

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET 3538

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Tutu Plantation House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

CODE
78

COUNTY

St. Thomas

CODE

0900

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

Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

VICINITY OF

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May 1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tutu Plantation House lies three miles northeast of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, on a 3.5 acre hilltop site. It is significant as one of the few plantation greathouses remaining on the island. While the house is said to have been built around 1803, much of the interior trim is Greek Revival, probably dating from 20 to 30 years later. The symmetrical facade and interior plan of the house represent a revival of classical European trends, with the shuttered windows, hipped roof, east-west orientation for cross-ventilation and the originally separate kitchen as colonial variation on the classical theme.

The house faces west, with the grade of the land sloping from west to east and from south to north. It is located at the end of a cul-de-sac formed by a driveway off the main road leading up to the site. The house is two stories, and is a rectangular block, measuring 40' by 32'. Central porches front and rear were probably added in the Victorian period after 1850, and the front porch replaced around 1890. The kitchen (over a cistern), originally a separate outbuilding, was joined to the main house along the south facade. Servants' quarters are located in the lower level of the north elevation.

The foundations are made of coursed, pressed limestone, set in a lime mortar and stuccoed. The exterior of the foundation is currently painted red. The main floor is constructed of red ballast brick with stucco, and the upper floor, a probable replacement of an earlier clapboard construction, is wood frame, sheathed and faced with shingles. The main and upper floors are painted white. The roof is hipped, and covered with corrugated metal, painted red. It is not immediately clear whether the roof has been replaced.

The house has five bays on each of its four sides. The upper story of the main facade has five, and the lower story four windows due to the interruption created by the central entrance porch. The porch roof is a wooden gable of plank construction, and is supported in the front corners by slender iron poles. A decorative Victorian bargeboard in a solid trefoil pattern lies behind the eaves of the porch. The present gable-roof porch is replacing an earlier flat-roof porch, as ghostings in the stucco behind the present roof line make evident.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE One

The windows are six by six (double hung), and have two, three-panelled shutters, painted green and white. The brightly-painted shutters together with the red foundation level, the white main and upper floor, and the red corrugated metal roof create a strong, polychrome effect. The interior of the windows are fitted with louvered jalousie panels. The double entrance doors to the front and rear are secured with heavy storm shutters. The inner front and rear doors have recessed wood panels at the base with three glass lights (five on the front door). The rear door has a two-light transom, backed by a wooden grille with delicate turned colonnettes. Both porches are approached by stairs, which are imported marble in the rear, and later concrete in the front. The porches are partially enclosed on the sides by marble benches faced with stucco, bearing a decorative railing of pointed-ellipse design. There is a small concrete patio to the right of the front porch which was added in the 1940's.

The interior of the house follows the central-hall plan, with a main salon running straight through from front to rear on the east-west axis, providing for cross-ventilation. The first floor has a large living room extending the length of the house, with smaller rooms to either side of the hall. On the second floor, there are four bedrooms, and two later bathrooms. The staircase to the right of the main hall on the first floor provides access to the second floor. The staircase was originally free-standing, but the area below the first flight has been walled in to create a storage closet. The stairs, which are closed string and without bracket ornamentation, have turned balusters of medium thickness. The handrail is mahogany, and curves into a shell at the newel post. The transom of the rear door abuts the landing, allowing for additional ventilation of the upper story.

Most of the original trim is Greek Revival. The doors to the rooms on the main floor have six recessed panels, and are trimmed with fluted casings with medallion corner blocks. The medallion motif is echoed in a chandelier base in the ceiling of

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE two

the living room , with a guilloche and Greek fret pattern. There are also recessed panels under the windows. The rest of the trim --ceiling and baseboard molding-- is of a later date. In the main floor rooms, a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch torus molding applied to the wall surface to create a panelled effect dates from 1927. These rooms are currently painted in light blue and grey (highlighting the illusion of panels) with white trim.

The upper story rooms are treated more plainly, without the applied torus molding or recessed panels under the windows. The machine-made molding of these rooms is of a later date than the Greek Revival details of the main floor. It is probable that the entire frame upper story was re-trimmed at some point after the house was built. At this time, the exterior of the upper story may also have been re-faced with shingles. The upper bedrooms currently have added closets which project out into the rooms.

In addition to the main house, structures on the site include an old manager's house and stables on the road leading to the house, and a wooden garage probably dating from the 1920's to the southwest side of the house off the cul-de-sac. An old "copper" used to cook the sugar cane juice, lies alongside the entrance porch on the northwest corner. Dozens of old conch shells (so-called "tutu's", because they were used to call the slaves to their labor) were found in a storage area in the servants' quarters in the lower level on the north, but their intended use is not clear.

The garden in front of the house is overgrown, but is planted with many mature specimens of native West Indian flowers and trees.

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 Tutu Plantation House was built during the early 1800's, and is one of the few surviving examples of plantation great houses in St. Thomas. The house was part of a cattle and dairy plantation which flourished during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The secondary structures on the premises are typical of the buildings found on plantations. They include the manager's house and stables.

The first record of ownership is dated 1813, when the three plantations of Tutu, Tabor and Harmoni under the name Anna's Retreat, were deeded from Octavius Pogy to Erasmus Frederick Schifter.

The name of the house was derived from the Danish word "tutu", which refers to a large "trumpet-like" conch shell used to call the slaves to labor.

Tutu Plantation House, with its almost square shape and wood frame second story, is significant for its variation from the rectangular one or two-story great house type often found on the other islands. Its symmetrical facade and central hall plan reflect the strong influence of Classical Revivalism on early 19th century Danish West Indian architecture.

Dookhan, Isaac. A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States. Epping, Essex: Booker Publishing Co. 1974.

Property

Iuta Plantation House

State

V.I.

Working Number

6.2.76.3538

St. Thomas
76001867 Island

TECHNICAL

Photos 1Maps 1

UTM Can't be checked

CONTROL

6.4.76

This appears to include manager's house + stables
in addition to the great house.

HISTORIAN

Accept
Ruttenbaum
6/8/76

OK except for question
concerning number of
structures included.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Two outbuildings
included

Accept
Selovech
6.10.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
6/28/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hemp
6-29-76

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

JUL 12 1976

Federal Register Entry

8-3-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with Office of Territories,
U. S. Department of the Interior.
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and U. S. Dept. of Public Roads
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1954
Hydrography from USC&GS charts 905, dated 1952,
and 938, dated 1950
Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid based on Puerto Rican coordinate system,
Virgin Islands extension
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

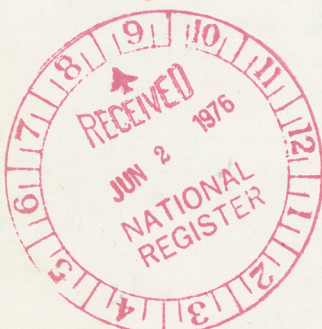
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1954

SCALE 1:24 000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 5 10 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 20-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 TIDE IS 0.8 FEET

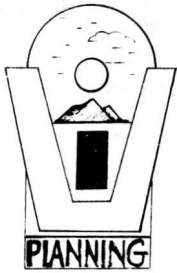
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt ———

EASTERN ST. THOMAS. V. I.
N 1815—W 6448/7.5 X 6
1954

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



GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



VIRGIN ISLANDS PLANNING OFFICE

DIVISION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P.O. Box 2606
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V.I. 00801



PRESERVATION

April 21, 1986

National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Sir:

We are writing in reference to one of our National Register properties in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, the Tutu Plantation House. The property was entered on the National Register on July 12, 1976 under the classification of building.

Since the property was listed on the National Register, it has suffered two severe fires which destroyed the upper wooden story of the building and all of the interior. A substantial portion of the building is masonry and remains in good condition.

The question of the building's status on the National Register has arisen because of proposed development on the site. The building is currently owned by the Virgin Islands Government, and the development would come under F.H.A. rules and regulations, making it subject to Section 106 Compliance.

There are several questions which we feel should be resolved:

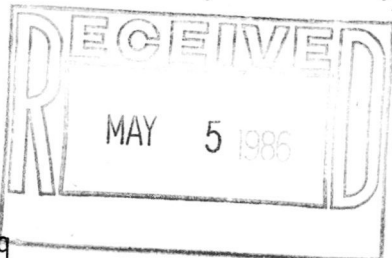
1. Is the property still eligible to be listed as a building?
2. The National Register highlights the building's architectural feature, but ignores the site and its archaeological components. We feel that the archaeological significance still needs to be addressed.
3. If the building were to be restored to its original configuration with the aid of old photographs and documents, would this effect the building's National Register status?

We are enclosing recent photographs of the property. We would appreciate any insight you might be able to give us on this threatened historic resource.

Your earliest response will be most appreciated. Please feel free to contact our office if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Claudette C. Lewis
Claudette C. Lewis
Assistant Director, DAHP



DHH/CCL/jq

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE

5/14/86

TIME OF CALL

11:30 AM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

David Harrington

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

VI SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Tutu Plantation House

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

fire at property.

- photos were separated from letter

so he will send with ... addit info

Integrity - building has lost integrity as bldg
as a site → yes -

> I outlined procedure to amend form -
basically - prop has lost integrity
under Crit C, gd ex of archit -
is elig under D (in their opinion).

They will document this on con't sheets,
submit nom amendment to address
this —

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

A Schlazel

5/14/86

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date Entered JUL 12 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Prosperity Archeological Site	Frederiksted vicinity St. Croix county
Great Pond Archeological Site	Christiansted vicinity St. Croix county
<u>Tutu Plantation House</u>	Charlotte Amalia vicinity St. Thomas county
La Grande Princesse School	Christiansted vicinity St. Croix county

Also Notified

Regional Director, Southeast Region

PR

Mott

7/14/76

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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: TUTU PLANTATION HOUSE 2 OTHER NAMES: 3 date of entry: 07.12.76 4 county code: 0900

5 LOCATION street & number city / town vicinity of state island 6 NPS REGION: 3 MI. N.E. of CHARLOTTE AMALIE CHARLOTTE AMALIE VI ST. THOMAS SOUTHEAST

7 OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☒ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 1st 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: 15 ACREAGE 1 ACRE LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION ☐ excellent ☒ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ fair ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated 17 features: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☒ NO 20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☒ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: PLANTATION HOUSE CURRENTLY: VACANT 24 dates of initial construction: circa 1803 major alterations: historic events: 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s): GREEK REVIVAL ELEMENTS 27 architect: unknown 28 master builder: 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer: 31 interior decorator: 32 artist: 33 artisan: 34 builder/contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP BRICK, FRAME, CLAPBOARDING; 2 STORIES, RECTANGULAR, HIPPED ROOF, FRONT CENTER ENTRANCE WITH STORM SHUTTERS, 1-STORY GABLED ENTRANCE PORCH WITH FOLIATED BARGEBOARDS, CORNER BOARDS, 2ND-STORY CLAPBOARDING; ORIGINAL INTERIOR TRIM INTACT; ALTERATIONS: OUTBUILDINGS INCLUDE MANAGER'S COTTAGE, STABLES & GARAGE. GREEK REVIVAL ELEMENTS. ONE OF FEW SURVIVING EXAMPLES OF PLANTATION GREAT HOUSES; DEVELOPED AS PART OF CATTLE DAIRY PLANTATION, MID-19TH C. -- EARLY 20TH C.