

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 22 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Little La Grange *uh*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N E of Frederiksted

CITY, TOWN

Frederiksted

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

COUNTY

St. Croix

CODE

0800

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Kai Lawaetz

STREET & NUMBER

Box 98

CITY, TOWN

Fredericksted, St. Croix

VICINITY OF

STATE

U. S. Virgin Islands

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

STATE

St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☒ EXCELLENT	House	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD		☐ UNALTERED	☐ MOVED
☐ FAIR		☒ ALTERED	DATE _____
	☒ RUINS		
	Out Building		
	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Little La Grange lies 1.5 miles northeast of Fort Frederik, Frederiksted, St. Croix. The site of an early 19th century sugar plantation and later cattle farm, Little La Grange is significant for its great house, animal and windmills, and its aqueduct, the only example on the island of St. Croix. Dates of construction are unclear for the complex of buildings at Little La Grange with the exception of the additions made to the great house -- a two-story porch and smaller entrance porch on the facade, probably built in the 1890s, and a two-story kitchen with upstairs bedroom, forming an addition on the northeast, reported by the owner to have been built in 1909.

The great house is a two-story rectangle approximately 40' by 48' with a two-story addition on the northeast corner of approximately 16' by 16'. The main facade faces west. Both the foundation and the main story are constructed of brick, coral and rubble masonry in a lime mortar and stuccoed. The main story is original to the building, while the upper story of wood frame construction, sheathed and clapboarded, is either a later replacement of an earlier story of similar type, or an addition without precedent. Flat corner boards articulate the corners, extending over both stories on either side of the main facade, and continuing only to the plain, slightly projecting belt course in the rear.

A later two-story Victorian porch with an enclosed gallery in the upper story, supported by six square columns framing a veranda on the lower story, has been added to the front facade. A decorative bargeboard with a trefoil pattern spans the bays between the columns on the first story, extending to the capitals of the columns. The lower story is approximately 12' high and the second story 10' high. The house has two entrances on the front (west) and rear (east) facades. On the west, the access is by a "welcoming arms" staircase with walls fanning at the base, covered by a small entrance porch with a gable roof and decorative bargeboard trim. The porch roof is corrugated metal. Access to the second floor of the addition on the northeast is by an exterior masonry and stucco staircase of two flights. The second flight is supported by a central pier, which divides the space under the staircase into two open arches that act as passageways under the staircase.

The house is four bays by three bays on the lower story, with the second bay, the entrance door. The upper story is unevenly divided. The enclosed porch on the front facade has six windows; the south facade, five; the north facade, three (due to the interruption of the addition) and the rear facade, seven (due to the full-length window with a central semicircular balcony). The bays of the later, upper story are not in alignment with those of the story below. The addition has a window on each of the three sides. The six bays of the first story of the front porch correspond with the upper porch story, rather than the four bays of the lower story. The columns partially obscure all but the door opening, which is framed by the third and fourth columns.

All windows and doors have molded casings with lug sills, and are fitted with shutters. The windows on both ends of the second story porch level are glazed two by two double hung, while all other windows are jalousies, fitted with two louvered panels. All the hardware on the shutters is wrought iron, and includes drive pintles,

continued...

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 22 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE two

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

May 1976 x State

Virgin Islands Planning Office

Charlotte Amalie

U.S.V.I.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976

DATE ENTERED

OCT 22 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE One

strap hinges, bar brackets and sill hooks.

The roof is without a cornice, and has a continuous metal gutter. It is hipped and covered with corrugated metal. The interior of the first floor is divided into four sections extending from the front to the rear on an east-west axis. The second section contains the two front and rear doors, allowing for cross ventilation. The third section contains the two-flight mahogany staircase leading to the upper story, while the flanking sections are divided into two rooms each. The kitchen is in the northeast corner, and is entered from a side room.

The second floor includes a gallery across the facade, and a large central room with a fine example of the typical West Indian "tray ceiling". There are two rooms on either side of the central space, that do not correspond exactly to the room division of the first floor. The gallery is partitioned from the main central room by a Greek revival arcaded wall, consisting of a wide semielliptical arch in the center, flanked by two narrower arches. The arches, which have a molded architrave trim with keystone, spring from square columns, with a molded pedestal, fluted shaft, and molded capital.

A six bay section of a two-story aqueduct is located approximately 150' north of the greathouse. Built of rubble masonry two feet thick, the aqueduct originally extended across the present access road to a cistern and the factory building, now in complete ruins. This is the only aqueduct to have been constructed on St. Croix. The remaining six round-headed arches are lined with brick and the walls have been stuccoed. One-story ruins of a flume used to transport the rendered cane juice to the factory lie between the aqueduct and the house. This remaining section also has six arches with brick linings, which are segmental in form. The stucco on rubble masonry walls have been consolidated and patched in many places, including the infilling of a number of arches when the enclosed area was used as a calf pen in the early 20th century.

There are also the ruins of an animal mill approximately 200' to the east of the great house. The mill is circular, approximately 20' in diameter at the outer face. The walls are of rubble masonry stuccoed and are five feet thick. The mill is entered through a barrel vaulted opening in the western quadrant, with the opening lined with brick. The walls, battered on the exterior, terminate in a shallow parapet, with a four foot wide pathway forming a concentric circle approximately two feet below the top of the wall.

There is an inaccessible windmill on a ridge approximately 600' to the east of the great house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Little La Grange is significant for the early 19th Century remains of the typical building of a sugar plantation as well as a noteworthy aqueduct and flume in fairly good condition. The brick and brain coral rubble masonry walls of the great house are original, dating from Ca. 1800, and there is an unusual Victorian frame two story enclosed gallery added to the front in or around the 1890's.

The first recorded owner of Little La Grange was Hendrick Jakob Fibiger (1776). During part of the 19th century, Little La Grange was part of the Logan Estate. After the decline of the sugar economy, the owners of Little La Grange grew pineapples and bananas and raised cattle. Little La Grange has been the property of the Lawaetz family since 1896.

Little La Grange

Statement of Significance

While the 18th to 19th century estate of Little La Grange contains the remains of both an animal mill and a windmill, its most significant plantation structures are the great-house, small but ambitiously detailed on the main facade and on the interior, and the well-preserved remains of an aqueduct and flume, the only such structures extant on the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The greathouse is the result of two major stages of construction: the first around 1800, following the typical domestic building style of this period, in which the rubble masonry walls of the main story and perhaps an original frame second story were built under a hipped roof; the second around 1890, in which a fine two-story gallerie in the decorative Victorian style was added to the main facade. The interior also contains some noteworthy embellishment from this later period, especially a fine example of the West Indian "tray" ceiling and additional detailing finished in the earlier, neo-classical style.

Reflecting both typical and outstanding characteristics of the Danish West Indian vernacular tradition in both the beginning and end of the 19th century, the greathouse represents an eclectic example of this plantation building type not found elsewhere in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Little La Grange (continued)

The primary reason for establishing a permanent European settlement on St. Croix was to develop agriculture. The aim was to cultivate cash crops that could be shipped to the mother country for high profits. The principle cash crop in St. Croix was sugar. Little La Grange was one of over 160 sugar plantations functioning on St. Croix in 1800. The structures and ruins of these plantations portray the agricultural economy at its peak and add interest and beauty to the Cruzian landscape.

The first recorded owner of Little La Grange was Hendrick Jacob Fibiger (1776). During part of the 19th century, Little La Grange was part of the Logan Estate. After the decline of the sugar economy, the owners of Little La Grange grew pineapples and bananas and raised cattle. Little La Grange has been the property of the Lawaetz family since 1896.

Property

Little La Grange

State

V.D.

Working Number

6.2.76.3518

St. Croix

76001854

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

HTM can't be checked

CONTROL

pl

6.9.76

Agree with Sally's comments, ~~but~~ Also we should probably ask for a statement addressing architectural significance. [The statement of significance on the history of the plantation is much better.]

HISTORIAN

Call

Accept

E. Smith

E. Smith

7-15-76

7-29-76

Will send statement of architectural significance #8 is very short. More information is needed.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Held

Accept

Soldham

9/29/76

7/15/76

See

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept

Cole

10-12-76

KEEPER

Wm

10/20/76

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

OCT 22 1976

Federal Register Entry

12-7-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74







Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

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

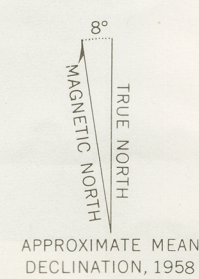
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 905 and 937 (1952)

Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid based on Puerto Rican coordinate system,
Puerto Rico, St. Croix zone

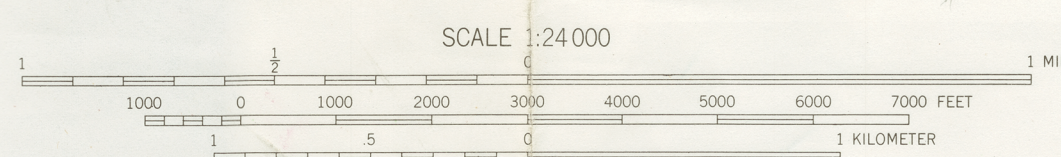
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

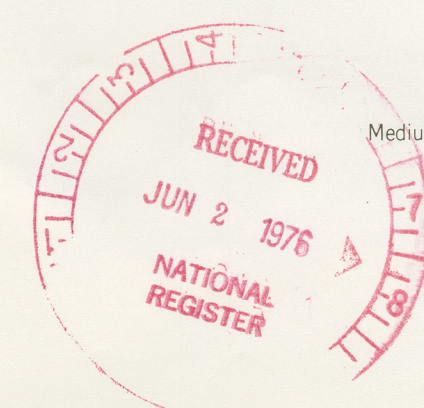


APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1958



SCALE 1:24,000
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, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

FREDERIKSTED, V. I.
N 1740.5—W 6448/7.5

1958

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Date Entered **OCT 22 1976**

Name

Location

Little La Grange

**Frederiksted vicinity
St. Croix Island**

Also Notified

**Hon. Ron de Lugo
Regional Director, Southeast
Region**

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

880 Mmott/row 11/3/76

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 7/15/76
 Reviewer: INITIALS: SO
 NR DOE OCT 22 1976

✓ NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *Little La Grange* ①

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

✓ STREET & NUMBER *NE of Frederiksted*

✓ CITY, TOWN *Frederiksted* VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

✓ STATE *US Virgin Islands* 78 COUNTY *St Croix* code 0800

✓ OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

✓ INTERIOR Substantially intact-1
 - unknown - 4
 - not applicable - 7

✓ EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2
 - unknown - 5
 - not applicable - 8

✓ ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3
 - unknown - 6
 - Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ✓ EXCELLENT *House* DETERIORATED
 - GOOD RUINS *not building* UNALTERED
 - FAIR UNEXPOSED ALTERED
 - Unexcavated Reconstructed
 - Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *Plantation*

now- *Plantation*

SIGNIFICANCE:

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ☒ AGRICULTURE ☒ ARCHITECTURE ☐ ART ☐ COMMERCE ☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ CONSERVATION ☐ ECONOMICS ☐ EDUCATION ☐ ENGINEERING ☐ EXPLORATION ☐ INDUSTRY ☐ INVENTION	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ☐ LAW/Gov't/politics ☐ LITERATURE ☐ MILITARY ☐ MUSIC ☐ PHILOSOPHY ☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ RELIGION ☐ SCIENCE ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ☐ TRANSPORTATION ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	☐ entertainment ☐ health ☐ recreation ☐ settlement ☐ socio/cultural ☐ urban & commun planning
--	--	---	--	---

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

Agreement & Home effort on the USVI

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

Vernacular with Danish influence
~~Danish Colonial~~

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events

Hendrick Jacob Fibiger - 1st recorded
owner, 1776

institutional

1800

DATES:

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

~~1800 Greathouse~~

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

~~1896 Greathouse~~

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

~~1776 - 1896 - 1776 - Present~~

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

10

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

HA BS

This plantation site contains the Greathouse which is a 2 story, rectangular, frame structure with a later 2 story addition on the northeast corner and a 2 story front Victorian porch with an enclosed gallery in the upper story. The site also contains a six bay section of a two story aqueduct, the ruins of an animal mill, and a windmill.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Little La Grange is significant as a well preserved late 18th / early 19th century plantation. Its most important features are its well preserved 19th century Greathouse (constructed in 1800 and altered in the 1890's) and the well preserved remains of an aqueduct and flume, the only such structures extant on the U.S. Virgin Islands.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

Vernacular with Danish influence

architect/m.builder:
landscape/garden designer:
interior decorator:

engineer:
artist/artisan:
builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events

Hendrick Jacob Fibiger - 1st recorded
owner, 1776

institutional

Greathouse

1800; 2 story gallery
added 1890; kitchen
1909

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1800 Greathouse

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1896 Greathouse

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1776 - 1896? 1776 - Present

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 10

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

HA BS

Rubble masonry, stuccoed, and frame, clag boarding; 2 stories, modified rectangle, tripped
roof; (center front) gabled entrance porch with bargeboards, foliated arcade, semi-enclosed
2nd-story gallery; interior west Indian "tray" ceiling; additions 1890, 1909; original and
windmill ruins, only aqueduct and flume remains. Vernacular with
Danish West Indian influence.

Well-preserved plantation complex in a vernacular style with Danish West Indian
influence. containing the only aqueduct and flume extant
on the U.S. Virgin Islands. HA BS.

KB 015178

well preserved 19th century Greathouse (constructed in 1800 -
altered in the 1890's) and the well preserved remains of an
aqueduct and flume, the only such structures extant on
the U.S. Virgin Islands.