

PH0502383

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 15 1977

DATE ENTERED

JUN 9 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Estate St. John, St. Jan Plantage

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Virgin Ilands

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

Eric and Jenny Lawaetz

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 916

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

St. Croix

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

STATE

St. Croix

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

V.I. Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

V.I. Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

St. Thomas,

STATE
V.I.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Great House of the St. John plantation is located 3 miles west of Christiansted. The large rambling factory complex, east of the Great House and separated from it by a modern road and wooded hillsides has been so altered and expanded that it is not included in this nomination.

The Great House is a one story structure set on a high foundation 7 by 4 bays, with a hipped roof now sheathed with corrugated tin. The walls are primarily of coral block, with some rubble, and have been painted. The south elevation has a five bay segmental arched arcade, with the central three bays set forward slightly to create a projected entrance, served by a straight flight of stairs with flared sidewalls. A two bay (13' wide) wing has been added to the east end wall of the Great House, and a one story kitchen attached to the northwest corner. All exterior openings have flat arches with splayed jambs, are provided with later sash, and have heavy board shutters hung on wrought iron straps and pintles.

The interior has a large living room with an exceptional triple arcade separating it from a full width hall at the rear. The arches of the arcade are supported by square reeded wood pilasters with Doric caps, reeded key-stones and panelled soffits. The two outer arches have panelled walls at chair rail height. The living room has an exceptional tray ceiling, panelled in wood with a continuous three part molded ceiling cornice, and a carved center medallion decorated with five tobacco leaves. The room is flanked by two bedrooms and a small office to the west and two bedrooms with a later center hall to the east. Both of these areas, and the rear hall, have flat wood ceilings. The rear hall has a double door in the center with single windows on either side. The east bedroom wing has had a later wall inserted between the two original walls to create the center hall - it was originally three equal rooms as is the west wing. The original partitions are frame, sheathed with horizontal boarding - the exterior walls are plastered. All door openings leading from the central living room are trimmed with molded architraves. There is a good raised three panel door in the rear east bedroom.

A free standing three room cookhouse is located off the northwest corner of the Great House. Gable roofed, 40' by 17', the structure is 3 by 2 bays, with a massive chimney and fireplace occupying the west end wall. The walls are coral, and the splayed jambs of the doors and windows are plastered. They are not lined with brick which is the typical treatment. There are three doors in the south facade, and three windows in the north, with wood heads and sills. The wood roof framing is now covered with corrugated tin, and the floor is coral block. There is an exceptional bee-hive oven and a cooking fireplace in the west cooking room.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE one

A 4' 10" by 8'5" coral block bell tower is located east of the Great House. Built on a raised platform, the tower consists of two tapered square columns capped by an architrave with a molded and scored frieze and a tile roof. The columns have molded caps and two part plinth blocks, and are tied together with a plastered panelled extrado with keystone.

And 18 by 46 one story stable and carriage house remains west of the Great House, now used as a studio and gallery.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1810 (JFT 5/2/78) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Great House is an excellent architectural example of the smaller residences associated with the sugar industry. It's interior is largely intact, with exceptional detailing, especially the triple arcade partition, tray ceiling and medallion. The cookhouse and Belfry are also of architectural significance.

The estate was once owned by Colonel Charles Pym Burts and was called Pym Burst Plantage. St. John Plantation was burned during the St. Croix Labor Riots in October, 1878. An account describing the insurrection mentions St. John, "At St. John's Estate you could see them running in and around the dwelling house and the sugar factory - all in blaze in no time." 1

An assessment of damages during the Labor Riots revealed: Fifty-one sugar plantations had been destroyed. In all the areas affected in St. Croix, 28 had been saved, St. John.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Jenny Lawaetz by Annie Hillary, November 23, 1976.

Dookhan, Essex. A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States.
Epping, Essex: Bowker Publishing Co., 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.18 acres

UTM REFERENCES

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of the data collection system. It shows a top-down view of a rectangular area divided into a 4x4 grid of 16 zones. The zones are labeled with coordinates: Zone 1 (top-left), Zone 2 (top-right), Zone 3 (bottom-left), and Zone 4 (bottom-right). A central point is labeled 'C'. A horizontal line labeled 'A' runs across the top, and a vertical line labeled 'B' runs down the right side. A legend at the bottom shows a scale for 'ZONE', 'EASTING', and 'NORTHING'.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located off the Northside Road on #3 Estate St. John. This is the lot number from tax records.

Estate St. John. This is the lot number from tax records, where legal boundaries are filed.

VFT 057 11/13/78

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

[illegible]

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Russell Wright, Annie Hillary

June 9, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE _____

V.I. Planning Office

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 2606

809-774-1730

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

St. Thomas

Virgin Islands

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE X

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

TITLE

Director of Planning

DATE 5 August 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: _____

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

RESEARCH OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-5-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

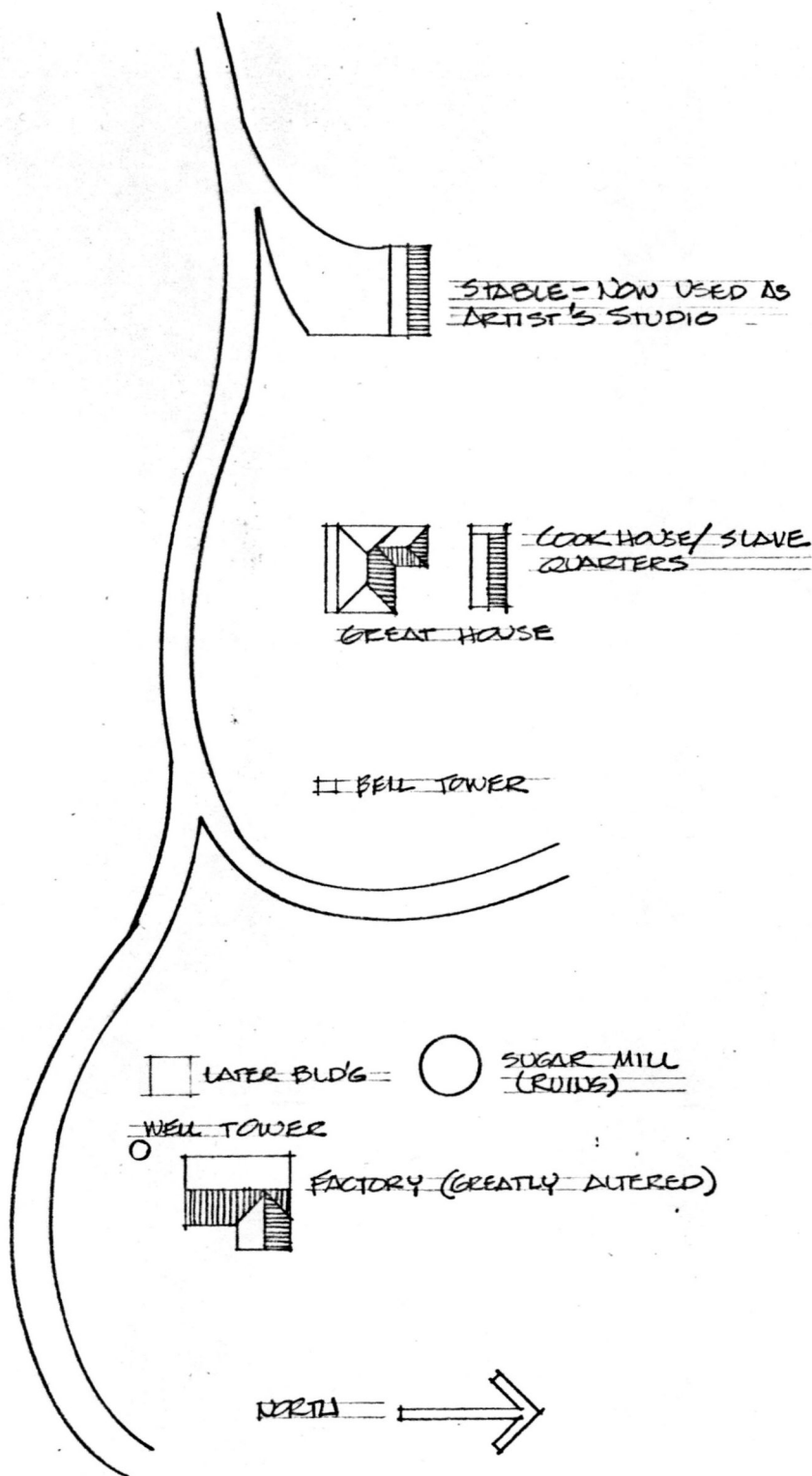
ITEM NUMBER **7**

PAGE **one**

Lewinsohn, Florence. St. Croix Under Seven Flags. Hollywood, Florida:
The Dukane Press, 1970.

McGuire, James William. Geographic Dictionary of the Virgin Islands.
Special Publication No. 103 (Serial N. 269), United States Coast
and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce. Washington, D.C., 1925.

3/1/78



ESTATE ST. JOHN • ST. CROIX, USVI • APPROXIMATE SITE PLAN • 1"=100' • 2/78 •

Property Estate St. John, St. Jan Plantage

State V.I.

Working Number 8.15.77-1303

St. Croix
78002718

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
8.19.77

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN 2
THE COMPLEX NOMINATED EXEMPLIFIES ONE
OF THE SMALLER RESIDENCES & OUTBUILDINGS ASSOCIATED
W/ THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN V.I.
No V.B.D. &

ACCEPT
12/14/77

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

No V.B.D.
Difficult to pin point on map.
Which structure is being
nominated. - Otherwise

accept
Braham 10.27.77

Significance is brief but acceptable as example of thematic
resource (see the many similar sugar plantation nominations
from VI.) But do need sketch map or precise VBD to identify
properties + distinguish them from other complex facilities.

ARCHEOLOGIST

John Turner
Historian

CALL -> (HOLD) -> ACCEPT 1/13/78 will provide sketch map with those
coming for all nominations. Note change in VBD 3/2/78 - MAP RECEIVED.
OK - Accept Turner

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

intact early 19th C plantation
house with some associated
outstructures

Accept
Lebovich
5/4/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accepted
6/9/78

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 7.5.78

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUN 9 1978

INT:2106-74



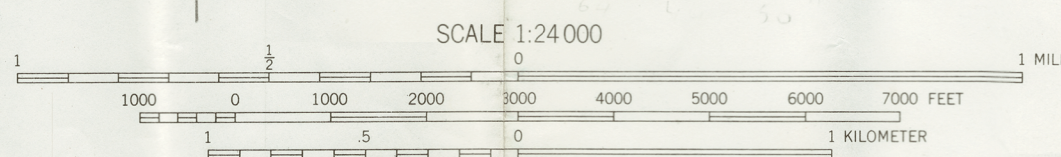






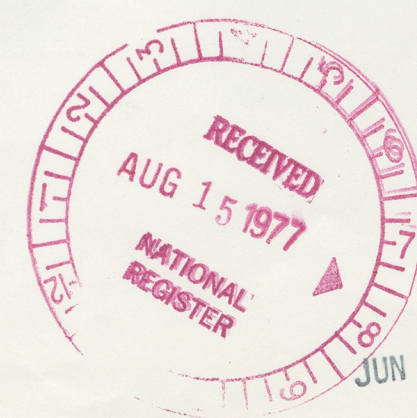
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1958
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 905 (1951) and
935 (1952)
Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid based on Puerto Rican coordinate system,
Puerto Rico, St. Croix zone
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1958



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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



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

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date Entered JUN 9 1978

Name

Estate St. John

Location

Christiansted vicinity
St. Croix Island

Also Notified

Honorable Ron De Lugo

NR Mott/bjr 6/15/78

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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Estate St. John				② OTHER NAMES: St. Jan Plantage		③ date of entry: JUN 9 1978		④ county code: 0800	
⑤ LOCATION street & number 3 mi. NW of Christiansted			city / town below Salt River Bay		vicinity of Christiansted		state V.I.		county St. Croix
								⑥ NPS REGION: Southeast	
⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)								⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:	
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL				⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 1st		⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL	
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☒ NO				⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☒ NO				⑮ ACREAGE 2.18	
⑯ CONDITION				⑰ features:					
☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair				☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated				☐ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated	
				☐ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown				INTERIOR: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9	
⑱ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown				⑲ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑳ SAVED? ☐ YES		㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no	
㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:				㉓ CLAIMS: explain					
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ART-5				☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ INVENTION-14				☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20	
				☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25				☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) _____	
㉔ functions				㉕ dates of initial construction:				㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:				major alterations:					
CURRENTLY:				historic events:					
㉗ architectural style(s):				㉘ architect:		㉙ master builder:		㉚ engineer:	
㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉜ interior decorator:		㉝ artist:		㉞ artisan:		㉟ builder/contractor:	
㊱ NAMES give role & date									
PERSONAL:									
EVENTS:									
INSTITUTIONAL:									

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP