

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

3526 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1976NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

New Herrnhut Moravian Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Charlotte Amalie

VICINITY OF

1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

U.S. Virgin Islands

78

St. Thomas

0900

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

X RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Moravian Church c/o Pastor Hampton Morgan

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 117

CITY, TOWN

St. Thomas

VICINITY OF

U.S. Virgin Island

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May 1976

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virgin Islands Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
X GOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
___ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

New Herrnhut Moravian Church is located 1.9 miles east of Fort Christian, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas and .01 miles south of Center Line Road. New Herrnhut is significant as the site of the first missionary station of the Moravians on the island of St. Thomas. Architecturally, the simple, almost austere form of the church is an esthetic reflection of the sober tenets of the Moravian religion. The site was purchased in 1737, and the church probably constructed soon after this date.

Originally, the site possessed all the buildings usual to a plantation, but due to severe damage caused by the 1867 hurricane, the only major buildings remaining are the original one-story church, and a 20th century building, housing the Sunday School and church offices, built over the foundations of an earlier structure. There is also a bell tower, which still possesses its original bell. The bell tower is said to be contemporaneous with the church, but appears to be of a later date.

The church is a simple rectangular block without projections, constructed of ballast brick and stucco, measuring 64' x 34' with the long side on the north-south axis. The foundations project slightly from the main wall of the building, similar to a molded watertable. The roof is hipped and covered with corrugated metal.

The church is 4 bays on the long sides by 2 bays on the ends. The windows are in the form of semi-elliptical arches. All the windows have double shutters which are constructed of diagonally placed planks. There are two entrances on the ends of the church, approached by brick and stucco staircases. On the north end, the staircase is the typical West Indian "welcoming arms" type, with the walls splaying outwards at the base.

The hardware on the exterior includes wrought iron drive pintles, shutter hooks, and wrought strap hinges with lima-bean cusps, affixed with clinched wrought iron nails and leather washes. The south door has a metal rim lock, a replacement for an earlier, smaller lock of the same type.

The interior plan of the church is a single, open room, stuccoed and painted. The ceiling is notable, as it is the typical West Indian "tray" form: a planked surface with sharp angles in the corners similar to an inverted tray. The central rectangle of the ceiling, corresponding to the top ridge of the hipped roof, has two square openings at either end for ventilation. The windows in the interior have been set into deep niches. The depth of the wall, measured at the door openings, is 26 inches.

The grade of the site runs sharply from west to east, and there is

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

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a retaining wall running along the east side of the church between the two end staircases. The modern concrete structure (used for Sunday school and the church offices (42 feet by 56 feet), built over the foundations of an earlier structure, lies immediately to the north on the lower grade. Due to the lack of structural evidence remaining from the earlier building and its lack of architectural distinction, it is of little significance. About 15 feet above the northwest corner of the church lies a brick bell tower. It is about 10 feet high, in the form of a tiered free-standing arch, with a molded, gable cap. A small bell is contained under the head of the arch.

An original cistern is located alongside the Sunday school building, on the same north-south axis of the church. There is also an historic graveyard located about 400 feet to the south of the church, alongside the point in the road where the entrance road turns north to lead directly to the church.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

New Herrnhut Moravian Church was the first of the Moravian Missions established in the Virgin Islands.

The Moravians, whose missionary work began in 1732, were the first of the religious groups in the Danish West Indies to establish active missionary work with the slaves. The role assumed by the Moravians was to provide for the well-being of the slave through religion and education. The Moravian missionaries are credited with providing the foundation upon which emerging black social patterns in the Danish colonies were established, specifically, the active participation of white religious groups in providing and establishing religious guidance and education for the slave.

In August of 1737, Frederick Martin, a Moravian Missionary, purchased from a Mrs. Solomons a plantation on the east end of St. Thomas. Prior to being named New Herrnhut after the mother church in Germany, the mission had been called The Brethren's Plantation, The Brethren's Tutu and Posaunenberg.

The slave population provided both labor for the plantation and the congregation for the mission. The Moravians faced opposition by the other planters who were against slaves receiving formal education or religious instruction. However, attempts by the planters to destroy the Moravian mission were unsuccessful.

By 1770, New Herrnhut was a thriving plantation supporting mission activities with all the typical buildings of an active plantation including a church, housing for the pastor, the lay brothers and the slaves. By educating the slaves and training them to be artisans, New Herrnhut experienced the same type of economic security prevalent among many plantations.

The hurricane of 1867 severely damaged New Herrnhut and much of the plantation was allowed to fall into ruin, although some church and school activities were continued. Presently, there is a one story church building, several ruins including the original bell which was used to summon slaves to meetings and church. The bell is still used to sound the beginning of each church service at New Herrnhut.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maynard, G. Oliver. A History of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province.
Trinidad: Yulle's Limited, 1968.

Murphy, Patricia Shaubab. The Moravian Mission to the African Slaves of the Danish West Indies 1732-1828. Caribbean Research Institute, College of the Virgin Islands, Prestige Press: St. Croix, 1969.

Interview: Pastor Morgan, May 4, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

18° 20' 12" North Latitude

64° 54' 07" West Longitude

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Samuel N. Stokes

Russel Wright, Annie Hillary, Margaret Proskauer, Virgin Islands Historical Survey

ORGANIZATION

Virgin Islands Planning Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2606

CITY OR TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

DATE

May 22, 1976

TELEPHONE

(809) 774-1730

STATE

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE XX

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

Thomas R. Blake

TITLE Director of Planning

DATE

May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Attest: *Scy T. Wright*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

10/8/96
6/7/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE two

New Herrnhut is architecturally significant as probably the earliest example of Moravian mission architecture on any of the islands. With its ballast brick and stucco construction, simple rectangular shape, plain shuttered windows and hipped roof, New Herrnhut Moravian church set the type for 18th century Moravian architecture that was to remain unchanged throughout the century, and which reappears significantly at Emmaus Moravian church in St. John, with a construction date of 1918.

Property New Herrnhut Moravian Church

State N. I.

Working Number 6. 2. 76. 3521

St. Thomas
Island
76001866

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

UTM can't be checked

CONTROL

pl
6. 9. 76

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith

7-15-76

Included in 4 acres are the Church, bell tower,
~~concrete wall~~, a modern concrete structure
ruins of a third building and a cemetery.
Phone call to Sam Stokes 10-5-76.

Don't think we need a photo of the new
structure since it is rather small at 42
by 56 feet.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
S Oldham
7/15/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

A sketch map and photo of the concrete structure
would have been helpful, but enough to

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
W. R. Luce
10/5/76

BRANCH CHIEF

Hunt
10-6-76

KEEPER

Wm
6/7/76

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered OCT 8 1976

Federal Register Entry 12-7-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74

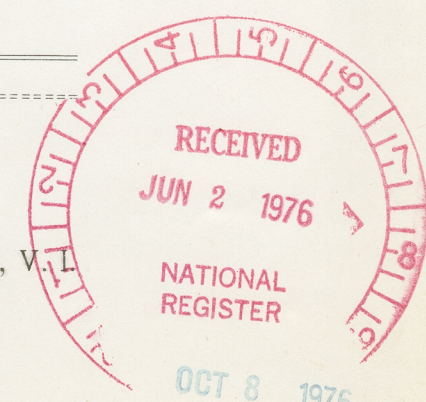




Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with Office of Territories,
U. S. Department of the Interior
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and U. S. Dept. of Public Roads
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1954-1955
Hydrography from USC&GS chart 905, dated 1952
Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid based on Puerto Rican coordinate system,
Virgin Islands extension
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

SCALE 1:24 000
1 000 000 FEET
1 MILE
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
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 0.8 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
CENTRAL ST. THOMAS, VI
N 1818—W 6454/7.5 X 6
1955



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date Entered OCT 8 1976

Name

Location

New Herrnhut Moravian Church

Charlotte Amalie vicinity
St. Thomas Island

Also Notified

Hon. Ron de Lugo
Regional Director, Southeast
Region

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

880 Mmott/row 10/20/76

NR Data Sheet

DATE:
Reviewer

INITIALS: 50. A. EDS

NR

DOE

OCT 8 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

New Herrnhut Moravian Church

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

code

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

Substantially intact-1
unknown - 4
not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

Substantially intact-2
unknown - 5
not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

Substantially intact-3
unknown - 6
Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR

DETERIORATED
RUINS
UNEXPOSED
Unexcavated

UNALTERED
ALTERED
Reconstructed
Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE
MOVED
Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?
IF YES, NAME:

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?
IF YES, NAME:

YES

NO

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then-

Mission (Church)

now-

Same

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION

INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW/Gov't/politics

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment

health

recreation

settlement

socio/cultural

urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Moravian Vernacular

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: Moravian ;
ic German

NAMES:

personal

(label role
&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1737

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1737 - Present

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) 4

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Brick, stuccoed; 1 story, rectangular, hipped roof of corrugated metal, center entrance at each end of structure; ceiling is typical West Indian "tray" form - planked surface with sharp angles; nearly brick bell tower; 20th century concrete ^{Sunday} school bld, ruins of a third bld, and a cemetery.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

New Herrnhut Moravian Church is significant as the first Moravian of the Moravian Missions established in the Virgin Islands. New Herrnhut is architecturally significant as probably the earliest example of Moravian Mission architectural on any of the islands.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Moravian Vernacular*

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *Moravian ;
ie German* *Blick*

NAMES:

(label role

&

appropriate date)

personal

events

institutional

DATES:

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

1737

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1737 - Present

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

4

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

*+ 1. 1 story, rectangular, hipped roof
Brick, stuccoed ; 1 story, rectangular, hipped roof,
Shuttered windows and entrance*

*Early example of Moravian Mission architecture in
the*

~~First of the Moravian Missions which were established in the Virgin Islands; and~~

~~are credited with enlisting active white participation in the religious guidance~~

~~and~~
education of the slaves.

Moravian Mission Architecture