

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received OCT 2 1987

date entered

NOV 12 1987

1. Name Slob Historic District

historic Estate Slob, Body Slob

and/or common Slob

2. Location

street & number King's Quarter

not for publication

city, town Christiansted

xx vicinity of

state US Virgin Islands

code 78

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 Virgin Islands Department of Health (Virgin Islands Government)

street & number c/o Dept. of Property and Procurement

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix vicinity of

state US Virgin Islands 00820

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Government House

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix

state US Virgin Islands

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Virgin Islands Inventory
of Historic Siteshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date February 1983

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Virgin Islands Planning Office

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix

state US Virgin Islands

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☒ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date 1984

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Slob Estate, also known as Body Slob, is located in King's Quarter, St. Croix, approximately six and a half miles west of Frederiksted. It is sited approximately 200 yards north of Centerline Road and is now the location of the government public health facilities. Buildings of the site are perched around the south and east slopes as well as on the top of the 179 feet hill which forms the center of the early estate.

In the 1754 Beck map, Slob Estate is shown to have two animal mills on tract #19. The revised 1767 Beck map shows the estate with a windmill and an animal mills on tracts #19 and #11. An animal mill is represented on the 1767 Kuffner map. The 1794 Oxholm map of St. Croix shows a windmill on the mid-left section of the rectangular tract #19 on top of a hill and no structures on tract #11.

The view of Slob Estate illustrated in Henry Morton's 1843-44 Sketchbook is from the northwest. Centerline Road lined with palm trees passes from east to west in the background. Nearest to the foreground is the large T-shaped, two-story factory. It has standing gable ends and a chimney to the west. An arcade, covered with a gable roof for bagasse, forms the stem of the factory extending to the south. It is covered with a gable roof. The windmill stands southeast of the factory. The windmill blades are also visible in the picture. The great house in the same picture is located south of the factory. The main core of the building is covered with a clipped, or half-hipped roof oriented east and west. A second hip-roofed structure flanks the building along the north side. There is another addition on the south. Small outbuildings to the west of the great house, were most likely used as stables and for storage. A long row building with standing gable ends stretches along the north and west retaining walls of the estate. This was possibly a second stable building or early workers' houses, now destroyed.

An engraving of Slob Estate as it appeared in 1800 (Vore Gamle Tropekolonier) shows an extensive complex of small cottages covered with hipped roofs comprising the slave village south of the estate. The village is surrounded by a masonry wall. The great house during that period was three stories high and included gable dormers with shutters at the gable ends. A mill stands east of it without its blades and machinery on top. Part of the large 19th century steam factory can be seen behind the great house. The tiered chimney stands to the northwest.

The present site is relatively clear from bush and visible from the road. The ruins include: (1-7) the remains of a slave village, (8) great house, (9) stables, (10) windmill, (11) raised cistern, (12) factory and (13) water tower.

(1-7) Slave Village (c. late 18th century)

Most noticeable from Centerline Road and nearest to it are the remains of the original slave village, later the sugar cane workers' cottages. These are located on the southern slope of a hill with their principal entrances facing Centerline Road. The remains of the relatively unaltered village consist of

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five cottages fairly similar in site, material and construction. All are composed of rubble masonry covered with plaster and ochre wash. Each three bay by one bay structure measures 16 feet, 9 inches by 29 feet. Tops of the walls rise six and a half feet to eight feet in elevation depending on the individual sites. Fenestration is irregular but consists usually of doors flanked by window openings on the principal side, and single windows on the narrow ends. These are all that remains of up to 60 similar buildings once on the site.

The remaining cottages are interesting vestiges of a Cruzan plantation village and deserve separate descriptions. The cottage located nearest to the Department of Health building west of the driveway (Number 1) is most typical of the clustered structures comprising the village. In fairly good condition, it carries many of the characteristics of the other cottages. It has a steeply pitched hip roof oriented west and east. The one bay by three bay building has 18 inch thick uncoursed rubble masonry walls covered with lime plaster and ochre wash patched with cement. Rafters join directly into the top of the wall. Openings are lined with brick and stone and splay inward. The jambs and lintels are wood. The center door on the south facade is flanked by two windows, unevenly placed. The floor is masonry. The walls slope upwards along the top on the interior. The roof has no undersheathing, consisting only of rafters and purlins.

The second structure (Number 2) of the slave village, located directly west of the above mentioned structure, is similar to it, with the exception that it has been more recently fitted with new shutters and a new roof. Its interior is not accessible; boards are nailed over the window and door openings.

The third structure located further north, and east of the driveway, has modern two inch by four inch rafters supporting the roof. The openings are not evenly spaced. The windows vary but are mostly fitted with single panelled shutters. The shutters are better preserved on this building than the others. They are vertically planked with horizontal interior braces (or cross braces). Wood partitions once divided the interior of the room into three sections. The divisions no longer exist although there are ghost markings. Plain grillwork remains above the area of the divisions. Wood boards are fitted into the soffits of the windows.

The two structures east of the driveway are enclosed by a wire fence and therefore less accessible to the public. In general form, they are similar to those cottages already described.

(6-7) Second Workers' Complex (mid-19th century)

Two additional vernacular cottages furthest south are separated from the other cluster of five by a narrow paved road. Both are composed of limestone block plastered with lime mortar painted with an ochre wash. One has raked gable

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ends, oriented north and south. The four bay by one bay structure is broken into two units. The two principal openings are on the east facade. Window openings have single leaf shutters, some with the original 19th century strap hinges. A modern plywood shed attachment is located along the west facade.

The second cottage (Building #7) is located about ten feet southeast of the other cottage. The two unit structure has an east/west orientation. The roof has been altered. The structure is now covered with a metal galvanized shed roof replacing an earlier, more conventional hipped roof of a possible two-storied building. The windows have single leaf shutters. A modern shed addition is attached to the western part of the south facade. Both cottages are presently private residences.

(8) Great House (c. 1750 with later changes)

The plantation great house, now two stories, has been altered in outward and interior appearance. It still retains its historic character, however, and alterations are superficial. The building is striking for its elaborate display of classically inspired details. Corners are marked by rusticated quoins on the first floor and pilasters with bases and capitals on the second floor. Keystones are located over door and window openings of both levels. Modern glass louvres cover the windows and have interior chevron patterned wood shutters. A string course serves as the present entablature beneath the slightly projecting gable roof with skirts. The slightly pitched roof is more recent. The main entrance on the north facade consists of an elaborate curved staircase with iron railings. It rises to the piano nobile. An entrance porch is covered by a roof supported on slender black iron posts.

(9) Stables (c. 1800?)

West of the great house, is a long masonry structure, formerly the stables. The one story building is oriented north and south. The east facade consists of five elliptical arches. The arches have impost moldings, prominent keystones and a string course above the arches. A parapet above the string course is decorated with recessed panels. A shed roof behind the parapet slopes down from the east facade.

(10) Windmill (c. 1760)

The windmill base stands about 20 yards east of the great house on the highest point of the eastern edge of the knoll. It is a relatively squat example, with a truncated masonry cone about 20 feet high, the same length as its base diameter. It stands on the remains of the earlier horsemill, still visible on the north side. The mill is punctuated with weep holes and round arched openings lined in stone for storage cells similar to the mill at Estate Strawberry Hill. The cone was originally surmounted by a movable wooden cap.

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that supports a nearby horizontal axis at one end extending beyond the tower. It carried two or more crossing arms or yards with "sails". The cane crusher and the mechanism that drives it were formerly enclosed within the tower.

(11) Cistern (mid-19th century)

The raised masonry cistern, measures approximately 10 feet by 15 feet, is adjacent to the west side of the animal mill. The corners are rounded. The cistern consists of three layers, each ledge projecting two inches beyond the one above. The bottom of the structure, is covered with plaster; the top level consists now of exposed cut stone.

(12) Factory (c. 1840)

Rough-coursed, rubble-masonry factory remains are located to the south of the other structures on the site. These stand on the edge of the cliff of the north side along the top of a massive retaining wall extending to the east and west. The remains consist of ten feet high walls. Indications on the west ends of the one bay wide north facade suggest that the wall once extended further in each direction. The east end of the north facade, for example, has a splayed edge pointing to a former opening. Other features of the original building are evident. Occasional brick headers are exposed and are generally seen at the corners of the building. Two arches punctuate the west facade. These are bricklined on the interior. The tops of the three main openings have crumbled from the badly deteriorating east facade. The one bay facade has retained a wood lintel at its openings. The profile of the north facade indicates that a sloping shed roof once covered the building; its highest elevation was on the west side.

A rectangular masonry cistern, measuring 25 feet by 8 feet is located to the north east, adjacent to the factory remains. Its western side is surrounded by the retaining wall. The cistern walls have rounded caps with a masonry gutter along the east side. The cistern flanks a more modern building, presently a residence.

(13) Water Mill Tower (c. 1760)

A 30 feet high water tower is located at the base of the hill about 250 feet east of the windmill. It is ringed at the top by a molded lip. The diameter of the structure is 20 feet at the base, narrowing to a diameter of approximately ten feet on top. The tower is composed of rough-coursed, limestone blocks. The remains of the machinery, a chain and wood beams are located within and are suspended from the center of the tower. A narrow arched opening, two feet wide, rises twenty feet from the grade level on the northeastern side.

Modern health facilities located to the south and east of the knoll do not detract significantly from the historic character of the site. The boundaries have been delineated in such a way as to incorporate all the ruins of the plantation estate buildings. The site possesses considerable archaeological potential, and should be protected from unwarranted disturbances.

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SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION: ESTATE SLOB

Present Physical Appearance:

Estate Slob is located north of the Center-line road in the heart of the rich, central agricultural lands of St. Croix. It is prominently situated along the slopes and crest of a small hill and retains much of its historic character and appearance. Buildings associated with the historic estate include: (1-5) a cluster of five, late 18th-century workers' or slave houses, constructed of rubble masonry and still possessing their steeply pitched roofs and wood fillings; (6-7) two additional houses, of a slightly different character, located across the road from the main estate complex; (8) a prominent great-house, built in the late 18th century and possessing a number of distinguishing architectural features, including a unique, double-flight staircase; (9) a well-preserved set of masonry stables; (10) an early (c. 1760) windmill base, well-documented in historic representations of the estate; (11) an early, masonry vaulted cistern, also late 18th of early 19th century in origin; (12) the ruins of an impressive, mid-19th-century factory (with clearly 18th century origins); (13) and a well-preserved masonry well-tower, also a windmill base, with a well-preserved masonry exterior staircase and intact wooden ties and platform. The entire site is well protected - much of it is enclosed by chain-link fence - and remains in governmental use as offices; two of the slave houses are still occupied. The site possesses much of its visual integrity, conveying a strong sense of the historic estate.

A systematic visual survey of the estate indicates a high-concentration of cultural materials within and around historic buildings and ruins. Remaining identified include examples of original clay tiles, European ceramic ware, unglazed local slave ware, fragments of agricultural tools and hardware, and rubble masonry remains associated with early structures on the site. The incidence of cultural remains falls off dramatically at the edge of the area known to have been occupied in historic times and is further accentuated on three sides by roads and modern residential development. A natural change in topography, together with a decrease in cultural remains, demarcate the western boundary.

Original Physical Appearance:

According to existing maps, Estate Slob was settled by the mid-18th century. Two original mills are shown on maps of the estate as of 1754; by 1767 the estate also had a windmill, an unusual feature of that time. Other buildings of the period must be conjectured, although comparative evidence from other estates of the same size and period would indicate the presence by the 1780s of a greathouse (possibly used by the manager), a factory, cisterns, animal pens and probably a slave village of at least 40 houses. The seven remaining workers' houses are clearly of that village, which, according to later drawings and photographs, by the mid-19th-century consisted of approximately 60 masonry buildings, replacements of earlier and less permanent wattle and daub structures. Estate Slob's village, including five of its remaining seven structures, is unusual for preserving early forms of masonry slave houses -- ones predating the long rows common during the early 19th century. A sketch of the estate from 1843-44, shows Slob in full production, with the use of its factory and mills. Other documentation, including early photographs, indicate that the greathouse once was a three-story building with a clipped gable roof. Written and oral sources indicate that the roof and top, wooden story were lost during the 1928

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hurricane, to be replaced by the present, low-sloping roof. The estate, nonetheless, preserves much of its original appearance and character and gives a vivid impression of a central St. Croix sugar plantation during the mid-19th century.

Boundary Selection/Justification:

The boundaries for the district were chosen in order to adequately circumscribe the known buildings and other structures associated with the historic estate and also, in part, to reflect present ownership. The boundaries are further reinforced by the presence on the south of a paved road (separating two houses which have nonetheless been incorporated) and on the east (again with the exception of the windmill tower). A housing development on the north and a change in topography (together with a cemetery) on the west establishes the general limits of the district on those sides. A systematic visual survey of surface remains indicates, moreover, a dramatic -- and indeed total -- falling off of cultural materials outside the nominated area. Historically, this is as was expected, since rich agricultural lands were invariably preserved for production only. Cultural materials associated with the site may exist outside the nominated parcel, but these are both unlikely and unidentified. (Possible rest stations for agricultural workers have not been found and are clearly not marked by masonry dwellings as in the case of other estates.) The present boundaries are considered sufficient to delineate the known historic remains and to provide an adequate visual boundary in the event of future development.

Alterations/Integrity:

Estate Slob preserves a remarkable degree of visual and material integrity. The view from Centerline Road conveys a strong sense of the original estate, particularly when compared to early drawings and photographs. The site possesses only two non-contributing buildings, located at the southeast edge of the hillside. They are unobtrusive and have little impact on the estate's overall character. Several of the buildings, including the factory and windmill tower, are in ruins, but are unaltered. They continue to convey considerable integrity in construction materials and techniques. The stables, cistern and slave houses are unaltered, preserving roofs, walls, plaster coverings and intact woodwork, partitions, window and door openings and shutters. (The latter are clearly historic - probably late 19th century, if not original.) The greathouse has been altered through the loss of its third story and original roof, but preserves a number of other features, particularly in ornamental stone and plasterwork quoins and window surrounds, and its unique, double-flight curving staircase. The site is relatively undisturbed and preserves its integrity of setting.

Dates/Chronology:

Estate Slob was occupied and used for the production of sugar from the mid-18th (c. 1750) through the early twentieth century (c. 1930). Archaeological remains, as yet not fully documented, would appear to date from the earliest part of occupation; most of the buildings date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The estate, overall, preserves much of the appearance (although its buildings are reduced in number) of the estate as it was c. 1850, when all of the present significant components were in place. Alterations after 1900, particularly the change in roof shape of the greathouse, are not significant for an understanding of the development of the site or of St. Croix's sugar industry.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	XX community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	XX archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	XX agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	XX architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
XX 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
XX 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
XX 1900–	___ communications	XX industry	XX politics government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1750– 1900 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Estate Slob has an unusually rich documentary history. It has been pictured in numerous sketches and photographs and has been much discussed by travellers and historians. Some of the reason for this is probably its prominent location: at the near center of the island 200 yards north of Centerline Road. It is also easily visible from several directions and possessing a compact, yet impressive, workers village for many years, and an excellent great house. The estate was also the scene of several historic events, including a confrontation during the labor unrest of 1848, leading to Emancipation, and the later and more destructive Fireburn of 1878.

The origin of the name is unknown. The estate was owned at an early period by the Bodkins, but that name was apparently reserved for another St. Croix estate also owned by the family. Another name was Body Slob, also of unclear origin. There appears to be no linguistic connection with Dutch or Danish; we can only assume that the name has more personal derivation or that it is a much distorted version of some other term or name.

The record for Slob is relatively complete. Slob was from the beginning a relatively large estate, comprised of some three hundred acres, consisting of two tracts, numbers 19 and 11, in King's Quarter. The patent was originally held by Valentino French, passing on to James French, either a son or a nephew, by 1751. In 1754, according to Beck's map, the estate belonged to (Laurens) Bodkin. By that time there were also two animal mills, both located on tract #19, verifying that the estate was by that period given over to sugar production, as were most of the other estates in King's Quarter. (By 1754, 34 of the 35 estates in King's Quarter were exclusively in sugar production.) The 1766 island inventory again shows L. Bodkin as the owner of Slob. By this time there was a windmill as well, located in tract #19. Kuffner's map of the same year shows an animal mill on tract #11, but this apparently is an error.

The estate remains in the Bodkin (occasionally spelled Bodkein) name until 1784, by which time the estate was transferred to David Beckman. Beckman was a prominent St. Croix merchant and the business partner of Nicholas Cruger. Both men owned numerous estates on the island, also maintaining business houses and warehouses in both Christiansted and Frederiksted. Cruger also was Alexander Hamilton's employer and guardian, and it is likely that the young Hamilton, while employed as Beckman and Cruger's clerk, had at least a small part in managing Slob along with other holdings of the partnership.

In 1797, the estate passed to Beckman's widow. By that period, the estate was called Body Slob. It was managed for a time by Edward Hogen and included a workforce of 85 slaves.

Slob continued to prosper during the early part of the nineteenth century. A drawing of 1800 shows a fully developed sugar estate, complete with "T"-shaped sugar factory, windmill, great house and extensive slave village. The house, a full three stories, was one of the more impressive on the island, and with its village spread out

Beck, L.M. S. Croix Map, 1754, 1767.
Børgesen, F. Map of the DWI Islands, 1898.
British Admiralty Chart 2019 of St. Croix, 1918.

Acreage of nominated property approximately 9 acres

Quadrangle name Frederiksted

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References (A) 17°44'00", 64°46'23"
(B) 17°43'50", 64°46'22"

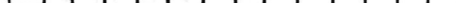
(c) $17^{\circ}43'50''$, $64^{\circ}46'17''$

(D) $17^{\circ}43'46''$, $64^{\circ}46'16''$

(see continuation page)

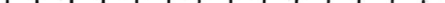
A

Zone Easting Northing

c 

D

E

F 

G

[illegible]

~~Beginning at the northwesternmost point of the perimeter of the historic district at Point (A), latitude 17°44'00", longitude 64°46'23", the boundaryline goes south to Point (B), latitude 17°43'50", longitude 64°46'22", then turns east eventually~~

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

name/title	Betty Ausherman, William Chapman, Claudette Lewis
-------------------	---

organization Virgin Islands Planning Office

date 10 November 1984

street & number P0 Box 7818

telephone 809/774-7859

city or town St. Thomas

state US Virgin Islands

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national ~~y~~ state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

~~Alan D. Smith~~

Commissioner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources date

date 9/18/87
rces

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 11/12/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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in rows along the hillside between it and Centerline Road, the complex must have been an important landmark along the highway.

In 1818, or shortly after the end of British occupation during the Napoleonic Wars, Slob passed to Sarah Goold, apparently a Beckman relative. Twenty years later, it became the property of J.R. de Nully, hence it seems a marriage alliance. The de Nullys were among the earliest of St. Croix's planter residents, having emigrated to the island in the 1740's along with such other prominent families as the Heyligers and de Windts. Since that period, they had acquired numerous plantages and businesses and were involved in island affairs at all levels. De Nully brought Slob to its peak of development, establishing a legacy that connected Slob to the de Nully name well into the twentieth century, even though the de Nullys stopped owning the estate by the late 1880's.

The de Nully estate is well documented in a series of sketches made by the Philadelphia physician and amateur artist Samuel Morton during his visit to the island in 1844-45. Morton's sketches of "The Slob" show a fully developed estate. The great house had a clipped gable roof, typical of older Crucian houses, and two shed wings, covering enclosed galleries. The impressive curved staircase is clearly visible on the north side. The village is out of view, but the stables, factory, distillery and windmill are easily identified. The factory, as explained, followed the class "T"-shaped configuration, with the stem extending north and south and the cross lying perpendicular on the east/west axis. A circular chimney was located along the west side. Morton also showed a detail of the windmill in operation, showing the original housing and works in place. There is also a view of the factory or boiling house interior. In every way, Slob was a typical estate distinguished, if at all, by its very typicality and the compact nature of its operations.

Slob continued to operate profitably during the early nineteenth century, in the face of declining sugar profits. As of 1816, there were 191 acres in sugar and 109 given over to grazing; 159 slaves worked the estate. By 1847, about 200 acres were in production, with 135 slaves employed doing the work. Production figures were high ranging from 236,000 pounds to over 375,000 pounds in peak years.

In 1848, Slob, along with other St. Croix estates, suffered the economic setback caused by Emancipation. Slob was also the scene of a dramatic incident, in the several day-long protests that led to freedom. A contingent of militia under the command of Major Gyllick, was confronted on their way to Frederiksted by one of the loosely organized bands of protestors just outside of Slob's gates. The mob calling themselves "The Fleet" was led by their "Admiral" Martin King. Before the surrounded militia could respond, General Buddhoe--Adam Gottlieb, the most identifiable leader of the uprising--came to Gyllick's aid and allowed him and his men free passage back to Christiansted.

Following Emancipation, Slob's fortunes began to wane. By the 1850's, production fell to as low as 130,000 pounds per annum when only occasional years reaching 200,000 pounds as was the usual crop ten years before. The purchase of a ten horsepower steam

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engine, the power grinders, in 1857, while improving production capabilities, did not offset the losses. In that year, 211 acres were in cane but soil depletion and inefficiency in harvesting made for a poor harvest. By 1863, by which time the estate was owned by W. de Nully, there were only 75 laborers still working on the estate, producing less sugar than ever. As a sign of changing times, nearly 100 acres were given over to grazing, and the estate could claim 51 cattle and 24 sheep.

Production continued to diminish during the 1860's and 1870's. In 1869, 1874, and 1876, particularly bad years, a bare 100,000 pounds of raw sugar was produced. Occasionally good years, as in 1863 and 1871, could not begin to make up for the failure both at Slob and of the sugar industry in general.

The year 1878 was to mark the final decline for Estate Slob. Rioting workers, disgruntled by low wages and a new labor law, burned Slob along with over 50 other estates on the island. The main loss was the great house, which was burned, leaving only its masonry walls intact. The factory, apparently, survived, but barely. Beginning in 1888, cane cut at Slob was processed at Barren Spot and beginning in 1894, it was carted to the Bartram Brothers central factory at Lower Love, Slob's own equipment was sold off and the factory closed down. By 1890, there were only 95 able hands working on the estate--67 men and 25 women--and only 200 acres in production. The cattle population had increased to 55 animals.

Slob continued to struggle during the beginning of the twentieth century, but times were increasingly hard. Robert Merwin on his tour of the island of 1924, commented on Slob's good management and its well-kept buildings. The great house was rebuilt, again in three stories, and while the roof form was altered to a simple hip, the building retained much of its earlier grandeur. About 60 workers houses remain in the village, providing a unique document of an early nineteenth century village on the island. The estate continued to operate through the 1930's and workers continued to occupy the houses until relatively recent times. The first native-born governor, Cyril King, was born in one of the cottages. (He is now buried in the cemetery a few yards away.) The great house was further altered following a hurricane in 1928 and a new shed roof was provided. The estate now belongs to the Virgin Islands government, having acquired it from VICORP, a semi-governmental sugar corporation, in 1959.

Slob presently conveys a vivid sense of an early sugar plantation of the island of St. Croix. Its great house is still prominent and easily visible from the Centerline Road. Its interior has been altered, but all of its exterior walls remain as does its unique curved staircase. The stable remains relatively intact and is now used for the offices of the Virgin Islands Department of Health. The windmill and animal mill bases are fully intact, as is a major portion of the original factory and curing house. The well tower also remains, with some of its wood members also still intact.

Most impressive, however, are the remaining workers cottages located to the south of the great house, along both sides of the main approach and to the southeast hidden from public view. The houses, which appear to date from as late as the eighteenth

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Page 4

century, are excellent examples of standardized workers housing, date from an early period in the island's development. Their dimensions are fairly standard and their hipped roofs are typical of earlier types of residences as opposed to the standing gabled rows of the early nineteenth century as are found on Bethlehem and other nearby estates. Although reduced in number, they still carry a vivid sense of community life on the island during the sugar period.

The entire estate possesses considerable historic archaeological potential and should be protected from any unnecessary ground disturbances.

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National Park Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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SUMMARY/SIGNIFICANCE: ESTATE SLOB

Significance Summary:

Estate Slob is significant as a well-preserved 18th and early 19th-century sugar estate in the rich agricultural heartlands of St. Croix. Estate Slob is unusual in preserving a set of five late 18th century (and two apparently early 19th century) slave cottages, helping to document the history of community planning and development on the island of St. Croix as well as elsewhere in the West Indies. In addition to the slave village, Slob preserves two masonry windmills, the ruins of a factory, a vaulted cistern, stables and a well-documented, though altered, 18th-century greathouse. The greathouse, which does preserve its exterior masonry walls, decorative embellishments and its staircase, vividly conveys a sense of the traditional lines of power and authority on an estate -- through its relation to the village -- in a way unequalled on any other St. Croix estate.

Estate Slob was significant in the labor and social history of St. Croix as the scene of near violence during demonstrations held prior to emancipation in 1848 and as one of many estates partially destroyed during the labor uprising of 1878. The estate's significance, in both instances, is largely commemorative.

Estate Slob has an added, associative significance as the one-time property of Laurens Bodkin, an early Cruzan planter, of David Beckman, an 18th-century planter and merchant and patron of Nicolas Crugar, Alexander Hamilton's boyhood employer, and of the large and influential deNully family. The estate's village was also the birthplace of the Virgin Island's first elected black governor Cyril King. (the exact house is not known, however.) Governor King is also buried in the adjacent cemetery.

Applicable Criteria:

Estate Slob's buildings, structures and other remains embody characteristics of type, period and method of construction that are typical of St. Croix buildings during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The windmill is unusually early (c. 1760) and the great-house, with its staircase, is an unusual survival as is its cluster of representative slave houses (Criterion C). The remains on the estate are likely to yield further information on the agricultural, industrial and social/political history of the islands and help to illustrate patterns of sugar estate development and layout, particularly community planning (Criterion D). The estate plays both a commemorative and documentary role in understanding the broad patterns of the history of St. Croix, especially its underlying slave-based sugar economy and the labor movements associated with that economy (Criterion A). Figures associated with the estate, including Bodkin, Beckman and Crugar and the deNully's, all important figures in the early agricultural and commercial history of the islands, and Cyril King, the islands' late governor, add an additional commemorative value.

Areas of Significance:

Archaeology-historic: Estate Slob preserves a number of structures, ruins of structures and foundation remains that are important to an understanding of the organization and development of the sugar industry on St. Croix. Other areas likely to be understood better

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through information yielded by the estate include residence patterns and domestic lifeways of estate workers and their families as well as those of overseers and managers, methods of construction, layout and design for estate buildings, the organization of the sugar manufacturing process, and the locations of other buildings known to have been associated with the estate. As yet, no sugar estate on St. Croix has been fully excavated or studied. Slob represents an important resource for further investigation.

Agriculture: Estate Slob commemorates and is likely to yield further information on St. Croix's agricultural base and predominant industry - sugar production. Questions, such as the residential patterns of workers, the ratio of workers to field size, the location of individual gardens, etc. are likely to be answered through further investigation of Slob's cultural remains.

Architecture: Estate Slob contains a number of representative building types important to an understanding of the sugar industry, as well as for understanding construction methods, ideas on design and layout on St. Croix. Its windmill is unusually early (c. 1760) and plays an important role in understanding the development of such structures on the islands. Its greathouse, dating to the 18th century, preserves a number of important features including decorative keystones, string courses and quoins and a unique, double flight curving staircase. Its factory, stables and cistern are all well-preserved representative examples of utilitarian buildings with striking Neo-Classical design origins. The estate's rubble masonry slave houses, with intact roofs, windows and doors and historic interior trim, are also unusual and serve to document an important early development in estate housing - a development based both on European examples and on native house forms. All of the buildings embody characteristics of materials, construction methods and craftsmanship important to an understanding of Cruzan architecture during the late 18th and early to mid-19th centuries.

Community Planning: Estate Slob provides a clear picture of an organized Cruzan sugar plantation, serving both as a place of work and a home for estate slaves (and later workers), managers, owners and their families. The masonry cottages of Slob represent a response to English initiatives in agricultural planning which began to be reflected on the island of St. Croix during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Slob's industrial rubble masonry structures represent what appears to be an early effort at improvement, and later supplanted by the fully "rationalized" masonry row houses, or barracks of other St. Croix estates. The present relation of the greathouse and village vividly portrays the relationship of owner and slaves during the early 19th century.

Industry: The production of sugar was the mainstay of St. Croix's economy throughout the 18th and 19th centuries - extending, in fact, until the middle of the 20th century. Estate Slob's buildings and other structures help to document the development of that industry. Important structures include the windmill bases (one situated on an early animal mill), factory ruins and the remains of a once extensive slave village. Steam machinery brought to the estate in the 1850s have, unfortunately, been removed as has an earlier chimney. The remaining buildings, however, help to chronicle the industry that essentially "made" St. Croix, particularly that industry during its early, "pre-steam" period.

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Politics/Government: Estate Slob commemorates a number of events important in the political history of St. Croix. In 1848, Slob was the site of an important clash between protesting slaves and the government militia. The slave leader "Admiral" Martin King prevented the murder of militiamen by granting them free passage outside of Slob's (now non-existent) gates. In 1878, Slob was the site of destruction during the "Fireburn" uprising. Its greathouse and several other buildings were burned, not to be rebuilt until the 20th century. The estate has an added commemorative importance in the political history of the island as the birthplace of the Virgin Island's first black, elected governor, the Hon. Cyril King.

Context:

Estate Slob is one of a number of St. Croix estates being nominated as districts, as parts of multiple resource areas or complexes. Each estate conveys a significant amount of new and often different information on the nature and history of the sugar industry on St. Croix, as well as elsewhere in the West Indies. Estate Slob preserves a number of representative building types, including an early masonry slave village, an elaborate great-house and an early mill. It also possesses an unusual integrity of setting, due to its hillside location and visibility from Centerline Road, and helps to convey a vivid impression of the sugar plantation industry during its peak years, or during the mid-19th century.

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Item number 9

Page 2

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Page 3

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Item number 10

Page 2

UMT References cont...

(E) 17°43'47", 64°46'15"	(G) 17°44'03", 64°46'17"
(F) 17°44'03", 64°46'16"	(H) 17°44'01", 64°46'17"

Verbal boundary description cont...

meeting and following the north edge of the access road to Point (C), latitude 17°43'50", longitude 64°46'17", then turns southeast to Point (D), latitude 17°43'46", longitude 64°46'16", then following in a northeasterly direction to Point (E), latitude 17°43'47", longitude 64°46'15". The boundaryline then turns north eventually following the contourline east of the access road to Point (F), latitude 17°44'03", longitude 64°46'16", then turns west to Point (G), latitude 17°44'03", longitude 64°46'17", then goes south following the west edge of the access road to Point (H), latitude 17°44'01", longitude 64°46'17", then returning west to Point (A).

A Typical Plan of a Plantation and its Standard Buildings

Plan I

er en Grundrissning af en Plantage og dens almindelige Inddeeling.

a. En Vindmølle.

b. En Hestemølle.

c. Sukkerhuset.

d. En Brønd.

e. Væningshuset.

f. Domestikhuset, Stalde &c.

g. Sygehuse.

i. En Qvægfold.

k. En Møllestald og Gaard.

l. Møllestald.

m. Møllestald.

n. Kiøkkenhuse.

o. Piller, hvortil Renden ligger fra Møllen til

Køgehuset.

p. q. r. s. Et Strykke Land, bestemt til at deplan-

tes. See Pl. II.

a. Windmill

b. Horse mill

c. Sugar Factory

d. Well

e. Planters or managers house

f. Servants houses, stables etc.

g. Sick house for slaves

i. Cattle pen

k. Mule stable, Pen

l. Bagass shed

m. Middens

n. Columns supporting the cane

juice guller from the mill to the

boiling house

Provision Grounds

the Village

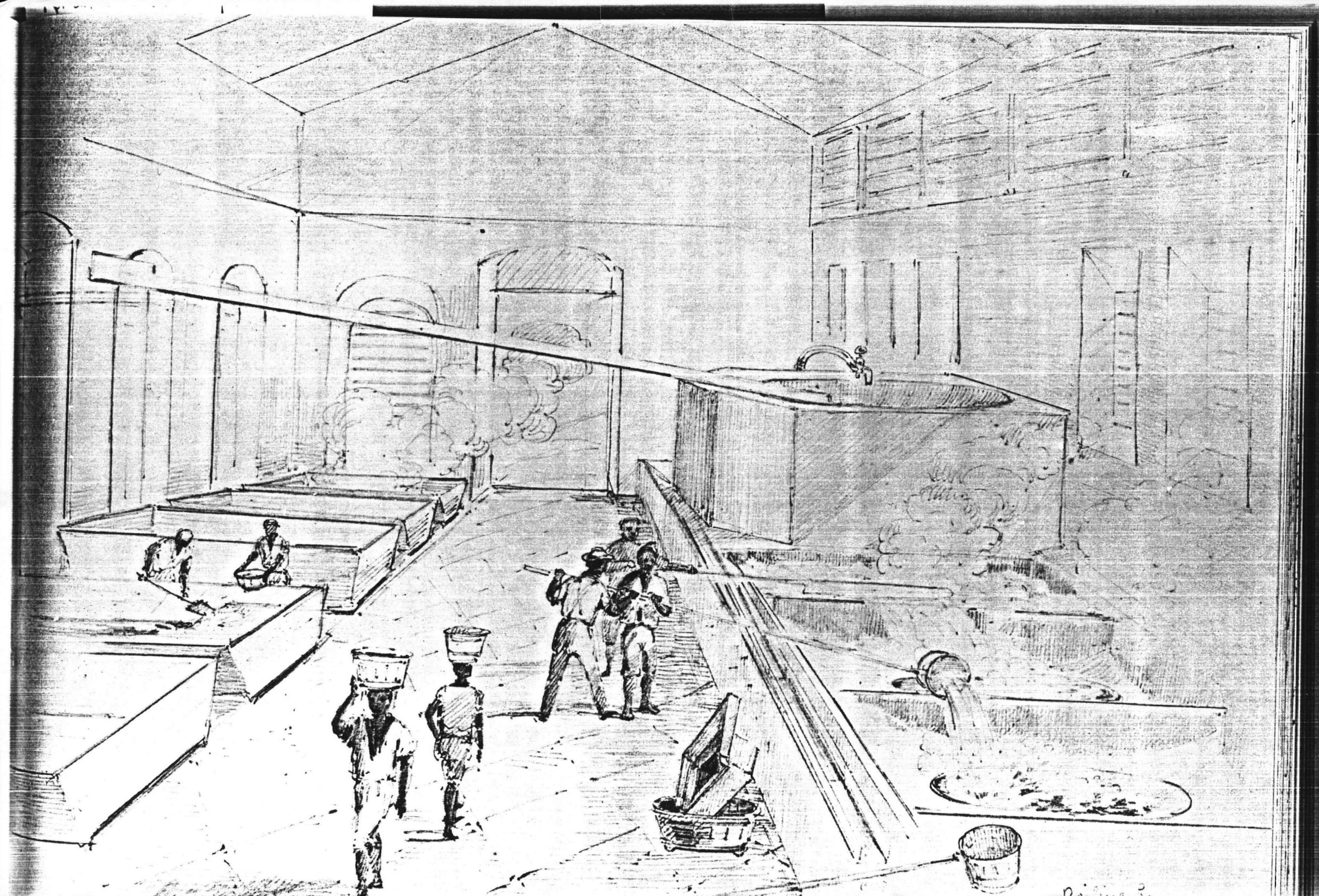
Boiling, curing & still house

5000 Fod.

De Danske Vestindiske Øers Tilstand

by Lothar P Oxholm 1797

Courtesy of the Royal Library, Copenhagen.



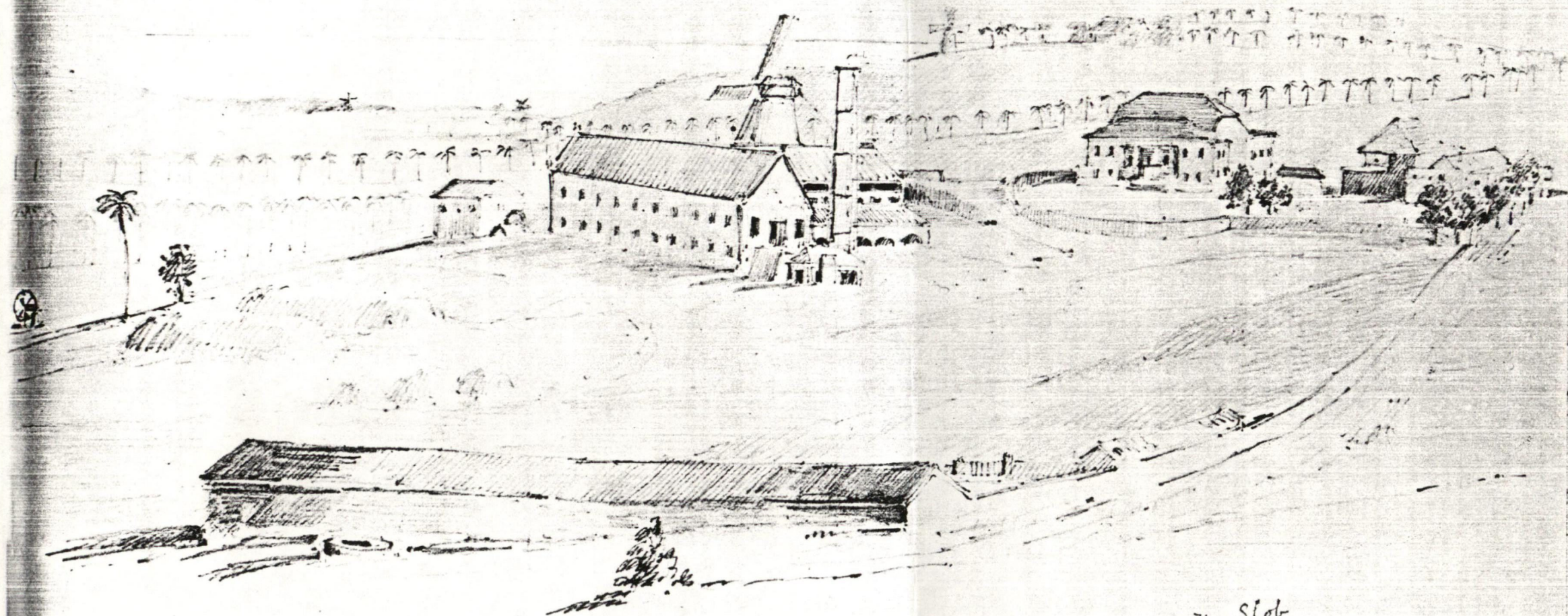
Boiling House - Slob

from Henry Morton: Danish West Indian Sketchbook and Diary 1843-44

opp. p. 66.



Slob Mill
from Henry Morton: Danish West Indian Sketchbook & Diary, 1843-44
opp. p. 64

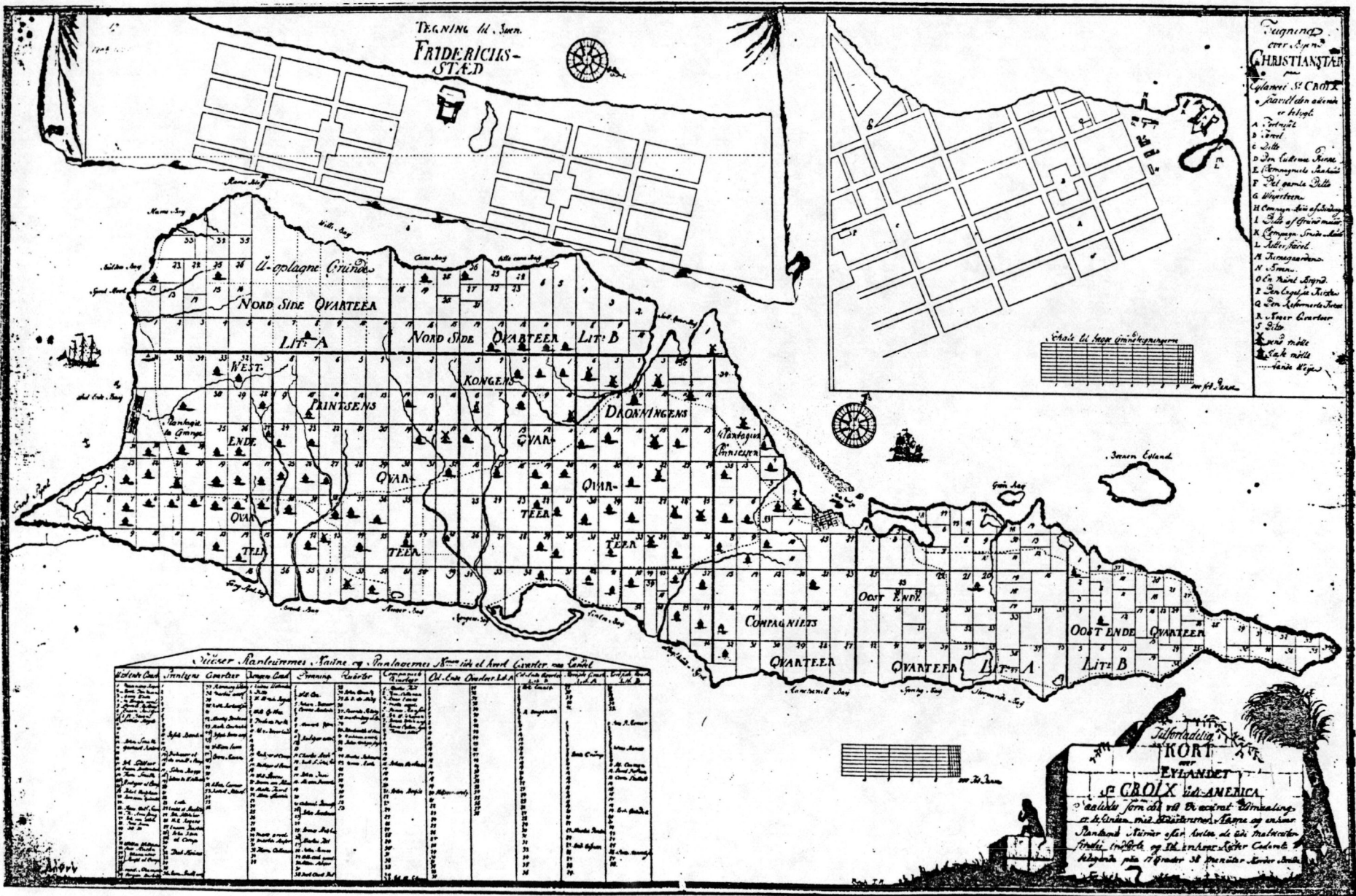


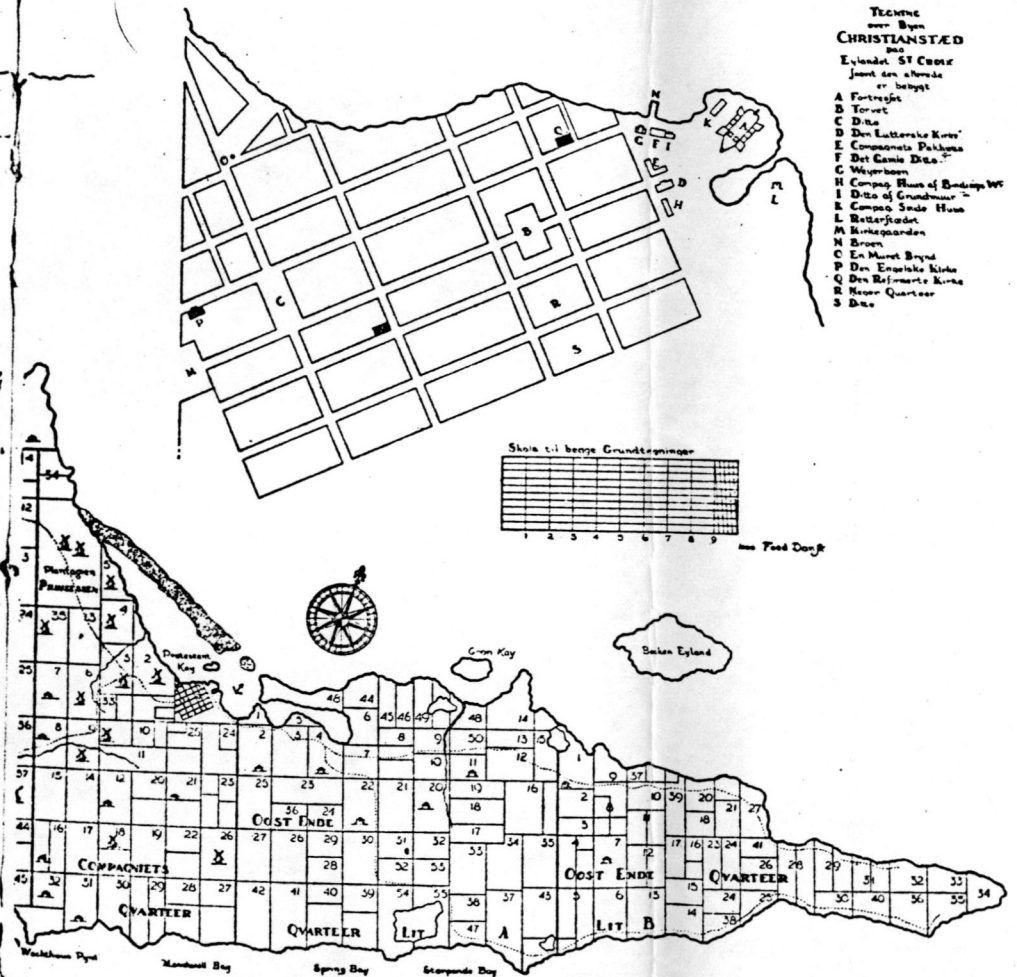
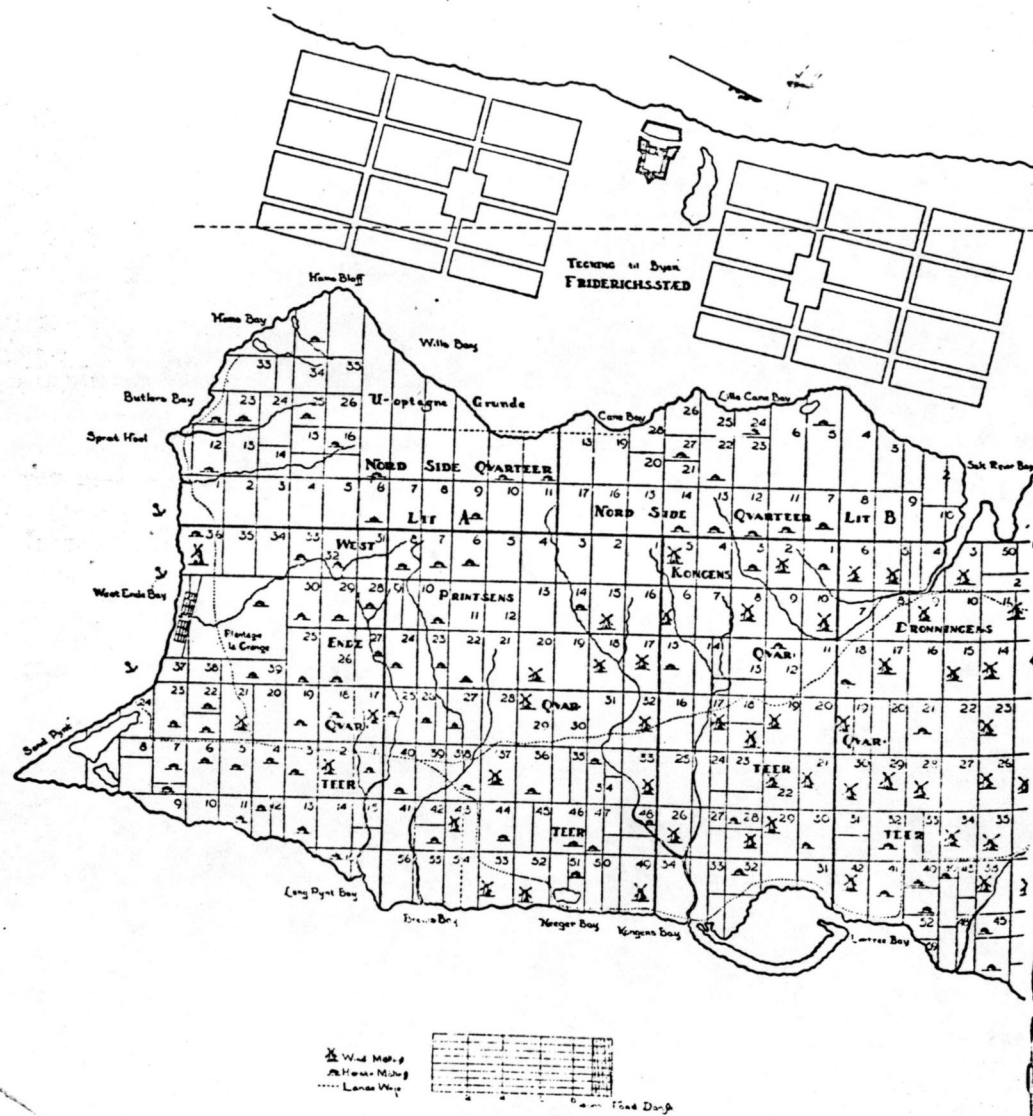
The Slob

Distant view of Estate Slob

from Henry Morton: Danish West Indian Sketchbook & Diary, 1843-44

opp. p. 62





TEGENE
over Byen
CHRISTIANSTED

Eyelandt ST Croix
Jant den alreede
er beeygt

A Fortreys

B Torret

C Dine

D Den Lutterste Kree

E Compagnie Pakhuys

F Det Gamle Dils

G Weeghuys

H Compag. Huus of Bouding Wt

I Dito of Grundmur

K Compag. Smide Huus

L Betschjeder

M Sirkelgarden

N Broen

O En Murst Brynd

P Den Erastele Kilde

Q Den Reformatie Kirke

R Nover Quarter

S Dine

Skala til benge Grundtegninger



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Feet Dange

revised Beck's 1766 map

[illegible]

Oxholm's 1799 map





Parsons 1856 map



1923 USGS map

87001929

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Slob Historic District
St. Croix County
VIRGIN ISLANDS

OCT - 2 1987

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89
Date Due: 10/30/87 11/10/87
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 11/12/87
 ☐ RETURN
 ☐ REJECT

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept A, B, D
Reviewer A. Schlegel
Discipline Archaeology
Date 11/12/87
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
 _____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	date _____
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

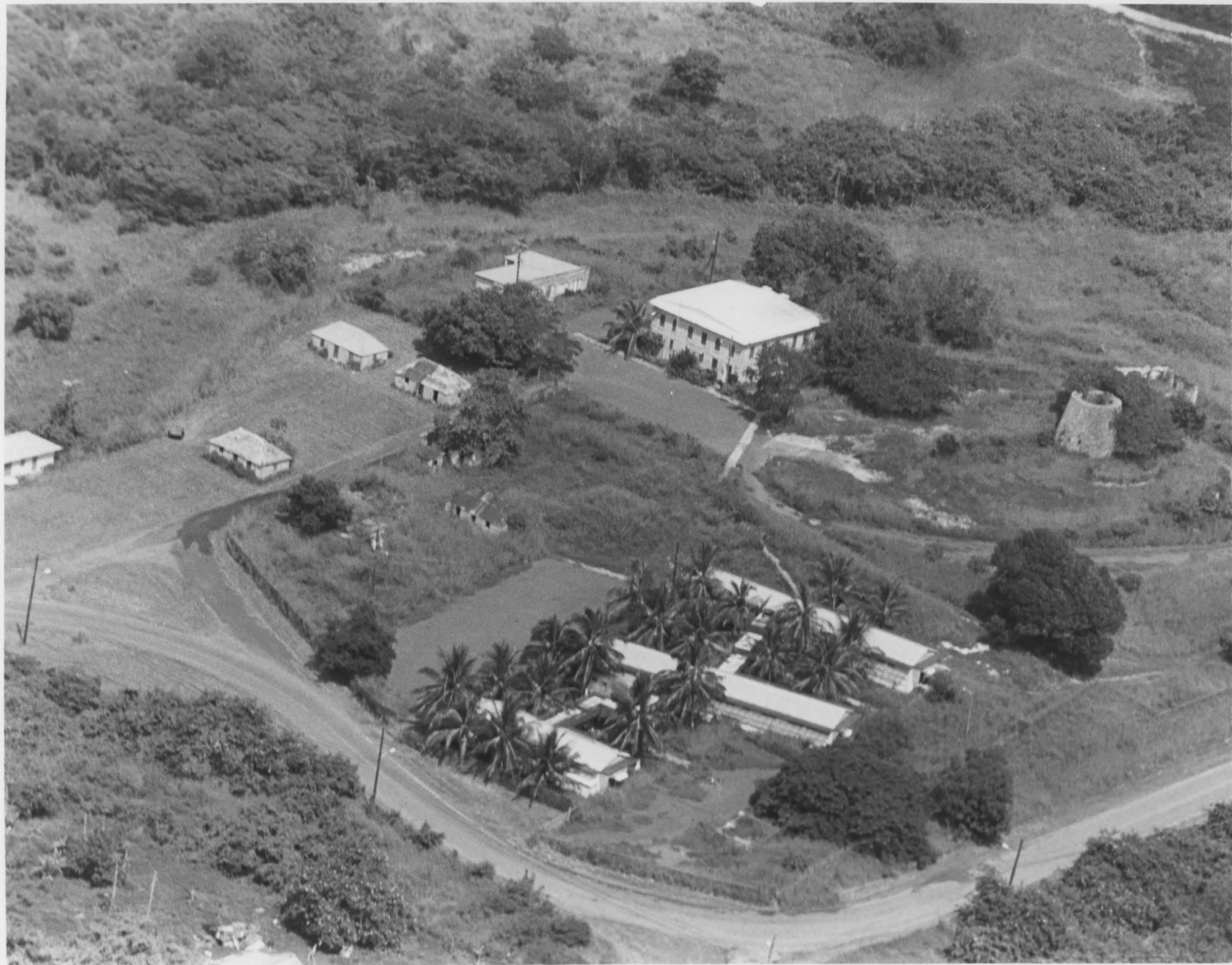
title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

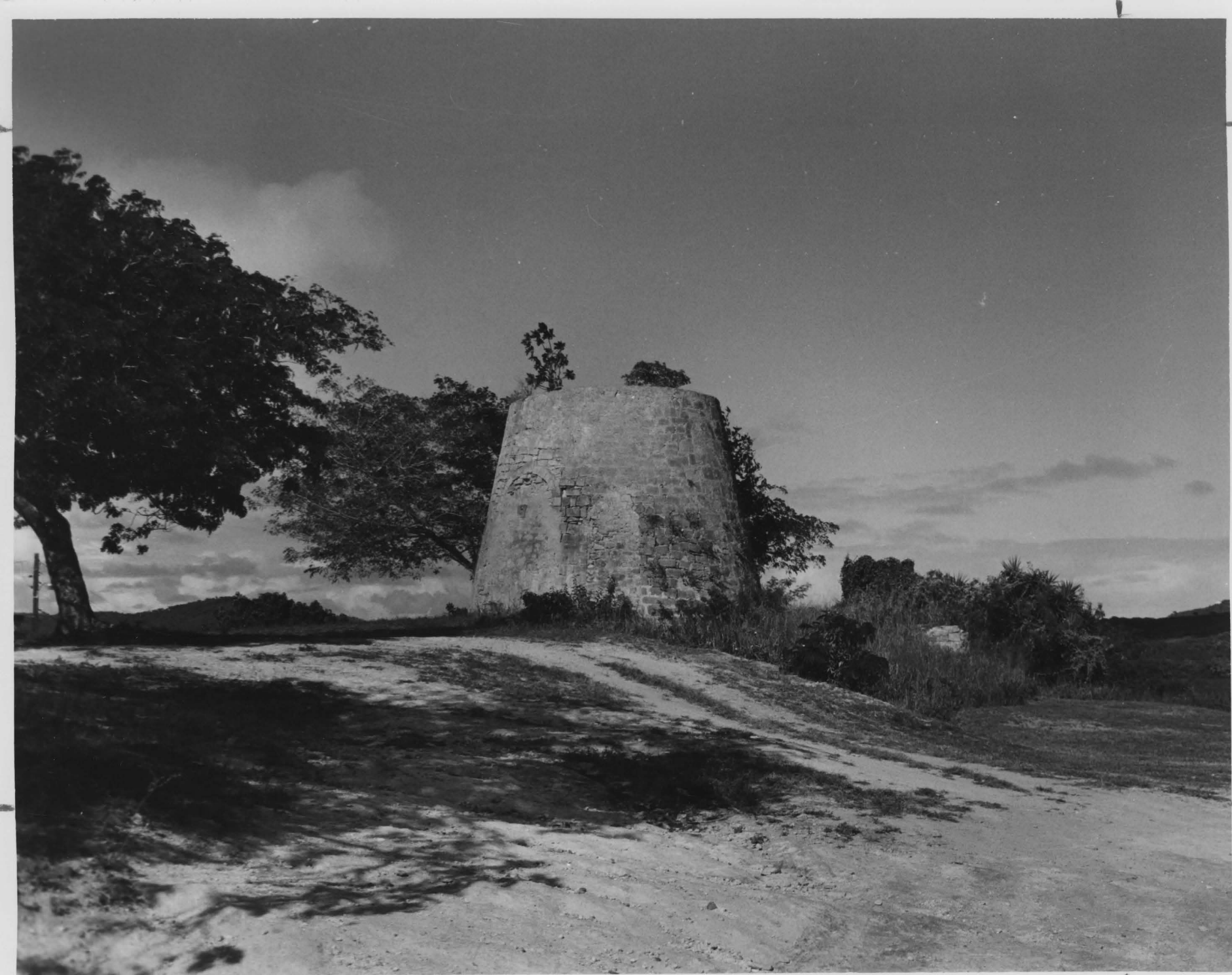
















































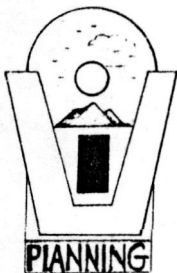




1958

6 Copies

GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES



Department of
PLANNING & NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P.O. Box 2606
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V.I. 00801



PRESERVATION

September 10, 1987

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull;

Enclosed are seven National Register Nominations for sites on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. They are: Estate Bethlehem, Old & New Works, Estate Bethlehem, Middle Works, Estate Fairplane, Estate Richmond, Estate Slob, Estate Lower Love, and Estate Strawberry Hill.

The above listed nominations have been reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Review Board and signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Please feel free to contact either Claudette Lewis or David Harrington of my staff at 809-774-7859 if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Brian Turnbull
Assistant Commissioner

BT/DHH/dhh
D2

OCT 2 1987

Mr. Brain Turnbull
Assistant Commissioner
Government of the Virgin Islands
Department of Planning and
Resources
Division for Archaeology and
Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 2606
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
Virgin Islands 00801

Dear Mr. Turnbull:

We have recently reviewed Estate Bethlehem: Old and New Works, Estate Bethlehem: Middle Works, Estate Fairplane, Estate Richmond, Estate Slob, Estate Lower Love, and Estate Strawberry Hill, all properties on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These nominations reflect a coherent group of properties that are relatively well-preserved from a historic and archeological standpoint. Estate Strawberry Hill and Estate Slob have been listed on the National Register. There are, however, several issues common to the remaining nominations that have been identified and they have therefore been returned for your consideration. In addition, there was one property with elements less than fifty years of age that was also returned for reconsideration of that justification as well.

The first general issue concerns the use of visual boundaries as a basis for defining the boundary of a nominated property. This approach is not a workable one because it effectively establishes a buffer zone around the property. While this may be desirable from a protection standpoint, the boundary of listed National Register properties legally has to reflect only those areas of the property containing historic, architecturally and/or archeologically significant remains. The boundaries must be evaluated in this light, and adjustments made as appropriate.

The second issue concerns the application of Criterion D. In several cases, potential research topics that the property can address have not been identified. These cases contrast with the nominations for Estate Bethlehem: Old and New Works (see under Archeology-historic Item number 8, page 7) and Estate Slob which clearly established research potential. In these cases,

statements pointed out that "...the cultural materials should yield further information about the sequence of development and life patterns of the estate's inhabitants." If you wish to include these properties under Criterion D, this statement might be added to (with modifications as appropriate) to those nominations returned for Criterion D justification.

Finally, several for the properties were submitted claiming significance for specific individuals under Criterion B. Under Criterion B the emphasis is on the role that the particular property in question played during the period the individual achieved historical significance. In several cases, the importance of the individual head of the family (such as Nicholas Tuite in Estate Richmond for example) was demonstrated, especially in comparison to other properties being nominated where that same individual played a much more minor role. The documentation notes that Blackwood played a key role at Estate Lower Love, for example, especially compared to his minimal participation at Estate Strawberry Hill. To expedite consideration of these returned properties, we suggest that a sentence be added to each of the returned nominations noting that the collection of individual owners of each plantation illustrates the traditions of plantation growth and development over the centuries of operation (adding to the importance of these properties under Criterion A), but the case for any one of these individuals cannot be fully documented at this time (and therefore the properties are not being submitted under Criterion B). This will enable the nominations to be accepted at this time and establish parameters for further research efforts.

Please contact John Knoerl or Amy Schlage of our staff should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places