

## PREFACE

Perhaps few groups of Hawai'ian people have been as analyzed and described as the residents of Kalaupapa settlement, a colony for leprosy patients established in the nineteenth century on the north shore of the island of Moloka'i. While previous studies have been primarily sociological in nature, concentrating on the plight, problems, and concerns of these people, this Historic Resource Study of Kalaupapa National Historical Park has been written for two rather different reasons. First, the area is new to the National Park System, and although its general development has been traced in standard Hawai'ian histories, much of the detail necessary for proper park management, interpretation, and preservation has been lacking. The park contains an amazing variety of prehistoric archeological ruins and historic buildings at scattered locations across the peninsula and in varying states of deterioration. Establishing priorities for stabilization, restoration, interpretation, and adaptive use requires the collection and evaluation of all data necessary to establish levels of significance. Second, the National Park Service is mandated by E.O. 11593, the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980, Service Management Policies, and by former Director Russ Dickenson's Staff Directive 81-1 to identify significant resources and thus avoid the potential for serious adverse effects on them. This meant that all 400+ public buildings, support facilities, patient homes, and miscellaneous structures on the peninsula had to be studied.

This study provides a narrative history of the Kalaupapa peninsula on Moloka'i, beginning with the arrival of leprosy patients in 1866. Perusal of kingdom and territorial records has provided minute details on the early Kalawao and Kalaupapa settlements, and Board of Health records for later years provide plentiful data on later rehabilitation work at Kalaupapa settlement. The information found in these primary sources has been supplemented by many useful secondary sources, maps, and photographs.

The National Park Service is now involved in making decisions on stabilization and restoration work, so that much of the study emphasizes construction dates and building use in order to determine levels of significance of sites and structures. Less emphasis has been put on oral history research, although hopefully this report provides an historical context which can be enhanced by oral history and which will place the statements of informants in their proper perspective.

It should be noted that the chronological divisions the writer has established to describe the physical growth of the leprosy settlement vary somewhat from those in the 1975 National Register form, because it is believed these more accurately reflect the course of development. The building construction dates in the final evaluation and recommendations chapter were found in the Department of Health Administrator's office at Kalaupapa settlement, in a document entitled "Memorandum No. 76-12 re: Verification of State Owned, leased, and rented buildings on Molokai," May 1976, and from a facilities inventory of August 1980. Sometimes these dates vary a year or so from those given in Board of Health reports. Building numbers throughout are keyed to the aerial photograph of Kalaupapa settlement found in Laura E. Soulliere and Henry G. Law's architectural evaluation of Kalaupapa settlement published by the National Park Service in 1979 and reprinted in this document as Historical Base Map 8.

Writing this report has been a wonderful experience, opening up a whole new research field for this historian. Personnel at the Hawaii State Archives in Honolulu, especially Mary Ann Akao and Richard Thompson, were extremely helpful and patient during my numerous requests for research help and for xeroxing and photographic services. I would also like to thank Charles Okino of the State Department of Accounting and General Services; Irene Letoto of the Damien Museum and Archives; personnel of the Bishop Museum; Barbara E. Dunn of the Hawaiian Historical Society; Mary Jane Knight of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library, Brother John McCluskey of Chaminade University of Honolulu, and personnel of the State Department of Health in Honolulu. Invaluable and constant help was extended by Anwei V. Skinsnes of the

Leprosy Atelier of Leahi Hospital and by Bruce J. Doneux of the Kalaupapa Historical Society and project director of the Kalaupapa Historical Collection Project. Toshiaki Inouye, state administrator at Kalaupapa, was friendly, courteous, and most helpful in putting his records at my disposal. And finally I would like to thank all the patients at the settlement who accepted me graciously and expressed interest in my work.

The primary National Park Service representative at the settlement is Henry G. Law, who functions as superintendent, tour guide for Service VIP visitors, liaison with the patients, NPS spokesman, and general factotum. A more personable, responsible, and competent person could not have been selected for this post. Henry's interest in just about everything and everybody and his sincere dedication to the National Park Service mission make working with him a most enjoyable experience. Also appreciated for their help and interest in this project are Bryan Harry, Pacific Area Director, NPS, Honolulu, and his staff archeologist Gary F. Somers. Several people at the Denver Service Center of the National Park Service helped prepare this report for publication. I would especially like to thank Nancy Arwood, Lou Tidd, Jan Petrukitas, and Joan Manson for their expert typing of the text and John Myers for his meticulous mapwork. Finally I would like to thank Tom Mulhern, Chief, Park Historic Preservation, and Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, for their encouragement, assistance, and unflinching interest in this project. They, as well as all Park Service visitors to the peninsula, have been greatly impressed by the friendliness of the people, the magnificence of the scenery, and the international significance of the area.

Kalawao and Kalaupapa settlements stand today as monuments to man's ability to overcome spiritually and physically one of the most distressing public health problems in world history. Their importance lies in their relationship to major historical themes, such as general community values and past and future public and mental health research and attitudes. The history of the Kalaupapa peninsula leprosy patients is an

integral part of the story of the Hawai'ian Islands and of leprosy in Hawai'i and the world. The disease was still a mystery in the nineteenth century. No one understood its origin, methods of transmission, or cure. Isolation was still the most common form of treatment to try to prevent the spread of the disease. In the belief that leprosy was incurable, patients were abandoned in colonies, usually with only missionaries to look after their welfare. The kingdom of Hawai'i, which recognized the epidemic proportions of leprosy and was originally faced with the problem of stemming its spread in the islands, charted an unknown course in the care and treatment of leprosy patients. With a continuing financial commitment to the project and with the aid of dedicated clergy of several faiths and other selfless individuals, the government of Hawai'i was able to gradually improve the lifestyle and medical treatment of these unfortunate individuals.

Biblical references to leprosy greatly influenced Western attitudes toward the disease and created the stigma for its victims of being unclean and morally impure. Because of its unfortunate connotations, leprosy has sometimes been referred to as "Hansen's Disease," after Gerhard H.A. Hansen, discoverer of the leprosy bacillus. Because the word "leprosy" has been in use for so many years, the International Leprosy Association still condones its use, although the objectionable term "leper" is avoided. It cannot, however, be expunged from the historical record and will occasionally be used in this study in direct quotations.

The remaining patients at Kalaupapa are special and their experiences as leprosy victims are unique. Their history is

a record of the human experiences of a very special population--a population who because of their disease and because of the public reaction to their disease have lived lives that the rest of us haven't. What we learn from this record of human experience will at its best serve to enrich our own lives and those of the generations succeeding us. We will learn to be exceptionally sensitive to the idea of social banishment; we will learn, above all, that human dignity is worth preserving.

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1. Ted Gugelyk and Milton Bloombaum, Ma'i Ho'oka'awale: The Separating Sickness (Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1979), p. 17.

This study is dedicated to the residents of Kalaupapa, and I hope all those who have come to know and admire the settlement and its people will find it of interest. I hope, too, that it will be perceived as an honest and fair accounting of a significant period in Hawaiian history.