Ka Punahou meaning a new spring, it is a good name for a school. The legend behind this name for the school is? There once was a Hawaiian couple living on these land that the school is now on today and Hawaii having a bit of a dry season. This couple had to travel for their water and that spot was drying up. And one night the wife had a dream that if the stump of an old dead tree was uprooted a spring would come forth. And when the couple did so a spring did come forth, hence the name that the school name.
The chapel is build right by this spring that is on the grounds today. The school seal has the hala tree in it.

Punahou School is filled with enchanting legend and history. The Punahou is one of the most renounced private schools on the Islands. It has a wide range of classes and a large amount of students. The school is also one of the first missionary schools to open on the islands. The grounds to this school are the largest ground of a private school in the United States. This school has been for over a hundred and fifty years, it has seen many things over the years. The school has quite an extensive history. However, if just walking around the grounds there are not many signs of how old the school is. There is only one original building left on the campus, and a few others that have some age to them, but most of they are fairly new. The new buildings are up to date with the new technology of today. However, I find this takes away from the romance of the history in this school.
Punahou School was started in 1841 with a whole 15 student. This is a huge difference compared to the almost 4,000 students that it has today. With the school being over a hundred and fifty years old there is a lot of history to this place. Lands were given to Reverend Bingham and his wife, who “were members of the American Board’s first Sandwich Island Mission company” (Punahou online), from Oahu’s governor at the suggestion of Queen Ka’ahumanu. The land was given in the year of 1839; it was not until 1841 that the mission had decided to found a school. It was originally for missionary parents so they would not need to send their children away. Reverend Dole was the first teacher. In 1851 the school opens it’s doors to everyone no matter what race or religion. Also during this year Old School Hall was open to the school to use, which is the building I’m going to focus on latter. The school was officially named in 1859 and it was called the Oahu College. It is not until 1934 that the school name is changed to Punahou School the name we know it as today. In the end of the 1800s and the very early 1900s some other buildings that appear is Cooke Hall and Pauahi Hall which are still standing today. Another building is the Elizabeth waterhouse which was later torn down, but another was built and kept the same name. The story is the same for Bishop hall. And for some other buildings they were torn down and not replaced lost to history. Other changes like that type of classes that were taught. The school started with the basic math, theology, and moral philosophy. Nothing like the amount of classes there are today. AP, computer, science, Greek, Hawaiian, drawing, and many other different types of classes have been added since. Sports have also changed throughout the years; girls did not have many sports to play when the school was in its beginning years. Girls played croquet, tennis, and basketball. While boys on the hand, had the football and
other usual sports, but they also went duck hunting and Indian excises, which I'm not really sure what that is but the school had it. But these small changes are not the only thing this school has seen, but it has also see and been affected by huge historical events, like world war two. December 7, 1941 the day that Pearl Harbor was attacked, and six months later, the U.S. army took over the Punahou campus for four years. Classes were held in private homes and at the University of Hawaii Teacher's College. September 10, 1945 Punahou School was returned.

Over the years the school has not only grown in the amount of students it has, but also the number of buildings it has on the grounds has grown as well. However, the actual size of the grounds has decreased. When the school, gave back some of the lands that it had back. Some of this land included were the University of Hawaii's President's House is today. Many of the buildings on the campus have their own unique style. Some of them have a Romanesque style. Most old buildings were torn down and replaced with one building that are more up to date and have more technology to them. There is only one original building left on the grounds, and that building is Old School Hall.

The designer of this school was William Harrison Rice. Mr. Rice came to the islands in 1841. He was a member of the Christian mission and he first assigned to a place on Maui, and later assigned to Punahou. Later in life he retires from the mission and manages a plantation which during that time he uses the first irrigation ditch. He died at an early age of Tuberculoses. He came to the islands with his wife, and his son was born on the island.
Rice planned Old School Hall very simple. He had only materials that were laying near the school. The building is planned in a very simple two story New England style for the foundation there was no digging into the ground, but they leveled the ground out for the foundation. The foundation is made out of coral rock. The coral was also useful, because they would burn the coral for lime to use for the mortar. Lumber for the roof and ceiling of the second floor was pieces that were just lying around. The stone for the building was quarried from Rock Hill which was near by and the students could hear the blasting going on. The stone was pulled on to the campus by cart. The doors and windows came from the states. There was also lead for the roof that came from the states as well. Ship timber was used around the doors and windows.

It took sometime to get the building finished. It was in 1846 that Mr. Dole asks for a new building at the General meeting, stating that, “In accordance with the advice of the trustees, materials have been collected in part for a school house”. Probably this
material was coral rock from the reef to be used in laying the foundation of the building and in making lime for mortar." (Alexander, Dodge, 1941:158-163) In 1848, the stone for the building was being quarried, from Rock Hill. The stone that was gathered sat on the campus grounds for three years untouched. Mr. Dole once again goes to the General meeting in 1949, asking for a new building, because they need more classrooms. At the time the building was estimated to cost $2500. However, the committee feared that the cost was going to be too expansive. In was finally in very early 1851 that building finally started. On December 15, 1851 Old School Hall finally opened for the school to use. The final cost of the hall is around $6000 dollars.

The building when finish was 60ft long and 30ft wide and 40ft tall. It had a few small rooms, a library room, and the attic used as storeroom. There was a winding staircase that was inside the building to get to the second floor. There was a special show case that was put next to the staircase. The case was as a museum of sorts. In 1863, verandas were added to the building. Later the case would be taken out and move to a new building. In 1881, the winding staircase inside the Hall, were torn down and moved to the outside of the building, in order to make more room inside the classroom. Old School Hall was the place of assembly for forty-five years.

In 1913, the building gets the official name of Old School Hall. However, by 1913 the building is looking kind of shabby. And the plans were to tear down the Hall. But with the Hall begin one of the last oldest buildings on campus, the plans changed, and they started fixing the building up. One of the biggest problems was the verandas had become unsafe over time, so those were taken down, and they were not replaced. There was a wooden annex, unsure of when that was added. Most people found the
annex unsightly. The annex was also removed and not replaced. And overall the building was given a face lift.

Over the years the building has had a few more changes, but not many. The school itself has seen many changes over the years. There are not many originals left on the school. I always find it hard to believe that people are willing to tear down the past. To think that this school has been opened for almost a hundred and fifty years and there is only one original building left, and that the rest were torn down, is crazy in mind. To destroy that kind of history is so hard for me. However, for a school it is important to grew and change with the times. It is important for the school to keep up with the changing technology. And it seems that most of the buildings were not design, for easy changes. It was most likely cheaper to tear down old buildings and replace them, than up dating the old buildings. But I am enchanted with the long history of the school.

Old School Hall Today
Works Cited


http://www.punahou.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=ig.page&CategoryID=14