

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
U.S. Virgin Islands

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

OCT 9 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

Old Post Office and Customhouse on the Wharf

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Corner of Church and Company Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Christiansted, St. Croix Island

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Not Applicable

STATE:

U. S. Virgin Islands

CODE

VQ

COUNTY:

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

Yes:

- ☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☒ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious U. S. Post Office
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific U. S. Customs Office

4. AGENCY

General Services Administration

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

San Juan

STATE:

Puerto Rico

CODE

RQ

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Recorder of Deeds, Virgin Islands Government House

STREET AND NUMBER:

#3 King Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Christiansted, St. Croix

STATE:

U. S. Virgin Islands

CODE

VQ

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey Photodatum Book on
Danish West India and Guinea Company WarehouseDATE OF SURVEY: ca. 1958 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

Interior Building, Virginia Avenue, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington,

STATE:

D. C. 20240

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
U.S. Virgin Islands
COUNTY:

OCT 9 1974

ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE

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

The Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse and related out-buildings occupy an irregularly shaped city block bounded by King Street on the north, Hospital Street on the east, Company Street on the south and Church Street on the west. The grade falls approximately eight feet from the southwest to the northeast corner. The main structure is "I" shaped, consisting of a two-story, hip-roofed south wing running the full length of the southern property line adjoining Company Street, and a story and one-half, dormered, mansart-roofed west wing running along a portion of the western property line adjoining Church Street. An iron gate and alley to an inner courtyard separate the north wall of the west wing from a one-story kitchen, which in turn adjoins an above-grade cistern which extends to the northwest corner of the property. Two additional above-grade cisterns adjoin this cistern and extend east on the north property line and terminate in an exterior stair leading to the covered cistern roofs. A second one-story kitchen building and outside oven is located in the northeast corner of the property. A wall joins the southeast corner of this kitchen and the northeast corner of the south wing of the main building, thereby completing the enclosure of the courtyard. This wall contains an iron gate opposite the gate and alley to the west. An exterior monumental stair from courtyard level to the second floor of main building is located in the angle of the "I", and rises through a portion of a fourth cistern.

All courtyard and building walls are stuccoed imported Danish "ballast brick" masonry and rubble construction. The exterior faces of main building walls are increased several inches in thickness from grade to approximately three to eight feet above grade to form a stylobate. The horizontal line thus formed establishes the height of courtyard walls and serves as a strong unifying element. First floor windows of both wings have stucco surrounds; second floor windows of the south wing have none. A stucco string course is just below second floor window sill level of the south wing, and the parapet of the north wall of the west wing has a decorative stucco coping. This is also the only wall of the complex with stucco quoins at its corners. The eastern stuccoed masonry gateposts are quoined and capped with decorative pediments with dentils below; the western gateposts are flanked with decorative arched niches and support a decorative coping. Plain stuccoed surfaces are painted yellow; stucco trim and woodwork are painted white, except shutters are painted green.

The corrugated iron roofs of the main building wings are of recent origin; original roofs were probably wood shingle. Rainwater from the main building roofs is conducted by gutters and leaders to the cisterns, which remain in use. The shed roof of the northwest kitchen is probably flat brick on purlins and joists with galvanized metal overlay. The northeast kitchen has a gabled galvanized metal roof on wood frame construction. The northeast kitchen has an interior fireplace and brick chimney; the large brick exterior oven at the northeast kitchen is protected by a flat brick roof supported by wood purlins and beams. All windows including

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE U.S. Virgin Islands	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 9 1974

(Number all entries)

7. Description

dormers are shuttered; however, nuts, bolts, screws, frames, sash, doors and shutters are of recent manufacture.

The interiors of the main buildings have been extensively remodelled, and early construction cannot be visually determined.

The general decor is simplified Renaissance with traces of Baroque, and reflects the influence of the French Ecole des Beaux-Arts through the Danish Academy. West Indian influence is evident in the monumental exterior stair, the absence of fireplaces and chimneys in living quarters, second floor location of living quarters above first floor warehouse and office space, and the probable original use of wood roof shingles, storm shutters, and louvered ventilating shutters. Originally constructed ca. 1750 and remodelled in 1838 and 1939, the early basic shell of the building remains intact.



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) Mid 1740's through early 1900's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Croix was the most prosperous island in the Danish West Indies, and during the 18th and early 19th centuries extremely productive and wealthy. The Danish West India and Guinea Warehouse in Christiansted was the center of the colony's commercial activity during the 18th century. This fact alone establishes unusual historic significance for this building. It continued as an integral part of the city's commerce through the 19th century, at one time housing a Panama Telegraph and Cable Company office, and now containing a U. S. Post Office substation on the first floor and U. S. Customs on the second floor.

Although documentation has not been completed, it is certain that most exterior masonry walls are original or of early date. Exterior renovations have been limited to normal maintenance items, and the general configuration of the building has not been altered since the early 19th century.

The building is of architectural significance not only as a representative example of colonial Danish West Indian architecture and West Indian Architecture generally, but also as part of a unique townscape bearing comparison to European Court Towns of the 18th century. This significance was recognized in 1952 when this building was one of six included within the Christiansted National Historic Site.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gjessing, Frederik; HABS Photodatum Book on Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse; (unpublished); Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., ca. 1958.

Olsen, Herbert; Historic Structures Report, Part 1, Library Building (Old Danish Post Office and Customs House), Christiansted, St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands; National Park Service, Washington, D. C.; 1961, pp. 78, 82, Fig. 8, p. 85.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: + one acre

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

NO
UTM
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Herschel E. Shepard, Vice-President</u>		DATE:	
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u>Fisher & Shepard, Architects & Planners, Inc.</u>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>456 University Blvd. North</u>		PHONE: <u>(904) 725-1112</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Jacksonville</u>	STATE <u>Florida</u>	CODE <u>32211</u>	CODE <u>12</u>

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

Thomas S. Blake
 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
Steven R. Rittenbaum 2/6/74
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Historic Preservation
 Liaison Officer

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

Arthur W. ...
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/9/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-4-74

Old Post Office + Customhouse on the Wharf -- Virgin Islands
WORKING NUMBER 5. 9. 74, 749 Danish West India and Guinea Company Warehouse

TECH REVIEW

Photos

3

Maps

1

V.I.

74001940

CONTROL REVIEW

^{change}
but can't be checked

cm

514

74

HISTORIAN

OK

Accept
W.R. Luce
7/29/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

Call to Steven Rittenbaum 24 Jul 74 - although the building is mentioned in the 1972 Red Book as being part of the Christiansted National Historic Site - Murtagh told him BSA should nominate buildings separately if they are historically & architecturally important regardless if they are already on the Register as part of a historic site. Accept M. EARNES 24 Jul 74

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Coke
9/12/74

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Name: Danish West India and
Guinea Company Warehouse (United States
Post Office and Customs House)

accept
for the
6-4-74

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry

12/3/74

Re-submit

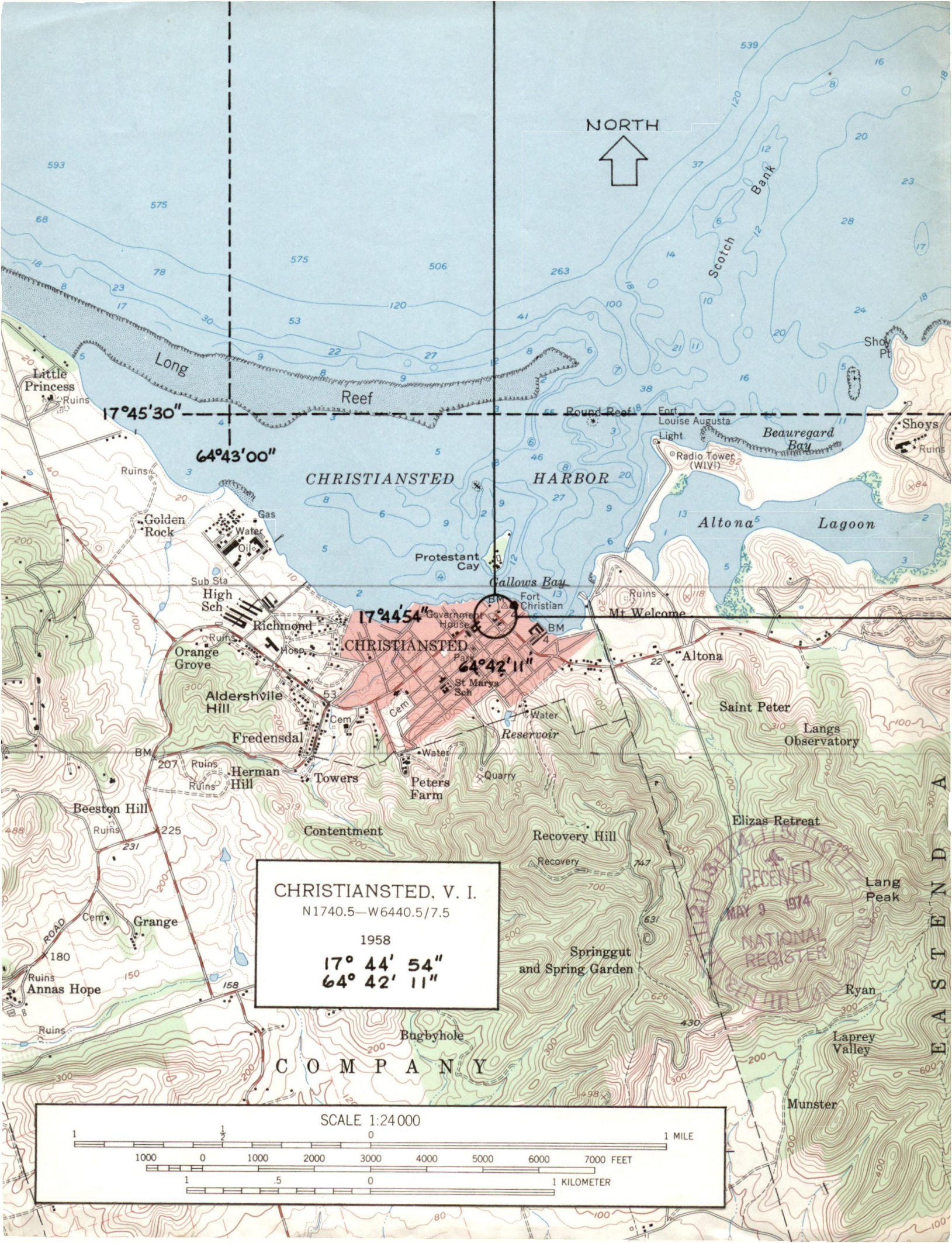
Entered

OCT 9 1974









NORTH



17°45'30"

64°43'00"

CHRISTIANSTED

HARBOR

Beauregard Bay

Altona Lagoon

17°44'54"

64°42'11"

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I.

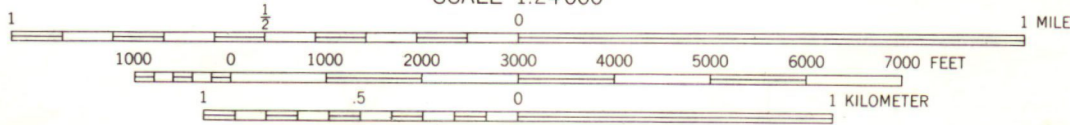
N1740.5—W6440.5/7.5

1958

17° 44' 54"
64° 42' 11"

COMPANY

SCALE 1:24 000



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Public Buildings Service
Washington, DC 20405



APR 26 1974

Honorable Nathaniel P. Reed
Assistant Secretary for Fish
and Wildlife and Parks
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Reed:

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, issued by President Nixon on May 13, 1971, to locate and evaluate potentially historic properties under our jurisdiction, we have completed extensive research on our buildings across the country and have prepared nomination papers to list them on the National Register of Historic Places.

Enclosed are nomination forms for 25 buildings owned by the General Services Administration (GSA). This is the second installment of nominations prepared for historic Federal buildings. Additional nominations will be forwarded to your office within the next few months.

Historic preservation is a top priority program at GSA, and it is our intent to provide protection for our historic buildings and enhance their prestige by having them listed on the National Register.

Sincerely,

(signed) L. F. ROUSH
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service

Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Date Entered **OCT 9 1974**

Name

Location

**Danish West India and Guinea Company
Warehouse**

**Christiansted
St. Croix *Island***

Also Notified

**Hon. Ron De Lugo
Mr. Steven R. Rutenbaum, GSA
Regional Director, Southeast
Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Thomas Blake, Planning Director
Virgin Islands Planning Board
Charlotte Annalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00810**

PR

MMott/tow

10/16/74