on NR 3-4-52

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virgin Islands
COUNTY: St. Croix
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ENTRY DATE

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Christiansted National Historic Site
AND/OR HISTORIC: Wharf Area, Christiansted

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Christiansted National Historic Site
CITY OR TOWN: Christiansted, St. Croix
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Virgin Islands
STATE: Virgin Islands — CODE: 078
COUNTY: St. Croix — CODE: 0800

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[X] District [ ] Building	[X] Public	Public Acquisition:	[X] Occupied	Yes:
[ ] Site [ ] Structure	[ ] Private	[ ] In Process	[ ] Unoccupied	[ ] Restricted
[ ] Object	[ ] Both	[ ] Being Considered	[ ] Preservation work in progress	[X] Unrestricted
				[ ] No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

[ ] Agricultural	[X] Government	[X] Park	[ ] Transportation	[ ] Comments
[ ] Commercial	[ ] Industrial	[ ] Private Residence	[ ] Other *(Specify)*	
[ ] Educational	[ ] Military	[ ] Religious		
[ ] Entertainment	[X] Museum	[ ] Scientific		

4. AGENCY

National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)* Southeast Region
STREET AND NUMBER: 1895 Phoenix Boulevard
CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta
STATE: Georgia 30349 — CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Registry of Deeds, Government House
STREET AND NUMBER: King Street
CITY OR TOWN: Christiansted, St. Croix
STATE: Virgin Islands — CODE: 078

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Fort Christiansvaern, Scale House, Steeple Building, Old Customs House, Historic American Building Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1957-1961 [X] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Hill
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D.C. — CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Preservation and Restoration Recommended:

The town of Christiansted was established in the second quarter of the 18th century by the Danish West India and Guinea Company on the site of the earlier French settlement of Basin. As the main port of St. Croix, Christiansted developed rapidly and in the second half of the 18th century became extremely prosperous on the sugar economy of the Islands. In 1755, Christiansted became the capital of the Danish West Indies and remained as such until 1871 when the seat of the colonial government returned to Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas.

Christiansted National Historic Site was established in 1952 to preserve the center of Christiansted as an outstanding example of Danish colonial development in the Lesser Antilles. It includes the old wharf area in the center of Christiansted and six buildings of high architectural order representing different functions of the government of the islands when they were at the height of their prosperity.

1. Government House (No. H-1)

It is a large two and three story masonry structure that faces on King and Queen Cross Street, half a block from the wharf area. "U" shaped in plan, around a center courtyard, open towards the north, it measures 270 feet by 135 feet. The three and two story wing on King Street contains Virgin Islands Government offices on the ground floor, the formal reception rooms and the court on the second floor, and the official St. Croix residence of the Governor of the Virgin Islands. The two story south wing on Queen Cross Street houses court chambers and Virgin Islands Government offices. The two story east wing facing on the landscaped courtyard contains offices, services and general maintenance and support facilities for the building.

It was originally two separate structures. The Johan Vilhelm Schopen house on King Street dating from 1747 was a two story structure. It has been preserved in the central part of the existing building. The Schopen house was purchased by the government in 1771 as a residence for the governor and in 1776 a third "attic" story over the central section was added under a manzard roof.

The Søbøtkergaard on the corner of King and Queen Cross Street was built between 1794-97 by the planter and merchant Adam Søbøtker. Acquired by the Colonial Government in 1828 for use as offices, it was joined to Government House in the 1830's. As part of the same expansion, the manzard roof of the Schopen house was replaced by the existing full third story and the piazza and monumental staircase on the north end of the building was added. In the 1930's, Government House was rehabilitated with a reasonable attention to its original architectural features, but with some changes to the interior.

(Continued)

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It is in good structural condition. Presently, it is used as offices for the Virgin Islands Government and the Federal District Court. The grounds, the formal reception rooms, the ballroom on the second story with period furnishings and the old kitchen in the rear wing of the structure are open to the public. Government House is owned by the Federal Government but managed by the Virgin Islands Government with architectural control by cooperative agreement vested in the National Park Service.

Government House reflects three different architectural styles. On King Street, the two lower stories designed and built by Johan Vilhelm Schopen with local labor and artisans employed by the Danish West India and Guinea Company still retains the barogue details and features characteristic s of the architecture popular in Denmark during the early 18th century. The simpler and more delicate details of the Søbøtkergaard represents a nordic version of the more restrained architecture of the Louis XVI period adapted to a locally developed architectural vernacular expressed in the open arched galleries.

The addition made during the 1830s, the third story of the Schopen house, the formal staircase and piazza on the north end of the west wing and the two story, three-bay section that connects the Schopen house and the Søbøtkergaard exhibit classical revival details modified and scaled to harmonize with the earlier architectural details. The design of these additions, built by the colonial government, have been credited to the Danish Military architect Lt. J. Gjellerup.

The reception rooms have some antique furniture and three portraits of note. Two original ones respectively of King Frederik the VII of Denmark and of Governor General Peter van Scholten, the latter by the Connecticut painter Metcalf. The third is a copy of an early portrait of Alexander Hamilton now hanging in the White House. The ballroom is furnished with replicas of its original chandeliers, wall scounces, mirrors and taburets.

Significance	First order
Longitude 64° 42'-04"	Latitude 17° 44'-53"
Acreage	0.95 acre
Recommended treatment:	Preservation and adaptive restoration
Preliminary cost est:	$120,000.00

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2. Steeple Building (H-2) Formerly known as "The Church of Our Lord of Sabadth"

It is a one-story rubble masonry and brick structure 77' x 31' facing on Company Street with a 18' x 14' 4 tiered tower, 72 feet high centered on and projecting from the west side of the building. The building was constructed 1750-53 as a Lutheran Church and the tower was added in 1794. A small churchyard extends to the east and north, surrounded by a wood picket fence between brick pillars. Two arched brick gateways on Company Street provide access to the churchyard and the steeple building. In 1831 the Lutheran congregation sold the Steeple Building to the government after acquiring the former Dutch Reformed Church on King Street. It was converted into a military bakery and warehouse. Later it served as a community hall, hospital and elementary school. In the early sixties, the Steeple Building was restored by the National Park Service to its appearance of 1800 under the supervision of Historical Architect F. C. Gjessing, NPS. Owned and operated by the National Park Service, it now serves as a museum. The churchyard is landscaped but has not been included in the restoration except for the fence. The building is in good structural condition.

The building has the restrained formality and classical details of 18th century Nordic architecture that developed out of earlier Baroque traditions. The 1750-1753 structure has been preserved in two walls, the gable end on Church Street and the facade toward Company Street. The two other walls were reconstructed partially on the original foundations in the restoration of the 1960s. It was and is a severely simple structure symmetrical, well proportioned and without architectural adornments beyond a cornice. The steeply piched hipped roof is shingled and the walls plastered and stuccoed. The interior has no subdivisions. The ceiling is wood. Deep and high quarter circle coves springing up from a fairly heavy wood cornice supports a central flat section. An organ gallery supported on turned wood columns stretches across the south end of the interior. The floor is paved in marble and brick.

The church was conceived as a hall church with altar, baptismal font and pulpit, all grouped about the center of the long wall opposite the entrance. The original furnishings, many of which have been preserved in the present Lutheran Church outside the National Historic Site, are elaborate and colorful in contrast to the simplicity of the building.

The tower added in 1794 and preserved in toto was built in front of the original entrance centered in the west wall on Company Street and for its lower story, served as a vestibule to the church. The exterior is plastered. It has an articulated base and panels of quoins flanking arched doorways to the north and south and toward the west an arched window opening. The first

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tier of the tower terminates in a cornice that continues in the cornice of the main body of the church. In the second tier, also plastered brick masonry, the quoin panels of the first tier continue in double pilasters with bases and caps of the Tuscan order flanking arched window openings and supporting an architrave and a second and more articulated cornice. The door and window openings of both the first and second tier have fan lights, surrounds and keystones, projecting and moulded transom bars and sills. The third tier is an octagonal drum constructed in wood and with an exterior finish of sheathing and shingles. Four decorative urns are placed above the cornice of the second tier in the triangular areas created by the transition from the rectangle of the lower tiers to the octagonal of the third tier. Clock faces are set in for sides of the drum. The fourth tier is an open octagonal pavilion constructed in wood and supporting a modified onion-shaped shingled dome terminating in a series of copper-covered projecting collars and balls and a weathervane.

Definite documentary reference to the designs of the church and the tower has not been found. Johan Vilhelm Schopen, an official of the Danish Westindia and Guinea Company and Chief Surveyor on St. Croix during the 1740s and early 50s, was involved in the construction and may have supplied the design of the church body. The designer of the tower is unknown. It was constructed by the mason James Entzell and the carpenter Collett. The mason Thomas Gray erected the masonry pillars of the fence in 1786 and the wood picket fencing between the pillars was constructed by carpenter Thomas Boggle who also installed the organ gallery of the interior in 1783.

Significance	First order
Longitude 64° 41'-59"	Latitude 17° 44'-54"
Acreage	0.25 acre

Recommended treatment includes preservation of restored structure and restoration of original features of the churchyard.
Preliminary cost estimate $36,000.00

3. Fort Christiansvaern (H-3)

Fort Christiansvaern is a brick, rubble masonry and half-timber structure located on the shoreline of Christiansted harbor and commanding the harbor entrance to the north and northeast. Sited on the earthworks of the earlier French fortification, Fort Christiansvaern was begun in 1738 and largely completed by 1749. Roughly a square fort measuring 132' x 144' built around a central courtyard, it has corner bastions at the salient angles and a ravelin on the landward side. The south landward curtain is two stories

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while all other parts of the fort are one story supporting open gun decks. Toward the north, the harbor side, a projecting water battery supported on a vaulted magazine replaces the conventional curtain. In continuous use as a military installation until 1878, when it became a police station and courthouse, it has been remodeled and rehabilitated at different periods without basically altering the original fabric of the fort. In the 1830s a stableyard was added to the fort toward the east and subsequently a walled prison yard towards the west, increasing the overall dimensions of the fort to 240 feet by 245 feet.

Fort Christiansvaern, federally owned, is managed by the Virgin Islands Government but by cooperative agreement, under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. It contains the Park Headquarters and is used as the Visitor Center for the historic site.

Fort Christiansvaern was built for the Danish Westindia and Guinea Company by the company's soldiers and slaves and in its initial stages under the guidance of Frederik Moth, the first Danish Governor of St. Croix. The designer of the fort is not known. Governor Moth was supplied with several standard plans of small citadels and also for brief periods had the advice of the Danish military engineers, Lieutenants Stahlmann, Warneck and Stoll. The Chief Surveyors Jens Sørensen Friis and after 1743, his successor Johan Vilhelm Schopen supervised the construction and also provided architectural designs. Others associated with repairs and additions to the fort during the 18th century are building inspector Julius von Rohr, Lt. Peter L. Oxholm and in the 19th century, the Lieutenants Lundbye, Gjellerup and von Friss, building inspector P. Beck and architect A. Løvmand.

In its general organization it follows the standard pattern of a small third degree citadel, varying from the typical in its water battery and two-story south curtain.

As the fort in the early years of the Danish colonization served as residence of the governor and was the nerve center of the colony, its architectural character is more elaborate than normally found in fortifications of its type. Style features such as the sally port, the masonry staircase and two-story arched gallery of the south curtain are derivatives of the "Italinated style" popular in Denmark during the first quarter of the 18th century. The extensive additions to Fort Christiansvaern in the 1830s are more sober in form and with the exception of the gate to the stableyard, plainly utilitarian in character.

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The quality of the structure and its impact is heavily dependent on its varied and fine details of pavements, masonry construction and finishes and to some degree, woodwork.

Structurally, it is in fair condition, in part excellent, and in areas, poor.

Significance:	First order
Longitude 64° 41'-56"	Latitude 17° 44'-58"
Acreage	6:00 acre (3/5 of wharf area)

Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary cost estimate $550,000.00

4. Westindia Company Warehouse (Post Office H-4)

A complex of three, two and one story masonry structures facing on Company, Church and Hospital Street, and grouped around a walled courtyard. The complex measures 78' x 168 1/2'. The main structure, a two-story "L" shaped building was completed in 1749 and housed the offices and quarters of the Westindia Company. The complex originally extended further north and included the old customhouse (H-6) as well as other structures, but in the 1790s, Hospital Street was extended and halved the original compound.

After 1833 it was a depot for the Danish military and subsequently used as a telegraph office. In the 1930s the buildings were rehabilitated and converted into office space for Customs and the Post Office. The exterior character and details were retained but interior considerably altered. It is now owned and operated by G.S.A. with architectural control by cooperative agreement vested in the National Park Service. It is structurally in good condition.

The main wing of the post office extends westward along Church Street some 78 feet and is 28 feet wide, while the eastern wing runs north and south along Company Street and is 28 feet wide by 68 feet long. The entire first floor houses the U. S. Post Office while the second floor is utilized by the U. S. Customs Service. The building is located in the southeast corner of the lot.

Two gates split the site on an axis perpendicular to Church and Hospital Streets. To the west of the south gate on Church Street is a kitchen with a brick hearth and chimney. Further west is a cistern which reaches to the southwest corner, and there are two more cisterns on the west side of the lot. In the northwest corner of the lot is a second kitchen with existing hearth and chimney with a flat brick ceiling. All buildings and walls are of brick and rubble masonry construction with brick frames to the original

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openings and stuccoed brick trim. Within the courtyard there are two stairways of brick masonry with solid balustrades which provide entrances to the second floor of the main building. Thus the post office lot is a complex of joined masonry buildings placed on three and half sides of an irregular walled quadrangular court.

The original Westindia and Guinea Company warehouse was built for the company by its slaves and artisans under the supervision of chief surveyor Johan Vilhelm Schopen and probably according to his designs. It has survived in the exterior masonry walls of the first story of the building toward Company Street and in the exterior of the building, the gateway and the wall facing on Church Street.

The full second story of the wing toward Company Street is an early 19th century replacement of a gambrel roofed second story similar to the one retained in the Church Street wing of the structure. The one-story structures facing on the wharf area and the extension of Hospital Street are late 18th century and early 19th century additions to the original warehouse complex.

The architectural character of the complex is a blending of 18th century and early 19th century details. Basically simple in design, decorative features are concentrated on gateways, corner posts of the surrounding walls and on the gable end of the main wing facing on Church Street. This latter feature with its gambrel gable end and horizontal banding is an unusual feature for the Virgin Islands architecture.

Significance: Second order
Longitude 64° 42'-01" Latitude 17° 44'-55"
Acreage 0.4 acre
Recommended treatment: Preservation
Restoration of exterior and finished
Preliminary cost estimate $40,000.00

5. Scale House (H-5)

The scale house is a two-story building 43'5" x 61'0" located on the wharf area at the extension of King Street. As built in 1856, it had a brick masonry ground floor 25'4" x 61'0" supporting a second wood story with an exterior masonry staircase on the north side of the structure. A one-story extension of reinforced concrete (18'1" x 61'0") was added to the north side of the original structure in 1925. The building housed the facilities for inspecting and weighing imports and exports and on the second story, the weighmaster's office and quarters of the troops attached to the Customs Service. Utilitarian in nature, but pivotal in function to the comunity, it is the fourth structure of its kind to be erected on the wharf area.

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Managed by the Virgin Islands Government, but by cooperative agreement, the maintenance of its historic integrity is the responsibility of the National Park Service. It is presently serving as a visitors bureau and offices of the Bureau of Tourism of the Virgin Islands Government. It also houses the office of the Harbormaster.

The Scale House was designed by Building Inspector Ludvig Schellerup and built for the Colonial Government by Mason Martin Larke and Carpenter B. Thomas. The Brick masonry ground floor was divided into a scaleroom to the east, a central office and an inspection room toward the west by two wood partitions. Both the scaleroom and the inspection room had wide gates in the north and south walls to allow passage of carts through these rooms. The office in the central section of the ground floor had an exterior door in the south wall, doors to the adjoining rooms and a window in the north wall. The second floor that was accessible by the exterior masonry stairs against the north wall had two rooms only as the scale room went up through both stories. The exterior of the ground floor has projecting quoins at corners and around the four arched gateways. Window openings in the west, north and east walls have keystones but are not otherwise articulated. A rainguard supported on turned wooden posts protects the central entrance door in the south wall. The second story is shingled with groved corner boards to simulate quoins. There is no cornice and the building is covered by a hipped roof with galvanized metal roofing. In 1925 when the reinforced concrete shed was added to the north side of the building, the original staircase was removed. In place of it, a concrete staircase was built against the east end of the addition that gave access to a continuous 4'0" wide passageway against the north wall at the second floor level.

The Scale House is devoid of style elements as such, but its logic, masonry and detail are characteristic of the Virgin Islands. For its effect, it relies on these features and on an exceptional high level of workmanship. On the second floor, for example, all wood members are exposed and finished. The studding serves as frames for door and windows and stop as trim. Moulded base boards are mitered around the exposed studs and around braces with adjustments to the changing angles of the mouldings and of the width of the base board to allow for perfect fit. Although building examples of this sort are now rare it must be assumed from the perfection of the workmanship in this plainly utilitarian structure that a similar degree of craftmanship was not as uncommon as it now appears to be. For this reason as well as its function in the community it is an important element of the National Historic Site.

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The structural condition of the Scale House varies from good to poor.

Significance: Second Order
Acreage 2 acres 1/5 of wharf area
Recommended treatment: Preservation and adaptive restoration
Preliminary cost estimate $60,000.00

6. The Library Building, formerly Danish Customs House and Post Office (H-6)

It is a two-story free-standing stuccoed limestone and brick masonry structure oriented east-west that faces on the Christiansted wharf. In its ground floor it retains structural elements dating from 1751. Changed and added to on several occasions during the 18th and early 19th century, it received its present form in 1840-1842. Originally part of the Danish Westindia and Guinea Company's compound and constructed as the residence of their bookkeeper, it became the Customs House and later the Customs House and Post Office. It served as such until 1926-27 when the Post Office moved to other quarters and the building was converted to a library. During the late 1940s and 50s, the ground floor was occupied by the St. Croix Museum Inc. Presently the entire structure is used by the Christiansted Library.

Managed and occupied by the V. I. Government, the architectural control of the structure is vested in the National Park Service by cooperative agreement.

The building is 59 feet, 6 inches long. Its ground floor consists of an enclosed section 19'7" wide, one room deep, divided into three rooms by two masonry partitions. A 10 foot wide arcade runs the full length of the enclosed section, along its north side. The center 26'3" of the north side projects another 10'5", providing on the ground floor a double arcade of the center three bays. Still centered on the north side, a large "open arms" brick masonry staircase extending 23' from the face of the second arcade and supported on two vaults provide the exterior access to the second floor and gives the building a "T" shaped plan. On the second floor, the entire area of the arcades and of the main body of the ground floor is enclosed.

A two-story sun and rain guard 8' wide supported on wood posts about 9' on center extends around the east, south and west side of the building. A wood picket fence between the posts excloses a walkway along the back and sides of the building. The structure has a flat roof behind a parapet wall. In 1902-3, part of the brick roof was removed and a corrugated metal roof on joists laid above it. To hide the second roof, the parapet walls were raised to their present height. The interior of the second floor is divided into four rooms by one masonry and two wood partitions. A wood stair at the west end provides interior communication between the first and second floors.

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In 1828-29, the second story masonry walls of the existing building were erected to replace earlier wood construction and the library building as it stands now began to emerge. Both Custom Treasurer Testmann and Buildings Inspector Johan von Magens provided sketches for the change. Its final form and its architectural character was arrived at in 1840-42 when Architect Albert Løvmand rehabilitated the building for the colonial government. His improvement included the monumental staircase on the north side of the building, the removal of adjoining structure to the west and south, the designs of the present sash, the two-story sun and rain guards and other exterior and interior details.

Although Architect Løvmand was a classicist, his more usual architectural vocabulary is not apparent except in the selection of mouldings, particularly in the fairly elaborate interior wood work of the second floor. Stylistically, the vernacular elements of the building's design are dominant and its success dependent on the blending of solidity of massing and construction with the slightness and restraint of its mouldings and such contrasts as the perforated ground floor and the slimness of the rainguard provided. It is an exceptionally distinguished building.

Although formal and representational, the Library, like the Scale House is local in its architectural expression and owes less to outside influences than the four other structures included in the Christiansted National Historic Site.

Significance: Third order
Longitude 64° 42'00" Latitude 17° 44' 56"
Acreage 2 acres (1/5 wharf area)
Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary cost estimate $170,000.00

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☒ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry		_____
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Science	_____
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Sculpture	_____
☐ Art		☐ Social/Humanitarian	_____
☒ Commerce	☐ Literature		_____
☐ Communications	☒ Military	☐ Theater	_____
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Christiansted National Historic Site provides an excellent example of the development, accomplishments, and way of life of a society based on a sugar producing plantation economy. It also preserves a representative sample of the architectural qualities that sprang from the wealth and accomplishments of Danish colonial development in the Lesser Antilles.

For more than a century after Columbus sighted St. Croix during his second voyage in 1493 it remained a no-man's land, rarely visited by Europeans. During the 17th century the Island of St. Croix was occupied in turn by the British, Dutch and French, each in turn relinquishing their claim. In 1665 the French left the island, but retained their ownership until 1733 when the Danish West India and Guinea Company bought St. Croix to add to the islands of St. Thomas and St. John which they already held.

Under Danish rule the island thrived, becoming a major sugar producer bound to both Europe and America by commercial, social, and cultural ties. By 1755 the population was over 10,000 and that year the three islands became a crown colony with Christiansted as the capital. Prosperity continued to increase in direct proportion to sugar production as the Danish West Indies became a major part of the "Fabulous Sugar Islands" as the Lower Antilles were known. It was this prosperity that built St. Croix's substantial, attractive buildings and supported the planter's and merchant's gracious and luxurious way of life.

The Town of Christiansted grew as a planned community. Its gridiron street pattern designed to fit the topographic features of the site. Its architecture reflects both the wealth and accomplishments of the plantation society and the social injustices that made such a society possible. By the first decades of the 19th century, the end of prosperity resting on a single crop economy was approaching--the price of sugar dropped after 1820, sugar beets became a viable crop in many countries, and restrictive import laws of other nations curtailed trade. By 1848, when slaves were emancipated, the flourishing economy was a past memory.

Today, Christiansted National Historic Site contains six buildings in approximately three city blocks on the waterfront. They reflect the influence and interest of Danish colonial government. Fort Christianvaern

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Tyge Hvass Dansk Vestindien C.A. Reitzels Boghandel, Copenhagen, 1925, Den.
Tyge Hvass Møbler fra Dansk Vestindiens, Nordisk Forelag, Copengn, 1928, Den.
Kay Larsen Dansk Vestindien 1666-1917, C.A. Reitzels Forlag, Copengn, 1928 Den.
Herbert Olsen, HSR, NPS, Steeple Building 1959, Ft. Christiansvaern 1960, Scale House 1961, Library Bldg., Formly Old Custom House 1962
F.C. Gjessing, HSR, NPS, Steeple Bldg. 1957 Part II, 1959
Henning Henningsen, The Danish Westindies in Old Pictures, Danish West Indies Society Copenhagen 1967

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	17 ° 44 ' 59 "	64 ° 42 ' 17 "
NE	17 ° 44 ' 59 "	64 ° 42 ' 04 "
SE	17 ° 44 ' 59 "	64 ° 42 ' 17 "
SW	17 ° 44 ' 59 "	64 ° 42 ' 04 "

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
° ' "	° ' "

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 11 1/2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Frederik C. Gjessing, Architect

DATE: June 15, 1973

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Virgin Islands National Park

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 806, Charlotte Amalie

PHONE: 755-2050

CITY OR TOWN: St. Thomas

STATE: Virgin Islands

CODE: 078

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State ☐ Local

JUN 10 1976

Federal Representative Signature *Date*

Deputy Assistant Secretary

Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-20-76

8. Significance Continued

originally was the residence of the governor, as well as a military installation. It later housed the offices and functions of the metropolitan government. The Customhouse (Library) and Scalehouse were both intimately tied to the commerce and agriculture that was the island's economic base. Colonization by many European Nations often started with licensed private, commercial ventures under diplomatic and military protection of the home government. The West India and Guinea Company Warehouse is an excellent example of the headquarters of such a venture, and for the first 20 years after 1733 was the heart of the settlement.

Government house as the residence of the governor and headquarters of the Crown Colony was the center of administration. As the meeting place of the Colonial Council, it was the setting for decisions that at one time or another affected all individuals residing in the Danish Virgin Islands. Discussions conducted here led to Denmark's abolition of the slave trade in 1798 and emancipation 50 years later.

Denmark was in advance of most European Nations in its acceptance of religious tolerance, but religious functions of an official nature had to be performed by a minister of the Lutheran State Church. Construction on the Steeple building began in 1750 and was completed 3 years later. The steeple was added in 1794. The structure, built of rubble masonry with a four tiered steeple 77 feet high, is an unusual representative of Danish colonial architecture.

These six structures served the population of St. Croix and the adjoining islands and are an architectural expression of Danish colonial development.

GPO 921-724

Property Christiansted National Historic Site

Already on NR
3-4-52

State Virgin Islands Working Number 6.10.76

CHRISTIANSTED

TECHNICAL

Photos 9
Maps 1

Map in NPS pamphlet provides sufficient boundary definition.

CONTROL

pl
OK - 6.16.76

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
Livingood
10c76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
MJ Heck
7-6-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

OK
Cole
10-15-76

BRANCH CHIEF

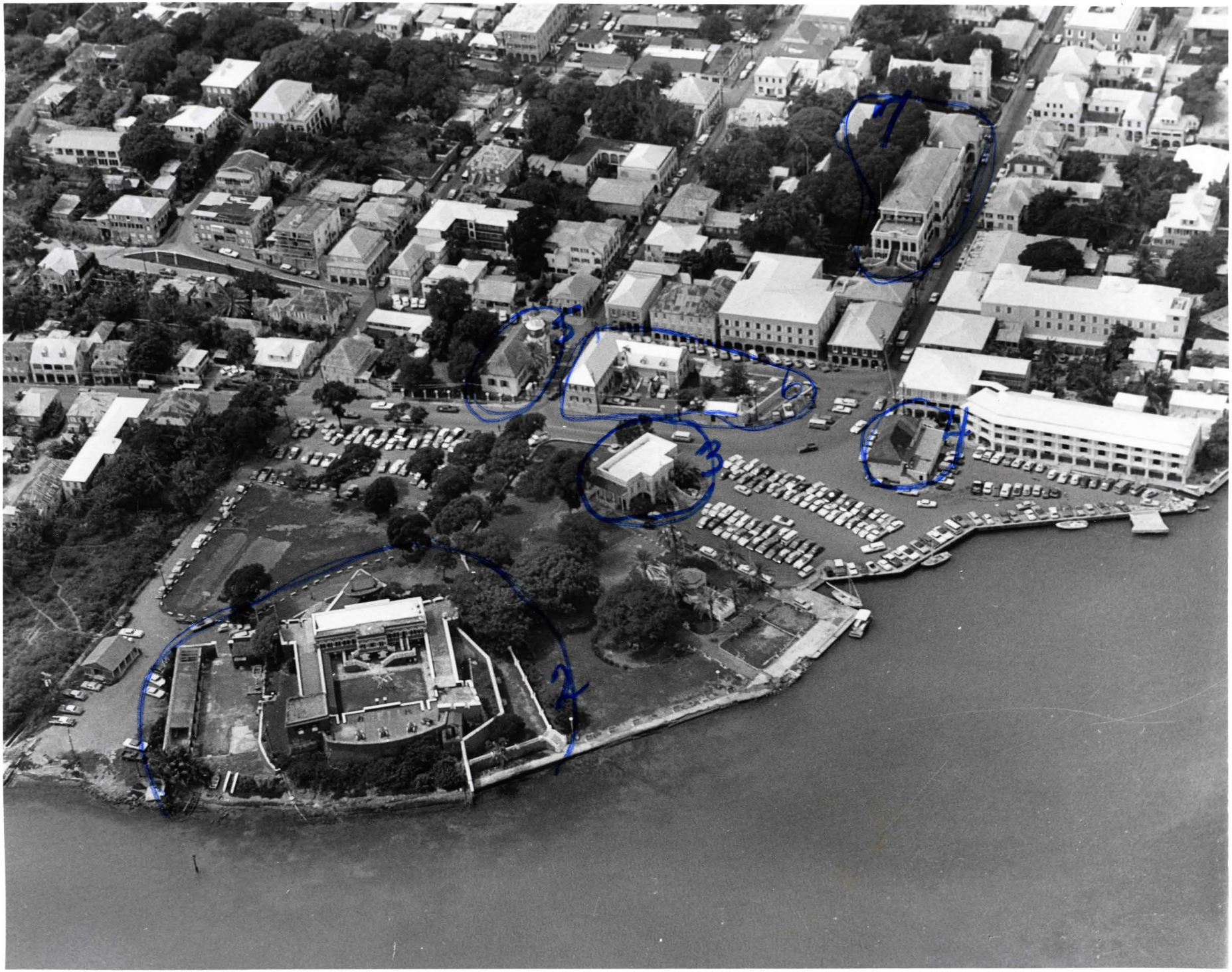
10-18-76

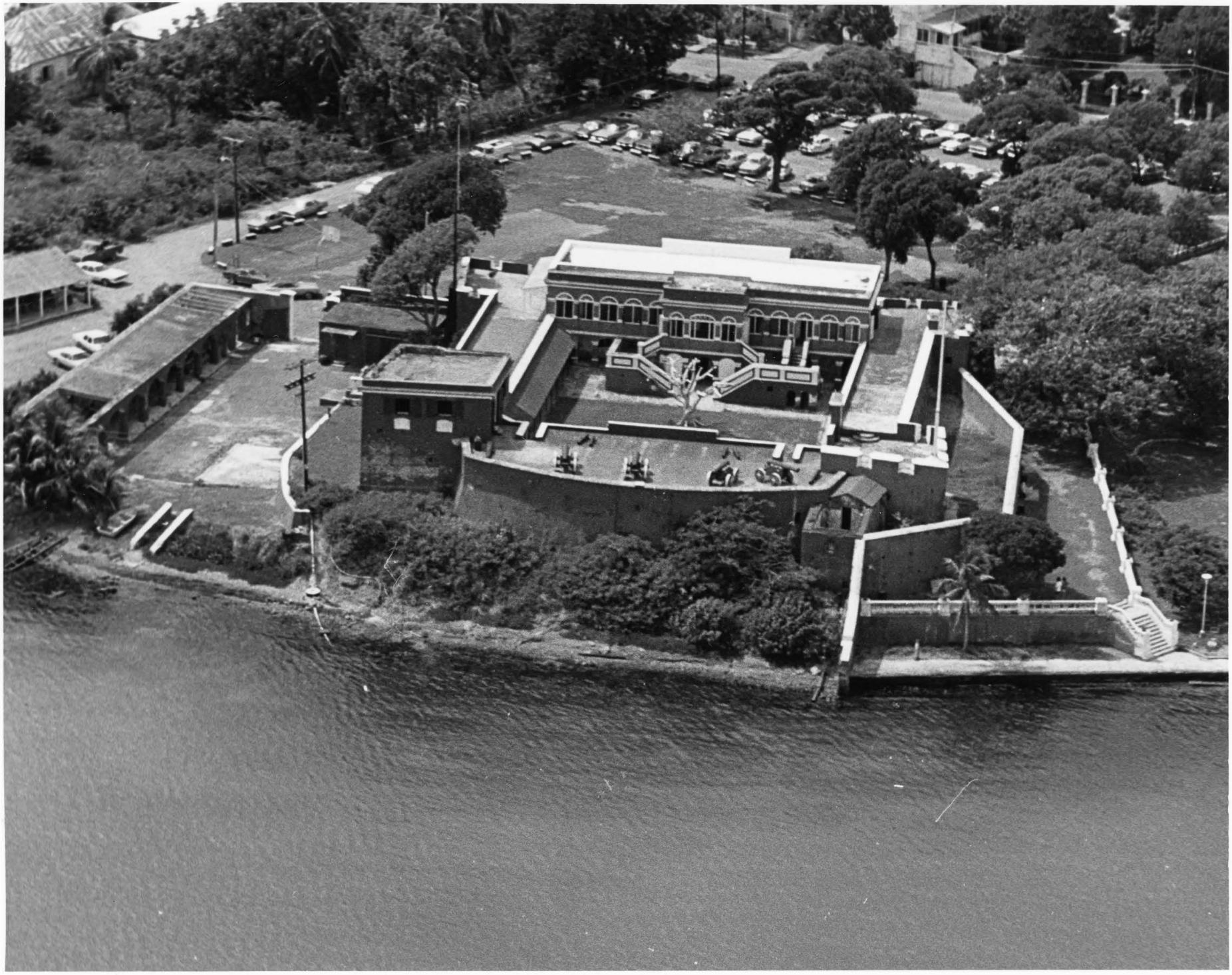
KEEPER

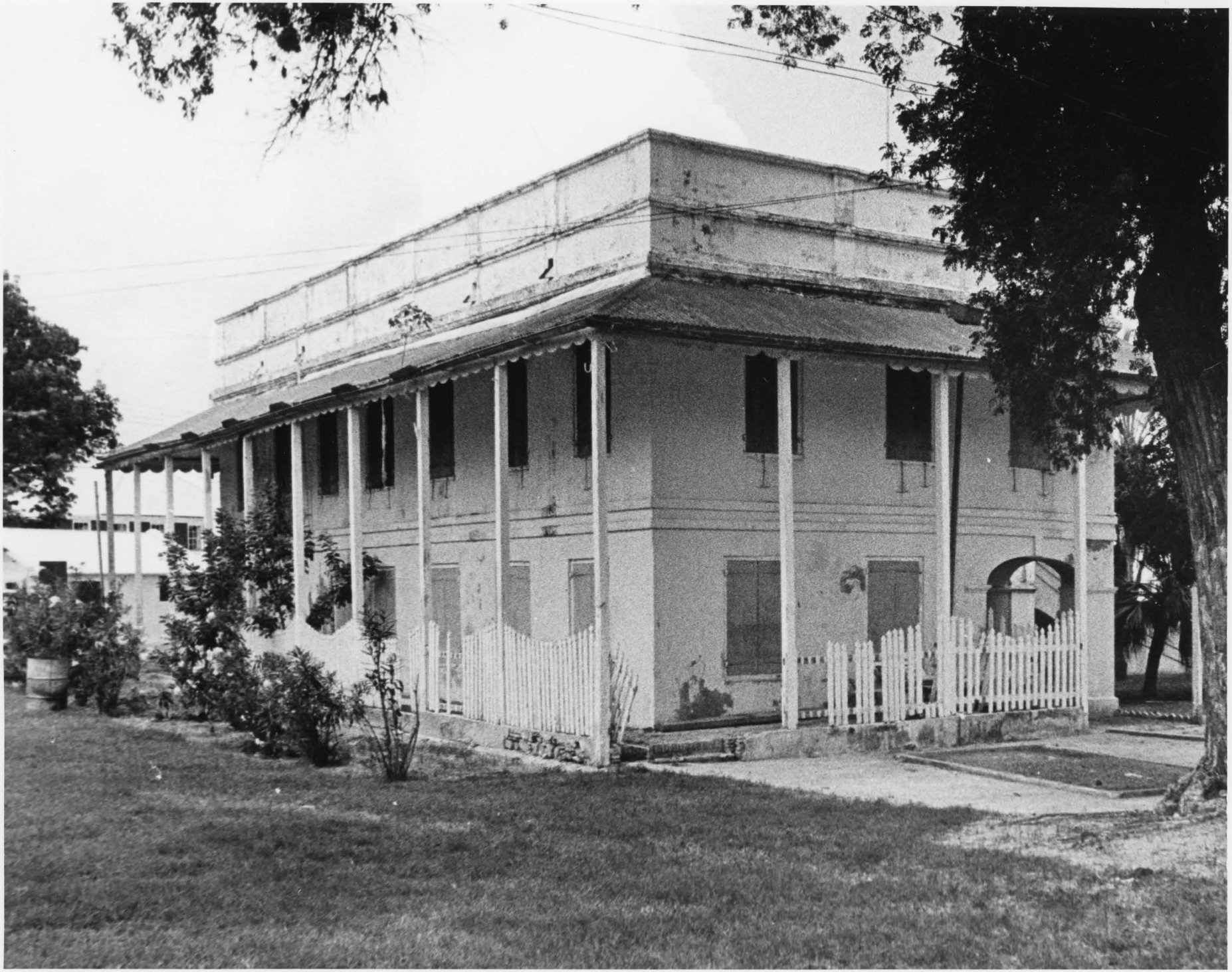
10/20/76

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered _____
Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74


1
2
3
4

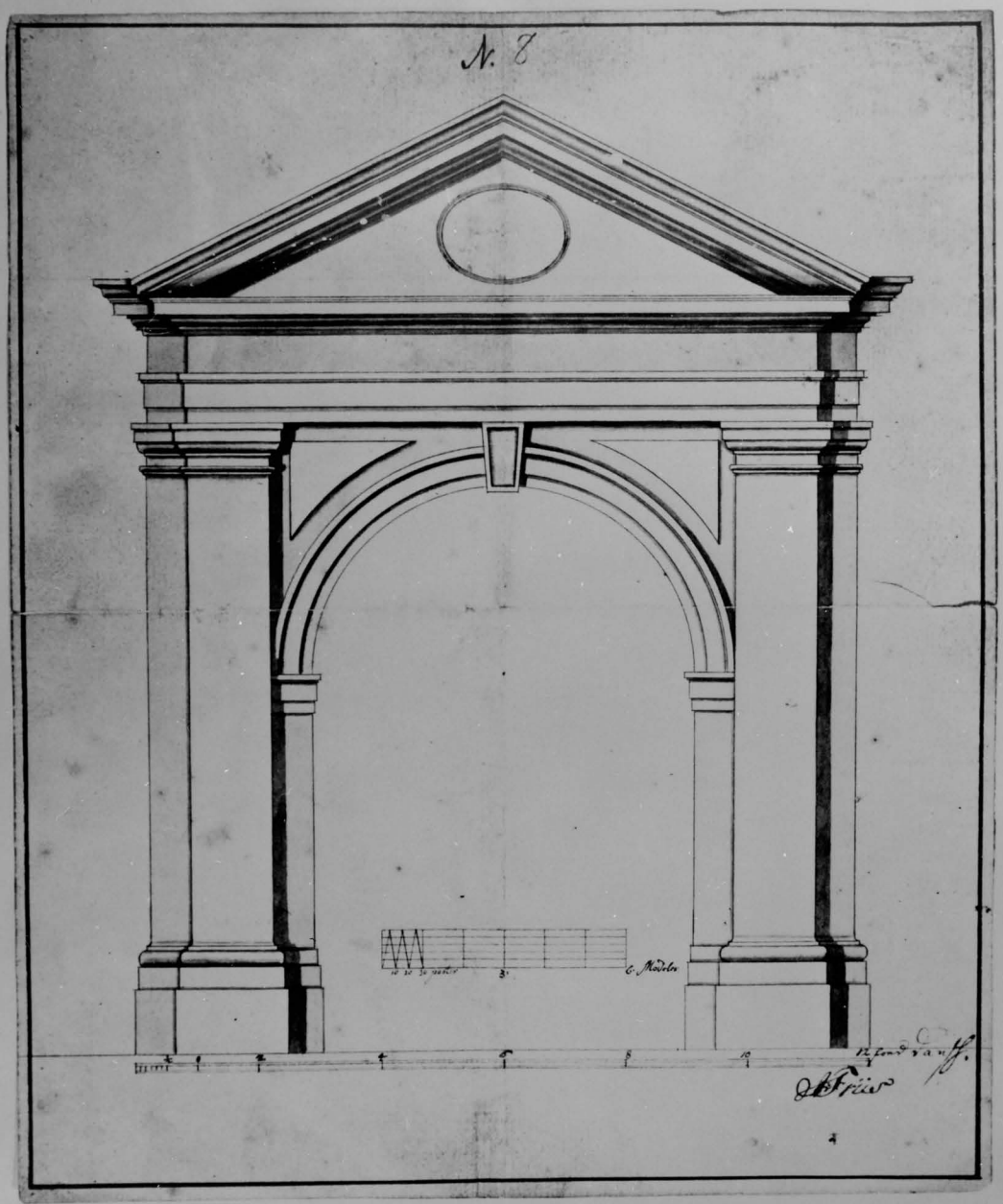




V.I. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
VISITORS BUREAU
VIRGIN ISLANDS
VISITORS BUREAU

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

R
VI
1830


N. 8

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTIANSTED QUADRANGLE
VIRGIN ISLANDS—MUNICIPALITY OF ST. CROIX
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

64°48′ 17°48′ — 45′30″ — 43′ — 64°42′17″ — 64°42′15″ — 64°42′7″ — 64°42′4″ — 64°40′30″ 17°48′

1 110 000 FEET — 90 000 FEET

C A R I B B E A N S E A

Baron Bluff · Rust Up Twist Ruins · NORTH SHORE ROAD · Belvedere · Clairmont · Greig Hill · Salt River Bay · Judith Fancy · Judith · Kirkegaard Hill · Sugar Bay · Fish Hatchery · St John · Montpelier · La Grande Princesse · Little Princess · Long Reef · Scotch Bank · Punnett Bay · Shoy Pt · Darby Hill · Shoys · Beauregard Bay · Fort Louise Augusta · Round Reef · Radio Tower (WLVI) · Light · CHRISTIANSTED HARBOR · Altona Lagoon · Protestant Cay · Gallows Bay · Golden Rock · Sub Sta · High Sch · Richmond · CHRISTIANSTED · Mt Welcome · Bitzberg · Orange Grove · Aldershvile Hill · Fredensdal · Herman Hill · Towers · Peters Farm · Saint Peter · Langs Observatory · Altona · Contentment · Recovery Hill · Elizas Retreat · Lang Peak · Springgut and Spring Garden · Prospect Hill · Ryan · Laprey Valley · Munster · Bugbyhole · Cathrines Rest · Corn Hill · Longford · Springs · Nugent · Granard · Springs Bay · Surlaine Pt · Halfpenny Bay · Ferrall Pt · Diamond Keturah · Manchenil Bay · Vagthus Pt · Mond · Round Reef · Ruins · Water · Gas · Oil · Cem · BM · Tank · Reservoir · Quarry · Church · Sch · Fort · Light · Radio Tower

GREEN KAY 1.7 MI. EAST POINT 8.1 MI. — 17°44′59″ — FC. 17°44′57″ — GH. 17°44′52″ — 17°44′50″

(FREDERIKSTED) — (EAST POINT)

FREDERIKSTED 6.1 MI. — PETRONELLA 1.5 MI.

Salt River · Glynn · Mon Bijou · Friedensfeld · Marys Fancy · Bonne Esperance · Rattan and Belvedere · Bellevue · Bulows Minde · Sion Hill · Ruby · Limetree · Fredensborg · La Reine · Strawberry Hill · Sion Farm · Constitution Hill · Beeston Hill · Grange · Peters Rest Sch · Annas Hope · Diamond · Peters Rest · St Anns Sch · Barren Spot · Bethlehem Old Work · Kingshill Sch · Kingshill · Clifton Hill · Profit · Spanish Town · Upper Bethlehem · Annaberg · Anguilla · Experimental Station · Airway Beacon · Manning Beacon · Catchment Basin · Alexander Hamilton Airport · Manning Bay Racetrack · Krause · Krause Pt · Long Reef · Canaan · Betzys Jewell · Blue Mountain · Little Fountain · Libanon Hill · Windsor · Concordia · Morningstar · Water · Ruins · Cem · BM · Tank · Church · Sch · Fort · Light · Radio Tower

S A I N T C R O I X

Q U E E N

K I N G

P R I N C E

C O M P A N Y

E A S T E N D A

CHRISTIANSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
JURISDICTION LIMITED TO 100 FEET FROM MEAN HIGH WATER

Christiansted National Historic Site

Long	Latitude
N. W. 64° 42′ 17″	17° 44′ 59″
N. E. 64° 42′ 4″	17° 44′ 59″
S. W. 64° 42′ 17″	17° 44′ 50″
S. E. 64° 42′ 4″	17° 44′ 50″

Fort Christiansvern

64° 42′ 7″ — 17° 44′ 57″

Government House

64° 42′ 15″ — 17° 44′ 53″

50 000 FEET

17°40′30″ — 64°48′ — 1 070 000 FEET — 45′30″ — 43′ — 17°40′30″ — 64°40′30″

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.-1959-NS
MR 0310

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 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 .5 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 TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.6 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty — Light-duty
Unimproved dirt

Christiansted Nat. Hist. Site

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

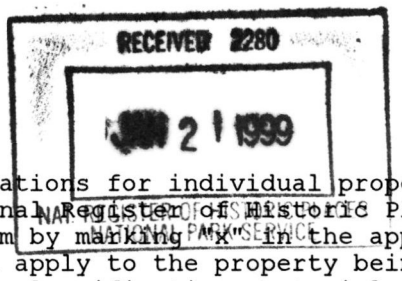
NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

66000077

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



AD

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registrati Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, e "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entr and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, o computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Christiansted National Historic Site (Additional Documentation)

other names/site number Wharf Area, Christiansted Historic District

2. Location

street & number _____

not for publication ___

city or town Christiansted, St. Croix *vicinity* ___

state Virgin Islands *code* VI *county* St. Croix *code* 010

zip code 00820

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this __x__ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property __X__ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __X__ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

additional documentation

Ronald M Greenberg — JAN 21 1999

Signature of certifying official *Date*

National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official *Date*

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X	entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	Mark W. Wagner	3/5/99
____	determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
____	determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
____	removed from the National Register	_____	_____
____	other (explain): _____		

_____ _____

for *Signature of Keeper* *Date of Action*

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private
X public-local
___ public-State
X public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

___ building(s)
X district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed properties in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	1	objects
2	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 6 (in NHS)

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
HEALTH CARE/hospital
DEFENSE/naval facility/fortification
RELIGION/religious facility
GOVERNMENT/custom house/court house/ correctional facility
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse/other
RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum/music facility/monument/marker
GOVERNMENT/post office/other
OTHER/NPS office/exhibit/visitor center/maintenance facility
OTHER/National Historic Site

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
COLONIAL
Danish Colonial
OTHER

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation: brick, stone, concrete
walls: brick
roof: metal, brick, asphalt, shingle
other: wood, stucco

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_X_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_X_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a grave.

___ D a cemetery.

___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ F a commemorative property.

___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
ca. 1734-1931

Significant Dates
1734, 1754, 1917, 1931

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown
U.S. Navy

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_X_ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
_X_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # VI-1, VI-4, VI-5
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
_X_ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: Christiansted National Historic Site
St. Croix, VI

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.46 (NHS within the 135.9-acre Christiansted HD)

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	__	_____	_____	D	__	_____	_____
B	__	_____	_____	F	__	_____	_____
C	__	_____	_____	F	__	_____	_____

_X_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

There is no change in the existing district boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Trebellas, Architectural Historian

organization National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

date January 1999

street & number 100 Alabama Street S.E. *telephone* (404) 562-3117

city or town Atlanta *state* GA *zip code* 30303

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner *(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)*

name National Park Service

street & number P.O. Box 37127 *telephone* _____

city or town Washington *state* DC *zip code* 20013-7127

National Register of Historic Places
Additional Documentation for Christiansted National Historic Site

Christiansted National Historic Site (NHS) was placed on the National Register of Historic Places with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act on October 15, 1966. Documentation for the district was accepted by the National Register on July 30, 1976. It nominated 135.9 acres of the historic town of Christiansted, including all of the Christiansted Historic and Architectural Control District and portions of the Christiansted National Historic Site. The initial documentation also included six historic structures within the Christiansted National Historic Site significant for their architecture as well as their association with the development of the Danish West Indies (Virgin Islands) as a colonial possession of Denmark. This amendment identifies one additional contributing structure within the National Historic Site, the Fort Christiansvaern Stable Building, that was included, but not individually listed, in the previous nomination. Like the majority of the historic resources, this structure is significant for its association with the development of Christiansted under Danish Colonial rule. After the United States purchased the Danish West Indies in 1917, the U.S. Navy administration greatly improved social services in the Virgin Islands until the islands were transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1931. This amendment also identifies one additional contributing structure within the National Historic Site, the bandstand, which is significant for its association with the U.S. Navy's stewardship of the Virgin Islands between 1917 and 1931. In addition to listing these two structures, this amendment also identifies one noncontributing structure within the National Historic Site, the D. Hamilton Jackson Monument. The district boundaries for the Christiansted Historic District will remain the same. Photographs of the additional contributing structures within the National Historic Site are included, as well as a map indicating the location of these contributing structures.

Description of Historic Resources

Previously Listed Resources
Christiansted National Historic Site

Government House, 1747-1830s

Originally two separate structures, the Government House consists of an approximately 270' x 135' U-shaped masonry structure of two to three stories. The Johan Vilhelm Schopen House, built in 1747 as a two-story building, was purchased by the colonial government in 1771 and is now the central part of the existing Government House. The neighboring Sobotkergaard, built between 1794 and 1797, was joined to the Government House in the 1830s with a two-story, three-bay connecting unit. At the same time, the existing third story was added to the Schopen House, as was the monumental staircase and piazza on the north end of the building. Although transferred to the Virgin Islands government in 1984, and currently maintained and interpreted by it, the

structure is still within the authorized boundary of the National Historic Site.[1] Nonetheless, the National Park Service no longer has responsibility for the management or maintenance of the Government House.

Steeple Building, LCS Number 00187, H-2, 1750-1753, 1794-1796

The Steeple Building, once known as The Church of Lord God of Sabaoth, consists of a 28' x 88', one-story, rectangular-plan building with a hipped roof, and a 15' x 18' x 77' steeple tower. Built as a Lutheran church between 1750 and 1753, the structure has exterior walls of stucco masonry and a roof with wood shingles. The building also contains a main entrance through the steeple tower on the north face, as well as twelve-over-twelve-light casement windows with exterior board shutters. The four-tier steeple tower was added to the building in 1794. The first and second tiers are rectangular with stucco walls and arched window and door openings. Quoins decorate the corners of the first tier, while the second is embellished with pilasters. The third tier consists of a wood-shingled octagonal drum with four clock faces on alternating sides. The top tier contains an open cupola with a wood-shingled roof surmounted by a wrought iron spire and weather vane. The brick masonry gate and wood picket fence with brick pillars are part of a 1964 reconstruction.

Fort Christiansvaern, LCS Number 00188, H-3, 1738-1749, 1835-1840

Built between 1738 and 1749, Fort Christiansvaern is an approximately 132' x 144', four-sided fort built around a central courtyard. The fortification has corner bastions at the salient angles and a ravelin on the south (landward) side. The south curtain (the wall of a fortification between the bastions) contains two stories, while the others are one-story stuccoed brick walls enclosing chambers and magazines. The roofs of the curtains and bastions are flat brick decks with embrasured parapet walls. On the north (harbor) side, a projecting water battery replaces the curtains. The northeast bastion has a 1835 second-story addition used as an enlisted soldiers' dining room. The second story of the south curtain, which contained living quarters, has symmetrical fenestration on the court (north) side. Other features include a projecting double stairway leading to the second-story entry, a fanlight over the door, and jalousie windows with fanlights flanking the main entry. In 1835 a wall was added to the west side of the complex to enclose a prison yard.

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[1] According to the Office of the Solicitor, Southeast Region, Department of Interior, the transfer of the Government House and the appurtenant property to the Government of the Virgin Islands did not change the boundary of the National Historic Site. When Congress passed H.R. 98-784 in 1984, it did not remove, nor intend to remove, the Government House and its land from the Christiansted National Historic site. Roger Sumner Babb, Atlanta, Georgia, to Jerry Belson, Atlanta, Georgia, 8 July 1997, Southeast Support Office, National Park Service, Atlanta, Georgia.

Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse, LCS Number 07029, H-4, 1749

The Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse is a 78' x 168.5' building complex of one-, two-, and three-story structures grouped around a walled courtyard. The main building, a three-story, L-shaped, hipped-roof structure completed ca. 1749, faces Compagniegade (Company Street) and once housed the offices and quarters of the West India Company. The ell addition to the north of the building consists of a two-story gambrel-roof structure with three gable dormers on the east and west sides. A staircase leads from the main building into the courtyard. The north end of the complex has a one-story, V-shaped building with a flat roof that follows the contour of the wall. A shed-roof pump house lies on the northwest end of the complex, while the 25' x 55' National Park Service (NPS) comfort station lies to the northeast. The comfort station, the only part of the complex owned by the NPS, has an end-gable parapet roof and entries on the east facing the street. Windows throughout the complex are six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash with exterior board shutters and iron hardware. All the buildings in the complex have stucco-covered walls and metal roofs. An arched gateway on the west wall connects the south and north buildings on that side of the complex.

Scale House, LCS Number 00191, H-5, 1855-56

The Scale House is a 43.5' x 61', two-story, rectangular-plan building with a hipped roof. As built ca. 1855-56, the structure had a brick masonry ground floor approximately 25.3' x 61' supporting a wood second story with an exterior masonry staircase. In 1925 a one-story reinforced concrete addition approximately 18' x 61' was built to the north side of the structure. This non-historic addition was later demolished in a 1977 rehabilitation. The brick exterior walls on the first floor currently have stucco veneer while wood shingles cover the second. Quoins decorate the corners of the ground floor, which contains arched stable door entries with voussoirs of alternating size and wood gates on the north and south faces of the building. In the center of the facade (north face) is the restored exterior brick staircase with a modern wrought iron railing leading to the second floor. The first floor of the south face has a single-door entry with a shed-roof porch containing wood posts and scalloped wood barge boards. The unglazed windows on the second floor of the structure have exterior board shutters and interior louvered wood shutters. Due to damage from Hurricane Marilyn in 1995, the roof of the Scale House was replaced with wood shingles in 1997.

Danish Customs House, LCS Number 00190, H-6, ca. 1829

The Danish Customs House, also known as the Library Building, is an approximately 40' x 60', rectangular-plan, two-story building with a flat parapet roof. The facade (north face) has symmetrical fenestration as well as a projecting, three-bay entrance and grand staircase with a solid balustrade leading to round newel posts. The first floor has an open arcade supported by square columns that run behind the staircase. The south, east, and west faces

of the building contain a two-story hipped-roof porch with a brick floor, wood post supports, scalloped barge boards, and picket fencing between the posts. The casement windows have three-over-two lights in each panel, keystone details, and exterior board shutters with iron hardware. Doors are double wood panel casement without glazing. The masonry building contains decorative horizontal banding: two at belt course and three at parapet level. The south face also contains an exterior cast-iron staircase leading to the second floor. The roof of the building consists of a double-layer of brick over wood joists and stringers.

Additional Contributing Resources
Christiansted National Historic Site

Fort Christiansvaern Stable Building, LCS Number 91554, H-9, 1835-1840

The Fort Christiansvaern Stable Building, built between 1835 and 1840, consists of an approximately 119' x 16', rectangular-plan, one-story stable building with brick and stucco walls and a brick roof which slopes toward the west. The west face of the building contains eight full and one partial arched stable doorways. There were originally ten openings to the stable, but one and part of another have been filled with brick and now contain two doors and a small window. On the east face of the structure, sixteen narrow windows with shutters and horizontally placed iron bars provide light and ventilation for the building. A wall with a gate connects the stable and stable yard to the fort. The stable building was previously listed as part of Fort Christiansvaern on the 1976 National Register nomination.

Bandstand, LCS Number 91555, H-8, ca. 1917-18

The bandstand, built ca. 1917-18 by the U.S. Navy during its stewardship of the Virgin Islands, consists of a roughly 22' x 22' octagonal platform with a two-tier octagonal hipped roof. The structure contains steps on the east face. Other features include wood railings, posts, roof supports, and decorative barge boards. The bandstand platform rests on an approximately 4 1/2' high brick pier foundation filled in the 1930s with concrete scored to look like stone. Used for concerts given by the U.S. Navy Band of the Virgin Islands, the structure is located near Hamilton Jackson Park between Fort Christiansvaern and the Danish Customs House and Scale House.

Noncontributing Resources
Christiansted National Historic Site

David Hamilton Jackson Monument, LCS Number 91556, H-7, 1978-1979

The David Hamilton Jackson Monument, created to commemorate the famous local judge, editor, and labor leader, is an approximately 6' high monument with a bronze bust sculpture of Jackson wearing his judge's robes. On March 14, 1978,

the Virgin Islands Legislature approved an act (Act No. 4106) authorizing $10,000 for the creation of a mounted bronze bust of D. Hamilton Jackson and a memorial plaque to be placed in the D. Hamilton Jackson Park in Christiansted, St. Croix. Designed by Jose Buscaglia, the completed sculpture rests on a marble veneer and concrete plinth consisting of a square base, square shaft, and a capital. The text on the monument reads "DAVID/HAMILTON JACKSON/1884 1946/JUDGE, EDITOR, LABOR LEADER/'BLACK MOSES'." The monument was completed between 1978 and 1979 and is maintained as a cultural resource because of its commemorative purpose and its association with Jackson, who played an important role in the development of the Virgin Islands in the early twentieth century. Born in 1884, David Hamilton Jackson organized the first labor union in St. Croix in 1915 and founded the *Herald*, the first newspaper to represent the working class opinion in the Virgin Islands. He also served as an educator, editor, labor leader, attorney, councilman, and judge.[2]

D. Hamilton Jackson Park

The park lacks clear boundaries, but as originally designated appears to have extended from the west wall of Fort Christiansvaern on the east, the sea on the north, and the scale house on the south. On the west, the park extends to the vicinity of the bandstand. It was probably named in Jackson's honor after his death in 1946. The first mention of this designation appears in a Virgin Islands Public Works Department map from the late 1940s or early 1950s. Many of the paths, walkways, and benches in this area may have been related to the former Veteran's Memorial, which stood near the balustrated terrace (built 1945) outside the west wall of the fort until it was removed in the early 1980s. Many of the landscape features associated with the memorial were also removed to restore the grounds to their nineteenth century appearance.[3] Further research is needed to determine whether the park area is a cultural landscape eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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[2] Ruth Moolenaar, *Profiles of Outstanding Virgin Islanders*, 3rd ed. (Department of Education, Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, 1992), 109-110.

[3] Conversation with William Cissel, Christiansted National Historic Site, 20 January 1998 and 11 January 1999.

Significance

The Christiansted National Historic Site was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of a nationally significant district associated with the development of Christiansted and the Danish West Indies as a colonial possession of Denmark. The historic site contains seven structures which reflect the growth of the colony in the early eighteenth century under Danish West India and Guinea Company rule, and after 1754, under the Danish Crown. This documentation explains the relationship of these structures to the development of Christiansted and the rest of the Danish West Indies. Under Danish Crown rule, Christiansted became the new capital of the colony, and the economy of the Danish West Indies prospered with the sugar production of St. Croix and St. John and the commerce of St. Thomas. However, a decline in profits from agriculture (which began in the mid-nineteenth century) led to Denmark's decision to sell the islands to the United States, which purchased them for military purposes. The U.S. Navy administered the islands from 1917 to 1931, and during these years implemented a number of programs to improve social services on the islands. This additional documentation also discusses the site's secondary significance--its association with the U.S. Navy's stewardship of the Virgin Islands from 1917 to 1931. One structure, the bandstand, reflects this period of significance.

The Danish West Indies

On November 14, 1493, during his second voyage to the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered yet another island in the West Indies and named it Santa Cruz (St. Croix). Shortly thereafter, his ships sailed north through several smaller islands, and Columbus named this group the Virgin Islands, or "Las Once Mil Virgines."[4] Although Spain claimed St. Croix and the Virgin Islands, it neglected to colonize them in favor of larger islands in the area.[5] No serious efforts were made to inhabit the Virgin Islands until the seventeenth century, when both Dutch and English groups attempted to settle on St. Croix. They encountered little resistance from the islands' Native American population, for most of them had disappeared by the mid sixteenth century.[6] After several

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[4]St. Croix, however, was not considered one of the Virgin Islands at this time. William W. Boyer. *America's Virgin Islands, A History of Human Rights and Wrongs* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 1983), 2.

[5]Fear of the native Carib Indians may have influenced this decision as well. See Isaac Dookhan, *A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States*, 28-9, 31-2.

[6] Although the Virgin Islands were successively inhabited by three Native American groups, the Ciboneys, and Arawaks, and the Caribs, few Caribs remained when the Dutch and English began to settle St. Croix. There are several possible explanations for their disappearance. European powers destroyed many Native American communities in the sixteenth century during the process of colonization. The Spanish may have captured some Caribs on St. Croix to replace the rapidly dying Native American workers (slaves) in the Greater Antilles. Others may have fled southeastward toward the Lesser Antilles. Whatever the cause, the absence of Native Americans

skirmishes, the Dutch left the island to the English, who were then forcibly removed from St. Croix in 1650 by the Spanish. Shortly thereafter, France seized the island from Spain and began to plan its development.[7]

Meanwhile, European nations began colonizing other islands in the area. Denmark was drawn to the West Indies by their trade possibilities. In 1665 the Danish Crown first attempted to establish a colony on St. Thomas, which was chosen for its ideal harbor for trade. Sickness, pirate attacks, severe weather, and meager assistance from Denmark forced the colonists to abandon the settlement after nineteen months.[8] Several years later, in 1670, the Danish Crown granted a charter to the Danish West India Company (a group of investors and merchants) to establish settlements on St. Thomas and other uninhabited islands in the West Indies. By 1672 the Danish West India Company had successfully founded a colony on St. Thomas and began to look into establishing settlements on other islands in the area. The company quickly understood the limited agricultural potential of St. Thomas and needed to expand its claims in the West Indies to remain profitable. It also looked for other markets for its slave trade, for in November 1674, a royal charter gave the company complete control of the Danish-Guinea slave traffic.[9] Consequently, in winter 1717-8, a group of twenty planters, five soldiers, and sixteen slaves landed on neighboring St. John, organized a settlement, and claimed the island for Denmark.[10]

The Danish West India and Guinea Company also turned toward neighboring St. Croix, which had been unoccupied for several decades. By 1695 the French Crown concluded that maintaining a colony on St. Croix was no longer profitable or militarily feasible and moved the whole settlement to St. Dominque (Haiti).[11] When St. Thomas and St. John experienced an economic depression in the 1720s, the Danish company began to consider purchasing St. Croix from the French. The company not only needed to expand its possessions in the Caribbean, but it also wanted to utilize the agricultural resources of St. Croix and benefit from trade with the island. Indeed, the fertile land, the moderate climate, and the size and terrain of the island made it ideal for sugar production.

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on St. Croix prompted the early introduction of African slavery on the island. Boyer, xxiii, 1-3.

[7]Boyer, 3-4.

[8]Isaac Dookhan, *A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States* (St. Thomas, VI: College of the Virgin Islands, 1974), 35-7.

[9]Ibid., 124.

[10]Ibid., 40-2.

[11]Boyer, 6.

Consequently, on June 15, 1733, the Danish West India and Guinea Company officially purchased St. Croix from France for 750,000 French livres with the stipulation that they could not sell the island to a foreign power without French approval.[12]

A slave insurrection on St. John, however, delayed colonization of the island until the following year. On September 1, 1734, a group of settlers from St. Thomas under the leadership of Governor Frederick Moth arrived at the former French settlement of Basin and founded Christiansted. They immediately began construction of a temporary redoubt on the site of an early French fortification. By March 1735, the colonists had completed three sides of a 110' x 116' earthwork fort and built simple dwellings for quarters on the fourth side. The construction of a permanent fortification, however, was delayed by several factors, including indecision about its location, the death of several company engineers, and other company priorities. Work finally began on the new fort in 1738, and by the end of 1749 the three curtains, the battery, the four bastions, and the ravelin were completed. The colonists then named the masonry fortification Christiansvaern ("Christian's Defense") in honor of King Christian VI of Denmark-Norway.[13]

One of the Danish West India and Guinea Company's priorities was the rapid development and settlement of St. Croix. The company had learned from its earlier attempts at establishing colonies on St. Thomas and St. John, and wanted an orderly distribution of land. Between 1735 and 1754 it surveyed the island and established plantation sites according to a logical and uniform plan; St. Croix was divided into nine quarters, which were then subdivided into plantation sites of approximately 150 acres. The company offered the first sites to new settlers at cheap prices. Consequently, many planters in St. Croix owned more that one plantation site.[14] By 1748 most of the flat land in St. Croix was under cultivation, and according to the 1751 census, the island contained 120 sugar estates and 122 cotton estates worked by 1,900 slaves.[15]

By 1749 the Danish West India and Guinea Company had also completed a warehouse in Christiansted to house offices and quarters, as well as a residence for its

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[12]Dookhan, 44.

[13]Jerome A. Greene and William F. Cissel, *Historic Furnishings Report, Fort Christiansvaern, Christiansted National Historic Site, Christiansted, Virgin Islands* (Harper's Ferry, WV: National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, 1988), 3; Herbert Olsen, "Historic Structures Report, Fort Christiansvaern, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands" (National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, August 1960), 5-6.

[14]Boyer, 11; Dookhan, 75.

[15]Boyer, 12.

bookkeeper (later to become part of the Danish Customs House). However, although trade and plantation agriculture continued to develop, the company still experienced financial difficulties. The company failed because it saw the Virgin Islands solely as a profit-making industry and exploited the resources of the island and the planters for the shareholders' benefit.[16] Planters on St. Croix frequently complained of the monopolistic practices and trade restrictions imposed by the Danish company. Consequently, in 1753, several planters petitioned the King to take over the company. One year later, in 1754, the Danish Crown purchased the Danish West India and Guinea Company's shares and assumed its obligations. St. Croix, the largest and most lucrative island, became the site of the new capital of the royal colony.[17]

With the start of crown rule, the Danish West Indies began to prosper. Instead of being monopolized by the former Danish West India and Guinea Company, trade was opened to all Danish subjects. Since new markets were created and planters could now receive better prices for their produce, cotton and sugar production on St. Croix and St. John flourished. St. Thomas, on the other hand, turned toward trade and commerce in the mid-to-late nineteenth century.[18] The island greatly benefited from its ideal harbor facilities as well as from its status as a free port. Indeed, the deep harbor could accommodate large ships and had the necessary facilities for shipping, including coaling stations for refueling (established 1841), wharves for unloading cargo, tanks for watering, and a dry dock for cleaning and repairing vessels.[19]

As the new capital of the Danish West Indies during this prosperous period of agricultural production and trade, Christiansted benefited from a building campaign. The colonial government established the Danish Customs House and built the Scale House (1856). Significant renovations were made to the Government House (1830s), while Fort Christiansvaern underwent major alterations and improvements. In March of 1836 Governor-General Peter von Scholten approved the addition of a stable and carriage house to Fort Christiansvaern. The stable, built against a new outer wall on the east side of the fort, consisted of a 74' long structure with a flagstone-paved floor and a flat, brick roof laid on timbers. The building contained boxed stalls for twelve horses and had six arched openings with wooden shades on the west wall and twelve shuttered and barred windows on the east. A wooden gutter hung from the eaves of the building while a brick gutter carried water from the stable to a rock gutter leading to the sea. Over the years the stable was extended by

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[16]Dookhan, 66-7.

[17]Boyer, 12.

[18]Ibid.

[19]Dookhan, 101-2, 220.

25' and two box stalls were added to the complex.[20]

After the mid-nineteenth century, however, the prosperity of the Danish West Indies began to decline. Plantation agriculture decreased due to a decline in prices for produce and losses caused by hurricanes and droughts. In addition, competition from the expanding beet sugar industry and labor problems created by the abolition of slavery in 1848 further contributed to the decline of sugar cane. Over the next fifty years, some planters attempted to cut production costs by adopting new techniques while others returned to cotton or converted to cattle raising. These efforts to promote agricultural production, however, had limited success.[21] Meanwhile, the shipping industry in St. Thomas was also in decline. In 1867 a hurricane, followed by a tidal wave and earthquake, destroyed many ships in the St. Thomas harbor. These disasters, combined with several epidemics, adversely affected the harbor's activity and status as a "safe" harbor. Furthermore, competition from better shipping facilities on other nearby islands reduced the importance of St. Thomas as a coaling station.[22] Consequently, Denmark began to view her colonial possessions in the West Indies as an economic liability and seriously considered their sale.

The U.S. Purchase of the Virgin Islands

The relationship between the United States and the Danish West Indies, based primarily on commerce, grew over the centuries. In the mid-eighteenth century, the Danish West Indies first developed strong trading relations with Britain's North American colonies. American vessels brought flour, dried codfish, and other necessary plantation supplies such as hoops, barrel staves, planks, shingles, and horses to the islands in exchange for sugar, molasses, and rum. The operation of these plantations depended on these supplies as well as this outlet for their goods. After the American Revolution, trade restraints imposed by the British were lifted, and trade between the United States and the Danish West Indies increased as the new country developed.[23] Trade continued to expand so that by the end of the nineteenth century, U.S. trade accounted for approximately one-third of the islands' imports (two-thirds of St. Croix's). These strong commercial ties with the United States led many of the inhabitants of the Danish West Indies to believe that they would benefit from the transfer of the islands to the United States.[24]

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[20]Olsen, 30, 32, 34.

[21]Boyer, 53-5; Dookhan, 82-5, 222.

[22]Dookhan, 220-1.

[23]Ibid., 93-96.

[24]Ibid., 247-8.

The United States, however, was more interested in the Danish West Indies for military purposes than for their commercial value. During the Civil War, the United States first understood the strategic importance of the Danish West Indies as a naval base. U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward realized that the U.S. Navy could not successfully conduct a blockade as long as the islands presented a weak point, and wanted to obtain the harbor at St. Thomas for its commercial and strategic importance. According to Luther Evans, Seward "saw in St. Thomas an important link in a chain of commercial and coaling stations which he hoped to forge between North and South America, for he regarded the two continents as standing upon the threshold of great commercial developments."[25] As early as 1865, Seward spoke with Danish foreign minister Raasloff of his interest in the West Indies and the United States' concern that these islands would fall into the hands of another foreign power. In 1867, after a U.S. delegation visited St. Thomas, the United States and Denmark signed a treaty in which the United States would pay Denmark $7,500,000 for St. Thomas and St. John. If necessary, the United States could purchase St. Croix for an additional $3,750,000, providing the French government did not oppose its sale. Both houses of the Danish Parliament agreed to the sale of the islands, and the majority of the planters and merchants on the islands favored the agreement as well. Few Americans, however, supported the purchase of the islands, and Congress failed to ratify the treaty before it lapsed.[26]

At the turn of the century, the United States once again expressed an interest in purchasing the Danish West Indies. Many Congressmen felt that American ownership of the islands was necessary for national security, for as long as the islands could be sold to another European power, there was a threat of war if the United States perceived a violation of the provisions of the Monroe Doctrine. In addition, the Danish West Indies, especially St. Thomas, had great military value as a naval and coaling station in the Caribbean. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War and plans to build a canal across Central America, their significance became more widely understood. Many argued that the Danish West Indies were a threat to the canal and trade if a hostile foreign power controlled them. These factors, combined with the fear of German aggression in the Caribbean, led U.S. Secretary of State John Hay and Congress to once again attempt to purchase the islands from Denmark.[27] In 1902 the United States signed a treaty in which they agreed to pay Denmark $5,000,000 for all three islands. Although Congress ratified this treaty, it was rejected by the Danish Parliament, and the United States failed to purchase the islands once again.[28]

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[25]Luther Harris Evans, *The Virgin Islands from Naval Base to New Deal* (Ann Arbor: J. W. Edwards, 1945), 37.

[26]Ibid., 37-8.

[27]Ibid., 38-41.

[28]Evans, 40-1; J. Antonio Jarvis, *Brief History of the Virgin Islands* (St. Thomas, VI:

Fear of German aggression in the Caribbean became a major factor in the 1916 bid by the United States to purchase the Danish West Indies. The United States felt threatened by Germany's expanding possessions, and although the United States already had a Caribbean naval base in Puerto Rico, the U.S. government felt that the Danish West Indies were valuable to any foreign nation (especially Germany) conducting a campaign in the Caribbean. To prevent this, the United States sought once again to purchase the islands from Denmark. Indeed, U.S. Secretary of State Robert Lansing told the Danish minister that unless the United States purchased the islands, "the United States would be under the necessity of seizing and annexing them, and though it would be done with the greatest reluctance, it would be necessary to do it in order to avoid a serious dispute with the German Government over the sovereignty of and title to the Islands, as we [the United States] would never permit the group to become German."[29] The Danish government, however, thought the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914 would eventually increase its commercial interests in the islands, and had no desire to sell them. The trade they anticipated never developed, and with the outbreak of World War I, the Danish government could no longer maintain the islands financially. Exports had decreased from $629,000 in 1900 to $260,000 in 1916, and the Danish government decided to negotiate with the U.S. for the sale of the islands.[30] Consequently, on August 4, 1916, the United States and Denmark signed a treaty in which the United States would purchase the Danish West Indies for the sum of $25,000,000. The U.S. Congress and the Danish Parliament both ratified the treaty. The Danish minister and U.S. Secretary of State Lansing then exchanged ratifications on January 17, 1917, and officially transferred ownership of the islands to the United States.

On March 31, 1917, one week before entering World War I, the United States took formal possession of the Danish West Indies and renamed them the Virgin Islands of the United States. According to the provisions of the sale treaty, property rights of the islands' inhabitants were to continue unimpaired, and the U.S. Congress was to determine their civil rights and political status. The treaty also addressed the question of citizenship; the inhabitants of the islands could either retain their Danish citizenship, or choose to become nationals of the United States.[31] The U.S. Navy Department was to govern the islands, and Commander Edwin T. Pollock took possession of the islands for the United States during the transfer ceremonies and assumed the position of acting governor. Several months later, President Wilson appointed Rear Admiral James H. Oliver,

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The Art Shop, 1938), 114.

[29]Evans, 41.

[30]Jarvis, 114-5.

[31]Dookhan, 259-60.

U.S. Navy, governor of the Virgin Islands.[32]

Navy Stewardship of the U.S. Virgin Islands

The United States had little knowledge of conditions on the Virgin Islands when it assumed control. Although U.S. Secretary of State Lansing reported that the islands had great commercial value, he did not fully appreciate the economic conditions on the islands, nor realize the financial liability which they had become.[33] The Virgin Islands had long since become unprofitable, and changes were greatly needed. As the first naval governor, Admiral Oliver, noted after he assumed office:

> The death rate is very high, infant mortality being particularly disgraceful to a civilized community....Three hospitals have been run with varying degrees of relative efficiency--none of them really efficient. There is a lack of proper buildings, proper equipment, trained personnel....Sanitation is in imperative need of improvement....Adequate water supply and a proper system of sewerage is a health necessity....There are practically no food crops except a small quantity of yams and sweet potatoes....The cost of the maintenance of the islands, and of the recommended improvements [totaling $1,952,000] is great, but the need is real and vital, and aside from all other considerations, the situation is one that must be faced and corrected. This unfortunate situation is the natural inevitable result of centuries of neglect.[34]

The U.S. government must have followed Oliver's recommendations, for it embarked on an improvement campaign which corrected problems in the public health, water supply, and public education systems in the Virgin Islands. The U.S. Navy sought to increase hospital facilities, better sanitation methods, secure an adequate and safe water supply, and solve the problem of food deficiency, especially in the case of children.[35] During the first year of its administration, the navy successfully completed some of these tasks, for it immediately reorganized the hospitals, improved the equipment in them, and provided additional medical services. According to the annual report of the U.S. Navy Department for the year of 1919, the major reforms that year were in the medical system. With the help of the Red Cross, the hospitals received better equipment. In addition, the navy extended medical services to include

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[32]U.S. Navy Department, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Fiscal Year 1917* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1918), 75-6.

[33]Evans, 43.

[34]Ibid., 265.

[35]Ibid., 226.

preventive care and increased efforts in Obstetrics and infant welfare work. The U.S. Navy also initiated a program to train native nurses at each hospital to increase the number of health care providers. The Virgin Islands benefited from these measures, for records show that with the implementation of these and other reforms, the death rate and prevalence of illnesses in the islands decreased.[36]

To provide additional health care services, the U.S. Navy converted the Steeple Building into a hospital ward for navy and marine troops stationed in Christiansted. The complex could house thirty patients in an emergency, and military personnel with serious illnesses or injuries were sent there. Members of the Virgin Islands Navy Band, however, were sent to the municipal hospital in Frederiksted.[37] Between 1917 and 1925, while being used as a military hospital, the Steeple Building went through several renovations. The U.S. Navy built a cistern and toilets for the hospital, and an L-shaped building was added to the church yard.[38]

In addition to concentrating on health care measures, the U.S. Navy also strove to improve the water supply and sewerage systems. The first naval governor of the Virgin Islands, Admiral Oliver, urged the United States to appropriate funds to better the water supply on the island to safeguard the public health.[39] His efforts were successful, for by 1920 the naval administration had cleaned the islands' cisterns and made them more sanitary. Several cisterns were built to relieve the water shortage as well, and plans to supply water to St. Thomas, Frederiksted, and Christiansted were prepared. According to the annual report for the U.S. Navy Department for 1921:

> The shortage of water during the dry season is a menace to life and health. This fact was recognized by the congressional commission which visited the islands in 1920 and constituted that commission's foremost recommendations. In its recommendation the congressional commission also admitted the necessity for the Federal Government to assist in building these waterworks.[40]

After a severe drought in 1923, the United States began to realize the

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[36]Ibid.

[37]U.S. Navy Department, 1920, 935.

[38]Historic American Buildings Survey, "Historic Architecture of the Virgin Islands" (Philadelphia: Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, February 1966), 5.

[39]Evans, 267.

[40]U.S. Navy Department, 1921, 16.

importance of these measures. With the decline in trade and the shipping industry, many people in the Virgin Islands turned to agricultural pursuits for their livelihood. While sugar cane cultivation remained an important crop, cattle raising increased in prominence, and together these two activities became the main industries in the islands. A small amount of land was used for fruit and vegetable production.[41] The shortage of water, however, limited agricultural output, created a serious loss of livestock on St. Thomas, and produced a serious sugar crop shortage on St. Croix. The U.S. Secretary of the Navy promptly implemented measures to relieve the drought and provide residents with an adequate water supply for themselves and their agricultural endeavors. In January of 1925 the U.S. Navy began work on the water supply systems of St. Thomas, Frederiksted, and Christiansted. By 1926 the water supply system of St. Thomas, as well as the Creque Dam in St. Croix (a reservoir with a 9,000,000-gallon capacity) and a 10,000-gallon reservoir in Frederiksted were completed. The navy also obtained a well-drilling outfit to drill wells for the Christiansted public water supply and for private concerns at cost to relieve the shortage.[42]

The naval administration also attempted to improve the public education and road systems in the Virgin Islands. Although it built a few roads on St. Croix, the U.S. Navy mainly concentrated on maintaining the roads in good condition, as well as experimenting with oil-surfaced roads.[43] Improvements in education, however, were much more significant. The administration refined teaching facilities and built several new schools, while others were altered or repaired. Teachers received additional training, and more of them were hired. Salaries for school teachers increased as well, until teaching became one of the best occupations in the community. The navy also adopted a new curriculum based on the systems in Arizona or New Mexico, but with a greater emphasis on manual training and the practical arts.[44]

Other naval activities included the formation of the U.S. Virgin Islands Navy Band. Captain William R. White managed the recruitment of band members, who were mostly native black Virgin Islanders from Alton Adams' Juvenile Band.[45] Alton A. Adams was also chosen to lead the band, which performed at local functions and ceremonial occasions.[46] Ironically, the only division of the U.S.

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[41]Ibid.

[42]Evans, 269-70.

[43]Evans, 270; Dookhan, 267.

[44]Evans, 272; Dookhan, 268.

[45]According to a 1916 photograph, Alton Adams' band was also referred to as the Christiansted Industrial Band.

[46]Jarvis, 132.

Navy that black Virgin Islanders could join was the band, for the service was still segregated at that time.[47] Nevertheless, the all-black Virgin Islands Navy Band became an "important economic unit in the community," and members were allowed to wear special uniforms and live at home under quasi-military rules.[48] As early as December 1917, the band, which was organized in Christiansted, began its daily concerts and performing for the raising and lowering of the flag at Fort Christiansvaern.[49] Between 1917 and 1918, the U.S. Navy built a bandstand along the wharf area in Christiansted for the band to entertain navy and marine troops stationed there. Band members built the music pavilion while they were not on drill, and Peter G. Thurland, a member of the band, completed much of the carpentry work on the bandstand. The Navy Band remained in Christiansted until 1918, when all twenty-two members of the band had been recruited. It then moved to St. Thomas, where it was attached to the U.S.S. *Vixen* (a minesweeper stationed in St. Thomas) and received "special training."[50] Under Alton Adams, who composed popular marches such as "The Governor's Own" and "The Virgin Islands," the band gained greater popularity and did much to promote the Virgin Islands during its tour of the United States in 1924.[51] The Christiansted bandstand, which still stands in the Christiansted National Historic Site, is a remnant of the U.S. Navy's work on the island, as well as a reminder of Alton Adams' U.S. Virgin Islands Navy Band.

When the United States acquired the Virgin Islands, it had little experience in managing territorial possessions. Because it purchased the islands for their military importance, the governing body established under the U.S. Navy Department administered the islands under quasi-military rule. Although the U.S. Navy did much to improve social services in the areas of public health, water supply, and the road and public education systems, it did little to improve the economic and political situation of the natives. The amount of acreage under cultivation declined, and cotton and sugar production decreased. With the advent of prohibition in 1921, the manufacture and exportation of rum ceased. Severe weather, worldwide depressions, and a drop in sugar prices caused agricultural production to plummet further.[52] By 1931, economic and political conditions in the Virgin Islands had deteriorated to the point that

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[47]Gordon K. Lewis, *The Virgin Islands, A Caribbean Lilliput* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1972), 51-2.

[48]Jarvis, 132.

[49]*West End News* (Frederiksted, VI), 6 December 1917.

[50]Karen C. Thurland, *Peter G. Thurland, Sr., Master Cabinetmaker and Bandleader* (St. Croix, VI: Antilles Graphics Arts, 1994), 11.

[51]Jarvis, 219.

[52]Dookhan, 269-70.

the administration of the islands was transferred to the U.S. Department of Interior with the hopes that it could rehabilitate the economy of the islands and make them self-sufficient.[53]

Registration Requirements/Integrity

Seven structures within the Christiansted National Historic Site are associated with the development of the Danish West Indies--the Government House, the Steeple Building, Fort Christiansvaern, the Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse, the Scale House, the Danish Customs House, and the Fort Christiansvaern Stable Building. All represent the development of the Caribbean by European powers and are eligible for the National Register under Criteria A (Event) and C (Design). The buildings reflect the growth of the Danish West Indies from company rule to crown possession and represent Danish Colonial architecture. Each retains overall integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

In addition, the bandstand is one of the surviving structures built by the U.S. Navy during its stewardship of the Virgin Islands. It represents a period during and after World War I when the United States was emerging as a world power, with a global military capability and the related need for offshore naval bases. The bandstand reflects the U.S. Navy's attempts to improve conditions in the islands and is a reminder of Alton Adams' Virgin Islands Navy Band. As such, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A (Event) and retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Although the David Hamilton Jackson Monument is maintained by the National Park Service as a cultural resource, it is not currently eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria Consideration G, Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years, because it is not an exceptionally important or extraordinary resource. Research to date has not uncovered enough information regarding the history and integrity of D. Hamilton Jackson Park to determine whether it is eligible for the National Register as a historic cultural landscape. A historical landscape architect or cultural landscape historian will need to conduct further research to determine its significance in the future.

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[53] Ibid., 271.

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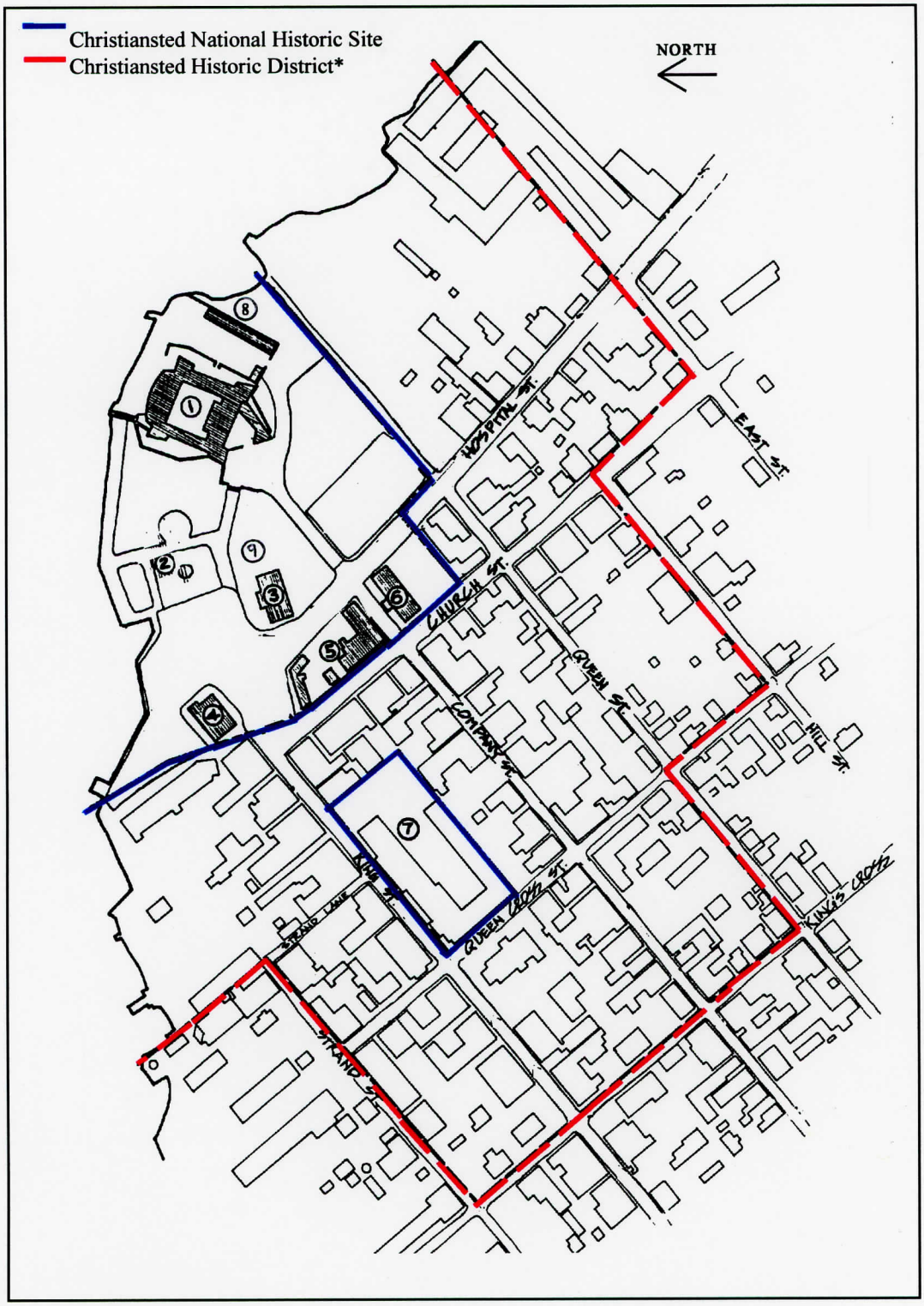
UTM References, Christiansted National Historic Site

Government House (Discontinuous section of the historic site)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	20	319340	1963060
B	20	319360	1963020
C	20	319280	1962960
D	20	319260	1963000

Area containing the Steeple Building, Fort Christiansvaern, Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse, Scale House, Danish Customs House, Fort Christiansvaern Stable Building, and David Hamilton Jackson Monument

	Zone	Easting	Northing
E	20	319520	1963280
F	20	319580	1963120
G	20	319580	1963140
H	20	319480	1963000
I	20	319440	1963020
J	20	319420	1963000
K	20	319410	1963080
L	20	319310	1963280



1. Fort Christiansvaern
2. Bandstand
3. Customs House
4. Scale House
5. Danish West India & Guinea Company Warehouse
6. Steeple Building
7. Government House
8. Fort Christiansvaern Stable Building
9. David Hamilton Jackson Monument

*Boundary from "General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment, Christiansted National Historic Site, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands," U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, June 1986, page V.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Christiansted National Historic Site

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGIN ISLANDS, St. Croix

DATE RECEIVED: 1/21/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/07/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 66000077

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Documentation adds 2 buildings to existing district 1) a stable associated with original fort + 2) a band stand. The band stand is one of the few surviving resources associated with U.S. Navy stewardship of the Virgin Islands between 1917 + 1930. Documentation makes an excellent context for this period.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A+C

REVIEWER Harper DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE (202) 343-9546 DATE 3/5/99

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTIANSTED QUADRANGLE
VIRGIN ISLANDS—MUNICIPALITY OF ST. CROIX
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

C A R I B B E A N S E A

S A I N T C R O I X

N O R T H S I D E B

Q U E E N E A S T E N D

K I N G C O M P A N Y

P R I N C E

Baron Bluff · Ruins · Rust Up Twist · Belvedere · Clairmont · Greig Hill · Kirkegaard Hill · Salt River Bay · Sugar Boil · Judith Fancy · Judith · Scotch Bank · Punnett Bay · Shoy Pt · Long Reef · Round Reef · Fort Louise Augusta · Beauregard Bay · Shoys · Danby Hill · Blue Mountain · Libanon Hill · Little Fountain · Canaan · Betzys Jewell · Windsor · Morningstar · Concordia · Muntpellier · La Grande Princesse · Little Princess · Rattan and Belvedere · Salt River · Mon Bijou · Glynn · Friedensfeld · Marys Fancy · Bonne Esperance · Bellevue · Golden Rock · Protestant Cay · Gallows Bay · CHRISTIANSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE · Fort Christian · Government House · Richmond · Orange Grove · CHRISTIANSTED · Mt Welcome · Butzberg · Altona · Saint Peter · Langs Observatory · Aldershvile Hill · Fredensdal · Herman Hill · Towers · Peters Farm · Reservoir · Quarry · Sion Hill · Bulows Minde · Limetree · Ruby · Beeston Hill · Contentment · Recovery Hill · Elizas Retreat · Lang Peak · Fredensborg · La Reine · Slob · Strawberry Hill · Constitution Hill · Sion Farm · Grange · Peters Rest · Annas Hope · Springgut and Spring Garden · Prospect Hill · Ryan · Bethlehem Old Work · Molasses · Kingshill Sch · Diamond · St Anns Sch · Barren Spot · Clifton Hill · Kingshill · Castle Coakley · Work and Rest · Bugbyhole · Cathrines Rest · Laprey Valley · Munster · Cottage · Pearl · Corn Hill · Longford · Springs · Nugent · Enxamentant Station · Profit · Spanish Town · Upper Bethlehem · Blessing · Rose · Cassava Garden · Granard · Humbug · Jerusalem and Figtree Hill · Annaberg · Anguilla · Airway Beacon · Manning Catchment Basin · Alexander Hamilton Airport · Manning Bay Racetrack · Cane Garden · Diamond Keturah · Mond · Halfpenny Bay · Manchenil Bay · Ferrall Pt · Surlaine Pt · Spring Bay · Vagthus Pt · Kruse Lagoon · Channel · Limestone Bay Channel · Reef Bay · Long · Fmr · Water · Tank · Cem · Ruins · Mosque · Radio Tower (WIVI) · Light · Pump Sta · High Sch · Jr High Sch · Hosp · Park · Quarry · Recovery · Reservoir · Fish Hatchery · Polo Field · Golf · Water Tank · Water Well · BM · Sch · Mond

CHRISTIANSTED HARBOR · Altona Lagoon · Long Reef · Canegarden Bay

Roads: ROAD · CENTERLINE · SCENIC · SHORE · NORTH · FREDERIKSTED 6.1 MI · CHRISTIANSTED FREDERIKSTED JURISDICTION · GREEN HAY 1.7 MI · EAST POINT 6.1 MI · PETRONELLA 1.5 MI

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1954. Field checked 1958

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 905 (1951) and 935 (1952). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican Datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Puerto Rican coordinate system, Puerto Rico, St. Croix zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 20

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

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

MN · GN · 10½° 187 MILS · 0°32′ 9 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1982

SCALE 1:24 000
1 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.8 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

VIRGIN ISLANDS
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty · Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
Insular Route

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I.
17064-F6-TF-024
1958
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 1621 II NW—SERIES E836

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1988

NOV 13 1974

H30-SER-PP

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Professional Services, WASO
Attention: Editor, National Register

From: Associate Regional Director, Professional Services, Southeast Region

Subject: Enclosed National Register forms on Christiansted

As promised by Historian Lenard Brown in his conversation with Ron Greenburg of the National Register, here is the material on Christiansted National Historic Site. We hope this is of some use in the preparation of the next edition of the National Register of Historic Places. As Len and Ron agreed, we will not rush the Christiansted nomination, complete with photographs, into the Register because it was their feeling that since the National Park Service is in the process of nominating areas under their jurisdiction to the National Register, the enclosed material would suffice. This is in reference to the needs of Mr. William Murtaugh in his discussions with preservationists in the Virgin Islands. A copy of this memorandum is going to Roger Rogers (SER-PC) for his information.

Regional Historian Brown has discussed the nomination form with Fred Gjessing, Architect at the park, who is on temporary duty here and he has prepared the needed map for Christiansted. We are writing to the Superintendent, Virgin Islands, requesting several 8 by 10's and the requisite 4 by 5's to satisfy the photographic needs.

If everything else falls into place with some semblance of order, nomination forms should start coming in to Clarence Mack in the next month or month and a half. Len is looking forward to receiving the "big red book" in the mail.

(Sgd.) L. Boyd Finch

Enclosure

cc:
WASO-PR
Supt., VIIS
SER-PC (Rogers)

LBrown:rb 11/13/74

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H34PC

JUN 7 1976

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Through: Federal Representative to the National Register, Department of the Interior

6-10

From: Federal Representative, National Park Service

Subject: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Enclosed is the nomination of "Christiansted National Historic Site," in the Southeast Region of the National Park Service, submitted in confirmation of its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Robert M. Utley

Robert M. Utley

Enclosure

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

Virgin Islands listed

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H4217-SER-PH

CONCUR APR 1980

MAY - 7 1980

ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
BY Jordan E. Tannenbaum

Mr. Robert R. Garvey, Jr.
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1522 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Garvey:

In compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, we are enclosing a proposal to restore the structural and architectural integrity of Fort Christiansvaern in Christiansted National Historic Site. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is our determination that this proposal will have an effect on the site and structure; however, the effect will not be adverse. We have consulted with the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Officer, and he commented on the plan in the enclosed letter to your office. We can satisfy the concerns of Mr. Blake. The work will be done, as stated in the 106 statement, by a qualified Historical Architect. We will provide the State Historic Preservation Officer with the formula for the mortar and samples of plaster and paint on walls where it is scheduled to be removed. We would appreciate your comments.

Thank you for your interest in the programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Brown

Regional Director
Southeast Region

Enclosures 3

Year of the Visitor

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OCT 30 1998

H32 (SERO-CRS)

RECEIVED 2280
NOV 9 1998
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Memorandum

To: Director, National Center for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnership Programs
Att: Laura Feller, History Division, WASO

From: Chief, Cultural Resources Stewardship, SERO

Subject: National Register of Historic Places additional documentation for Christiansted National Historic Site

Enclosed for your approval is the subject documentation. We have provided a copy of the documentation to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of the U.S. Virgin Islands for review and received their comments. These comments have been incorporated into the final document.

Following your approval, please forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register for approval. We would appreciate receiving copies of the signed certification pages for our files. Please call Christine Trebellas at 404-562-3117 if you have any questions.

Enclosure

cc:
Associate Regional Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, without enclosure
Superintendent, CHRI

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32 (SERO-CRS)

Memorandum

To: Laura Feller, History Division, WASO

From: Christy Trebellas, Cultural Resources Stewardship, SERO

Date: January 13, 1999

Subject: National Register of Historic Places additional documentation for Christiansted National Historic Site

Enclosed are the revised pages for the Christiansted National Register documentation. You should already have the photographs, maps, and the rest of the nomination. If you have any questions concerning the new material, please call me at 404-562-3117 ext. 623. Following your approval, please forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register for approval. We would appreciate receiving copies of the signed certification pages for our files.

Christie Trebellas

Enclosure

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(2280)

JAN 20 1999

Memorandum

To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

From: Assistant Director, National Center for Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnership Programs

Subject: National Register Additional Documentation for Christiansted National Historic Site

Attached please find for your review the subject additional documentation, signed by me. I deeply appreciate the fact that the park and the staff at the Southeast Support Office have made this documentation a priority, and wish to congratulate all involved in this effort.

If you approve this documentation, please provide the park with copies of the completed signature pages, as requested by Mr. Cordell in the attached memo. Thank you for your consideration of this package.

Attachments

To: Christy Trebellas, SERO
Fax #: (404) 562-3202
Re: Christiansted NHS
Date: March 11, 1999
Pages: 16, including this cover sheet.

FACSIMILE

Christy--

Here is the 1976 signed documentation for the NHS (not the Historic District).

I enlarged the map, but it may still not be legible. Do you want me to mail you a copy?

Marilyn

From the desk of...

Marilyn M. Harper
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Room NC400
Washington, DC 20240

(202) 343-9546
Fax: (202) 343-1836

March 15, 1999

Marilyn -

Here is a copy of the 1975 reprint Christiansted brochure. I had to reduce it slightly so it will fit nicely on two pages. Let me know if you have difficultly reading it. In addition - I enlarged the map slightly so it would be more legible. I hope this helps. If you have any questions, please call (404-562-3117)
Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,
Christy

RECE
MAR 18
NATIONAL REGI
& EDUC
NATIONAL PARK SE

Transmittal

Fax

National Park Service
Southeast System Support Office
Cultural Resources
100 Alabama Street, SW
(1924 Rich's Building, sixth floor)
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone: 404-562-3117
Fax: 404-562-3202

To: Marilyn Harper

Fax: 202-343-1836

From: Christy Trebellas

Date: 3-15-1999

Pages: 4 (including cover)

Subject: CHRI map/brochure

Messages: I enlarged the map. Hopefully it is legible. HARD copy to follow

Christiansted

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • VIRGIN ISLANDS

FOR YOUR SAFETY

The historic area has uneven walkways and stairs. USE CAUTION.

ADMINISTRATION

Christiansted National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, in cooperation with the Government of the Virgin Islands. Under terms of the agreement, Government House and the wharf area of Christiansted are to be preserved as excellent examples of the old Danish economy and way of life in the Virgin Islands. A superintendent, whose address is Box 160, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is is the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GPO 1987—181-411/60010 REPRINT 1975

Reprint 1975

St. Croix Island is identified with three significant phases of New World history. It is the first territory now under the United States flag to have been discovered by Columbus; it played a part in the great struggle for colonial empire and during its long history has known the flags of five nations; and it is an outstanding example of Danish colonial development in the Lesser Antilles.

Columbus discovered the island and named it Santa Cruz (Spanish for "Holy Cross") on November 14, 1493, during his second voyage to the New World. He stopped briefly in Salt River Bay, and then sailed on. In the century that followed, Spain was distracted by the golden treasures of the Spanish Main and made no effort to colonize Santa Cruz. The British and Dutch came and went. Then in 1650 France seized the island, laid out townsites, plantations, and forts, only to abandon them after a few trying years. Behind they left little but the island's present name— St. Croix, French for "Holy Cross."

In 1733 the Danish West India and Guinea Company bought St. Croix. The company already owned the nearby islands of St. Thomas and St. John, but St. Croix was larger and flatter and held greater agricultural promise. It was under Danish rule that the island was successfully developed as a major sugar producer, bound to both Europe and America by close commercial, social, and cultural ties.

Within 20 years the island had grown and prospered. By 1750 most of St. Croix was under cultivation and, although some cotton was grown on the eastern end of the island, "sugar was king." Enormous wealth derived from sugar production flowed to St. Croix during the 18th and early 19th centuries. It was this wealth that built St. Croix's substantial, attractive buildings, and supported the planters' and merchants' gracious and luxurious mode of life. Here was such affluence that mere militia officers were allowed to wear gold epaulets—insignia forbidden Regular officers at home because such lavish adornment might "drain" the Danish economy!

But, as so often happens to a single-crop economy, uncontrollable circumstances rapidly ended St. Croix's prosperity. A sharp drop in the price of sugar, beginning in 1820; the development of the sugar beet, grown in many countries in the early 19th century; planters' debts and land foreclosures; restrictive import laws of other nations; the 1848 emancipation of the slaves—all helped to bring St. Croix's opulence crashing down. By the end of the century the "Fabulous Sugar Island" had become an economic liability.

The United States tried to buy the islands of S Thomas and St. John shortly after the Civ War. Denmark had been willing to sell but th agreement failed when the U.S. Senate refuse to ratify it. A similar effort in 1902, this tim to buy all three islands of the Danish West In dies, was also unsuccessful. During World War the United States, fearing Germany might seiz the harbor at St. Thomas and use it as a sub marine base, offered $25 million for the islands Denmark accepted, and on March 31, 1917 the Danish flag flew over St. Croix for the las time.

Today, the era of Danish control over St. Croi is reflected in the historical associations an architecture of Christiansted. Here young Alex ander Hamilton, who was to become one of th Founding Fathers of the United States, serve as a clerk in Nicolas Cruger's countinghous Here Fort Christiansvaern stands, a silent ye striking witness of an age now gone. And here in the square and along the waterfront, are th colorful buildings which were, for nearly 10 years, the seat of government of the forme Danish West Indies.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

The National Park Service headquarters, in For Christiansvaern in downtown Christiansted, i open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. t 4:30 p.m. Here you can obtain information abou the buildings that make up Christiansted Nationa Historic Site. If you prefer, you may take th self-guided walking tour shown on the map o the other side of this folder.

STEEPLE BUILDING

CHRISTIANSTED'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

For the most convenient walking tour of Christiansted, begin at Fort Christiansvaern and follow the route marked on the map.

Fort Christiansvaern is the best preserved of the five remaining Danish forts in the Virgin Islands. Largely completed by 1749, the Danish army garrisoned it until 1878, when it became a police station and courthouse. The fort was built mainly of hard yellow bricks brought from Denmark as ballast in sailing ships, and, although numerous minor additions and alterations have since been made, its appearance remains relatively unchanged. It is a prime example of 17th- and 18th-century Danish colonial military architecture.

Old Danish Customs House. In this building the colonial government performed one of its major responsibilities—collecting the customs. A part of the first floor dates to 1751, but most of the structure was completed between 1828 and 1830. Afterward, until 1927, the Post Office shared the building with the Customs Service.

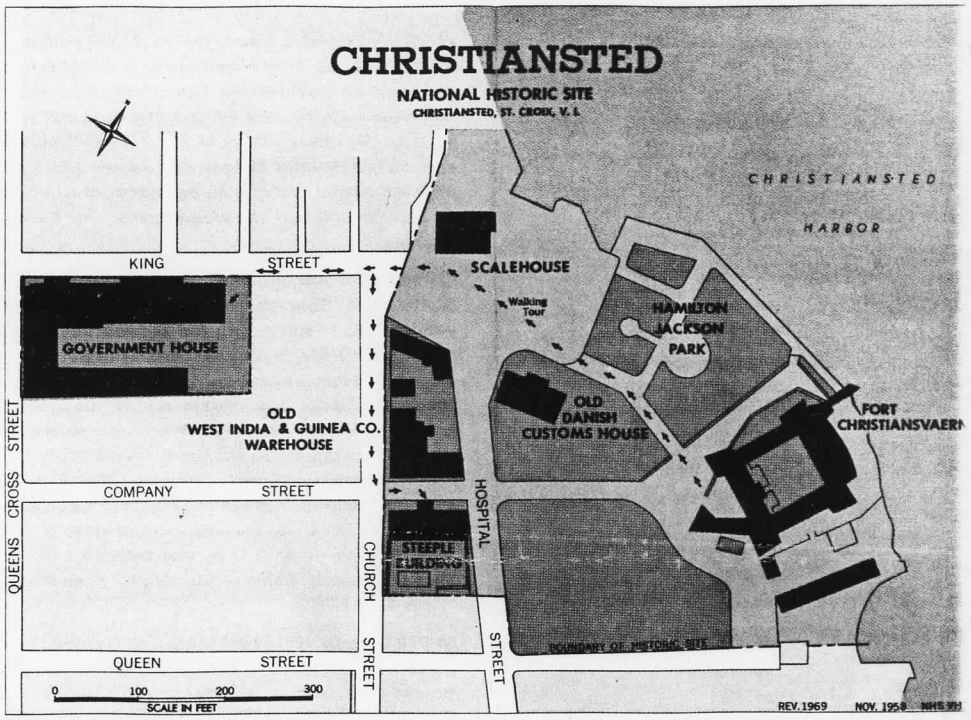
Scalehouse. This building, housing the facilities for weighing and inspecting imports and exports, contained an office for the weighmaster and also quarters for troops attached to the Customs Service. Built in the mid-1800's, the structure replaced an earlier wooden building.

Government House was originally two separate buildings, constructed at different times but joined together in the 1830's. Part of the older central wing facing King Street dates to 1747. This was once John William Schopen's residence, purchased by the government in 1771 and converted to the Governor's residence.

The western end of the building, at King and Queens Cross Streets, was built between 1794 and 1797 as the residence of the planter and merchant, Adam Søbøtker. Governor General Peter von Scholten purchased it in 1828 for government offices, and later joined it to the Schopen house.

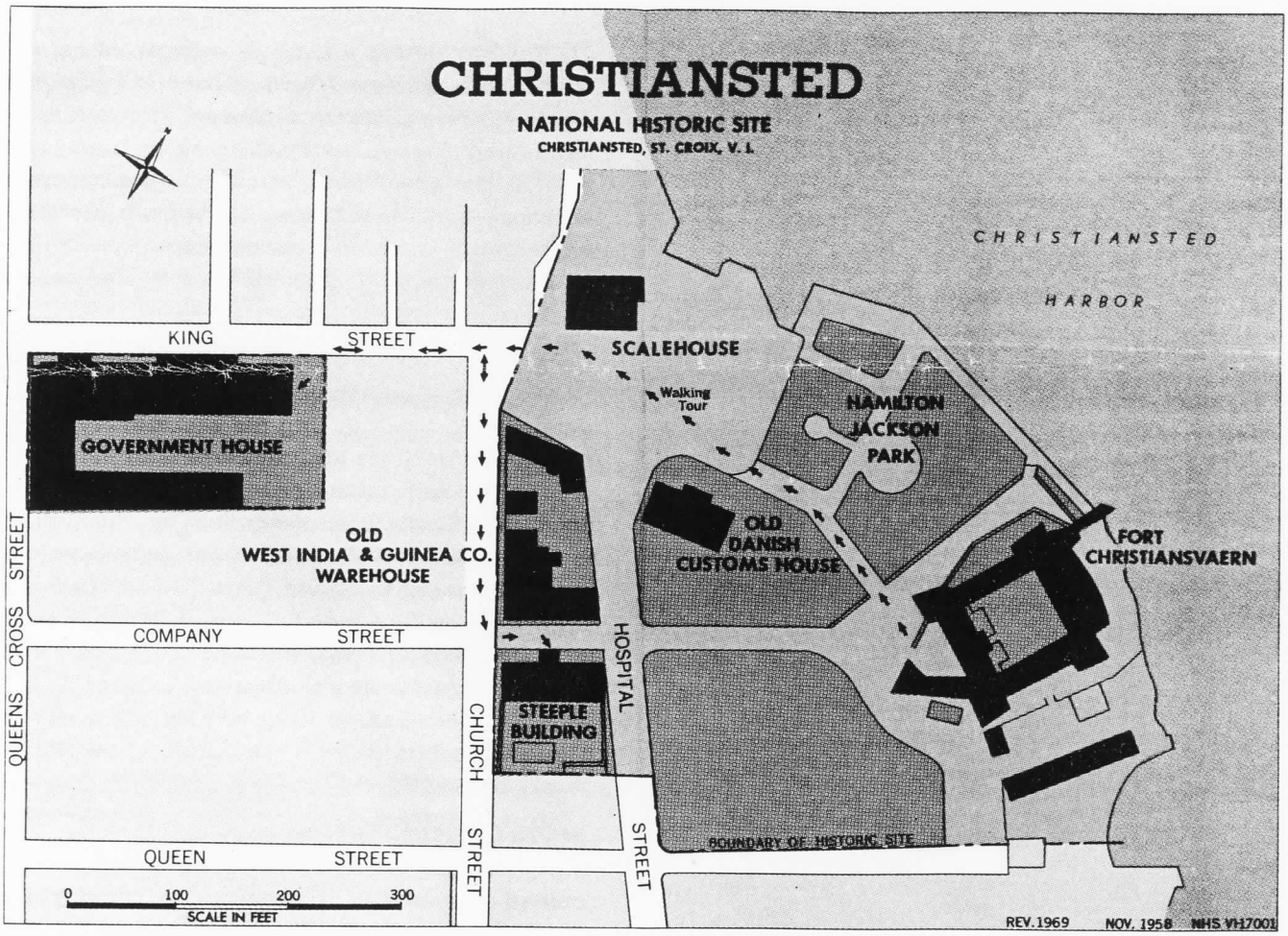
Danish West India & Guinea Company Warehouse. The Danish West India Company completed this building in 1749, and used it to house provisions, offices, and personnel. After 1833 the Danish military used it as a depot; eventually it became a telegraph office.

Steeple Building. The Church of our Lord of Sabaoth, St. Croix's first Lutheran Church, was completed by 1753. The parish added the steeple about 1794. After 1831 the government used the church as a military bakery, a hospital, and a school. There is a museum here now; be sure to visit it. It is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.



From "The Caribbean: A Journey with Pictures," by Fritz Henle and P. E. Knapp. Courtesy, Studio Crowell Publishers

CHRISTIANSTED HARBOR



Fritz Henle and P E Knapp Courtesy Studio Crowell Publishers