

McBryde Plantation Camps Reunion

**Celebrate!
Commemorate!
Participate!**

Honor the legacy of our elders who came from the
Motherland and made Hawaii their home!

Kumusta!

- Gerald Hirata
- McBryde, Wahiawa Camp 2, House #14
- Camp 2 was mostly Filipino
- I am Filipino: not by immigration or conception
 - by visitation
 - by infatuation
 - by injection
 - by imitation



Malapascua Island, Cebu, Philippines
Sitting next to a banca, double outrigger canoe

McBryde Sugar Company 1899-1996

Alexander & Baldwin

To house its workers, the
company built “camps”
along the Wahiawa gulch

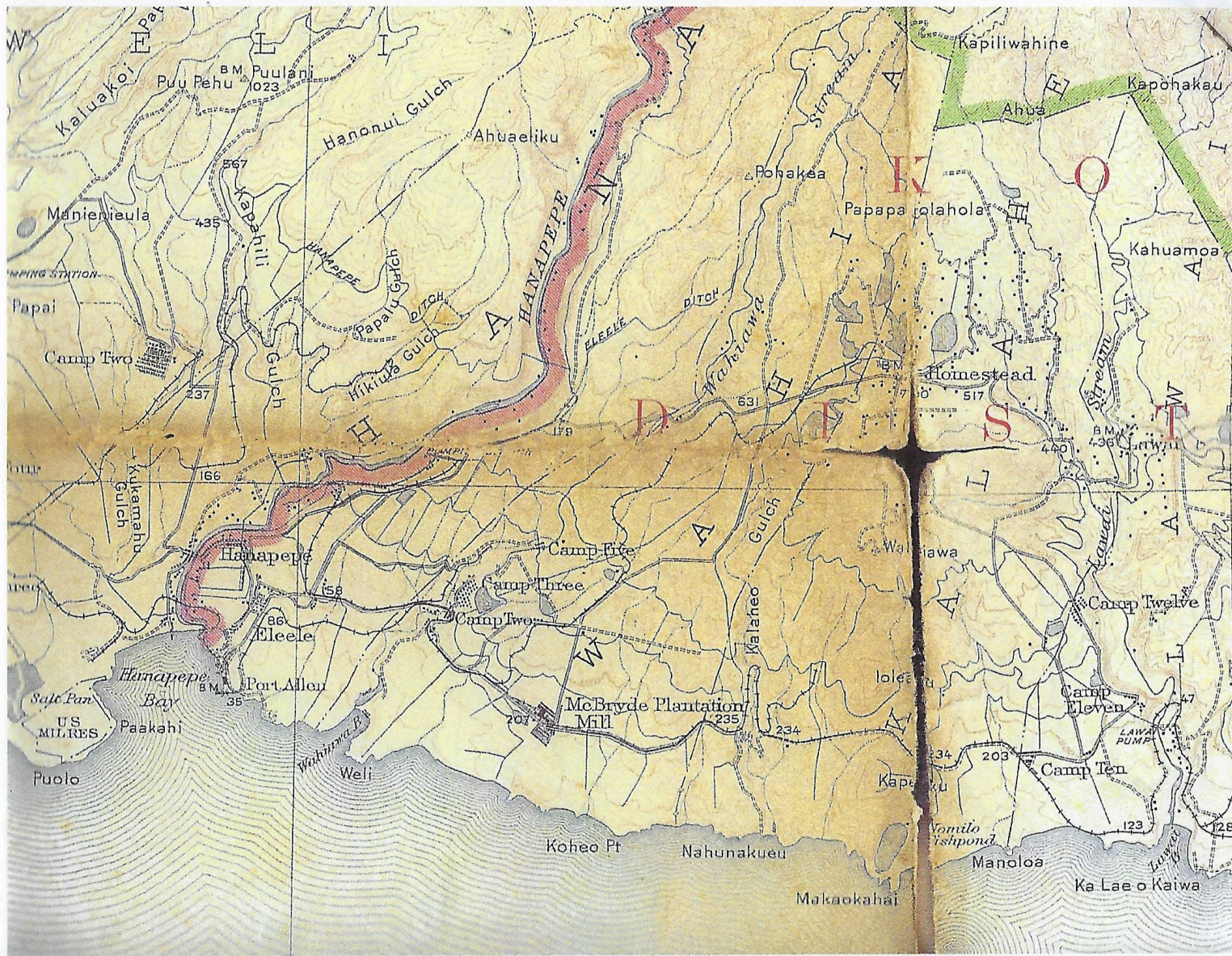
Starting at Wahiawa Bay,
up the gulch

Camp 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Nearby heading east

Camp 6, 7, 8, and 9 (Numila,
Spanish Camp)





Heading east on the main
haul cane road to Kukui'ula,
Camp 10 (Lawai Stable),

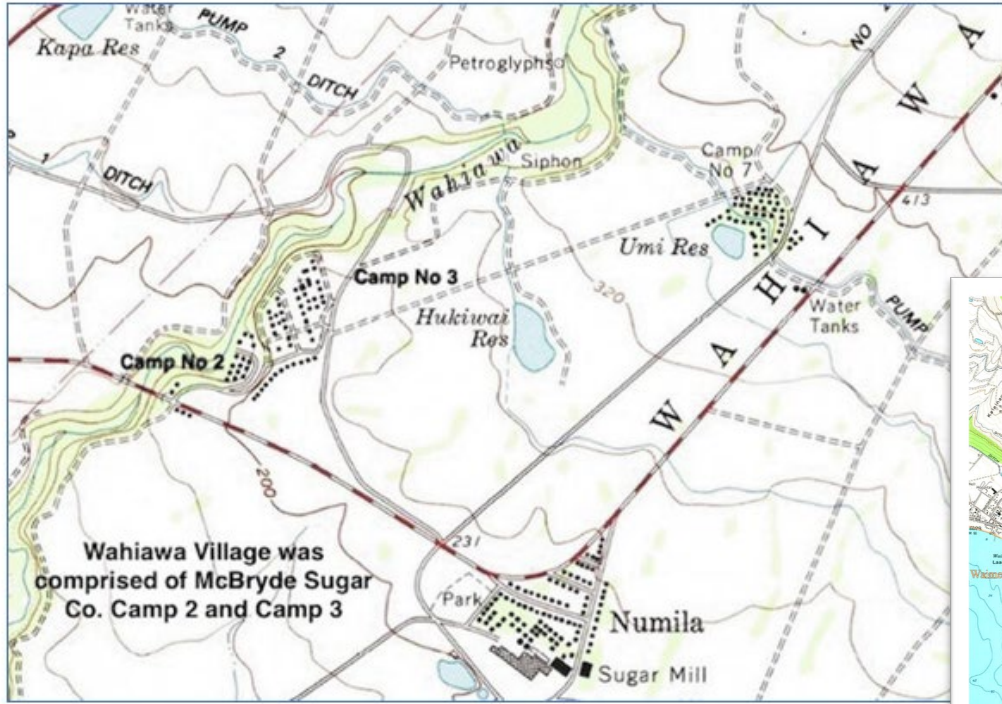
11& 12 (Portuguese Camps),
13-14-15-16 (not found on
maps),

17, 18(Kukui'ula Camp).

A nominal rent was charged for housing.

ISLAND HISTORY: The McBryde Sugar Co. plantation village at Wahiawa, Kauai

By [Hank Soboleski, Island History](#) | Sunday, November 7, 2021, 12:05 a.m.

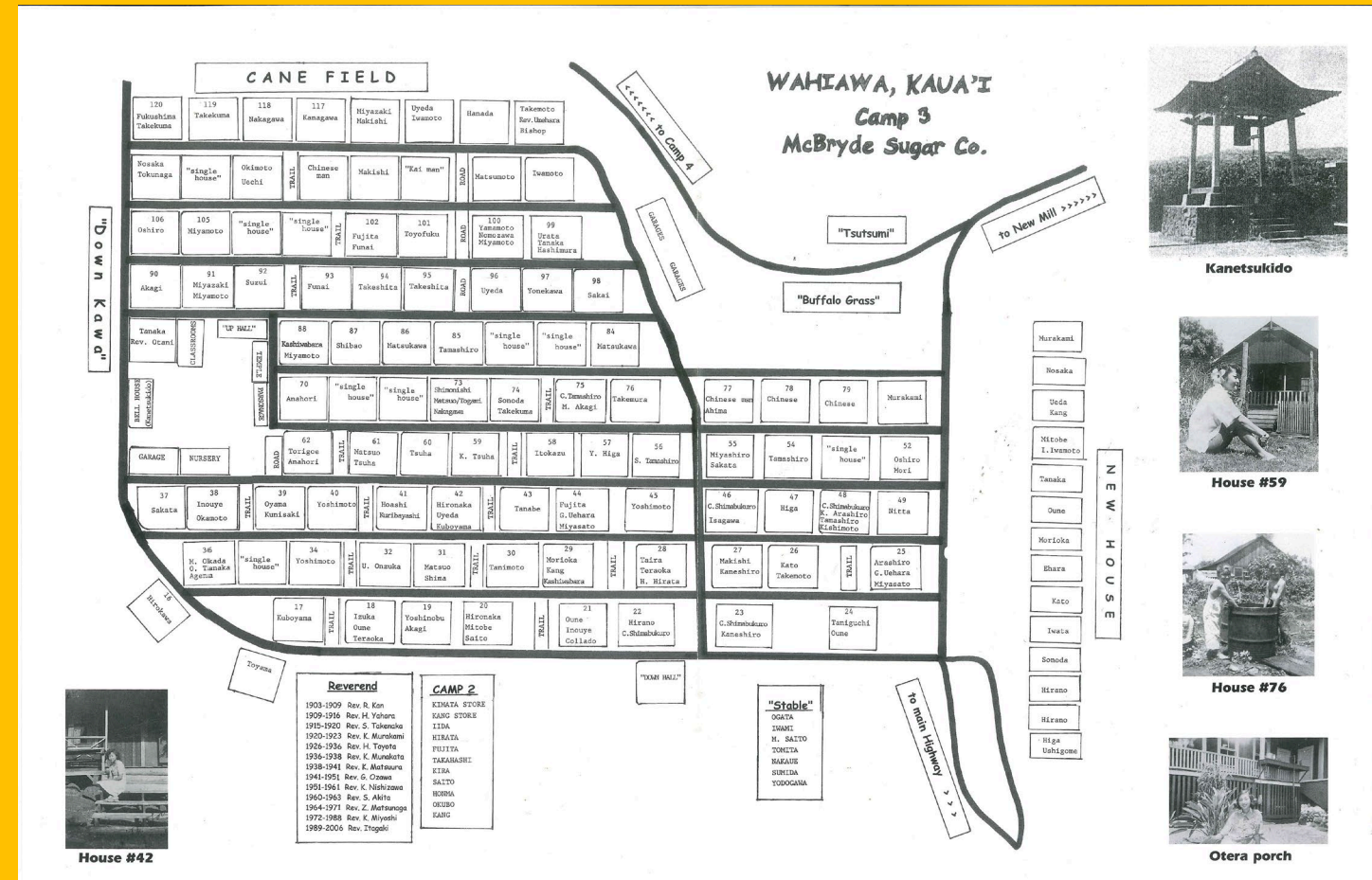
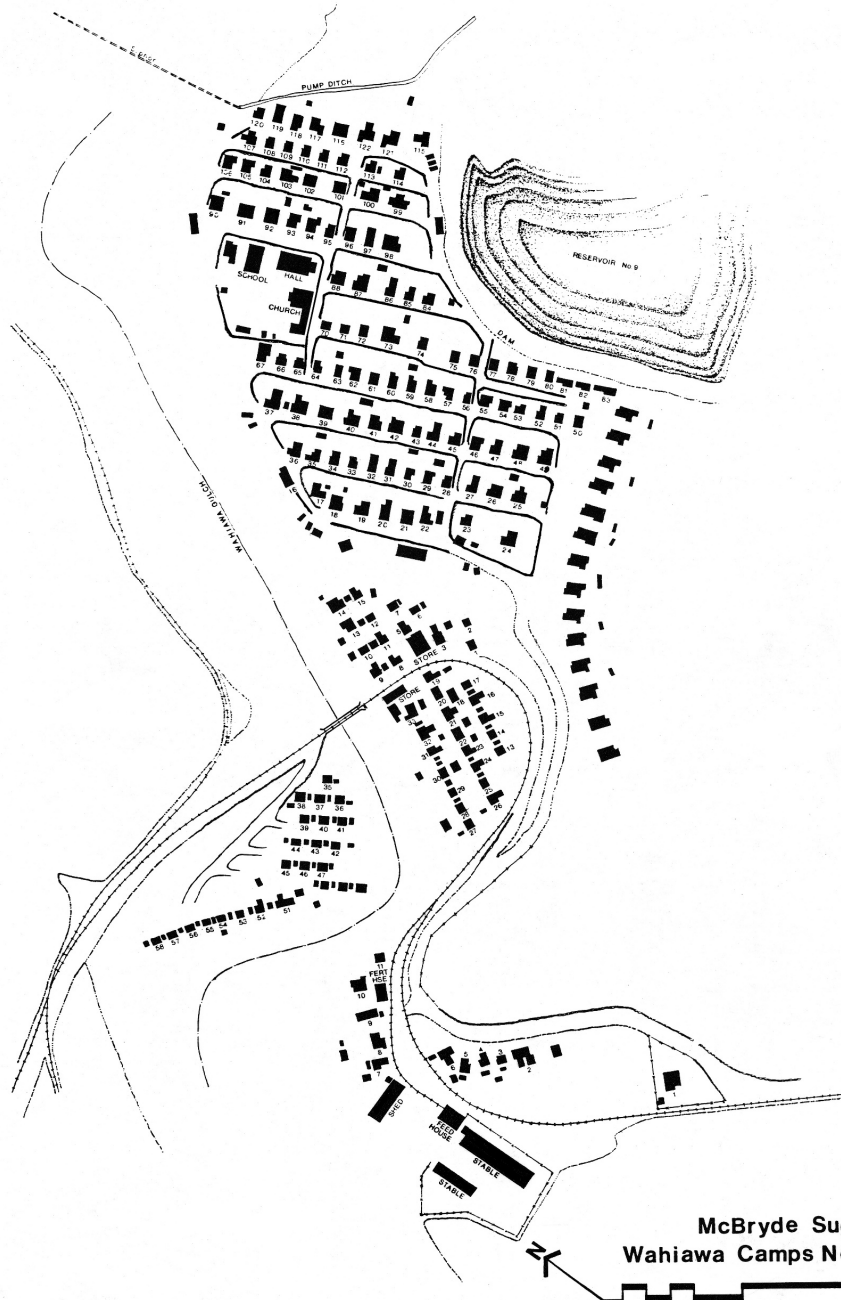


Hank Soboleski and Dennis Fujimoto Interviewed me and wrote a lot about the plantation camps of McBryde.

We did a project for our Hanapepe History Day with the Storybook Theatre and Juan Wilson creating a map of all the camps of McBryde & Olokele.



McBryde Sugar Co Wahiawa Camps No. 2 & 3

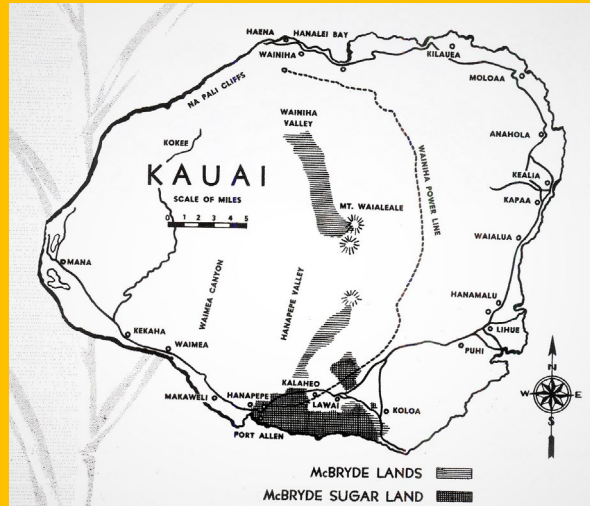


Family Map of Camps 2 & 3

(2) McBryde Estate



(3) Koloa Agricultural Company



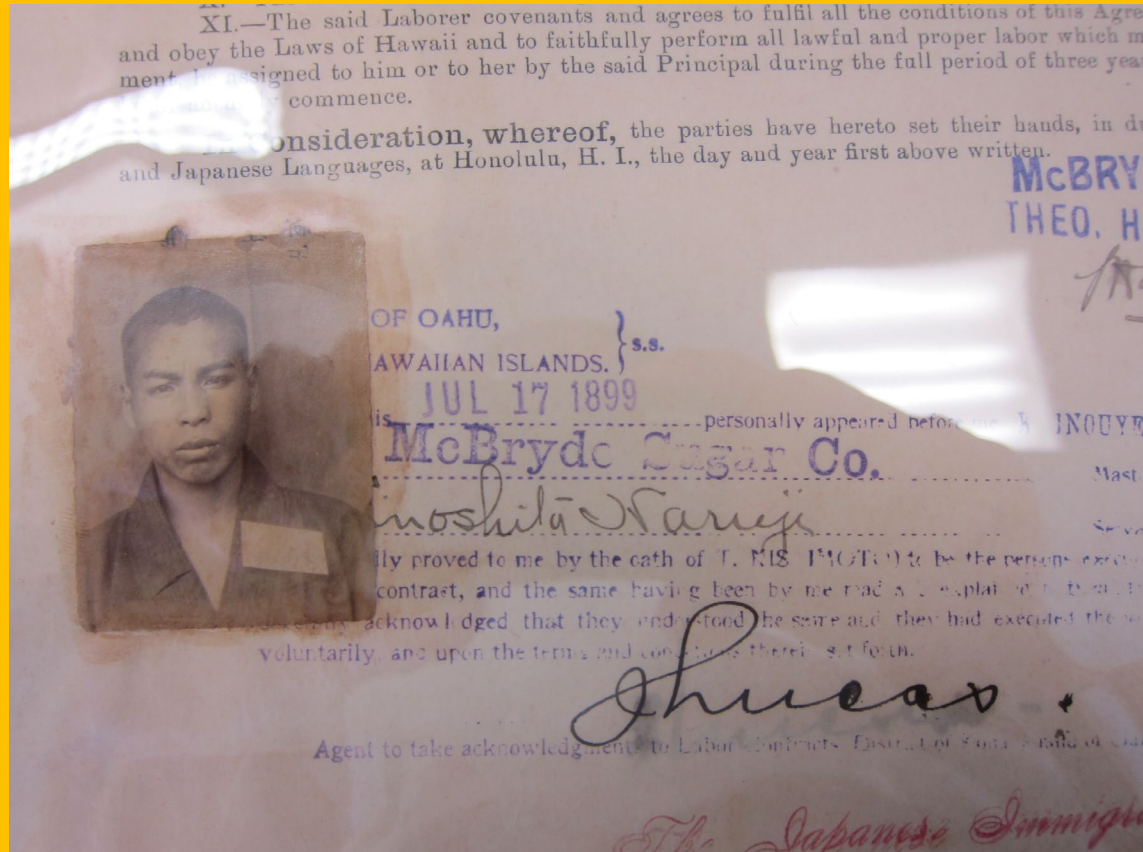
McB History

(1) Eleele Sugar Plantation

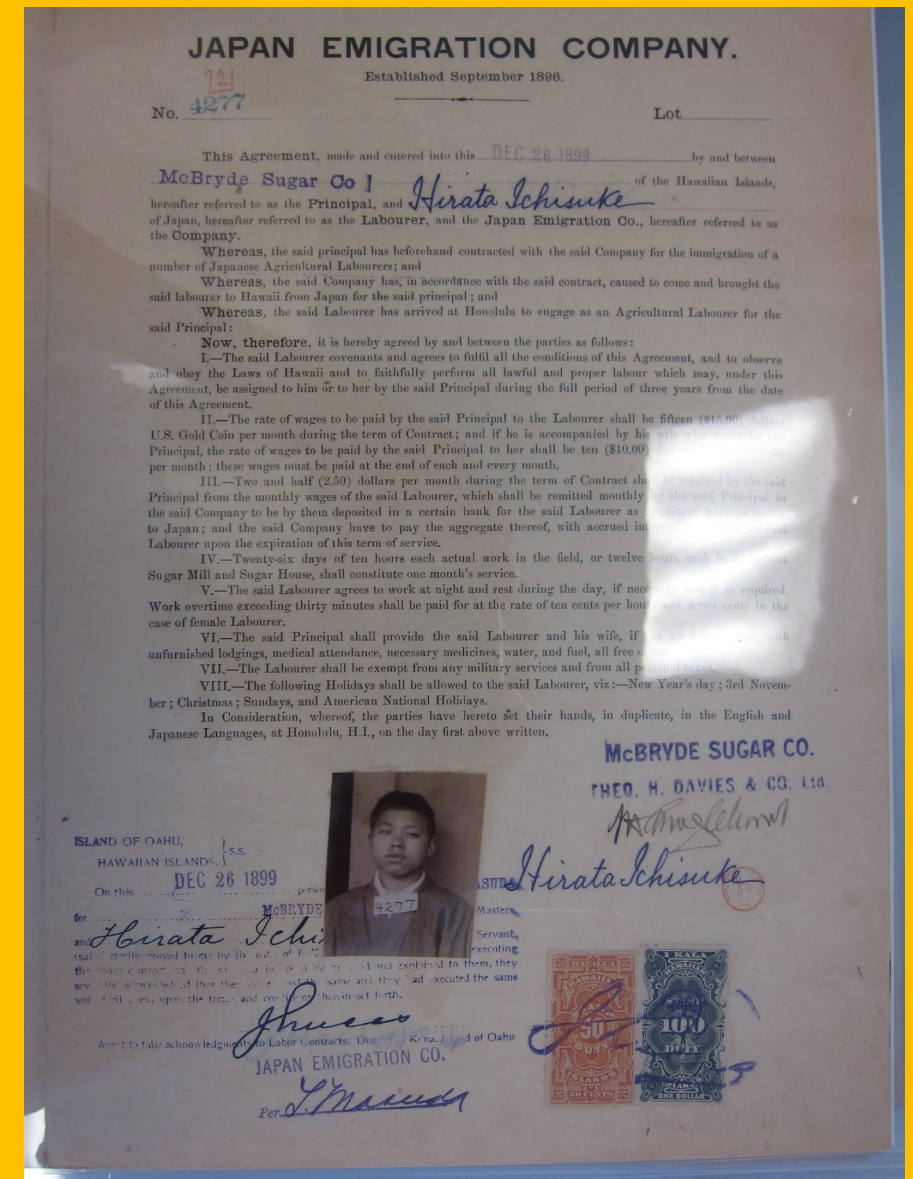


McBryde Sugar Company

Founded: May 25, 1899



Summer & fall 1899: 500 Japanese immigrants signed contracts to work.



Spring of 1900: another 500 Japanese immigrants, signed contracts to work.

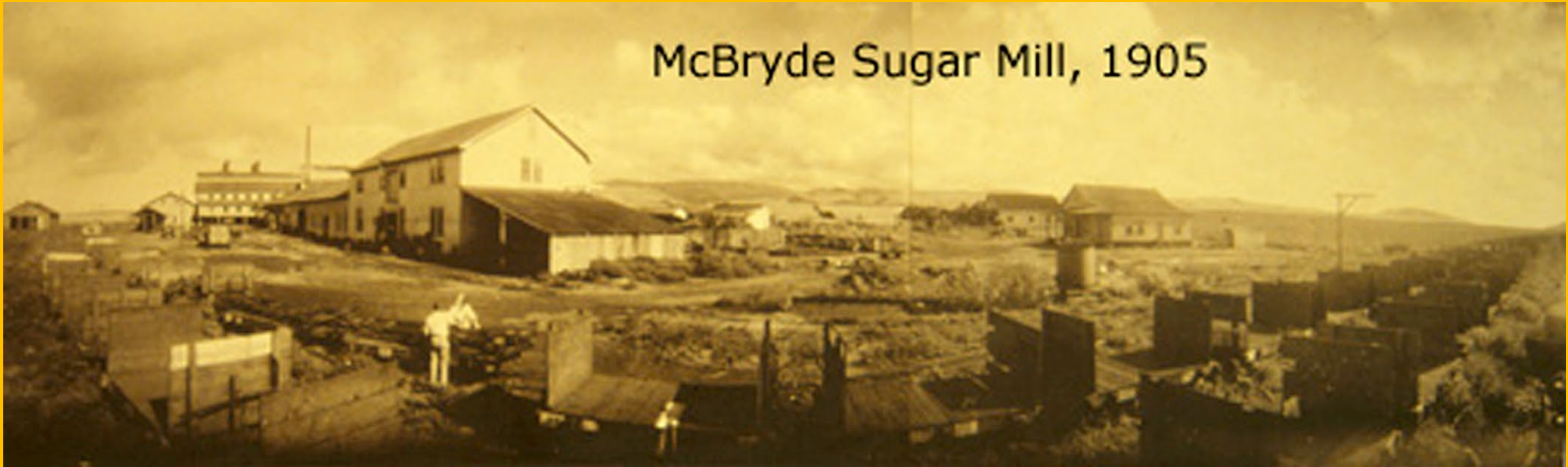
**They were joined by Portuguese,
Okinawans, Puerto Ricans, Filipinos,
Spanish, with few Chinese & Koreans.
Immigrants. They formed the
McBryde Family**

Box	Contract No.	Name	Photo	Date
MSC 2/2	5887	Nakamura, Jisuke	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5888	Umeki, Kamezo	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5890	Koga, Ichisuke	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5892	Yamanouchi, Matsujiro	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5896	Tanaka, Morizo	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5897	Tanaka, Jentaro	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5898	Yasu, Gentaro	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5899	Tsutomesaki, Ryosaku	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5900	Ikeka, Tamekichi	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5901	Akasaka, Itaro	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5904	Oka, Yonekichi	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5906	Yamashige, Ihei	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5909	Nakamoto, Waichi	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5911	Togioka, Tsunegoro	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5912	Fujishige, Kuichi	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5913	Shigetaka, Jusuke	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5915	Shishi, Shonosuke	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5916	Hinayama, Masaichi	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5917	Sataoka, Kintaro	X	8/21/1899
MSC 2/2	5918	Takasugi, Ichijiro	X	8/21/1899

Box	Contract No.	Name	Photo	Date
MSC 2/6	13066	Himej, Asakichi		1/22/00
MSC 2/6	13067	Shiomi, Matahei		1/22/00
MSC 2/6	13069	Makida, Motaro		1/22/00
MSC 2/6	13070	Asano, Tokusuke		1/22/00
MSC 2/6	13071	Nakayama, Ryojiro		1/22/00
MSC 2/6	13072	Yokota, Terumatsu		1/22/00
MSC 2/6	13073	Osumi, Shimazo		1/22/00
MSC 2/6	13074	Mitsumata, Eitaro		1/22/00
	13075	Fujii, Matsusaburo		1/22/00
	13076	Yoshida, Sueki		1/22/00
	13077	Kobayashi, Torazo		1/22/00
	13078	Oda, Torazo		1/22/00
	13079	Oda, Harujiro		1/22/00
	13080	Oda, Shikazo		1/22/00
	13081	Ishobe, Gontaro		1/22/00
	3082	Kaneko, Sakushiro		1/22/00
	3082	Kaneko, Sakushiro		1/22/00
	3083	Ohira, Naojiro		1/22/00
	3084	Sato, Tatsutaro		1/22/00
	3085	Kokuma, Tetsusaburo		1/22/00
	3086	Tamura, Mitsuzo		1/22/00
	087	Sumida, Rikizo		1/22/00
	088	Murata, Yurimatsu		1/22/00

Mill Operations

From 1899 the mill operations were in Eleele. A new sugar mill was built at Numila in 1904 designed and patterned after a Cuban sugar mill.



The Hawaiian sugar industry was trying to catch up with the rest of the world, It became the most highly mechanized, workers were the highest paid, and so was the cost of producing sugar.

McBryde Sugar Mill in the 1920s



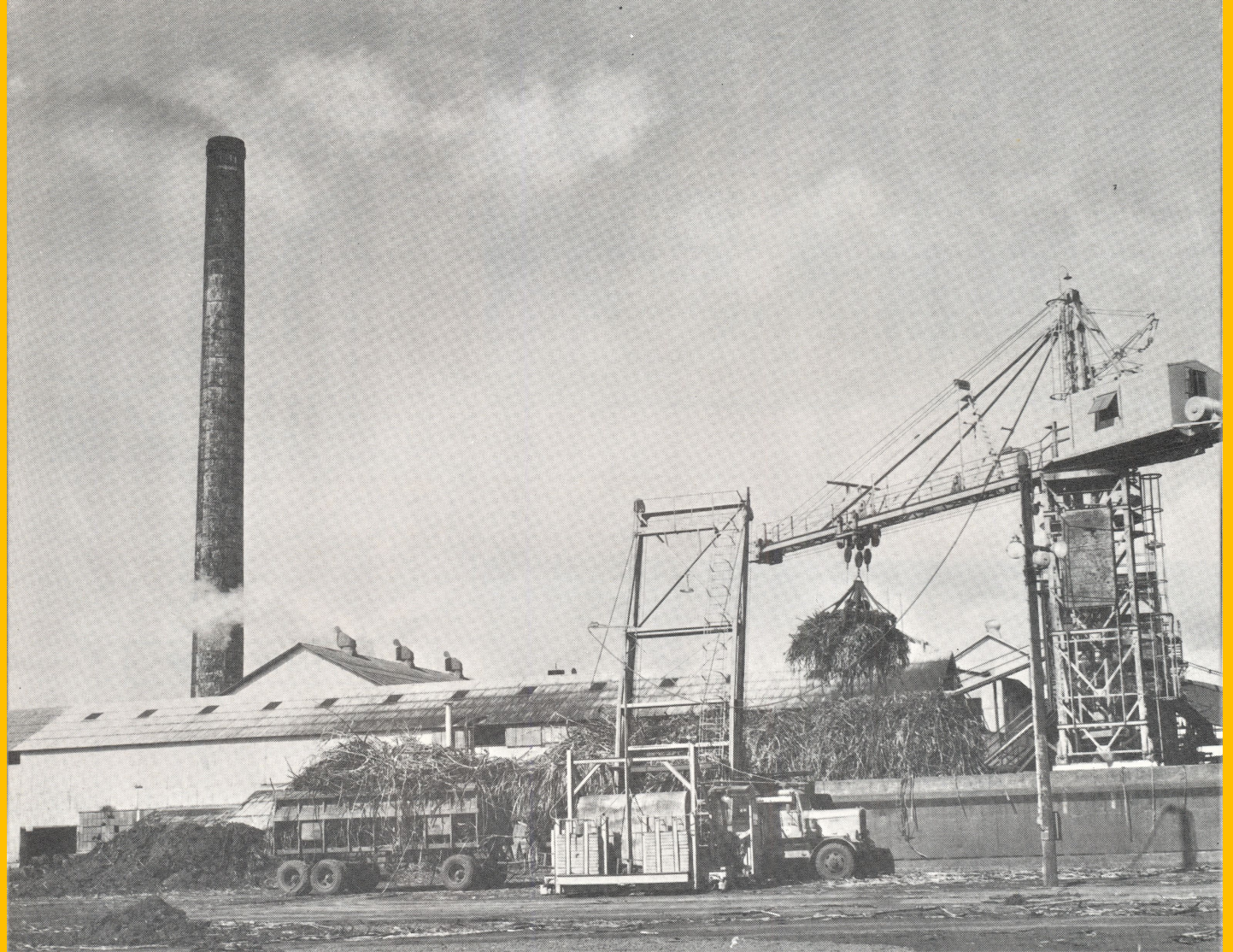
McBryde Mill in the 1940s?

Note the 225 ft
smokestack
painted in
camouflage?



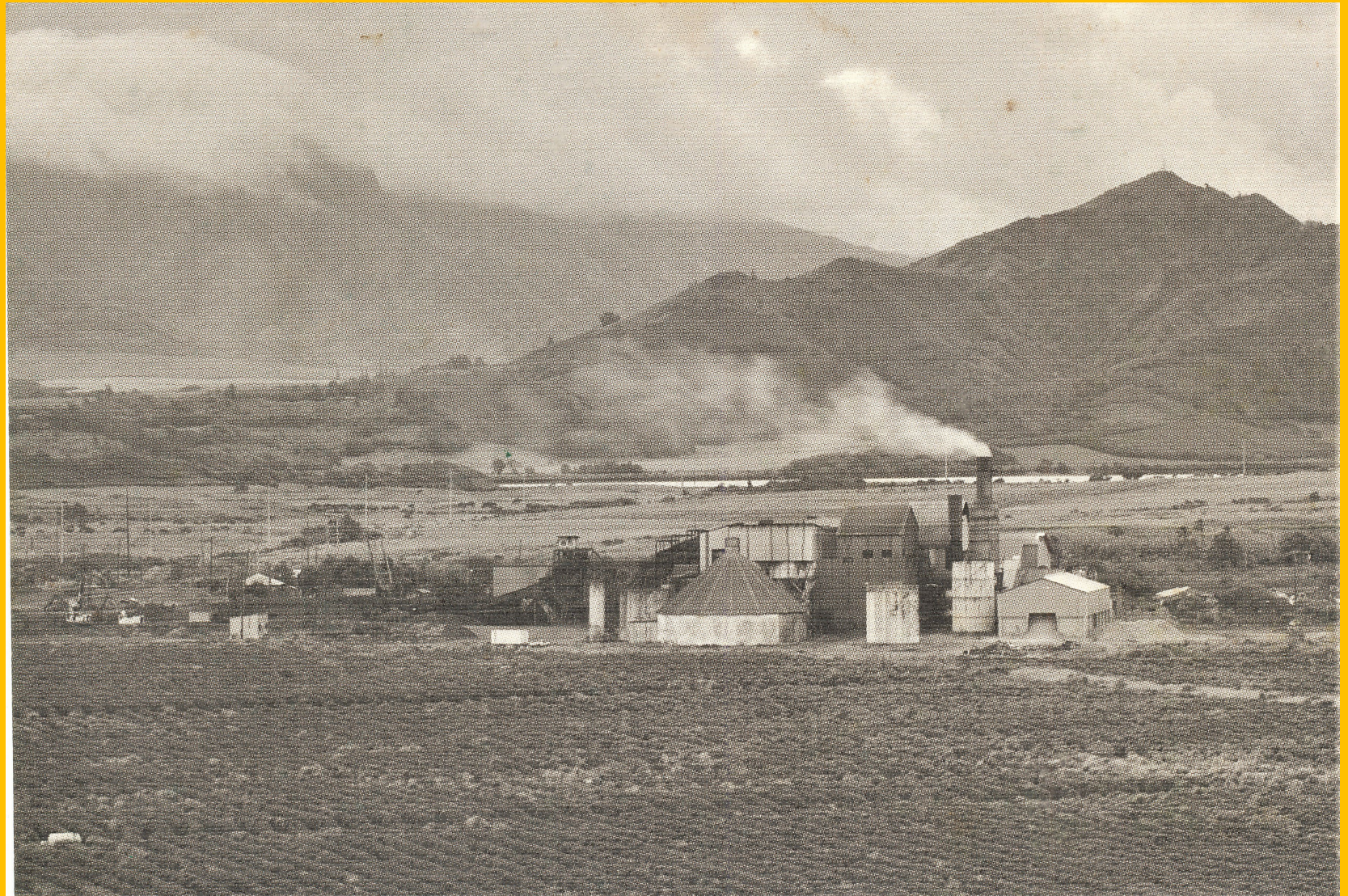
McBryde Mill in 1963

**For the next
25 years since
the early 1950s
this was the
familiar scene
with the high
tower crane.**



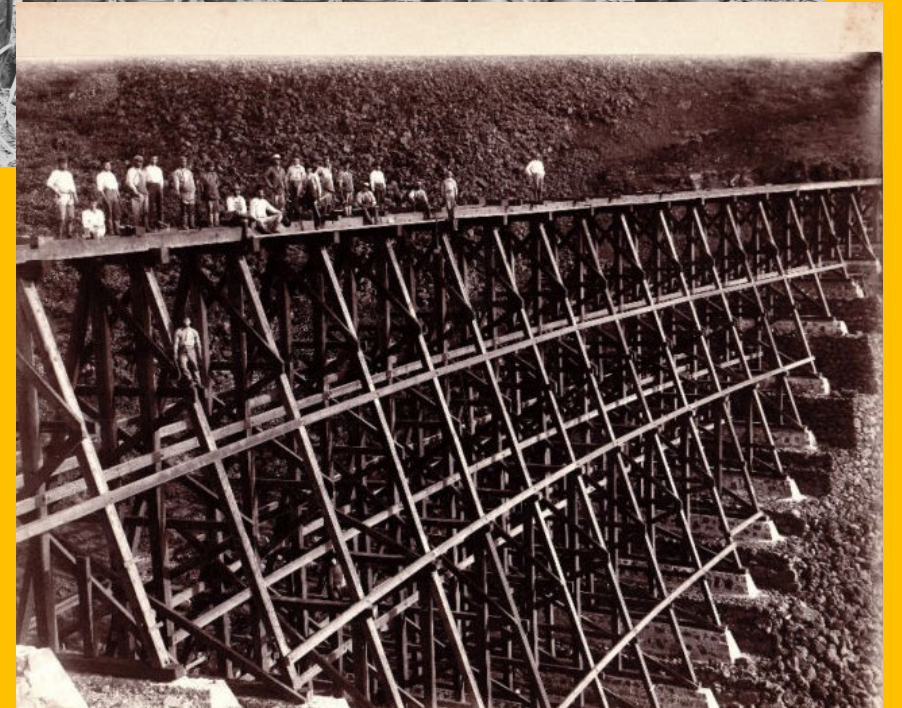
Grove Farm sugar mill, 1974

**Grove Farm ceased
their sugar business.
McBryde moved
mill operations to
Koloa on a lease, in
addition to acquiring
more land to raise
sugar.**



***With more acreage and a more efficient mill, McBryde
became a large producer of sugar in this late plantation era.***

What was plantation life like?



Work was tedious, long hours, low pay.

The Camps were segregated by ethnic groups...but not in the workplace.



Kau kau time was a time to share food and get to know each other.

You would shop at the Company Store or at the Wahiawa Numila Store, or at another store in Hanapepe town. You would purchase on credit.



**Company stores
were phased out.**



Eleele Shopping Center was built in 1955. Big Save Supermarket & Ben Franklin became the first cash and carry market on the island.

McBryde provided: recreational facilities, a ballpark, social halls in the larger camps, and a dispensary and a hospital in Eleele.



The company held a large Christmas party at the park.



The long struggle for Worker's rights

Initially, the plantation owners had the upper hand



Hanapepe Massacre
1924



The Great Sugar Strike
1946



The Aloha Sugar Strike
1958

The Sugar Industry & the Peopling of Hawaii



The First

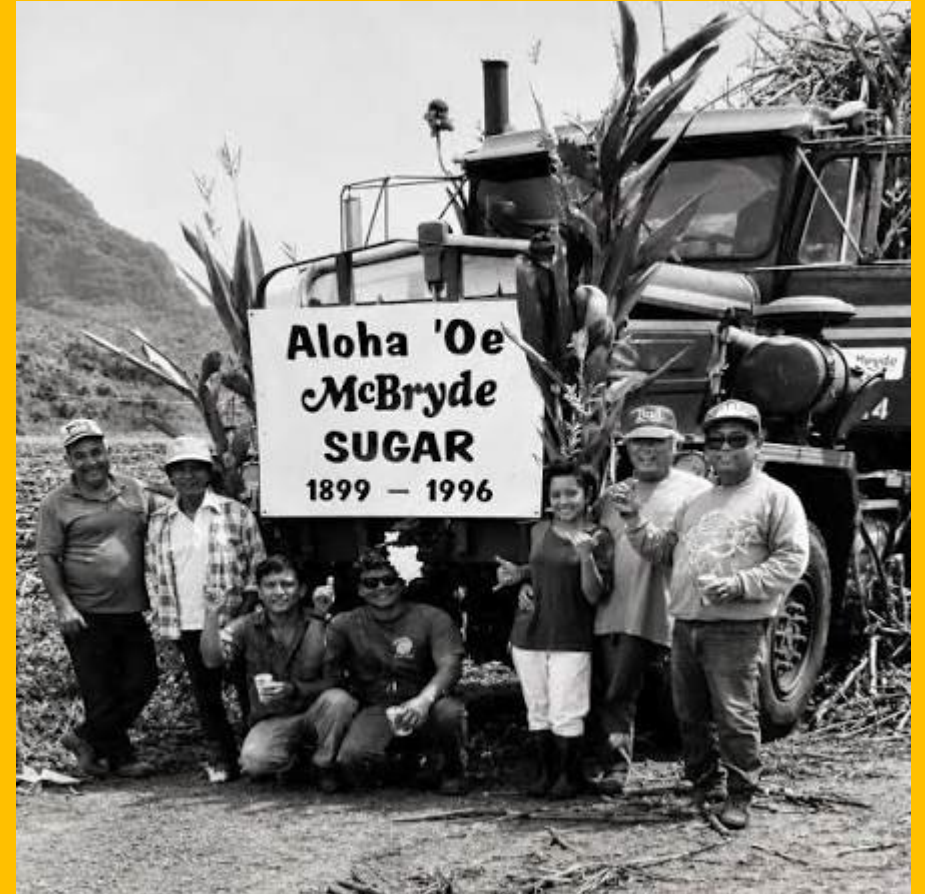
Koloa Sugar Company
Establishes: 1835
Merged with Grove Farm
in 1848

← Mill in 1839



The Last

Hawaiian Commercial
& Sugar Company
Pu'unene, Maui
1901-2016



Signs & Decline of the Sugar industry

Point in time 1963

- Mechanization & reduced labor demand
- Land-use pressures
- Competition and global markets, price volatility
- Labor & demographic shifts
- Political & social context – statehood (1959) and diversification
- Labor unions
- Technology and production

New lands set aside in Eleele for McBryde Employees

1976: McBryde & parent company Alexander and Baldwin file petition to Land Use Commission allow families to move from company provided, rental housing to modern single family home ownership

1978: Lots in Eleele subdivision were put up for sale and development

This showed the further decline of the plantation system.

**Move away from camp-based estate management system
to diversifying their land assets.**

The End of Sugar-The Rise of Coffee

A unique McBryde Story

- Alexander & Baldwin does a corporate pivot in the 1980s
- Started phasing out sugar cane planting and started planting coffee trees in 1987
- Hurricane Iwa and Iniki battered the McBryde fields
- The coffee fields bounced back and by 1996 its harvest outproduced the entire Kona region
- To become the largest coffee grower in the United States

So what happened to the plantation camps?

1. Demolition and Repurposing of Land

Wahiawa camps demolished in 1985

Parts of Lawai Valley purchase to become National Tropical Botanical Garden.

2. Renting to Continuing Agricultural Workers

Numila camp survived because of Kauai Coffee

A&B allowed plantation workers to stay

Homes rented to Kauai Coffee workers

3. Preservation and Local Integration

Physically camp buildings disappeared

Cultural and communal footprint should be honored through preservation efforts

Updates

2022: Alexander & Baldwin sold McBryde Resources, Inc (18,900 acres of agricultural & conseration land) to Bruce Baukol Capital Partners, a Colorado based firm for approximatel \$74 million dollars.

Kauai Coffee Co secured a long-term lease under a new ownership (parent company), Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA

June 2026

Kauai Coffee Co secured a new 15 year for its 3,100 acre farm

Closing Thoughts...

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SALAMAT PO!