary to enable McVeigh to place orders for taro supplies. This way he could communicate with people in the windward valleys and in Halawa to arrange the amounts of pa'iai and taro needed and the time the steamer would call at those valleys. 62

60. Report to the Governor . . . for the Year Ending June 30, 1932, p. 17.


62. Cooke, Moolele o Molokai, p. 81.
b. **Ladies' Social Club**

A women's social club was organized in 1932 by Mrs. R.L. Cooke, and it quickly became a social and cultural focal point of the settlement.

c. **Roads**

In 1934 a rock crusher, road roller, and other equipment were purchased. As soon as the rock crushing plant was completed, the road improvement program got underway.

During 1935/36, paved driveways were completed at Bishop, McVeigh, and Bay View homes, at the hospital, store, gas station, and Catholic Church, and in the landing and warehouse area. Parking spaces at the post office, store, office, and hospital were included. Paving was completed on Damien Road, from Puahi Street to the laundry; on Puahi Street from Damien Road to Beretania; on Kamehameha Street from Beretania to the cattle guard at Pāpa'aloa; on Beretania Street from Damien Road to Kauilani Street; and on McVeigh Road from Beretania past the McVeigh Home, including the approaches to the corporation yard and staff garages. 63

d. **Grounds Improvement**

During 1935/36 fiscal year, a plant nursery was developed by clearing two house lots and demolishing old buildings and trees in the area, followed by construction of fencing gates, a lath house, a tool house, and toilet, providing a suitable place and facilities for the care and propagation of plants. A large number of trees and other plants were shipped in from Honolulu, including 1,000 banana sets and 2,000 young coconut trees from Kaua'i. Available local material was also gathered at the nursery for future use. Planting was carried out in various public places, and trees and shrubs were distributed for use in patients' gardens. 64

64. Ibid.
Illustration 139. Mormon Church, no date. The structure to the left might be the 1904-era chapel erected at Kalaupapa. Courtesy Kalaupapa Historical Society, Kalaupapa.
Illustration 140. Construction camp on beach, 1950s. Possibly the dining room-kitchen building that was added in the mid-1930s.

Illustration 141. Torii gate, Japanese clubhouse, no date. Photos courtesy Kalaupapa Historical Society, Kalaupapa.
Illustration 142. Old Kalaupapa courthouse, 1934.

Illustration 143. Chinese clubhouse, no date. Photos courtesy Kalaupapa Historical Society, Kalaupapa.
e. Beach Camp

During the 1935/36 fiscal year, the old beach construction camp was overhauled, a dining room-kitchen building was added, and improved facilities were provided. 65

f. Clubhouses

(1) Japanese

At the Japanese clubhouse during 1935/36, improvements consisted of a torii gate and an addition to the main building.

(2) Filipino

During 1935/36 the old courthouse used as the Filipino clubhouse was moved a short distance. A new roof, toilet, kitchen, and cesspool were added, and the building was painted throughout. 66

g. Chinese Junk "Foo-po II"

On October 25, 1935, Captain Eric de Bisschop and a Mr. Tatibonet were brought ashore from the Chinese junk Foo-po II and cared for at staff quarters. They were seriously ill from lack of food and water and had put in at Kalaupapa in distress. The morning of the twenty-seventh, the mooring lines of the junk broke and the vessel was wrecked.

h. Pali Station

In early 1936 a barrier was built at the top of the pali trail, a cabin was erected, and a phone was installed.

17. Additional Building Programs

The rehabilitation program for Kalaupapa, Kalihi Hospital, Kalihi Boys' Home, and Kapalani Girls' Home was carried on actively and continuously between July 1, 1931, and June 30, 1938. The execution of

65. Ibid., p. 27.
the program followed the original policies and plans adopted by the Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement upon its organization. In the summer of 1937 it was reported that a two-year building and improvement program for Kalaupapa settlement and Kalihi Hospital had been made possible by a legislative appropriation of $225,000. The program would begin early in June. Of the total sum, $200,000 would be spent at Kalaupapa on twenty-eight projects. The work would be carried on by the board under Kluegel's supervision. One of the major items was $43,000 for roads, including new equipment and repairs at the crusher plant, a continuation of grading and paving in the settlement, at Puahi bridge, and at the airport. Included in the work would be construction of fourteen new patient cottages; expenditures on the water system and electricity distribution; improvements at Bishop, Bay View, Baldwin, and McVeigh homes; and further improvements at other service structures in the settlement. Other additions would be barracks for nonpatient employees; tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts; a cemetery; a non-patient infirmary; and further landscaping.67

A report of outstanding improvements completed under the improvement program at Kalaupapa during fiscal year 1937/38 mentioned completion of new features, additions, and improvements to the water system; extensive planting; improved grounds; construction of barracks for nonpatient workmen; an addition to the general warehouse exclusively for patients; a new corporation yard and garage; a new materials shed and concrete hollow tile plant and rock crusher; and remodelling and improvement of about forty patient cottages.68 Also continued was the demolition of buildings of various classes not fit for further use.


C. Ernie Pyle Visit to Kalaupapa

The famous correspondent Ernie Pyle visited Kalaupapa in December 1937 and January 1938 and presented his experiences there in several widely-read newspaper columns that were later revised as one chapter in his book *Home Country*, printed in 1947. He mentioned the high, padlocked gate at the top of the pali trail, with barbed wire stretched around it, regulating traffic onto and off the peninsula. A cabin stood just above the gate, where a watchman was stationed, in contact with the settlement by telephone. Pyle also mentions the Japanese servants quartered behind the staff homes. Staff Row was overshadowed by huge coconut trees, and the homes were almost hidden by banana trees and banks of flowers. A sheriff and five policemen, either patients or ex-patients, enforced the few settlement rules regarding firearms, fighting, profanity on the streets, and petty thievery. A wide variety of business activities kept the patients busy. Six of them were cowboys, tending the settlement herd of 300 cattle, the meat going to the patients. Some patients grouped together and caught fish to sell to the settlement. Others did carpentry work and some functioned as nursing assistants. Four or five ran their own small stores, and independent shopkeeping was encouraged. (The advent of electric current encouraged patient labor by providing an incentive to buy appliances such as radios, electric ice boxes, and stoves.) All patients received twenty dollars a year, in quarterly installments, from the government for pocket money. Those who received extra money from families had beach cottages for weekend use.69

69. Pyle columns, December 27 and 29, 1937.