

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM3526
DATA SHEET
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Friedensfeld Midlands Moravian Church and Manse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER W of Christiansted

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

VICINITY OF

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

COUNTY

St Croix

CODE

0800

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Midland Moravian Church c/o Mr. Gaveston David

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 729

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

VICINITY OF

St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted, St. Croix

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1959

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___ EXCELLENT
___ GOOD
___ FAIR

X DETERIORATED
___ RUINS
___ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED
___ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
___ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Friedensfeld Moravian Church and Manse are 5.3 miles west from Fort Christian, Christiansted, St. Croix. The church is one of the largest frame structures in the islands, and is significant for its unusual combination of Carpenter's Gothic and Classical Revival elements. The present church (built 1854) is a replacement of a smaller structure dedicated in 1819. It is reported, but unverified, that the building was prefabricated in Germany, and then assembled by German craftsmen with the aid of local builders.

The church is two-story frame construction over a sandstone foundation, measuring two feet in thickness. The church is a rectangle, measuring about 55' by 77', with a central section, measuring about 30' by 10', that projects one bay from the main, western facade. An addition to the east end probably dates from about 50 years later. The building has an open masonry drain on all sides, with masonry splashblocks at inner angles of the center nave projections on the west and east end of the church.

The entire structure has been sheathed and clapboarded, the earliest being beaded siding, with later, German siding used to patch deteriorated sections.

The building is seven bays long by five bays wide, with entrances on three sides approached by half pyramid of steps of cut limestone. The main doorway on the west has a flat head with entablature moldings of Tuscan precedent. The first floor windows are flatheaded with slightly projecting drip caps and a molded sill boards. The second floor windows have pointed arch heads without drip caps or sill boards. The windows of the upper floor are placed immediately above those of the lower, with the window casing of the first floor continuing into that of the second, creating an effect (when the shutters are closed) of tall, Gothic lancet windows.

The first floor windows have interior, two-panel jalousie shutters with movable louvers. The second floor has pointed casement windows with six rectangular panes and six smaller odd-shaped panes which are elements of a fanlight. All doors and windows are equipped with shutters, with wrought iron sill hooks, strap hinges and bar brackets. The doors have rim locks.

The outside corners are articulated with heavy wood quoins, and the interior corners of the center projection with flat corner boards. There is a narrow molded sill board, but no belt course.

The roof consists of three parallel gables running on the east-west axis, sheathed in wood, and covered with corrugated metal. The molded wood cornice continues across the face of the gable end.

A steeple is located on the west end, an open-four-sided pavilion, supporting a double-slope concave pyramidal roof covered in sheet metal. The bell is contained in the pavilion.

Immediately inside the main, western entrance of the church is a vestibule with

continued...

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

6

PAGE

Four

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places
May, 1976 State
Virgin Island Planning Office
Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PAGE One

two side staircases leading to the balcony, which is one bay deep and spans the north, south, and west sides. The balcony wall consists of a panelled wood lower section, crowned by a row of wrought iron pointed arches, topped by a wooden handrail. It is supported by columns, which divide the interior into a nave and two side aisles of seven bays. There are four balcony panels to each bay of the nave.

The columns, which continue upwards to support the trusses, have base and capital molds, and scroll brackets. The vertical lines of the columns are continued on the face of the balcony by slightly projecting pilasters, which have elaborate moldings.

The treatment of the ceiling is one of the most notable features of the church. In the nave, the sheathing and trusses are exposed and painted black. Below is a barrel vault constructed of an open-square grid with molded wood members. The grid is painted white and provides the effect of a coffered ceiling. The contrast in light value between the grid and the trusses above, is sufficient to make the trusses indiscernable.

The vestibule staircases have square balusters and a mahogany handrail that spirals into a rounded nevel post. There is a double scroll design on the brackets.

The two-and-a-half story manse lies about 75' to the northwest of the church, and is connected by a stone pathway. The cut limestone foundations and first floor and the frame second floor with dormers and rooms under the gable roof is typical for Moravian manse construction on the islands. The construction date of the manse is uncertain, but it may predate the church by 40 to 50 years or more.

The building is a rectangle, measuring 70' by 42', with the long axis running north-south. The coursed, dressed limestone foundation is expressed on the exterior by a slightly projecting plinth approximately 18" above ground.

The building is seven bays on the long axis and six bays on the short, with two entrances on the center of the second, main floor. Access to the entrance is by two limestone and stucco buttressed staircases perpendicular to the main wall, with arched niches on the side walls underneath the landing. The top of each staircase wall is rounded, and the walls fan outwards on the west side (the "welcoming arms" type) and inward on the east side.

The first floor has one carriage entrance in the south and two doors on the west side of the building. All the first floor entrances have storm doors of double board construction.

continued...

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PAGE Two

The second floor entrances have flat casings with three-sectioned interior double doors (with movable louvers in the upper two sections) and exterior storm shutters. The second floor windows are equipped with two panelled shutters and double-hung sash (six by six). The window openings have flat casings, with drip caps and slightly projecting sills. The windows in the attic at the gable ends and in the dormers are similar to the second floor windows. The manse has a gabled roof, projecting slightly over the eaves. It is sheathed in wood, and covered with corrugated metal. The gable ends have molded eaves. Three dormers are riding on the cross (east-west) axis of the roof. The flanking dormers are pulled back about five feet from the main wall.

The following description of the interior is based on a 1959 HABS report by Frederick Gjessing, as access was not possible:

The building interior is divided into three sections of two, three and two bays respectively. The center section is divided into two rooms and the end sections into three rooms each. An enclosed wood staircase in the central section provides access to the attic and ground floor. The main floor and attic have tongue and groove pine floors.

All interior walls are plastered. Ceilings are wood with exposed beams or rafters throughout. The main floor rooms have base and ceiling molds and molded door casings.

The interior doors have H-and-L hinges, porcelain door knobs, rim locks, and wrought iron latches.

There is a small cook house (13' by 15') about 20' from the manse to the west. The walls are constructed of coursed dressed limestone. The door and window have flat, jack arches with wood casings and gauged brick voussoirs, and the arch over the door has a keystone. Both openings are equipped with casement shutters, with hardware on the window shutter including wrought iron strap-hinges with pointed cusps, and on the door shutter, similar strap hinges with lima-bean cusps.

The interior is a single undivided room with a pavement floor of limestone, rubble and brick. There is a brick chimney hood over a timber girt in the north end, with a chimney corresponding on the exterior.

As one approaches the church from the entrance road, there is a small graveyard to the right immediately alongside the road.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Moravian missionaries were successful in Christianizing the slaves of St. Croix, whom other denominations tended to ignore spiritually. By 1800 the Brethern had two flourishing mission stations on St. Croix; Friedensthal (Valley of Peace) near Christiansted, and Friedensberg (Hill of Peace) outside Frederiksted. In 1807 the Brethern acquired six acres from Estate Mon Bijou in midisland at Friedensfeld (Field of Peace) as the site of a third mission. Although a foundation stage was laid, construction was delayed due to the disruptions caused by the 1807 - 1815 British occupation of the Danish islands. The church was completed and dedicated February 12, 1819. The ceremony was so well attended that only one-fourth of the audience could be squeezed into the new building.

The church prospered with a congregation of over 2,000 reported in 1854. The building is still in use by a small but active congregation.

The church and manse of Friedensfeld Moravian Church are superb examples of Moravian architecture of two different periods of construction. The two-and-a-half story manse, which probably dates to C. 1810 or earlier, represents the continuation of the typical 18th Century Moravian Manse style and building materials. The church is a very fine combination of Gothic and Clasical Revival elements, kept within the bounds of the sober Moravian style. It illustrates an adaption of the traditional 18th Moravian Church style to combinations of two Revival styles popular in the mid 19th century.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE Three

St. Croix Agricultural Reporter. September 28, 1864. Christiansted; P. B. Hatchett.

Interview: Roger Kimball, Pastor, Friedensberg, Frederiksted, St. Croix, May 12, 1976. Interview by Margaret Proskauer and Annie Hillary.

Interview: Gaveston David, Lay Pastor, Midlands Moravian Church, St. Croix, May 12, 1976. Interview by Margaret Proskauer and Annie Hillary.

Property Friedensfeld Midlands Moravian Church and Manse

State V.I.

Working Number 6.2.76.3526

St. Croix
76001844

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

UTM can't be checked

CONTROL

pl
6.4.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
6-14-76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Soldham
6/15/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Colz
6.16.76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hunt
6.25.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUL 1 1976

Federal Register Entry 8-3-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74











Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1958
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 905 (1951) and
935 (1952)
Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid based on Puerto Rican coordinate system,
Puerto Rico, St. Croix zone
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

8°
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1958

SCALE 1:24,000
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF THE TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.6 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt ———

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I.
N1740.5—W6440.5/7.5
1958

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date Entered JUL 1 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Diamond School	Christiansted vicinity St. Croix County
Friedensfeld Midlands Moravian Church and Manse	Christiansted vicinity St. Croix County
Botany Bay Archeological District	Charlotte Amalie vicinity St. Thomas County
Enighed or Enighened	Cruz Bay St. John County
Lower Granard Archeological District	Christiansted vicinity St. Croix County
Aklis Archeological Site	Frederiksted vicinity St. Croix County
River Archeological Site	Frederiksted vicinity St. Croix County

Also Notified

Hon. Ron De Lugo
Regional Director, Southeast
Region

PR MMott/row 7/7/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Thomas Blake
Planning Director
Virgin Islands Planning Board
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 6-14-76
Reviewer INITIALS: ES KP

NR DOE
JUL 1 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

Friedensfeld Midlands Moravian
Church and Manse

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

West of Christiansted

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

VICINITY OF

Christiansted

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

US Virgin Islands

78

COUNTY

St. Croix

code

0800

Island

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

(Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

HABS

ADMINISTRATOR(underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

Substantially intact-1

unknown - 4

not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

Substantially intact-2

unknown - 5

not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

Substantially intact-3

unknown - 6

Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

Unexcavated

UNALTERED

ALTERED

Reconstructed

Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

IF YES, NAME:

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

IF YES, NAME:

YES

NO

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- Church & house

now- Church; house not in use

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION

INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW/Gov't/politics

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment

health

recreation

settlement

socio/cultural

urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Church - Combination of Carpenter's Gothic and Classical Revival Elements.*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *German Moravian*

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

Early Moravian missionary activity in Danish Virgin Islands 1819.

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1819*

Church 1854

Manse - early-19th C 1809-1850

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: *1895-1910 eastern addition*

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): *1819 - Present*

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

4

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Church: 2 1/2 story frame structure with sandstone foundation, ^{rectangular, 3 parallel sections} gabled roof, and open towered belfry above projecting gabled ^{section} wooden guises; barrel vaulted nave, ^{side galleries, over high} the East facade, splayed staircase leads up to center entrance on each long side of the rectangle

Manse: 2 1/2 story frame building with limestone ^{basement} foundation, gabled roof with gabled dormers on the East facade, splayed staircase leads up to center entrance on each long side of the rectangle

HABS: 1959

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Friedensfeld Midlands Moravian Church and Manse are significant for their association with early Moravian missionary activity in the Virgin Islands. The Church and Manse also are superb examples of Moravian ^{island} architecture of two different periods of construction.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Church - Combination of Carpenter's Gothic and Classical Revival Elements.*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *German Moravian*

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(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) *4*

Church:

Frame, clapboarding; 2 stories, gabled roof, open frame belfry, center entrance pointed ~~arched~~ shuttered windows, gothic revival elements. Manse: frame, clapboarding, stone foundation; 1 1/2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof with 2 dormers flanking ^{front} center wall dormer, front center entrance, corner boards. Vernacular.

Successful

Moravian mission built to facilitate conversion of slaves ~~who were~~ ^{who were} ignored.

Good examples of Moravian architecture ⁱⁿ two periods. by other denominations.