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COUNTY OF KAUAI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
3021 UMI STREET
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766
April 18, 1990

OFF. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL

Environment Quality Commission
465 South King Street, Room 104
Honolulu, HI 96813

Gentlemen:

RE: NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
LIHUE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII

The County of Kauai has determined that an EIS is not required and files a Negative Declaration for the Lihue Neighborhood Center project.

Enclosed is a copy of the Negative Declaration of an Environmental Assessment in support of our determination.

Very truly yours,

KIYOJI MASAKI
Acting County
Engineer

GY:eo

Enclosures

1990-05-08-KA-FEA

FILE COPY

NEGATIVE DECLARATION
OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
ALIHUE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

PREPARED FOR:
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
COUNTY OF KAUAI

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
LIHUE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
ISENBERG PARK
LIHUE
ISLAND OF KAUAI

The proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. This Notice of Determination, together with the supporting environmental assessment, are being filed as a Negative Declaration.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for the

LIHUE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Isenberg Park
Lihue
Island of Kauai

Prepared for the

Department of Public Works
County of Kauai

SUMMARY

A. Project Description

The proposed Lihue Neighborhood Center is planned to be located within the County's Isenberg Park, Lihue, Kauai.

The Department of Public Works proposes to construct a Neighborhood Center consisting of a main hall, restrooms, kitchen, office, and several storage rooms.

The purpose of the project is to provide an expansion of indoor facilities for recreational, instructional, and meeting uses. There is an existing facility that provides the above uses, but the existing facility is over 50 years old and cannot accommodate all the current needs of the community.

B. Existing Conditions

The project site is approximately 9.1632 acres in size. Two baseball diamonds and several playground apparatus are on the site. The site is relatively flat covered with grass and several trees around its perimeter.

C. Environmental Impacts

Short-term impacts on ambient air quality, noise levels, circulation, and flora and fauna are anticipated. These impacts are construction related and can be mitigated by appropriate measures discussed in this environmental document. The use of the Neighborhood Center is anticipated to provide long-term social benefits to the community.

D. Determination

The proposed project will not result in significant adverse short or long-term environmental impacts.

In conclusion to the evidence presented herein, it is this report's determination that this proposed project receive a Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact.

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SECTION 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Site Description

The project site is located in the town of Lihue on the island of Kauai as shown in Figure 1-1. Lihue is located along Kuhio Highway and is considered as the Civic Center of the island.

The proposed project will be sited within the existing Isenberg Park. The 9.1632 acre park is on the Mauka side of Kuhio Highway at the corner of Eono and Noi Streets (see Figure 1-2).

Existing recreation facilities and equipment at the park includes baseball and soccer/football fields, backstops, dugout, floodlights, basketball courts, and a playground apparatus (sliding board, teeter-totter, and swings) area. A comfort station occurs near the northwestern corner of the park.

B. Proposed Project

The Department of Public Works, County of Kauai, proposes to construct a multi-purpose neighborhood center at the existing Isenberg Park. A main hall, storage rooms, restrooms, kitchen, and an office are planned for the Center. The design will conform to the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) for adequate measures to accommodate handicapped accessibility. The existing parking lot will be reconstructed and the site will be receive landscaping to conform to the surroundings. The proposed site plan is shown in Figure 1-3.

The primary purpose of the project is to provide indoor facilities for recreational, instructional, and meeting uses. Currently the existing facility that

provides similar uses is over 50 years old and cannot accommodate the current needs of the community. The County has long supported the idea of "neighborhood centers" as a focal point of the community where community events, meetings, and organized programs can be held.

C. Project Cost and Funding

The cost of the project is estimated at \$700,000 and will be funded with matching funds from the County of Kauai and the State of Hawaii.

D. Project Scheduling

Construction of the proposed Center is estimated to take 9 - 12 months and will commence after all necessary approvals have been obtained. It is anticipated that construction may start during the latter part of 1990.

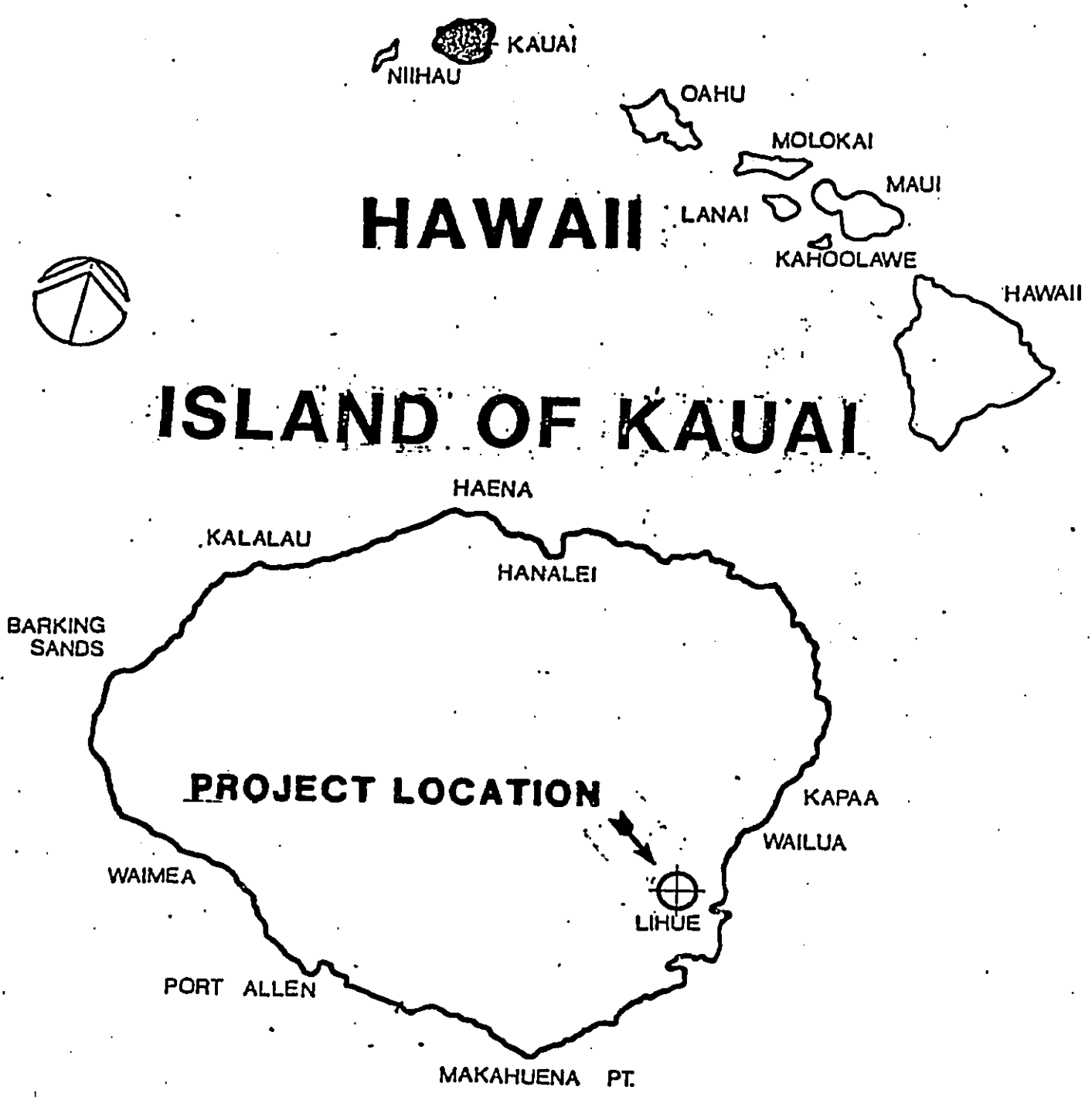


Figure 1-1

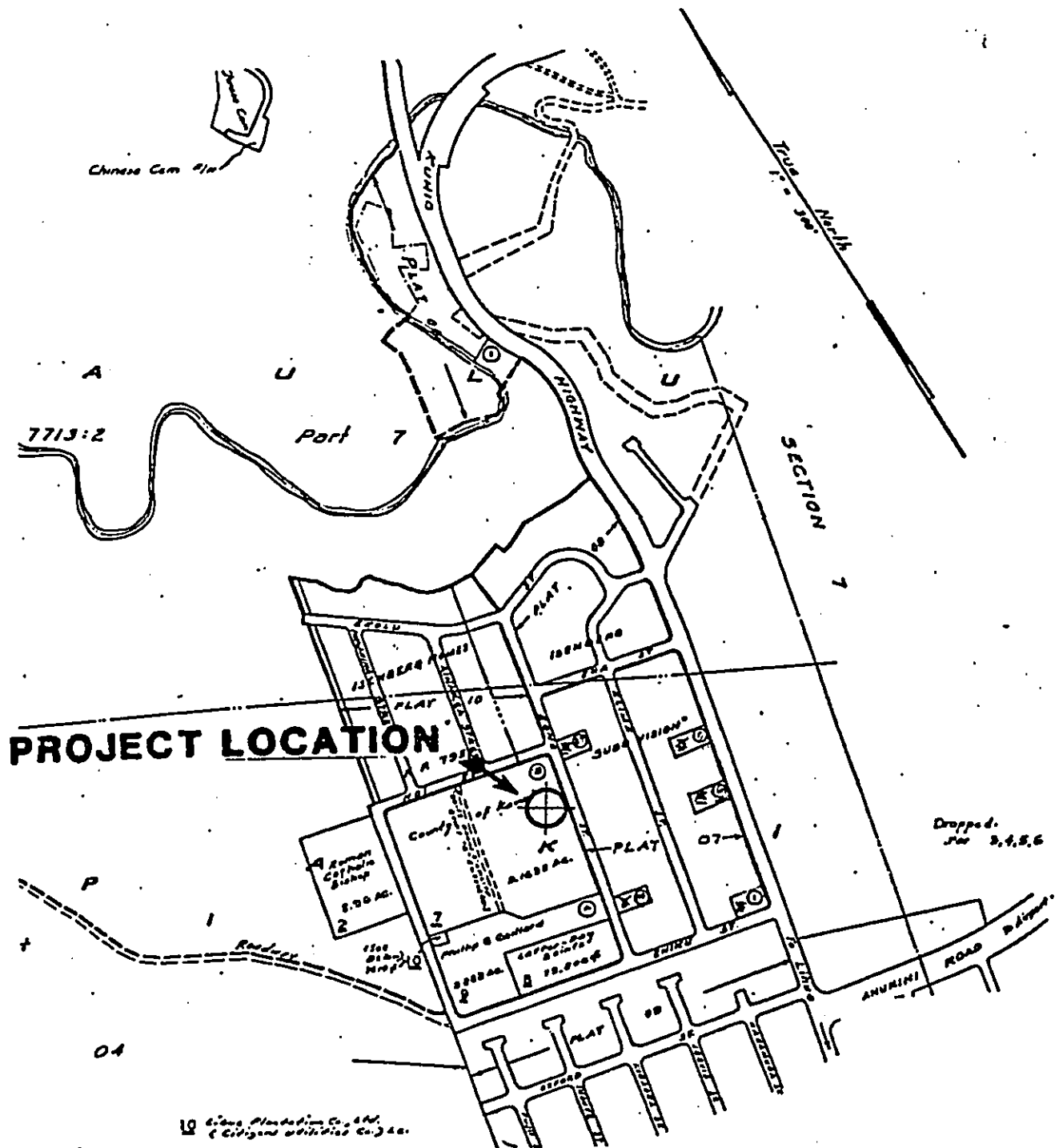
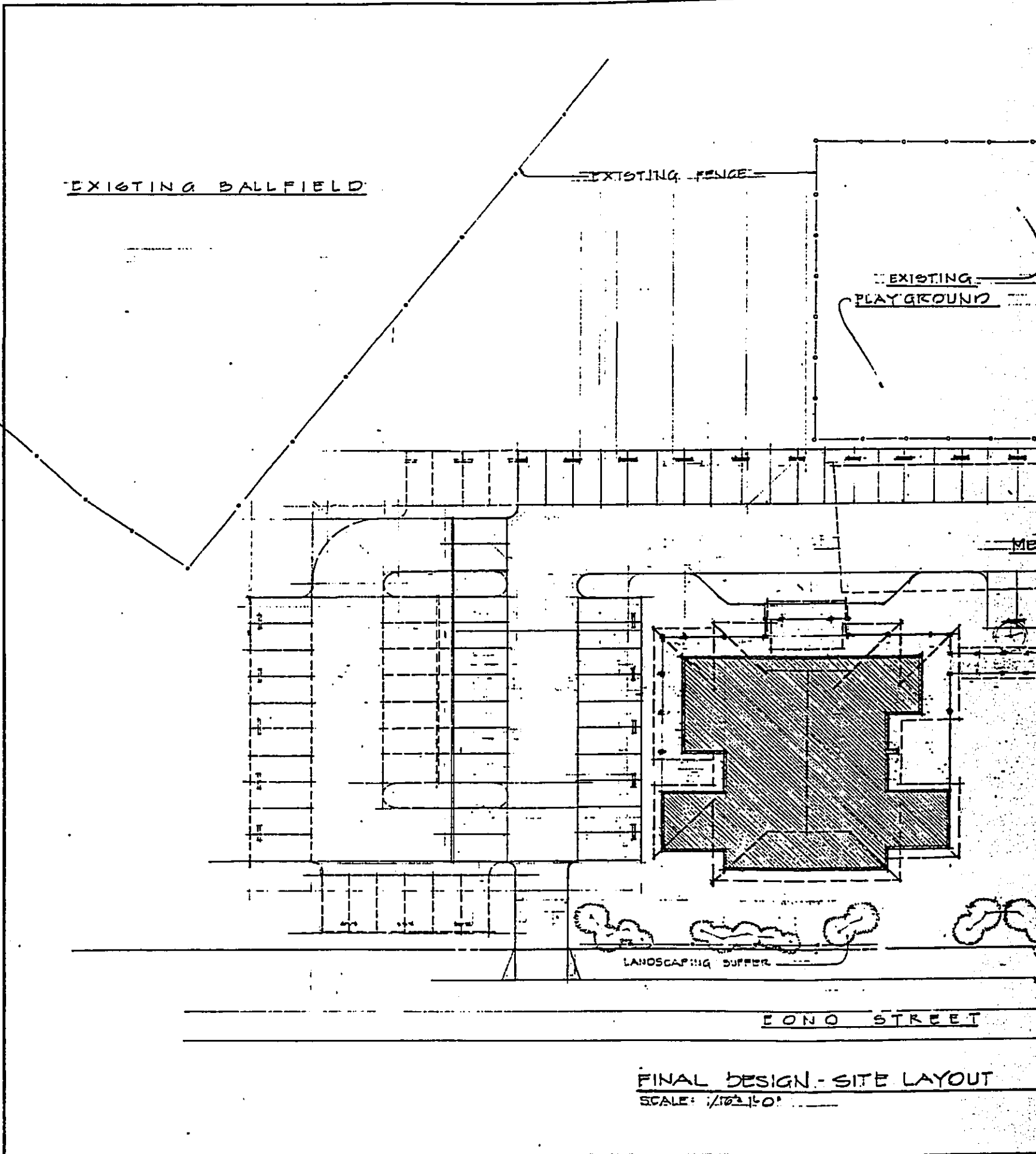
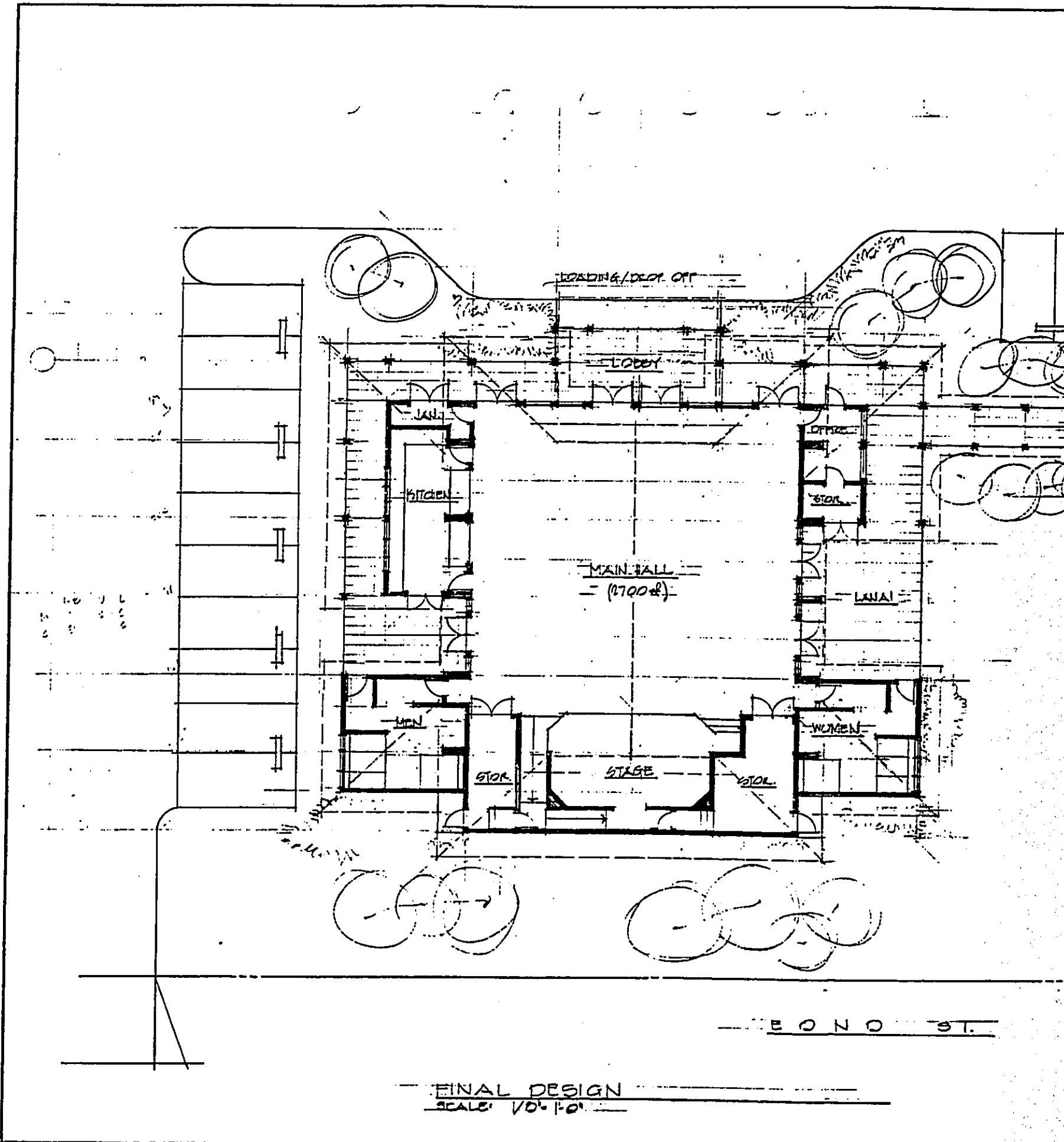


Figure 1-2



FINAL DESIGN - SITE LAYOUT
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

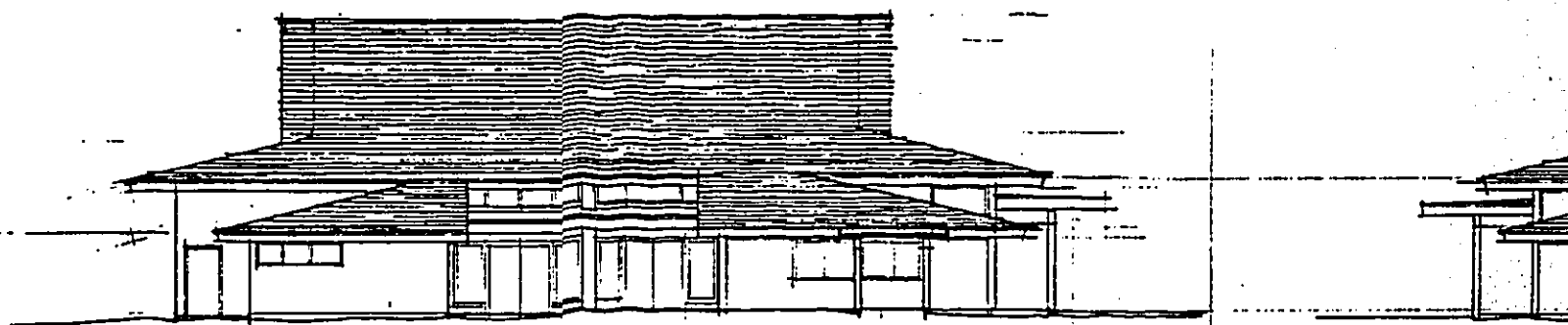


FINAL DESIGN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

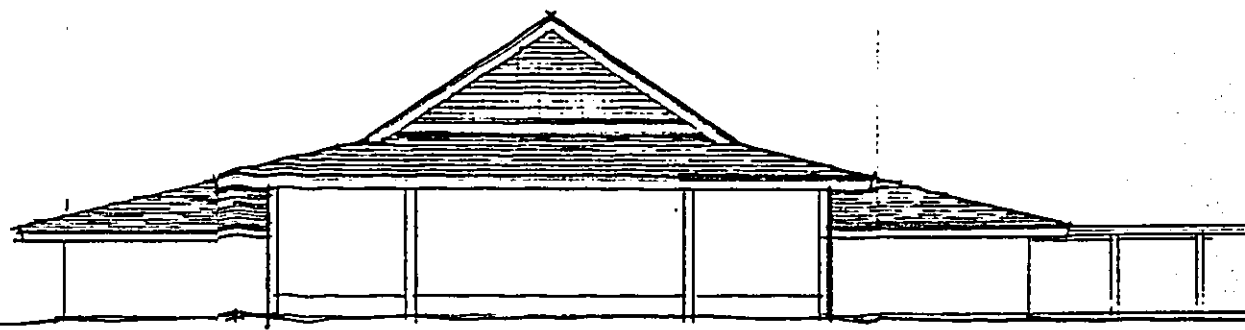
E. ON ST.



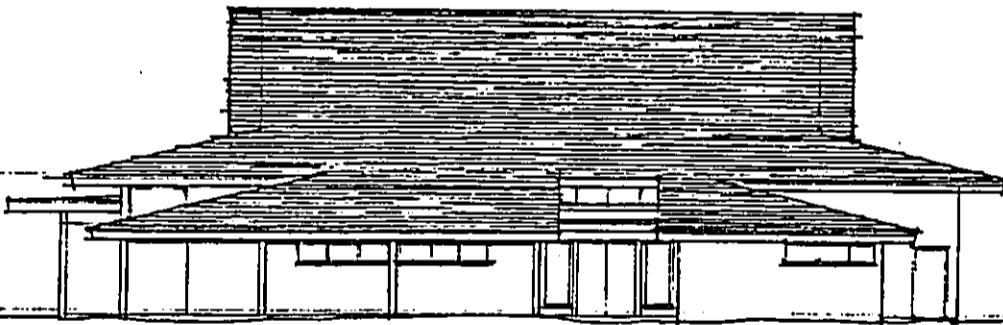
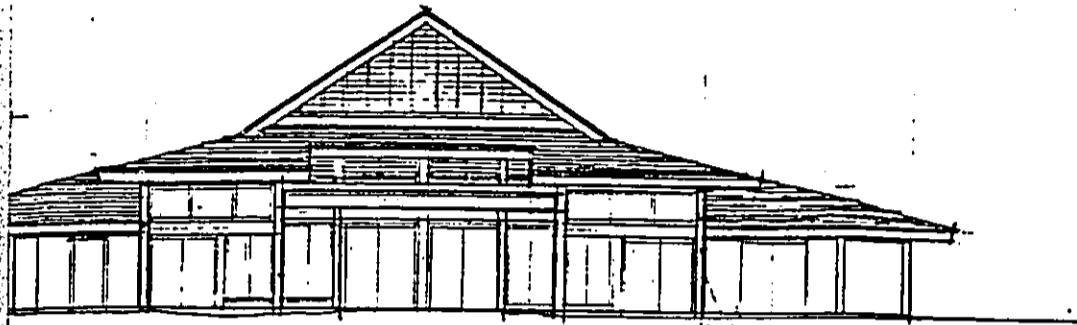
ENTRY ELEVATION



LEFT ELEVATION



EONO STREET ELEVATION



RIGHT ELEVATION

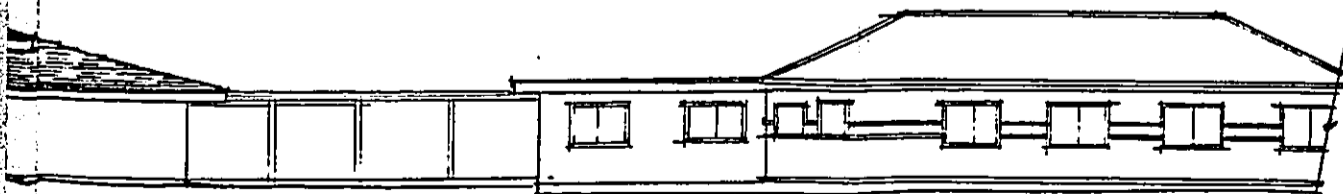


Figure 1-5

REVISIONS	DATE

LIHUE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
FINAL

MITCHELL
 MITCHELL
 & ASSOCIATES
 INC.
 1275 KANOA ROAD
 SUITE 210
 KANOA, HAWAII
 96751
 (808) 885-1100
 FAX (808) 885-1101

DATE: 10/10/90
 DRAWN BY: J.P.O.
 DRAWN:
 SHEET: 9
 OF 4 SHEETS

SECTION 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Climate

Climate conditions at Lihue can be described as cool, mild, and often times damp. The mean annual soil temperature is 73° F. The tradewinds from the northeast quadrant prevail 80 percent of the time at velocities averaging 8-18 knots. Annual precipitation ranges between 40-60 inches.

B. Topography

The site is relatively flat. The site lies approximately 230 feet above sea level and its contour varies by no more than ± 1 foot.

C. Soils

Soils at the project site are classified as Puhi silty clay loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes by the Soil Conservation Service. In a representative profile the surface layer is dusky red silty clay loam about 12 inches thick. The subsoil, more than 48 inches thick, is dark red and dark reddish-brown silty clay loam. The surface layer is strongly acid. The subsoil is slightly acid to medium acid. Permeability is moderately rapid. Runoff is slow, and the erosion hazard is no more than slight. The available water capacity is about 1.5 inches per foot of soil. In places roots penetrate to a depth of 5 feet or more.

D. Flora/Fauna

Flora observed within the project site consist of introduced (common) trees, ornamentals, and grasses. The playing field is covered by Bermuda grass (Cynodon dactylon). Trees near the project site include immature shower trees.

Fauna were not observed at the site, but domesticated animals such as dog and cat are probably quite common. Common birds such as barred dove, common mynah, and house sparrow were observed during the field survey.

E. Archaeology

There are no recorded sites of archaeological significance within the Park.

F. Land Use Designations

The town of Lihue is classified Urban by the State Land Use Commission. The project site is general planned Park and zoned Open by the County.

Commercial activities are found along Kuhio Highway. Residential dwellings surround the site on the north eastern and southern borders of the Park. There are agricultural lands and a catholic school to the west.

G. Air Quality

Air quality data is not recorded at the site. The nearest State Department of Health air quality monitoring station is at Lihue Airport but the data is not representative of ambient air quality at the site.

There are no significant point sources of pollution (cane mills, for example) within or near the project site. The primary source of pollution may be exhaust emissions from vehicles traveling Kuhio Highway and adjacent roadways. As indicated in a latter section of this EIA, traffic is quite "light" fronting the Park.

Although exhaust emission monitoring was not conducted for this assessment, it is anticipated that these emissions do not exceed State ambient air quality standards.

H. Noise

The existing noise environment is influenced by several elements. During the field survey, sounds of nature -- the chirping of birds and rustling of trees -- predominated. However, noise from passing vehicles -- cars as well as trailer-trucks -- on nearby streets is audible throughout the site as there are no barriers (vegetative or man-made) to reduce traffic noise.

Recreation sounds such as children playing, spectator reactions during baseball games or practices also influence noise levels. Such recreational noises, however, appear to be acceptable to the nearby residents.

I. Public Facilities

1. Transportation

Eono Street and Noi Street are two-lane residential roads.

2. Parking

There are approximately 22 off-street parking stalls in the existing paved parking area fronting the existing Neighborhood Center. The proposed project intends to reconstruct and expand the parking area to accommodate approximately 70 stalls.

3. Drainage

There is no developed drainage system for the Park. Runoff ponds on the site until it percolates into the ground.

4. Water

Water service is provided by the County Water Department.

5. Wastewater

Wastewater disposal in Lihue is accommodated by sewer. The existing Neighborhood Center has sewer connections on Eono Street.

6. Electricity

Power for the existing Neighborhood Center is provided by Kauai Electric Company via overhead electricity lines.

SECTION 3

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES TO MINIMIZE THEIR IMPACT

A. Alteration of Landform

Portions of the site will be grubbed and graded but significant impacts are not anticipated on the natural contour of the land. Trenching and excavating are required for connecting utility lines.

Land alterations are planned to handle storm runoff and on-site ponding. All land altering activities will adhere strictly to the County grading ordinance in order to mitigate potential impacts.

B. Air Quality

Ambient air quality will be affected by dust raised during site preparation activities and by exhaust fumes from construction equipment. Fugitive dust (wind borne dust) will be controlled by water sprinkling or other dust palliative as required. Combustion discharges from construction equipment are not anticipated to cause significant environmental impacts and will be minimized by the proper maintenance and operation of all petroleum fueled equipment. All activities will be performed in compliance with the Air Pollution Control Regulations (Chapter 43) of the State Department of Health.

C. Noise

Noise will be generated during all phases of construction activities. Conventional construction equipment will be used and noise will be generated in the ranges presented in Figure 3-1. General construction noise is unavoidable and will be limited to regular working hours.

Noise will be created by activities taking place at the Center. However, for the most part this noise is anticipated to be contained within the building. Such noise is not anticipated to be excessive or annoying because of the passive activities which will take place in the building.

Noise from some concert or banquet activities in the hall may be audible beyond the perimeter of the site. This is an unavoidable consequence but should be mitigated by the design of a solid building wall along the Eono Street boundary of the site. The solid building wall is intended to screen out noise generated within the Neighborhood Center by its users.

D. Flora/Fauna

Flora and fauna will not be adversely affected. Only a portion of the site will be affected by construction and vegetation. That portion consists primarily of grass and common ornamentals which are found throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Following construction, the site will be landscaped and replanted. The type of plantings have not been determined at this time, but are intended to match the surroundings.

E. Public Facilities

Adverse impacts on water and power services are not anticipated. Construction plans will be submitted to the appropriate government agency (or utility company) for their review and approval.

F. Circulation

Traffic circulation patterns around the site may be affected during construction. The general contractor will be responsible for warning motorists of pending construction, posting warning notices or signs, and if necessary, stationing flagpersons to direct traffic.

G. Land Use

The proposed project is consistent with the park use of the site. It is also compatible with the land use designations of the site and actual uses surrounding the site. Prior to construction, a planning use and zoning permit need to be approved by the Kauai Planning Commission.

H. Social

A positive social impact on the community is anticipated. The Center can be used for recreation activities, community meetings, education purposes, and social functions. Currently, existing facilities in the community are inadequate for these types of activities. Moreover, because it is an indoor facility, the Center can be used during inclement weather. The outdoor recreational value of the Park will not be adversely affected. Open space areas will remain with enough space available for continuation of existing uses.

FIGURE 3-1
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT NOISE RANGES

		NOISE LEVEL (dba) AT 50 FT					
		60	70	80	90	100	110
EARTH MOVING	COMPACTERS (ROLLERS)		H				
	FRONT LOADERS						
	BACKHOES						
	TRACTORS						
	SCRAPERS, GRADERS						
	PAVERS				H		
	TRUCKS						
MATERIALS HANDLING	CONCRETE MIXERS						
	CONCRETE PUMPS			H			
	CRANES (MOVABLE)						
	CRANES (DERRICK)				H		
STATIONARY	PUMPS		H				
	GENERATORS						
	COMPRESSORS						
IMPACT EQUIPMENT	PNEUMATIC WRENCHES						
	JACK HAMMERS AND ROCK DRILLS						
	PILE DRIVERS (PEAKS)						
OTHER	VIBRATOR						
	SAWS						

Note: Based on Limited Available Data Samples

Source: Noise From Construction Equipment and Operations Building Equipment, and Home Appliances, EPA, 1971

Figure 3-1

SECTION 4

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

The only real alternatives to the proposed action is not action or postponing the action. A no action alternative would deprive Lihue residents of a needed neighborhood center. A no action alternative would preclude the environmental impacts discussed in this document as existing conditions will continue to prevail. Most importantly, the benefits of a neighborhood center, as a focal point of the community, would be foregone.

Postponing the action does not obviate environmental impacts. Impacts similar to those described in this document will occur at the time the project is initiated.

Alternative siting of the Center within the Park is not a real alternative. Several changes to the original site plan have been made as a result of consultation between the architects and the community. The site plan presented in this document represents the layout and facilities desired by residents of Lihue.

SECTION 5

DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The scope of the project was discussed thoroughly with the consulting architects, M&A, Inc.. Community organizations and County of Kauai agencies were contacted for information pertaining to the project site.

Based on information provided by the above, a description of the proposed project was prepared and potential environmental impacts assessed. Prior to the preparation of this environmental document, a presentation of the proposed site plan was made to the residents of Lihue. As a result of that meeting, several changes have been made to the plan in response to concerns over potential circulation and noise problems.

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED OR CONTACTED

County

Planning Department
Department of Public Works
Division of Parks
Engineering Section

Private

Lihue Community Association

SECTION 6

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Environmental Quality Commission's Environmental Impact Statement Regulations contains criteria for evaluating whether an action may have significant effects on the environment. The relationship of the proposed project to these criteria are discussed below.

1. involves an irrevocable commitment to loss or destruction of any natural or cultural resource;

No.

2. curtails the range of beneficial uses of the environment;

No. It is believed that the proposed project is a better use of the site.

3. conflicts with the State's long-term environmental policies or goals and guidelines as expressed in Chapters 342 and 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and any revisions thereof and amendments thereto, Court decisions or Executive Orders;

No.

4. substantially affects the economic or social welfare of the community or State;

It is believed that the social welfare of the community will be improved. Currently, facilities are inadequate or unavailable to accommodate the types of uses that can be held at the proposed Center. Additionally, the proposed project is in keeping with the County's concept of "neighborhood centers" as a focal point of the community.

5. substantially affects economic or sociological activities;
It is anticipated that the action will not adversely affect economic activities. Social activities should be enhanced. The proposed project provides a needed indoor facility that should have long-term social and recreational benefits for the community.
6. involves substantial secondary impacts, such as population changes or effects on public facilities;
No.
7. involves a substantial degradation of environmental quality;
No.
8. is individually limited but cumulatively has considerable effect upon the environment or involves a commitment for larger actions;
No.
9. substantially affects a rare, threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or habitat;
No.
10. detrimentally affects air or water quality or ambient noise levels;
No. Short-term construction related efforts (noise, dust) are anticipated, but can be mitigated by the measures discussed in this document. Long-term noise impacts can be mitigated by providing buffer landscaping that would screen out much of the sounds emanating from the Center by its users.

11. affects an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal waters.

No.

Base on the above criteria, the proposed project will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is in not required, and in conclusion to the evidence presented herein, it is this report's determination that this proposed project receive a Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact.