

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Skytsborgother names/site number Fogarthy's Castle, Kjaer's Castle, Blackbeard's Castle

2. Location

street & number 39 Donningens Gadecity, town Charlotte Amaliestate US Virgin Islands code 78county St. Thomascode 0100zip code 00801☐ not for publication☐ vicinity

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)☐ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0 buildings0 sites0 structures0 objects1 0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Christiansted Historic DistrictNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☐ 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 ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense - military facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation - monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Danish Colonial - Military Stone Tower

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone - Limestone

walls Stone - Limestone

roof Wood

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. Skytsborg, commonly referred to as Blackbeard's Castle, is situated on Government Hill (formerly called Baggaertsbjerg in the 17th century) overlooking Charlotte Amalie and the St. Thomas Harbor. This fortified stone tower, constructed in 1679, is slightly ovoid in ground plan, 20 feet in diameter at the base and tapering to 17' 8" at the top of the parapet.

The interior of the tower originally had three wooden floors. The original levels are clearly identified by projecting stone ledges on the interior side of the tapered stone wall. The total height of the tower is 31' 6". The walls of the tower are constructed of masonry rubble, 53" thick at the base and tapering to 40" at the edge of the parapet. The exterior and interior surfaces of the walls were originally covered with a thin coat of lime plaster and whitewashed. Traces of this plaster exist on the interior surfaces of the tower, although this covering does not exist on the exterior surface.

The tower is entered from the north, through a four foot wide, seven foot high elliptical arched entrance. The entrance has three stone steps leading into the tower, and the entrance opening is faced with brick. The wooden entrance door and metal fittings are modern, but are in character with the tower.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The first floor room is 9 feet high. Nine brick lined, gun ports (6" x 9") are arranged in a radial pattern throughout the first floor room, seven feet above the present floor level. This would indicate that there once existed a wooden platform along the inner wall to serve as a firing platform for the gun ports. The floor of the first floor room is constructed of stone set in concrete.

The second floor room is 7' 2" high. Thirteen brick lined gun ports, similar in size to those in the first floor room are arranged in a radial pattern. They are six feet above the present floor level. There is also a larger gun port or embrasure, measuring 14" x 26", set 45" about the floor level in the south face of the tower. This is probably one of two embrasures cut into the existing tower in 1688, for cannons to command Charlotte Amalie Harbor and protect the north approaches to Christiansfort. The floor of the second floor room is made of reinforced concrete.

The third floor room is 7' high. Thirteen brick lined gun ports repeat the radial pattern found on the second floor room. The floor of the third floor room is made of reinforced concrete.

The fourth floor room is 7' high. The tower walls are pierced by eight gun ports. Seven gun ports measure 12" x 16", while the eighth one is 12" x 30". This latter gun port is on the north face of the tower and probably served a small cannon to protect the tower from the hills above.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Originally the fourth floor room was an open observation and gun platform. It was covered with a wooden roof in the 19th century when the tower served as an astronomical observatory. This roof was replaced in the 20th century with a modern wooden roof below the parapet wall. The floor of the fourth floor room is made of reinforced concrete. A circular metal stair permits access to all floors.

The original 17th century stone masonry construction of the tower and brick facing for the entrance and gun ports of the tower are in excellent shape. None of the original wooden interior walls of the tower indicate the original locations of the floor levels.

All wooden floors and stairs were replaced with reinforced concrete and a circular metal staircase in the 19th century. A modern roof was installed in the top floor in the 20th century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement
Military

Period of Significance

Early Danish Colonial

Settlement 1679-1700

Significant Dates

1679

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Governor Jorge Iversen

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Skytsborg, or Blackbeard's Castle, is a medieval style fortified tower constructed in 1679 by the Danish colonial government as part of a network of defensive fortifications to protect St. Thomas. It is the best remaining example of 17th century Danish colonial military architecture in the United States, and is the only 17th century fortified tower in the Caribbean.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Skytsborg has its roots in the earliest history of the Danish Virgin Islands. In 1678, war having broken out between France and Denmark, the French settlers of neighboring St. Croix launched an attempt to seize St. Thomas Island. Fortunately, Governor Jorge Iversen, since arrival in 1672, undertook to construct a large four-sided fort at the harbors edge of Charlotte Amalie the capital of St. Thomas, called Christiansfort, (designated an NHL in 1977). As the attackers did not have an siege cannon this structure was easily able to withstand the brief siege imposed by the French from St. Croix, who were forced to retreat.

One of the main features of Christiansfort was a squat three story high tower named Trygborg on the north side of the fort. Twenty-six and one half feet high and 90 feet in circumference the tower was intended as a self-contained last ditch defensive position if an enemy carried the outer walls of Christiansfort. ☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Virgin Islands Planning Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .86 acres

UTM References N/A

A

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

B

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

C

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

D

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

18° 20' 44" N. Lat.
64° 56' 50" W. Long.

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the tower located at the peak of Government Hill, No. 39 Donningens Gade, Kings Quarter. The boundary is a circle 30 feet in diameter centered upon the axis of the tower located at 18° 20' 44" North Latitude and 64° 56' 50" West Longitude.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes just the area of No. 39 Dronningens gade that includes the tower. This boundary has been selected to encompass a single portion of a larger parcel of land that is occupied by just Skytsborg Tower.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____
organization _____ date _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The first floor was a large storeroom for ammunition and provisions. The walls of the upper two floors were studded with embrasures for both small arms and light cannon. This was the first military tower that can be documented on St. Thomas. Trygborg and the north side of Christiansfort were torn down in the 19th century during renovation.

Christiansfort provided a strong defense for St. Thomas against an attacking force from the sea. However, Governor Iversen realized that an attacking force could have pounded Christiansfort into submission by erecting an artillery battery on the high ground behind and north of the fort. For this reason, Iversen ordered a tower fortification erected on Baggaertsbjerg, a hill top north of Christiansfort in 1679, similar to Trygborg. Such a tower, would serve not only to deny the high ground to an attacking force, but could also serve as a watchtower providing a vantage point high enough to peer over Hassel Island to scan the open ocean; thereby providing early warning of an approaching enemy.

The success of the 1678 defense of St. Thomas convinced Iversen of the usefulness of stone towers for defense. Iversen's letter of February 2, 1680 to the directors of the Danish West India Company indicated that Skytsborg had been erected at Baggaertsbjerg by that date. In it he wrote "Since I had the Watchtower erected at Baggaertsbjerg I did not fear a hasty attack so much." A 1687 English map of St. Thomas harbor depicts and it describes a "small white tower" on Baggaertsbjerg to the north of Christiansfort.

In 1688 another crisis occurred when in response to dynastic wars in Europe, the Spanish from Puerto Rico occupied Crab Island (Vieques) and Anguilla, thereby surrounding St. Thomas. This made the Danes in St. Thomas concerned as the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Spanish had never abandoned their claim, by right of discovery, to the Virgin Islands. Governor Christopher Heins, who had replaced Iversen, undertook a program of upgrading the fortifications of Christiansfort and Skytsborg. He had embrasures cut in the walls of Skytsborg for two large cannon capable of covering the harbor. In addition, he erected a third tower to the east on Schmidtsbjerg. The erection of this last tower in 1689 completed the 17th century defenses of St. Thomas.

In peacetime no soldiers were stationed at Skytsborg or Schmidtsbjerg, while a skeleton force was maintained at Christiansfort. If an attack by other colonial forces or slave rebellion was anticipated an alarm was sounded by firing a predetermined number of cannon at Christiansfort. This signal would call out all able bodied whites and free blacks to take up arms and report to one of the three fortifications. A militia sergeant and eight men were posted in Skytsborg in emergencies. Such an alarm occurred in May of 1694 when a slave insurrection was anticipated from the newly established plantations in New Quarter, present day Tutu (a suburb of Charlotte Amalie).

Throughout the eighteenth century Denmark maintained a policy of strict neutrality in all European wars. This policy proved more of an economic boon to the Danish West Indies than the planting of sugar cane because of the commerce it attracted to the island to transact business. As a neutral Caribbean port of trade, all European traders respected the neutrality of St. Thomas, and to a certain extent encouraged its prosperity, as it provided a means of trade between otherwise belligerent European powers. As the warehouses and trading houses of Charlote Amalie expanded to meet this trade the need for fortifications languished.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

During the 18th century numerous European traders noted on maps the fortifications of St. Thomas. Van Keulen's 1719 map of St. Thomas, drafted for Governor Erik Bredal, in reference to Skytsborg "De Klyne Tooren es omgevallen" (the small tower is deteriorated). Similarly, a 1730 map of St. Thomas noted Skytsborg as a "gammellt fefalden taarn" (an old collapsing tower). Oxholm's map of 1779 labelled Skytsborg as "et gammellt taarn" (an old tower).

During the early eighteenth century Skytsborg passed out of government to a planter named Johannes Jahnsen de Windt. De Windt's plantation lands, called Catarinabjerg after his wife Catherine were willed to the Dutch Reform Church in 1759. The pastor, Reverend Francis Verboom, purchased the plantation and Skytsborg for 38,000 rigsdollars, subdivided the land and sold off individual building lots.

By 1800, an Irish immigrant Thim Fogarthy, acquired Skytsborg from Verboom. Fogarthy used the tower as his private residence. The first floor was used for storage, the second as a parlor and dining room, and the third floor as a bedroom. During the first three decades of the 19th century, Skytsborg was commonly known as Fogarthy's Castle.

For most of the 19th century Skytsborg was called Kjaer's Castle, after Thomas A. Kjaer, who acquired the tower in 1826, and whose family owned the property until 1886. Kjaer's interest in astronomy saw him convert the tower into an astronomical observatory by placing a telescope on the roof, and putting a wooden roof on the top of the tower. When Kjaer's heirs sold Skytsborg in 1886 the stone walls were solid

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

but the wooden interior floors had to be replaced by the new owner A. R. Raven.

During the 19th century, Skytsborg became associated with three distinct but erroneous legends. The first was that the tower was built by 17th century buccaneers, and later used by Captain Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard the Pirate. Blackbeard was never known to have visited St. Thomas. The second legend was that the tower was built by the first Danish colonization attempt (1665-1666). However, there is ample historical evidence that it was constructed in the second Danish colonization effort when Governor Jorgen Iversen arrived in 1672. The last legend had a Dutch settler, Carl Baggaert building the tower in the 1670s on the high ground north of Christiansfort, then known as Baggaertsbjerg, as part of a dispute with Governor Iversen.

Skytsborg may be considered the oldest unaltered structure on St. Thomas. Although Christiansfort predates Skytsborg, extensive alterations of the former in the 18th centuries eliminated its seventeenth century appearance. Schmidtsbjerg tower has also been extensively renovated obscuring its earlier appearance. No other 17th century structures survive in the Virgin Islands.

The three tower defensive network of Skytsborg, Schmidtsbjerg, and Trygborg (part of Christiansfort), although medieval in appearance, admirably suited the defensive needs of St. Thomas in the 17th century. The principle danger, at that time, was not well equipped professional armies, but rather plundering raids, such as the French attack on

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

St. Thomas in 1678, or slave rebellions. A small Danish force, supplemented with militia, could easily defend itself against such attacking forces. Nowhere else in the Caribbean were fortified towers constructed in the 17th century.

By the early 18th century the development of accurate large calibre cannon necessitated a shift from outmoded and exposed medieval fortified towers to the lower profile Vauban style of rectangular forts with protruding bastions at the corners.

The 18th century also brought large, well equipped professional armies and navies from Europe to the Caribbean. The concentration of the Danish on St. Thomas on trade precluded the construction of new defensive works. The inadequacy of the tower network to defend the island was demonstrated in 1801 when the British forced a bloodless surrender of the island to keep it from being used by French naval forces during the Napoleonic Wars.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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New York: Charles Scribner, 1852.

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C.A. Reitzels Forlag, 1928.

Lawaetz, Eva "The First Danish Expeditions to the Island of St. Thomas in the
West Indies and the Danish Colonization of St. Thomas"
St. Thomas Public Library: Unpublished Monograph.

McGuire, James W. Geographical Dictionary of the Virgin Islands of the United
States U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Publication
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Taylor, Charles E. Leaflets from the Danish West Indies London:
W. M. Dawson & Sons, 1888

WASO Form 177
("R" June 1984)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Skytsborg

St. Thomas County
US Virgin IslandsWorking No. 6.12.91
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 7/27/91
Action: ☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 7/26/91
☐ REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

See attached comments

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer Hopper
Discipline Historian
Date 7/26/91
_____ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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 date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

Reviewer's Comments

This is an excellent nomination. There are only a few relatively minor questions. The name of the governor who built the tower is given as Jorge Iverson in some places and Jorgen Iverson in others--which is correct? Does the current function of Recreation--monument indicate use as a park? If so, should the ownership category still be private?

Description

Describing four different levels and referring to three original wooden floors is a little confusing--maybe the first sentence in the second paragraph of Section 7 should read something like "The interior of the tower was originally divided into four levels by three wooden floors." There seems to be some discrepancy between the statement that "The original 17th century stone masonry construction of the tower and brick facing . . . is in excellent shape" (second paragraph, page 7/3) and the 18th century descriptions quoted in Section 8 indicating deteriorated conditions. Can this be clarified? The meaning of the second sentence in this same paragraph on page 7/3 is not clear.

Significance

This part of the nomination is fine as it stands.

Geographical Information

All nominations should use UTM coordinates unless no USGS map with UTM markings is available. Is that the case here?

Marilyn M. Harper
Historian
7/26/91

United States Department of the Interior
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1. Name of Property

historic name Skytsborg
other names/site number Fogarthy's Castle, Kjaer's Castle, Blackbeard's Castle

2. Location

street & number 39 Dronningens Gade ☐ not for publication
city, town Charlotte Amalie ☐ vicinity
state US Virgin Islands code 78 county St. Thomas code 0100 zip code 00801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Charlotte Amalie Historic District

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ 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 ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. Skytsborg, commonly referred to as Blackbeadr's Castle, is situated on Government Hill (formerly called Baggaertsbjerg in the 17th century) overlooking Charlotte Amalie and the St. Thomas Harbor. This fortified stone tower, constructed in 1669, is highly ovoid in ground plan, 20 feet in diameter at the base and tapering at 17' 8" at the top of the parapet.

The interior of the tower was originally divided into four levels by three wooden floors. The original levels are clearly identified by projecting stone ledges on the interior side of the tapered stone wall. The total height of the tower is 31' 6". The walls of the tower are constructed of masonry rubble, 53" thick at the base and tapering at 40" at the edge of the parapet. The exterior and interior surfaces of the wall were originally covered with a thin coat of lime plaster and whitewashed. Traces of this plaster exist on the interior surfaces of the tower, although this covering does not exist on the exterior surface. The tower is entered from the north, through a four-foot wide, seven foot high elliptical arch entrance. The entrance has three stone steps leading into the tower, and the entrance opening is faced with brick. The wooden entrance door and metal fittings are modern, but are in character with the tower.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

OCT 15 1991

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The first floor room is 9 feet high. Nine brick lined, gun ports (6" x 9") are arranged in a radial pattern throughout the first floor room, seven feet above the present floor level. This would indicate that there once existed a wooden platform along the inner wall to serve as a firing platform for the gun ports. The floor of the first floor room is constructed of stone set in concrete.

The second floor room is 7' 2" high. Thirteen brick lined gun ports, similar in size to those in the first floor room are arranged in a radial pattern. They are six feet above the present floor level. There is also a larger gun port or embrasure, measuring 14" x 26", set 45" about the floor level in the south face of the tower. This is probably one of two embrasures cut into the existing tower in 1688, for cannons to command Charlotte Amalie Harbor and protect the north approaches to Christiansfort. The floor of the second floor room is made of reinforced concrete.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

OCT 15 1991

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Originally the fourth floor room was an open observation and gun platform. It was covered with a wooden roof in the 19th century when the tower served as an astronomical observatory. This roof was replaced in the 20th century with a modern wooden roof below the parapet wall. The floor of the fourth floor room is made of reinforced concrete. A circular metal stair permits access to all floors.

The original 17th century stone masonry construction of the tower and brick facing for the entrance and gun ports of the tower are in excellent shape. None of the original wooden interior walls of the tower indicate the original locations of the floor levels.

All wooden floors and stairs were replaced with reinforced concrete and a circular metal staircase in the 19th century. A modern roof was installed in the top floor in the 20th century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Military

Period of Significance

Early Danish Colonial

Settlement 1679-1700

Significant Dates

1679

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Governor Jorgen Iverson

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Skytsborg, or Blackbeard's Castle, is a medieval style fortified tower constructed in 1679 by the Danish colonial government as part of a network of defensive fortifications to protect St. Thomas. It is the best remaining example of 17th century Danish colonial military architecture in the United States, and is the only 17th century fortified tower in the Caribbean.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Skytsborg has its roots in the earliest history of the Danish Virgin Islands. In 1678, war having broken out between France and Denmark, the French settlers of neighboring St. Croix launched an attempt to seize St. Thomas Island. Fortunately, Governor Jorgen Iverson, since arrival in 1672, undertook to construct a large four-sided fort at the harbors edge of Charlotte Amalie the capital of St. Thomas, called Christiansfort, (designed an NHL in 1977). As the attackers did not have an siege cannon this structure was easily able to withstand the brief siege imposed by the French from St. Croix, who were forced to retreat.

One of the main features of Christiansfort was a squat three story high tower named Trygborg on the north side of the fort. Twenty-six and one half feet high and 90 feet in circumference the tower was intended as a self-contained last ditch defensive position if an enemy carried the outer walls of Christiansfort.

☐ See continuation sheet

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National Park Service**

OCT 15 1991

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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OCT 15 1991

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3

Spanish had never abandoned their claim, by right of discovery, to the Virgin Islands. Governor Christopher Heins, who had replaced Iversen, undertook a program of upgrading the fortifications of Christiansfort and Skytsborg. He had embrasures cut in the walls of Skytsborg for two large cannon capable of covering the harbor. In addition, he erected a third tower to the east on Schmidtsbjerg. The erection of this last tower in 1689 completed the 17th century defenses of St. Thomas.

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OCT 15 1991

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

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By 1800, an Irish immigrant Thim Fogarthy, acquired Skytsborg from Verboom. Fogarthy used the tower as his private residence. The first floor was used for storage, the second as a parlor and dining room, and the third floor as a bedroom. During the first three decades of the 19th century, Skytsborg was commonly known as Fogarthy's Castle.

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OCT 15 1991

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

but the wooden interior floors had to be replaced by the new owner A. R. Raven.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

St. Thomas in 1678, or slave rebellions. A small Danish force, supplemented with militia, could easily defend itself against such attacking forces. Nowhere else in the Caribbean were fortified towers constructed in the 17th century.

By the early 18th century the development of accurate large calibre cannon necessitated a shift from outmoded and exposed medieval fortified towers to the lower profile Vauban style of rectangular forts with protruding bastions at the corners.

The 18th century also brought large, well equipped professional armies and navies from Europe to the Caribbean. The concentration of the Danish on St. Thomas on trade precluded the construction of new defensive works. The inadequacy of the tower network to defend the island was demonstrated in 1801 when the British forced a bloodless surrender of the island to keep it from being used by French naval forces during the Napoleonic Wars.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
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- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

B

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

C

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

D

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification _____

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

OCT 15 1991

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Historic American Buildings, Survey. Historic Architecture of the Virgin Islands.
Philadelphia: HABS, February 1964

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New York: Charles Scribner, 1852.

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Munlenberg press, 1950.

Larsen, Kay. Dansk Vestindien 1666 - 1917 Copenhagen:
C.A. Reitzels Forlag, 1928.

Lawaetz, Eva "The First Danish Expeditions to the Island of St. Thomas in the
West Indies and the Danish Colonization of St. Thomas"
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McGuire, James W. Geographical Dictionary of the Virgin Islands of the United
States U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Publication
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Taylor, Charles E. Leaflets from the Danish West Indies London:
W. M. Dawson & Sons, 1888

WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEETSkytsborg
St. Thomas County
VIRGIN ISLANDSWorking No. 10.15.91Fed. Reg. Date: 11/24/91Date Due: 10/18/91Action: ☒ ACCEPT ☒ RETURN ☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

See attached comments

Recom./Criteria ReturnReviewer HarperDiscipline HistorianDate 10/18/91

see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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 _____

Patrick Andrews

Date _____

10/18/91

Phone: _____

SKYTSBORG

St. Thomas County, VIRGIN ISLANDS

Reviewer's Comments

Most of the suggestions made in earlier review comments have been addressed in this submission. The meaning of the sentence on page 7/3--"None of the original wooden interior walls of the tower indicate the original locations of the floor levels"--is still not clear to me.

The nomination as it stands is incomplete, needing certain basic data. These comments will go through the National Register nomination form item by item.

Section No. 4: All nomination forms must be signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Section No. 6: All blocks must be filled out (this was done correctly on the earlier preliminary review).

Section No. 7: All blocks here must be filled out as well (again, this was done on the original submission). The text should be checked against the text in the first preliminary review. There are a number of discrepancies, including the original date of construction. The box for See Continuation Sheet should be checked, since the description continues on additional pages.

Section No. 8: If significance is claimed for association with Governor Iverson, block B under applicable National Register Criteria should be checked. If significance as a rare example of early military architecture is claimed (as it probably should be), block C should also be checked. The box for See Continuation Sheet should be checked here too. Include only one copy of this page, having two page 8s, one filled out and one not, is confusing.

Section No. 10: It is alright to submit a USGS map later, assuming the time lag is not too great. We do need the latitude and longitude if we don't have the map yet. If you could include some sort of map, indicating the general location of the structure, that would be helpful.

Section No. 11: This must be filled out.

Photographs: All nominations must include clear, black and white photographs of the property being nominated. Their size can vary from 3 1/2" X 5" to 8" X 10." Interior shots are useful in a case like this, where the interior is significant. The number of photos should be sufficient to

show what is important about the building. It is preferable to have the photos printed on fiber-based paper, but resin papers are acceptable if they have a white border around them.

Marilyn M. Harper
Historian
October 16, 1991

1844

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormRECEIVED
NOV 12 1991NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Skytsborgother names/site number Fogarthy's Castle, Kjaer's Castle, Blackbeard's Castle

2. Location

street & number 39 Donningens Gade☐ not for publicationcity, town Charlotte Amalie☐ vicinitystate US Virgin Islands code 78county St. Thomascode 0100zip code 00801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)☐ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

10

Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Charlotte AmalieNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date 10/28/91Department of Planning & Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 12-20-91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense - Military Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation - Monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Danish Colonial - Military Stone Tower

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone - Limestone

walls Stone - Limestone

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance. Skytsborg, commonly referred to as Blackbeard's Castle, is situated on Government Hill (formerly called Baggaertsbjerg in the 17th century) overlooking Charlotte Amalie and the St. Thomas Harbor. This fortified stone tower, constructed in 1679, is slightly ovoid in ground plan, 20 feet in diameter at the base and tapering to 17' 8" at the top of the parapet.

The interior of the tower originally had three wooden floors. The original levels are clearly identified by projecting stone ledges on the interior side of the tapered stone wall. The total height of the tower is 31' 6". The walls of the tower are constructed of masonry rubble, 53" thick at the base and tapering to 40" at the edge of the parapet. The exterior and interior surfaces of the walls were originally covered with a thin coat of lime plaster and whitewashed. Traces of this plaster exist on the interior surfaces of the tower, although this covering does not exist on the exterior surface.

The tower is entered from the north, through a four-foot wide, seven-foot high elliptical arched entrance. The entrance has three stone steps leading into the tower, and the entrance opening is faced with brick. The wooden entrance door and metal fittings are modern, but are in character with the tower.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The first floor room is 9 feet high. Nine brick lined, gun ports (6" x 9") are arranged in a radial pattern throughout the first floor room, seven feet above the present floor level. This would indicate that there once existed a wooden platform along the inner wall to serve as a firing platform for the gun ports.

The floor of the first floor room is constructed of stone set in concrete.

The second floor room is 7' 1" high. Thirteen brick lined gun ports, similar in size to those in the first floor room are arranged in a radial pattern. They are six feet above the present floor level. There is also a larger gun port or embrasure, measuring 14" x 26", set 45" above the floor level in the south face of the tower.

This is probably one of two embrasures cut into the existing tower in 1688, for cannons to command Charlotte Amalie Harbor and protect the north approaches to Christiansfort. The floor of the second floor room is made of reinforced concrete.

The third floor room is 7' high. Thirteen brick lined gun ports repeat the radial pattern found on the second floor room. The floor of the third floor room is made of reinforced concrete.

The fourth floor room is 7' high. The tower walls are pierced by eight gun ports. Seven gun ports measure 12" x 16", while the eighth one is 12" x 30". This latter gun port is on the north face of the tower and probably served a small cannon to protect the tower from the hills above.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Originally the fourth floor room was an open observation and gun platform. It was covered with a wooden roof in the 19th century when the tower served as an astronomical observatory. This roof was replaced in the 20th century with a modern wooden roof below the parapet wall. The floor of the fourth floor room is made of reinforced concrete. A circular metal stair permits access to all floors.

The original 17th century stone masonry construction of the tower and brick facing for the entrance and gun ports of the tower are in excellent shape. None of the original wooden interior floors are extant, although stone projections on the interior walls of the tower indicate the original locations of the floor levels.

All wooden floors and stairs were replaced with reinforced concrete and a circular metal staircase in the 19th century. A modern roof was installed in the top floor in the 20th century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Military

Period of Significance

Early Danish Colonial

Settlement 1679-1700

Significant Dates

1679

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Governor Jorgen Iverson

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Skytsborg, or Blackbeard's Castle, is a medieval style fortified tower constructed in 1679 by the Danish colonial government as part of a network of defensive fortifications to protect St. Thomas. It is the best remaining example of 17th century Danish colonial military architecture in the United States, and is the only 17th century fortified tower in the Caribbean.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Skytsborg has its roots in the earliest history of the Danish Virgin Islands. In 1678, war having broken out between France and Denmark, the French settlers of neighboring St. Croix launched an attempt to seize St. Thomas Island. Fortunately, Governor Jorgen Iverson, since arrival in 1672, undertook to construct a large four-sided fort at the harbors edge of Charlotte Amalie the capital of St. Thomas, called Christiansfort, (designed an NHL in 1977). As the attackers did not have an siege cannon this structure was easily able to withstand the brief siege imposed by the French from St. Croix, who were forced to retreat.

One of the main features of Christiansfort was a squat three story high tower named Trygborg on the north side of the fort. Twenty-six and one half feet high and 90 feet in circumference the tower was intended as a self-contained last ditch defensive position if an enemy carried the outer walls of Christianstfort.

☒ See continuation sheet

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See Continuation Sheet, Section 9 Page 1.

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- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Department of Planning & Natural Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .86 acres

UTM References N/A

A  

C   

64⁰ 56' 50" W. Long

B

Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the tower located at the peak of Government Hill, No. 39 Dronningens Gade, Kings Quarter. The boundary is a circle 30 feet in diameter centered upon the axis of the tower located at 18° 20' 44" North Latitude and 64° 56' 50" West Longitude.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes just the area of No. 39 Dronningens Gade that includes the tower. This boundary has been selected to encompass a single portion of a larger parcel of land that is occupied by just Skytsborg tower.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Claudette Lewis

name/title Assistant Director, Archaeology & Historic Preservation
organization Department of Planning & Natural Resources date 10/28/91
street & number Nisky Center, Suite 231 telephone (809) 774-3320
city or town St. Thomas state USVI zip code 00802

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The first floor was a large storeroom for ammunition and provisions. The walls of the upper two floors were studded with embrasures for both small arms and light cannon. This was the first military tower that can be documented on St. Thomas. Trygborg and the north side of Christiansfort were torn down in the 19th century during renovation.

Christiansfort provided a strong defense for St. Thomas against an attacking force from the sea. However, Governor Iverson realized that an attacking force could have pounded Christiansfort into submission by erecting an artillery battery on the high ground behind and north of the fort. For this reason, Iverson ordered a tower fortification erected on Baggaestsbjerg, a hill top north of Christiansfort in 1679, similar to Trygborg. Such a tower, would serve not only to deny the high ground to an attacking force, but could also serve as a watchtower providing a vantage point high enough to peer over Hassel Island to scan the open ocean; thereby providing early warning of an approaching enemy.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

could easily defend itself against such attacking forces. Nowhere else in the Caribbean were fortified towers constructed in the 17th century.

By the early 18th century the development of accurate large calibre cannon necessitated a shift from outmoded and exposed medieval fortified towers to the lower profile Vauban style of rectangular forts with protruding bastions at the corners.

The 18th century also brought large, well equipped professional armies and navies from Europe to the Caribbean. The concentration of the Danish on St. Thomas on trade precluded the construction of new defensive works. The inadequacy of the tower network to defend the island was demonstrated in 1801 when the British forced a bloodless surrender of the island to keep it from being used by French naval forces during the Napoleonic Wars.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Skytsborg
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGIN ISLANDS, St. Thomas

DATE RECEIVED: 11/12/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/26/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/12/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/27/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001844

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/20/91 DATE eds

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This fortified stone tower was built in 1679 by the Danish colonial govt of what is now the Virgin Islands. It is historically significant for its associations w/ the early period of settlement under Danish control, for its connections w/ Governor Jorgen Iversen, & as the only 17th century fortified tower in the Caribbean. Its significance is clearly national & it should be considered for NHL status. ~~Accept~~

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A, B, & C
REVIEWER Harper
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 12/20/91

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____







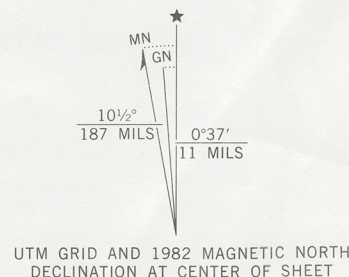






The boundary of the nominated property skysborg is indicated on this USGS map at 96' and 29 and 1/3 '. The Tower is colored in red

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with Office of Territories, U. S. Department of the Interior
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and U. S. Dept. of Public Roads
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1954. Field checked 1954-1955
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 905 (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, Virgin Islands extension. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 20
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



SCALE 1:24,000
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 20-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Insular Route ———
CENTRAL ST. THOMAS, V. I.
18064-C8-TF-024
1955
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 1622 IV SW—SERIES E836

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977-1978 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NISKY CENTER, SUITE 231
NO. 45A ESTATE NISKY
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, V.I. 00802

June 3, 1991

Mrs. Carol D. Schull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resource Division
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Post Office Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



Dear Mrs. Schull:

Attached is a draft National Register Nomination for "Skytsborg" located in the Charlotte Amalie Historic District.

I am forwarding this nomination for review. The Virgin Islands has a backlog of nominations and we are trying to work on them. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Claudette C. Lewis
Claudette Lewis
Assistant Director



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NISKY CENTER, SUITE 231
NO. 45A ESTATE NISKY
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, V.I. 00802

October 4, 1991

Ms. Marilyn M. Harper
National Register of Historic Places
Inter-Agency Resource Division
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Post Office Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Harper:

We are pleased to receive favorable comments on "Skytsborg" nomination which you will find enclosed.

Our comments are:

- A. Jorgen Iverson is the correct spelling (this is corrected on the nomination).
- B. The tower is a monument on private property.
- C. **Description:** Section 7C is corrected; Section 8 - The property was said to be in deteriorating condition in the 18th century; however, maintenance work has been done on it and the condition is improved.

At present, we do not have any USGS maps available in the Virgin Islands. We will submit this later under separate cover.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (809) 774-3320, Ext. 129, 130.

Sincerely,

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



RECEIVED
NOV 12 1991

NATIONAL
REGISTER

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

NISKY CENTER, SUITE 231

NO. 45A ESTATE NISKY

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, V.I. 00802

October 28, 1991

Ms. Marilyn Harper
National Register of Historic Places
Inter-Agency Resource Division
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Post Office Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Harper:

Enclosed is the completed National Register Nomination for Skytsborg. I was able to locate a USGS Map which is attached along with black & white photographs.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (809) 774-3320, ext. 129 or 130.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claudette Lewis".

Claudette Lewis
Assistant Director, DAHP

CL/bl

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127
(202/FTS) 343-9500

Facsimile Transmission Sheet



To: Mark Barnes

Location: SERO

Fax #: (404) 331-2639

From: Morrilyn Horper

Date: 11/25/91

Subject: Skyltsborg

Number of Pages Transmitted (including cover sheet): _____

RETURN FAX NUMBER IS (202/FTS) 343-1836
IF THERE IS A TRANSMISSION PROBLEM CALL (202/FTS) 343-9500

It turns out that the cover sheet hasn't been prepared yet, but as you can see the nomination was received here on Nov. 12.

Interagency Resources Division Program Activities:

National Register of Historic Places
National Register Information System
Preservation Planning
Certified Local Governments
Historic Preservation Fund Survey & Planning Activities
State Program Review
Cultural Resources Information Management Coordination
Micronesian Transition Program
Cultural Resources GIS Applications Center
Indian Tribes Grants Program

1844

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormRECEIVED
NOV 12 1991NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Skytsborgother names/site number Fogarthy's Castle, Kjaer's Castle, Blackbeard's Castle

2. Location

street & number 39 Donningens Gade☐ not for publicationcity, town Charlotte Amalie☐ vicinitystate US Virgin Islands code 78 county St. Thomas code 0100 zip code 00801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0 buildings sites structures objects10 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Charlotte AmalieNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

10/28/91Department of Planning & Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Skytsborg
(Resource Name)

St. Thomas
(County)

91001844
(Reference Number[s])

Virgin Islands
(State)

8 / 24 / 2017
(Date Form Completed)

WACC
(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING ____ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED ____ 3. NHL ☒ 4. TR ____ 5. MRA ____ 6. OVERSIZED ____ 7. NPS UNDOCUMENTED ____ 8. DOE- OWNER OBJECTION ____ 9. RESTRICTED ____

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ();
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ();

2. _____
(Cause for Removal)

3. Skytsborg (Blackbeard's Castle)
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

4. _____
(If Multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

5. _____
(If Multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Removed)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Designated)

_____/_____/_____
(Target Date)

COMMENTS: (Where found or source of replacement)

_____/_____/_____
(Date Found/Replaced)